

## 2009 – 2010 First Wednesdays Lecture Series

- October 7**     *The Book of Kells.* Dartmouth professor Jane Carroll considers one of the treasures of Western civilization, the Book of Kells, and how the Irish monks' lavish illustrations of the 1200-year-old Gospel manuscript illuminate the artists' thoughts about theology and the power of the word.
- November 4**     *Hamlet Contemplates the Bust of Aristotle, or Was the Prince's Education Any Use to Him?* Amidst Shakespeare's heroes, we know only where Hamlet studied. In this unique approach to a classic play, Dartmouth professor Peter Saccio asks what value a college education has for a man whose father dies and whose mother marries an uncle he detests.
- December 2**     *Becoming Americans.* Author and Amherst College professor Ilan Stavans explores the impact that immigrants have had on American culture and language, and the role immigrant writers have played in our national consciousness.
- January 6**     *The Enduring Appeal of Anne Frank and Her Diary.* Dartmouth Professor Irene Kacandes examines some of the reasons why Anne Frank's diary continues to be read worldwide by people of all ages.
- February 3**     *100 Years since Triangle: The Fire that Seared a Nation's Conscience.* Dartmouth Professor Annelise Orleck reflects on the March 25, 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village, which killed 146 workers, most of them young immigrant Jewish and Italian women.
- March 3**     *Problem Solving in the Middle East and South Asia.* Retired CIA Chief of Counterterrorism Haviland Smith considers the regional rivalries and conflicts involving Arabs, Israelis, Persians, Kurds, Pakistanis, Afghans, Sunni, and Shia, and to what extent they have been mitigated or solved by regional powers, America, and the West.
- April 7**     *Building Books.* Author and illustrator David Macaulay traces the development of his books, from his earliest ideas to the published work—everything that makes the creative process so interesting, exhilarating, and often frustrating.
- May 5**     *The Truth about Happiness.* What is happiness, and why is it so elusive? Are Americans particularly hungry for happiness? Analyst and author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath examines the cultural and psychological context of happiness.

This Vermont Humanities Council program is being hosted by  
the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.

All programs start at 7:00 PM.