

## SHPO Statewide Conference - May 16, 2018

The SHPO is thrilled to announce our keynote speaker!

Carla Bruni is the Associate for Engagement at PlaceEconomics, specializing in community outreach and assessing the qualitative contributions of cultural heritage. Bruni has published numerous articles, led workshops, and created blogs focused on the changing face of historic preservation, the need for increased diversity across the movement, and the ways in which cultural resources are crucial to our environmental and social well-being. Her work with housing organizations and community groups has culminated in the creation of local history and home maintenance publications, hands-on workshops, and several historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bruni has extensive experience working on environmental initiatives with a variety of organizations in and around Chicago, and has worked with the U.S. EPA to create Environmental Justice reports and Community Involvement plans. For over a decade, she has also been a part of hands-on disaster relief projects, most frequently in New Orleans, which she would continue to rebuild even if the water was up to her neck. Bruni holds an MS in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA from Loyola University Chicago in English. For fun, she sits on development corporation boards, forges medieval tools, and runs free repair clinics.

<http://www.placeeconomics.com/about-us/>



Check out our Facebook and Twitter feeds for more conference updates!  
**#CTSHPO2018 #CTsharedstewardship**

## SHPO Milestones

If you have been following along with our monthly newsletters, this face will look familiar. Morgan Bengel, who served as one of our stalwart interns last summer, has joined the SHPO team as the new Museum Assistant at Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine.

Morgan is originally from Michigan, where she also received her undergraduate degree in History from the



University of Michigan. Currently, Morgan is finishing her last semester at Central Connecticut State University in pursuit of a Public History Master's Degree. Morgan has worked in a number of museums, most recently the New Britain Museum of American Art as a studio educator. She is excited to help re-open the Museum and engage visitor's in its fascinating history!

Welcome back, Morgan!

Museum Curator Kaz Kozlowski, whose name has been synonymous with the Prudence Crandall Museum for thirty-five years, retired on January 31. During her time at the museum, she has worked as a staunch advocate not only for the museum, but for the importance of preserving and sharing the stories of both Prudence Crandall and Sarah Harris. By engaging with surrounding towns and civic organizations, Kaz built a strong support system that kept the museum relevant, active, and responsive to community needs. Her work with the Friends of Prudence Crandall resulted in thirty consecutive "Prudence Crandall Days" with exhibitors, live music, and birthday cake for Connecticut's State Heroine; a model Docent training program; as well as a Junior Docent program that began in 2013 created to give kids ages 12 to 18 a real-world work experience in a museum. In the words of the Official Citation from the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut presented to Kaz by State Representative Doug Dubitsky, "Your kindness and perseverance have had an indelible and positive impact and the Museum has benefitted greatly due to your relentless commitment."



We will miss you!

Photo: Liz Shapiro, Director of Operations, Preservation & Museums (l) and Kaz Kozlowski (r)

## The SHPO honors Black History Month



The Connecticut Freedom Trail committee remains committed to promoting the history of the over 130 sites on the CT Freedom Trail. Established in 1995 by the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Freedom Trail documents and designates sites that embody the struggle for freedom and human dignity, and celebrate African American communities.

In 2018, the Freedom Trail Committee will focus on educating school-age students with the launch of *Bringing the Connecticut Freedom Trail to Life through the Arts*. The program is a dynamic, arts-integrated program for Connecticut public schools that will introduce the Connecticut Freedom Trail to students and their families. The program supports Common Core State Standards for education and the Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks

Standards, and will engage students through multiple modes of artistic expression. The State Historic Preservation Office and the Connecticut Office of the Arts, in partnership with historic museums across state provides an easy to use template that has demonstrated positive outcomes, and explores an exciting alternative to teaching history using art.

Also, stay tuned for the launch of a new CT Freedom Trail website.

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## SHPO Out and About - APT Northeast

More than 200 preservation professionals, including SHPO staff, gathered at the New Haven Lawn Club on Friday, February 1st for "Preservation in a Campus Environment," a day-long symposium sponsored by the Association for Preservation Technology's Northeast chapter. Topics ranged from retaining and restoring the intentionally aged character of James Gamble Rogers' Collegiate Gothic buildings at Yale University, to preserving the Brutalist architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, to using GIS technology to manage and maintain New York's Green-Wood Cemetery. Laura Cruickshank, associate vice-president for master planning, design, and construction at the University of Connecticut, delivered the keynote address, much of which focused on UConn Hartford, a project that incorporated a portion of the c. 1920 Hartford Times building into the university's downtown campus.



Photo: Jenny Scofield, SHPO National Register Coordinator (l) and Sara Nelson, Chair, Historic Preservation Council (r)

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## A Connecticut Love (Hi)Story



With Valentine's Day around the corner, we share a historic story of star-crossed lovers from Tolland. Daniel Benton built his home (pictured) in Tolland in 1720 and it was occupied by six generations of his family for more than 200 years. As many young men responded to the call for service during the Revolutionary War, Daniel's grandson, Elisha Benton, was no exception. Before enlisting, he had fallen in love with Jemima Barrows. Their families did

not approve of the relationship, but Elisha believed that when he returned from the war everything would work out and they promised themselves to each other. Unfortunately, he was taken captive by the British and held on a prison ship where he contracted smallpox. As part of a prisoner exchange he was allowed to return to the homestead to be reunited with his true love. Upon his return, Elisha was quarantined in the house and, despite knowing the risks, was cared for by Jemima until he passed away. Jemima contracted the disease and followed Elisha in death shortly afterwards. For her sacrifice, the Benton family buried her on the property with Elisha. Today, the homestead and their

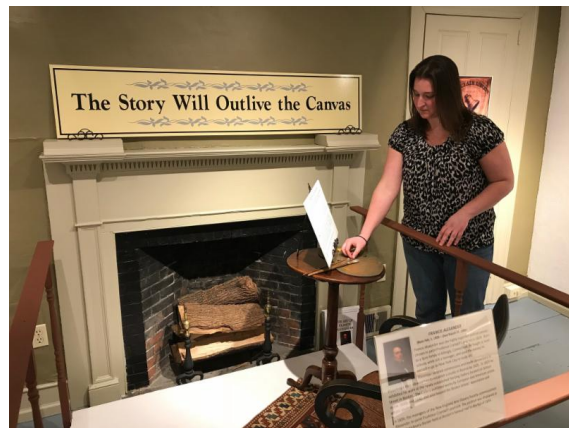


## News from the Museums



### Prudence Crandall Museum

Curator Kaz Kozlowski has been working with Crandall Museum volunteer and docent Kendall Smith on a new exhibit that will be ready for the upcoming season. The exhibit highlights the portrait of Prudence Crandall painted by Boston artist Francis Alexander in the spring of 1834, and how it symbolizes the expanding role women played in the Women's Anti-Slavery and Women's Rights Movements in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.



The exhibit features numerous artifacts from the museum's collection that reflect the exhibit's theme. Objects on display will include: an 1834 print of Boston's Tremont House, a building Prudence would have seen when she traveled to Boston; an autograph by English abolitionist George Thompson whose presence ignited the 1835 Boston Riot; and period Anti-Slavery pamphlets.

Though almost two hundred years have passed since the portrait was painted, William Lloyd Garrison's observations on it still ring true, "The story of her persecution will outlive the canvas."

### Eric Sloane Museum

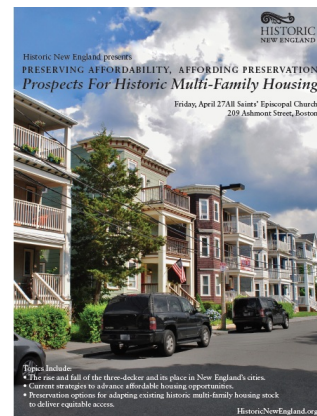
Barbara Russ and Director of Operations Liz Shapiro on the Road! On Monday January 29, Barb and Liz were fortunate to spend the day with Stephanie Plunkett, Head

Curator and Deputy Director and Rich Bradway, Director of Digital Engagement and Learning, at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. "The Norman Rockwell Museum and the Eric Sloane Museum have quite a bit in common," said Ms. Shapiro. "Both preserve and share the stories of talented men who were artists and illustrators, and whose work mirrored a uniquely American way of life." Topics discussed during the visit included digital strategies for sharing information and creating access to the museum.



## Upcoming Events

**Historic New England** is hosting a new conference, [\*Preserving Affordability, Affording Preservation – Prospects for Historic Multi-family Housing\*](#), on Friday, April 27, 2018, at the landmark All Saints' Episcopal Church, 209 Ashmont Street, Boston, Mass. The program convenes leading advocates in affordable housing and historic preservation to examine the past, present, and future of our region's historic multi-family housing.



## 2018 Third Thursdays Winter Schedule



12:00 PM– 12:45 PM, 231 Capitol Ave.  
Connecticut State Library  
Memorial Hall, Hartford CT, 06106

### February 15, 2018

Miasa Tisdale, President of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community will give a talk on the *Historic Freeman Houses of Little Liberia*.

### March 15, 2018

Mary Mohoney Ph.D. Candidate in History at the University of Connecticut, will give a talk on *Prescribing from the Bookshelf" Louise Sweet and Connecticut's role in the Library War Service*.

[Click here for more information](#)

