

*Check It Out:*

- First Wednesdays Schedule
- Tour MSL's New Website
- Booksale Update
- Vermont Reading Partners Partners with MSL
- Music Offerings @ MSL
- Summer Getaway Film Series

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**First Wednesdays Returns**

Late summer is the time for cooler, misty mornings, sales on back-to-school clothes and the publication of the 2011-12 schedule for the *First Wednesdays* Humanities Lecture Series. Thanks to the Mark Skinner Library, the Vermont Humanities Council and the Vermont Department of Libraries, this year we will once again have the rare opportunity of enjoying a free series of interesting, challenging and enriching programs.

Since its beginning in 2002, *First Wednesdays* has expanded to nine sites in or near most of Vermont's population centers. (In addition, some of the programs are available on Vermont Public Radio and CCTV.)

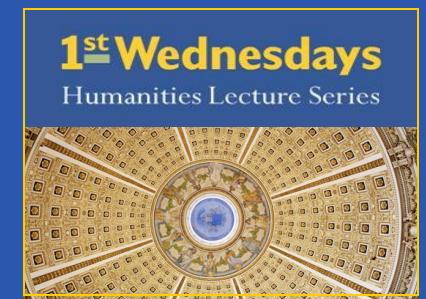
This year's offerings range from science to music, from foreign policy to world history. The schedule comes to us as a carefully planned package. Although for us *First Wednesdays* begins in October and runs through May, for Ali White, Director of *First Wednesdays* and a member of the staff of

the Vermont Humanities Council, it's a full-year job.

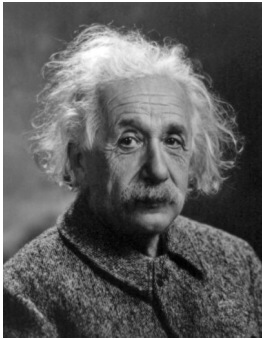
Suggestions for topics and speakers are welcomed anytime, but the actual conceptualizing and scheduling occurs from February through June. The Humanities Council has an ever-growing list of suggestions from attendees, and also watches for announcements of new books or groundbreaking work from local professors.

Additionally, they seek new talent by attending lectures and listening to presentations on various websites. Popular speaker/scholars may be invited back to a venue, but only after at least one year. Speakers who are fluent in a number of topics may make a return visit with a fresh new subject. Once the annual schedule is set, Ali's job continues as she stays in touch with both speakers and venues to ensure everything functions smoothly.

*First Wednesdays* conti. on 2



- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays**  
 Humanities Lecture Series
- October 5**  
*The Genius of Albert Einstein*
- November 2**  
*Letters to Jackie: Condolences from a Grieving Nation*  
 Program Sponsor: Northshire Bookstore
- December 7**  
*Hey Boo :*  
*Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird*  
 Location: Burr & Burton Academy auditorium. Program Sponsor: The Lodge at Otter Creek and The Lodge at Shelburne Bay
- January 4**  
*Daily Life in Prewar Nazi Germany*
- February 1**  
*US Foreign Policy in the Complicated and Incendiary Middle East w/ Haviland Smith*
- March 7**  
*Winslow Homer and the Civil War*  
 Program Sponsor: Keelan Family Foundation
- April 4**  
*If You Don't Want Your Slave to Speak Freely, You Should Forbid Him to Sing!*
- May 2**  
*Welfare Brat*
- Library Sponsors:**  
**The Perfect Wife Restaurant & Tavern**  
**The Spiral Press Cafe**  
**Vermont Renewable Fuels**



## FW and Intro to Director Ali White

**First Wednesdays**  
continued from p. 1

Ali says that the most challenging part of her job is keeping the series “feeling fresh.” To that end, the Council is always looking for new speakers and for new work by popular presenters. Ali says that, “The most fun comes from putting together the ‘quilt’ of programs each year and working with *First Wednesdays* venue librarians, especially with MSL’s own Cindy Waters.”

When asked about speaker evaluations, Ali reported that reactions are pretty similar around the state. A

good speaker on an interesting topic has universal appeal. However, they do tailor some programs to specific venues. “For example, one of our *First Wednesdays* venues is the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. The Athenaeum is in the process of refurbishing their excellent art gallery. The re-opening will be this fall. To coincide with this event, we’ve hired art historian and Director Emeritus of the National Portrait Gallery, Dr. Alan Fern, to lecture about the specific paintings in the Athenaeum’s collection.”

She suggests that lecture attendees should feel free to ask for and fill out community feedback forms. The Humanities Council staff reads all the forms and uses them to plan future programs.

We attendees rarely get an opportunity to thank the Vermont Humanities staff, especially Director Ali White, for the work they do to provide us with this incredible resource. We hope this article helps to tell them how much we appreciate their ongoing commitment to

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays**  
Humanities Lecture Series

## Discover the Virtual Branch Website!

**Sit in on a half-hour session and be entered in a raffle for a gift card to**



Find your way around Mark Skinner Library’s enhanced virtual branch website! Tech savvy Laura Henderson returns to MSL to lead you on a whirlwind tour of [markskinnerlibrary.org](http://markskinnerlibrary.org).

Attend a **half-hour session** at the library on **Wednesday, August 24 from 6:00-8:00pm** to learn how to use its features including: downloading e-books and audiobooks, learning a language online,

using databases to seek career and small business information, researching genealogical resources and taking advantage of the many resources available on the Kids' and Teens' pages.

This is but a sampling of the vast array of 24/7 resources available at your fingertips!

**Did You Know?**  
**Mark Skinner Library is a “public charity” and is eligible to receive matching donations.**

## Whetting Your Appetite

If books play an essential part in your life, go immediately to your calendar and save the dates from September 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, the days of the next Mark Skinner Library Book Sale.

If you ooh and aah over beautiful travel guides or smack your lips over classic cookbooks, you should mark those dates with a red marker. If you have heard the weather predictions for the coming winter, and you plan to spend those wet, cold days curled up with great books, you'd first better plan to gather your supplies at the Mark Skinner Library Book Sale.

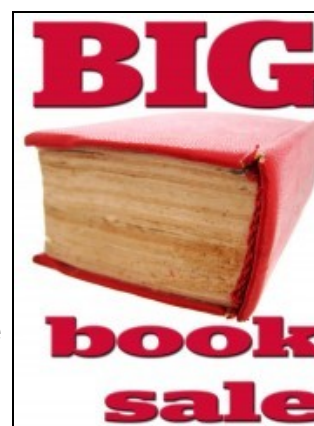
The citizens of the

Northshire have been more than generous with their book donations. We not only have a staggering quantity of books, we boast wonderful quality as well. Barely-used current hard-cover books, including lush coffee table tomes, will be available for \$1.00: and most of those books sold originally for more than \$20! Soft cover books, even trade paperbacks, will sell for 75¢. All children's books, for a wide variety of ages and interests, will sell for 50 cents. One room at the sale will be reserved for special collectibles and prices will reflect their higher value.

It would be hard to find a subject we

don't cover in our collection; sports, poetry, short stories, humor, current events, health, history, art, fiction, and mysteries will all be available. The Sunday sale will feature bargain books by the bag, but the preview party, on September 16<sup>th</sup>, will give attendees "early bird access" to the complete selection.

Volunteers are still needed to work the book sale. Call the library to sign up and help. And, if you have books suitable for the sale (excellent condition, no condensed books, no encyclopedias, no textbooks), drop them at the library or call us at 362-2607 to arrange for a pickup.



## Reading and Writing: They Go Together

Vermont Reading Partners announces an essay contest: "Should Being a Bookworm Make Me Squirm?" The contest is open to all students in Southwestern Vermont who will be in grades 6, 7, and 8 in the fall of 2011. The deadline for essay

submissions is October 14, 2011.

Winners will receive Northshire Bookstore Gift Certificates ranging from \$50 to \$150. In addition, there will be five honorable mention awards.

The Mark Skinner Library will host a November reception to honor the winners.

Fliers with guidelines may be obtained from local schools or by emailing [msossi148@comcast.net](mailto:msossi148@comcast.net).



*Essay Contest!*

The Mark Skinner Library: Manchester's Public Library is committed to serving the life-long journey of learning by providing information and opportunities for personal enrichment and enjoyment to people of all ages in our community.



[www.markskinnerlibrary.org](http://www.markskinnerlibrary.org)

P.O. Box 438  
48 West Rd.  
Manchester, VT  
05254

Phone:  
802.362.2607

E-mail:  
[info@markskinnerlibrary.org](mailto:info@markskinnerlibrary.org)

### Musical Moments in September

**The Old Country Fiddler:**  
**Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer**

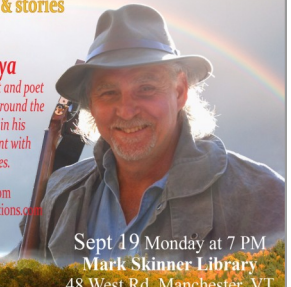


Fiddler Adam Boyce  
portrays Charles Taggart.  
Enjoy recollections,  
live fiddling  
& humorous sketches.  
**Sunday, September 25**  
**4:00 PM**

Vermont Humanities Council  
Sharing Our Past... Shaping Our Future

### VERMONT MY HOME A Celebration music, songs & stories

**T. Namaya**  
Story teller, humorist and poet  
who has performed around the  
world is now on tour in his  
home state of Vermont with  
his songs and tall tales.  
[www.vermontpoet.com](http://www.vermontpoet.com)  
[www.namayaproductions.com](http://www.namayaproductions.com)



Sept 19 Monday at 7 PM  
Mark Skinner Library  
48 West Rd. Manchester, VT  
(802) 362-2607  
<http://markskinnerlibrary.org>

"Your soulful voice... Truly moving." *Shella Jordan - Jazz Singer*

### Summer Getaway Film Series Closes with "Monsoon Wedding"



Wednesday,  
September 7 @ 7pm

Visit contemporary India as MSL ends our summer film series with the sparkling "Monsoon Wedding." This joyous, colorful movie celebrates love, romance and family ties with appealing characters and happy endings for all.

Shot in and around New Delhi, this critics' choice won the Best Film Award at the Venice Film Festival and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes.

Rated R for language. English; Punjabi and Hindu with subtitles.



**LIBRARY**  
Mark Skinner  
MANCHESTER'S PUBLIC LIBRARY • 48 West Rd. Manchester, VT 05254 • [info@markskinnerlibrary.org](http://info@markskinnerlibrary.org)