

# Connecticut Gravestone Symposium

**Sat. April 8<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**9 am – 4 pm**

**East Hartford South Senior Center  
70 Canterbury St., East Hartford 06118**

**Presented by  
Connecticut Gravestone Network**

**Hosted by  
Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc.  
East Hartford**

## **Presentations:**

**9:30 am** “CGN and saving our old burying grounds – learn and protect them NOW”

CGN director Ruthie Brown: Greeting to new members. Yes change is coming; a quick look at some threatening issues and having a voice to protect state history plus upcoming program ideas.

**10:45 am** “Old Stone Church Burial Ground: East Lyme beginnings that reach beyond Connecticut”

Researcher and Historian Elizabeth Hall Kuchta became involved with cemeteries and gravestones when the Niantic Community Church took over care of the town’s oldest burying ground and she has since been immersed in the history of its people and it is documentation of old stones. Liz is also a member of the East Lyme Historical Society and was appointed East Lyme Town Historian in 2011.

**about 11:45 – 12:45 is Lunch Break**  
**We provide sandwiches & beverages for a donation**

**1:00 pm** “Connecticut’s Early Portland Quarry History and Early Stone Carvers.”

Alison Guinness used her degree in history and science from the University of Connecticut and Wesleyan University to preserve the history of the famous Brownstone Quarry in Portland. Since the earliest days, brownstone from Portland, CT has been used to leave monuments to ourselves and our progress. This stone has been used for grave markers, statues, and buildings all over New England and as far away as San Francisco. Alison has a long interest in brownstone. She is partially responsible for its designation as a National Historic Landmark and has curated exhibits at the Connecticut River Museum.

**2:15 pm** “What lies beneath the Green Grass and Parking Lots in your city?”

It is a pleasure to have with us this year retired State Archaeologist of Connecticut Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni who for years has worked with us and supported our efforts to protect history. Dr. Bellantoni will be sharing the details of two incidents of burials rediscovered within recent years, both being in the city of New Haven. Skeletons discovered when an historic old tree was uprooted on the green; and burials that were unearthed during construction at Yale Hospital. CGN members were involved in the research on this last one and are planning to publish a book about it in the near future.

**Visit with Exhibitors - Bring your questions - Learn how to preserve your history**

**Working to Save Our History - at its Earliest Tangible Places.**

**Admission \$10 for general public - Pay at the door**

\$5 for CGN members

CGN dues - \$10 payable at the door.

**For more information contact Ruthie**

at [ctgravelady@cox.net](mailto:ctgravelady@cox.net)

Or call 860-643-5652

Directions: Senior Center is on the East Hartford Glastonbury town line,  
Maple Ave. -off Route 2 E - E bound use exit 5c –turn left at the end of exit and proceed down Maple St.;  
second left is Handel Road and proceed to second right onto Canterbury Street and Senior Center is at the end of Street.  
West bound on Route 2 there is no westbound 5c exit - use 5 b and reverse direction by turning left (in front of Wendy’s)  
and left at light to get back up on hwy and use exit 5c