



Western Connecticut  
Leadership

A Program of



## Orientation and History Session September 17, 2018

### Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** An opening session designed to set the foundation for the Western Connecticut Leadership program and provide a comprehensive introduction to the history of Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills.

### Objectives:

- ❖ To provide an introduction to the Connecticut Community Foundation and the mission of the Western Connecticut Leadership program, and to offer a congenial way for this year's class members to meet
- ❖ To explore some of the significant themes that have shaped Western Connecticut's history and that continue to connect the region's towns and cities today
- ❖ To introduce participants to efforts of local non-profits to preserve the stories of Connecticut's past and make them meaningful in the present—using the Litchfield Historical Society as a model teaching tool for the day

### Important Session Information

#### Session Leader

Daphne Anderson Deeds, *WCL '17*

#### Advisor

Patrick McKenna, Program Officer, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

#### Suggested Attire

Casual. **Comfortable shoes are recommended; the day involves a short walk across the town center.** If rain is in the forecast, please bring an umbrella or rain jacket.

#### Venues

##### **First Congregational Church of Litchfield**

21 Torrington Road (Rt. 202), Litchfield, CT 06759

##### **Litchfield Historical Society**

7 South Street, Litchfield

##### **Tapping Reeve House and Litchfield Law School**

82 South Street, Litchfield

#### Parking

There is ample parking behind the church.

[Click here for a map](#)

## Agenda

- 8:15 Arrival and Light Breakfast
- 8:30 **Welcome and Orientation**  
Tina Bernacki, WCL '16 and Chair, WCL 2018  
Jan Joseph, WCL '17 and Vice Chair, WCL 2018  
Julie Loughran, President and CEO, *Connecticut Community Foundation*  
Tricia Poirier, Special Projects Coordinator, *Connecticut Community Foundation*  
Sarah Edelson Baskin, Assistant to the President and CEO, *Connecticut Community Foundation*
- 9:15 **Introduction to History Day**  
Daphne Anderson Deeds, WCL '17
- 9:20 **Indigenous Peoples' History in Litchfield County**  
Jason R. Mancini, PhD, Executive Director, *Connecticut Humanities*
- 10:25 **Break**
- 10:40 **The Beechers of Litchfield**  
Elizabeth Burgess, Collections Manager, *Harriet Beecher Stowe Center*
- 11:20 **The History of Slavery in Litchfield County**  
Peter Vermilyea, Historian
- 12:10 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **A History of Ethnic Diversity in Waterbury**  
Raechel Guest, Director, *Silas Bronson Library*
- 1:45 **Break/Walk** to Litchfield Historical Society and Tapping Reeve Law School Museum
- 2:00 **Tours** with the Litchfield Historical Society staff
- Sarah Pierce Academy exhibition at Litchfield Historical Society**
- Tapping Reeve House and Litchfield Law School**
- 3:20 **Walk back to Congregational Church**
- 3:30 **Wrap up and Preview**  
Preview of Aging and Livable Communities, Lila Coddington, WCL '17

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Tina Bernacki, WCL '16 and Chair, WCL 2018**

Tina M. Bernacki was a pioneer of the hospice movement in Connecticut, holding leadership positions at VNS of Connecticut, VNA of Litchfield, and Brooker Memorial VNA. Tina graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing, where she was awarded the Sol Greenberg Award for Excellence in Clinical Nursing and Leadership. Tina went on to earn a Master's in Health Care Management from Rensselaer Hartford Graduate Center and did graduate work in Community Counseling at Fairfield University. She is a member of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association and a member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Council of Connecticut. Among her professional accolades are the 2007 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing and the 2007 VNS of Connecticut Chairman's Award.

Tina has been an active contributor to the Litchfield community for over 40 years. Some highlights of her service include six years on the Litchfield Board of Tax Review, creating a support group for parents of children with learning disabilities, serving as a board member of the Visiting Nurse Association of Litchfield, founding the nonprofit organization Friends of Hospice, and establishing of the first hospice home care program in northwest Connecticut. She is a member of the WCL '16 and currently serves as Chair of the 2018 Fall Program. Tina enjoys gardening and spending time with cherished friends, traveling, playing tennis and paddle tennis, hiking and kayaking.

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### **Janice Lee Joseph, WCL '17 and Vice Chair, WCL 2018**

Jan Joseph graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Nursing. Later, she earned a Master's degree in Education from the University of New Hampshire and a MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She has enjoyed her career in nursing as it has given her many opportunities. In addition to Kentucky, she has been privileged to live in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Mississippi, and Colorado. Her positions have included Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nursing Education, and Nursing Administration. She moved to Connecticut to accept the position of Chief, Nursing Service at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. Since retiring from the VA, Jan continues to practice in her clinical specialty as a Wound Care and Ostomy Specialist, consulting with several Home Care Agencies.

In addition to her participation in the Western Connecticut Leadership Program as vice chair of the 2018 Program, she joined the Connecticut Community Foundation Scholarship Committee in 2017. Jan also serves on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Chapter of Gifts of Adoption. Jan is the proud mother of a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. Her daughter graduated with a BFA majoring in Dramaturgy with a minor in Hispanic Studies. She is now living in NYC and pursuing a theater career.

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**Julie Loughran**, President and Chief Executive Officer, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Julie was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Community Foundation in November 2017. She is only the third CEO in the Foundation's 94-year history.

Julie joined the Foundation in 2014 to lead its fund development and communications efforts as the director of development and communications. During her tenure, she has worked to raise awareness among philanthropically-minded people throughout Greater Waterbury and the Litchfield Hills of opportunities to build charitable funds that will benefit the community for years to come.

Julie spent her early career as a nonprofit and campaign communications strategist, working for a range of candidates and organizations working on civil rights, economic development, environmental and other public policy issues. She also spent twelve years working as an attorney in the public and private sectors. Among other positions, Julie served as an Assistant Solicitor General for the State of New York. She also worked as a litigator at Wiggin and Dana LLP in New Haven, where she was recognized for her commitment to pro bono work.

Julie earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a law degree from Stanford Law School. She lives in Washington with her husband, Brendan Foulois, and their daughter, Fiona.

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**Tricia Poirier**, Special Projects Coordinator, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Tricia joined the Foundation staff in 2013 to assist with growing marketing and communications efforts at the Foundation, and now coordinates our annual giving day event, Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills. And, oversees the Western Connecticut Leadership program.

Tricia has extensive experience in the nonprofit arena—in fundraising, marketing, event planning and student affairs at VNA Health at Home, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, Nichols College and Wellesley College. She volunteers with the Junior Women's Club of Litchfield Hills and the PV Volunteers of West Virginia. Tricia and her family live in Goshen.

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**Sarah Edelson Baskin**, Assistant to the President and CEO, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Sarah provides administrative support and coordination across the Foundation, including board and committees, organizes events and supports the Western Connecticut Leadership program.

She has worked and volunteered in a variety of non-profit organizations. She previously worked as a director of lifespan religious education in Burke, Virginia and at the Audubon Center in Southbury as an environmental educator and volunteer coordinator. Sarah lives in Woodbury with her family.

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**Daphne Anderson Deeds, WCL '17**

Daphne Anderson Deeds has been an art museum professional and fine art consultant for more than thirty years. She has held progressively responsible positions at the private and civic museums throughout the US, including the Yale University Art Gallery, the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, and the Art Museum at the University of Arizona. Daphne has curated more than seventy exhibitions and is the author of more than fifty catalogues and articles. Approximately ten years ago, Daphne established her eponymous consultancy, applying her knowledge of curatorial procedures, critical writing, and private collection development to a wide variety of projects for art museums, artist estates, collectors and contemporary artists.

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**Jason Mancini, PhD**, Executive Director, *Connecticut Humanities*

Dr. Jason Mancini is Executive Director of Connecticut Humanities, co-founder of Akomawt Educational Initiative, and former Executive Director of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. During the past 30 years, he has worked with, conversed, and shared his archival research with the indigenous peoples of southern New England, Alaska, Hawai'i, and New Zealand. He is an ally to these communities and works to build awareness of indigenous rights and histories within non-Native contexts.

Jason's academic interests include indigenous social networks, Indian mariners, urban Indian communities, race and ethnicity in New England, cultural landscapes, and oral histories. He is the founder and director of the Indian Mariners Project, a collaboration between multiple tribes, institutions, and individuals that explores the history of and ongoing relationship between Native people and the sea.

In his spare time, Jason is Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Connecticut College, Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Brown University, and Social Sciences Instructor at Sea for Sea Education Association (SEA). Jason holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Connecticut with expertise in the archaeology and ethno-history of New England.

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**Elizabeth Burgess**, Collections Manager, *Harriet Beecher Stowe Center*

Elizabeth G. Burgess is the Collections Manager for the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. She manages all the Center's collections, including historic buildings and grounds, and provides public access. She is also responsible for historic preservation and restoration, and promotion. Beth was project manager of the Center's library storage renovation in 2010 (a capital project funded by National Endowment for the Humanities), and the team lead for collections for the Harriet Beecher Stowe House interior renovation in 2017, a collections preservation project funded by the State of Connecticut, NEH, IMLS and others. She has a B.A. from the University of Connecticut and is a board member of the Cromwell Historical Society and former president of the Greater Hartford Association of Historic Houses and Museums.

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**Peter Vermilyea**, Historian

Peter Vermilyea teaches history at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT and at Western Connecticut State University. A graduate of Gettysburg College, he is the student scholarship director at his alma mater's Civil War Institute. Vermilyea is an award-winning author of five books and more than twenty articles, most on Civil War history. Two recent titles include: *Hidden History of Litchfield County* (2014) and *Wicked Litchfield County* (2016).

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**Raechel Guest**, Director, *Silas Bronson Library*

Raechel Guest is the Director of the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury, where she has been since 2015. She is currently teaching an Urban and Community Studies class, "Exploring Your Community," at UConn-Waterbury, where she has previously taught Art History and Art Appreciation. Prior to her work at the Silas Bronson Library, Raechel was the Executive Director/Curator of the Cornwall Historical Society for five years and the Assistant Curator at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury for eight years, researching various aspects of local history for special exhibits. She has also worked at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk and for an international auction house in New York City.

Raechel earned her M.A. at the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. A Waterbury resident, in her free time Raechel writes about the city's history for occasional publication and for her blog, [Waterbury Thoughts](#). She is President of the Board of Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury, is actively involved with the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library, and serves on the Grassroots Grants Committee for the Connecticut Community Foundation.

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**Patrick McKenna**, Program Officer, *Connecticut Community Foundation*

Patrick works to support local nonprofits by linking them to important resources and vital information that can help to amplify impact. . Patrick also staffs the technology grants committee and coordinates the Foundation's Catchafire program, which connects volunteers throughout the country to our local nonprofits.

Prior to joining the Foundation in 2016, Patrick worked for five years at the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits (now The Alliance). He is also a former AmeriCorps member, having completed two years of the public allies program. Born and raised in Waterbury, Patrick now lives with his wife in Rocky Hill.

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## **Opportunities for further exploration and engagement**

### **Connecticut Digital Archive**

A wide-ranging online resource for historic photographs and archives.

<http://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org>

### **Connecticut Explored**

A non-profit podcast and quarterly magazine devoted to exploring the state's cultural heritage. Log on and subscribe. <https://ctexplored.org>

### **Connecticut History.org**

The Connecticut Humanities Council's online portal to stories about the people, traditions, innovations and events that make up our rich history. <https://connecticuthistory.org>

### **Connecticut History Day**

A program for students grades 6-12 that encourages exploration of history. Visit for volunteer opportunities. <http://www.historydayct.org>

### **Connecticut History Illustrated**

A fascinating digital archive of photographs and other resources related to Connecticut heritage and culture. <http://connecticuthistoryillustrated.org>

### **Connecticut Humanities**

Connecticut Humanities encourages curiosity, understanding and critical thinking, providing leadership through grants, partnerships and collaborative programs.

<https://cthumanities.org>

### **Connecticut League of History Organizations**

Networking opportunities for historical societies and local museums. Check for events and workshops in your area. <http://clho.org>

### **Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation**

The state's non-profit organization devoted to historic preservation. Provides programs, events, and advocacy. <http://cttrust.org>

### **Litchfield Historical Society and The Litchfield Ledger**

Dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of Litchfield County.

Among many remarkable online database projects is the Litchfield Ledger, which explores the stories of the Tapping Reeve Law School and the Litchfield Female Academy.

<http://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/>,

<http://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/ledger/>

### **Mattatuck Museum**

Waterbury's art and regional history museum. <https://www.mattmuseum.org/>

### **Silas Bronson Library**

A multi-faceted institution that fosters ideas, promotes education, and contributes to the cultural heritage of Waterbury through programs and collections.

<http://www.bronsonlibrary.org/>