

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS NEWS

[Volume XXIV Number 2 * Spring/Summer 2008]

2008



Cover art by Brian Page of Dharma Creative

2008 Fellow
James Patrick
Kelly's novelette
"The Edge of
Nowhere" was
first published in
*Asimov's Science
Fiction Magazine*
in June of 2005.
Kelly's story
examines a world
called "Nowhere"
and its eclectic
residents including
talking dogs and a
Mondrian-like
matrix. Kelly's
podcast readings
can be found at
audible.com

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NH Arts News

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Bobbie Herron, Yvonne Stahr

On the Cover

James Patrick Kelly

On the national scene, James Patrick Kelly of Nottingham is considered a master of short science fiction. In addition to recently winning the Nebula Award, considered the highest honor for science fiction, he is also two-time winner of the Hugo Award for his novelettes *10¹⁶ to 1* and *Think Like a Dinosaur*. Closer to home Kelly is also known as a champion for New Hampshire arts. He has given his valuable time in service as a State Arts Councilor, and as Chairman of the Council.

Kelly has authored five novels and more than 60 published stories, essays, reviews, poetry, plays and planetarium shows. He has also written three plays featuring well-known figures of American history. In cyberspace, Kelly hosts two weekly podcasts: *Free Reads* and *James Patrick Kelly's Storypod*. He also writes an internet column for Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine.

A native of Mineola, New York, Kelly abandoned a public relations career early on after writing his first commercially successful story, completed while attending the Clarion Science Fiction Workshop in Maine in 1974. He is now on Clarion's faculty and serves as assistant chair on their board. Kelly is also on the faculty of the Stonecoast Creative Writing MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

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Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo by Lynn Martin Graton

This double issue of *New Hampshire Arts* substitutes for our regular Spring and Summer issues, so you will find that it packed with information on our Arts Education and Creative Communities programs' projects and plans. We are particularly pleased to have some contributing writers featured in this issue and we hope to feature more in future

issues. As we begin using this publication for articles with a long shelf life and relying more on electronic communications for news items, we hope to present a greater diversity of voices while still sharing information about model projects that we help fund.

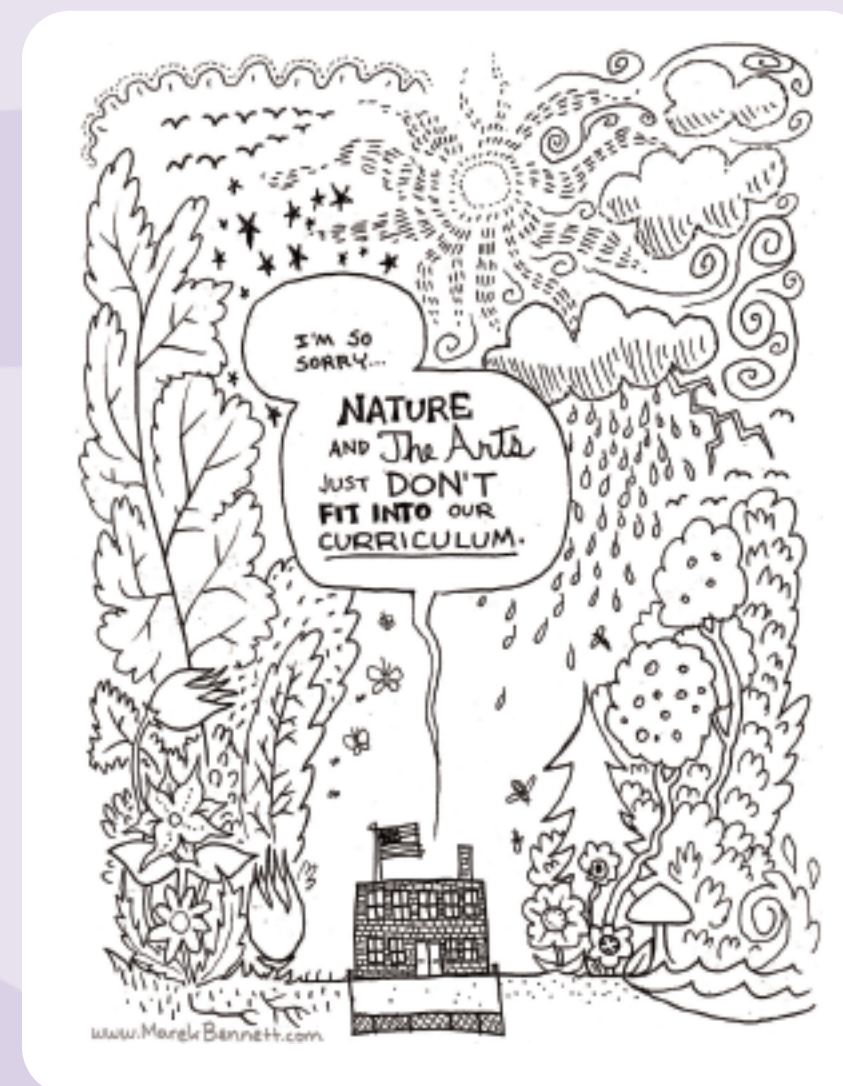
That being said, we will continue to highlight our own activities. One that we do not want you to miss is the presentation of the 2007 Governors Arts Awards that will take place in Keene at the historic Colonial Theatre on April 24th. Tickets are available now through the theater's box office, so please help us have a sell out event to show your support for the honorees and New Hampshire arts in general.

This year the State Arts Councilors voted to give a Creative Enterprise Award for the first time. This additional special award will go to Ken Burns for Florentine Films of Walpole to showcase one of the state's most successful creative economy businesses. Beth Krommes of Peterborough was commissioned to design the award.

The next nominations for Governors Arts Awards will be due in April, 2009, but it is not too soon to start thinking about whom to nominate. It takes time to assemble the letters of support and write a compelling narrative, and we thank those who take the time to do just that. When you come to the April 24th event, and see how much it means to those who receive these awards, I hope you will be inspired to get those new nominations going.

See you in Keene for the Governors Arts Awards celebration.

Rebecca L. Lawrence
Director, Division of the Arts



Henniker cartoonist Marek Bennett presented a workshop at the 2007 AIE Conference. He teaches science, music and Spanish at the Hopkinton Independent School and regularly gives workshops on comics. Read more at: www.Marekbennett.com

Staff/Council News

Welcome to New Chief Grants Officer Cassandra Erickson

Cassandra Erickson from Contoocook recently joined the State Arts Council staff as Chief Grants Officer. She will oversee all grant-making and contracting activities and directly administer the Organizational Support Program, which includes operating, project, cultural facilities and cultural conservation grants.

Erickson brings a strong administrative background to the job as well as experience in working within the state



Chief Grants Officer
Cassandra Erickson
of Contoocook.

Photo by Kelsey
Rae Erickson

government environment. She was an Investigative Paralegal for the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council preparing contracts, motions, administrative rules, requests for proposals and Governor and Council submissions. She also maintained extensive databases and contracted for training workshops. Prior to that, Erickson held the position of Director of Victim/Witness Program for the Merrimack County Attorney's Office for nine years.

Erickson loves the arts and, with her family, is a frequent visitor to the state's many arts venues. In particular, since both her son and daughter are pursuing art studies, she has a strong appreciation for how important arts education is for every student.



Newest State Arts Councilor Wendy
Cahill of Concord.

Photo by courtesy of Wendy Cahill

Photographer Wendy Cahill appointed to State Arts Council

Governor John Lynch has named Concord resident Wendy Cahill to the State Arts Council. She is replacing former Arts Councilor Gary Samson whose term ended last fall. Cahill is a professional photographer with 15 years of experience in wedding and portrait photography. She graduated from the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences, with a two-year certificate in the photography program.

Cahill attended the New England Institute of Professional Photography and is a member of the New Hampshire Professional Photographers Association and the Professional Photographers of New England. She is the recipient of an award from the New Hampshire Professional Photographers Association has exhibited her photographs at the Association's annual print competitions.

The Capital City's Creative Economy

Within the last 10 years or so, Concord, the state's Capital City, has seen an increase in arts venues and restaurants in its historic downtown. This growth, making it a more attractive place for both visitors and residents, has had an undeniably healthy effect on the city's economy. Recognizing the role that arts and culture has played in this development, the city established a Creative Economy Task Force, comprised of local business and culture leaders, including Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner **Van McLeod** and State Arts Council Director **Rebecca Lawrence**, and charged the committee with creating a creative economy development plan for Concord's future.

Out of three responses to a request for proposals, the Task Force selection team recently selected the proposal submitted by Dr. Craig Dreeszen and Tom Borrup. Both Dreeszen and Borrup are recognized as national leaders in the Creative Economy movement and will work with the Task Force to develop a creative economy plan for the city.

Craig Dreeszen, Ph.D. has helped 42 communities complete cultural assessments and/or cultural plans and creative economic development strategies. He is author of the *Community Cultural Planning Handbook: A guide to community leaders*, the *Partners in Creative Economy Planning Workbook*, and numerous other books and articles on strategic planning, board development, arts education collaborations, and program evaluation. He also helped the State Arts Council develop its 2005-2010 strategic arts plan, which is available on the web at nh.gov/nharts.

Tom Borrup is a leader and innovator in community-based media, culture, and community development. His book *The Creative Community Builder's Handbook*, provides a theoretical base, practical examples, and guidance for community leaders.

Their work with Concord's Task Force is anticipated to take approximately six months and will lead to a very specific action plan. Funding for the initiative has come from the City of Concord, Unital, The Duprey Companies and Lincoln Financial Group.





Celebrating the 2007 Governors Arts Awards Recipients

Don't forget to mark your calendar for an evening of arts celebration, including performances by Monadnock area artists, to honor the recipients of the 2007 Governors Arts Awards. The event takes place at 7 PM on April 24, 2008 at the Colonial Theatre in Keene. Tickets are available through the Colonial Theatre's box office and web site. General admission tickets are \$18. Preferred seating tickets, which include a \$57 tax deductible donation to help support the event, are \$75.

This year the State Arts Council voted to add a special award to recognize businesses that help make up the creative economy. This new Creative Enterprise Award will go to **Ken Burns** for Florentine Films of Walpole. Please join Governor John Lynch and Susan Lynch, Honorary Chair of the awards, as New Hampshire honors Ken Burns and the five 2007 Governors Arts Awards recipients listed to the right:

Individual Arts Patron Award recipient The Bloomfield Family and fiber artist Suzanne Pretty (right), who is creating the award.

Photo by Lynn Martin Graton

Composer
Marilyn J. Ziffrin of Bradford
– Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure

Cape Breton fiddler
Harvey Tolman of Nelson
– New Hampshire Folk Heritage

The Bloomfield Family of Bow
– Individual Arts Patron

Art educator
Phoebe Ann Neiswenter of Pembroke
– Arts Education

Choreographer and Dancer
Drika Overton of Portsmouth and
Kittery, Maine
– Distinguished Arts Leadership

*Living Treasure Award recipient composer
Marilyn Ziffrin*

Photo courtesy of Marylin Ziffrin



*A Creative
Enterprise Award
will go to Ken
Burns for Florentine
Films of Walpole.*

*Credit: Lisa Berg
General Motors/
courtesy
Florentine Films*



*Art Education Governor Arts Award recipient
Phoebe Ann Neiswenter and sculptor Emile
Birch, who is creating the award.*

Photo by Lynn Martin Graton



*Harvey Tolman, fiddler, New Hampshire
Folk Heritage Awardee*

Photo by Lynn Martin Graton



*Distinguished Arts Leadership Award
Recipient dancer and choreographer
Drika Overton*

Photo courtesy of Drika Overton

Awards Recipients

Arts Education

Sharing Ideas: An Annual Opportunity

Arts specialists, environmental educators, parents, artists, school administrators, community arts leaders and classroom teachers came together in October for the 2007 Arts in Education Partnership Conference, entitled Beyond Adequate: Transforming Our Educational Landscape through the Arts. All were eager to discover creative ways to integrate the arts in the classroom. For

the second year in a row, the Boston University Sargent Outdoor Education Center in rural Hancock formed the perfect setting for a gathering that highlighted the ways the arts and environmental issues intersect.



Conference artist-in-residence Jody Diamond leads participants on a workshop exploring the gamelan, an Indonesian multi-timbral melodic percussion orchestra.

Photos by
Yvonne Stahr

A variety of hands-on, interactive and inter-disciplinary workshops led by teaching artists, environmental educators and arts specialists enabled teachers and artists to experience effective methods to facilitate learning through the arts. Workshops explored green classrooms and Artist in Residence projects, including Japanese Shibori textile work; graphic novels; songs and stories about the natural world; Indonesian music, dance and culture; and book-making.

Workshop leaders included New Hampshire artist-educators, including musicologist, cross-cultural educator and performer Jody Diamond, who was the conference artist-in-residence; Balinese dancer Cynthia Laksawana; and eco-artists Deborah Mahar and Mark Ragonese.



Participants gather around instructor Betsy Sterling Benjamin for a lesson in Japanese batik dyeing. Benjamin is an award-winning international artist, researcher and author specializing in Japanese textiles.

Area hosts to the workshops included The Harris Center for Conservation Education, the Sharon Arts Center, and Peterborough Elementary School. In addition, several workshops were presented in partnership with the Kimball Jenkins School of Art and the Northeast Cultural Cooperative.



Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer demonstrates some basic book structures for participants at her workshop "Making Books to Create and Inspire."



Award winning principal Dr. Plato Karafelis of the Henry A. Wolcott Elementary School in West Hartford, Connecticut was keynote speaker. Karafelis is nationally known for the Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools Model and is a recipient of the National

"...There is a meaningful place for the arts in every school."
- Plato Karafelis

Educator Award. Other speakers included State Representative and former chair of the Adequate Education Committee Emma Rous, and Suzanne Delle Harrison coordinator for ArtsVoteNH, a project focused on the New Hampshire presidential primary, which was jointly sponsored by Americans for the Arts and New Hampshire Citizens for the Arts. Humanities scholar Kay Morgan

Art Educator Katherine Fox works with students on Environmental Education through the Arts in a classroom at the Peterborough Elementary School. The class is learning how to create art using recycled materials.

facilitated a lively discussion with high school student and photographer Colin Nevins, with participation by potter Teresa Taylor and Steve Schuch, musician/author/composer.

This annual conference began over 30 years ago as a way to share ideas among artists and educators. It has grown in sophistication, but remains as the only statewide gathering of teaching artists and educators. It also gives everyone who supports making the arts basic to education a way to learn about model projects and see examples of outstanding artist residencies. State Arts Council Arts Education Coordinator Catherine O'Brian describes the conference as "...an incubator of ideas for exciting and innovative projects that engage students and support school curricula."



The Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock.

Fall 2008 New Hampshire Arts in Education Partnership Conference – Mark your calendars!!

For our annual fall conference *Dreaming Mountains: Exploring the White Mountains through the Arts* – at the AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch, Bretton Woods, join us during peak season in the White Mountains – the weekend of Sept 26-28th. The AMC's Highland Center Lodge is a very GREEN and fully accessible building. For a slideshow: <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/lodges/highland/index.cfm>

Conference details and registration materials will be posted in February. For more information contact Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education Coordinator, Catherine.R.O'Brian@dcn.nh.gov or 271-0795.

The ArtLinks Program

Real Arts for Real Life: Collaborative Youth Theatre

Bullying, suicide, alcoholism—these are real issues that young people confront in and outside of school. A program in the Monadnock Region is using the arts to help teenagers deal with these problems. This year, the State Arts Council is helping the effort with a \$10,000 ArtLinks grant.

Monadnock Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coalition and the Creating Positive Change Coalition, ActingOut is helping schools and community organizations to address the prevention needs of Monadnock Region youth, as identified through local assessment data from the New Hampshire Youth Risk Behavior and other surveys.

MFS is using its ArtLinks grant to help fund the activities of ActingOut, a collaborative youth theatre project that combines expressive arts and peer interaction for adolescents, with training and performance experience in audience-interactive, issue-oriented, and improvisational theater. The group introduces youth to improvisational performance that enables them to explore serious issues drawn from their own experience, such as alcohol abuse, bullying, suicide, AIDS/HIV, communication issues between peers and parents, and tobacco use. The programming is free and open to students ages 10 to 18. Through the program, participants learn performance skills such as storytelling, character development, communication and listening, spontaneity and tableaus and create original improvisational theatre pieces. All this, while they also learn the theatre skills listed in the New Hampshire Arts Curriculum Frameworks.

The company of teen performers builds the performances around a theme, then audience members are asked for stories related to that theme. The players then attempt to capture the story's essence through movement and metaphor. In the process, participants convey valuable prevention messages to their peers in

The ActingOut program is part of the Youth Initiatives Office of Monadnock Family Services (MFS), a community mental health agency. MFS has been in operation since 1905 and serves the 34 towns that make up the Monadnock Region. ActingOut was created in 1989 and serves 250 youth in groups and more than 1,200 youth through performances each year. Working in collaboration with area prevention coalitions, including the



ActingOut company members from groups at Monadnock Regional High School, Keene High School, ConVal High School, Conant High School and Keene State College. With ActingOut coordinator Jodi Clark (far right).

ACTING Out

the audience. The program reaches a population of teens that typically do not participate in the traditional high school drama department offerings and prefer to be involved with an outside theatre activity. Most of the participants wish to help educate their peers about the issues that are explored.

The performances are created with the support of health, social services and arts partners. Most recently, in partnership with the Samaritans of New Hampshire, ActingOut developed a piece entitled, Inspiring Hope: Stories of Overcoming Adversity, which was performed for the MFS Annual Meeting, held at the Grapevine Family Resource Center in Antrim. They also performed a suicide awareness presentation that was sponsored in part by The Samaritans and MFS at the Cheshire Medical Center. Last year at Keene State College, ActingOut Collaborative Youth Theatre Program developed a performance around AIDS and HIV experiences in observance of World AIDS Day. They collaborated with AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region. ActingOut students learned about treatments, prevention and statistics while helping to plan awareness events. Participants also created a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Looking ahead, ActingOut coordinator Jodi Clark says, "We are working in collaboration with Cheshire Mediation, PFLAG of Keene, Monadnock Regional High School and Keene High School to develop a performance about bullying, labels, and how this impacts our lives." ActingOut will continue to perform their original works in middle and high schools, colleges, teen centers and other community performance venues.



ActingOut members presenting their quilt panel to Susan McNeil, executive director of AIDS Services and Arne Grendell, NH AIDS/HIV educator.

Photos by Tiffany Matthews

ArtLinks

Dispatch from the Field

Arts Education from New Hampshire to Afghanistan

by Rachel Lehr of Warner

The challenges to education in Afghanistan – a country with 85% illiteracy, schools with no buildings, and sporadic electricity in the capital city Kabul—can seem overwhelming. For the lucky children who do attend schools, most will only make it through the primary years. In a climate where many teachers are only marginally prepared to lead their students, what role does integrating arts and creativity play?



Raising doves is a popular hobby in Afghanistan.

Students at Kabul University had the chance to find out during two recent lectures I was invited to deliver at the Faculty of Language and Literature and the Faculty of Theater and Arts. At the Language and Literature Department I spoke about the endangered and minority languages of Afghanistan to an enthusiastic audience of students and faculty whose questions ranged from the political—regarding language policy in an emerging multilingual country, to the arcane – questions on the historic origins of Afghan languages. The audience gasped with surprise when I told them that I was in the process of writing a grammar of Pashai, an endangered language spoken in eastern Afghanistan. Even in Afghanistan very little is known about this minority language community.

At the Theater and Arts Department, students gave up their lunch break to hear about unfamiliar concepts such as habits of mind, creativity, and how teaching through the arts improves student outcomes. Students viewed *Learning about Arts and Culture Together: Artist in Residence in Three New Hampshire Schools*, the film recently produced by the State Arts Council. The film was added to the collection of the American Center at Kabul University. Many of the students were incredulous that Arts in Education improves student learning and questioned whether including arts in the basic curriculum wouldn't actually

detract from their core subjects. Many of the students that were present will go on to teach and wondered how one makes the most of arts integration without resources or a special budget. Like teachers everywhere, they face challenges to promoting the interest and learning of their students. However, in Afghanistan education is still based on rote memorization, recitation, and strictly enforced discipline of the old school variety. Student attendance is sporadic and education is a privilege not a requirement. In the chilly and dark halls of electricity-poor Kabul University these lectures introduced innovative ideas, offering students a few new ways to think about education.

About the author:

Rachel Lehr is on the New Hampshire Community Arts and Arts in Education Roster. She has worked with groups all over New Hampshire strengthening arts and community ties through the medium of feltmaking. Lehr is Executive Director of Rubia, Inc, a non-profit organization serving women in Afghanistan through training, education and the promotion of their fine handwork. Lehr, fluent in the Persian, Dari, and Tajik languages, is currently finishing her doctoral dissertation in Linguistics at the University of Chicago, writing a descriptive grammar of Pashai.



Poppies and other embroidery designs by Rubia members represent a legitimate source of income and a new tradition in textiles.

Photos by Rachel Lehr

Making a Difference

Great River Arts Institute Crosses Borders to Offer OPEN ART

By Tonia Fleming, Great River Arts Institute

The mission of Great River Arts Institute is to foster literacy through quality art-based multi-disciplinary arts activities. To meet that objective we offer OPEN ART after-school programs throughout the school year to foster literacy through art-based, multi-disciplinary activities.

More than 200 students will benefit from OPEN ART over the current school year. Specific six-week sessions include collage book-making, documenting the world around us in photographs and words, nature journaling, puppetry, and mask-making using natural objects.

“Many of our students do not have resources in their families to pay for after school enrichment opportunities”

Thanks to the grant funding, the fee to participate is minimal and many scholarships are offered. One principal notes, “Many of our students do not have resources in their families to pay for after school enrichment opportunities. Having the program in our school, and affordable to all, makes it accessible to children who would not otherwise have such an opportunity.” She goes on to say, “We are so pleased that Great River Arts initiated this project...the tangible and intangible results are striking.”



Thanks to an ArtLinks grant, Great River was able to expand their OPEN ART program to elementary schools in New Hampshire in 2006-2007.

We identify regional artists and educators who create innovative hands-on art projects while interweaving elements of science, social studies, environmental studies and language arts. After a successful pilot program in Vermont, and thanks to an ArtLinks grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, as well as funding by the New Hampshire Charitable Trust, OPEN ART expanded to New Hampshire elementary schools in 2006-2007. The program is now offered to third through fifth grade students in a dozen townships in Vermont and New Hampshire.



A young participant enjoys an outreach program by Great River Arts Institute. Photos by Tonia Fleming

Artists as Entrepreneurs:

Eco-Artist Creates a Promotional Environment

By Cynthia Robinson

An Artist Entrepreneurial Grant, which I received from the State Arts Council, was instrumental in helping me to launch a self-promotion campaign for a new set of environmental art programs I designed for schools and communities.

I requested the support to create a new website and promotional materials to help increase my visibility and identity as an artist and an artist-educator. I knew that having a visual “package” with a consistent vision and visual concept would be essential to the process of approaching prospective schools and contacts. Having been known mostly as an arts administrator, I had not yet spent time, energy, and money in promoting my own work.

Besides the financial support, which made it possible for the project to happen, the grant gave me the moral support and encouragement to proceed with advancing my career as an artist. This project provided me with a focus, and enabled me to take time to think through a cohesive presentation. It wasn’t an easy process, but having the grant also supplied me with a framework that helped me to shape those beginning steps that involved working first with a graphic designer and then a web designer who helped to sketch and implement a plan.

In addition to clarifying the direction of my work, this project also made me look closely at my goals, raise questions about programmatic structure, highlight links to other ideas, and outline expanded possibilities.

I am very pleased with the outcome: a professional “look” for my marketing materials and a clear point of departure for collaborating with other artists,

presenters, and groups. The package has definitely already given weight and value to my programs and artistic platform when I meet potential partners, school representatives, and community members.

Now, armed with my beginning toolbox of materials, I am ready for the next step...



Creative Communities

Telling Their Stories

*By Frumie Selchen, Executive Director,
Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire*

More than three years ago, the Androscoggin Valley Community Partners (AVCP) formed with one basic question in mind: How can we help our community? Berlin and Gorham and the surrounding towns were in painful transition. The mills that had sustained the economy for decades were shutting down. The financial impact on individuals, families and the community was devastating. So was the loss of identity. Berlin was a mill town. It had been a mill town for generations. One small mill, Cascade, was still in business, but everyone wondered, for how long?

Thus was born “Telling Our Stories,” a collaborative program developed by AVCP, the United Way of Northern New Hampshire, the Family Resource Center at Gorham, and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and its local member organizations, including the Berlin & Coos County Historical Society,

“When the mills closed, nobody asked us to tell our stories”

Gorham Historical Society, Northern Forest Heritage Park and the St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts, in cooperation with Plymouth State University and Tri-County CAP’s RSVP program. The partners hired storyteller and writer Rebecca Rule to gather the stories and helped her find folks to interview. Financial support from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and Public Service of New Hampshire made the program possible.

AVCP came up with a simple idea. One way to help was to collect the stories and preserve the history of the mills and logging industry in the Androscoggin Valley. The idea was to tap the memory and

knowledge of those who lived that history, including those who worked all their lives in the mills or in the woods, and must now find other work, as well as those with family traditions of mill and lumber work going back generations. Some of the stories would come from those who may not have been directly involved with the mills, but whose lives and livelihoods were influenced by them.

Once the stories were collected, they’d be returned, in the form of a performance piece, a staged reading, held in the community for the community. The message: Your stories are important. This community matters. You matter.



*Writer and storyteller
Rebecca Rule.*

*Photo courtesy
of Rebecca Rule*



The demolition of the paper mill in Berlin, for decades the largest employer in the region, had a huge economic impact on the thousands of Berlin residents who had worked there.

Photo by Eric Kaminsky



In the spring of 2007 Rule spent more than thirty days in Berlin, meeting with individuals and groups, collecting stories, attending community events, speaking to civic groups, and running writing and



storytelling workshops. Early on, she realized that the interviews could be easily written up as short profiles, so she wrote a series of these for the Berlin Daily Sun, which ran them with photographs of the people interviewed.

During the summer, she took all the materials she’d gathered and wrote a play, “Crosscut,” in the voices of the people of the Androscoggin Valley, using their exact words. In December the play was performed for more than 200 people by four actors from Theatre North.

There has been much positive feedback on the project. Rule has told some of the stories all around the state. Just as AVCP saw the value in preserving the stories, so did the people who volunteered to tell them. After the performance of “Crosscut” in Berlin, one of the participants

sent Rule a note. “Like you said,” he wrote, “ ‘Your stories will be coming right back at you.’ They surely did!”

People seemed not only willing to tell their stories, but to appreciate the effort to collect them. This sentiment is embodied in the response of Roland Aube. After Rule interviewed him, she remarked on his beautiful onyx ring. He’d inherited it from his father and wore it on special occasions. “You wore it today, to talk to me,” I said.

“Today is a special occasion,” he said. “You asked me to tell my story. When the mills closed, nobody asked us to tell our stories.”



The name of the worker on the right is Roger Dignard. In his comment about this photo, Carl E. Belanger wrote: “This job was referred to as ‘working on the wrenches’.” As he recalls, “The guys on the wrenches would unbolt the cover, swing it open then drop a fill chute down so that [wood] chips could be poured into the digester.”

(Photo left): These women are washing dishes, but little else is known about this image, #161 in the collection. All the images from the Brown Company Collection can be viewed on the web at <http://beyondbrown.paper.plymouth.edu>. Anyone who worked in the mills, or recognizes someone in a photo, is encouraged to add their comment to the website, or call a toll-free number.

Photos from the Brown Company Collection, Michael J. Spinelli, Jr. Center for University Archives and Special Collections, Plymouth State University.

Arts in Health Care

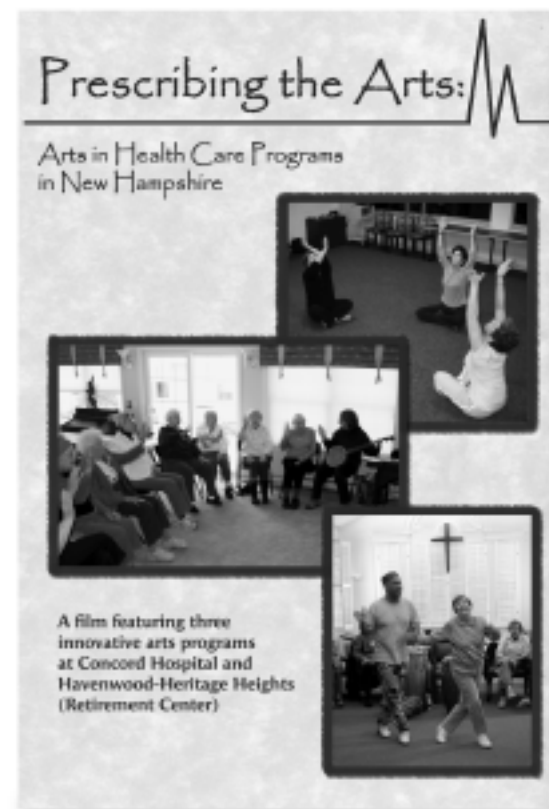
DVD Documents Innovative Arts in Health Care Programs

Sometimes, seeing is believing. With this in mind, the Council has recently released *Prescribing the Arts: Arts in Health Care Programs in New Hampshire*, a film featuring three innovative artist residency programs at Concord Hospital and Havenwood Heritage Heights retirement center in Concord. This eleven and a half minute DVD shows cancer survivors dancing with professional dancer/choreographer Kelly Doremus Stuart, Havenwood Heritage Heights residents and staff singing with musician/chorale director Carolyn Parrott as well as being engaged in African drumming and dancing with professional percussionist Michael Wingfield.

According to Judy Rigmont, Creative Communities Coordinator, who oversees the State Arts Council in-state Arts in Health Care Initiative: "We invested in hiring filmmaker Huey Coleman to document these exemplary, ongoing arts programs and included commentary by CEOs, staff, participants and artists at each site in hopes of inspiring other health care providers to offer similar participatory programs. We chose to support these programs because of the impact they have on the healing process and community-building plus the creative opportunities they provide for seniors to express themselves and revive memories."

This spring and summer the film will be available for screenings around the state with an accompanying panel discussion about the programs from the perspective of participating artists and health care providers.

If a health care provider would like to host a screening at their facility for area health care providers, contact Judy Rigmont, at judy.l.rigmont@dcn.nh.gov, or call 271-0794. A limited number of DVDs are available for distribution. For information about professional artists experienced in offering programs in health care facilities, see the following article.



DVD cover of newly released arts in health care film.

Graphic design by Julie Mento

Arts in Health Care

Online Arts in Health Care Artist Directory Updated

Are you looking for artists who can work with residents, patients, staff, and clients in your health care facility? If so, an updated directory is now available online to help nursing or county homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, hospice programs, mental health institutions or agencies, and senior centers, find artists who are experienced in working in these settings.



The listing can be found on the web by visiting www.nh.gov/nharts. Simply click on "Arts & Artists" in the left hand margin and then scroll down and click on "Arts in Health Care Artist Directory". Here you'll find a directory with background information about dozens of professional artists in most artistic disciplines, including dance, theatre, storytelling, music, writing, visual arts, and crafts.

Funding is available through the State Arts Council Arts in Health Care Project Grants, to support participatory projects in health care settings that are led by artists listed in this directory.

For further information, contact Judy Rigmont at judy.l.rigmont@dcn.nh.gov or call 271-0794.



Visual artist June Latti is experienced working in health care settings and is among the artists listed in the Arts in Health Care Artist Directory on the State Arts Council website.

Photo courtesy of Merrimack County Nursing Home

Arts in Health Care

Weaving Fiber and Friendship

By Bobbie Herron, FreedomWeavers

Have you ever pulled a loose thread and been hypnotized watching it unravel? I have had a life-long love of fiber arts because the materials are so familiar,



Ethel, a resident at Pleasant View Center, shows VSA arts NH board member Maureen Hall how to weave the Saori way.

non-intimidating, and inexpensive. The weaving method I use is called SAORI and was created in Japan in 1968. SAORI is based on the premise that if you have a simple technique, a selection of beautifully diverse fibers, and a supportive environment, then every individual will be able to access their untapped creative abilities.

In the fall of 2006, through the generous support of VSA arts of New Hampshire and the State Arts Council, I brought a SAORI program to the elderly residents of Pleasant View Center in Concord. In order to have the program be welcoming and open to everyone, we set up the loom in the lobby /living room area by the main entrance, where it remained for the entire six months of the program.

It was no surprise that there was a lot of shyness at the first workshop. But finally one brave soul, Marie, stepped forward and within a few minutes she declared with her beautiful French-Canadian accent, "Hey, this is easy. You, Lena, come do this." Lena insisted no, no, she couldn't, but there was no saying no to Marie. One day, while a group was gathered around the loom, Marie and a gentleman resident discovered they had both worked in the Manchester mills as children. Their banter slipped from English to French and back again, using terms from the commercial weaving industry. They became friends united by a common past that few others could imagine.

Another resident, Sally, was often awake at night, did not like television, and wanted something new to occupy her time. She was skeptical about the wheelchair-accessible loom at first. But sure enough, after one class and a little height adjustment on the loom, she was



Axel Stewart, a young visitor to Pleasant View, enjoys the honor of cutting the 39 foot banner that was created by residents.

Photos courtesy of Bobbie Herron



Bobbie Herron (center) and PVC resident Catherine admire Ellen's beautiful Saori woven scarf.

Photo courtesy of Bobbie Herron

weaving at every class and during the night, and went on to become one of the program's finest ambassadors. "It helps me to relax – I don't feel any stress when I am weaving," she declared.

Six months and 39 feet later, the colorful banner woven by the residents was unfurled at a public celebration in the lobby. During the party the formerly shy residents were the featured artists, teaching their family members and visiting dignitaries how to weave the SAORI way.

I am so honored to be able to bring the SAORI method to New Hampshire through my work at Freedom Weavers Studio. SAORI was a perfect fit for the residents of Pleasant View Center. Helping people of all ages and abilities to weave fabric and friendships is a privilege and a pleasure. I am forever grateful to the VSA arts network for bringing SAORI teaching to the US and to the State Arts Council for providing both the funding and the encouragement so that a New Hampshire artist could share her love of fiber play with others in the community, plus nursing homes and health care facilities around the state.



Pleasant View residents gather around the Saori loom with friends and family during the culminating celebration.

Photo by Julie Mento

Around the State

Congratulations to...

The **Currier Museum of Art** for receiving a \$150,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation of New York City to reinterpret and reinstall its American Art Collection in preparation for the Museum's spring reopening. The Currier is the steward of northern New England's most comprehensive collection of American Art.

The **Nashua Symphony Association** for increasing its grants from state and private foundations almost fivefold, including \$10,000 from the Deluxe Corporation Foundation for their 07/08 concert season, and \$5,000 from the Nashua region New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for staffing initiatives.

Poet **Alice Fogel** of Acworth, upon the release of her latest book of poems *Be That Empty* and the inclusion of her poems in the anthology *Bedside Guide to No Tell Motel* as well as in *Southern Poetry Review*, *The Journal*, *The Massachusetts Review* and others. Last year she taught a week-long program on poetry appreciation at Chautauqua Institution in New York, where she'll be returning this summer to teach several classes for adults and teens. This summer she'll also be presenting at the Frost Place teachers conference. Several of her artwear creations have been featured in *Altered Couture*.

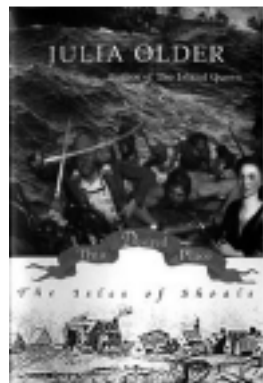
Fiber artist **Betsy Sterling Benjamin** of Kingston, for having seven pieces of her work added to the permanent collection of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. A passionate

proponent and teacher of *rozome*, **Benjamin** is the author of *The World of Rozome: Wax-Resist Textiles of Japan* (Kodansha International Publishers; 1996, 2002) and conducted a workshop for artists and educators on dye techniques as part of the State Arts Council's 2007 AIE Partnership Conference.

Georgie Reagan, who has been honored with the title of Honorary Chair of the **Manchester Art Commission** by Mayor Frank Guinta for her decades of outstanding work on the commission. She served ten years on the commission as chair, initiated the Manchester Art Fund, represented the city as founding partner of the Manchester Welcome Center, and was instrumental in developing the "Art on the Wall at City Hall" gallery.

Interdisciplinary artist **R.P. Hale** of Concord, who has been named Coordinator for Craft and Folklife at the **Augusta Heritage Center** in Elkins, Virginia, where he will be responsible for locating and hiring artisan instructors in traditional/historical crafts and folklife classes that are part of the five-week summer program. For the past 28 years Hale has been a regular instructor and staffer at Augusta where he will continue to also serve as piano technician, graphic designer and instructor.

Julia Older, of Hancock, whose novel, *The Desired Place; The Isles of Shoals*, was a gold medal finalist for the Best New England Region Fiction at the 2007 Independent Book Awards. The awards spotlight books based on quality and regional significance. Nearly 700 fiction and nonfiction titles were in competition.



Julia Older's book The Desired Place: The Isles of Shoals was a gold medal finalist at the 2007 Independent Book Awards.

The winners of the **New Hampshire Writer's Project** 2007 New Hampshire Literary Awards. **Annmarie Timmons**, a veteran reporter for the *Concord Monitor*, was the first recipient of the Donald M. Murray Outstanding Journalism Award; **Julie Baker** won for Outstanding Work of Children's Literature for *The Bread and Roses Strike of 1912*; **Rebecca Curtis** won outstanding Work of Fiction for her short story collection, *Twenty Grand: And Other Tales of Love and Money*; **Maggie Dietz** received the Jane Kenyon Award for Outstanding Book of Poetry for *Perennial Fall*, her first book of poetry; **Edith Milton** won Outstanding Work of Nonfiction for *The Tiger in the Attic: Memories of the Kindertransport and Growing Up English*; and **Theodore Weesner** received the Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of seven novels and one short story collection and has had his work included in several publications.

Rachel Lehr of Warner, recipient of an American Institute of Afghanistan Studies Fellowship. The Fellowships are awarded for scholarly projects that advance the knowledge of Afghanistan. Lehr used her award to create *Rediscovering Afghanistan: Lessons from the Home: Water*, a cultural geography of Afghanistan that integrates digital technology with artifacts to examine everyday spaces and activities of the home. In conjunction with this project, Lehr presented a paper entitled *Rediscovering Afghanistan* through new and old media at the conference, entitled *Beyond Text: Synaesthetic and Sensory Practices in Anthropology*, a part of the Royal Anthropological Institute International Festival of Film at the University of Manchester in England.

Charles Pratt of Exeter, recent recipient of the Finishing Line Press open chapbook prize. Two years ago he received an Artist Opportunity Grant from the State Arts Council to attend the Vermont College Postgraduate Writers Conference. He acknowledges the State Arts Council and Charles Harper Webb, whose poetry manuscript workshop at the conference provided valuable help with selecting and ordering his poems.

Painter **Duane Hammond** of Alton, recipient of the 2007 Artist Innovation Award. Sponsored by ArtWorks NH of MicroCredit-NH, the award focuses on the evolution of the artist's work, the development of his/her business, and support provided by the artist to his/her peers.

Artist educator and Roster artist **Jeff Erwin** of Portsmouth, whose **Trashcan Lid Productions** was hired by **Every Child Matters** to provide entertainment at many of the events during this past New Hampshire Primary season. TLP helped draw attention to issues regarding youth on candidate platforms.



Alton artist Duane Hammond accepting the 2007 Artist Innovation Award from ArtWorks New Hampshire.

Photo courtesy of MicroCredit-NH

Welcome to...

Leonard Matczynski, the new Executive Director of **Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music** in Sullivan.. He is a concert violinist, teacher and former faculty and board member at Apple Hill. Mr. Matczynski was previously Executive Director at Emmanuel Music in Boston for 15 years. During his tenure at Emmanuel Music, he implemented its performance and administrative structure, concert and touring programs, long range plans, and development of new programs.

Jodie Hamlen, now serving as Director of Development at the **Concord Community Music School**. She has 12 years of

experience in development. Since 2000, Ms. Hamlen's work has focused on individual giving at the college and university level, most recently at Colby-Sawyer College, first as Director of Annual Giving and then as a Major Gift Officer.

Deborah Turcott, who is the new Executive Director of the **Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)**. Turcott previously worked as the Director of the Community Development Finance Authority's Downtown Resource Center and New Hampshire Main Street program. She replaces Rachel Rouillard, who stepped down last fall to pursue a master's degree at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Gail Nessell Colglazier who is now Director of the **American Independence Museum** in Exeter. In December, she left the **Manchester Historic Association** where she had been Executive Director for over nine years.

Trish Anderson-Soule of **Anderson-Soule Art Consulting** was recently appointed Executive Director of the **New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association** and the **New Hampshire Institute of Furniture Making**. The newly created position was made possible, in part, by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Anderson-Soule owned and operated Anderson-Soule Gallery in Concord for 5 years and promotes outstanding local and regional art through exhibits, artist demonstrations and gallery lectures.

Around the State

Betsy Woodman, who was recently appointed Music Director of the **Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire (SRSNH)**. A recorder player, she joined the Society one month after enjoying one of their concerts, served on the Board of Directors from 2005-2007, and traveled with the group to Scotland in 2006. Woodman, a New Hampshire native who has lived and studied in India, France, and Zambia, has a longstanding cross-cultural interest in music and dance. An anthropologist by training, she also does social science research, writing, and editing.

Kathy Wurtz who was recently hired as the new Director of the **New Hampshire Writers' Project**. Wurtz earned her MA in Literature from the University of New Hampshire and served as Managing Director of the New Hampshire Theatre Project and previously held the position of Development Coordinator at the Seacoast Science Center.

Farewell to...

Tommy Hensel, former Executive Director at the **Rochester Opera House**, who in January began his new position of Managing Director of the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Illinois, just south of Chicago.

Sylvia Miskoe of Concord, a founding member of the **Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire (SRSNH)**. She recently retired after serving as Music Director for seven years. Miskoe, who plays the accordion, is a well-known figure in the traditional music and dance scene in New England. She was also president of **SRSNH** for five years. Miskoe was a prominent figure in the revival of New



Sylvia Miskoe cuts into the cake, at her retirement party. Miskoe served as Director of the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire for seven years.

Photo by Betsy Woodman

England square and contra-dancing and recorded and transcribed the tunes of French-Canadian fiddler **Omer Marcoux**. She has performed in China and the Soviet Union, and represented New Hampshire at the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC. **Betsy Woodman** will be taking her place as Music Director.

New Hampshire Writers' Project Program Manager, **Ellen Grimm** who is returning to her roots as a journalist for regional newspapers and as a stringer for the Associated Press.

Heartfelt thanks to...

Congressman **Paul Hodes**, who secured a \$100,000 grant for restoration of the **Daniel Webster Farmhouse** through the Historic Preservation Fund. The Senate has since approved \$98,000 for the restoration. The Franklin property was named one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2005. "Daniel Webster's fierce independence shaped New Hampshire's character, and his memory is worth preserving," said Congressman Hodes.

"I am proud to have secured this funding." Webster called his farm "the very sweetest spot on earth." Once the restoration is completed, the Daniel Webster Farmhouse will be used as a meeting place and an historical and educational center. The project was also supported by **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance**, the City of Franklin, the Webster Farm Preservation Association, the Franklin Historical Society, and Alex Ray, owner of The Common Man restaurants.

Country Dance Films by Robert Fiore and Richard Nevell now on DVD

New Hampshire filmmakers Robert Fiore, veteran cinematographer of *Pumping Iron*, *Greetings*, and *Festival Express*, and Richard Nevell, author of *A Time to Dance: American Country Dancing from Hornpipes to Hot Hash*, have revisited two of their documentaries on country dance and packaged them onto a single DVD.

Country Corners, the award-winning 1976 documentary on New England Contradance, aired nationally on PBS and features National Heritage Fellow Bob McQuillen of Peterborough with Old New England (Deanna Stiles and Jane Orzechowski), New Hampshire Folk Heritage Governors Arts Award recipient Dudley Laufman of Canterbury and the Canterbury Orchestra, The Ed Larkin Dancers of Tunbridge, Vermont, and Jack Perron with Rodney and Randy Miller in Nelson. The film is narrated by Gordon Bok of Maine.

The DVD also features the film *Full of Life A-Dancin'*, a film about The Southern Appalachian Cloggers of North Carolina. More information can be found at <http://countrycorners.blogspot.com>.

National News

President Bush Signs Largest Increase for NEA in 28 Years

In December, President George W. Bush signed an omnibus appropriations bill for FY 2008 that includes \$144.7 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This represents an increase of \$20.1 million over the 2007 funding level of \$124.562 million.

It is the largest dollar increase since 1979 and will allow the agency to devote more funds to direct grants to arts organizations and to extend the reach of the agency's National Initiatives that support touring and arts education in theater, music, dance, literature, and the visual arts. The highest level of the NEA's appropriation was \$175.9 million in FY 1992. The new appropriation raises the NEA to its highest level in 13 years.

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said, "The strong bipartisan support of Congress and the Administration for the NEA demonstrates the value of the agency's

programs. This budget will afford us even greater opportunities to bring excellent art and arts education to all

Americans through direct grants, which now extend to every community, and through our National Initiatives such as *American Masterpieces*, *The Big Read*, *Poetry Out Loud*, and *Shakespeare in American Communities*. The National Initiatives have reached more than 20 million students throughout the country.

More theater, more music, more dance, more literature, more visual arts, and more arts education will now be available to more Americans."

The bill also included statutory language for an honorific award to artists working in opera, now known as *The National Endowment for the Arts Opera Honors*. This award program is similar to the NEA's Jazz Master Awards and National Heritage Fellowships.



New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Upcoming FY 2009 Deadlines

Arts Organizations

Grant Name	Deadline
ArtLinks	April 28, 2008
American Masterpieces	May 2, 2008
Mini-Grant*	July 1, 2008
Community Arts Project	October 1, 2008
Mini-Grant*	October 1, 2008

Arts Partners

Grant Name	Deadline
ArtLinks	April 28, 2008
American Masterpieces	May 2, 2008
Arts in Health Care Project	July 1, 2008
Mini-Grant*	July 1, 2008
Mini-Grant*	October 1, 2008

Individual Artists

Grant Name	Deadline
Artist Entrepreneurial*	July 1, 2008
Artist Entrepreneurial*	October 1, 2008

*Quarterly Deadlines:

April 1, 2008 for projects beginning on or after July 1, 2008
July 1, 2008 for projects beginning on or after October 1, 2008
October 1, 2008 for projects beginning on or after January 2, 2009 for projects beginning on or after April 1, 2009

Note: All are postmarked deadlines.

Call to Visual Artists:

Four new percent for art projects available. Over \$100,000 to be awarded for commissions or artwork purchases for state buildings. Check web site for details. For more information, contact Julie Mento, julie.mento@dcr.nh.gov

Special Thanks

The printing costs for this issue have been underwritten by an Anonymous Donor. *Thank you.*

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

Established in 1965, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the New Hampshire Division of the Arts comprise the state’s arts agency. Funding comes from appropriations from the State of New Hampshire and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Volunteer Arts Councilors set policies, approve grants, and advise the Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Resources on all matters concerning the arts.

The State Arts Council’s mission is to *promote the arts to protect and enrich New Hampshire’s unique quality of life.* The Director of the New Hampshire Division of the Arts administers the agency, which is part of the Department of Cultural Resources.

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Promoting the arts to protect and enrich New Hampshire's unique quality of life since 1965.

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Arts in Health Care

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