

LONGFELLOW DAYS: FEBRUARY 2 - 27, 2013

A TRANSATLANTIC FRIENDSHIP

Henry W. Longfellow &



When Henry Wadsworth Longfellow first read and admired the Pickwick Papers in 1836, a bond was formed between two world-renowned authors. It was cemented with Charles Dickens' first trip to the United States in 1842. Although an ocean separated the American poet and the British novelist, they corresponded regularly, visited each other's homes when abroad, championed each other's work, and facilitated social introductions and publishing connections. Scholars have speculated about their mutual literary influence. This series places equal emphasis on the camaraderie and affection they shared – the sort of bond that continues to connect writers, and connect writers with their communities, today.

Saturday, February 2, 1:00 p.m. • WES MCNAIR: ON BECOMING A POET

Host Leila Percy will chat with Wes McNair about some meaningful friendships and his path to the position of Maine's Poet Laureate. *Refreshments*
Daggett Lounge, Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College

Sunday, February 3, 1:00 p.m. • THE COURSEN READINGS, PART ONE

Featured poets: Gary Lawless, Maryli Tiemann & Ricardo Zarate, Jr. *Refreshments*
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Thursday, February 7 • 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES DICKENS' BIRTH

Saturday, February 9, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. on the hour • CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE TOUR

See the rooms where Longfellow lived from 1830-1832 in the house and museum maintained by the Pejepscot Historical Society. It is generally closed all winter.
Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum, Maine and Potter Streets

Sunday, February 10, 1:00 p.m. • THE COURSEN READINGS, PART TWO

Featured poets: Rob Farnsworth, Judith Robbins & Robert Strong. *Refreshments*
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Wednesday, February 13, 4:00 p.m. • THE TRANSATLANTIC FRIENDSHIP

Longfellow biographer Charles Calhoun traces the Longfellow-Dickens relationship and discusses letters exchanged by the two literary lions. *Main Lounge, Moulton Union, Bowdoin College*

Friday, February 15, 10:00 a.m. • COMMUNITY READINGS AT THE HIGHLANDS

This gathering, facilitated by poets Ted and Ruth Bookey, is informal and open to everyone. Please bring a poem to share. *Ballroom, Holden Frost House, 24 Elm Street, Topsham*

Saturday, February 16, 10:00 a.m. • FILM SCREENING, GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Some say that Miss Havisham was drawn from a character first sketched by Longfellow. Either way, you should see David Lean's Academy-Award-winning film from 1946, featuring John Mills, Valerie Hobson, Alec Guinness, and Jean Simmons. *Eveningstar Cinema, Tontine Mall. Donations accepted*

Sunday, February 17, 1:00 p.m. • THE COURSEN READINGS, PART THREE

Featured poets: Linda Aldrich, David Stankiewicz and Kevin Sweeny. *Refreshments*
Fireplace Room, Curtis Memorial Library

Wednesday, February 20, 12:15 p.m. • LECTURE, UNCOVERING GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Lillian Nayder, Dickens scholar and Chair of the English Department at Bates College, considers Longfellow's poem "The Village Blacksmith" as a source for *Great Expectations*, and compares the two writers' experiences of romantic love, marriage and loss. *Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room.* Part of the Midcoast Senior College, Winter Wisdom series

Thursday, February 21, 9:30 a.m. • COMMUNITY READINGS AT THORNTON OAKS

This gathering, facilitated by poets Ted and Ruth Bookey, is informal and open to everyone. Please bring a poem to share. *Multi-Purpose Room, 25 Thornton Way off Baribeau Drive*

Sunday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. • CHAPEL SERVICE

Spend a musical and reflective morning in the Chapel erected a few years after Longfellow left Brunswick, ME for Cambridge, MA with Rev. Sylvia Stocker, organist Grace Lewis and the Merrymeeting Singers.
Bowdoin College Chapel

Wednesday, February 27 • 206TH ANNIVERSARY OF HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW'S BIRTH

All events free except where noted

Longfellow Days is a program of the Brunswick Downtown Association, with support from Bowdoin College, Maine Arts Commission/Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, Nathaniel Davis Fund, Alfred M. Senter Fund and the Association of Bowdoin Friends.

