



# THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

## Readings on Vermont Communities

Prepared by the Office of Community-Engaged Learning (CELO)

*Please send suggestions to [celo@uvm.edu](mailto:celo@uvm.edu)*

### Context of Community Organizations: Non-profit Sector in Vermont

- [How Vermont's Nonprofit Sector became a \\$68 billion industry](#), series on the non-profit sector in *Seven Days* 2019.
- [Common Good Vermont](#): clearinghouse and source of overview information on the nonprofit sector. Interesting data comparing counties, issues, etc. Helpful for providing context for students in community organizations.

### Overview/History

### Context of Social Issues

#### Economic Inequality in Vermont

- [Public Assets Institute: State of Working Vermont Reports](#) The Public Assets Institute is an excellent organization publishing high-quality data in the area of VT budget, taxes, education, healthcare and family economic security.
- [ECOS: Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability](#). A sustainable future for Chittenden County. [Annual reports](#) from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
  - *Provides a useful overview of key issues in Chittenden County and efforts to address them. Special attention to housing and the opiate epidemic, and then to the pandemic impacts + racial disparities.*

#### Rural Issues

- [Our Towns](#) – a special series from *Seven Days* (2018)
  - *Can Vermont towns survive in the age of Amazon and Act 46?*
- [Vermont Rural Life Survey](#) (2019)
  - *Vermont Public Radio + Vermont PBS collaborated on this survey*
- [Is Vermont Really Losing Young People](#) (2018)
- [For the Love of Rutland](#)
  - *Movie exploring issues facing Rutland, including opioid crisis, and controversy over the Mayor's plan to welcome Syrian refugees.*
  - *Available from Vermont PBS (with membership)*

#### Homelessness

- [Locked Out: Vermont's Housing Crisis](#) (2023)

- *12-part Special Report (series) from Seven Days on the housing crisis; this site also gathered related articles not part of the special report. The special report articles are clearly identified.*
- [“In our words, in our community”](#) an online exhibit created by the Vermont Folklife Center in collaboration with CVOEO (Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity)
  - *“amplifies the voices of our neighbors experiencing the complex dynamics of homelessness, food insecurity, and economic challenges. This exhibit is guided by direct input from a group of Vermonters and the social service workers who aim to address their daily needs”*

## Opioid Epidemic

- [Hooked: Stories + Solutions from Vermont’s Opioid Crisis](#) (2019)
  - A series from Seven Days exploring Vermont’s response and the then-current crisis.
- [Vermont’s Relapse: Efforts to Address Opioid Addiction Were Starting to Work. Then Potent New Street Drugs Arrived](#) (June 2023)
  - Important update to the above exploring important factors in current epidemic.
- As above: [ECOS: Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability](#). A sustainable future for Chittenden County. [Annual reports](#) from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
  - *Provides a useful overview of key issues in Chittenden County and efforts to address them. Special attention to housing and the opiate epidemic.*

## Racism

- Recent articles about racism in schools
  - *Schools and particularly sports events are where racism is being most directly shown – at least as discussed in the news media. Searches of local papers on school mascot controversies and sports events could also be helpful.*
  - [Interview with BHS basketball](#) players on racist incident with CVU (2023) (includes some context); *this article is unique in emphasizing voices of youth of color.*
  - [Racist remarks in South Burlington](#) (2021)– The Other Paper
  - Seven Days article on “Rebel Alliance” - [resistance to South Burlington team name change](#) (2017).
- Brave Little State episode (2017) [“Why is Vermont so overwhelmingly white?”](#)
  - *30 minute exploration of historic trends and voices of current Vermonters of color.*
- As above: [ECOS: Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability](#). A sustainable future for Chittenden County. [Annual reports](#) from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
  - *The [2020 report](#) put special focus on pandemic + racism.*
- VT Digger article on [talking about racism in Vermont](#) from 2019, connected to attacks on Rep. Kiah Morris.
- Stephanie Seguino and Nancy Brooks, [Driving While Black and Brown in Vermont](#).
  - *A 2017 research report by UVM economics professor Seguino documenting racial disparities in police traffic stops in Vermont.*

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\*= available through UVM Libraries

## Immigrants, Refugees & New Americans

- Seven Days: [Data Dive: Vermont's Refugee Resettlement in Three Revealing Charts](#) (2019)
  - Short overview of refugee resettlement showing numbers of arrivals to Vermont - emphasis on elimination of resettlement during Trump administration) and countries of origin.
- Vermont Edition ENCORE: "[Who's a 'New American': unpacking the phrase and its use in Vermont](#)" (2022)
- Pablo Bose, UVM Geography; [Refugee Resettlement in Small Cities research program](#):
  - *Scroll down on the main page under "announcements" for research papers on childcare, food insecurity, use of telehealth, and employment among refugees in Vermont.*
  - [Vermont Poll Analysis](#) (2017-2022): public opinion about refugee resettlement in Vermont
- [Report: New Americans' Contributions to the Economy in Vermont](#) (New American Economy, 2017).
- Online and Traveling Exhibit with Resources: [In Their Own Words: Stories from Refugees Settled in Vermont Communities](#) (Vermont Folklife Center).
  - *Photos, personal narratives and curriculum resources for students are provided.*
- VPR stories on New Vermonters, [Somali](#) and [Bhutanese](#).
  - *Both provide context on situation in those countries that led to emigration.*
- Report in Seven Days on Refugee Resettlement: "[Twenty-Five Years and 6300 People Later](#)" (2014)
- [American Guide to the New Vermont](#)
  - *Update of the Vermont Guide (1935), part of guides to every state collectively written by 6,000 writers as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA): "Shane Lavelette follows the refugees who have made their home in the whitest state in the nation."*

## Migrant Dairy Farmworkers

- "[Migrant Farmworkers hold up Vermont's dairy industry – and are fighting for better conditions](#)" – recent Seven Days article (2023).
- [The Most Costly Journey \(el viaje mas caro\): Stories of Migrant Farmworkers in Vermont Drawn by New England Cartoonists\\*\\*\\*](#) (2021). edited by Andy Kolovos (Vermont Folklife Center) and Teresa Mares (UVM, Anthropology)
  - *"This non-fiction comics anthology presents stories of survival and healing told by Latin American migrant farmworkers in Vermont, and drawn by New England cartoonists as part of the El Viaje Más Caro Project—a health care outreach effort of the Open Door Clinic in Middlebury and UVM Extension's Bridges to Health Program aimed at addressing the overlooked mental health needs of these vulnerable immigrants. Originally distributed to farm workers as individual Spanish language comic books, this collected edition brings the lives and voices—as well as the challenges and hardships—of these workers to an English-language audience, granting insight into the experiences and lives of the people vital to producing the food we eat."*

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- [The Cows Don't Milk Themselves](#): Video of Migrant Justice activists, presenting on the Milk With Dignity program at the 2021 NOFA-VT Conference (via Zoom with powerpoint).
  - *“a 1.5 hour presentation to learn more about farmworkers’ groundbreaking Milk with Dignity program which brings together farmworkers, consumers, farmer owners and corporate buyers with the principal goal of fostering a sustainable Northeast dairy industry that advances the human rights of farmworkers, supports the long-term interests of farm owners, and provides an ethical supply chain for retail food companies and consumers. We know that the cows don't milk themselves: Learn more about how you can get involved and help expand this powerful solution to the Hannaford supermarket’s supply chain.”*
- Online and Travelling Exhibit with Resources: [The Golden Cage Project](#) (Vermont Folklife Center); also [here](#). Includes audio interviews with farmers and farmworkers.
- Teresa Mares: [Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont](#), University of California Press, 2019.\*\*
- Infographic: [Vermont Dairy Farmworkers... a closer look at the labor environment](#) (and a story about the UVM student who created it [here](#)).
- Julia Alvarez, [Return to Sender](#)\*\* A novel based on the situation of Addison County dairy farmers and farmworkers. Appropriate for junior high school students on up.
- [Who Wants to Work on a Vermont Dairy Farm?](#), article by Chelsea Edgar who spent a week working at an Addison County dairy farm. Looks at working conditions, broader context and includes interviews with farm owners and farm workers. *Seven Days*, 2019.
- [Migrant Justice](#) / Milk With Dignity Campaign (website has press articles & resources)

## Historical Resources

- Jane Beck, [Daisy Turner’s Kin: An African-American Family Saga](#).\*\*
- Jan Albers, [Hands on the Land: A History of the Vermont Landscape](#).\*\*
- Klyza & Trombulak, [The Story of Vermont](#), 2nd edition. \*\*
- Greg Sharrow: [Many Cultures, One People: A Multicultural Handbook about Vermont for Teachers](#) (Vermont Folklife Center).
- Elise Guyette, [Discovering Black Vermont: African-American Farmers in Hinesburgh, VT 1790-1890](#).\*\*
  - *Preface & Introduction function as a helpful introduction to early race relations in Vermont.*
- Cynthia Bittinger. [Vermont Women, Native Americans and African Americans: Out of the Shadows of History](#). \*\*
- Dona Brown, [Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the Nineteenth Century](#).\*\*
  - *Chapters on Vermont; useful if teaching history of tourism, marketing, stereotypes of Vermont.*
- [Freedom and Unity: the Vermont movie](#)

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