RUSSIAN ICONOGRAPHY:
1,000 YEARS OF TRADITION
AUGUST 25
Marina Forbes, Artist and Historian of Russian Arts & Culture, and Tour Guide
Enjoy this illustrated presentation of traditional Russian icon painting which is truly one of the great artistic movements in the history of the world. This art form deals with the spiritual and secular significance of Russian religious art from the 10th century to the present day. We will examine the techniques and history of icon painting in Russia and will discuss the unique multiple nature of the icon as a sacred object, a product of an artistic tradition, a work of art with its own inherent aesthetic value, and a major example of our world cultural heritage. Russian icons reveal a deep inner spirituality, incomparably matched by an intrinsic rhythm of line and harmony of coloring. The presenter is known for providing a very interesting blend of Russian history, arts and culture and “bringing the Russian history to life.” For pictures and more info, you can link to her name on www.nhhc.org
*After the presentation, stay to visit and experience Russian Tea from her samovar with accompanying pastries.

LAFAYETTE’S VISIT TO VERMONT
SEPTEMBER 1
Willard Sterne Randall, Historian, Author, Founding Fathers’ Biographer
In 1825, as part of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution, President Monroe invited the Marquis Lafayette, the last living general of the War for Independence — and Washington’s surrogate son — to tour the adulating nation. Lafayette dined with Jefferson and Madison under the unfinished rotunda of the University of Virginia and then swung north — to Vermont! Participate in this historic event as Founding Fathers biographer Willard Sterne Randall will recreate Lafayette’s visit to the Green Mountain State as the impoverished former revolutionary came to indulge what Jefferson called his “canine appetite for fame” and to pick out some choice land still owed him as his war bounty.

BEYOND BELIEF: HOW RELIGIONS YOU’LL NEVER BELIEVE IN CAN ENHANCE THE MEANING OF YOUR LIFE
SEPTEMBER 15
Michael Atkinson, Prof. Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature, Univ. of Cincinnati
Without for a moment thinking that you will adopt new beliefs, we will explore ways in which particular practices in different religions can offer
each of us strategies for living more meaningfully. Consider the following: How can an Islamic tradition enrich your experience as an Agnostic? How can Buddhism enhance your Catholic practice? How might a Jewish tradition bring resonance to your Taoist inclinations? How can a Shinto practice deepen your life as a Protestant? It is not articles of faith that will count for us here, but different traditions’ strategies for deepening our connection with human life in all its variety.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CO-SPONSORED BY ASCUTNEY MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 29

Dr. Alan Betts, Climate Scientist, Atmospheric Research, Pittsford, VT

The climate of Vermont, New England, and our planet are changing as we burn the fossil fuels to supply our energy needs. Hear Dr. Alan Betts, Vermont’s leading climate scientist, discuss the attitudes and strategies needed to address this great challenge that faces us, our children, and our grandchildren.

MYRA COLBY BRADWELL — AMERICA’S FIRST WOMAN LAWYER

OCTOBER 13

Nancy Nahra, Author, Poet, Professor of Humanities, Champlain College

Her name, Myra Colby Bradwell, likely will not sound familiar. Yet you’ll wonder why not after you hear her story, which includes highlights such as these — along with details: She was born in Vermont. Going against everyone’s advice, she tried to become a lawyer, and succeeded. Along the way she also started and ran a successful Chicago newspaper for over twenty-five years. As a good friend of Mary Todd Lincoln, Myra Bradwell ultimately arranged to have Mrs. Lincoln released from the mental hospital where she had been confined against her will. Later, Bradwell again used her influence to have Chicago chosen as the site of a World’s Fair. Speculate why her impressive legacy never resulted in lasting fame after her death. That odd fact — far from accidental — has its own equally fascinating story.

VERMONT HISTORY THROUGH SONG

OCTOBER 27

Linda Radtke, mezzo-soprano & Arthur Zorn, keyboard

From the earliest published song, “Green Mountain Farmer” (1798), through 1850 temperance ballads, Civil War era songs, to songs about Vermonters Calvin Coolidge, Thomas Dewey, and Jim Fiske, singer and researcher Linda Radtke, joined by pianist Arthur Zorn, bring Vermont history to life with engaging commentary about the songs found in the Vermont Historical Society’s collection of sheet music. Experience firsthand as, dressed in period costume, Ms. Radtke takes us through state history, using the songs Vermonters published in their communities.

RESEARCHING MY FATHER’S MILITARY HISTORY DURING WW II

NOVEMBER 10

Bruce Johnson, History Enthusiast, Retired Teacher, Retired Executive Director of SAPA TV

Standing on the very site where his father landed his CG4A Glider 70 years before on D Day near Ste. Mere Eglise in Normandy, Bruce was moved by the experience of tracing his father’s military history during his visit to France in June of 2014. Having done research using his father’s record books and photographs, Bruce was able to locate chateaux and battlefields where his father served, and to experience these locations firsthand. Share in the experiences of his extensive research leading to his meaningful 2014 trip.

THE CCC AND THE NEW ENGLAND SKI AREAS

NOVEMBER 17

Jeff Leich, Executive Director, New England Ski Museum, Franconia, NH

The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), the government work program during the 1930s, cut timber on the mountainsides of New Hampshire and Vermont making ski trails, which laid the way for the New England ski industry to become established. View archival photographs, as Leich will share the origins of some of the most iconic ski areas of the Northeast — including nearby Mount Ascutney.

A LIGHT IN THE DARK: ANCIENT ASTRONOMY IN IRELAND

DECEMBER 1

Mark Breen, Planetarium Director and Senior Meteorologist, Fairbanks Museum

Imbedded throughout the landscapes of Ireland lie haunting, mystical formations of rock once called “fairy circles” and other similar names. Today, archeology and science have discovered an amazing, advanced understanding of astronomy on the Emerald Isle, dating back before the time of the Pyramids of Egypt, before Stonehenge. Mark Breen traveled to several of these locations, and we will share his experience, including images of stone circles, curious “burial” chambers, and astronomically aligned stones. Learn how these “once upon a time” stories are written in stone!

THANKS TO OUR LOCAL BENEFACTOR: BARBARA SANDERSON