



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Stanley-Whitman House Announces Engaging Series on Historical Narratives**

*Three educational programs to be presented in collaboration with the Witness Stones Project*

FARMINGTON, CT – Stanley-Whitman House, a ca. 1720 National Historic Landmark located in the historic village of Farmington, is pleased to present **Rediscovering Colonial Farmington's History of Slavery**, an engaging series of three programs in collaboration with the Witness Stones Project.

The series is part of Stanley-Whitman House's **Conversation Club** program; taking place **May 16, June 1, and June 13, 2024**, the presentations aim to promote an understanding of diverse narratives through inclusive storytelling and the exploration of Connecticut's history of slavery. The programs are free and in-person; early registration is recommended as space is limited.

Visit [s-wh.org/conversation-club](https://s-wh.org/conversation-club).

Inspired by the rich tradition of the original Conversation Club, established in 1818, the Museum's monthly gathering offers a dynamic platform for engaging dialogue. Through re-examining the past, the program fosters meaningful discussions that inspire learning, reflection, and a shared vision for the future. This series is part of a special collaboration with the [Witness Stones Project](#), aimed at engaging community members—especially educators, local historians, researchers, and genealogists—in recognizing and honoring the lives of enslaved individuals who helped build our communities.

Topics in the series are as follows:

- **Unlocking Untold Histories: Inclusive Storytelling with John Mills**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2024 / 4 to 5 p.m.**

John Mills brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to amplifying marginalized voices. His recent presentation, "Representing the Declaration: Centering Black and Brown Narratives," delivered at the Central Connecticut State University 250th Conference, underscores his dedication to inclusive storytelling.

Join us as John delves into the intricacies of storytelling within colonial heritage sites and explores avenues for greater inclusivity. Reserve a spot:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/809038625307>

- **Introduction to the History of Slavery in CT with Liz Lightfoot**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2024 / 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Liz Lightfoot will lead a two-hour workshop that delves into the history of slavery in Connecticut, taking participants through an introduction and then a discussion of the five themes developed by Dennis Culliton, Founder of Witness Stones Project (dehumanization, treatment of enslaved, paternalism, economics of slavery, and

agency and resistance). Participants will have the opportunity to explore and interpret a museum document related to the enslavement of Pharaoh/Pharo/Robin by enslaver John Stanley as evidenced by a bill of sale, a primary source from the archives of Stanley-Whitman House. Lightfoot has some thought- and question-provoking details for attendees to consider. Reserve a spot:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/897579954807>

- **Rediscovering Hidden Narratives: Embracing Inclusive Storytelling with Pat Wilson Pheanious / Thursday, June 13, 2024 / 7 to 9 p.m.**

Pat Wilson Pheanious will guide attendees through forgotten narratives, emphasizing the importance of including every voice in historical discourse. Just as we strive to ensure inclusivity in sharing the challenging history of enslavement, Pat will guide us in fostering a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and heard.

Reserve a spot: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/897574327977>

Through these educational programs, Stanley-Whitman House seeks to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our shared history, promoting dialogue and learning among all age groups. As part of the Museum's commitment to accessibility, these programs are offered free of charge, though donations are graciously accepted.

***The museum thanks Sherra Palmer and David Palmer (1942-2024) for their generous support of these programs.***

Located in the heart of the historic village of Farmington, Stanley-Whitman House stands as the town's first museum, offering insights into early colonial life. Beyond traditional exhibits, our museum provides immersive experiences through dynamic programs, events, classes, and hands-on exploration opportunities, including living history demonstrations, publications, exhibits, a library, an archive, and a permanent collection. Our centerpiece is a circa 1720 National Historic Landmark house with period antiques, offering a glimpse into colonial Connecticut life. Surrounding the house, visitors can stroll through period-raised bed gardens, explore an apple orchard, and admire heritage stone walls, immersing themselves in the past. Since 1935, Stanley-Whitman House has operated under the auspices of the Farmington Village Green and Library Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the rich history and culture of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-Century Farmington, Connecticut. Learn more at <https://s-wh.org/>.

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