Community Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

Volunteer Inconiglios’ fine art has been recognized in regional and national exhibitions in the U.S. and Europe. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Muscat University, where he was an undergraduate fellow. After completing graduate studies with artist Richard Ansadozicz, he was artist-in-residence at the Dayton Art Institute.

Inconiglios’ solo exhibition in New York was held in SoHo in 1972. He was a featured artist at “10 Downtown” in the 1970s. Noted by Barbara Rose in New York magazine, reviewed in Art Forum and seen in the New York Times, his work is in private and public collections, including the Whitney, Bank, The Norton Simon Collection and AT&T.

Throughout his career, Mr. Inconiglios has produced work in a broad range of mediums. Recent exhibitions include “Paintings from the Donut Series” and a show of major collage works, “The Gansevoort Girls.”

Mr. Inconiglios has had a parallel career in creative design and communications. He is president of Applet International, a creative consultancy firm whose clients have included The Nielsen Company and Estée Lauder Companies. He served as president and COO of Bobbin Communications. He is president of Apptex International, a creative & Fashion magazine and the creator of several publications for Women’s Wear Daily.

Larry Power led the highly successful, award-winning, New York Public City Relations Firm McGrath Power Associates for more than 30 years, working with companies including American Express, Ben & Jerry’s, Newsweek, the Walt Disney Company, Peninsular Floor Divisions, and Reebok, and establishing a subsidiary firm, McGrath Power West, in Silicon Valley to provide on-site support for tech clients across the Bay Area.

While in New York, Mr. Power was an active member of the Public Relations Society of America, and served on the Board of The Theatre Wing of The Museum of the City of New York, and he mentored students living in underprivileged areas.

A resident of Northwest Connecticut for more than 40 years, Mr. Power served as a resident of The Shaw and the Board of Directors for 17 years, revitalizing the organization and reshaping its vision. He created an endowment, and through state and federal grants and local funders, worked to preserve more than 3,000 acres through direct purchases, easements and gifts, including working with the Salisbury Land Trust to preserve multicoagulated Twin Oaks Field.

Mr. Power served on the Sharon Planning & Zoning Board, where he was instrumental in producing a town plan for growth and development. He currently serves on the vestry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in America, New York.

Barbara Spiegel served as the executive director of The Preservation Project for more than two decades, tirelessly advocating for survivors of domestic personal abuse. Prior to that, she practiced law, taught at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, and led outdoor adventure programming at Minnesota Outward Bound and the Connecticut Wilderness School.

Ms. Spiegel was awarded the 2018 Connecticut League Against Poverty Social Action Award and the Litchfield County Liberty Bell Award. She was named Woman of the Year by both the Register Citizen and the United Way.

Ms. Spiegel is a past president of the Torrington Rotary and led a Rotary Group Study Exchange to Brazil. She currently serves as president of the Norfolk Library Board of Trustees and is an Emergency Medical Receiver with the Norfolk Volunteer Ambulance. She holds a BA in Psychology, an MA in Counseling, and a JD.

Cynthia Conklin: A Legacy

When her parents passed away, Cynthia opened her home to travelers as a bed and breakfast. She planted beautiful gardens and baked countless loaves of bread and rituals of cookies for friends and guests — and cared for stray cats, which she would carefully clean about, but did not and often prepared salmon balls for as a treat.

Just before her death, Cynthia fulfilled a life-long goal of gathering her family for a week-long reunion in Maine. Once home in Sharon, Cynthia passed away. But true to her spirit and in keeping with her work, she was not done caring for others.

Through a bequest in her will, Cynthia Conklin’s love for Connecticut and the world of animal welfare resulted in the establishment of the Cynthia Conklin & Family Fund For Pets in Need. The Fund continues her life’s work and enhances her legacy of caring for others through grants that support the work of nonprofits that serve animal welfare and alleviate suffering.

Donate to the Dorothy Conklin & Family Fund For Pets in Need at www.northwestcf.org/donate

Also online...

Nonprofits Gather for Educational Conference

Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation present nonprofit conference: Institute for Trustees. For more information and registration, please visit our website.

LEAP 2018 is Underway

The 2018 LEAP Board of Wave Hill, New York’s 28 acre world-class public garden, education and cultural center. He is also active in his home communities of Falls Village, CT and the Meatpacking District in New York City.

LEAP 2018 is an intense seven-week program designed to build skills in all areas of nonprofit leadership. Presented by Danosky & Associates, LLC, LEAP builds a foundation of skills and awareness for nonprofit professionals. Learn more at www.northwestcf.org/leap

Chuck Loring Comes to the Northwest Corner

Chuck Loring is the Cornell University’s nation’s top authorities on board governance and board fundraising.

Learn more at www.northwestcf.org/leap

The Women & Girls Fund Hosts Comic Relief Luncheon Fundraiser Velya Janz-Urban, teacher, author, former Brazilian dairy farm owner, and expert on New England’s colonial women joins the Women & Girls Fund for a humor-filled luncheon and fundraiser.

Learn more at www.northwestcf.org/womenandgirls

Nonprofits Awarded Spring Grants

The Community Foundation has awarded 21 area nonprofits more than $100,000 during its spring discretionary grant cycles.

Read more at www.northwestcf.org/spring

Cornwall Conservation Trust Protects Local Woods and Wildlife

Just as the land echoes the history of Cornwall—the colonial farmers who worked with oxen and steel in the umbra of magical views—it too reflects the present and future of Cornwall’s eclectic mix of weekenders, part-time residents from New York City, and families who can trace their heritage back hundreds of years.

More than woods, hills and rocky places, the 46.3 square miles of historic houses, fields and farms of Cornwall are home for generations of people, plants and animals, then, now, and far into the future. The Cornwall Conservation Trust (CCT) intends to protect that home.

Keeping Cornwall, Cornwall — Growing a Love for Natural Places

CCT was formed in 1987 by a small group of forward-thinking citizens who gathered together in the evenings to discuss immediate needs and long-term goals for the town. They wanted to preserve the rural nature and the tight-knit community of Cornwall. Through these evening discussions, they established the Cornwall Association, the Cornwall Chronicle and CCT.

Long-time Cornwall resident Constance Gloeckner was known for her love of Cornwall. Community members were saddened when she passed away unexpectedly and surprised when they learned she had left a bequest to CCT that included 35 acres of land and the financial resources to manage it. That single act of kindness set CCT and the town of Cornwall well on their way to reaching their goals.

Cynthia Conklin: A Legacy of Nurturing, Nourishment and Boundless Care of Others

A longtime nurse, Cynthia Conklin was well known as a caregiver for the elderly and a nurturer to all who crossed her path. Driven at a young age to care for the sick and the vulnerable, she attended Dana Hall School in Massachusetts, Sweet Briar College in Virginia and the University of New Hampshire earning a Master of Science degree in nursing.

For many years, she specialized in maternity care at White Plains Hospital in N.Y., where she was in the position of senior nurse. When her parents began finding it difficult to live independently, she moved into their home in Sharon to care for them, and soon realized that several elderly aunts who lived nearby needed caring for as well. She looked after all of them and continued caring for others as a part-time nurse at Sharon Hospital.

She took great pleasure in buying gifts for her grandchildren and nephews. She was known for hiding gifts throughout her house and in her yard, sending the children on treasure hunts to find them with rhyming clues. She made brownies for the post office Connecticut crossroads community center and provided lunch for children who showed up to her house. They always knew what to expect at the coffee and muffins to snow plow workers.

“ There was no end to her generosity in every way of her time, of herself, she was always thinking about others,” said Cynthia Casner-in-law Carol Pearson.

Cynthia Conklin & Family Fund For Pets in Need works to allocate animal suffering by supporting nonprofits that serve animal welfare, and by providing support for emergency medical care for sick, injured and neglected animals. Caring for so many didn’t keep Cynthia from embracing the Sharon community. She was involved in several local nonprofits, volunteering her time and talents to serve on numerous committees. She served on the Board of the Sharon Historical Society & Museum, the Sharon Women’s Club, and the Sharon Housing Authority.

“ She had a way of understanding other people’s problems. She enjoyed helping people,” said Cynthia’s brother, Hank Conklin.
Donors Get Kids Back in the Saddle

A drive up already quiet Tophet Rd. in Roxbury yields peaceful pastoral views that have remained unchanged for hundreds of years, but glance from the hills and you might enjoy a different sight—a field abounding with ponies trotting along with little riders, weaving in and out of obstacles, standing in their stumps waiting for colorful rings—signing in American Sign Language: red, blue, and yellow.

You have stumbled upon Little Britches Therapeutic Riding, where more than 60 children with conditions including Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and complications from Microcephaly come to build strength, balance, and confidence all while having fun in the outdoors with their favorite pony.

Little Britches was developed by Northwest Corner native Peg Sweeney almost 40 years ago. She imagined a cutting edge program that combined children's love of horses with their need for therapeutic treatment, a program that would get children with special needs outside and make their therapies more enjoyable.

Peg completed training in therapeutic riding and convened friend Betty Lou McCollin to let her use her farm. It wasn’t long before Peg began receiving calls from teachers, doctors and nurses recommending children they felt would benefit from her unique program—a program that got children off of wheelchairs and off sofas and onto a pony in the great outdoors of Litchfield County.

“Those early students inspired a lot of what we do now,” said Stuart Daly, Little Britches Executive Director and riding instructor, that magic has many parts. For children with Attention Deficit/Hyper Attention Disorders just the presence of the ponies can reduce anxiety. For those with physical disabilities, such as low-muscle tone and paraplegia, a pony mimics the gait of human walking, building strength and muscle memory.

For these reasons, occupational therapists guide riding sessions, which depending on the needs of the rider, may include riding with their arms up and out or standing in their stirrups to improve balance and build core muscles, or reaching for colorful rings while balancing, which promotes motor planning, coordination, and improves color-recognition.

Little Britches Therapeutic Riding in American Sign Language to better communicate with riders who often have speech delays due to low-muscle tone. Volunteers walk alongside riders, instructors and therapists adding a sense of safety and proving positive social interactions.

Growing Stronger in the Northwestern Corner

After many years of successful therapies and happy riders, Little Britches began operating a second location—now the organization’s main location—at Stuart’s Farm family in Roxbury, where staff, volunteers and six well-loved ponies work with growing numbers of children from Bethel, Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, Torrington, Washington and several other Connecticut towns.

“Children do not sit on waiting lists,” said Stuart. “We find a way to fit them in.”

“The help that we get from the Community Foundation is immeasurable,” said Stuart Daly, Little Britches Therapeutic Riding Vice President.

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“Our program is very physical and very interactive,” said Alice. “Our riders work hard on their individual goals, but for them, at the end of the day, they just had a great time outside riding their pony.”

“We have come to the Community Foundation for various needs over the years,” said Stuart—grants for therapist training, pony rentals and subsidized fees for little riders.

“The help that we have received from the Community Foundation is immeasurable. Little Britches has always been a community effort. The Community Foundation has been part of that effort for more than 15 years.”

View photos of Little Britches Therapeutic Riding at www.northwestcf.org/littlebritches

Grants in Support of Therapeutic Riding

Margaret C. Topper Fund — $1,000 in support of fundraising efforts

Carlton D. Fyler and Jenny R. Fyler Fund — $12,088 in support of therapeutic riding lessons for children and training for occupational therapists

Marion Wm. & Alice Edwards Fund — $3,000 in support of therapeutic riding lessons

Seth Tracy Memorial Fund — $100 in support of therapeutic riding lessons

Donors, Volunteers Provide Digital Books for the Visually Impaired

The all-volunteer Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Handicapped (CVSBH) prepare fiction non-fiction and children’s books in a digital format for the more than 400 visually impaired residents of Litchfield County and 7,000 throughout the state.

Established in 1974 by the late Margaret Reevewalt as a local program to record books for the blind in the town of Litchfield, CVSBH receives requests from the Connecticut Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for reading materials throughout the Northwest Corner and across Connecticut.

A grant from the Khursheed Bhumgara Fund and the Connecticut Community Philanthropy Fund provided for the digitization of those books, which will be made available to the local visually impaired community free of charge through the Connecticut Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Howard Goldstein reads, with a playback device from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Cornwall Conservation Trust

In the same spirit of Constance’s altruism, most of the land under the protection of CCT was donated by local families who wanted to keep their land the way it has always been. Some land was given for the purpose of keeping it undeveloped and available for others to enjoy for recreation. Some was given to preserve farm land, and is leased by CCT to local farmers at a very low fee per the land donors’ wishes. Some preserve flora and fauna habitat.

In their efforts to keep Cornwall’s natural places, CCT works to ensure a balance between conservation and development.

“Conservation and development are not exclusive,” says Hector Frumholtz, former CCT President. “They can go together. It’s not conservation at any cost or development at any cost. It’s smart conservation and smart economic development.”

Preservation is Good Business

For CCT and the town of Cornwall, smart development means preserving land in those ways that are beneficial to everyone—supporting local farming, ensuring that preserved land is open to everyone to enjoy, and providing natural open spaces for Cornwall’s first residents, thousands of species of plants, animals and birds.

CCT preserves about 200 acres of farmland that maps locally grown produce as well as that supports nearby equestrian and organic camps.

Seven properties are open to residents and visitors for hiking, encouraging tourists to explore the quaint community and rural areas through trails and scenic vistas.

Many of the forested acres are left untouched for the benefit of local wildlife. CCT considers a variety of habitats directly aligned with priorities, including the recent purchase of Trinity Forest, a 300 acre preserve directly aligned with state forest, which created 1,000 acres of unfortressed forest habitat.

“Public access is an important aspect of our properties,” said Barton Jones, CCT President.

“At the same time, if we are given a property, we are responsible for it—forever—to keep it in the condition it was when it was given to us.”

CCT’s funds, invested with the Community Foundation, help maintain the properties under their care as they were meant to be maintained, as well as to accrue new properties, and create recreational areas.

Funds with the Community Foundation

CCT established its first fund with the Community Foundation in 2005. Since then, CCT’s funds and their partnership with the Community Foundation have grown to more than 20 funds.

“We are in the land preservation business, not the financial business,” said Hector.

“We appreciate the importance of professional long-term investing—having a local, like minded organization watch over our funds.

“We were looking for a neutral, local organization that had the same view of the world that we did—coupled with the knowledge that the Community Foundation allows us to have a more diversified portfolio and have access to a greater number of investments. They can be a true advisor to us and the Community Foundation is a nice home for us.”

Donate to the Cornwall Conservation Trust at www.northwestcf.org/conservationtrust

Cornwall Conservation Trust Inspiries Students

In 2017, CCT was awarded a grant from the Ruth and Robert Cron Endowment Fund for 6 high school interns to learn about environmental stewardship through trail creation, trail blazing, boundary marking, and property inspections.

“Students leave us with a better understanding of, and appreciation for land trust conservation work and our beautiful area,” said Barton Jones, CCT president.

Life-long Torrington Resident Helps Hotchkiss-Fyler House Enchant Visitors

The Hotchkiss-Fyler House of Torrington is a favorite for local and visitors alike. The lovingly restored late Victorian era home belonged to Orsamus R. Fyler, his wife, Bertha, and their daughter and son-in-law, Gertrude and Edward Hotchkiss.

The home, bequeathed to the historical society by Gertrude Hotchkiss, is listed by Fodor’s New England as “one of the better house museums in Connecticut.”

The Fund was established by life-long Torrington resident and former Torrington Historical Society Board Member Lucy Tuttle Fritze as a flexible resource to support the unanticipated needs of local nonprofits, especially those in her beloved home town of Torrington.

The grant enabled the Torrington Historical Society to restore hand painted wall murals, custom match the wallpaper and install historically accurate carpeting, upholstery and window treatments, restoring a Torrington treasure.

Be What’s Possible

You’ve been giving characteristically for years—perhaps gifts of cash, the valuable gift of your time or both. Your gifts large and small have an immediately positive impact on your community.

But, did you know that your gifts can continue to create positive change forever? With a gift of $10,000 or more, or a bequest of $50,000 or more, you can establish an endowed fund that never stops caring for the people, animals, and causes that create positive change in your community.

Imagine a savings account that supports your favorite cause or nonprofit in your name, forever. You can do just that with an endowed fund at the Community Foundation.

For more information, contact Bradford Hoar, VP of Philanthropic Services at bhoar@northwestcf.org or (860) 626-1245.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR FAVORITE FUND ONLINE AT northwestcf.org

Donate to the Cornwall Conservation Trust

Johan Vissers of the Cornwall Conservation Trust supervised interns as they worked to clear trails on the Cooey Farm Reserve.

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Peg completed training in therapeutic riding and convinced friend Betty Lou McColgan to let her use her farm. It wasn’t long before Peg began receiving calls from teachers, doctors and nurses recommending children they felt would benefit most from her one-of-a-kind program – a program that got children off of wheelchairs and on the backs of ponies and onto a pony in the great outdoors of Litchfield County.

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For these reasons, occupational therapists guide riding sessions, which depending on the needs of the rider, may include riding with their arms up and out or standing in their stirrups to improve balance and build core muscles, or reaching for cobwebs while balancing, which promotes motor planning, coordination, and improves color-recognition.

Microchips allow us to communicate to the American Sign Language to better communicate with riders who often have speech delays due to low-muscle tone. Volunteers watch riders, instructors and therapists adding a sense of safety and proving positive social interactions.

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Reparis in progress at the Gertrude Hotchkiss bedroom of The Hotchkiss-Fyler House

You have stumbled upon this legendary Victorian-era home nestled in a 200-acre farm on which the geese still roam free, the pasture is held in common, and the riders of the future may find their riders.

The Hotchkiss-Fyler House of Torrington is a favorite for locals and visitors alike. The lovingly restored late Victorian era home belonged to Orsamus R. Fyler and his wife, Mary. The Torrington Historical Society received a grant from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development to restore the bedroom, but needed a matching grant to complete the funding process, a grant that could not have been a better fit for the Lucia Tuttle Fritze Fund.

The fund was established by life-long Torrington resident and former Torrington Historical Society Board Member Lucia Tuttle Fritze as a flexible resource to support the unanticipated needs of local nonprofits, especially those in her beloved home of Torrington.

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The entrance to the Cooley Farm Preserve

With her gift and the gifts of hundreds of others, CCT now cares for more than 2,000 acres of land maintained by 23 funds that support land management, the acquiring of land, conservation, and ecological studies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Questions or comments? Contact theSteward's editor:
Nicole Carlson Easley at neasley@northwestcf.org or 860.626.1245

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