

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTS NEWS

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2004



Katherine Min
Fiction Writer
Plymouth

2004 Fellow

Photo by Julie Mento



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

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NH Arts News

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On the Cover

2004 State Arts Council Fellow Katherine Min was born in Urbana, IL and received her B.A in English Literature at Amherst College in Amherst, MA and her M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University in New York City. She is Writer-in-Residence and Diversity Scholar at Plymouth State University's Graduate Studies Division, where she is also an adjunct faculty member.



During her Fellowship year, Min spent two months focusing on her writing at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough and one month at the Millay Colony in Austerlitz, NY. Min was honored as a Tennessee Williams Scholar in 2004 at the Sewanee Writers' Conference in Tennessee.

Min gave a reading at Plymouth State University as her "Report to the New Hampshire Community" in July 2004.



This newsletter is available electronically or in alternative formats. Please call 603/271-2789

Director

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summertime and the livin' is ~~easy~~ busy! We are in the midst of interviews, focus groups, and surveys as part of our strategic planning process. We scheduled six regional focus groups around the state to listen to arts issues tied to geography in the Granite State. Groups have or will be convening in Peterborough, Manchester, Portsmouth, Randolph, Laconia, and Lebanon. A special session in Portsmouth on August 5th focused on the particular challenges faced by emerging artists.

among communities, and value the economic impact of the arts on community prosperity. Additional sessions focused on public art and accessibility resources and strategies.

This summer also brought the bureaucratic work of preparing the next biennium's budget request for FY2006-2007. The Governor's team will listen to agency requests in November to develop the Governor's budget presentation for

Tell Us What You Think!

As part of our process of updating the Strategic Plan for the State Arts Council, we invite everyone to provide feedback on the opportunities and challenges you see for supporting and promoting the arts over the next three years. We've made it easy for you to give us your feedback online. Please visit our web site, www.nh.gov/nharts, and click on "2004 Constituent Survey." The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to fill out. Your advice helps us respond to the arts needs of New Hampshire citizens.

To get as much feedback as possible, we invite everyone to take the online survey posted on the State Arts Council's website (see box). By October, using what we have learned from these investigations, we will post a draft of State Arts Council goals and strategies for 2005-2010 for further public review and comment. State Arts Councilors will vote on the final draft of the plan in December.

To help us with our planning, we also spent some summer days learning about national trends and strategies in public support for the arts. Several staff members traveled to (very hot and steamy) Washington DC in July to participate in the joint conference of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and Americans for the Arts. The focus was on civic engagement in politics and community service through the arts. Sessions explored ways to build more livable neighborhoods, bridge differences

January. February through May will be the Legislature's turn to review these requests. With predictions of state deficits ahead, this is expected to be a difficult year.

Despite this working calendar for the summer, I know all of us will be fitting in as many summer arts events as we can, from the annual League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair to summer theatre and street festivals. We encourage all our readers to do the same, support your local arts organizations and artists. People from out-of-state spend their vacation dollars to enjoy what we have right here in our own backyard. Don't let them have all the fun, get out and pARTicipate!

Rebecca L. Lawrence
Director, Division of the Arts

Arts Council News

Arts Councilor and Staff Notes

We were sorry to see long-time Arts Councilor **Melissa Walker** have to cut her second term short due to the demands of recovering from a devastating fire at the Walkers' Christmas Tree Farm in Madbury. Walker, a weaver and educator, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Arts Council's work and could always be depended upon for her down-to-earth insights on ways to meet any challenge presented to the Council. On June 23rd, the Governor and Executive Council officially accepted Arts Councilor Melissa Walker's resignation with regrets.

Science fiction author and State Arts Council Chairman **James Patrick Kelly** of Nottingham has been nominated for a Hugo award, the World Science Fiction Society's Achievement Award. He is already a two-time recipient of the coveted award.

In August, musician and Councilor **Randy Armstrong** of Dover will be touring Ghana and Mali in West Africa.

Councilor and photographer **Gary Samson** of Concord is working with folklorist and UNH Professor Burt Feintuch of Portsmouth on a book provisionally entitled *In the Blood: Cape Breton Conversations on Culture*.

Councilor **Jacqueline Kahle** of Wilton has been appointed Vice Chair of the State Arts Council. Many thanks are extended to former Vice Chair **William Hallager** of Lincoln, who stepped down from office for personal reasons.

During the recent busy spring grant season, panelists who are active in the subject areas that correspond to the State Arts Council's programs, have convened to review grant applications. Each grant review panel meeting is overseen by a representative of the State Arts Council who, in most cases, facilitates the proceedings. We extend



Councilor Jacqueline Kahle of Wilton is Vice Chair of the State Arts Council.

Photo by Julie Mento

our gratitude to the Councilors who have volunteered to ensure that this important process is carried out in the fairest and most ethical manner possible. Participating Councilors and the panels they oversaw were: **Gary Samson** for Artist Fellowship applications in Literature, **Randy Armstrong** for Artist Fellowship applications in the Performing Arts and also Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants, **Karen Burgess Smith** for Artist Fellowship applications in the Visual Arts, **Tim Sappington** for Cultural Facilities/ Cultural Conservation grants and Artist in Residence grants, **Grace Sullivan** for ArtLinks applications, **Jasmine Shah** for Traditional Arts Project grants, **Jacqueline Kahle** for Organizational Support Project/ Planning grants and Operating grants, and **Paul Hodes** for Community Arts Development Project grants.

State Arts Council Director **Rebecca Lawrence** has been chosen to chair the new International Committee for the New England Foundation for the Arts.



The Mill Girl statue at the Millyard Museum of Manchester, a tribute to 19th-century female textile workers, contrasts with the Queen City's modern skyline.

"The Mill Girl" courtesy Intown Manchester/Photo © Robert Edsall

(Photo right): The Apple Hill Chamber Players Ensemble will be "Playing for Peace" at the September 2004 Arts in Education Conference in Manchester.

Courtesy of Apple Hill Chamber Players

The City as Canvas

Arts in Education Conference

Plans are in place for the 2004 Arts in Education Conference and registrations are now being accepted. This year's conference will take advantage of the vital arts activities available in New Hampshire's most urban city. "The City as Canvas," the State Arts Council's 2004 statewide conference will take place September 17th through the 19th in Manchester.

Devoted to the continuing professional development and renewal of educators, artists and

parents, the annual conference brings together artists and arts educators from all disciplines to exchange ideas, discuss challenges and form an ever-growing network of colleagues and advocates. Individuals and school teams will learn about the power of the arts to improve learning.

Conference Highlights

Highlights will include the Apple Hill Chamber Players, an evening showcase of AIE Roster performing artists, arts workshops throughout the city, open artist studios at Langer Place Creative Mills, tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Zimmerman House and the Currier Museum of Art, and dinner prepared by the Culinary School of Southern NH University.

Pat Schneider, poet, author, and adjunct professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA will open the conference with a keynote address. She is founder and director of Amherst Writers & Artists, and editor at *Amherst Writers & Artists Press*. Her pioneering work is the subject of the award winning documentary, "Tell me Something I Can't Forget."

The internationally known Apple Hill Chamber Players, based in Sullivan, will perform a "Playing for Peace" concert on

Saturday, September 18 at Southern NH University. One of America's most highly respected performing ensembles, they will also conduct a coaching workshop with NH student ensembles. The Playing for Peace Project is dedicated to furthering world peace and understanding through concerts, residencies, and scholarships.

Partners

The State Arts Council presents the conference in partnership with the NH Department of Education, the Arts Alliance of Northern NH, the NH Alliance for Arts Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, the NH Association of Strings Teachers, the Manchester Community Music School, the City of Manchester, Art Builds Community, the Currier Museum of Art, the Manchester schools, plus host site partners.



Registration

Early bird registration ends August 14. Daily commuter rates are available. For more conference details, or to download a registration form, please visit the State Arts Council on the web: www.nh.gov/nharts. Contacts: Frumie Selchen at (603) 323-7302, artsallianceNNH@cs.com. Catherine O'Brian, (603) 271-0795, cobrian@nharts.state.nh.us.



Melissa Walker of Madbury is retiring from the State Arts Council.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Walker

News

Fellow Artists Paid Tribute to Marie Harris at the Currier Museum of Art

In June, Dr. Rawn Spearman, noted New Hampshire performer and recipient of the 2001 Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award, presented the New Hampshire premiere of *Safe Harbor: A Celebration of Music, Art and Poetry* at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester.

The multimedia performance, designed as a tribute to immediate past New Hampshire Poet Laureate Marie Harris, featured a poem cycle by Harris entitled “Safe Harbor,” a watercolor sequence by Newfoundland artist Sylvia Bendzsa called “Form of the Wave,” and original

jazz “knee plays” performed by musicians Anthony Mele and Bruce Ronkin, and composed by the musicians and Mitchell Shuldman, to accompany dramatic readings by both Spearman and Harris.

After the performance, the audience joined an informal discussion and gathered for a gala reception. Bendzsa’s paintings were exhibited through June. *Safe Harbor* was made possible by the Currier Museum of Art, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the Poetry Society of New Hampshire, and private donations.

Safe Harbor

(from the poem cycle, *Safe Harbor* by Marie Harris)

Winter pushes inland up the rivers,
heaving slabs of frozen sea into salt marshes:
pile-ups troweled in sea colors – gray-green
blue-green, black-green, gray-blue, gray-white,
yellow-white, blue-white, pale white
and paler to clear ice — folds and faults.
Our boat is in safe harbor, anchored
to the forest floor, riding snow swells.
Cold noise thrums in the coiled rigging,
suggests speed over the frozen ground.



Poet Laureate
Emerita Marie Harris.

Photo courtesy of
Marie Harris

Revitalizing a Beloved State Icon The Old Man Lives On

Shortly after New Hampshire’s loss of the Old Man of the Mountain, Governor Craig Benson appointed a 12-member Old Man of the Mountain Revitalization Task Force charged with memorializing the cherished stone face for generations to come. Former Governor Steve Merrill is chairing the committee. In addition, a seven-member Old Man of the Mountain Design Team, chaired by Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod, has been appointed to focus on implementing the three phases of revitalization over the next few years.

The First Phase — The Old Man’s Spirit is Reborn

The first phase of the Old Man of the Mountain’s revitalization was launched on the anniversary of his fall on May 3, 2004.

During that gray and misty morning at the base of Cannon Mountain, two viewfinders were unveiled. Van McLeod describes the viewfinders, “Through one, you see what is there now with the Old Man gone. Through the other you see a stereoscopic overlay that creates an optical illusion of what it was like when he was there.”

Later that evening in Manchester, the first annual New Hampshire Profile Awards, recognizing specific or longtime efforts to preserve, protect, or promote one or more of the attributes associated with the Old Man of the Mountain, were presented. The three awards honor an organization, an individual, and a municipality. The recipients of the inaugural awards were, respectively, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, former Governor Walter Peterson, and the town of Littleton.



The Profile Award — born and raised in New Hampshire

The committee determined that these unique awards should be designed by a New Hampshire artist and made of natural materials that are native to the state. Sculptor Andre Belanger from Berlin won the competitively bid commission. He created the awards from New Hampshire granite and native birch with the famous profile of the Old Man etched on clear acrylic.

The Second and Third Phases — The Old Man’s Gifts to the People of New Hampshire

Two more phases are currently underway to memorialize the Old Man of the Mountain. These projects will communicate the values that have come to be symbolized by the Old Man’s rocky profile.

- * Artist Sculpture Park on the northern shore of Profile Lake.
- * An educational curriculum.
- * A museum with interactive exhibits.

Request for Proposals for the Profile Lake Sculpture Park – Art and Nature

An RFP for the artworks that will populate the Sculpture Park is currently being developed. “The Sculpture Park provides an exciting opportunity for artists,” says Artist Services Coordinator Julie Mento. “Keep an eye out for the request for proposals at www.nh.gov/nharts and sign up for the State Arts Council’s e-news service.”



The Profile Awards
were created by
Berlin artist Andre
Belanger.

Photo by Julie Mento

Photo left:
The Old Man of the
Mountain fell from
his perch on
May 3, 2003.

Photo by
Dick Hamilton

Rendering of the
proposed Artist
Sculpture
Pathway.

Rendering by
Tim Sappington

Thinking OUTSIDE THE BOX

In June, business, arts, and government leaders launched the New Hampshire Creative Economy Network with an afternoon of sharing information about what this sector means to the state's economic future.

Photo by
Joan Goshgarian

A vibrant mix of 90 business, arts, and government leaders came together on June 9th to launch New Hampshire's

action for the state. Members of the steering committee were Chris Dwyer, RMC Research; Doris Burke, Public

Question:

What common interest would bring these people together: the owner of a brewing company, a museum director, a North Country resort hotel manager, the CEO of a utilities company, the State's Artist Laureate, and a municipal planner?

Answer:

New Hampshire's Creative Economy Network.

Creative Economy Network, a state-sized variation of New England's Creative Economy Council. The session began with an overview of terms and statistics that define the creative economy in New Hampshire, then progressed to roundtable discussions on eight related topics, ranging from "Artist as Entrepreneur & Entrepreneur as Artist" to "The Role

of Arts and Culture in Workforce Development."

The groundbreaking work on defining the creative economy began over three years ago through a research study sponsored by the New England Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts (and its member state arts agencies), and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. By gathering information on for-profit applied arts, nonprofit cultural work, and self-employed artists together in one place, the significance of this sector in New England's overall economic competitiveness became apparent.

An ongoing partnership between the State Arts Council and the NH Business Committee for the Arts led to the formation of a steering committee to design a way of moving this research forward into

Service of New Hampshire; Mary McLaughlin, Bank of New Hampshire; Terri Beyer, Ocean National Bank; Stephanie McLaughlin, NH Business Review; Byron Champlin, Jefferson-Pilot; Tom Putnam, Markem Corporation; Rebecca Lawrence, NH Division of the Arts; and Joan Goshgarian, NH Business Committee for the Arts.

The steering committee designed NH's Creative Economy Network to spark new conversations about ways the creative sector can keep New Hampshire competitive in a changing economy and the urgency of supporting and investing in that sector. The conversations will continue through list-servs hosted on www.creative-economy.org, the site managed by New England's Creative Economy Council, which also contains news and resources on other state and regional activities related to the region's Creative Economy Initiative.



(Photo bottom right): Media production — film, video, cable, and broadcast — is a major employer of the creative workforce. Providing training in these skills to young people, such as those seen here at the Children's Museum of Portsmouth, is essential to education for the 21st century.

Photo courtesy of the Children's Museum of Portsmouth



The creative workforce includes all types of designers from architects and interior designers to web and graphic designers. Seen here, an architectural plan for Capitol Center for the Arts by Sheerr McCrystal Palson Architecture, Inc.

Understanding the Creative Economy

The creative economy includes work that results in cultural products or services...from glassblowing to web designing and from working as a security guard in a museum to being an accountant in a graphic design firm.

Three overlapping aggregates measure New England's creative economy in terms of people, organizations or businesses, and places:

The Creative Workforce

The creative workforce is composed of individuals whose jobs require skill in the cultural, fine, or applied arts. This group of individual workers may be employed within the creative cluster (a curator at a museum), in an industry outside the creative cluster (a web designer at an investment firm), or they may be self-employed (an interior designer).

The Creative Cluster

This term refers to a group of nonprofit organizations and businesses (sole proprietorships, partnerships or corporations) that produce goods and services based in cultural enterprise, the fine or applied arts. The workforce for creative cluster industries, such as museums and architectural firms, includes creative workers with skills in the cultural, fine, or applied arts, such as self-employed craftspeople, and workers with skills in other areas, such as museum guards.

Creative Communities

This term refers to geographic locations within New England where quality of life is directly connected to higher concentrations of creative workers and creative cluster industries. Creative communities understand and value their cultural assets. They support diversity and innovation.

New Hampshire Statistics

53% of NH's creative workers are employed in for-profit businesses; 7%, in nonprofits; 14%, in government; and 26% are self-employed.

About 16,000 creative workers, in 34 job categories, make up 2.5% of NH's labor force.

The economic impact of New Hampshire's nonprofit cultural organizations, a subset of the state's creative cluster employing nearly 4000 workers, is \$136.4 million.

Want to Know More?
Here are some helpful links.

www.creative-economy.org,
www.newenglandarts.org



Communities that feature public art works contribute to the creative economy.

La Dame de Notre Renaissance Français and her son Émile, sculpture by Christopher Gowell.

Photo by Kathy Seward MacKay

Launching the New Hampshire/ Québec Dance Alliance

KSC Dance Students and Alumni Showcase Talents in Montreal

After two years of planning, the New Hampshire/Québec Dance Alliance's mission to exchange dance resources became official on May 10 when eight

Keene State College (KSC) dance students and alumni, along with dance faculty, left for a weeklong visit to Montreal, Québec. Among the dance opportunities available to them were dance classes at *Les Ateliers de Danse Moderne de Montréal*; a master class with Butoh master, Yoshito Ohno; and attending dance performances at Tangente Dance Space and the University of Montreal. In addition they showcased two dances at Studio 303 to a sold-out house.

The dances they performed were "(Another) Metal Garden," choreographed by New York choreographer Séan Curran in collaboration with the dancers, and "I Forget Just Why," choreographed by KSC dance professor William Seigh.

"(Another) Metal Garden" was created during Mr. Curran's two-week residency at KSC in the fall of 2003. His residency was made possible through a National Collegiate Choreography Initiative. The dance was rehearsed throughout the year by the head of KSC's dance program Marcia Murdock and Seigh.

Dancers were Danielle Discenzo, Yoshio Chandler, Jillian Davey, Aiyana Maye, Alison K. Rosenthal, Melanie Rosner, Meredith Roy, and Leah J. Waitkun.

"I Forget Just Why" is a solo piece, inspired by the Edna St. Vincent Millay poem, "Lament," and danced by Maye. Also included in the concert was Montreal choreographer Katie Ward's piece, "Collapsible Uprisings."

The Dance Alliance's next project will find one of Montreal's leading modern dance companies, *Cas Public*, in residence at KSC February 6 through 9. They will be seen in "If You Go Down to the Woods Today" and "Courage Mon Amour."

The Dance Alliance's principal venues are KSC's Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond and Montreal's Tangente Dance Space. The visit to Montreal was made possible through funding from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, The Québec Ministry of Culture and Communication, KSC Office of the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Brickyard Pond.

(Photo right - opposite page)
Representatives of two governments met to discuss future plans for a NH/Québec cooperative cultural agreement. From left to right: Mme. Françoise Cloutier, New England International Relations, Ministry of Culture and Communications; Conseillère Fabienne Bilodeau, Ministry of Culture and Communications; Director of International Cooperation and Development M. Jacques Laflamme, Ministry of Culture and Communications; NH Department of Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod and Division directors Jim McConaha, Historical Resources; Michael York, State Library; Rebecca Lawrence, Arts.

Photo by Gary Samson



"(Another) Metal Garden" choreographed by New York choreographer Séan Curran in collaboration with the dancers was among one of the dances showcased at the Redfern Arts Center.

Photos by Celine Perrone

Open Borders – Sans Frontières

NH Delegation Travels to Québec to Focus on Cultural and Heritage Programs

In May the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources led a delegation of NH cultural organizations to Montreal, to further develop the partnerships and alliances that outline the State's on-going Cultural Exchange Agreement with Québec, known as Open Borders – *Sans Frontières*.

Leading the group were Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod and the three directors from the Department: Rebecca Lawrence, State Arts Council; Jim McConaha, Division of Historical Resources; and Michael York, State



Library. Members of the delegation included: Mary Boswell, Belknap Mill Society; Adele Baker, Franco-American Centre and the American-Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission; Joan Chamberlain, Northern Forest Heritage Park; Mary Jean Chaput, Franco-American Centre and UNH-Manchester Library; Peter Davies, NH Humanities Council; Sylvio Dupuis, Palace Theatre and NH Historical Society; Sheryl Hack, Canterbury Shaker Village; Gary Samson, NH Institute of Art; Susie Lowe-Stockwell, League of NH Craftsmen; and Andrea Thorpe, Richards Free Library and NH Library Association.

The Québec Government, Division of International Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Communications, invited the delegation in order to continue to expand and explore cultural exchanges. In October 2002, New Hampshire hosted a three-day cultural mission from Québec. In May, it

was New Hampshire's turn to send delegates to Québec. Over the course of three days they met with and were hosted by staff from the National Library, museums, Bureau of Film, art centers, galleries, archeologists, historians, and Québec government officials. Roundtable discussions were held at the National Archives on cultural tourism and French heritage, history and genealogy. During a formal meeting between government representatives, the group agreed to collaborate on a cultural heritage corridor in 2008 as part of the 400th anniversary of the exploration of North America by Samuel de Champlain, the French navigator who mapped much of the north-east and started a settlement in Québec.

Among the benefits of these exchanges is the opportunity for New Hampshire and Québec counterparts to meet and learn from each other and compare the functioning of their respective departments. In most cases, the issues confronting arts and culture in Québec are significantly similar to those in New Hampshire although their public/private funding ratio is dramatically different.

"I am confident that our cultural agreement, Open Borders – *Sans Frontières* will instill in our fellow citizens the desire to learn more about each others' cultural and historical resources," said France Dionne, Québec Delegate to New England. "New Hampshire and Québec are already strong economic partners. By bringing together leaders of our cultural communities, the cultural agreement is developing our relationship into a broader scope," she said.

The sponsors of the New Hampshire delegation's visit to Québec were the Department of Cultural Resources, Public Service of New Hampshire, Jefferson Pilot Financial, American-Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission and the New Hampshire Department of Resources & Economic Development – International Trade Resource Center.



The idea of developing a cultural heritage corridor as part of the 2008 celebration for Samuel de Champlain, founder of Québec, was introduced during the formal meeting.

Photo by Gary Samson

Spotlight: Traditional Arts Showcases

Apprentices at the League Fair

Decoys are first roughed out with power saws and then the fine carving is done by hand. Fred Dolan demonstrates the finesse needed to create a lifelike head.



To create a hooked rug, Pam Bartlett draws one loop of wool at a time through a burlap backing. The goal is to have each loop appear exactly the same as the other.



On August 8, 2004, the Traditional Arts Program once again showcased recipients of Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants at the annual League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair. The showcase helps fulfill a community presentation requirement of the grant recipients. By sharing their skills, grantees let visitors see that traditional arts are important, beautiful, and are preserved by dedicated individuals.



Apprentice Bob Wyatt shows that skillful and patient hands are needed to tie Classic Atlantic Salmon flies.

Photos by
Lynn M. Graton

techniques involved in their tradition. Musical performances were informational and entertaining.

The recipients of this year's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants featured at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair at Mount Sunapee were:

Decoy Carving:

Master Artist **Fred Dolan** of Strafford and Apprentice **Gary Trotter** of Lee

Rug Hooking:

Master Artist **Dorothy Towle** of Intervale and Apprentice **Mary Jo Landry** of Berlin

Master Artist **Pamella Bartlett** of Loudon and Apprentice **Janan Tari** of Concord

Fly Tying:

Master Artist **Mark Favorite** of Rochester and Apprentice **Bob Wyatt** of Concord

Vietnamese Dance:

Master Artist **Kim Chi Vu Potter** of Merrimack and Apprentice **Victoria Forslind** of Nashua

Scottish Highland Bagpiping:

FY03 recipients

Master Artist **Gordan Webster** of Concord and Apprentice **Brendan Carey Block** of Antrim

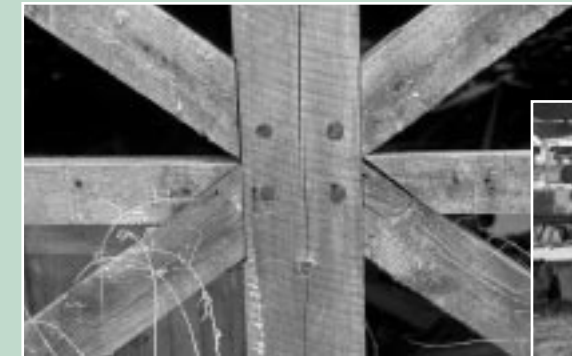
The 10-day League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair was held August 7 through 15th at the Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH. It is the oldest crafts fair in the country and a wonderful opportunity for people to support the wide range of fine craftsmen in the state.

Demonstrations at the Annual Stratham Fair

For the third year, the State Arts Council's Traditional Arts Program partnered with the Stratham Fair to support a "Traditional Arts Village" as part of its four-day annual event. Held July 29-August 1, 2004 at the Stratham Hill Park, the Fair drew over 40,000 visitors.

Like other agricultural fairs, the Stratham Fair features displays and demonstrations of farm equipment, livestock, community-based home crafts, 4-H projects, performances of country western and pop music, midway games, food booths, and carnival rides. What makes the Stratham Fair unique is their commitment to including educational demonstrations of traditional arts in the mix.

The Stratham Fair provides an opportunity to reach new audiences and increase public awareness of the State Arts Council's work to preserve NH traditional arts in New Hampshire. Nestled in among the 4-H barns and show arenas, the



Traditional Arts Village provided fair visitors a special opportunity to visit with traditional artists and learn about New Hampshire's special heritage.

The Traditional Arts Program hopes to work with other fairs to include more traditional arts demonstrations and performances at their events. Grants and partnerships are available. For more information, contact Traditional Arts Coordinator Lynn Martin Graton at (603) 271-8418, or lmartin@nharts.state.nh.us.

This year, demonstrations included blacksmithing, granite cutting, timber framing, ash basketmaking, cooperage (barrel making), furniture upholstery, and working with draft animals.



Oxen were responsible for clearing the fields of stone and stumps during the early farming days of New Hampshire. Today, their skills are preserved in pulling competitions, one of the main attractions at the pulling arena at the Stratham Fair.



The Stratham Fair incorporated restoration timber framing with a goal toward repairing their historic barn for use in future fairs.



Jack Paige teaches Industrial Arts at the NH Technical Institute and also preserves the time-honored tradition of blacksmithing.

Steve Green demonstrates the technique of chipping granite to a fine edge using hammer and chisel.

Photos by
Lynn M. Graton



“It’s all about the rhythm, it’s all about dance... a violin sings, a fiddle dances.”
- Janet Farrar-Royce

Violinists Become Fiddlers

NH Fiddle and Dance Instruction Booklet and CD is a Model for Teaching Music

Janet Farrar-Royce, a music teacher based in Cheshire, CT is working with Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman of Two Fiddles to expand the vision and musical versatility of classical string players. Over the past year, Farrar-Royce developed

Although classically trained, Farrar-Royce was always interested in fiddling. Five years ago she attended the national meeting of the American String Teachers Association. They had gathered guest fiddlers from around the country and suggested that music educators look to local traditions to broaden their music programs. They further suggested that incorporating local fiddle traditions into the curriculum of string programs would help achieve goals in meeting national standards such as learning improvisation, harmony and chord structure, ensemble writing and composition, plus allow students to connect with culture.

Farrar-Royce returned to New England and sought out traditional New England fiddler, and NH Folk Heritage award recipient, Dudley Laufman of Canterbury. Her friendship and working relationship with Dudley and his wife, Jacqueline, is bringing New Hampshire’s traditional fiddle-based dance music to the attention of music educators everywhere. “They are the living art, the real thing, and traditional New England fiddling is so much a part of our heritage,” she said.

For their part, the Laufmans are pleased to participate in this integration and are preparing another project. Says Farrar-Royce, “We are working on another collection of dance tunes for an instructional booklet called *Sweets of May*. We hope to have it ready in the Fall.”

For more information, visit www.laufman.org

companion instructional booklets for viola, cello and bass for the Laufman’s self-produced fiddle and dance instructional booklet and CD entitled *White Mountain Reel*, and found a national distributor. “Teachers are very excited about this. Everyone loves the dancing with the music.” said Farrar-Royce. “The fiddling is helping me reach some children for whom classical music isn’t doing it and the Laufmans are reaching out to new audiences. It’s a win-win situation.”

From left to right:
Janet Farrar-Royce,
Dudley Laufman,
and Jacqueline
Laufman celebrate
the completion of
another session
recorded by Tim
Meeh of Canterbury.

Photos by
Lynn M. Graton



Partnership Initiatives

Craft in the Digital Age: Exploring Technology’s Role in Fine Craft

On April 24, 2004, The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, in partnership with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, presented a one-day conference entitled *Craft In the Digital Age: Exploring Technology’s Role In Fine Craft*. The event was held at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire, and was open to individual craft artisans, art teachers and instructors, curators, art association administrators, government officials, and businesses that sponsor the arts.



The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) played an important role in the presentations and a keynote address was offered by Jay Coogan, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and developer of the Center for Integrative Technologies at RISD. The State Arts Council’s Traditional Arts Coordinator Lynn Martin Graton participated in a panel that explored perspectives on the topic. “The conference was an exciting forum for discussing technology and its impact on the creative process,” commented Graton. “The digital revolution is impacting the way we think, the way shapes come to our mind, the way they are translated into physical form, the way we touch the materials to shape them, the entire process.

The digital revolution is inevitable, exhilarating and full of possibilities,” she continued. “As a folklorist and a craftspeople though, I’m concerned that if we are not attentive, we risk that the shift to a completely digital creative language may overshadow the special language inherent to hand-made crafts. I hope that there will always be at least a few craftsmen who will consciously preserve that language that it has taken generations to develop, and that our economy and cultural attitudes will support these decisions.”

In addition to the panel, the conference featured craftspeople and vendors that use technology skills in their work. To illustrate the exploration of technology’s role, the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen’s Gallery 205 in Concord mounted an exhibition entitled *High Tech • Hand Made*. This juried, invitational exhibition explored the connection between high technology and handcraft. The entire exhibition was reinstalled at the New Hampshire Institute of Art for the *Craft in the Digital Age* conference.

Joanne Wise, Executive Director of *North Country Studio Workshops* and former board member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen’s Hanover Craft Council, coordinated the effort with volunteers from each of the collaborating institutions.



Jay Coogan,
Associate Provost for
Academic Affairs
and developer of the
Center for Integrative
Technologies at RISD,
gave the keynote
address.

Photos by Susie
Lowe-Stockwell

(Photo left):
People attending the
*Craft in the Digital
Age Conference* at
the NH Institute of
Art were treated to
the exhibit *High Tech
• Hand Made*.

*High Tech • Hand
Made* featured fine
crafts reflecting digital
influences as well as
the hand-made
perspective. The
exhibit was on view
at Gallery 205 in May.

Arts in Education Partnerships

Heart of the Silk Road: Interdisciplinary Partnership Project

The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) received a two-year National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant to partially fund the creation of a curricular and pedagogical model for arts-based, integrated, interdisciplinary teaching. According to project director and AANNH director Frumie Selchen, "We are using the extraordinary arts of the Silk Road, and partnering with the State

news and on our minds," she said. The Silk Routes included ancient Europe, Central Asia, China, and spurs to India, Japan, Korea and Viet Nam.

NH felter and fabric artist Rachel "Rocky" Lehr is the lead artist and scholar for "Heart of the Silk Road." Betsy Grob Giberson has been collaborating with Lehr to develop visual arts approaches to the project. New AIE roster artists have been invited to participate as the project grows and includes artists working in music, dance, theater/puppetry, literary arts, and crafts.

In August, AANNH will offer the second Silk Road Cultures Teacher Institute at Plymouth State University (PSU). The Institute is held in cooperation with PSU, and

funded in part by the NH Humanities Council, the State Arts Council, and the NEA.

The Silk Road Institute offers presentations on history, ethnography, storytelling, visual arts, and music by distinguished humanities professors as well as a guided series of hands-on artistic activities interpreting the daily humanities topics. It will provide educators with a solid understanding of content; with an exploration of how we can learn, teach, and talk about culture; and with support in creating an integrated, humanistic approach to teaching about Asian and world cultures.

Arts Council and the NH Humanities Council, to bring to life the ways in which studying and practicing the art of a region or culture illuminates the environmental, economic, religious, historical and political life of that culture." She added, "The Silk Road project also offers a rich pathway to the teaching of mathematics, science, and the language arts.

The Silk Road provides a particularly interesting model because teaching and learning about it allows us to focus on an historic period of cultural exchange, and also offers a contemporary view of a part of the world that is much in the



Conway teachers Peggy Cromwell and David Freedman study traditional rug patterns as inspiration for creating their own rubber stamps during the first summer Silk Road Institute at the World Fellowship Center.

Photo by Frumie Selchen

Faculty for the Institute includes historian Dr. Pamela Crossley, Dartmouth College; historian Dr. Susan Blader, Dartmouth College; ethnomusicologist Dr. Ted



Levin, Dartmouth College; Drs. Sheila Sutherland Blair, Jonathon M. Bloom, and Norma Jean Calderwood, University Professors of Islamic and Asian Art, Boston College; master educator and project humanist Joan Barnatt; artist and Persian scholar Rachel Lehr and artist Betsy Grob Giberson, who will lead hands-on explorations of the arts and crafts of the Silk Road. Special guest musicians will also participate.

As part of the two-year project, an interdisciplinary Silk Road workshop was offered at the State Arts Council's 2003 Arts in Education Conference. "A Silk Road Banner, Lessons in Luxurious Commodities" will be offered as part of the 2004 Arts in Education Conference on September 18 in Manchester. The workshop's multi-textured approach will integrate math, geography, social studies, language arts, and science.

In an ongoing partnership effort, several AIR school residencies with a focus on the Silk Road have evolved at several NH schools. These residencies have included Indian dancer Jasmine Shah,

Chinese dancers and even a Chinese exchange student. Each school explores the Silk Road in a fresh and innovative way, using a variety of resources, artists and approaches to encourage student learning. The State Arts Council's Arts in Education Coordinator Catherine O'Brian notes that even Carnegie Hall has partnered on the Silk Road Project by providing copies of their "Global Encounters: Sounds Along the Silk Road" Teacher's Guide for NH teachers and artists. Joan Zaretti, Manager of World Music Programs for Carnegie Hall, recognizing the value of the project, attended the 2003 Arts in Education Conference. The Silk Road project, which started with the artistic ideas of Rachel Lehr, has led to some surprising paths. Working with the leadership of Frumie Selchen and quality partnerships, valuable, high-quality artistic and learning experiences are being offered to students and teachers in the state.

For more information on the Silk Road project or Teacher Institute contact Catherine O'Brian, (603) 271-0795, or Frumie Selchen, (603) 323-7302, or email ArtsallianceNNH@cs.com.



Artist Rocky Lehr (third from left) works with summer Institute participants as they roll felt cords to bind their Silk Road map books.

Photo by Frumie Selchen

Art educator Patti Quinn shows her Silk Road portfolio book, created using a variety of techniques including stamping, weaving, felting, paper marbling and papermaking.

Photo by Mark Coy

Arts in Education Partnerships

Pathways to Learning

Arts in Education Partnership Model with Artists in Residence at John Stark Regional High School

The State Arts Council and the Walker Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation have each awarded \$5,000 to fund the first year of John Stark Regional High School's Artist in Residence program "Pathways to Learning," which will enable NH AIE Roster Artist and designer Laura Campbell to work with the school's faculty and students during the 2004-2005 school year.

The project will encourage partnerships with art, engineering, geometry, environmental science and poetry students to research the history and natural resources on their school property. Students will also learn the concepts of architectural design and use them to create and name a new trail. The school plans to work with teaching artists each year for the next three years.

Additional partners on the project will include the John Hay Wildlife Refuge, the Weare Historical Society; the Kearsarge Indian Museum and Paul Doscher from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. The school's fine arts department fundraiser also took place in partnership with Murray Farms in Penacook. Art students raised over \$1,000 selling flowers.

The program was designed by a group of faculty concerned about students at risk and who were determined to find new ways to keep high school students engaged

in the classroom. The consensus was to get students out of the classroom and provide real life situations for students to use their classroom knowledge outdoors. Faculty and teaching artists will emphasize the fact that knowledge is applicable beyond the confines of school walls.



The first year will be spent learning about John Stark High School's land, understanding the concepts of design and creating a new trail. The old trail, primarily used by environmental science students and the cross-country ski team, was lost when the school built a football field and additions to the building.

The second year will involve designing and building markers to highlight points

of interest on the property. Design of the markers will also allow anyone to customize the trail and transform it into an interactive gallery throughout the year. The third year will involve designing and building an organic outdoor classroom off of the new trail.

For more information about the project, or for a schedule of the school's first year events, contact Arthur Aaronson or Suzanne Canali at (603) 529-7675, or Catherine O'Brian at (603) 271-0795.

Artwork by Joan Dur, John Stark High School Class of 2004. "Untitled", Etching, Artist's Proof, 2003

Widening the Circle 2004

New England Conference for Artist-Educators

More than 130 artist-educators from across New England convened for the third annual "Widening the Circle" conference on June 25th at the newly renovated Open Square Mills in Holyoke, MA.

The keynote speaker was independent teaching artist Eric Booth, also editor of *Teaching Artist Journal*. His presentation, "The Overlooked Essentials of Teaching Artistry," clarified, enriched, and advanced the practice of teaching artists. Booth stressed the importance of teaching artists, calling them "bridges" between our young people and the arts. He noted that they are a crucial resource for arts-in-education programs, arts education and general education, and to the future of the arts as a whole. He also observed that their significant contributions have often gone unnoticed. Booth pointed out that before the *Teaching Artist Journal*, there had been no national professional forum for the learning and development of artist-educators, and no vehicle for their voices to be heard.



He stressed the importance of "reflection" in artist residencies and noted that, "adding opportunities for students to get a grip of what they have just experienced, including a variety of ways for them to perceive what they have just accomplished... is essential to a rich learning experience." Booth also facilitated a panel discussion titled, "Pushing the Big Questions." Some tough questions included: How do I balance practicing

my art form with teaching it? What are the advantages and disadvantages of a union for teaching artists? Why do I often feel isolated? How can I stay true to my art form?



Workshop topics included: "Sharing the Vision: Developing Effective Community Arts Partnerships," "Foundations of Artist Residencies," "Dancing through the Frameworks," and "Artistic Catalysts: Methods for Increasing Student Participation." Seminars focused on music, poetry, theatre, community service and public art.

"Widening the Circle" conferences are hosted by the New England Consortium of Artist-Educator Professionals (NECAP), an organization dedicated to the support and development of teaching artists. NECAP collaborates with the New England State Arts Agencies, other organizations, and individual artists.

For more information, contact Catherine O'Brian at cobrian@nharts.state.nh.us, or (603) 271-0795. Information on next year's conference will be posted on the web at: www.nh.gov/nharts. For information on *Teaching Artist Journal*, write to: journals@erlbaum.com, or visit the website: www.erlbaum.com.

NH teaching artist and musician Jeff Warner (far right) leads the workshop, "The Latest News from the Past: Building Community through Traditional Song" at "Widening the Circle."

Photos by Dan Kahn

(Photo Left): Teaching artist and dancer Elaine Herg Sisler from MA, teaches "Dancing through the Frameworks & Into the Classroom" at "Widening the Circle." Her workshop focused on helping artists develop their own strategies for creating effective arts-integrated school programs.

Spotlight: Community Arts

The Arts Bring Life to NH Main Streets

Thanks to an almost seven-year partnership with the NH Main Street Center in Concord, downtowns in communities like Plymouth, Durham, Goffstown, Jaffrey and Littleton have used the arts as a catalyst to help revitalize their downtowns. Why? Because the directors of these Main Street Programs understand the value the arts play in boosting their local economies. They also realize that arts events, particularly participatory programs, improve the quality of community life, which just happens to be the main purpose of the Council's Community Arts Program. So forming a partnership with the NH Main Street Center was a very logical and beneficial step.

veteran community artist Emile Birch of Canaan, were invited to give a presentation to new Main Street managers. As part of the presentation, Birch guided them through a hands-on collaborative arts experience. The Littleton director was inspired by the concept and process and applied for a community arts grant to bring Birch to town to create a sculpture with the community that reflected Littleton. The result was a long-term residency, bolstered by local support and community participation, resulting in the creation of a bronze sculpture of the character of Pollyanna, based on the book was written in Littleton depicting the optimistic and "glad" spirit of the community. The sculpture has become a major marketing



Kathy LaPlante, Executive Director of the NH Main Street Center agrees: "The arts are an integral component to successful downtown revitalization efforts. Our New Hampshire Downtowns are home to many arts and cultural venues and events, and our Main Street communities benefit greatly from their ongoing association with the State Arts Council."

The partnership began when Community Arts Coordinator Judy Rigmont, accompanied by professional sculptor and

anchor that attracts visitors to see a vibrant downtown of colorful banners, artist-owned shops, boutiques, cafes, a colorful mural created by the community, and a restored grist mill. At least two versions of a Pollyanna musical-theatre piece are to be performed at the Littleton Opera House. Littleton's successful program became a model for other NH Main Street arts projects.

The town of Jaffrey has created attractive "Visit Downtown" promotional materials touting things to do. Attractions include Art Strolls at the Civic Center; visitations to a potter's studio; a new summer concert series on the town common; and a brown bag lunch concert featuring local, traditional and professional artists.

The Goffstown Main Street Program has also embraced the arts as a regular part of their community festivals. A "Community Art Show Off" is now integrated into their annual Pumpkin Weigh-Off and Regatta Weekend in mid-October. This community exhibit in the town hall and library now includes more than 40 amateur and professional artists from the area ranging in age from seven to seventy-four.



Heading north to Plymouth, residents and tourists can be found enjoying the sounds of professional jazz artists performing in the Gazebo on the Town Common. This will be the third year that Plymouth Main Street Program has sponsored a jazz series that highlights performances by NH, national and internationally known jazz artists. Roster artist Paul Bourgelais, a faculty member at Plymouth State University, helps coordinate the series. He has introduced an educational outreach program for high school students

that gives them the opportunity to play with the back-up band and local artists. The Main Street Program was also a key partner in the development of Plymouth's first cultural plan.

Over in Durham, students shine at the Annual Young Artists Showcase sponsored by Durham Main Street Program, local businesses NH Public Television and Foster's Daily Democrat. This summer event brings more than 2500 to Durham's downtown to enhance their local economy. Professional artists mentor aspiring artists via workshops and demonstrations, and young artists are provided a venue to sell, display, perform, exchange and interact with them and their peers.

"We look forward to helping make

The Goffstown Main Street Program has also embraced the arts as a regular part of their community festivals.

Photo courtesy of Goffstown Main Street

Community Partnerships

Telling Our Stories: Portsmouth Community Arts Project



A conversation with Washington DC based choreographer Liz Lerman inspired a documentation project that chronicles the flowering of community arts projects that bloomed in Portsmouth after Lerman's Dance Exchange company's creation of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Project. The Shipyard Project, first presented at Portsmouth's Music Hall, culminated in 1996 with

a week-long festival of dance and storytelling that explored the role of the shipyard in the city's economic and social life. This project grew from a ground-breaking collaboration between art groups and the military that brought together people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate an important part of the city's history. The project became a national model for community-based original art-making.

The connections and partnerships made during the Shipyard Project, coupled with the power of the community's arts-making experiences, motivated local artists and arts organizations to continue these types of projects. Like the Shipyard Project, many of the 13 projects that followed were funded by a combination of state arts agency (NH State Council on the Arts), regional arts agency (New England Foundation for the Arts), community foundation (Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation), and local funds. These same funding partners contributed to this documentation project.

The documentation team (mostly volunteers) includes Paula Rais, formerly of the Music Hall and now at the Children's Museum of Portsmouth; Nancy Hill of the Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program; and Artistic Director Genevieve Aichele of the NH Theatre Project, and the State Arts Council Community Arts Coordinator Judy Rigmont. Jane

Hirshberg, formerly of the Music Hall and now at Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, also contributed to the project's early planning phase.

A companion publication was edited by award-winning Portsmouth author Katherine Towler. It contains project descriptions, background information about project funders, many of whom also worked in collaboration, participating arts organizations and their partners, quotes from project participants, and "advice" about conducting community arts projects. Publication is projected for later this year. Many of these projects were supported by the multi-year Lila Wallace funded Art Builds Community Initiative in Portsmouth. This initiative also helped lay the groundwork for the formation of a city-supported committee that developed Portsmouth's first cultural plan, and helped to found the city's first local arts agency.

Grant support is available from the State Arts Council's Community Arts Program to bring the display into communities along with speakers who are willing to share their experiences and knowledge about the community arts process. For more information, contact Judy Rigmont at jrigmont@nharts.state.nh.us or (603) 271-0794.



"You can literally trace the lineage of so many projects along the Seacoast back to the Shipyard Project. It was like a ripple effect with people wanting to tell their own stories."
Paula Rais

Around the State

Access04 Exposition Provides Options to People with Disabilities

Access04, northern New England's 11th annual exposition of technology, adaptive equipment, services, and resources for independent living, took place in June at the Whittemore Center in Durham. The Expo offered opportunities and creative expression through technology, education, and the arts.

The VSA arts of NH staff conducted two exciting hands-on community art projects at Access04, which were sponsored in part by the NH State Arts Council. An interactive weaving project that celebrated diversity was lead by NH Roster artist Sarah Haskell. Participants were invited to experiment with color and texture and create a communal work of art.

Participants were also invited to experiment with the one-of-a-kind tools created by artist Dwayne Szot to offer people of all

abilities an opportunity for creative expression through arts and mobility. The VSA arts staff assisted the visitors who used the unique and innovative tools to create a large and colorful mural. Public Service of NH sponsored the Arts for All tool purchase.

VSA arts of NH worked with Wisconsin artist Dwayne Szot, who created unique art-making tools that make it possible for people with disabilities to create art.

Photos by Karen Bessette



An attendee at the 2004 Access Expo at the Whittemore Center at UNH enjoys creative expression at the VSA arts of NH interactive display.



Congratulations to...

The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra, recipient of a Historic Preservation Award by the Manchester Historic Association for Conservation of a Cultural Resource for 100 years of bringing classical music opportunities to Manchester.

Ciborowski Associates, Citizens Bank, Nixon Peabody LLP, and Ocean National Bank for being the recipients of this year's **New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts'** awards.

Consultant **Alice DeSouza** of Bedford was recognized with a Leadership Award.

Executive Director Stephen Dignazio and the **Board of the Colonial Theater** of Bethlehem for receiving a \$25,000 USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant for renovations to help make it a year-round regional cultural center for the North Country. The Colonial seats 300 and has operated during the summer presenting independent films, and performances. They have also provided a venue for presentations and events by local schools and nonprofits.

The following performing arts presenters who have been awarded 2004 Expedition Touring Grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts: **The Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College; Redfern Arts Center at Brickyard Pond, Keene; The Music Hall, Portsmouth; The Colonial Theater, Keene; Friends of the Arts, Plymouth; Colby Sawyer College, New London; Arts Alliance of Northern NH, Littleton; and the Lebanon Opera House.**

Artist Roster Member and State Arts Council Fellow **Frank Wallace** from Antrim on the release of his CD, "Delphin", featuring his artistry on the *vihuela de mano*, a now rare stringed instrument from 16th-century Spain. His performances were recorded at the Hillsborough Center Congregational Church.

John Baymore, ceramic artist from Wilton, for representing the United States at the International Woodfire Artist-in-Residence program held this past June at the Tsugaru Kanayama Togei Kumiai, a large wood firing ceramics production facility, in Goshogawara-shi, Japan. This residency represents the third time Baymore has been invited to travel to Japan.



Roster Artists **Larry Siegel**, of Westmoreland, and **Perry Alley Puppets**, based in Strafford, for their successful nine-show run of *Strange Love*, a collection of three original adult puppet plays with a wide variety of musical interludes, at the Exit Theatre in San Francisco earlier this year.

Arts Rochester, upon their relocation from Shoreyville Plaza in to a newly-renovated 12,000-square-foot space in Rochester's historic Gonic Mill.

Howard Lyons whose work "Spirit Walk" has been nominated in the Pop category by Indian Summer Festivals, Inc. Winners will be announced September 11th at the first annual Indian Summer Music Awards.

Manchester Choral Society Music Director **Lisa Wolff**, who announced that Oxford University Press has published *Songs of Hope and Consolation*, by K. Lee Scott. Commissioned in celebration of Wolff's 20th anniversary as Music Director, the songs were premiered by the ensemble in concert in 2002.

Actor **Billy Butler**, who has been cast in the lead role of the Seacoast Repertory Theatre's upcoming production of *Bat Boy*. Butler was chosen from among 25 actors who auditioned for Director Sarah Gurfield.

The Cocheco Arts and Technology Academy of Dover, which received unanimous approval from the NH State Board of Education to establish itself as an arts charter school. The Academy intends to open in January 2005 to 40 freshman students from the region.

Recipients of the 10th Annual Spotlight on the Arts Awards. Winners in the visual arts category include visual artist/painter **Sean Beavers**; sculptor **Christopher Gowell**; and photographer and 2003 State Arts Council Fellow **Tim Gaudreau**. Theatre artist **Genevieve Aichele** received the Spotlight Best Director Award.

Artists **Samantha Bullock** and **Nate Howe** who were among the first to agree to occupy the communal studio space created on the top floor of the newly renovated Shepard Block in downtown Franklin. Owner Bennet Phillips undertook the successful renovation, with the assistance of Bullock and Howe and other artists in the community.

Suzanne Delle, who has been identified as one of *The Union Leader's* 2004 "40 under Forty." Delle is artistic director of her own theater company, Yellow Taxi Productions of Nashua.

Welcome to...

Lawrence Yerdon, new museum president of Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth. Formerly president and chief executive officer at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA, Yerdon had been there for 18 years.

Jane Forde, who has been appointed to fill the position of Executive Director of Arts Rochester starting September 1. Formerly artistic director of the Portsmouth Music Hall, she is also a freelance director/choreographer. Forde has most recently directed *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn for the Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, ME. She is also co-directing the summer dance/theatre camp at the Music Hall with Genevieve Aichele, of NH Theatre Project.

Sofia Piel, who recently joined the NH Theatre Project staff as director of marketing and development.

Patricia Lynch, new executive director of the Portsmouth Music Hall. She was executive director of the O'Shaughnessy performing arts center at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN. Lynch has won writing awards from the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays, the Jerome Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Theater Communications Group.

Fond Farewell...

To National Dance Project Manager **Jennifer S. Bleill**, who resigned from the New England Foundation for the Arts to pursue cultural consulting opportunities.

To **Kate Kirkwood**, who is stepping down as Executive Director of Arts Rochester. She will continue to be on the theatre faculty, direct the youth theatre, coordinate the Seacoast Theatre Collaborative, and help steer Rochester's cultural planning process.



Theatre artist Genevieve Aichele received the 10th Annual Spotlight on the Arts Best Director Award.

Photo courtesy of Genevieve Aichele



Patricia Lynch, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Music Hall.

Photo by Ann Marsden



“He was one of the very few who changed life in Berlin, and in New Hampshire, for the better, forever.”

In Memoriam...

Robert Hughes 1915-2004

On May 29th New Hampshire lost a Living Treasure with the passing of wood sculptor and woodcut artist **Robert Hughes**. He was 89 years old. He will be particularly well-remembered by the generations of art students in the Great North Woods and White Mountains whose lives he touched as a teacher in the Berlin public schools.

Robert Hughes was born in 1915 in Providence, RI. After graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 1939, Hughes moved to Berlin where he began his 43-year teaching career in the town's public schools.

The youth of Berlin were very fortunate to get their exposure to art from a professional artist of Hughes's stature. In addition to his high school classes,

he taught master classes and students at his home studio. Professional artist Andre Belanger of Berlin, recalled his high school days and “Mr. Hughes” who, for three summers invited him to apprentice as a wood sculptor. “I am a better person for having known Bob Hughes,” said Belanger. “He was one of the very few who changed life in Berlin, and in New Hampshire, for the better, forever.”

The State of New Hampshire named Hughes Teacher of the Year in 1975, in recognition of his impact on Berlin High School's Art Department.

Eagerly interested in fostering cultural activities in NH's remote North Country, Hughes was a founding member of the White Mountain Arts and Music Festival. He also actively participated in the North Country Chamber Players' Summer Festival, Music in the Schools, and Festival DuBois.

He received many honors throughout his career. In 1989, he was designated RISD's “Alumni of the Year;” in 1991, the State of New Hampshire named him Living Treasure; that same year he was featured on New Hampshire Crossroads and in the documentary film, “The City that Trees Built.” Hughes had a solo exhibition in 2000 at the Urban Architecture Institute in New York; and exhibited in 2001 at ArtSpace in Birmingham, MI. In 2002, he was asked to create an ornament for the White House Christmas Tree; for the 2003 Governors' Arts Awards he was commissioned to create New Hampshire's Living Treasure Award, which was jointly received by ceramic artists Edwin and Mary Scheier.

His works are on permanent display in the NH State Library, the Living Treasures exhibit in Concord, the NH State Prison in Berlin, the Coos County Courthouse in Lancaster, and the NH Veterans Home in Tilton. Hughes's artwork is also included in many private and public collections in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Many will remember Hughes's enormous influence on the arts in New Hampshire with gratitude.

New Hampshire Living Treasure, Robert Hughes in his Berlin studio, March 2004.

Photo by Julie Mento



Wilson Langlois 1929-2004

New Hampshire lost one of its most beloved fiddlers, **Wilson Langlois**, on May 10 at the age of 74. Wilson was a gifted fiddler who devoted much of his life to playing traditional music from his Québécois heritage. He was known by his fellow musicians and folklorists as a generous soul and extraordinary player.

Langlois was born to a musical family in Shawinigan Bay, Québec in June of 1929. He began to play fiddle at the age of five and at seventeen he joined a dance orchestra in Québec and stayed with the group for 20 years. In the 1960s, Wilson moved to Nashua to work in a shoe factory, but he continued to play

“Wilson... had a huge repertoire, and it seemed that he could play nearly anything on his fiddle.”

The State Arts Council has enjoyed its creative association with Wilson Langlois over the years. In 1997 and again in 2003 he received a Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant from the State Arts Council to pass on his French Canadian musical heritage. In 2000, Langlois represented New Hampshire at the Celebrate New Hampshire Festival and in 2003 he participated in a music recording project with the Cote family and pianist Robert Choiniere. Langlois accompanies the Cotes on two tracks and plays with Robert on another two on the resulting compact disc **Songs of the Seasons** produced by the State Arts Council.

Folklorist Burt Feintuch of the University of NH's Center for the Humanities had been recording Wilson's repertoire over the past years. “Wilson ... had a huge repertoire, and it seemed that he could play nearly anything on his fiddle.”

fiddle with friends in his off-hours. Folklorist Jack Beard has commented, “Wilson was a master of the Québécois style of fiddling...unique to the region and exemplified by a spirited, syncopated bowing which is intended to drive the dancers who traditionally two-step through the figures.”

Over the years, Langlois provided a lot of music for dancing and a lot of joy. He will be missed.

Wilson Langlois was a much loved and respected French Canadian fiddler who participated in a number of State Arts Council projects.

Photo by Lynn M. Graton



Regional News

On-line Cultural Marketplace

State Arts Council Partners with the New England Foundation for the Arts

State Arts Councilor Randy Armstrong, Artist Services Coordinator Julie Mento and Community Arts Coordinator Judy Rigmont are currently working closely with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) along with the lead administrative partner, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, on the development and forthcoming launch of the On-line Cultural Marketplace (OCM). Other partners include the Vermont Arts Council; Maine Arts Commission; Rhode Island State Council on the Arts; and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Tourism, Culture, History and Film.



*Rebecca Blunk,
new Executive
Director of the New
England Foundation
for the Arts.*

*Photo by
Abigail Baisas*

The OCM will strengthen the creative industry by more efficiently linking artists in the region with the theaters, libraries, schools, festivals, museums, galleries, and other venues that hire them to provide cultural programming in their communities.

Currently in development, and slated for launch in a pilot form in Spring 2005, the OCM will be a transaction-oriented, web-based, online booking service. It will allow artists to market their work and interact directly with presenting organizations, while providing a comprehensive management tool to locate, schedule, promote, and track their artist bookings.

Thanks to a suite of web-based tools on the OCM, artists will be able to post and maintain their portfolios online, with special features like streaming video and audio samples. Presenters will use the tool to locate artists, view work samples, negotiate, and draw up contracts. Both artists and

presenters will have access to technical assistance, such as how to document their work or tips on writing a contract.

Linked to Research Database

The OCM is being constructed in tandem with NEFA's New England Cultural Database (NECD), an online data warehouse of financial, demographic, contact and other information related to businesses, organizations and individuals within New England's creative economy. The OCM and NECD will be linked to each other so they can share data sources and tools. Visit the NECD at www.newenglandarts.org.

Development Process

To initially develop, test, and promote the OCM, a pilot group of 20 artists and presenters from the region will provide input on system specifications and test the customized tools and interfaces. Then in the OCM's first phase, NEFA's New England States Touring Roster of over 900 performing artists will populate the website. Soon, any artist of any discipline from the region will be able to post portfolios and utilize marketing tools on the site.

Welcome to...

Rebecca Blunk, newly elected executive director of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). A 19-year veteran with NEFA, Blunk has served as Deputy Director for the past ten years.

Dana M. Whitco, who has been appointed Director of National Dance Project, a funding program operating under the auspices of NEFA that supports the production and distribution of contemporary dance in the United States.

National News

National Endowment for the Arts Announces David Steiner as New Director of Arts Education

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has appointed Boston University Professor David Steiner as its Director of Arts Education. In this position, Steiner will be responsible for the panel selection and grant making process in arts education and will provide professional leadership to the field.

Steiner, 46, is Associate Professor and Chairman of Boston University's Department of Education Policy, and a scholar in the dual fields of the philosophy of education and American K-12 education reform.

He has designed and constructed assessment, accountability and curricula materials, consulted with major education reform organizations, and served on national education task forces focused

on the improved delivery of education. He has also worked with public officials, academics, and public school teachers in the United States, Europe, and Asia, to implement new education programs.

He is currently working on a book entitled "Retreat from Judgment: The Limits of Education Reform."

He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Balliol College at Oxford University, and earned his doctorate in political science at Harvard University.



*David Steiner is the
new Director of Arts
Education at the
National Endowment
for the Arts.*

*Photo courtesy of
Boston University
Photo Services*

Survey Finds a Decline in Literary Reading

Literary reading is in dramatic decline with fewer than half of American adults now reading literature, according to a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) survey. *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America* reports drops in all groups studied, with the steepest rate of decline – 28 percent – occurring in the youngest age groups.

The study documents an overall decline of 10 percentage points in literary readers from 1982 to 2002, representing a loss of 20 million potential readers. The rate of decline is increasing and, according to the survey, has nearly tripled in the last decade.

The study also found that literary readers tend to have the highest level of participation in other activities. They are nearly three times as likely to attend a performing arts event, almost four times as likely to visit an art museum, more than two-and-a-half times as likely to do volunteer or charity work, and over one-and-a-half times as likely to attend or participate in sports activities.

Download *Reading at Risk* as a PDF document, or obtain free hard copies through the NEA's web site: www.nea.gov.

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Autumn Grant Deadlines

Across Programs

Grant Name	Deadline
Mini-Grant	October 1 & Quarterly*
Peer Mentorships	Ongoing

Community Arts Program

Grant Name	Deadline
Community Arts Project	October 1 (for projects Jan. 1 – June 30, 2005)

Organizational Support Program

Grant Name	Deadline
Operating Grants	November 19 (FY 06 & 07)

*Quarterly Deadlines:

- October 1 for projects Jan. 1, 2005 & after
- January 1, 2005 for projects April 1, 2005 & after
- April 1, 2005, for projects July 1, 2005 & after
- July 1, 2005 for projects October 1, 2005 & after

Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants

Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants support the perpetuation of traditional arts in New Hampshire. The grants provide funding for a master traditional artist to teach an experienced apprentice in one-to-one sessions for a minimum of 80 hours over a six to eight month period. In most cases, the maximum combined request for a master artist and apprentice is \$3,000. Applications are invited on an annual basis. Funding is competitive and the State Arts Council is able to support between six and twelve teams a year. For more information, visit the State Arts Council’s website at www.nh.gov/nharts or contact Traditional Arts Coordinator, Lynn Martin Graton at (603) 271-8418 or lmartin@nharts.state.nh.us

Regional Grant Workshops are Being Planned for Last Two Weeks of October

State Arts Council grants program coordinators will be traveling around the state conducting five grant workshops during the last two weeks of October. Workshops will include information on funding opportunities and services available through the State Arts Council’s program areas: Artist Services, Arts in Education, Community Arts, Organizational Support, and Traditional Arts. Dates and locations will be posted soon on the State Arts Council’s website at www.nh.gov/nharts.

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 enrich *New Hampshire’s quality of life through the arts*. The Director of the New Hampshire Division of the Arts administers the agency, which is part of the Department of Cultural Resources.

New Hampshire State Arts Councilors

Chair

James Patrick Kelly, Nottingham

Vice Chair

Jacqueline R. Kahle, Wilton

- Randy Armstrong, Dover
- Richard W. Ayers, Sanbornton
- Karen Burgess Smith, Exeter
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- Peter McLaughlin, Hanover
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- Gary Samson, Concord
- Tim Sappington, Randolph
- Jasmine Shah, Nashua
- Grace Sullivan, Deerfield



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

Department of Cultural Resources

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Concord, NH 03301
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800/735-2964

Office Hours:
8:15 am – 4:15 pm
Closed all State
and most Federal
holidays



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS





New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

2 1/2 Beacon St.-2nd Floor
Concord, NH 03301-4974

Enriching New Hampshire's quality of life through the arts since 1965.

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