



NEW HAMPSHIRE
humanities

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH IDEAS • WINTER 2023

Engage!

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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Engage!*

As we welcome a new year brimming with opportunities for new experiences, we are thankful for your enthusiastic participation in and support of some of the big themes explored through our programs and events this past year.

Whether you joined us in person or online, or followed our news, you likely noticed we spent a good part of 2022 questioning what being a 'good' citizen entails. As we approach the nation's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are aware that there are many moments in our history when we fell short of its articulated ideals. Our Union series grappled with these moments, both idealistic and challenging. We started by looking at how the American Revolution moved colonists from being subjects of a king to being citizens of a nation and then examined how the rights and responsibilities of citizenship have not been equally shared. Native Americans, for instance, were not considered American citizens until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, and even then, many could not vote until, 1957. During World War II, over one million African Americans served in the armed forces, participating in the fight against fascism abroad, while facing Jim Crow segregation and racism at home. These programs pushed us to move beyond reaction to thoughtful reflection as we consider the ongoing challenges of becoming "a more perfect Union" – one in which all Americans share equal rights and responsibilities for the future of the country.

At the same time, our *Ideas on Tap* series focused on *Democracy and the Informed Citizen* (photos at right). Panelists and audience members discussed the importance of local news, ways to identify misinformation, and how journalism can continue to shine a light on the workings of government and community into the future. Together, we reflected on the ways we find, understand, and share news about the world around us.

While our focus on the rights and responsibilities of all Americans continues, we will also consider the fabric of the Union in which we all live – whether citizen or resident, longtime Granite Stater or recent refugee – each of us has brought our personal stories about our lives in the Granite State. Woven together, these stories shape New Hampshire's past, our present, and what we will become in the future.

Inspired by this rich tapestry of stories, this year in late spring we'll begin travelling to towns and communities around the state on a "Humanities Roadshow" of sorts, to connect with you, our supporters, and kick off an exciting multi-year initiative we're calling *Becoming New Hampshire*. As we look ahead to NHH's 50th anniversary in 2024 and the Declaration's 250th in 2026, we invite you to consider your place in the story of New Hampshire. No matter your place of origin, who your parents were, where you live today, your voice is not only welcome but critically important if we are to continue thriving in our communities and our world.

I look forward to sharing these exciting ideas and projects in the year to come. And when we meet, don't be surprised if I ask, "What's *your* New Hampshire story?"



Michael Haley Goldman, Executive Director
mhaleygoldman@nhhumanities.org

COVER: Melanie Plenda (Granite State News Collaborative) and Max Scheinblum (*The New Hampshire*) lead a panel discussion at our *Ideas on Tap* program, *Do You Hear Me Now? Civil Discussion in a Polarized Age*, held at the Portsmouth Gas Light Co. in October. Photo by Geoff Forester

Let us know what you think!

If you'd like to share your thoughts about a program you've attended, send us an idea for a program, or submit a humanities-focused article for this publication, please contact us at (603) 224-4071 or email info@nhhumanities.org. We welcome your feedback and thank you for supporting New Hampshire Humanities!



Thank you for supporting recent programs like these!



"All Eyes on NH: Political Coverage in the Granite State" on September 27 at Twin Barns Brewing Co. in Meredith



"Do You Hear Me Now? Civil Discussion in a Polarized Age" on October 12 at the Portsmouth Gas Light Co. in Portsmouth



"I'll Believe It When I See It: Images in the News" on October 25 at the Schilling Beer Co. in Littleton



"Stop Scrolling! Journalism, Objectivity, and the Future of News" on November 2 at the Rex Theatre in Manchester

Join us for our next *Humanities@Home*: Friday, January 27, 5:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe

In our first *Humanities@Home* of 2023, Rebecca Erbelding will share the extraordinary story of the War Refugee Board, a U.S. government effort to save the remaining Jewish people of Europe late in WWII. The staff of the War Refugee Board gathered D.C. pencil pushers, international relief workers, smugglers, diplomats, millionaires, and rabble-rousers to run operations across four continents and a dozen countries. They tricked Nazis, forged identity papers, maneuvered food and medicine into concentration camps, recruited spies, leaked news stories, laundered money, negotiated ransoms, and funneled millions of dollars into Europe, ultimately saving tens of thousands of lives. Learn about these largely forgotten heroes in a free online program.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Rebecca Erbelding's book, *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe* (Doubleday, 2018), won the National Jewish Book Award for excellence in writing based on archival research. She and her work are featured in the 2022 PBS documentary *The U.S. and the Holocaust*, directed by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick, and Sarah Botstein, a film for which she served as a historical advisor. She holds a Ph.D. in American history from George Mason University and has been a historian, curator, and archivist at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum since 2003.

RSVP: www.nhhumanities.org/programs/upcoming.



Welcome, Chris Wellington, Deputy Director



This fall we welcomed Chris Wellington of Manchester as New Hampshire Humanities' deputy director. Most recently, Chris served as the Chief Housing & Development Officer at Families in Transitions, where he oversaw the organization's real estate portfolio and housing development projects. With more than 15 years of experience in the public and nonprofit sector, he has also held positions with the City of Manchester's Economic Development Office, NH Division of Economic Development, Grafton Regional Development Corporation, and Capitol Regional Development Council.



Chris received a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire. He was recognized as the 2014 Manchester Young Professional of the Year, 2015 Stay Work Play Young Professional of the Year, and a member of the 2014 *NH Union Leader* 40 Under Forty class. Chris is also a graduate of the Hoffman-Hass Fellowship, Leadership Greater Manchester, and Leadership New Hampshire. He currently serves as a member of the City of Manchester Planning Board.

"New Hampshire Humanities plays an important role throughout our state and in each local community, bringing informative, accessible, and high-quality humanities programs to New Hampshire citizens," Chris said. "I'm excited to work closely with the dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and our partner organizations to increase visibility, diversify funding opportunities, and continue to build on the robust humanities programs offered throughout the state."

When Chris isn't working, he enjoys spending time visiting playgrounds and museums, and cooking with his wife and daughter. He admits to being a "total nerd" and enjoys all things Harry Potter and Marvel, as well as being a huge New England sports fan (especially the New England Patriots!).

Lory Attala, Administrative Assistant

Lory Attala recently joined the NHH staff as part-time administrative assistant. She has spent the majority of her professional life working with lawyers, first as the business assistant for the New Hampshire Public Defender and then moving to the admissions office of Franklin Pierce Law Center. In 2002 she became the Associate Dean of Records and Registration and helped work through administrative details of the merger with the University of New Hampshire School of Law. "Recruiting and working with law students, while challenging, was incredibly fulfilling, and I've made lifelong friends." Lory is active in the Bow Garden Club, and she still rides her motorcycle throughout New England, after teaching motorcycle rider education for many years. In addition, Lory is also delighted to be spending time with her first granddaughter!



SPRING 2023 ROUND

Grant Workshop: Feb. 15, 3:00 pm
Draft proposal and budget: March 15
Final Application: April 15

SUMMER 2023 ROUND

Grant Workshop: May 17, 3:00 pm
Draft proposal and budget: June 15
Final Application: July 15

New Hampshire Humanities wants to support YOUR community humanities project... Apply today!

New Hampshire Humanities invites nonprofit organizations serving the Granite State to submit proposals for humanities-based Community Project Grants. We're eager to work with new and repeat applicant organizations and reach diverse audiences. Events may include talks, panels, group discussions of books, films, or other media, walking tours, community conversations, or other public program formats. Working with a humanities scholar, planners will need to ensure their projects are designed to explore issues or

ideas from a variety of perspectives, and that they help participants think about how the subject matter connects to their own lives and community.

Major Grant proposals (up to \$10,000) are accepted on a quarterly basis (see details at left). Mini Grant proposals (up to \$2,000) are accepted on a rolling basis.

To learn more, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/grants or contact us at programs@nhhumanities.org.



Calendar

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES
LATE JANUARY - MARCH 2023

1/17 | NEW LONDON | 4:00 PM

That Reminds Me of a Story

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Gilford Public Library, 31 Potter Hill Road

Contact: Patty Myers, 603-524-6042

1/18 | DUNBARTON | 6:30 PM (VIRTUAL)

Perspectives Book Group: Black Elk Speaks

Presented by Damien Costello

Dunbarton Public Library

Contact: Mary Girard, dunlib@gsinet.net

1/19 | WINDHAM | 6:30 PM

12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State

Presented by Robert Goodby

Nesmith Library, 8 Fellows Road

Contact: Maria Schroeter, 603-432-7154

1/19 | MADISON | 7:00 PM

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

Presented by Jason Sokol

Madison Library, 1895 Village Road

Contact: Madison Library, 603-367-8545

1/22 | CONCORD | 2:00 PM

Comics in World History and Cultures

Presented by Marek Bennett

Woman's Club of Concord, 44 Pleasant Street

Contact: Woman's Club, 603-225-3622

1/23 | SUNAPEE | 1:00 PM

New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them

Presented by Jeremy D'Entremont

Sunapee Methodist Church, 9 Lower Main St.

Contact: Joseph Internicola, 603-763-1048

1/24 | PEMBROKE | 3:30 PM

That Reminds Me of a Story

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Pembroke Town Library, 313 Pembroke Street

Contact: Pembroke Town Library, 603-485-7851

1/24 | FRANCONIA | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn:

The Connected Farm Buildings of New England

Presented by Thomas C. Hubka

Contact: Marcia Roosevelt, 917-446-5984

1/25 | CONTOOCCOOK | 1:00 PM

Perspectives Book Group: Hamnet,

A Novel of the Plague

Presented by Carrie Brown

Hopkinton Town Library, 61 Houston Drive

Contact: Hopkinton Town Library, 603-746-3663

1/25 | CONWAY | 5:00 PM

New Hampshire on Skis

Presented by E. John B. Allen

Conway Public Library, 15 Greenwood Avenue

Contact: Conway Public Library, 603-447-5552

1/25 | NORTH HAMPTON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Present Moment, Prolific Moment: Using Mindfulness to Write

Presented by Alexandria Peary

Contact: North Hampton Public Library,

603-964-6326

1/25 | KENSINGTON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution

Presented by Glenn Knoblock

Contact: Kensington Public Library,

603-772-5022



Program types/titles are color coded:

Perspectives Book Groups

Humanities to Go

Humanities@Home

Grant-funded programs



1/26 | ATKINSON | 6:00 PM

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

Presented by Ann McClellan

Kimball Public Library, 5 Academy Avenue

Contact: Kimball Public Library, 603-362-5234

1/26 | ENFIELD | 6:00 PM

Perspectives Book Group: Hamnet, A Novel of the Plague

Presented by Carrie Brown

Enfield Public Library, 23 Main Street

Contact: Enfield Public Library, 603-632-7145

1/26 | GRANTHAM | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

New Hampshire Roads Taken Or Not

Presented by Stephen Taylor

Contact: Dunbar Free Library, 603-863-2172

1/27 | CONCORD | 5:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe

Presented by Rebecca Erbeling (see page 3)

Contact: programs@nhhumanities.org

1/28 | PORTSMOUTH | 2:00 PM

New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them

Presented by Jeremy D'Entremont

Wentworth Senior Living, 346 Pleasant Street

Contact: Wentworth Sr. Living, 603-570-7795

2/1 | NEW DURHAM | 3:30 PM

New Hampshire on Skis

Presented by E. John B. Allen

New Durham Public Library, 2 Old Bay Road

Contact: New Durham Public Library,

603-859-2201

This list includes programs that were booked at the time of printing. For more programs, please check our online calendar at www.nhhumanities.org.





2/1 | BERLIN | 6:00 PM
Digging Into Native History in New Hampshire
 Presented by Robert Goodby
 Virtual, 270 Main Street
 Contact: Ann Brungot, 603-752-5210

2/1 | NEWBURY | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Abby Hutchinson's Sweet Freedom Songs: Songs and Stories of the Struggle for Abolition and Woman Suffrage
 Presented by Deborah Anne Goss
 Contact: Hay Estate/The Fells, 603-763-4789

2/1 | CONCORD | 7:00 PM
New Hampshire's Long Love-Hate Relationship with its Agricultural Fairs
 Presented by Stephen Taylor
 NH Historical Society, 30 Park Street
 Contact: NH Historical Society, 603-228-6688

2/3 | DANBURY | 6:00 PM
That Reminds Me of a Story
 Presented by Rebecca Rule
 S. Danbury Christian Church, 1141 US Route 4
 Contact: Bonnie Nichols, 603-744-8073

2/6 | DURHAM | 6:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
The Stono Rebellion
 Presented by Damian Costello
 Contact: Durham Public Library, 603-590-1118

2/7 | JAFFREY | 6:30 PM (VIRTUAL)
Perspectives Book Group: Becoming Beauvoir
 Presented by Kiki Berk
 Contact: Jaffrey Public Library, 603-532-7301

2/7 | EXETER | 7:00 PM
New Hampshire on High: Historic and Unusual Weathervanes of the Granite State
 Presented by Glenn A Knoblock
 Exeter Historical Society, 47 Front Street
 Contact: Barbara Rimkunas, 603-778-2335

2/8 | BOW | 12:30 PM
New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and their Impact on American Society
 Presented by Paul Wainwright
 Bow Old Town Hall, 91 Bow Center Road
 Contact: Carol Barleon, 603-568-2812



Program types/titles are color coded:
Perspectives Book Groups
Humanities to Go
Humanities@Home

2/8 | DOVER | 6:30 PM (VIRTUAL)
Perspectives Book Group: Stono the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow

Presented by Mary C. Kelly
 Contact: Dover Public Library,
 libraryquestions@doover.nh.gov

2/9 | ATKINSON | 6:00 PM
The Stono Rebellion
 Presented by Damian Costello
 Kimball Public Library, 5 Academy Avenue
 Contact: Kimball Public Library, 603-362-5234

2/9 | BRENTWOOD | 6:00 PM
Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire
 Presented by Rebecca Rule
 Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 22 Dalton Rd.
 Contact: Julie Ford, 517-927-4686

2/9 | HANOVER | 6:30 PM
New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell
 Presented by Pamela Weeks
 Howe Library, 13 South Street
 Contact: Howe Library, 603-643-4120

2/12 | MANCHESTER | 2:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Expanding the Canon 3: A Play Reading Circle
 Presented by Theatre KAPOW/Danielle Soames
 Contact: Carey Cahoon, info@tkapow.com

2/13 | WASHINGTON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Abolitionists of Noyes Academy
 Presented by Dan Billin
 Contact: Washington Historical Society,
 301-318-4621

2/15 | CONCORD | 3:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Community Project Grant Workshop
 Presented by Agnes Burt, Ph.D.
 Contact: programs@nhhumanities.org

2/15 | DUNBARTON | 6:30 PM
Perspectives Book Group: White Teeth
 Presented by Ann McClellan
 Dunbarton Public Library
 Contact: Mary Girard, dunlib@gsinet.net



2/15 | TAMWORTH | 6:30 PM (VIRTUAL)
The Stono Rebellion
 Presented by Damian Costello
 Contact: Cook Memorial Library, 603-323-8510



2/15 | KENSINGTON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)
Stark Decency: New Hampshire's World War II German Prisoner of War Camp
 Presented by Allen Koop
 Contact: Kensington Public Library, 603-772-5022

2/21 | NEW LONDON | 5:30 PM
Jennie Powers: The Woman Who Dares
 Presented by Jenna Carroll
 New London Inn, 353 Main Street
 Contact: Center for the Arts - Lake Sunapee Region, 603-526-4444

2/21 | STRAFFORD | 6:00 PM
Flight of Remembrance: From WWII in Europe to the U.S. Space Program
 Presented by Marina Dutzmann Kirsch
 Hill Library, 1151 Parker Mountain Road
 Contact: Larisa Molloy, 603-664-2800

2/21 | ANTRIM | 6:30 PM
A Visit With Queen Victoria
 Presented by Sally Mummey
 James A. Tuttle Library 45 Main Street
 Contact: Tuttle Library, 603-588-6786

2/23 | ATKINSON | 6:00 PM
Television: The Art & Ethics of Manipulation
 Presented by John Gfroerer
 Kimball Public Library, 5 Academy Street
 Contact: Kimball Public Library, 603-362-5234

2/24 | PEMBROKE | 7:00 PM
Forced Into Politics: Daniel Webster, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the Fugitive Slave Crisis
 Presented by Geoffrey R. Kirsch
 Pembroke Town Library, 313 Pembroke Street
 Contact: Sarah Hyland, 603-566-1031

This list includes programs that were booked at the time of printing. For more programs, please check our online calendar at www.nhhumanities.org.

2/27 | ORFORD | 7:00 PM

Perspectives Book Group: Gilded Suffragists

Presented by Liz Tentarelli

Orford Social Library, 573 NH Route 10

Contact: orfordsoclib@gmail.com

2/28 | TAMWORTH | 6:30 PM (VIRTUAL)

Perspectives Book Group: The Forty Rules of Love, A Novel of Rumi

Presented by Mohammed Defaa

Contact: Cook Memorial Library,

mary@tamworthlibrary.org

2/28 | MADISON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

The Finest Hours: The True Story Behind the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue

Presented by Michael J. Tougas

Contact: Madison Library, 603-367-8545

3/1 | DERRY | 10:00 AM

Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War

Presented by Carrie Brown

Marion Gerrish Community Ctr., 39 W. Broadway

Contact: Meredith Hatch, 603-260-8642

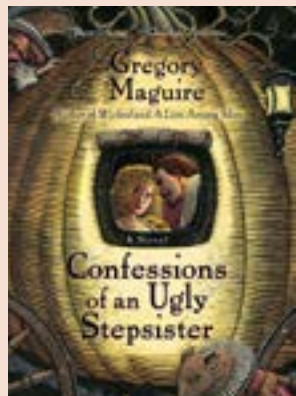
3/2 | GILFORD | 6:00 PM

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

Presented by Glenn Knoblock

Gilford Public Library, 31 Potter Hill Road

Contact: Patty Myers, 603-524-6042



3/7 | JAFFREY | 6:30 PM

(VIRTUAL)
Perspectives Book Group: Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister

Presented by

Ann McClellan

Contact: Jaffrey

Public Library,

603-532-7301

3/8 | LACONIA | 6:30 PM

A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes

Presented by Adair D. Mulligan

Laconia Public Library, 695 Main Street

Contact: Laconia Public Library, 603-524-4775

3/8 | DOVER | 6:30 PM

Perspectives Book Group: Gilded Suffragists

Presented by Liz Tentarelli

Dover Public Library, 73 Locust Street

Contact: libraryquestions@dover.nh.gov

3/9 | CANTERBURY | 6:00 PM

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Canterbury Town Hall, 9 Center Road

Contact: Elkins Public Library, 603-783-4386

3/11 | WILMOT | 1:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Perspectives Book Group: The Coffin Ship: Life and Death at Sea During the Great Irish Famine

Presented by Mary C. Kelly

Contact: wilmotlibrary@comcast.net

3/11 | HOLLIS | 7:30 PM

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

Presented by Ann McClellan

Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road

Contact: Carol Ace, 925-998-2825

3/12 | MANCHESTER | 2:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Expanding the Canon 3: A Play Reading Circle

Presented by Theatre KAPOW/Danielle Soames

Contact: theatre KAPOW, info@tkapow.com

3/13 | STRATHAM | 7:00 PM

New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them

Presented by Jeremy D'Entremont

Stratham Fire Department, 4 Winnicutt Road

Contact: Wiggin Memorial Library, 603-772-4346

3/13 | WASHINGTON | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War

Presented by Carrie Brown

Contact: Stephen Yusko, 301-318-4621

3/15 | AMHERST | 10:00 AM

Civil War Soldiers' Quilts

Presented by Pamela Weeks

Messiah Lutheran Church, 303 State Road 101

Contact: Shannon Chandley, 603-672-6540

3/15 | HAMPTON FALLS | 6:30 PM

Fierce Females: Women in Art

Presented by Jane Oneil

Hampton Falls Free Library, 7 Drinkwater Road

Contact: Hampton Falls Library, 603-926-3682

3/15 | PLAINFIELD | 6:30 PM

Perspectives Book Group: The Humans

Presented by Alice Fogel

Philip Read Memorial Library, 1088 Route 12A

Contact: mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org

3/15 | PLYMOUTH | 7:00 PM

New Hampshire on Skis

Presented by E. John B. Allen

Old Webster Courthouse, Court Street

Contact: Marcia Schmid Blaine, 603-455-9847

3/16 | MADISON | 7:00 PM

Wit and Wisdom: The Forgotten Literary Life of New England Villages

Presented by Jo Radner

Madison Library, 1895 Village Road

Contact: Madison Library, 603-367-8545

3/17 | TUFTONBORO | 7:00 PM

New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them

Presented by Jeremy D'Entremont

Tuftonboro Public Library, 221 Middle Road

Contact: Jackie Rollins, 603-544-3252

3/18 | ANTRIM | 1:00 PM

Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Fateful Memory, Indelible Legacy

Presented by Mary C. Kelly

James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main Street

Contact: James A. Tuttle Library, 603-588-6786



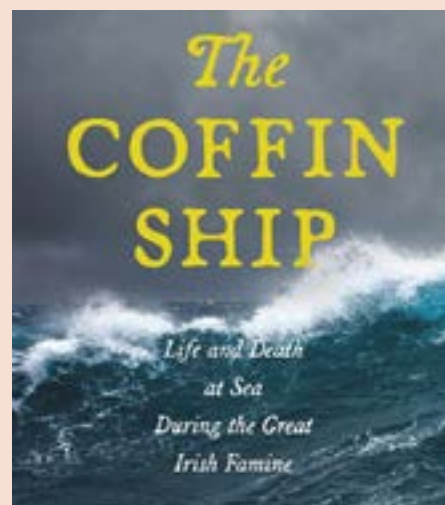
Program types/titles are color coded:

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Humanities@Home

Grant-funded programs



3/19 | PITTSFIELD | 2:00 PM

That Reminds Me of a Story

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Midway Cabin, Graylag Nature Preserve,

320 Clough Road

Contact: Anne Deely, 603-435-5555

3/21 | SALEM | 4:00 PM

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

Presented by Margo Burns

Kelley Library, 234 Main Street

Contact: Paul Giblin, 603-898-7064

3/21 | NEW LONDON | 5:30 PM

Votes for Women: A History of the Suffrage Movement

Presented by Liz Tentarelli

New London Inn, 353 Main Street

Contact: Center for the Arts - Lake Sunapee

Region, 603-526-4444

3/21 | TEMPLE | 6:00 PM

Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War

Presented by Carrie Brown

Temple Town Hall, 9 Main Street

Contact: Mansfield Public Library, 603-878-3100

3/21 | BOSCAWEN | 6:30 PM

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in NH

Presented by Rebecca Rule

Boscawen Public Library, 116 No Main Street

Contact: Boscawen Public Library, 603-753-8576

3/21 | NEWBURY | 7:00 PM (VIRTUAL)

Strange Terrain: How Not To "Get" Poetry & Let It Get You Instead

Presented by Alice B. Fogel

Contact: John Hay Estate at The Fells,

603-763-4789

3/22 | PEMBROKE | 7:00 PM

Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music

Presented by Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki

Pembroke Pubic Library, 313 Pembroke Street

Contact: Sarah Hyland, 603-566-1031

3/26 | CONCORD | 2:00 PM

Family, Memory, Place: Writing Family Stories

Presented by Maura MacNeil

Woman's Club of Concord, 44 Pleasant Street

Contact: Woman's Club, 603-225-3622



Photo: Steve Leone



Writing in community

Giving citizens the tools to participate in local journalism

By Allie Ginwala, Audience Engagement Editor, *Concord Monitor*

Forum — that's the word you'll find at the top of the opinion section every Sunday in the *Concord Monitor*.

The opinion section gives space for people to share their voices directly with readers, existing as a meeting place, in print and online, for an exchange of ideas between local citizens.

On a given day, you could read about shortages in staffing long-term care facilities from the CEO of NH Health Care Association right next to a debate about how to keep trash off of Concord's sidewalks.

It's a vetted forum for a range of thoughtful, reasoned perspectives and ideas.

We work hard to communicate this to members of the communities the *Monitor* covers — that all are welcome and encouraged to write about something that matters to them and share with their neighbors in the *Monitor's* opinion pages. I know this because it's part of what I do every day managing the opinion section.

Unfortunately, inviting participation doesn't eliminate the barriers some may face when trying to engage in civic dialogue. Putting pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) can often be a daunting task that begs the question, 'Where do I even start?'

That's how the idea of hosting a writing workshop came to be. Thanks to a Focus Grant from New Hampshire Humanities and support from the Granite State News Collaborative, the *Concord Monitor* created a *My Turn* opinion writing workshop at the Concord Public Library.

This program was a first for the *Monitor* and we were delighted that so many of our readers were interested in coming together to engage with, listen to, and write about what matters to them and their community. The workshop generated so much interest, in fact, that we had to set up a waiting list and ultimately held an additional workshop a few weeks later, which also filled up quickly.

Joining me to facilitate the workshop were Carisa Corrow, education facilitator and Educating for Good founder; and Dan Marcus, John Stark High School social studies teacher. We created a two-hour interactive event that covered different types of opinion content and how the opinion section works; guidance about the writing process and how to get ideas flowing; examples of what makes a good opinion submission; what the editing conversation between a writer and an editor looks like; and a chance to get feedback from neighbors. This was all compiled in an activity booklet that each participant took home with them.

The root of the workshop is a local newsroom working to bring more people together to share their voices, provide awareness of how the newsroom operates, and strengthen an understanding of the link between citizen involvement and local news. It also provided an opportunity to pull back the veil and open up a space for questions and discussion between the *Concord Monitor* and the communities it covers.

Feedback from our survey overwhelmingly showed great interest in more workshops and community gatherings centered on civic dialogue, revealing a gap that needs to be filled. I hope to hear about people starting their own writers' groups or other organizations hosting and leading programs soon.

And while this workshop was a wonderful opportunity for *Concord Monitor* readers, a program like this can exist in many forms beyond the *Monitor*, and for more than just newspapers. Our team hopes to see it adapted to classrooms, nonprofits, and perhaps even in business conference rooms.

To help get others started, we've digitized all of the materials from the workshop and created a starter guide. If you'd like to learn more about getting involved in local journalism or host a similar program, check our landing page at nnedigital.ac-page.com/OpinionWritingWorkshop. 



Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare™

The role of literature & humanities in medicine



By Hannah Jean, International Institute of New England, and Mary Nolin, New Hampshire Humanities

On a brisk morning in October, a small group of women came to class in the basement of the International Institute of New England (IINE) in Manchester. Coming from El Salvador, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, and Vietnam, the women are not only learning critical content for Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) jobs in a healthcare field ravaged by the pandemic, but are learning English in the process.

In one hand they held the textbook *Hartman's Nursing Assistant Care*, which is used in their LNA coursework. In the other hand, they had a piece of children's literature, *Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure*. The relationship between the two books, as well as the larger relationship between medicine and the humanities, generates multiple questions – most importantly, what role do the humanities and literature play in the medical field?

Hannah Jean, course instructor and career navigator at IINE, had a vision to pair a medical textbook with children's literature provided by the New Hampshire Humanities *Connections* program, improving both English language acquisition and encouraging a more holistic approach to healthcare.

“My goal for this book discussion was to work on the students’ reading comprehension skills and teach them the importance of compassionately caring for others before they head off to clinical training. I wanted my students to understand that being present for someone during an illness and caring for them as a person is just as important as any medical care they will give their patients, a point this book exemplified for them in a way the textbook cannot.”

In *Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure*, a Tibetan-American grandfather falls ill and his condition worsens, despite continued visits to the doctor. When leveraging the power of community, family, and nature, the grandfather's health starts to improve.

Traditionally, medical textbooks are science focused and pertain to specific health conditions. For example, in Hannah's class students read “Dying with a Stage IV Pressure

Ulcer,” which highlights failures of the U.S. eldercare system. While it gave students a lot to think about, they often felt overwhelmed, and uncertain about what they could do to improve patient care within our flawed system. Comparatively,

(continued)



Literature can help bridge the gap between medical providers and patients by connecting the world of science with the world of lived experience."

Tashi and the Tibetan Flower Cure

illustrated what holistic care looks like in action.

It showed that traditional medicine from different cultures can safely be adapted to a facility setting and gave students the concrete steps they needed to successfully implement holistic health care in a clinical setting. The resulting discussions deepened student understanding of why compassionate and empathetic LNAs are important. **"This cohort did much better in their clinicals than the cohorts before them, and I firmly believe that it was at least in part because they read and discussed Tashi,"** asserts Hannah.

In addition to success in their clinical studies, the book provided opportunities for learning English. It raised questions around larger issues in healthcare, generating a critical discussion on the state of the eldercare system in the U.S. and what the role of the community should be.

For Hannah, one moment resonated

in particular: **"When I asked what the role of the community should be in caring for residents in long-term care facilities, students shared their experiences with care in their home countries and how different it is from what they observed in the U.S."**

One student revealed that she cared for older relatives in her home country before coming here. Another student mentioned she is afraid to grow old here because care is so expensive. She worries her son may decide not to help take care of her and that she may be alone. Both students noted that in the nursing home where they work, the residents receive few visits from their families."

While medicine continues to make great technical progress, the personal connection and communication at the heart of a patient/caregiver relationship is falling behind. The strain of the pandemic has caused burnout, exhaustion, and workforce shortages across our healthcare system, ultimately affecting patient care. Literature can help bridge the gap



between medical providers and patients by connecting the world of science with the world of lived experience. With the human condition at its heart, the humanities foster our quest for better lives. Now, more than ever, the humanities hold a profound and meaningful place in the "heart of healthcare," helping increase understanding about the world of the provider, the patient, and the experience of illness. 🌱

Thank you to Bar Harbor Bank for its generous support of the Connections program.



*We would like to thank and recognize the award-winning national program, *Literature and Medicine*, for providing the inspiration and "Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare" tagline for this *Connections* program article. To learn more about the *Connections* program, please visit www.nhhumanities.org/Connections.



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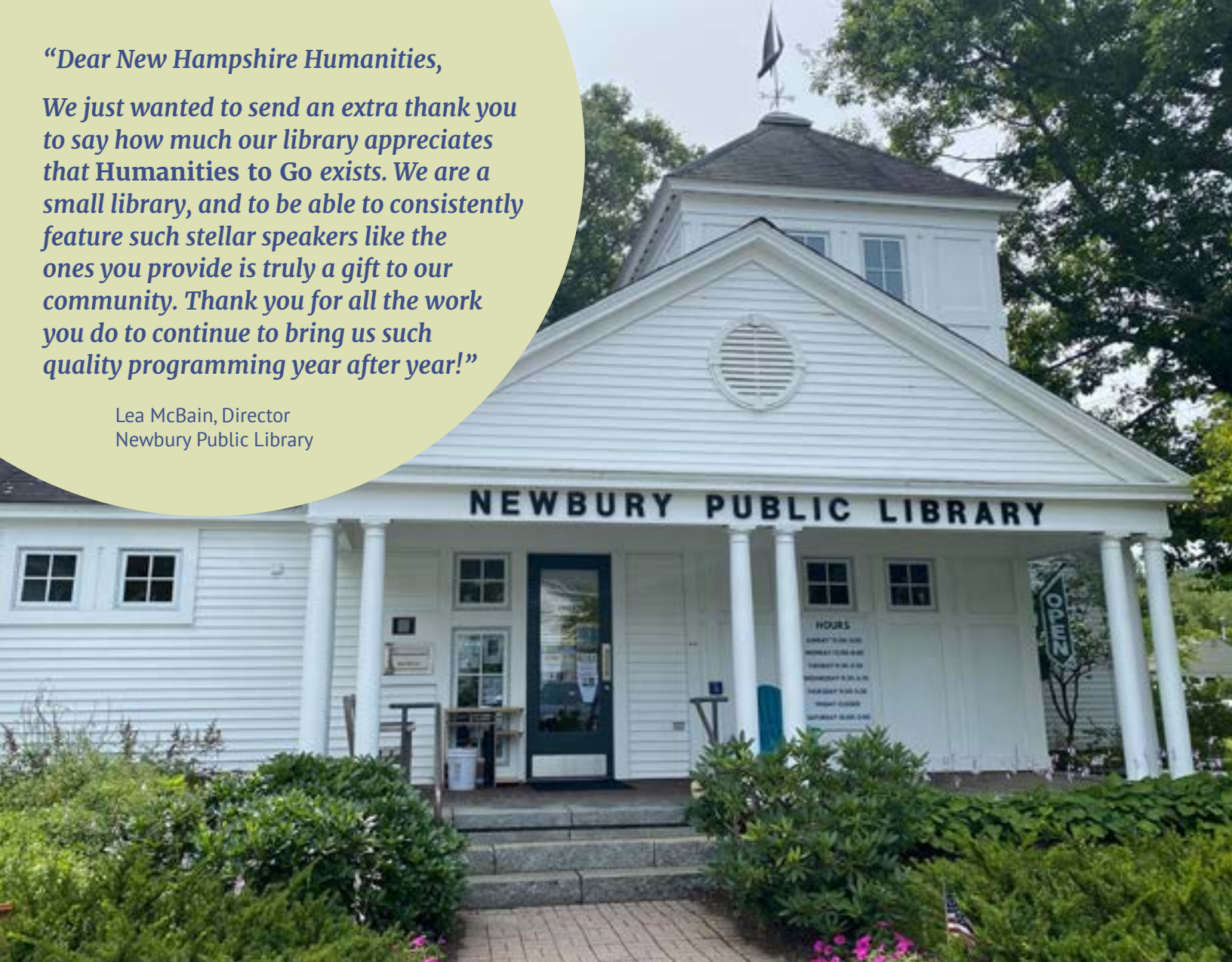
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Lea McBain, Director
Newbury Public Library



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