

Dreaming Mountains: Exploring the White Mountains through the Arts
Arts in Education 2008 Partnership Conference
PRESENTER BIOS

Rick Agran is a poet, writer and educator and community grants officer at the New Hampshire Humanities Council, where he oversees Humanities To Go and What Is New Hampshire Reading programs. He recently wrote about NH's three living National Poet Laureates for *The Wire* in Portsmouth. In 2008-09 Rick will travel the state discussing innovative grant making and conducting how-to workshops. He has worked as a poet in residence in many schools throughout New England, and is on the AIE artist roster of the NHSCA. www.nhnhc.org

Folk Musicians **Susie Burke** and **David Surette** are one of the finest acts on the New England folk scene, Susie and David have built a steady following for their own blend of contemporary, traditional, and original folk and acoustic music. Susie is also an exceptional children's performer. David grew up in the Conway area and attended Conway regional schools. Their latest CD is "When the Small Birds Sweetly Sing."

Brian Chu is noted for his landscape and still-life oil paintings. He uses thick layers of vibrant color to show his personal vision of ordinary places. He has shown widely in New York City, California, Pennsylvania, and throughout New England. Brian is represented by Three Graces Gallery in Portsmouth NH, and Oxbow Gallery in Northampton MA. He has both BFA and MFA degrees from Queens College, City University of New York, and is an Associate Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of New Hampshire.

Over the past decade, basket maker **Sherry Gould** has pursued a personal journey to connect with her Western Abenaki heritage through the traditions of basket weaving. Sherry has been awarded three Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants to assist her in this effort. She is a juried member of the League of New Hampshire craftsmen and several of her baskets are included in the Pathways exhibit at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, VT. Sherry founded the non-profit group Wijokadoak, to provide social services for Native Abenaki people in New Hampshire and is a consultant for several federally funded health programs benefiting Native American youth.

Lynn Martin Graton is the Traditional Arts Coordinator for the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, where she administers the statewide program to support and document traditional and folk arts. From 1983 to 1998 she was the Folk Arts Coordinator for the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Over the past 25 years she has been the co-curator of two major presentations at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and has overseen numerous other large festivals, exhibits, and publications. Ms. Graton has a Masters Degree in Pacific Island Studies from the University of Hawaii and a BA in Ceramics and Sculpture from the University of Guam. She also attended Sophia International University in Tokyo, Japan, where she studied oriental art history.

Catherine Hogan is a development professional with twenty years of experience in national and international fundraising for non-profit organizations. Her expertise in grant funding development includes: team collaboration to reach desired goals, strategic cultivation of private and public funders, and stewardship of donor relations. She is the CEO of Hogan Development, Sunapee NH. Her clients have included Earthwatch Institute, the Institute on Disability/UNH, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (Boston), Boston Institute for Arts Therapy; and Harcourt General Corporation, where she developed visionary public/private partnership models to leverage corporate and federal educational funding in school systems nationwide.

Huey (James Coleman) is an independent filmmaker and artist-in-residence. He is a member of the Maine and New Hampshire AIE Rosters. He received the first "Huey" award from the Maine Film Commission, an award named after Huey and given to an individual who exhibits "Exceptional contributions in film and education in Maine." He has produced and directed five award-winning documentary films which have been shown in the US and in Europe. "Wilderness and Spirit, A Mountain Called Katahdin" was selected for screening at the Environmental Film Festival, National Museum of American History in Washington DC. Huey is director of the Maine Student Film and Video Festival, now in its 31st year. His films are available at www.filmsbyhuey.com

Rachel (Rocky) Lehr is a linguist, feltmaker and photographer, and co- founder of Rubia, the Afghan Women's Handwork project. Each year she spends several months in Afghanistan, working and living with village women and children. Through compelling stories, brought to life by beautiful and informative visual images and a fascinating collection of domestic artifacts, Rachel introduces her audiences to the home lives of ordinary Afghans. Her photographs and personal anecdotes illuminate the rich cultural heritage of Afghanistan in a rapidly changing world. Rachel's work as a feltmaker ranges from wearable art to large community installations, with projects such as the collective making of murals and yurts. She is the lead artist in "The Heart of the Silk Road," a long-term initiative of the Arts Alliance of Northern NH.

Jeanne Limmer brings the inspiration of movement exploration to all areas of the curriculum through residencies, workshops and family programs. For 24 years she has taught dance techniques (from classical and modern to jazz and tap) to preschoolers through adults at the Jeanne Limmer Dance Center in North Conway. In recent years she has traveled the state, using movement as an exciting tool for exploring academics from science to math, environmental studies to geography, literacy to global citizenship.. Her studio has been selected as a partnership hub site for "Extending the Dance Map," an initiative to train dancers for work in northern, rural schools of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. "Extending the Dance Map" is funded in part by the Dana Foundation and the state arts councils of New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, and is coordinated by the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire. Jeanne is a juried member of the NH State Council on the Arts' (NHSCA) roster of arts in education (AIE) teaching artists.

NH Independent Scholar **Doug McVicar** climbed his first mountain at the age of nine and has been in love with the high country ever since. Today he lives in the shadows of a 4,000-footer. He has written about pioneer farmers in NH, the lumber industry, and about his two special

interests—mountain names and mountain myths.

Nathan Macomber first blew glass at Massachusetts College of Art in 1995. His education in glass also includes classes at the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass, the Penland School of Arts and Crafts, and a self-designed B.A. in glass from Prescott College which he received in May of 1999. Nathan has not only taken numerous classes and workshops, he has also taught dozens of individuals in private classes, as a co-instructor for Prescott College classes, and he has served as a T.A. and instructor for the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass. He spent the first seven years of his career in glass working in Prescott, Arizona, where he developed his style and body of work. In the spring of 2002, he moved to his family's old farm in the White Mountains of Conway New Hampshire. There, he has set up his own private studio where he can be found almost every day blowing glass, teaching, or maintaining the hundred year old farm. In 2004, the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen named Nathan their Craftsman of the Year.

Delfeayo Marsalis, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1965. He began studying trombone at age 13, and attended the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts high school. He was classically trained at the Eastern Music Festival and Tanglewood Institute. After producing his first recording at age 17, Mr. Marsalis attended Berklee College of Music, majoring in both performance and audio production. He has since produced over 75 major label recordings, several of which have received Grammy awards and nominations. Mr. Marsalis has been involved with educating youth in various developmental programs for over a decade. In 1997 Mr. Marsalis founded the Uptown Music Theatre, created specifically to provide youth in grades 8 through 12 with musical theatre training. In three summers, UMT has staged five original musicals around the central theme of "community unity." Under his direction, UMT students perform throughout the community year-round. Mr. Marsalis obtained an MA in jazz performance from the University of Louisville in 2005. His most recent CD is "Dominion."

Alison Marshall is a teaching artist, dance and theatre artist, choreographer, consultant and arts administrator. She served as the Arts Learning Director for the Arizona Commission on the Arts for nine years, where she designed and presented over 200 professional development workshops in dance and theatre based learning for classroom teachers, arts specialists and teaching artists. During her work at the Commission Alison directed the professional development program for teaching artists and worked with arts organizations and universities in the design and delivery of programming and program evaluation. Alison is on the national dance faculty at Lesley University, College of Creative Arts. Additional current projects include work with Childsplay Theatre Company and the Dana Foundation rural performing arts initiatives in New England and Arizona. Her performance and choreography work has been presented at a variety of venues including the New Works Series San Francisco, Naropa/Colorado Summer Dance Festival, Boston Dance Umbrella, Tropen Amsterdam, and Phoenix Theatre. Her community based dance work has included site based performance in museums and a variety of programs and performances in Mexico, Holland, and the United States. She holds a doctorate in Integrated Arts Education with a specialization in dance. She has served as an editor for The Teaching Artist Journal and as co-director of Detour Theater Company, an educational and performance Theater

Company with developmentally delayed adult actors.

Andrea Muller is AMC's North Country Youth Education Director. Andrea's management responsibilities include the "Mountains Classroom" program, which focuses on science, environmental appreciation, leadership development, and team-building, using hands-on learning in an outdoor setting. www.outdoors.org

Alice Ogden has been a basketmaker for more than 25 years. The materials she uses are gathered and harvested from local areas of NH. She uses the traditional methods of stripping off layers of growth rings from Black Ash trees to supply her with basket splints. In 1995, Alice received a regional artist fellowship from the New England Foundation for the Arts. She is a long time member of the League of NH Craftsmen, annually demonstrating at their fair in Sunapee where she won the "Best in Traditional Design Award" in 1991. Alice had her work displayed on the White House Christmas tree as part of the "Year of the American Crafts 1993." She has been featured on the Boston TV show Evening Magazine, has appeared on WMUR's NH Chronicle, and her work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *New Hampshire Profiles*, and the 1995 *Directory of Traditional Crafts in Early American Life* magazine.

Olusegun Olorunfemi is a classically trained artist from Ibadan, Nigeria, listed in "Who's Who of Nigerian Art" published by the Smithsonian Institute. He works in a variety of media including sand painting, batik and linoleum block prints. In workshops and residencies he shares examples of his work illustrating fables, stories and festivals drawn from Yoruba and other Nigerian cultures. The creative process involves free exchange and cross-cultural exploration in a structured, collaborative studio environment. Olusegun is a member of the NH AIE Roster of teaching artists. www.segunfemi.com

Grafton County Commissioner **Martha Richards** is a community and arts advocate and activist, winner of the James Hobart Award for Community Volunteerism and the New Hampshire Main Street Volunteer of the Year award.. She served on the Plymouth Regional High School Board for six years, as Coordinator of Volunteers for *Friends of the Arts* for four years, and on the boards of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Association of Volunteer Coordinators. As a long-time member of the Plymouth Main Street board, she initiated several award-winning programs and services. As a County Commissioner, she has brought in State services to Whole Village in Plymouth; received grant funding to study alternative energy systems for the County Complex in Haverhill; promoted discussions about the future of the County Farm; served on the Core Committee for the proposed new Department of Corrections, and worked to encourage the Nursing Home to include the arts in its programming.

Cynthia Robinson is a Teaching Eco Artist and NH AIE Roster Artist who brings her "Eco Art a la Carte" programs to schools all over New Hampshire. www.ecoartalacarte.com. Cynthia is a working member of the New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition, which is dedicated to fostering experiences in nature that improve physical and emotional health and well-being,

increasing understanding of and care for the natural world, promoting stronger connections to community and landscape, and providing a forum for continued collaboration.

www.nhchildreninnature.org

Patrick Ross is a musician and composer who plays fiddle, guitar, and mandolin. Raised in Canaan, Vermont, Ross has deep roots in the Franco-American tradition. A former Vermont state fiddling champion – and a fifth-generation fiddler -- he has been playing professionally since graduating from Lyndon Institute in 2000. He has been featured on CBS' This Morning, opened for Charlie Daniels, performed in a CMT music video, and acted in the film "Call of the Wild," set for release this November. Ross spent a year touring with the Celtic band Ceili Rain. As a founding member of Blue Merle he opened for the likes of Willie Nelson, The Counting Crows, John Mayer and Guster. He has toured across the United States and traveled in Ireland, Italy, Hungary and Nicaragua. His latest CD is "Northern Bluegrass."

Rebecca Rule, a.k.a. The Moose of Humor, tells and gathers stories around New England, especially New Hampshire. Her books include *The Best Revenge: Short Stories* (UPNE); *Could Have Been Worse: True Stories, Embellishments, and Outright Lies* (Plaidswede Press); and a new book, *A Storyteller's Guide to New Hampshire* (Islandport Press). She writes a book-review column for three New Hampshire newspapers, the *Concord Monitor*, *Nashua Telegraph*, and *Portsmouth Herald*, with the columns sometimes reprinted in Heart of New England, an on-line magazine. Since 1992 she has written more than 600 of these columns. She also hosts the "NH Authors Series" on NHPTV. Rebecca is a juried member of the NHSCA AIE Roster and has worked with the Androscoggin Community Partners as storyteller-in-residence in the Berlin/Gorham area. Her website is mooseofhumor.com

Frumie Selchen is Executive Director of the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, a network devoted to promoting, supporting and sustaining arts, culture, heritage and humanities from Plymouth to Pittsburg. The Arts Alliance works through partnerships with local, regional and statewide organizations to develop projects, programs, workshops, and residencies that invite broad participation and community collaboration. Areas of focus include arts education; community and economic development; health and wellness; and interdisciplinary work connecting the arts and humanities through art and nature, history and heritage. www.aannh.org

Kevin Siegfried is a composer whose works draw on a variety of influences ranging from classical to folk. He is active in the New England region and around the country, and serves on the faculty of The Boston Conservatory. Since he moved to the Seacoast of New Hampshire five years ago, Kevin's music has become increasingly entwined with the natural world. This coming year, Kevin will complete the final phase of a three-year commission and residency with the Nashua Symphony that will culminate in the performance of a large-scale work for orchestra and chorus. The texts for this work were all written by Nashua High School students and the final movement is organized around the theme of the environment. www.kevinsiegfried.com

Hilary Weisman Graham's independent films (two features and numerous shorts) have played in art houses and festivals around the world. Her second feature, "I Love My Movie," aired on WGBH (PBS in Boston) in 1998 and 1999. She is also an Emmy-nominated broadcast television producer with credits including WMUR-TV's nightly half-hour program "Chronicle," the nationally syndicated television show "Wild Web" (CBS/Eyemark), and freelance work for The Discovery Health Channel, "Access Hollywood," A&E, and PBS's "Zoom." Hilary's work with students includes school film residencies and the Franconia Historical Documentation Project, "Documenting Living History", funded through the NHSCA ArtLinks Grants Program. In this project, middle school students are trained to serve as historical guides as they create a multimedia display and video oral history for the FIHS museum. The students' film work was recently awarded first place by NH Public Television in the student category. Hilary is a juried member of the NH AIE Artist Roster.

Clare Walker Leslie is a professional artist, naturalist, author and educator, with ten books relating to drawing and nature study. She has taught at the Highland Center for the AMC a number of times. To learn more go to: www.clarewalkerleslie.com

Shiao-Ping Wang developed this approach to share her love of Chinese calligraphy with people who want to learn about the origin of Chinese written language. Shiao-Ping was born in Taiwan and immigrated to the United States in 1981. She studied both Western art and Chinese art in New York and earned an MFA degree from Queens College, City University of New York. She works both abstractly and from observation in various painting media. Her work has been exhibited throughout the US and China. She is a faculty member at UNH, where she teaches drawing and painting. Her work is represented by Three Graces Gallery in Portsmouth NH. She was an Artist-In-Residence at Henniker Community School in 2004 and 2008.

Baron Wormser is the author/co-author of twelve books, most recently *Scattered Chapters: New and Selected Poems* and a book of stories entitled *The Poetry Life: Ten Stories*. He is a former poet laureate of Maine who teaches in the Stonecoast MFA Program, directs the Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching and works widely in schools. Wormser has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. www.teachpoetry.com & www.baronwormser.com