



photos by Lynn Martin Gratton

Living NH Cultural Heritage February 2014

The NH State Council on the Arts Traditional Arts Program has been developing goals, programs, and services that can best help preserve, document, and promote the traditional arts across the state. Living NH Cultural Heritage is our monthly newsletter to help share the many heritage and traditional arts events, demonstrations, performances, and news that makes New Hampshire so culturally vibrant. Please share this newsletter, and email me or call with any events, news, performances, or meetings you would like to include in the newsletter. I will try to list the items that are happening in the next 1-2 months. Here's to an ever-inspiring and connected cultural community.

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*This list is compiled by the NH State Council on the Arts, but NHSCA is not responsible for the organization, planning, quality, or scheduling of these programs. Please contact the program host organization directly to confirm the final date and time of the program. All underlined content is a hyperlink to more information.

NHSCA Grants & Roster Opportunities

[Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants](#) assist in the preservation of traditional/heritage-based arts (crafts, dance and music) by funding a master traditional artist to teach an experienced apprentice in one-to-one sessions. Guidelines will be posted by 2/28/14. Deadline 7/11/14.

[Traditional Arts & Folklife Listing](#) A juried listing of traditional artists, community scholars and folklorists who are available for presentations, demonstrations, lectures, performances and workshops. Many organizations reference this listing when planning for their events. Applications will be posted by 2/28/14. Deadline 7/11/14

[Arts in Education Artist Roster](#) a juried roster of artists that represent diverse disciplines, cultures, and regions of the state can bring new ideas, skills, energy, and creativity to schools and communities in New Hampshire. Applications will be posted by 2/28/14. Deadline 4/11/2014.

Dances

This list is compiled from several sources including the calendars compiled by [Charlie Seelig](#) and [David Millstone](#). Please visit their websites for more information.

February 2014

Friday, February 14, 2014 Contra Dance at Tunbridge VT Town Hall, 7:30 PM

Live music by Harold Luce and others. All dances taught, fun family entertainment

Admission \$ 8.00 donation at the door. contact: clydo46@gmail.com

Saturday, February 15, 2014 Dance Series: [Albany - NH](#) Location: Albany Caller(s): TBA;

Saturday, February 15, 2014 Dance Series: [Concord - NH](#) Location: Concord Caller(s): Alice Morris; Band(s)/Musician(s): Harlow's All Stars (Richard Backes, Carey Bluhm, Scott Lemire);

Monday, February 17, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;

February 21, 2014 Third Friday Contra Dance in Woodstock VT, Old Sam Peabody Band with caller Delia Clark. All dances are taught and no partner is necessary. If you can move - you can dance. Bring a pair of clean soft-soled shoes for dancing. 6:45 - Dance workshop for instruction. 7:00 - 10:00 Dance with dessert break. Suggested price of \$8 Kids and seniors by donation. The Little Theater is at 54 River Street Woodstock, VT 05091 -- Right next to the Recreation Center.

Friday, February 21, 2014 Dance Series: [Manchester - 3rd Friday](#) Location: Manchester Caller(s): TBA; Musician(s): JumpStart (Gene Albert, Nancy Fiske, Paul Lizotte, Victor Troll);

Saturday, February 22 8 pm, Cuckoo's Nest Dance in Norwich, VT, with caller Ruth Sylvester Tracy Hall. Last month's 4th Saturday dance saw a large and lively crowd. Keep the momentum rolling!

Saturday, February 22, 2014 Dance Series: [Ossipee - 4th Saturday](#) Location: Ossipee Caller(s): TBA; Band(s)/Musician(s): Shana Aisenberg and Beverly Woods; Note:

Sunday, February 23 3-6 pm, English Country Dance in Norwich. Dances taught by Chris Levey, Music by Carol Compton, Thal Aylward, and Rachel Clark: This trio will be featured in a prime spot at NEFFA this year, and we get to enjoy their music at our local dance series! All dances will be taught. No partner needed. All are welcome. For more information call: (802) 785-4121(Chris)

Monday, February 24, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;

Friday, February 28, 2014 Dance Series: [Milford - NH](#) Location: Milford Caller(s): Open mic ; Band(s)/Musician(s): Milford Town Hall Band; Note: Sit-in musicians welcome

March 2014

Saturday, March 1, 2014 Dance Series: [Deerfield - NH](#) Location: Deerfield Caller(s): TBA;

Saturday, March 1, 2014 Dance Series: [Peterborough - 1st Saturday](#) Location: Peterborough;

Monday, March 3, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;

Thursday, March 6, 2014 Dance Series: [Dover - NH](#) Location: Dover Caller(s): Sarah Mason and Peter Yarensky; Band(s)/Musician(s): The Lamprey River Band; Note:

Friday, March 7, 2014 Dance Series: [Keene](#) Location: Keene Caller(s): Lisa Sieverts;

Friday, March 7, 2014 Dance Series: [Wentworth - Squares](#) Location: Wentworth Caller(s): Adam Boyce; Band(s)/Musician(s): Adam Boyce and Sue Hunt; Note:

Saturday, March 8, 2014 Dance Series: [Exeter](#) Location: Exeter Caller(s): TBA; Band(s)/Musician(s): Stone Soup; Note:

Saturday, March 8, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - 2nd Saturday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): Luke Donforth; Band(s)/Musician(s): Celticladda (Randy Miller, Gordon Peery, Bill Thomas); Note:

Monday, March 10, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;

Saturday, March 15, 2014 Dance Series: [Albany - NH](#) Location: Albany Caller(s): TBA;

Saturday, March 15, 2014 Dance Series: [Concord - NH](#) Location: Concord Caller(s): Chris Ricciotti; Band(s)/Musician(s): Sylvia Miskoe, Vince O'Donnell and Justine Paul; Note:

Monday, March 17, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;
Friday, March 21, 2014 Dance Series: [Manchester - 3rd Friday](#) Location: Manchester Caller(s): TBA; Band(s)/Musician(s): JumpStart (Gene Albert, Nancy Fiske, Paul Lizotte, Victor Troll); Note:
Saturday, March 22, 2014 Dance Series: [Ossipee - 4th Saturday](#) Location: Ossipee Caller(s): TBA; Band(s)/Musician(s): Fiddling Thomsons; Note:
Monday, March 24, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;
Friday, March 28, 2014 Dance Series: [Milford - NH](#) Location: Milford Caller(s): Open mic ; Band(s)/Musician(s): Milford Town Hall Band; Note: Sit-in musicians welcome
Monday, March 31, 2014 Dance Series: [Nelson - Monday](#) Location: Nelson Caller(s): TBA;

Community Events

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 pm “Songs of Old New Hampshire with Jeff Warner” Leach Library, 276 Mammoth Road Londonderry, NH. No charge, Contact Emily Hersey: 603-432-1132

Thursday, 13 February 2014, 4 – 6 pm, public reception for R.P. Hale, Wood Engraved Prints, UNH-Manchester Library On view from 16 January–22 May 2014. The library's spring 2014 art exhibit, “R.P. Hale - Wood Engraved Prints” features wood engravings of historic buildings and landscapes around New England. R.P. Hale is an illustrator and fifth-generation master calligrapher, wood engraver and printmaker based in Concord, New Hampshire. For more information, contact the library at 641-4330, or via email at unhm.library@unh.edu.

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 pm A solo concert with Brendan Taaffe at the Hanover Friends Meeting House, 43 Lebanon St., Hanover, NH \$12 suggested donation. Come out for this intimate concert with Brendan Taaffe, a musician from Brattleboro who blends Appalachian ballads with African rhythms to create something very unique. He's just released an album with his band, The New Line that brings together the mbira (a Zimbabwean thumb piano) with gourd banjo, electric guitar, drums, and trumpet. You can listen [here](http://brendantaaffe.bandcamp.com): <http://brendantaaffe.bandcamp.com>

Wednesday, February 19 7:30 PM Paid To Eat Ice Cream movie showing. Murray Room, Howe Library Hanover, NH. Bob McQuillen, the dean of New England contra dance musicians, passed away on 2/4/2014 at age 90. Accordion player, piano player, composer of some 1600 tunes, veteran dance, Mac's spirited music and even more spirited presence was an integral part of the New England dance scene for more than 60 years. To honor Bob's memory, and to share stories with others who knew him or would like to learn about him, David Millstone is holding a free public showing of his 2001 documentary, "Paid To Eat Ice Cream: Bob McQuillen and New England Contra Dancing." This 70-minute film gives you a good picture both of the man and the dance scene as it evolved in the years after World War II. The movie showing is co-sponsored by Muskeg Music (an affiliate of CDSS) and Revels North.

Thursday, February 20 7 pm, Sacred Heart Singing. NO experience is necessary. If you think this sounds interesting, we'd love to have you come listen and give it a try. We will have several extra books to lend for the session. If you've sung shape-note songs in the past and are ready for more singing close to home, we're eager to meet you and have you join us, too. If you want directions, please email ecsandberg@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 22 11:00AM–3:00PM [Remick Country Doctor Museum](#). Ice Harvest Our most popular Signature Event is an experience rich in the historic New England traditions of celebrating winter with outdoor fun and the unique trade of harvesting ice. Experience days gone by as you learn how to score, grid, cut and stack ice properly. Warm up with winter favorites at the Farmhouse Kitchen, visit with the Chinooks New England and enjoy winter carnival games & crafts for the family. *\$10 per person age 5 and over; members*

Sunday, February 23 & Sunday, March 30, 2014 The Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire, the Granite State's oldest Scottish music organization, meets on the last Sunday of every

month from September to June at the Concord Community Music School in Concord. These Gatherings start at 1:00 and typically feature a workshop on some aspect of Scottish music playing or arranging until 3:00. Then, after a 20-minute tea break, members and guests jam until 5:00. Everyone is welcome to attend a Gathering to play along or just to listen. Best of all it's free! Visit <http://www.srsnh.org> to learn more about having fun with Scottish music.

February 24, 2014, 7:30 p.m. Starry Mountain Singers in Concert, Traditional Polyphonic Music. Friends Meetinghouse. 43 Lebanon St., Hanover, NH 03755. \$12 suggested donation. More info and photos: <http://www.starrymountainsingers.com>. The Starry Mountain Singers are eight vocalists who perform traditional music from around the United States and wider world.

March 8, 2014 7:30-9:30 March Mandolin Concert [Concord Community Music School](#) Featuring Joe Walsh, Marla Fibish, Eric McDonald, and David Surette, with special guest Susie Burke. Admission included for Festival participants; general admission tickets for others available through the Music School (www.ccmusicschool.org or 603-228-1196).

March 9, 7:00 pm, Chanterelle, public concert featuring Josée Vachon, Donna Hébert, Liza Constable and Alan Bradbury. Chanterelle has embodied traditional and original Franco-American fiddle and song all their lives. Nelson Town Hall Admission is \$15/\$12(senior, youth or in advance). Sponsored by the [Monadnock Folklore Society](#)

American Independence Festival looking for local artisans & craftsmen. We are searching out vendors that embody the creative spirit of Colonial era craftsmen and merchants. We are looking for local artisans, craftsmen and entrepreneurs to add to the atmosphere and fun of the day. [The 24th Annual American Independence Festival](#) will be held July 12, 2014, on the grounds of the American Independence Museum, on Water Street, and at Swasey Parkway. This is a family event attended by approximately 3,000 people and is filled with historic reenactments, music, Traditional Arts demonstrations, children's activities, and more!

New Music at Fiddleheads - A Great North Woods Shoppe, 110 Main Street, Colebrook (603) 237-9302 Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm www.fiddleheadsusa.com
Promoting the talents of local, regional and national artisans in all mediums. The fundraising CD, titled The Fireside Fiddlers, Volume 1: Common Fiddle Tunes of Coos County New Hampshire, is available, the sales of which will benefit the new Tillotson Center for performing, visual and heritage arts in Colebrook.

Wednesdays, January 8-March 26, 6pm - International Dinner and Adventure Series
Appalachian Mountain Club AMC Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, Route 16, Pinkham Notch (603) 466-2721
www.outdoors.org/about/calendar/ A weekly dinner series of international cuisine, followed by an inspiring presentation. The after dinner program is a cultural and inspirational adventure presented by local and regional guides, explorers and travelers. Reservations are recommended; all dinner menus can be found online at www.outdoors.org. Lodging packages are available. After dinner, sit back & enjoy the evening program. January 29 - Turkey: Land of the Crescent Moon, with Sue Rose, and the Cuisine of Turkey. Programs are free & open to the public. Call for more information or to make a reservation. This schedule is subject to change.

Traditional Irish Music Sessions

Kathleen's Cottage Irish Pub & Restaurant, Bristol, Fridays 7pm

The Press Room, Portsmouth, Fridays 5-9pm

Salt Hill Pub, Hanover, Thursdays 6pm

Harlow's Pub, Peterborough, Tuesdays start 7-7:30 pm

Ri-Ra Irish Restaurant And Pub, Portsmouth, Sundays 5-8pm

Mel Flanagan's, Rochester, Fridays 7:30pm
May Kelley's Irish Cottage, North Conway, Sundays 3:30-7pm
Salt Hill Pub & Restaurant, Lebanon, Tuesdays 6-9pm
The Shaskeen, Manchester, Saturdays 3-6pm
The Barley House, Concord, Tuesdays start 7-7:30 pm

Workshops/ Classes

Sunday, February 16, 2014 12:00 PM Monthly Craft Day [Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum](#)
Bring your beadwork or any craft to work on. It's more fun to socialize while you craft! Potluck

Canterbury Shaker Village has a number of [Shaker Inspired Workshops](#):

Saturday, February 1, 2014 10:00- 1:00pm

Introduction to Careful Timber Harvesting Free Learn the basics of conducting a careful timber harvest

Friday, February 21, 2014 Time: 6:00-8:00pm The Power of Seed: Rebuilding Our Seed Heritage

February 22, 2014 Time: 10:00-3:30pm Seed Production Technical Assistance Workshop for Organic Farmers and Gardeners Saturday

March 7 through 9, 2014 12th Annual March Mandolin Festival/Workshop, [Concord Community Music School](#). This year, the festival features Joe Walsh, Marla Fibish, Eric McDonald, and David Surette, with special guest Susie Burke. This two-day event offers group lessons and workshops on a variety of topics, jam sessions, and an evening concert.

League of NH Craftsmen Classes and Workshops

Education is an essential part of the League's mission and an integral part of everything we do. We have classes, workshops, and demonstrations that are open to everyone. There are opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels. If you want to read about craft or are conducting research, visit the League's headquarters on 49 South Main Street, Suite 100, in Concord. The Kira Fournier Library Resource Center includes more than 2000 craft-related books and periodicals, the Archives provide a wealth of information, and The Grodin Permanent Collection Museum displays a fascinating show of historical craft objects.* [Please visit the League website](#) to see class descriptions as there are classes offered in Concord, Sandwich, Littleton, Hanover, Meredith, North Conway, and Nashua

WREN Workshops & Technology Classes 921 Main Street, Berlin (603) 869-9736

<http://www.wrencommunity.org> At WREN, improving lives and livelihoods is not just about financial empowerment, it is also about personal enrichment. WREN members are invited to share their area of expertise with others, by offering classes and workshops on any topic of interest. Please visit WREN's website to see a full offering of arts classes.

Guild & Artisan Meetings

Blacksmithing: New England Blacksmithing Guild: [meets twice a year in NH](#)

Rug Hooking: [White Mountain Woolen Magic Rug Hooking Guild](#)

Quilting: There are over 28 Quilting Guilds across NH. Visit the [NH Quilt Guild website](#) to find monthly meeting dates for each guild.

Woodworking: [Guild of NH Woodworkers](#) general meeting February 15, Nottingham, NH There are many subgroups of the guild of NH Woodworkers including: Beginners & Intermediate Group (BIG), Boat Builders, Period Furniture Group (PFG), Granite State Woodturners (GSWT), Granite State Luthiers, Hand Tools, Windsor Chairmaking, Woodworking as a Pro

Resources & Opportunities

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington DC Seeking Temporary Employees

The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage will begin interviewing in late January for the following anticipated temporary salaried positions with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which will take place June 25-29 and July 2-6, 2014. [Click here](#) for more information.

Creative Ground spotlights the rich range of creative people and places at work in the six New England states. This online directory includes profiles for cultural nonprofits like libraries and theaters, creative businesses like recording studios and design agencies, and artists of all disciplines such as performing arts, visual arts, and crafts. But the best way to get to know [CreativeGround is to use it!](#)
[You can:](#)

- Get Listed by creating a new user account and profile, or updating an existing profile
- Use the Search and Explore features to browse the many profiles already on the site
- Find out more ways to support CreativeGround on and offline by clicking Get Involved

Humanities to Go Lectures with a focus on Cultural Heritage

[Humanities to Go](#) is the Humanities Council's speakers bureau bringing more than 200 humanities programs to non-profit and community organizations throughout New Hampshire. Below you will find events related to NH History and Traditional Arts
You can see a full list of their [events on their website.](#)

Thursday February 13, 2014

7:00 PM

A Sound Track for The Great Gatsby: Music of the Jazz Age

Contact: Kim Hanson 493-4749

The Great Gatsby, set in 1922 and soon a major motion picture, coincided with the very early days of jazz recording, a seminal time in American music. Paul Combs will examine the lives and music of artists recorded through the summer of 1922, including James Reese Europe, Fletcher Henderson, and Paul Whiteman, as well as some of those who, while active prior to the time of the novel, did not record until 1923-25, such as Jelly Roll Morton, Joe "King" Oliver, and Ma Rainey.

Location: McConnell Center (Door #3), 61 Locust St., Dover

Wednesday February 19, 2014

7:00 PM

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Contact: Beth Merrill 588-6615

Drawing on research from her book, Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future, Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution.

Location: Antrim Town Hall, 66 Main St., Antrim

Friday February 21, 2014

7:00 PM

New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and the Reality

Contact: Janet Johnson 475-1059

Hundreds of one-room schools dotted the landscape of New Hampshire a century ago and were the backbone of primary education for generations of children. Revered in literature and lore, they actually were beset with problems, some of which are little changed today. The greatest issue was financing the local school and the vast differences between taxing districts in ability to support education. Other concerns included teacher preparation and quality, curriculum, discipline, student achievement and community involvement in the educational process. Steve Taylor explores the lasting legacies of the one-room school and how they echo today.

Location: Stratham Fire House (Morgera Mtg. Rm.), 2 Winnicut Rd., Stratham

7:15 PM

Liberty Is Our Motto!: Songs and Stories of the Hutchinson Family Singers

Contact: Mary Girard 487-3391

The year is 1876, and New Hampshire's own John Hutchinson sings and tells about his famous musical family "straight from the horse's mouth." Originally from Milford, NH, the Hutchinson Family Singers were among America's most notable musical entertainers for much of the mid-19th century. They achieved international recognition with songs advancing social reform and political causes such as abolition, temperance, women's suffrage, and the Lincoln presidential campaign of 1860. In this living history program, Steve Blunt portrays John Hutchinson. He tells the Hutchinsons' story and shares their music with lyrics provided. Audience members are invited to sing along on "The Old Granite State," "Get Off the Track," "Tenting on the Old Campground," and more.

Location: New Boston Community Church, 2 Meetinghouse Hill Rd., New Boston

Sunday February 23, 2014

2:00 PM

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Contact: Tucker Free Library 428-3471

Drawing on research from her book, *Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future*, Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution.

Location: Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker

Thursday February 27, 2014

6:30 PM

Comics in World History and Cultures

Contact: Dunbarton Public Library 774-3546

Marek Bennett presents a whirlwind survey of comics from around the world and throughout history, with special attention to what these vibrant narratives tell (and show) us about the people and periods that created them. Bennett engages and involves the audience in an interactive discussion of several sample comics representing cultures such as Ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, the Ancient Maya, Feudal and modern Japan, the United States in the early 20th century, and Nazi Germany during World War II. The program explores the various ways of creating and reading comics from around the world, and what these techniques tell us about the cultures in which they occur.

Location: Dunbarton Public Library, 1004 School St., Dunbarton

7:00 PM

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

Contact: Byron Niederhelman 525-4926

New England's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little-known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money, they served as both places of worship

and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving "mint condition" meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

Location: Hancock Meetinghouse, Hancock

Sunday March 2, 2014

2:00 PM

Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire

Contact: Cheryl McGinnis 863-5023

Drawing on research from her book, *Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire, the Present, the Past, and the Future*, Rebecca Rule regales audiences with stories of the rituals, traditions and history of town meeting, including the perennial characters, the literature, the humor, and the wisdom of this uniquely New England institution.

Location: Lempster Meetinghouse, 112 Lempster St., Lempster

Wednesday March 5, 2014

11:00 AM

Banjos, Bones, and Ballads

Contact: Andrea Lee 434-4073

Traditional songs, rich in local history and a sense of place, present the latest news from the distant past. They help us to interpret present-day life with an understanding of the working people who built our country. Tavern songs, banjo tunes, 18th century New England hymns, sailor songs, and humorous stories about traditional singers and their songs highlight this informative program by Jeff Warner.

Location: Derry Public Library, 64 E. Broadway, Derry

7:00 PM

Songs of Old New Hampshire

Contact: Elizabeth Thompson 466-2525

Drawing heavily on the repertoire of traditional singer Lena Bourne Fish (1873-1945) of Jaffrey and Temple, New Hampshire, Jeff Warner offers the songs and stories that, in the words of Carl Sandburg, tell us "where we came from and what brought us along." These ballads, love songs and comic pieces, reveal the experiences and emotions of daily life in the days before movies, sound recordings and, for some, books. Songs from the lumber camps, the decks of sailing ships, the textile mills and the war between the sexes offer views of pre-industrial New England and a chance to hear living artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Location: Gorham Public Library, 35 Railroad St., Gorham

Sunday March 9, 2014

2:00 PM

Baked Beans and Fried Clams: How Food Defines A Region

Contact: Katie Gallagher 209-1774

Baked Beans, fried clams, fish chowder, Indian pudding - so many foods are distinctive to New England. This talk offers a celebration of these regional favorites along with an examination of how contemporary life has distanced us from these classics. What makes them special and how do these foods define our region? Edie Clark draws from such diverse resources as Fannie Farmer, Julia Child, and Haydn S. Pearson for enlightenment and amusement as well as on her own experiences, writing and traveling for *Yankee* magazine over the past thirty years to places where baked beans are still featured prominently on the menu.

Location: Langdon Town Hall/Meetinghouse, 5 Walker Hill Rd., Langdon

Tuesday March 11, 2014

7:00 PM

Comics in World History and Cultures

Contact: Ruslyn Vear 673-2288

Marek Bennett presents a whirlwind survey of comics from around the world and throughout history, with special attention to what these vibrant narratives tell (and show) us about the people and periods that created them. Bennett engages and involves the audience in an interactive discussion of several sample comics representing cultures such as Ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, the Ancient Maya, Feudal and modern Japan, the United States in the early 20th century, and Nazi Germany during World War II. The program explores the various ways of creating and reading comics from around the world, and what these techniques tell us about the cultures in which they occur.

Location: Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst

Wednesday March 12, 2014

6:30 PM

A Night of Music with Two Old Friends

Contact: Naella MaCloughlin 279-1500

Over the centuries immigrants from the British Isles have come to the Americas bringing with them their musical styles and tastes as well as their instruments. With the concertina, bodhran, mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and banjo, Emery Hutchins and Jim Prendergast sing and play this traditional Celtic music, but they also perform American country music in the way it was conceived in the early twentieth century. Through stories, songs and instrumental melodies, they demonstrate how old time American mountain tunes are often derived directly from the songs of the Irish, yet are influenced by other cultural groups to create a new American sound.

Location: Meredith Bay Colony Club, 21 Upper Mile Point Dr., Meredith

7:30 PM

Family Stories: How and Why to Remember and Tell Them

Contact: William Earnshaw 472-3866

Telling personal and family stories is fun - and much more. Storytelling connects strangers, strengthens links between generations, and gives children the self-knowledge to carry them through hard times. Knowledge of family history has even been linked to better teen behavior and mental health. In this active and interactive program, storyteller Jo Radner shares foolproof ways to mine memories and interview relatives for meaningful stories. Participants practices finding, developing, and telling their own tales.

Location: Bedford Public Library, 3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford

Thursday March 13, 2014

12:30 PM

A Night of Music with Two Old Friends

Contact: Mountain View Senior Center 938-2104

Over the centuries immigrants from the British Isles have come to the Americas bringing with them their musical styles and tastes as well as their instruments. With the concertina, bodhran, mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and banjo, Emery Hutchins and Jim Prendergast sing and play this traditional Celtic music, but they also perform American country music in the way it was conceived in the early twentieth century. Through stories, songs and instrumental melodies, they demonstrate how old time American mountain tunes are often derived directly from the songs of the Irish, yet are influenced by other cultural groups to create a new American sound.

Location: Mountain View Senior Center, 134 East Main St., Bradford

7:30 PM

Cannon Shenanigans and New Hampshire's Muster Day Tradition

Contact: Lisa Rothman 487-3867

New Hampshire's Muster Day tradition ended in 1850, as did some of the related localized rivalries that involved the stealing of cannons. Muster Day was a day of drills, marching, and sham battles for local militias in NH. This spectator event was accompanied by entertainers, vendors, gamblers, and a great deal of alcohol. Throughout 19th century NH, demand for cannons for Fourth of July, election celebrations, demonstrations of civic pride, and for the sheer cussedness of making noise, often exceeded supply. Various town and regional rivalries sprang up over the possession of particular cannons and were constant headaches for local authorities. Jack Noon will explore the vestiges of this tradition that survived well into the 20th century.

Location: New Boston Historical Society (Wason Mem. Bldg), 2 Central Square, New Boston

Monday March 17, 2014

7:00 PM

Traditional Matryoshka Nested Doll Making: from Russia to New Hampshire

Contact: Taylor Community 524-5600

Marina Forbes shares many examples of Matroyshka nested dolls, including examples of her own work and from her extensive collection, as she examines the rich folk tradition and symbolism of the dolls' appearance. She explores the link between doll making and other traditional Russian art forms. There will be a quick stop at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris that made Russian nested dolls and Fabergé eggs famous, followed by an illustrated tour of a working doll-making factory in rural Russia.

Location: Taylor Community (Woodside Bldg.), 435 Union Ave., Laconia

Wednesday March 19, 2014

Traditional Matryoshka Nested Doll Making: from Russia to New Hampshire

Contact: Susan Gilbert 772-5022

Marina Forbes shares many examples of Matroyshka nested dolls, including examples of her own work and from her extensive collection, as she examines the rich folk tradition and symbolism of the dolls' appearance. She explores the link between doll making and other traditional Russian art forms. There will be a quick stop at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris that made Russian nested dolls and Fabergé eggs famous, followed by an illustrated tour of a working doll-making factory in rural Russia. MARINA WILL OFFER A WORKSHOP ON THE RUSSIAN FOLK TRADITION OF MATRYOSHKA PAINTING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND FROM 10AM TO 1PM. THERE IS A CHARGE FOR THE WORKSHOP. PLEASE CONTACT THE KENSINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY TO REGISTER.

Location: Kensington Public Library, 126 Amesbury Rd., Kensington

1:00 PM

Imperial Russian Fabergé Eggs

Contact: Polly Fife 228-6956

This illustrated presentation by Marina Forbes focuses on the life and remarkable work of Russian master jeweler and artist, Peter Carl Fabergé. The program features a photo-tour of Fabergé collections at the Constantine Palace in St. Petersburg and from major museums and private collectors around the world. Explore the important role of egg painting in Russian culture and the development of this major Russian art form from a traditional craft to the level of exquisite fine art under the patronage of the tsars. Forbes also discusses the fascinating history of these eggs, their role in the dramatic events of the last decades of Romanov rule in Russia, and in the years following the Bolshevik Revolution.

Location: Horseshoe Pond Place Senior Ctr., 26 Commerical St., Concord

7:00 PM

A Night of Music with Two Old Friends

Contact: Pat Fickett 654-2581

Over the centuries immigrants from the British Isles have come to the Americas bringing with them their musical styles and tastes as well as their instruments. With the concertina, bodhran, mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and banjo, Emery Hutchins and Jim Prendergast sing and play this traditional Celtic music, but they also perform American country music in the way it was conceived in the early twentieth century. Through stories, songs and instrumental melodies, they demonstrate how old time American mountain tunes are often derived directly from the songs of the Irish, yet are influenced by other cultural groups to create a new American sound.

Location: Wilton Public - Gregg Free Library, 7 Forest Rd., Wilton

Tuesday March 25, 2014

7:00 PM

New Hampshire's Grange Movement: Its Rise, Triumphs and Decline

Contact: Bob Haefner 889-1553

Much of rural New Hampshire in the late 19th century was locked in a downward spiral of population decline, abandonment of farms, reversion of cleared land to forest and widespread feelings of melancholy and loss. The development of the Grange movement in the 1880s and 1890s was aided greatly by hunger for social interaction, entertainment and mutual support. As membership surged it became a major force in policymaking in Concord, and its agenda aligned closely with the Progressive politics that swept the state in early 20th century. Many Grange initiatives became law, placing the state at the leading edge in several areas of reform. Steve Taylor analyzes the rapid social and economic changes that would eventually force the steep decline of the once-powerful movement.

Location: Hudson Grange Hall, 4 Old Windham Rd., Hudson

Saturday March 29, 2014

7:00 PM

Old Time Rules Will Prevail: The Fiddle Contest in New Hampshire and New England

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Fiddle contests evolved from endurance marathons to playing a set number of tunes judged by certain specific criteria. Whether large or small, fiddle contests tried to show who was the "best," as well as preserve old-time fiddling and raise money for local organizations. In recent years, the fiddle contest has declined significantly in New England due to cultural changes and financial viability. The greatest legacies of these contests were recordings made during live competition. A sampling of these tunes is played during the presentation, as well as some live fiddling by the presenter, Adam Boyce.

Location: Bath Village School, 61 Lisbon Rd., Bath