

Elizabeth Wood

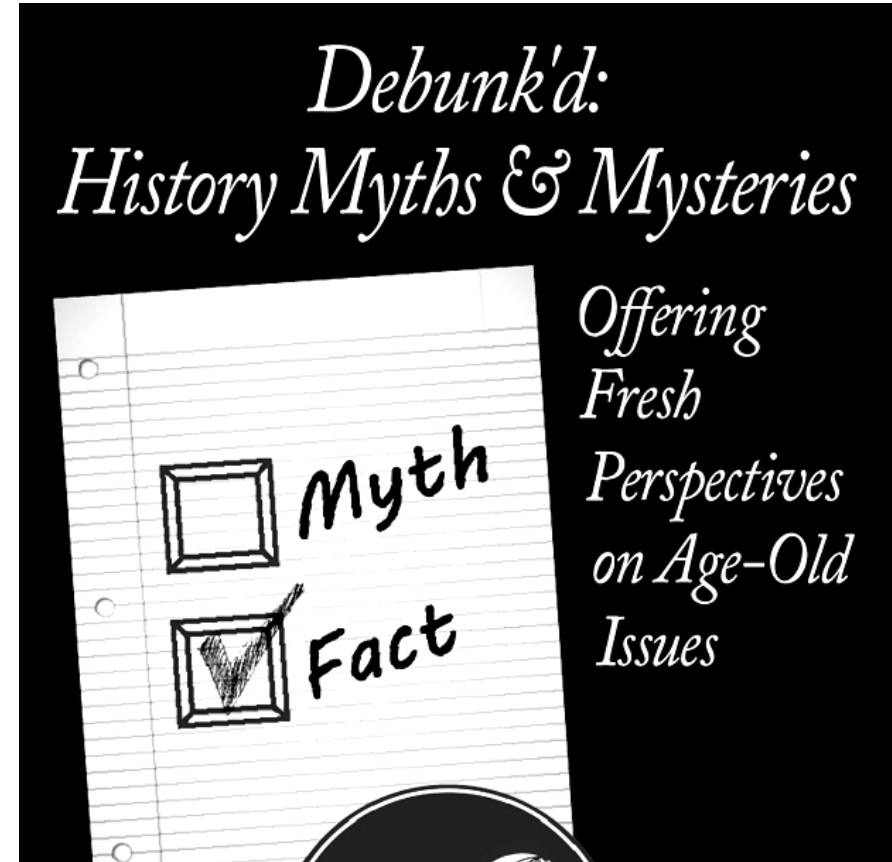
Elizabeth Wood has just begun her 10th year with the Stonington Historical Society, three of these as the Executive Director in a community she has called home for more than 35 years. Museums are her passion and this has been supported undergraduate studies at Connecticut College in American History and graduate work in Museum Studies at Tufts University. Prior to her work in Stonington, Elizabeth has held positions at the Mystic Seaport, the New London County Historical Society, and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum.

Molly Woods

Molly Woods is a Research and Collections Associate at the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS), where she handles potential donations and acquisition paperwork, oversees the 3D collection, and answers research questions. She previously held a position as a Visitor Services Associate at the CHS. She earned her BA in Historic Preservation with a Museum Studies minor from the University of Mary Washington and her MA in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

Dan Yaeger

Dan Yaeger was named Executive Director of NEMA in 2010 and was previously director of the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation in Waltham, Massachusetts. He has developed communications programs for the museums around the country, founded a vintage baseball team that played by the rules of 1848, and taught a course at Tufts University called "Road Trip: The Automobile, Tourist Traps, and Modern America."



ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JUNE 4
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SESSIONS & SPEAKERS

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKERS

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

ROOM 105: **What Adult Visitors Learn at History Museums: In Their Own Words**

Lisa Marcinkowski June

What are adult visitors learning on guided tours through history museums, and how are they learning it? This session will share findings from dissertation research conducted by Lisa Marcinkowski June at Connecticut history museums, including the Avery-Copp House, the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, the Mark Twain House & Museum, the Old State House, the Smith-Harris House, and the Stanley-Whitman House. Participants will be encouraged to actively process what these findings might mean for their own museums.

ROOM 109: **Where I Live: Connecticut's Grade 3 Curriculum**

Elizabeth Normen

Let's face it, there's a lot of fake history out there. How can the history community support the state's new social studies frameworks with high quality content for students? What do teachers need and want? Bring your ideas, feedback you've been hearing, and information about your museum's school programs to a roundtable discussion. Elizabeth will answer questions about how your museum can be part of *Where I Live: Connecticut* a book, e-book, and website in use this year by nearly half of third graders in Connecticut. Find out how you can have your museum represented, how you can get your stories into the resource, and how we can work together to create more resources that support the state's new social studies frameworks at all grade levels.

ROOM 111: **Museums & Social Media: A Legal Perspective**

Betsy Golden Kellem

For cultural institutions, social media is a necessary evil, an opportunity to connect with far-flung audiences in fresh ways, and a challenge to both publicize and protect collections. This session will look at social media, intellectual property and how to navigate the two from a museum perspective: looking at best practices and growing confidence about how to manage digital assets; achieving maximum public appeal while also keeping risk consciousness front of mind. Kellem will talk about the intellectual property basics that underlie Internet-based promotion, focusing on copyright; talk about protecting equity while maximizing audience; point out some accounts that are doing social media especially well; and most importantly: take your questions.

ROOM 125: **Myth: The Record Must be Perfect! Fact: Just Do It!—Cataloging in CT Collections**

Diane Lee

For many institutions the thought of getting your collection cataloged is very daunting. It is hard to keep up – or catch up – with cataloging a collection. Some people before you may have focused on one category, meaning other parts of the collection were neglected. You may have had well-meaning volunteers (or curators) that got overly carried away with extremely grand catalog records that won't help you connect to that object or to other similar objects in the collection. Whether you are cataloging into the most Cadillac of Collections Management Systems, or just a plain old Excel spreadsheet, there are universal guidelines to follow. In the end, it will help both you and your users get the most out of your records. Using CLHO's own Connecticut Collections project as an example, we will take a look at some best practices to create useful records with the resources you have.

Jessica Suarez

Jessica Suarez is the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications for the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI) in Bridgeport. She cultivates and maintains partnerships to support CIRI, manages CIRI's Volunteer Services, and increases visibility through communications initiatives across all platforms. She spent nine years with Nontraditional Employment for Women in New York City, where she worked to create economic opportunities for low-income communities by training and empowering women to succeed in male-dominated fields.

Anastasia Thibeault

Anastasia Thibeault is the former Collections Coordinator at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. During her time at the Stowe Center, she led a team of collections assistants working to protect collections before and after the Stowe House interior renovation in 2015-17. She has a B.A. in Cultural and Historic Preservation from Salve Regina University. Anastasia is currently taking a break from her career in museums to be a stay-at-home Mom to her daughter, Vivienne.

Scott Wands

Scott Wands, Manager of Grants and Programs, oversees the Connecticut Humanities Fund and is creator of projects including Journalism in an Age of Fake News and StEPs-CT. He is a board member for the American Association for State and Local History and the Connecticut Coalition for History. Before joining CTH in 2008, he worked for five years at Connecticut Landmarks, and is a graduate of Amherst College and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture.

Matthew Warshauer

Dr. Matthew Warshauer, faculty member at CCSU, received his B.A. in history from Central Connecticut State University, and completed his M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies at Saint Louis University. Warshauer's publications, *Andrew Jackson and the Politics of Martial Law: Nationalism, Civil Liberties, and Partisanship (2006)* and *Andrew Jackson in Context (8665)* are widely reviewed with comments such as "lucid and well researched," and "brilliantly sorts through the historiographical debate." Warshauer's more recent scholarly focus on Connecticut's history led to the creation of the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Commission in 2009, and *Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice and Survival (8677)*. Warshauer also edited *Inside Connecticut and the Civil War: Essays on One State's Struggles (2014)*, written by CCSU current and former students, and reflects Warshauer's desire to provide his students with professional opportunities. He is a dedicated teacher who views every class as an opportunity to engage students, and is recognized annually on the Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll at CCSU. He is a recipient of CCSU and Connecticut State University Faculty Research Awards, the 2012 Bruce Fraser Award in Public History by the Association for the Study of Connecticut History, the 2011 New England History Teachers' Association Kidger Award for Innovative Publishing and Teaching, and in 2012 was honored as an Honorary Inductee into Golden Key Honor Society.

Karen Wizevich

Karen Wizevich is Program Coordinator and Senior Lecturer in the Johns Hopkins University Museum Studies program. She has worked with museums for over 25 years, in-house and as a consultant. She was a Fulbright scholar in New Zealand and holds a PhD from Victoria University in Architecture/Museum Studies and an M.S. from Cornell University in Design and Environmental Analysis. Her interests lie in the intersection of museum design, evaluation and the visitor experience.

War One Commemorative Programs. She has worked closely with the United States World War One Centennial Commission and Fun Academy Motion Pictures to advance knowledge of Connecticut's historic role during WWI. Christine has also led the State Library's archival and museum digitization and metadata programs from the past ten years and has been involved with a number of statewide digital initiatives.

David D.J. Rau

David D.J. Rau has been the Director of Education & Outreach at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme since 1998. Most recently, Rau played a key role in the Museum's SEE/change Project developing online resources for students and teachers. Rau has initiated a broad array of new programming at the Museum, designed to promote active, experiential and life-long learning for a diverse audience including the Wee Faerie Villages. He also teaches in the Museum Studies program at Connecticut College in New London.

Elizabeth Rose

Elizabeth Rose is the Library Director at the Fairfield Museum and History Center. She holds a Ph.D. in history and has published on immigration, family, and educational history, including two books on the history and policy of early childhood programs. At the Fairfield Museum, she has helped create exhibitions on a wide range of topics, including witchcraft trials, popular music, Revolutionary War spies, women's achievement, tavern life, World War I, and refugees and immigrants.

Cindy Simoneau

Associate Professor Cindy Simoneau is the Chair of the Journalism Department at Southern Connecticut State University. She is the former assistant managing editor of the Connecticut Post, has been an active member of the Connecticut SPJ chapter, and is a former adjunct professor of graduate and undergraduate journalism studies at Quinnipiac University, Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University. Simoneau was inducted into the Connecticut Journalism Hall of Fame in 2015.

Lorén M. Spears

Lorén M. Spears, Narragansett, Executive Director of Tomaquag Museum, has been an educator for 25 years and more recently as an adjunct professor at the University of Rhode Island where she also received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. Mrs. Spears holds a Master's in Education from the University of New England. She shares her cultural knowledge and traditional arts learned through her family with the public through museum programs. She has written curriculum, poetry, and narratives published in a variety of publications such as *Dawnland Voices, An Anthology of Indigenous Writing of New England; Through Our Eyes: An Indigenous View of Mashapaug Pond; The Pursuit of Happiness: An Indigenous View*, and *From Slaves to Soldiers: The 1st Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution*.

Mrs. Spears works tirelessly to empower Native youth and to educate the public on Native history, culture, the environment and the arts. She was appointed by Governor Gina Raimondo to serve on the Board of the RI State Council on the Arts and serves on various other boards including The Pell Center's Story in the Public Square. Under her leadership, Tomaquag Museum has received the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal. She has also received a variety of awards including a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from the University of Rhode Island, the Extraordinary Woman Award, International Day 2010, the Urban League, Woman of Substance Award, 2006 and the RI Council for the Humanities 2016 Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities. She resides in Charlestown, RI with her husband Robin and three children, all of whom are traditional artists.

ROOM 106: Shared Resources: How Can We Collaborate to Save Money and Be More Effective?

Dan Yeager

Time and money. There's always too little of each, right? But what if we could figure out ways to do things more efficiently and save money at the same time? What if we could find out how to collaborate and share resources with our colleagues? Help us sort out these questions and find solutions for YOUR institution in this fast-paced and dynamic "think tank" session. You'll come away with new ideas, inspiration, and just maybe a few new collaborations that might change your future for the better!

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

ROOM 105: Seeing Change: Using Art to Teach History—The Florence Griswold Museum's SEE/change Project

David D.J. Rau, Leslie Evans, Karen Wizevich

After a year of working closely with both content and curriculum specialists, the Florence Griswold Museum launched SEE/change, an online learning portal. The project goal was to CHANGE the way students and teachers SEE works of art in museums. Funded by IMLS, the immersive website focuses on a single work of art, the 1853 painting "Seven Miles to Farmington" by Connecticut artist George H. Durrie. The popular genre scene of travelers arriving by sleigh to a rustic country inn on a winter's day is steeped in historical content and the site links to the themes of the new CT social studies standards. The website is designed for teachers and students to connect art and history in their classrooms, but can also be enjoyed by folks of all ages. Speakers will share the lessons learned along the way—the good, not-so-good, and great. SEE/change is an instructive case study in developing meaningful online learning for museums.

ROOM 109: Debunking Collections Mysteries and Myths

Beth Burgess, Tasha Caswell, Sophie Huget, Anastasia Thibeault, Molly Woods

Every museum has "collections mysteries": materials of unknown provenance, confused cataloging, or "FICs" (found in collection) which we put off dealing with until necessary. Listen and learn as panelists describe how they tackled different mysteries and the processes taken to debunk them. Learn some tips on how to prevent our future colleagues from dealing with "collections mysteries." Topics to be discussed include acquisitions, loans, found in collection objects, and deaccessions.

ROOM 111: Debunking Myths About Refugees and Immigrants

Elizabeth Rose, Jessica Suarez

History organizations can play an important role in educating people about the past and present reality of immigration, including "debunking" misperceptions about refugees and immigrants, and about how past experiences of immigration differed from today's. This session reflects on the experience of creating an exhibition at the Fairfield Museum called "American Story: Finding Home in Fairfield County," which was designed in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. By working together, the museum was able to address a topic of central contemporary importance, and CIRI was able to educate a broader public audience about its work.

ROOM 125: **Storytelling and Truth: Journalism in the Museum**

Cindy Simoneau, Christina Nhean, Jodie Mozdzer Gil, Christine Pittsley

When history is "forgotten" how do we engage our audiences and help them understand the relevance of that history? How do we approach storytelling when artifacts in our collections relate to "hidden" histories, topics that we have forgotten about or that have competing truths that we deem too difficult to interpret? And how can the tools of traditional journalism help us to tell these stories? Join us as we explore how a World

War One community archiving project worked with journalism students to make a "forgotten" topic relevant, to incorporate individual truths into a larger narrative and to reach a far larger audiences who may not have ever considered how history might be relevant to them.

ROOM 106: **Where's the Funding?**

Mary Dunne, Renee Tribert, Scott Wands

This triad of experts will share information on the varieties of funding that is available to municipalities and non-profits across the state, including for historic preservation planning and restoration activities. This session will be especially useful to historical societies and municipalities that own historic properties and are wondering how they can find funding to help maintain their buildings and other activities. The presentation will also cover funding opportunities for a variety of preservation, education, and awareness activities, including walking tour brochures, and mobile applications to educate the public about historic resources, and more.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

ROOM 105: **National Mythology Through a Native Lens: Thanksgiving From Another Perspective (Akomawt Educational Initiative)**

Chris Newell

The Thanksgiving holiday and the story of its creation (The First Thanksgiving) viewed through the perspective of Native educators.

Deconstructing popular myths of one of America's most beloved and misunderstood holidays, how it impacts Native peoples and how we can teach it better. The history of the national Thanksgiving holiday offers an interesting way Native histories are popularized to fit the colonial narrative, but do not tell the whole story. This session will explore what the term Thanksgiving means to early English colonists and to Native peoples in history. From there we will discuss the history of the holiday and how popular media helped create the First Thanksgiving myth taught in our schools for over a century. Using the Thanksgiving myth as an example of the larger national narrative, this session will address how these mythologies impact Native peoples through the creation of stereotypes with perceived historical basis, and what we can do to better the future of how Native perspective is taught in history.

ROOM 109: **StEPs Forward: Keeping Momentum in Your StEPs Site or Learning About Becoming One**

Stacy Danielson, Melissa Josefiak, Scott Wands, and Special Guests

Is your StEPs organization stuck on 'simmer'? Do you miss the camaraderie and networking of regular StEPs sessions? Have you been hearing about StEPs-CT for 6 years and want to know what all the fuss is about? Then this is the session for YOU. To maintain momentum in-between StEPs (Standards in Excellence Program, professional development) classes and possibly interest more organizations in forming a new class, this session continues the popular Colleagues Circle of StEPs past (and potential) participants. A panel of StEPs-CT graduates bring real-

instruction as well as creating programming on history and key issues in Indian Country. Chris also leads the development of Native educational programs and activities for all visitors from children to college professors and international guests and recently co-founded the Akomawt Educational Initiative with other museum colleagues. Akomawt Educational Initiative is a natural step enlarging the scope of educational opportunities expanding beyond the museum mission to one that encompasses and challenges the way Native peoples are taught about in all aspects of public education and contemporary society.

Chris was born and raised on the Indian Township reservation in eastern Maine. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut as well as continuing education in Native studies. He has lectured on relevant topics to include the portrayal of Native America in mainstream media, cultural insensitivities and Native appropriation challenges and serves regionally as a pow wow MC and singer with the Mystic River Singers.

Christina Nhean

Christina Nhean joined Wethersfield Historical Society in 2017 as the Visitor Services Coordinator, where she works closely with her staff and volunteers at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. She also works part-time for the Museum of Connecticut History doing digitization and metadata work, and has worked for Connecticut State Library's World War I commemorative projects since 2015. Christina graduated from Central Connecticut State University earning her Bachelor's Degree in History in 2016.

Elizabeth Normen

Elizabeth Normen is publisher of *Connecticut Explored*, the 16-year old magazine of Connecticut history. She also edited *African American Connecticut Explored* (Wesleyan University Press, 2014), edited and published *Where I Live: Connecticut*, a new social studies resource for third-fourth grade, and co-produces (with the state historian) *Grating the Nutmeg*, the podcast of Connecticut history.

Braden Paynter

Braden Paynter is Program Manager for Methodology and Practice for the International Sites of Conscience. Founded in 1999, the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience ("the Coalition") is the only worldwide network of Sites of Conscience. With over 230 members in 55 countries, the Coalition builds the capacity of institutions through grants, networking, training, transitional justice mechanisms and advocacy. Members and partners remember a variety of histories and come from a wide range of settings – including long-standing democracies, countries struggling with legacies of violence, as well as post-conflict regions just beginning to address their transitional justice needs – but they are all united by their common commitment to connect past to present, memory to action.

Paynter supports the Coalition's members in developing programming that brings vitality to their sites and visitors, and his past work has focused on using public education spaces to connect people to each other and the world around them. He has worked with historic homes, museums, parks, and a zoo to make their programming and exhibits more challenging, open, and indispensable to their communities. Before joining the Coalition, Braden worked with the National Park Service at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site where he oversaw public, education, and professional development programs, web and social media, and exhibits. Over the course of his career, he has developed expertise in museum educational programming and curation.

Christine Pittsley

Christine Pittsley is the Project Director for the Connecticut State Library's World

in strategic planning, program development, and philanthropy. He actively encourages civic engagement in Connecticut communities by promoting involvement in community organizations and in government, encouraging voting and support for open and effective local and national government. He offers his deep knowledge of the way nonprofits work as a resource to donors seeking to accomplish their personal social goals through philanthropy.

Melissa Josefiak

Melissa Josefiak serves as the Director of Essex Historical Society. She served as a StEPs-CT Mentor for Class I (2012-2013) and Class II (2015-2017), as well as Assistant Director of Wethersfield Historical Society for many years. Her non-profit Board experience includes that of CLHO and as the Exhibitions Editor of Connecticut History Review. She holds a BA in English and History from Washington College and an MA in Public History from CCSU.

Lisa Marcinkowski June

Lisa Marcinkowski June is a PhD candidate in Adult Learning in the Department of Educational Leadership at UCONN. She has a MA in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (SUNY Oneonta) and spent 20 years working in museum education, including four years as Director of Education at Mystic Seaport. Marcinkowski June's dissertation is entitled "Illuminating the Process of Learning in Experiential History Museums through the Perspective of Adult Visitors."

Betsy Golden Kellem

Betsy Golden Kellem is an attorney and historian. She is currently Counsel for Intellectual Property & Technology at Aetna, where she counsels the enterprise brand on media, technology and marketing issues. As a history writer, her work has been featured in outlets including *The Atlantic*, *Vanity Fair*, *Smithsonian*, and *Atlas Obscura*. She is currently at work on a book about P.T. Barnum, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Barnum Museum.

Diane Lee

Diane Lee is the Collections Manager at the Fairfield Museum and History Center. Over her museum career she has worked on a wide range of assignments, dealing with everything from HVAC renovation projects to digitization of collections. She has worked on a variety of cataloging systems and projects, and has been working extensively with CLHO's Connecticut Collections project, including training for new users and informational sessions with the rest of the CTCo team.

Jennifer DiCola Matos

Jennifer DiCola Matos is the Executive Director of the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society. She has a B.A. in History and Art History from the University of Saint Joseph, and a M.A. in American Civilization from Brown University, Providence, RI. She currently serves as a co-chair of the New England Museum Association's Historic Sites Professional Affinity Group, and is a member of the Saturday Morning Club, and the College Club of Hartford.

Chris Newell

Chris Newell (Passamaquoddy) is manager of museum education at the Pequot Museum in Mashantucket, CT and co-founder/director of education for Akomawt Educational Initiative. He leads the development of educational programs for the museum and beyond, changing the narrative of how Native history and contemporary issues are taught at all levels of education. He has served in the museum's enrichment programming for four years providing off-site lectures and hands-on

world examples of how their StEPs team worked together to solve one tricky problem. Lively Q & A conversations encouraged. In closing, Scott Wands of CT Humanities addresses the "State of StEPs-CT" and what may be happening in 2019-20.

ROOM 111: Dark Stewardship: When Ghosts Become Part of the Collection

Joanie DiMartino, Leslie Evans, Elizabeth Wood, Jeff Belanger

To ghost, or not to ghost? That is the question. With the rise of ghost-hunter shows, books, and other forms of "dark tourism" in our culture, boards and staff of history museums decide whether or not to participate in ghost-centered programs. This is a controversial topic for museums, as these programs often may not serve organizational missions, yet usually bring in large crowds or raise much-needed funds. Why a museum takes the risk to engage in a non-factual-based program, event, or fundraiser is unique to each museum: is it connected to the folklore of the site, do the funds ghost events bring in make it difficult to say no, or do museums consider ghost programming just another trend, like book clubs or farm-to-table? What about museums that actively avoid being "haunted?" Where is the voice of the ghost-hunting community in the dialogue?

ROOM 125: Ban History Mysteries

Sophie Huget, Jennifer DiCola Matos

Every museum has legendary stories, but not all of them are based in fact. Claims as small as why "people were shorter back then" to as large as what those enormous doors in the kitchen were used for, can pose a challenge for those giving and writing tours. How can an historic house address questionable claims? In rewriting the brick-and-mortar tour of the Noah Webster House, staff were greeted with an opportunity to set the record straight. Find out how history mysteries were debunked once and for all, and figure out how to present possibly earth-shattering realizations to devoted interpreters. This session is intended for volunteers, educators, and museum leadership. All are invited to hear about the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society's experience as a case study, and encouraged to question what stories at their organizations have questionable origins.

ROOM 106: Having Faith in the Process: Building Internal and External Trust to Create Organizational Change

Shannon Burke, Beth Burgess, Katie Burton

Explore the importance of building trust to create organizational change through the lens of the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's reinterpretation. Through considerations of 'lessons learned,' we will discuss how to build confidence and prompt participants to think of ways to strengthen trust between colleagues.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jeff Belanger

Jeff Belanger is the author of more than a dozen books on folklore and legends. Some of his titles include: *The World's Most Haunted Places*, *Who's Haunting the White House?*, and *Weird Massachusetts*. He's the Emmy-nominated host, writer, and producer of the New England Legends series on PBS, and the host of the popular weekly podcast of the same name. He's helped produce over 200 hours of prime-time television for networks such as Travel Channel, History Channel, and Discovery.

Shannon Burke

Shannon Burke is the Director of Education and Visitor Services at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. She develops and implements public and school programs, manages staff training, and leads interpretive planning: connecting history and contemporary relevancy through programs and events that reach diverse audiences. She also led the project team on the reinterpretation of the Stowe House. She has a Certificate of Museum Studies from Tufts and a B.F.A. from the Art Institute of Boston.

Beth Burgess

Beth Burgess is the Collections Manager at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. She is responsible for all historic collections, buildings, and landscape management. Most recently Burgess coordinated research and collections needs associated with the Stowe House interior renovation just completed, and coordinated a renovation of library/archives storage completed in 2010. She manages collections documentation and care and public access to all collections. She has a B.A. from University of Connecticut in History.

Katie Burton

Katie Burton is the Program Coordinator for School Programs & Student Stowe Prize Specialist at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. She is responsible for developing and presenting school programs (elementary through college); interpretive staff training; and writing workshops. Her programming focuses on empowering future activists, creating meaningful community relationships, and inspiring positive change. Burton holds a Ph.D. in English from Lehigh University and an M.A. and B.A., both in English, from the University of Connecticut.

Stacey Danielson

Stacey Danielson, Museum Consultant, specializes in collections and exhibit projects for small history organizations. She is a graduate of Ohio University and New York School of Interior Design where she focused on historic preservation and interiors, and American decorative arts. Currently she is serving on the Boards of CLHO and Westport Historical Society/WHS. As the primary StEPs-CT rep for WHS in Class II, she spearheaded priority board governance projects including a strategic plan.

Joanie DiMartino

Joanie DiMartino is a museum consultant and director of the Smith-Harris House in Niantic, CT. Her background is in the woman suffrage movement, and she serves as the CT representative for the National Votes for Women Trail, a project managed by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites. She also participates on the CT-National History Day Advisory Council, and has held positions at Mystic Seaport and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Mary Dunne

Mary Dunne is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. In addition, she administers a variety of historic preservation grant funding to municipalities and non-profits. Prior to beginning her career with State Historic Preservation Office in 2007, she was Executive Director of the Manchester Historical Society and Preservation Services Officer for the New Haven Preservation Trust. Mary earned a Master of Arts degree in Preservation Studies from Boston University in 2000.

Leslie Evans

Leslie Evans is the Director of the Avery-Copp House Museum in Groton, CT. Having spent over twenty years immersed in the museum world, she is passionate about historic preservation, and is an independent historian with a focus on the domestic life of 18th and 19th century New England. Leslie holds a M.A. in Education from Smith College, and enjoys teaching about the past through living history and hands-on programming. She is co-author of *Ghosts of Groton Bank*, owner of Liberty Tea historic baked goods, and serves on several boards as a local history preservation advocate.

Tasha Caswell

Tasha Caswell is a Research & Collections Associate at the Connecticut Historical Society, where she processes graphics collections, handles incoming and outgoing loans, and answers research questions. She earned a Master of Information Studies from the University of Toronto and a Master of Arts in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management from Ryerson University and George Eastman House.

Sophie Huget

Sophie Huget is the Public Programs Manager for the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society. She organizes and plans programs like The Connecticut Spelling Bee, West Hartford Hauntings, and Tavern Night dinners. She is also the Curatorial Assistant for the Mark Twain House & Museum. Previously, she worked in various departments at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. She has a B.A. in Art History from the University of Maryland.

Jodie Mozdzer Gil

Jodie Mozdzer Gil is an assistant professor of journalism at Southern Connecticut State University. Before teaching, she worked as a daily news reporter for the Hartford Courant, the Waterbury Republican-American and the Valley Independent Sentinel, a digital news outlet she helped launch in 2009. Gil teaches reporting and technology classes at Southern, and studies how people learn using digital tools.

Jamal Jimerson

Jamal Jimerson, Founder/Executive Director of the Minority Inclusion Project Inc. has worked in public service across Connecticut. Jamal is a former AmeriCorps ambassador working in public, charter, and independent schools. Driven by a desire to mobilize youth, families, and communities of color, Jamal was mentored into leadership for community-based nonprofit organizations across Connecticut, including Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford.

Jamal speaks on nonprofit diversity, inclusion, equity, and leadership at colleges and universities in the tristate area, primarily working with adult learners and students of color about nonprofit career pathways, community leadership, and social entrepreneurship. Known for an uncanny ability to be "real" in his facilitation, presentation, and interpersonal communication style, Jamal leverages his personal background, professional experiences, and academic credentials as a resource for emerging leaders, professionals of color, and nonprofit organizations