



NEW HAMPSHIRE
humanities

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS • SUMMER 2026

Engage! & IMPACT



Connecting people and ideas

ANNUAL IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT REPORT • FY25

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New Hampshire Humanities connects people and ideas by funding and supporting statewide programs that inspire curiosity, foster civil dialogue & explore big questions.

Our Strategic Goals • 2023–2026

1 *grow & diversify* IMPROVING AND BUILDING OUR PROGRAMMING

To understand and articulate the impact our programs have on audiences, we will evaluate all programming and implement the findings using an iterative impact process based on our mission and vision. By doing this, we will expand our audience and support other statewide organizations that align with our mission.

2 *sustain & strengthen* STRENGTHENING RESOURCES TO ENABLE US TO SUSTAINABLY FULFILL OUR MISSION

We will diversify funding through sponsorship and program-focused funding, reestablish our connection to core supporters, attract new supporters, and diversify funding with national level grants.

3 *amplify & advocate* EVOLVING OUR MESSAGING AND MEDIUMS TO AMPLIFY OUR IMPACT

By honing our messaging and storytelling, we will increase the ability of our partners, supporters, Board of Directors, and staff to advocate for New Hampshire Humanities.

4 *lead & collaborate* SYSTEMATICALLY BUILDING TIES BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE A HUMANITIES NETWORK

New Hampshire Humanities will lead and grow a network of humanities organizations in the state. Our success will mean the priorities and needs of the network are clear, and that we are unified in our advocacy. In doing so, we will be understood as a facilitator of the state's humanities network, supporting and strengthening the community of people doing humanities work in the Granite State.

New Hampshire Humanities (NHH) programs are made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this these programs do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or NHH.



Preparing for the Future: A Year of Challenge & Commitment

This past year was one part challenge and two parts joy. The challenge of rescinded federal funding was met with the joyful expressions of support we received from all of you and the innovative programming developed through new partnerships. We value your continued support and partnership as New Hampshire Humanities (NHH) continues to serve you and the state.

When NHH faced an external threat, we were reminded that our communities have a bone-deep hunger for the humanities. The NHH staff and Board of Directors made brave choices in the face of these uncertainties – building our budget for 2026 at half the budget of 2024, reducing our staff size by almost a half, and reducing our programming budget by around one third. We made these choices to prepare the organization for another 50 years of serving you, the people of New Hampshire, with or without the federal government.

NHH staff found ways to increase the impact of the programming being offered. We brought the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street exhibit, *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* to three rural New Hampshire communities in partnership with Vermont Humanities and New Hampshire partners in Plymouth, Jefferson, and Keene.

Partnering with the NH Community Development Finance Authority, we held conversations across the state exploring the idea of community and the human need for connection. Our work throughout 2025 prepared the way for our 2026 programming already underway to recognize America's semiquincentennial. Supporting our communities' commemoration of the United States' 250th birthday, NHH is sponsoring over 80 "Big Watch" programs throughout the state in collaboration with NH Historical Society, NHPBS, and Ken Burns and Florentine Films. And we are pleased to continue offering beloved programs like *Humanities to Go* and *Connections* which remain deeply embedded in the DNA of New Hampshire Humanities.

“Live a life full of humility, gratitude, intellectual curiosity, and never stop learning.” - Gza



The humanities bring Granite Staters together to think about our common past, examine our present, and to dream about our future. They provide connections between where we were and where we can be. To preserve these critical tools to understanding our world and defending our democracy, we *must* continue to invest in the humanities.

By connecting people in shared experiences and igniting curiosity about different perspectives and backgrounds, public humanities programming creates community where none had existed before and ties us more firmly to one another. NHH will remain part of the fabric of New Hampshire – with or without the unreliable funding and appropriation processes at the federal level.

NHH is dedicated and passionate about connecting all Granite Staters with ideas, because we believe the humanities have the power to change lives and give us a framework for understanding the world around us. Think about what NHH provides to our state and communities and, please, continue to support us. By supporting NHH, you make available educational opportunities for people of all ages through book discussion groups, community project grants, and live or virtual programs held in libraries, community centers, schools, correctional facilities, and the outdoors. We will continue to evolve and serve Granite Staters now and in the future.

Marcia Schmidt Blaine

Marcia Schmidt Blaine
Chair, NHH Board of Directors

Michael Haley Goldman

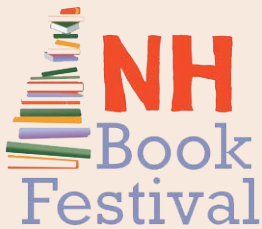
Michael Haley Goldman
Executive Director

connecting people and ideas



NH Book Festival

The second annual **New Hampshire Book Festival** in 2025, made possible in part by a Major Community Project Grant, brought the wonder of books to life for audiences of all ages. With a mission to celebrate and promote books, authors, and literacy across the state, the festival created meaningful connections between readers and writers, from beloved national names to local New Hampshire voices. Through panel discussions, author forums, and interactive sessions, attendees explored the craft of writing and deepened their appreciation for storytelling. The two-day event in downtown Concord attracted over 5,000 attendees and featured live presentations, panels, and book signings by 50+ nationally recognized authors and poets, including keynote talks by Tui Sutherland and Walter Mosley.



Humanities to Go

In 2025, New Hampshire Humanities partnered with five organizations in Coos County, New Hampshire's most rural county, to bring free *Humanities to Go* programs to northern communities. Eight programs explored topics including naturalist Edwin Way Teale, New Hampshire's remaining timber rattlesnakes, and connections between the Salem Witch Trials and today's "fake news."



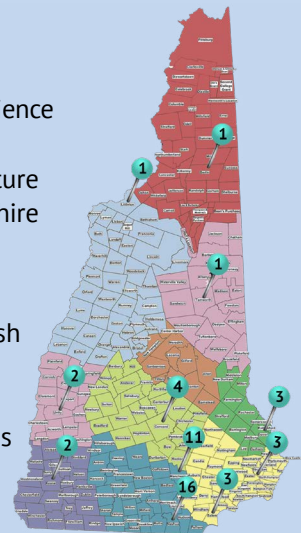
Participants demonstrated the relevance of these conversations in rural New Hampshire. After Steve Taylor's *Late In Arriving: How Electricity Changed Rural New Hampshire Life*, one attendee shared, **"I still lug water, have an outhouse, and cook on a woodstove."** At the Jefferson Historical Society, Jo Radner's *Family Stories* program resonated because **"families are the lifeblood of rural communities."** Her *Yankee Ingenuity* presentation at the Whitefield Public Library was so popular that attendees requested the library add her book to its collection.



Connections Book Discussions

Connections adult literacy program is a book discussion experience designed to advance employment goals, reinforce family literacy, promote English language skills, and support a culture of reading to more than 600 participants across New Hampshire each year.

Through the *Connections* program, the International Institute of New England (IINE) has delivered remote, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction to immigrant healthcare employees at Elliot Hospital of Manchester and Dartmouth Health of Lebanon. These employees are striving to improve their English proficiency and integrate more fully into their communities and careers. At the center of this ESOL for healthcare curriculum is literature provided by NHH's *Connections* program, which provided free copies of each book to every student enrolled in the class to support the healthcare instruction designed by IINE teachers.



(Map above shows the number of *Connections* program locations in 2025)

inspiring curiosity



Latino Poetry: The Places We Call Home

In early 2025 public libraries around the state hosted conversations about the poems in *Latino Poetry: The Library of America Anthology*. A collaboration between NHH, the University of NH, and the Center for the Book at the NH State Library, each gathering focused on a particular theme with different themes hosted in various locations. Sets of

Latino Poetry were loaned to each library for use in their program, with support from NHH and Gibson's Bookstore.

Albacore Park

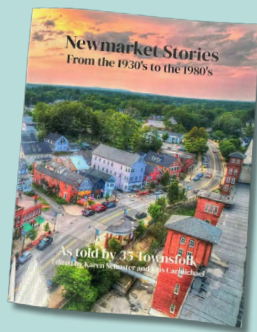


Through a NHH Community Project Grant, Portsmouth Submarine & Maritime Association (PSMA), also known as Albacore Park, expanded its scope to tell the broader story of Portsmouth and the Piscataqua River's shipbuilding, maritime trade, and military history. Following a recent facility expansion that added a

480-square-foot maritime gallery, the project enabled Albacore Park to convene a symposium to advance historically accurate programming for all age groups. By broadening its mission, Albacore Park strengthens its role as an accessible cultural institution dedicated to education, innovation, and regional history.

Newmarket Stories

What was life like in Newmarket in the 1930s? What were Newmarket teens wearing, where were they working, and what did they think of the town? How have things changed? Explore the answers to these questions from long-time residents of the town, collected in a heartwarming book and documentary by the Newmarket Business Association (NBA), with support from a NHH Community Project Grant. Thirty-five Newmarket residents offered their recollections to this oral history project, with memories ranging from the '30s to the '80s. Narrators, filmed by the town media manager, spoke of their childhoods, playing outside in the streets of Newmarket until dusk while their parents worked at the shoe factory.



These oral histories offer a poignant glimpse into the importance of collecting memories; four narrators passed away during the production of this book, after offering their recollections. Now, the histories collected will be preserved by the hard work of the NBA, in collaboration with the Newmarket Library and Historical Society. NHPBS and WMUR,

in addition to local venues in the town, showed the documentary, and book production has doubled due to popular demand. *Scan the QR code for the video!*

Voices of Pride

Whose history is preserved and whose is overlooked? The Historical Society of Cheshire County (HSCC) addressed this question through *Voices of Pride*, an oral history project documenting LGBTQIA+ experiences in the Monadnock Region. Supported by two NHH grants, the project has recorded 19 oral histories, preserving stories often absent from the historical record.

Executive Director Jennifer Carroll noted the organization's commitment to "recovering the histories of groups that were formerly passed over." To build trust, HSCC participated in LGBTQIA+ community events and provided space for the LGBT National Hotline Center.

To protect participants' privacy and safety, interviews will remain restricted



from public access for five years, with review in 2030. HSCC has also opened a new oral history lounge with project artifacts and interview clips, inviting visitors to witness history in the making.

"When we began *Voices of Pride*, we hoped to preserve LGBTQIA+ history in the Monadnock Region. The project now incorporates more than 20 narratives spanning multiple generations and gender identities. What we didn't fully anticipate was what the project would give back – to our narrators, to our team, and to our organization," said Jennifer.

"People came to us to share the past and left feeling seen in the present. These exchanges have changed how we understand our work as a historical organization – embracing our role as good neighbors and as contributors to the health and wellbeing of our community. With the help of some of the narrators, HSCC is working on ways to create more opportunities for informal community gathering and partnerships."



inspiring curiosity

Humanities@Home

From the sweeping vistas of Yellowstone National Park to a landmark archaeological dig in Massachusetts, *Humanities@Home* participants were inspired to think beyond the cozy comforts of home during this series of virtual programs – “**Education without traveling,**” as one attendee described it. To make humanities programming more accessible online, *Humanities@Home* explored universal topics such as our deeply personal connections to food, offered insights from local experts on issues like extremism in the Middle East, and highlighted ways to preserve family history in a program with State Archivist Ashley Miller. Participants were united in their eagerness to join such thought-provoking conversations from home:



“I value having *Humanities@Home* available online since I live in a small town where resources such as this professor's impressive scholarship are not always readily accessible. To participate in the comfort and safety of one's own home on a cold, dark winter's night in such a well-researched and presented lecture is a welcome treat!” said a participant in Professor Abby Goode's program, “Rethinking the U.S. National Parks.”

Crossroads: Change in Rural America

Nestled in the White Mountains and known for Santa's Village, Jefferson proudly hosted the traveling Smithsonian exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*. During its six-week run, the exhibit drew attendance equal to 107% of the town's population and inspired more than 1,100 volunteer hours.

Led by the Jefferson Historical Society, the project brought together the library, a charter school, a seniors group, and other local organizations to create a vibrant community experience. Programs included a NHH Roadshow event, *Stone Walls and Cellar Holes*, recognition of Groveton teacher Mallory Langkou-Gross as a Jere Daniel Public Humanities Teacher Fellow, student-led projects, and public lectures tied to the exhibit's themes. Even a late spring snowstorm did not deter audiences from attending events, reflecting the resilience and enthusiasm of the community. Jefferson Historical Society President Joe Marshall said the exhibit “**gave the community a sense of pride and helped them understand what is possible.**”

The *Crossroads* exhibit was also hosted by the Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth and the River Valley Community College in Claremont. Three locations in Vermont hosted the exhibit through our partnership with Vermont Humanities.



Smithsonian
MUSEUM
on Main Street



fostering civil dialogue

Black Heritage Trail of NH

Each February, the Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks bring people across New Hampshire together to listen, learn, and reflect. This year's series, *The Art of War: Conflict and the African American Philosophy*, drew on Sun Tzu's teachings and African traditions. The series gathered students, elders, artists, clergy, and community members to explore how spiritual strength, cultural inheritance, and community have shaped African American resilience through centuries



of struggle and triumph. As one said, "One step back but three steps forward. Gave me hope." Another shared, "It confirmed my determination to continue to resist as I have over my 81 years because my family made certain that I know who I am."

Jere Daniell Public Humanities Teacher Fellowships



During the 2024-2025 school year, two educators were chosen by NHH for the inaugural Jere Daniell Public Humanities Teacher Fellowship. Cassandra Doore, a humanities teacher at Barrington Middle School, and Mallory Langkau-Gross, a social studies teacher and assistant principal at Groveton High School, each worked on a year-long project that relied on local resources, historians, and extensive research that allowed students to see the past come alive before them in the present moment.

Community Conversations: Shaping Stronger Communities



A partnership between NHH and the NH Community Development Finance Authority brought humanities-centered conversations to six communities around the state. In Whitefield, North Conway, Harrisville, Holderness, Nashua, and Portsmouth, neighbors gathered to discuss what community means to them and how to address challenges, led by NHH-trained facilitators Kiki Berk, Mohamed Defaa, Damien Costello, Courtney Marshall, Maria Sanders, and Josh Tepley. Each host site received funding to develop a follow-up project to deepen engagement. A special partnership with artist and educator Marek Bennett brought the events to life. Using his "Drawing Communities Together" method, Bennett sketched the conversations as they unfolded, visually recording the hopes, challenges, and questions voiced by participants.



National History Day

In the 2024–2025 academic year, National History Day in NH (NHDNH) became a powerful example of how the public humanities can equip students with vital skills, enrich schools, and bring communities together. "Thanks in large part to a NHH Community Project Grant, NHDNH not only expanded our reach but also deepened our impact on educators, students, and the state as a whole," according to the organizers. "This program gives students the chance to see themselves as researchers and historians. By funding this program, you ensure a wide variety of students can participate."

Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts

NHH continued its support of HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts), sponsoring its 16th annual student-led philosophy conference at the University of NH. Founded by students at Souhegan High School, HYPE brings together young minds for a full day of thought-provoking, Socratic discussions to foster critical thinking, respectful debate, and civil discourse. HYPE now draws more than a thousand students and teachers from over 50 schools across the state, united by a shared commitment to exploring what it means to be a responsible citizen, nurturing curiosity about the world, and the ability to reason together.

"Being involved in the HYPE community at Souhegan High School truly changed my perspective on life. The course allowed me to consider aspects of humanity I had not yet explored while diving deeper into topics I had previously studied." - HYPE participant

exploring big questions

Silentwoods Collective

On an early summer weekend in Antrim, eight historically informed performances by Silentwoods Collective brought music, storytelling, and history together for audiences of all ages. Supported in part by a NHH Community Project Grant, the events connected scholarly knowledge with community experience through interactive and accessible humanities programming.



Ten musicians and singers performed on historical instruments, featuring works from the Enlightenment period alongside compositions by Ignatius Sancho, a once-enslaved writer and composer, as well as music by Vivaldi, Handel, and Bach.



At Washington Elementary School, students explored the instruments firsthand, sparking “wonder, smiles, laughing, and even more questions.” Audience members praised the performances’ quality and uniqueness. Samantha of Peterborough shared, “I’ve never been exposed to Baroque music

before. This concert was completely free, and the level of talent was beyond anything I’ve ever seen before.”

Scan the QR code for remarks from the delighted audience!

Perspectives Book Groups

Through our *Perspectives* book groups, offered in partnership with the Center for the Book at the NH State Library, we curated thought-provoking book selections and provided skilled facilitators to guide respectful, meaningful discussions – even around difficult or sensitive topics. Each book was carefully chosen to represent a range of voices, perspectives, and lived experiences, encouraging participants to expand their worldviews and engage thoughtfully with complex ideas.

“With limited staffing and very limited program funding, *Perspectives* allows us to DO MORE, and brings a higher level of professionalism to our book groups. The conversations continue long after the book discussion is over.”

- Jaffrey Public Library



Changing the Narrative

While incarcerated for 16 months, Laurel Ayotte read 347 books. After arriving at Dismas Home NH, a residential treatment program for women recovering from substance use disorder and navigating the experience of incarceration, the first book she picked up was *KooKooLand* by New Hampshire author Gloria Norris. Last spring, Laurel had the opportunity to meet Norris during a panel discussion exploring how literature can help address incarceration, addiction, and mental health challenges. The event was deeply meaningful for Laurel and resonated with the 50 attendees gathered at the Woman’s Club in Concord.



After more than two years sober, Laurel prepared to move into independent living last year. Crediting the clinical services and therapy provided by Dismas Home, journaling and, of course, literature for her personal growth and recovery, Ayotte reflected, “Every time you read a book, you learn. Two people sitting down and reading or discussing a book is really an amazing thing.”

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Organized by NHH, The Woman’s Club of Concord, Dismas Home NH, and the NH Department of Corrections, the event

invited speakers to reflect on how literature can reshape public understanding of incarceration, substance use, and mental health, while also transforming the lives of those who engage with these stories firsthand. Through NHH’s *Connections* program, women at Dismas Home and incarcerated parents at the NH State Prison for Men both read *KooKooLand*.

Laurel Ayotte,
Connections participant



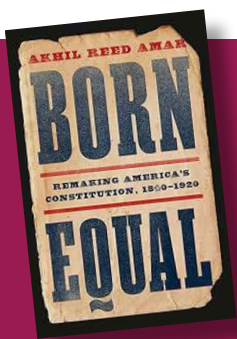
2025 Annual Celebration of the Humanities

An Evening with Akhil Reed Amar & Laura Knoy: The Remaking of America's Constitution

On Wednesday, October 9 at the Bank of NH Stage in Concord, our signature event, the **Annual Celebration of the Humanities**, attracted over 300 enthusiastic audience members and 190 livestream viewers who were hungry to hear Constitutional scholar and author Akhil Reed Amar in discussion with author and renowned interviewer Laura Knoy. Their onstage dialogue about the resiliency of the U.S. Constitution and our country was by turns profound, humorous, and deeply engaging, leaving the audience thoroughly captivated.

Among the many highlights of the evening was the **2025 Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award** presented to Jane C. Nylander for enriching the humanities in New Hampshire and New England throughout her extraordinary career spanning more than five decades. Thank you to all who purchased a ticket, sponsored the event, or tuned in from home – we are deeply grateful for your support!

We are especially thankful to NHPBS for their generous support, particularly in recording and producing this special event! **NH PBS**



“Echoes of last night are still ringing in my head: What a wonderful evening! Laura Knoy asks fabulous questions and handled the incoming audience questions so well (how does she do that?). Akhil Reed Amar was an excellent interviewee: deeply knowledgeable, making connections between past and present, and bringing stories to life. His many pop cultural references surprised me and worked so well. He was passionate and such a good storyteller – telling stories with a purpose.” – Annual Celebration attendee

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“I am so glad you are providing this opportunity for the public – we are battling other forces to make sure citizens never forget the torch of democracy is passed from each generation to the next – with that comes great responsibility and great privilege. Keep on keepin’ on, New Hampshire Humanities!” – Annual Fund Donor

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“New Hampshire Humanities is a much needed voice these days. Thank you!” – Daniel Scheinman, Annual Fund Donor

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Former Board & Staff

We gratefully acknowledge members of our Board of Directors and staff who finished their terms or departed from service in the past year:

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David Juvet
Jacqueline D. Wernimont
Andrea Williamson

Staff:

Lory Attalla
Lynn Douillette
Katrina Kerr
Beth Salerno

Endowments & Special Funds



Investing in New Hampshire Humanities' Future

Thanks to the generous gifts from donors, board, and staff for the last 50 years our endowment and special funds have grown to \$5.3 million. This provides New Hampshire Humanities with more than \$280,000 in annual program support. By increasing our funds by just \$500,000, an extra \$22,500 in predictable revenue will be generated for programs every year. Your gift to our endowments or funds will ensure our mission for generations to come. That is an enduring impact!

End of FY25

The Anne Zachos Fund	\$924,553
Funds excellence in staffing and program management and unexpected programmatic opportunities, named after longtime board member and cultural leader, Anne Zachos.	
The Charles G. Bickford Endowment for Innovation	\$594,098
Supports the development of new initiatives and the expansion of current projects that focus on diversity in New Hampshire, building and encouraging a civil society, and conversation in the humanities.	
The Humanities to Go Endowment	\$1,421,841
Includes <i>Humanities to Go</i> , the popular speakers bureau, <i>Perspectives</i> book groups, and <i>Open Questions</i> community conversations.	
The Osbourne Fund for Education	\$1,439,271
Restricted to programs that further K-12 learning in the humanities.	
The Merrill Fund	\$267,996
Restricted to supporting humanities programs in Rockingham County.	
Legacy Endowments held by New Hampshire Charitable Foundation	\$1,612,453
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation holds several Legacy Endowments that continue to support NHH including: Education Fund, NH Legacy Fund, William Dunfey Fund, Gilmore Fund, and the NHH Council Fund.	



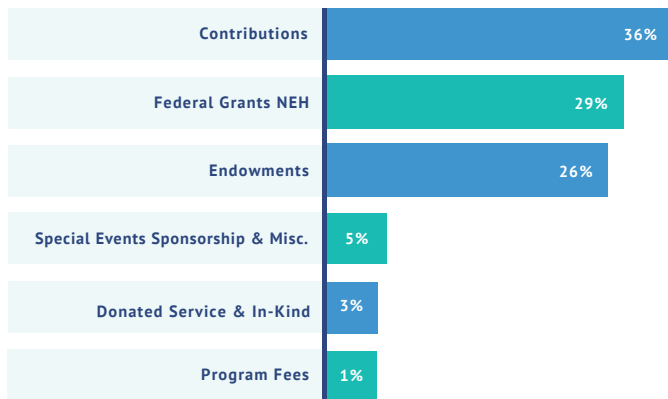
“The endowment supports an organization through the best of times, and the worst of times. It gives the humanities a steady foundation during times when external funding can be unpredictable.”

– David Watters, former Board member

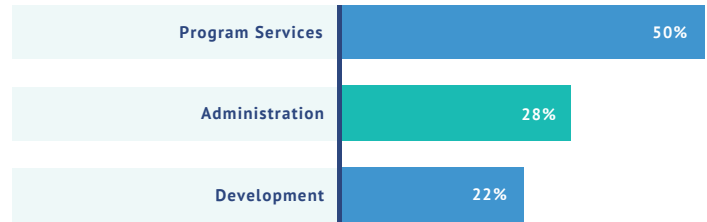
Revenue & Expenses FY25



Revenue
\$1,518,874



Expenses
\$1,381,954



“We have participated in New Hampshire Humanities programming throughout the years and appreciate the variety of content and conversations! Your work enriches our communities.”

– Annual Fund supporter

Annual Partners

Thank you to the following partner sponsors who provide year-round support for our work:

LEAD PARTNER



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MEDIA PARTNERS



The support of our Annual Partners helps New Hampshire Humanities continue its work to connect people and ideas by funding and supporting statewide programs that inspire curiosity, foster civil dialogue, and explore big questions.



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, **NH at 250** explores the complex tapestry of the American story through the lens of the Granite State.

NHPR.ORG/250 nhpr



A grant to the Racial Unity Team brought together students from Laconia High School with authors of the book “Go Home” by Terry Farish (front row, third from right) and Lochan Sharma (front row, fourth from left).



Community Impact Grants

New Hampshire Humanities’ Community Project Grants support creative and engaging public humanities programs that advance New Hampshire’s cultural networks and provide opportunities for residents of all ages to learn about our communities and world.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY <i>Voices of Pride: LGBTQIA+ Oral Histories in the Monadnock Region Part 2</i>	\$9,870
NEWMARKET BUSINESS ASSOCIATION <i>Newmarket Story Project</i>	\$5,000
BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE <i>The Art of War: Conflict and the African American Philosophy</i>	\$10,000
PORTSMOUTH SUBMARINE AND MARITIME ASSOCIATION <i>Charting the Course: Albacore Park Maritime Planning & Implementation</i>	\$9,275
NEW HAMPSHIRE BOOK AND LITERARY FESTIVAL <i>New Hampshire Book Festival 2025</i>	\$5,000
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY <i>National History Day NH 2025</i>	\$5,000
RACIAL UNITY TEAM <i>Belonging in New Hampshire: Book Discussion of the Young Adult Novel, “Go Home” with Laconia High School Students</i>	\$1,487
SAU #39/SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS FORUM <i>Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts (HYPE) 2025</i>	\$5,000
SILENTWOODS COLLECTIVE INC. <i>Silentwoods Collective at History Alive Festival</i>	\$2,000
COALITION FOR OPEN DEMOCRACY <i>Granite State Democracy Tour</i>	\$2,785
QUEERLECTIVE <i>Storytelling for Social Change Conference</i>	\$10,000
THEATRE KAPOW <i>Expanding the Canon 5</i>	\$1,600

AMOUNT AWARDED BY REGION

<u>Region</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Merrimack Valley	\$26,385
Seacoast	\$25,762
Monadnock	\$9,870
Lakes	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$67,017

AMOUNT AWARDED BY COUNTY

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cheshire	\$9,870
Grafton	\$5,000
Hillsborough	\$18,600
Merrimack	\$7,785
Rockingham	\$25,762
TOTAL	\$67,017

AMOUNT AWARDED BY DISTRICT

<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NH-1	\$37,362
NH-2	\$29,655
TOTAL	\$67,017



David Watters at Wildcat Brook, Jackson, NH

Rooted Here: David Watters' Lifelong Commitment to Place



David Watters has spent a lifetime shaping New Hampshire's intellectual and civic landscape. From his service as a state senator representing District 4 since 2012, to nearly four decades teaching English at the University of New Hampshire, to his work as a New Hampshire Humanities Board member and as a widely respected scholar of New England culture, David's influence is both wide and deeply rooted. His scholarship, including *The Encyclopedia of New England*, reflects a lifelong devotion to understanding and elevating the place he calls home.

That commitment has been shared by his wife, Janice, a former professor of English at Fitchburg State University. Together, they have championed the humanities—not just as an academic pursuit, but as a public good that strengthens communities. Most recently, they made a significant gift to the New Hampshire Humanities *Humanities to Go* endowment, in addition to their loyal annual support.

Reflecting on that choice, David shared, "I'm grateful that the board had the foresight to establish an endowment as part of the 2015 campaign, which I assisted. It gives the humanities a steady foundation during times when external funding can be unpredictable." True to his literary roots, he quoted Dickens to capture its impact: "The endowment supports an organization through the best of times, and the worst of times."

"The humanities are a lifetime endeavor, I think, and long-term the endowment gives freedom and stability to that pursuit."

What resonates most deeply with David are programs that are unmistakably New Hampshire-focused. He has dedicated his career—through writing, teaching, and governance—to strengthen the wellbeing and identity of the state. "New Hampshire Humanities means so much to me," he says. "I see how it brings ideas into communities and helps build a real sense of place." He sees firsthand how hungry people are for enrichment and connection.

That hunger brought to mind one of his favorite Frost poems, "The Star Splitter," in which the protagonist sacrifices his family farm to gain the means to purchase a telescope, and a glimpse of something larger and more beautiful. For David, the humanities offer that same kind of illumination—opening new ways of seeing and belonging.

If you, too, would like to make a lasting investment in New Hampshire's cultural life, we invite you to consider a gift to the New Hampshire Humanities endowment. Visit the Endowment & Special Funds page under Give on our website, or contact us at development@nhhumanities.org.

The Big Watch continues!

Film screenings & discussions and many events around the state!



Join us to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with our continuing series of community-driven Big Watch programs across the state.

At the screening and discussion events, we'll watch a short excerpt from *THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*, the new film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt, followed by a facilitated community conversation. Host organizations are also offering an additional, community-led program to complement their Big Watch event. **Come watch, reflect, and be part of the conversation!**

Big Watch Screening & Discussions

6/3 | SANBORNTON | 5:00 PM

Sanbornton Public Library, 27 Meetinghouse Rd.
Contact: Rebekka Mateyk, (603) 286-8288

6/5 | FRANCESTOWN | 6:30 PM

George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library
2 New Boston Road
Contact: francestownlibrary@gmail.com

6/6 | BOW | TIME PM

Baker Free Library, 509 South Street
Contact: liesl@bakerfreelib.org

6/11 | GILFORD | 5:30 PM

Gilford Public Library, 31 Potter Hill Road
Contact: patty@gilfordlibrary.org

6/13 | SPRINGFIELD | 6:00 PM

Libbie Cass Library, 23 Four Corners Road
Contact: libbiecass@gmail.com

6/14 | PORTSMOUTH | 1:00 PM

Strawbery Banke Museum, 14 Hancock St.
Contact: sseacord@lemd.com

6/15 | DOVER | 6:00 PM

Dover Public Library, 73 Locust Street
Contact: s.dunker@dover.nh.gov

6/17 | PLYMOUTH | 5:30 PM

Pease Public Library, 1 Russell Street
Contact: info@plymouthnhhistory.org

6/24 | HOOKSETT | 5:30 PM

Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. St. Mary's Way
Contact: jayotte@hooksettlibrary.org

6/27 | MANCHESTER | 11:30 AM

Manchester City Library, 405 Pine Street
Contact: dbasora@manchesternh.gov

6/27 | RICHMOND | 6:00 PM

Richmond Public Library, Veterans Hall
108 Old Homestead Highway
Contact: library@richmondnh.us

7/1 | GRANTHAM | 6:00 PM

Dunbar Free Library, 401 Rte. 10 South
Contact: Katie Burns, 603-863-2172

07/2 | CHARLESTOWN | 7:30 PM

Silsby Free Public Library, 267 Springfield Rd.
Contact: silsby@charlestown-nh.gov

07/3 | PORTSMOUTH | 1:00 PM

Moffatt-Ladd House & Garden Museum
154 Market Street
Contact: director@moffattladd.org

7/5 | TEMPLE | 6:30 PM

Mansfield Public Library, 19 Main Street
Contact: mansfieldlibrary@templenh.gov

07/30 | AUBURN | 6:00 PM

Auburn Historical Assoc., 102 Hooksett Rd.
Contact: duckrace@auburnhistorical.org

Community Events

6/1 | WINDHAM | 9:00 AM

Town-Wide Scavenger Hunt
Nesmith Library, 8 Fellows Road
Contact: mschroeter@nesmithlibrary.org

6/1 | RICHMOND | 12:00 PM

Revolutionary War Sites Driving Tour
Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd.
Contact: library@richmondnh.us

6/3 | MANCHESTER | 6:00 PM

Why Democracy?
Millyard Museum, 200 Bedford Street
Contact: dbasora@manchesternh.gov

6/14 | PORTSMOUTH | 12:00 PM

Revolutionary Portsmouth
Strawbery Banke Museum, 14 Hancock St.
Contact: sseacord@lemd.com

6/18 | MEREDITH | 6:30 PM

Women of '76
Meredith Public Library, 91 Main Street
Contact: erin@meredithlibrary.org

6/20 | JEFFERSON | 10:30 AM

Unpacking the Declaration Independence: What It Meant Then and Now
Jefferson Community Center, 178 Meadows Rd.
Contact: jeffersonnhhistory@gmail.com

6/24 | NORTHFIELD | 6:00 PM

Cozy Paint Night
Hall Memorial Library, 18 Park Street
Contact: Chelsea@hallmemoriallibrary.org

6/27 | MONROE | 10:00 AM

Day of Celebration of Community and the USA
Monroe School Grounds, 77 Woodsville Rd.
Contact: monroepubliclibrary@gmail.com

6/30 | NORTH HAMPTON | 6:00 PM

New Hampshire in the American Revolution
N. Hampton Public Library, 239 Atlantic Ave.
Contact: nhplprogramming@gmail.com

7/1 | TAMWORTH | 11:00 AM

What Was It Like to Live in Tamworth in 1776?
Cook Memorial Library, 93 Main Street
Contact: director@tamworthlibrary.org

7/4 | MARLBOROUGH | 9:00 AM

Monument Dedication
Downtown Marlborough, 28 Jaffrey Road
Contact: 603-876-4068

7/5 | LISBON | 7:00 PM

Who Was John Stark?
Lisbon Area Historical Society, 9 Depot Street
Contact: lisbonareahistoricalociety@gmail.com

7/8 | PLYMOUTH | 5:40 PM

Declaration of Independence Reading
Plymouth Historical Society, 1 Court Street
Contact: info@plymouthnhhistory.org

7/11 | HOOKSETT | 10:30 AM

Travel Back to 1776
Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. St. Mary's Way
Contact: jayotte@hooksettlibrary.org

7/25 | MOULTONBOROUGH | 9:00 AM

Celebrate #250America Kids Day!
Moultonborough Public Library
935 Whittier Hwy.
Contact: adultservices@moultonboroughlibrary.org

7/29 | HOOKSETT | 6:00 PM

Abigail Adams - Liberty & Legacy
Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. St. Mary's Way
Contact: jayotte@hooksettlibrary.org

7/29 | WALPOLE | 7:00 PM

Book Discussion: You Never Forget Your First
Walpole Town Library, 48 Main Street
Contact: jmalMBERG@walpoletownlibrary.org

Event details are subject to change – please check our online calendar before heading out.



The Big Watch is a collaboration with NH Public Broadcasting, with additional support provided by Cogswell Benevolent Trust.



Calendar

NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES
SUMMER PROGRAMS • JUNE - AUGUST 2026

6/2 | GOSHEN | 6:30 PM

Brewing in New Hampshire: An Informal History of Beer in the Granite State

Presented by Glenn Knoblock
Olive Pettis Library, 36 Mill Village Rd. North
Contact: Mary Hudson, 603-863-6921

6/2 | MEREDITH | 7:00 PM

Who Was John Stark?

Presented by George Morrison
Meredith Community Center, 1 Circle Drive
Contact: Rudy VanVeghten, 603-260-7493

6/3 | SANBORNVILLE | 5:30 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Gafney Library, 14 High Street
Contact: Amy Swanson, 603-522-3401

6/3 | GOFFSTOWN | 6:00 PM

New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell

Presented by Pamela Weeks
Goffstown Historical Soc., 18 Parker Station Rd.
Contact: Kerry McKinnon, 203-980-6340

6/4 | BARNSTEAD | 6:30 PM

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

Presented by Jo Radner
Oscar Foss Mem. Library, 111 S. Barnstead Rd.
Contact: Melissa Stowell, 603-269-3900

6/4 | PITTSFIELD | 6:30 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Pittsfield Historical Society, 4 Oak Street
Contact: kimberlydiomede3@gmail.com

6/5 | BOW | 4:30 PM

Why Democracy?

Presented by Joshua Duclou
Baker Free Library, 509 South Street
Contact: Liesl Miller, liesl@bakerfreelib.org

6/8 | WOLFEBORO | 7:00 PM

Songs of Old New Hampshire

Presented by Jeff Warner
Clark Museum Complex, 233 S. Main Street
Contact: wolfeborohistoricalociety@gmail.com

6/8 | CAMPTON | 7:00 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Campton Hist. Soc. Museum, 529 NH Rte. 175
Contact: mardinnancy@gmail.com

6/9 | HILLSBORO | 6:00 PM

Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What it Meant Then and Now

Presented by David Alcox
Fuller Public Library, 29 School Street
Contact: Keneth Matthews, 603-478-3814

6/10 | PENACOOK | 10:00 AM

Discovering New England Stone Walls

Presented by Kevin Gardner
Penacook Community Room, 76 Community Dr.
Contact: lloughridge@concordnh.gov

6/11 | FRANKLIN | 7:30 PM

Galileo Galilei, the Starry Messenger

Presented by Michael Francis
Franklin Public Library, 310 Central Street
Contact: info@franklinoperahouse.org

6/11 | GREENVILLE | 6:30PM

What's the History of Your House?

Presented by Erin Moulton
Chamberlin Free Public Library, 46 Main St.
Contact: courtney@chamberlinlibrary.org

6/11 | MADISON | 7:00 PM

Augustus Saint-Gaudens & the Cornish Colony

Presented by Inez McDermott
Madison Library, 11895 Village Road
Contact: Mary Lucy, 603-367-4535

6/11 | NORTH HAMPTON | 6:00 PM

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

Presented by Margo Burns
Throwback Brewery, 7 Hobbs Road
Contact: programming.nhpl@gmail.com

6/13 | HUDSON | 11:00 AM

Music in My Pockets: Family Fun in Folk Music

Presented by Jeff Warner
Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road
Contact: events@rodgerslibrary.org

6/15 | BETHLEHEM | 6:00 PM

Portraits of a Revolution

Presented by Inez McDermott
Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main Street
Contact: rgoldstein@BethlehemNHlibrary.gov

6/16 | SALISBURY | 6:30PM

A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes

Presented by Adair Mulligan
Salisbury Historical Soc., 655 Old Turnpike Rd.
Contact: president@SalisburyHistoricalSociety.org

6/16 | BEDFORD | 2:00 PM

Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What it Meant Then and Now

Presented by David Alcox
Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road
Contact: reference@bedfordnh.gov

6/17 | CHARLESTOWN | 5:30 PM

Live Free or Dial

Presented by Megan Hurley
Silsby Free Public Library, 226 Main Street
Contact: Jenise Sileo, 603-826-7793

6/17 | FREEDOM | 7:00 PM

Who Was John Stark?

Presented by George Morrison
Freedom Town Hall, 16 Elm Street
Contact: Steve Thurston, 603-491-8347

6/17 | AUBURN | 6:00 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Griffin Free Public Library, 22 Hooksett Road
Contact: Mary Hrubiec, staff@griffinfree.org

6/19 | DANBURY | 6:00 PM

Corbin's Animal Garden

Presented by Mary Kronenwetter
South Danbury Christian Church, 1411 Rte. 4
Contact: bonnien222@gmail.com

6/19 | ALSTEAD | 7:00 PM

New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell

Presented by Pamela Weeks
Chase's Mill, 801 Forest Road (Rte. 123)
Contact: jhall@chasesmill.org

6/19 | BRADFORD | 7:00 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Bradford Historical Society, 162 E. Main St.
Contact: Tracey Quigley, 603-731-8953

6/20 | MONT VERNON | 11:00 AM

Who Was John Stark?

Presented by George Morrison
Daland Memorial Library, 8 Lilac Lane
Contact: Bonnie Angulas, 603-673-7888

6/20 | NEW IPSWICH | 2:00 PM

Late in Arriving, How Electricity Changed Rural New Hampshire Life

Presented by Steve Taylor
New Ipswich Library, 6 Main Street
Contact: margaretlea@myfairpoint.net

6/20 | WEBSTER | 2:00 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
Webster Free Public Library, 947 Battle Street
Contact: Cathryn Clark-Dawe, 603-648-2706

6/22 | SUNAPEE | 5:00 PM

Portraits of a Revolution

Presented by Inez McDermott
Abbott Library, 11 Soonipi Circle
Contact: info@abbottlibrary.org

6/24 | NELSON | 3:00 PM

Live Free or Dial

Presented by Megan Hurley
Olivia Rodham Library, 1 Nelson Common Rd.
Contact: nelsonlibrary25@gmail.com

6/24 | GRANTHAM | 7:00 PM

Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution

Presented by Mary Adams
The Center at Eastman, 6 Club House Lane
Contact: Mary Niles, 603-863-7022

6/24 | BOW | 12:30 PM

Corbin's Animal Garden

Presented by Mary Kronenwetter
Bow Old Town Hall, 91 Bow Center Road
Contact: Judy Klotz, 603-224-2428

6/25 | PEMBROKE | 1:00 PM

War, Justice, and Non-Violence: Perspectives and Paradoxes

Presented by Kent McConnell
Pembroke Town Library, 313 Pembroke Street
Contact: Ryan O'Hora, 603-485-7851

6/25 | HOOKSETT | 5:30PM

Portraits of a Revolution

Presented by Inez McDermott
Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. Saint Mary's Way
Contact: jim sullivan, 603-315-0084

6/25 | LANCASTER | 6:00 PM

That Reminds Me of a Story

Presented by Rebecca Rule
NH Forest & Lands Building, 629 Main Street
Contact: skimtp@gmail.com

Please check our online calendar at
nhhumanities.org to confirm details.

- 6/25 | CHESTERFIELD | 6:30PM
African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution
Presented by Glenn Knoblock
Chesterfield Public Library, 524 Rte. 63
Contact: frontdesk@chesterfieldlibrary.org
- 6/27 | EFFINGHAM | 2:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Effingham Hist. Soc., 1014 Province Lake Rd.
Contact: Susan Slack, 603-724-3122
- 6/27 | SANDOWN | 11:00 AM
Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What it Meant Then and Now
Presented by David Alcox
Sandown Public Library, 305 Main Street
Contact: programming@sandownlibrary.us
- 6/28 | GREENFIELD | 3:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Stephenson Memorial Library, 761 Forest Rd.
Contact: Adele Hale, 603-547-3403
- 6/29 | CONCORD | 2:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
NH State Library, 20 Park Street
Contact: felicia.t.martin@dncr.nh.gov
- 7/5 | CENTER HARBOR | 7:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Nichols Memorial Library, 35 Plymouth St.
Contact: Linda Verge, 603-484-1436
- 7/7 | ASHLAND | 7:00 PM
Who Was John Stark?
Presented by George Morrison
Booster Club, 99 Main Street
Contact: sueharville@gmail.com
- 7/7 | CAMPTON | 6:00 PM
Covered Bridges of NH - Past and Present
Presented by Kim Varney Chandler
Campton Public Library, 1110 NH Rte. 175
Contact: 603-726-4877
- 7/8 | CONCORD | 6:00 PM
What the Declaration of Independence Offers U.S. Social Movements
Presented by Meg Mott
Concord Public Library, 45 Green Street
Contact: jneedham@concordnh.gov
- 7/8 | CENTER SANDWICH | 7:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Doris Benz Community Center, 18 Heard Rd.
Contact: Nancy Fredrickson, 603-284-6665
- 7/9 | PEMBROKE | 7:00 PM
New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and Their Impact on American Society
Presented by Paul Wainwright
Pembroke Town Library, 313 Pembroke Street
Contact: Sally Hyland, 603-566-1031
- 7/9 | MEREDITH | 6:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Meredith Public Library, 91 Main Street
Contact: erin@meredithlibrary.org
- 7/11 | KINGSTON | 2:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Kingston Historical Museum, 169 Main Street
Contact: kingstonmuseumfriends@gmail.com
- 7/11 | SANDOWN | 1:00 PM
How the Constitution Helps Us Disagree
Presented by Meg Mott
Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main Street
Contact: programming@sandownlibrary.us
- 7/14 | CONWAY | 6:30 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Conway Public Library, 15 Greenwood Ave.
Contact: hcorrigan.conwayhistorical@gmail.com
- 7/14 | SANBORNVILLE | 7:00 PM
The Hidden History of Lake Winnepesaukee
Presented by Glenn Knoblock
Gafney Library, 14 High Street
Contact: Jennifer Rich, jbnr347@gmail.com
- 7/14 | DERRY | 10:00 AM
New England Lighthouses & the People Who Kept Them
Presented by Jeremy D'Entremont
Marion Gerrish Center, 39 W. Broadway
Contact: Denise Barker, 603-434-8866
- 7/15 | LYNDEBOROUGH | 6:30PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
J.A. Tarbell Library, 136 Forest Road
Contact: jat@tellink.net
- 7/16 | BARNSTEAD | 6:30PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Oscar Foss Mem. Library, 111 S. Barnstead Rd.
Contact: melissas.ofml@gmail.com
- 7/18 | PETERBOROUGH | 10:30AM
How the Constitution Helps Us Disagree
Presented by Meg Mott
Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord Street
Contact: renman@peterboroughnh.gov
- 7/20 | CAMPTON | 7:00 PM
The Finest Hours: The True Story Behind the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue
Presented by Michael Tougias
Campton Hist. Soc. Museum, 529 NH Rte. 175
Contact: mardinnancy@gmail.com
- 7/21 | BRISTOL | 6:00 PM
Range the Wild Woods Over: Loggers' Songs and Stories
Presented by Jeff Warner
Minot-Sleeper Library, 35 Pleasant Street
Contact: librarian@bristolnh.gov
- 7/22 | RUMNEY | 6:30 PM
Banjoes, Bones, and Ballads
Presented by Jeff Warner
Byron G Merrill Library, 10 Buffalo Road
Contact: katy@rumneylibrary.org
- 7/22 | LACONIA | 7:00 PM
The Mammoth Road: New Hampshire Folk Tales as an Avenue to Local History and Culture
Presented by Erin Moulton
Lake Winnepesaukee Mus., 503 Endicott St. N.
Contact: lakewinnepesaukeemuseum@gmail.com
- 7/22 | HOOKSETT | 6:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Hooksett Public Library, 31 Mt. St. Mary's Way
Contact: jayotte@hooksettlibrary.org
- 7/23 | HILLSBORO | 6:00 PM
Henry Dearborn – From Captain to Cabinet Secretary
Presented by George Morrison
Fuller Public Library, 29 School Street
Contact: Fuller Public Library, 603-464-3595
- 7/23 | SUNAPEE | 7:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Flanders-Osborne Museum, 74 Main Street
Contact: sunapeehistory@gmail.com
- 7/23 | MADISON | 7:00 PM
Corbin's Animal Garden
Presented by Mary Kronenwetter
Madison Library, 1895 Village Road
Contact: librarian@madison.lib.nh.us
- 7/23 | GILFORD | 5:30PM
Covered Bridges of NH - Past and Present
Presented by Kim Varney Chandler
Gilford Public Library, 31 Potter Hill Road
Contact: patty@gilfordlibrary.org
- 7/25 | MARLOW | 1:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Marlow Town Library, 12 Church Street
Contact: Jeanne Kennedy, 603-852-2652
- 7/26 | JACKSON | 4:00 PM
A Visit with Abraham Lincoln
Presented by Stephen Wood
Whitney Community Center, 16 Black Mtn. Rd.
Contact: whitneycommunitycenter@gmail.com
- 7/26 | NEWBURY | 4:00 PM
Who Was John Stark?
Presented by George Morrison
Center Meeting House
Contact: Lea McBain, 603-763-5803
- 7/28 | LOUDON | 6:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Maxfield Public Library, 8 NH-129
Contact: jcharland@maxfieldlibrary.org
- 7/29 | CANAAN | 7:00 PM
A Visit with Abraham Lincoln
Presented by Steve Wood
Canaan Meetinghouse, 465 Canaan Street
Contact: John H. Bergeron, 603-252-9622
- 7/29 | NOTTINGHAM | 10:00 AM
Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music
Presented by Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki
Blaisdell Memorial Library, 129 Stage Road
Contact: Dan Bunker, 603-679-8484
- 7/29 | BEDFORD | 2:00 PM
Redcoats & Rebels: NH & the American Revolution
Presented by Mary Adams
Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road
Contact: reference@bedfordnh.gov
- 7/30 | TAMWORTH | 5:30 PM
Last of the Granite State Rattlesnakes
Presented by Dan Billin
Chocorua Public Library, 25 Deer Hill Road
Contact: Shauna Peterson, 603-323-8610
- 8/18 | ALTON | 7:00 PM
Last of the Granite State Rattlesnakes
Presented by Dan Billin
Alton Public Library, 100 Main Street
Contact: Sandra Hammond, 603-569-3745



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