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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While 2025 has been New Hampshire Humanities' (NHH) year of exploring *Change in our Communities*, it has become increasingly clear that local discussions are inseparable from the broader national context. Regardless of individual beliefs or political affiliation, many Americans express a sense of disconnection – feeling unable to bridge the divides with their neighbors. As a result, local conversation becomes a reflection of the national conversation.

I've been reflecting on our exploration of the changes in our communities throughout this year.



Michael Haley Goldman, Executive Director

Last spring we worked with the NH Community Development Finance

Authority, NHH facilitators, and artist Marek Bennett on a series of "Community Conversations" in
community centes. Each conversation explored community but in a way that was local – not about any
community but about *our* community. We initially planned for Marek's drawings to capture the big ideas
raised by these conversations, but Marek's eye for detail and observation also captured a unique sense of
place for each hosting organization. From the train station in North Conway to the river running under
the old mills of Holderness, Marek's artistic lens focused each program on the particular community and
its unique questions and perspectives.

The Smithsonian *Crossroads* exhibition, as we toured it around New Hampshire, also found its voice in the distinct characteristics of each community it touched. The larger themes of Identity, Land, Change, and Persistence may be universal to all rural communities, but they came to life in the unique story of each host site. In Jefferson, the exhibition was staged in the former lower school gymnasium – now a town center – where *Crossroads* became part of new partnerships and cooperation that represent the town's resilience after the closure of its school and the tragic burning of its town hall.

Meanwhile, the Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth told the stories of its surrounding towns to show the variety of responses each community has pursued in the face of similar challenges. Each community brought forward their own local crossroads stories. However, into all of these personal, hyperlocal narratives, a larger national presence crept. I suspect that, no matter our political beliefs, we are all feeling the larger disconnect in our country locally.



As we look ahead to 2026 and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we have the opportunity to look thoughtfully at the history of the United States and how it has been shaped through our founding documents. Starting with our Annual Celebration of the Humanities in October (see details on page 3) and continuing throughout the year through a variety of new programs. NHH will raise questions about who

we are as a nation, in our state, and in our community 250 years after uniting as a single political entity. I hope you'll join me for these programs and discussions as we celebrate the *US* in US history.

Michael Haley Goldman, Executive Director mhaleygoldman@nhhumanities.org

Muhard Halez Holden

A NOTE TO OUR READERS: When unexpected federal cuts eliminated half our funding earlier this year, New Hampshire Humanities had to make difficult changes in the coming year, including scaling back programs and reducing staff as of November 1. But with your continued support, our story continues. Every gift helps us rebuild, ensuring that communities across the state can still come together to share ideas, explore our stories, and strengthen connections. By investing in programs like *Humanities to Go, Museum on Main Street*, and *Connections*, you are sustaining a tradition of learning and dialogue that can thrive for another 50 years. To support this critical work, visit nhhumanities.org/give – and *thank you!*

Tickets are going At the time of this principle tickets are still available ts are sure to sell out



2025 Annual Celebration of the

An Evening with Akhil Reed Amar & Laura Knoy:

The Remaking of America's Constitution

Thursday, October 9

BANK OF NH STAGE, 16 S. MAIN STREET, CONCORD Humanities Champions Reception: 5:30-7:00 pm Doors open at 6:00 pm • Program: 7:00 pm PUBLIC RECEPTION | PROGRAM | BOOK SIGNING

Co-hosted with



University of New Hampshire

Franklin Pierce School of Law

The Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership & Public Service

Your ticket is more than admission to our signature event- it's an investment in the humanities and helps sustain free public programs that spark dialogue, strengthen communities, and connect us with each other. Seats are limited – get yours today!

www.nhhumanities.org/celebrate

Tickets: VIP: \$166* • General Admission: \$44 *Includes entry to a 5:30 pm reception with keynote Akhil Reed Amar & Laura Knoy

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Contributors: The Crisp Law Firm, PLLC; Edward Jones; Fidelity Investments; Manchester Community College

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Akhil Reed Amar**

is Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, where he teaches constitutional law in both Yale College and Yale Law School. Amar's work has



won awards from both the American Bar Association and the Federalist Society, and he has been cited by Supreme Court justices across the spectrum in more than fifty cases. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has written widely for popular publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Time, and The Atlantic. He was an informal consultant to the popular TV show The West Wing and his scholarship has been showcased on many broadcasts.

MODERATOR:

Laura Knoy is the founding host of NH Public Radio's The Exchange, a live daily call-in program which ran for 25 years. During that time, Knoy interviewed dozens of presidential candidates,



hosted numerous political debates and NHPR's election night coverage. She moderated thousands of conversations about important topics including education, the economy, and the environment. Since stepping down in 2021, Knoy is a soughtafter speaker, moderator, interviewer and narrator and serves as the Director of Community Engagement at the Rudman Center at UNH-Franklin Pierce School of Law. Her first book will be published in November 2025.

A Lifetime of Preserving New England's Stories: Celebrating Jane C. Nylander

2025 Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award

New Hampshire Humanities is proud to announce that Jane C. Nylander will receive the 2025 Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award at our Annual Celebration on October 9 in Concord. New Hampshire Humanities' highest honor, this award is presented each year to an individual whose work has profoundly shaped the public humanities in New Hampshire and made exceptional contributions to learning, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas. Nylander's remarkable career spans more than five decades, enriching the humanities in New Hampshire and throughout New England. After earning her graduate degree at Winterthur, she began her New Hampshire journey as director of the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord—becoming the first woman to hold the post. "Having considered it my dream job for many years, I was delighted to receive the appointment at the beginning of my career," Jane reflected.

Leading some of the region's most important cultural organizations, including Strawbery Banke Museum in

"All of us in New Hampshire benefit immensely from having Jane as a part of our humanities community. I can't think of a more deserving person for this recognition."

- Linnea Grim, Director, Strawbery Banke Museum

Portsmouth and Historic New England, her work continues to have an indelible mark on museums, scholarship, and public history. A revered teacher at colleges throughout the region, Nylander also served on the boards of many cultural organizations and authored widely respected books that make history accessible and engaging for the public. Her books explore New England's past through the lens of daily life, material culture, and community traditions, illuminating the human stories told through artifacts and architecture, inspiring both scholarly audiences and casual readers.

Alan F. Rumrill, the recipient of last year's Lifetime Achievement Award and former executive director of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, will present this year's award to Jane Nylander. Reflecting on her selection, Rumrill shared, "Jane has been the consummate historian and museum professional for several decades, improving and advancing the field of humanities in New Hampshire. Her

books, such as Our Own Snug Fireside and Best Ever!
Parades in New England, 1788–1940, share history through everyday activities and artifacts, helping to make the past enjoyable and understandable to a wide audience."

Jane's leadership has inspired colleagues across the museum field. Linnea



to by Richard C. Nyla

Grim, director of Strawbery Banke Museum, spoke warmly about Nylander's lasting influence. "Jane is a thoughtful trailblazer, two characteristics that don't always pair up. Her impact on the humanities within New Hampshire is immense. During her directorship at Strawbery Banke Museum, she forged an identity for the institution that has propelled us forward within our field and continues to serve our audiences extremely well. While she is an expert in material culture, she always has an eye on the big picture. In her retirement, she has continued to serve the museum field through her research and sage advice. All of us in New Hampshire benefit immensely from having Jane as a part of our humanities community. I can't think of a more deserving person for this recognition."

From curating exhibitions and guiding preservation efforts to teaching, writing, and mentoring, Jane Nylander exemplifies what it means to dedicate a lifetime to the humanities. Her work ensures that the stories, traditions, and cultural treasures of New England will be understood, appreciated, and preserved for generations to come. We invite you to join us on October 9 as we celebrate Jane's remarkable achievements and her profound contributions to New Hampshire's cultural life.

For a list of previous Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities award winners, please visit nhhumanities.org/awards.





Calendar

NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES FALL 2025 EVENTS

10/2 | AUBURN | 6:30 PM The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing Presented by Erin Moulton Auburn Historical Assoc Lower Level 102 Hooksett Road Contact: Pat Clement, 603-722-5251

10/4 | WHITEFIELD | 1:30 PM

The Salem Witchcraft Trials and 'Moldy Bread':

A Case Study in Fake News

Presented by Margo Burns

Whitefield Public Library, 8 Lancaster Road
Contact: 603-837-2030

10/7 | DEERFIELD | 6:00 PM

Perspectives Book Group - Fahrenheit 451*
Presented by Joshua Tepley
Philbrick-James Library, 4 Church Street
Contact: 603-463-7187

*Part of ALA's Banned Book week 10/5-11

10/8 | GRANTHAM | 7:00 PM History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide Presented by Erin Moulton Draper Room/Center at Eastman 6 Club House Lane Contact: Mary Niles, 603-863-7022

10/9 | NELSON | 4:00 PM Civil War Soldiers' Quilts Presented by Pamela Weeks Olivia Rodham Memorial Library, 1 Nelson Rd. Contact: 603-847-3214

10/9 | CONCORD | 6:00 PM

2025 Annual Celebration of the Humanities
with Akhil Reed Amar & Laura Knoy
Presented by New Hampshire Humanities
Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main Street
Contact: development@nhhumanities.org
(See page 3 for details)

10/14 | DUNBARTON | 6:30 PM Rally Round the Flag: The American Civil War Through Folksong Presented by Marek Bennett Dunbarton Public Library/Upper Town Hall 1004 School Street Contact: 603-774-3546

10/14 | CONWAY | 7:00 PM

The Capital Crime of Witchcraft:
What the Primary Sources Tell Us

Presented by Margo Burns
Old FireHouse Building, 111 Main Street
Contact: Conway Hist. Society, 603-447-5551

10/14 | SANBORNVILLE | 7:00 PM Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in NH Presented by Rebecca Rule Gafney Library, 14 High Street Contact: Jennifer Rich, 603-733-7400

10/15 | PLYMOUTH | 5:30 PM

The Evolution of Jazz: Seacoast New Hampshire's

Contribution

Presented by Charles Jennison

Plymouth Historical Society
Old Webster Courthouse, 1 Court Street
Contact: Marcia Schmidt Blaine, 603-455-9847

10/16 | PETERBOROUGH | 6:30 PM Ernest Harold Baynes: New Hampshire's Own Doctor Doolittle

Presented by Mary Kronenwetter Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord Street Contact: 603-924-8040

10/16 | STRAFFORD | 6:30 PM

That Reminds Me of A Story

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Hill Library, 1151 Parker Mountain Road

Contact: Hill Library, 603-664-2800

10/16 | HOLLIS | 7:00 PM Redcoats & Rebels: New Hampshire and the American Revolution Presented by Mary Adams The Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road Contact: Hollis Historical Society, 603-465-3935



10/17 | STODDARD | 7:00 PM Corbin's Animal Garden Presented by Mary Kronenwetter Stoddard Town Hall, 1450 Route 123 North Contact: Stoddard Hist. Society, 603-446-7447

10/18 | CENTER HARBOR | 11:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoons: Bugs Bunny, Bullwinkle, and Big Business in the 1960s Presented by Margo Burns Nichols Memorial Library, 35 Plymouth Street Contact: 603-253-6950

10/20 | WARNER | 6:30 PM Gluskabe - The Magical, Powerful Culture Hero Central to Wabanaki Storytelling Presented by Anne Jennison Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, 18 Highlawn Rd. Contact: Center for the Arts, 844-564-2787



10/22 | BOW | 6:00 PM The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing Presented by Erin Moulton Baker Free Library, 509 South Street Contact: Liesl Miller, 603-224-7113

10/23 | SANBORNVILLE | 6:00 PM **Burnt Into Memory: How Brownfield Faced** the Fire

Presented by Jo Radner Gafney Library, 14 High Street Contact: Gafney Library, 603-522-3401

10/23 | DEERFIELD | 6:30 PM The Salem Witchcraft Trials "Moldy Bread": A Case Study in Fake News Presented by Margo Burns Old Town Hall, 6 Church Street Contact: Deerfield Hist. Society, 724-255-6689

10/25 | ANTRIM | 3:00 AM 13 Days in October: The Untold Cuban Missile Crisis Presented by Michael Tougias First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, 73 Main St. Contact: Priscilla Shook, 603-340-0198

10/27 | ROCHESTER | 6:00 PM The Salem Witchcraft Trials and 'Moldy Bread': A Case Study in Fake News Presented by Margo Burns Rochester Public Library, 65 South Main Street Contact: Abby Russell, 603-335-7550



10/29 | MARLBOROUGH | 7:00 PM Covered Bridges of NH - Past and Present Presented by Kim Varney Chandler Marlborough Community House, 160 Main St. Contact: JoAnn Robinson, 603-876-4068

10/30 | MEREDITH | 6:30 PM The Capital Crime of Witchcraft: What the **Primary Sources Tell Us** Presented by Margo Burns Meredith Public Library, 91 Main Street Contact: Erin Apostolos, 603-279-4303

Thank you, **Annual Partners**

We are grateful for the support of our partners who help sustain the work of New Hampshire Humanities by providing year-round support:









For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sarah Chaffee, Director of Development, at schaffee@ nhhumanities.org or (603) 224-4071, ext. 113.

Join our US@250: Big Watch!

The Big Watch is a statewide series of community-driven programs that bring Granite Staters together to watch, discuss, and reflect on the 250th anniversary of



the Declaration of Independence and American Revolution. Granite Staters will come together to have shared conversations about Ken Burns' new film, The American Revolution, and New Hampshire Humanities is seeking applications from New Hampshire organizations to host a series of two programs that will take place during the spring and

summer of 2026. Visit nhhumanities.org/Big-Watch for details.

This program is a collaboration with NH Public Broadcasting. NH PBS





See you at the NH Book Festival

Friday & Saturday, October 3-4, Main St., Concord

Join us this fall for the second annual statewide festival that brings authors and readers to celebrate literacy, conversation, and community in historic downtown Concord! The NH Book

Festival unfolds over two days, featuring all things literary – live presentations. captivating panel discussions, and book signings by 50+ nationally known authors. For the schedule, please visit www.nhbookfestival.org.

P.S. As a proud funder of the book festival through a Community Project Grant, we'll have a booth at the festival on Saturday, October 4 - come say hello!



If you are over 70 ½ years old, you can turn your required IRA distribution into a charitable gift, tax free! By directing up to \$100,000 from your IRA straight to New Hampshire Humanities, your donation won't count as taxable income, potentially lowering your tax bill while supporting a cause you care about.

It's a smart move - and a generous one. A true win-win!

Contact development@nhhumanities.org to learn more.

Introducing our new Humanities to Go programs!

Humanities to Go – our longest-running program – is evolving to meet today's funding challenges while continuing to bring engaging, high-quality presentations to communities across New Hampshire. Libraries, historical societies, and other nonprofit organizations will soon be able to book old favorites and our new lineup of programs beginning October 15. To learn more about the updated booking process, visit www.nhhumanities.org/htg.

Al to Wearables: Humanity at the Heart of Health Care Technology

(Presenter: Maria Sanders)

Explore how medical innovation intersects with the human experience of illness and healing. Drawing on literature,



philosophy, and culture, this program examines the values and ethics that ensure technology strengthens, rather than diminishes, the human connection at the heart of health care.

Death Café (Presenter: Kiki Berk)

Death Cafés invite people to gather over tea and cake for candid conversations about mortality. With no agenda or theme (other



than death itself), these conversations allow people to share experiences, ask questions, and reflect together while encouraging deeper thought about life and how we might live it more fully.

How the Constitution Helps Us Disagree (Presenter: Meg Mott)

Deliberation holds our democracy together but does it always lead to better decisions? We'll explore the Constitution's



basic principles and invite participants to engage with progressive, conservative, and libertarian perspectives. By wrestling with opposing arguments, we discover how constitutional principles can move us beyond polarization toward deeper political understanding.

Portraits of a Revolution (Presenter: Inez McDermott)

Discover how Revolutionary-era portraits reflect the ideals and values of America's



founding. By "reading" paintings and sculptures of famous and lesser-known figures, participants will explore artistic influences, practice visual analysis, and uncover how portraiture serves as a cultural document of the nation's early identity.

Peaceful Revolutionary, Enduring Symbol: St. Patrick's Life & Powerful Legacy Today (Presenter: Mary Kelly)

Marking the Declaration's 250th, this program explores faith, freedom, and revolution through St. Patrick's life and legacy,



from slavery and mysticism in 5th-century Ireland to his rise as saint and national symbol, revealing how history, identity, and celebration intertwine each March 17.

Tales From the Spice Rack: Exploring the People and Places Behind the Ingredients That Flavor Our Food (Presenter: Laura Tilahman)

(Presenter: Laura Tilghman)

Discover the hidden stories behind everyday spices. Focusing on vanilla and cloves from Madagascar, this program explores



centuries-old farming traditions, today's challenges of climate change and global markets, and the people whose labor flavors our food, offering fresh insight for bakers and curious learners alike.

Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What it Meant Then and Now (Presenter: David Alcox)

Explore the Declaration's original meaning, Enlightenment roots, and modern relevance. Gain a clear, unbiased understanding of



its ideals, key figures, and lasting impact, equipping you to think critically and speak confidently about one of America's foundational documents.

The Ethics of Al (Presenter: Kiki Berk

Explore the biggest ethical challenges in AI – bias, job loss, deepfakes, and more. Learn key concepts in applied ethics and



generative AI, then dive into the moral and policy questions shaping our future. Leave with tools to critically assess AI's impact on society.

Live Free or Dial

(Presenter: The NH Telephone Museum)

Journey through the history of communication with hands-on activities and over 1,000 artifacts. Kids enjoy stories, crafts, and games;

stories, crafts, and games; adults explore milestones like party lines and the dial system. Engaging for all ages, this interactive program brings the evolution of telecommunications to life.

Welcome Our Robot Overlords! Living with Artificial Intelligence

(Presenter: James Kelly)

Explore Al's rise through fact and fiction, cutting through myths to reveal its real-world potential. Learn how this rapidly advancing



technology impacts our lives, and what we can do to safeguard our privacy and livelihoods in an Al-driven future.

What's the History of Your House?

(Presenter: Erin E. Moulton)

Uncover the hidden stories of homes through maps, deeds, newspapers, and more. Learn how to trace a building's past—



its architecture, residents, and role in the community—using local historical resources. Follow the fascinating case of a Masonic Lodge to get started.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES Connections Adult Literacy

Books Opening Doors: Poornima's Story

By Poornima Shankar, reflecting on how the Connections book discussion program gave her a sense of belonging

It has been a little over six years since I came to the United States. I arrived to join my husband, who had come a few months earlier for his job. I willingly chose to leave my two-year-old daughter with my parents in India and traveled alone. It was one of the hardest decisions I've ever made. As a mother, leaving her behind broke my heart, but I did it out of concern for her safety.



Navigating a new life in a completely different country was overwhelming. It wasn't just about learning systems and processes; it was also about confronting a deep sense of not belonging. Every time I stepped outside, I felt like a stranger in a strange land. What I needed was not just information—I needed a psychological shift.

I made a conscious decision to live life with awareness instead

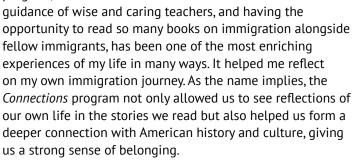
of in fear or ignorance and books have been my safest refuge. After the pandemic, I finally returned to India and brought my daughter here. That marked a turning point. We began going to the library together, and it became more than just a place to borrow books. It opened a door to understanding our new country—its history, culture, and people. The more we read, the more we understood. And the more we understood, the more questions we had.

One day, on the second floor of the McConnell Center, as we were leaving the children's library, a kind and sweet lady named Donna from Dover Adult Learning Center (DALC) stopped to ask if we needed anything. Her simple, thoughtful gesture became another turning point. Because of her, I began my journey at DALC as a student. That experience has had a profound impact on my life.



I expanded my horizons by reading books about immigration and engaging in meaningful conversations that gave awareness and built empathy. I made connections with fellow immigrants from many different countries and met wise, caring teachers and kind-hearted people who made me feel seen and supported.

Attending the *Connections* program, under the



Navigating life in a new country with awareness is far better than doing so in ignorance. *Connections* has helped us understand the meaning of our new lives here and has given

us renewed hopes and awareness. By fostering understanding and empathy, we can contribute to building stronger, more inclusive communities. I feel empowered. If I could say one thing about my experience in the *Connections* program, I would say that I emerged a new person, filled with fresh hopes and dreams, enriched with a historical perspective and inspired by a vision of my new life here.

Through DALC, I had my first experience with the *Connections* program from New Hampshire Humanities.

With renewed hope and a clear sense of purpose, this once unfamiliar country has begun to feel like home now.



Championing Education and Culture: David Parker's Enduring Legacy



Another way to give to the humanities and inspire teachers, students, and communities across New Hampshire

David Parker, a name synonymous with educational innovation in New Hampshire, has profoundly shaped the region's landscape for students with learning differences. Through Parker Education, he has cultivated dynamic and diverse learning environments. As a lifelong learner himself, David understands the transformative power of arts and culture, not just as a means of personal enrichment, but as a pathway to connecting with others.

What many may not realize is the depth of David's philanthropic commitment to his community - particularly his steadfast commitment to New Hampshire Humanities (NHH). "I love what NHH does," David shares, "especially the Jere Daniell Teacher Fellowships, which help public school teachers create innovative humanities projects. I'm inspired by their work, bringing history and civics to life through experiential learning. Programs like these show students they have value and that their contributions matter. That's why I'm proud to support NHH through my donor-advised fund (DAF)."

New Hampshire Humanities has long welcomed contributions from DAFs – flexible charitable giving accounts that allow donors to contribute assets, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to qualified charities over time. DAFs offer a powerful way to manage charitable giving without the administrative complexities of a private foundation.

OR, give securely on our website at www.nhhumanities.org/Give



David Parker stands with two favorite pieces from his art collection.

We are excited to announce that supporting New Hampshire Humanities through your DAF just got easier - simply visit our giving page, initiate your donation, and when you reach the payment section, select DAFpay. With thousands of DAF sponsors integrated into the database, you will likely find yours with ease. If not, a quick entry will begin the process, and DAFpay will handle the rest. Make YOUR lasting impact on the humanities in New Hampshire with just a few clicks! ��

Thank you for making a gift to help expand civic knowledge, strengthen communities, and build the state's cultural capital for decades to come!

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Please return to New Hampshire Humanities, 117 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. To learn about other ways to give, contact Sarah Chaffee, Director of Development, at 603-224-4071, ext. 113 or schaffee@nhhumanities.org.



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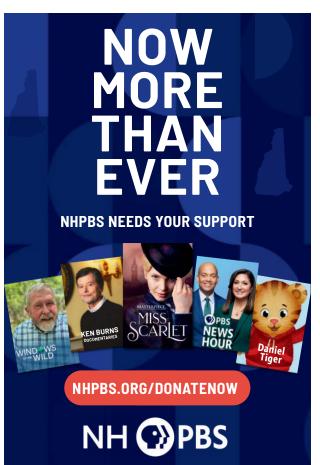


It's the diversity of folks who gather for programs... from the middle schooler to the octogenarian, folks of different ethnic, racial, employment and religious backgrounds, certainly from different political perspectives—all tossing opinions back and forth, arguing and laughing. That brings me true joy!

-Humanities to Go attendee



2025 ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES! OCTOBER 9 • BANK OF NH STAGE, CONCORD KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **AKHIL REED AMAR WITH LAURA KNOY** • nhhumanities.org/celebrate



For over 50 years, New Hampshire Humanities has been connecting **people** and **ideas** by funding and supporting statewide programs that inspire **curiosity**, foster civil **dialoque** and explore **biq questions!**



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