

SPEAKER BIOS

Tom Condon recently retired as deputy editorial page editor, columnist and chief editorial writer of The Hartford Courant, where he focused on issues around land use, planning, transportation, economic development and historic preservation, among others. Tom is a native of New London, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Connecticut School of Law, and is also a Vietnam veteran, having served with U.S. Army Intelligence in the Mekong Delta in 1969-70. After joining The Courant in 1971 he served in a variety of reporting and editing positions, ranging from general assignment reporter to New Haven bureau chief to special projects editor. He was a news columnist for 18 years, and is a longtime student of Hartford past and present.

Tom has won more than 30 journalism and community awards, and on Feb. 17, was inducted into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame. Tom has written three books, and his magazine writing has appeared in Northeast Magazine, Family Life, The Harvard Business Review, Regional Review, The International Herald Tribune and other publications. He and his wife Anne live in West Hartford.

Eugénie L. Birch FAICP, RTPI (hon), is the Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, Department of City and Regional Planning, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. She is the founding co-director of the Penn Institute for Urban Research, and co-editor of Penn Press's The City in the 21st Century series. Dr. Birch's most recent publications include Slums: How Informal Real Estate Markets Work (2016), co-edited with Susan Wachter and Shohana Chattaraj, Global Urbanization (2011), co-edited with Susan Wachter, Women's Health and the World's Cities (2011), co-edited with Afaf Meleis and Susan Wachter, and Neighborhoods and Life Chances, How Place Matters (2011) co-edited with Susan Wachter and Harriet Newberger.

Dr. Birch has served as editor, Journal of the American Planning Association, chair, Planning Accreditation Board, president, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) and the International Planning History Society (IPHS). Her awards include: Lawrence C. Gerken Award in Planning History (SACRPH), Jay Chatterjee Award, Margarita McCoy Award and Distinguished Educator Award (ACSP). Dr. Birch has served as a member of the New York City Planning Commission and of the jury to select the designers for the World Trade Center site. She is currently chair, UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign and president of its special initiative, the General Assembly of Partners toward Habitat III.

Dr. Birch, who lives in New York City, holds a PhD and Master in Urban Planning from Columbia University and an A.B. cum laude in History and Latin American Affairs from Bryn Mawr College.

Michael Kelly is the Executive Director of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the council of governments serving greater Baltimore. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Mike served as General Counsel and Director of Government relations for the organization. From 2011-2015 Mike was the Director of the Opportunity Collaborative, the consortium charged with developing Baltimore's Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. Earlier in his career, Mike practiced law in Towson, Maryland and worked as a case manager at a transitional home for homeless men in Baltimore City.

Mike holds his bachelor's degree from Loyola University and Juris Doctor with a concentration in Public and Governmental Service from the University Of Baltimore School Of Law. Mike is a past President of the Loyola University Alumni Association and previously served on the board of directors of the Mother Seton Academy, a tuition free Catholic middle school in east Baltimore.

Jane Baird joined Connecticut Children's Medical Center in 2002 and currently serves as Senior Director of Government Relations. She is the medical center's primary liaison to legislative and regulatory officials at the federal, state and local level. She facilitates the involvement of clinical leaders and other subject matter experts from Connecticut Children's internal staff in the legislative process and communicates the Medical Center's advocacy priorities, including Medicaid, injury prevention and national health reform, to key external audiences and community partners.

She has served on the Board of Directors at Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance in Hartford since 2004 and was appointed Chair in 2011. Jane holds a Master of Public Administration Degree from Indiana University and a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Grinnell College.

Michael Morand has lived in New Haven since August 1983, where he makes a home with Wm. Frank Mitchell, director of the Amistad Center for Arts and Culture at the Wadsworth Atheneum. He is currently deputy chief communications officer of Yale University and has served Yale since 1993, when he began work as a special assistant to the Secretary of the University. He served in that office as assistant secretary through 1998, helping craft and implement the New Haven Initiative. He continued his work to strengthen "town-gown" relations as assistant and then associate vice president for New Haven and state affairs through 2011, when he joined the Office of Public Affairs and Communications.

An avid amateur historian of Yale and a passionate advocate for the university's hometown, he has served many civic groups over the years, including as a New Haven alderman for two terms; as chairman of the board of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce; vice president of the Arts Council of New Haven; and a member of the State Judicial Selection Commission.

Born in Covington, Kentucky, he grew up outside Cincinnati and graduated from St. Xavier High School before moving to New Haven, where he earned B.A. and M.Div. degrees from Yale. When he is not at home, he can often be found in New York City or Accra, Ghana.

Luke Bronin is the 67th mayor of the City of Hartford and was sworn in on January 1, 2016. Mayor Bronin is a husband, a father, a veteran, and an attorney, and he is committed to building a stronger Hartford for all of Hartford's residents. Mayor Bronin has had the opportunity to serve in senior positions in both federal and state government. In 2013, he was appointed by Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve as General Counsel. In his position as the governor's chief lawyer, Bronin partnered with legislators and state agency officials to advance the Governor's agenda, and he was deeply involved in developing policies to combat veterans' homelessness, expand economic opportunities, reform our criminal justice system, and protect our environment.

Prior to his role in Governor Malloy's office, he served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes at the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. In that role, he helped lead the federal government's efforts to isolate and disrupt international terrorist groups, and advanced U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.

Previously, he served as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, as an international affairs fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, and as Chief of Staff to the President of Property and Casualty Operations at the Hartford Financial Services Group, one of the capital city's largest employers. He also served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was a member of the military's anti-corruption task force during his deployment to Afghanistan from September 2010 to April 2011. Most recently, Bronin worked as a partner at the law firm Hinckley Allen. Prior to his election, Bronin proudly served on the boards of the Hartford Public Library and the Amistad Center for Arts and Culture.

Bronin earned his B.A. and J.D. from Yale University and his M.A. from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. He and his wife Sara live in Hartford with their three young kids.

Matthew Nemerson has been a member of New Haven Mayor Toni N. Harp's administration as her Economic Development Administrator since January 1, 2014. In this role, he brings the Mayor's ideas and policies to areas connected to the City's growth, economic health and relationships with existing businesses, new investors and regional partners.

Matthew coordinates departments which oversee economic, job and industrial development, neighborhood improvement, entrepreneurship and innovation growth, small business assistance, housing, city planning, transportation, building inspections and permitting. He also works with organizations that craft the city's image, improve tourism and find support for the arts and culture. Nemerson is a policy liaison to the City's airport, its parking authority, port authority and non-profit economic development corporation.

Before this he was President and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council, a state-wide trade association and public policy group speaking for over 2,000 tech oriented firms starting in 2003. Previously, Matthew was executive vice president and COO of Netkey, Inc., a Branford based retail and

marketing enterprise software firm that raised over \$20m in investor equity and grew to 80 people before being acquired by NCR.

In 1983, Matthew was founding vice president of the Science Park Development Corporation, a still operating 40 acre inner city tech park affiliated with Yale University. He left Science Park to become - in 1987 - the president - for 13 years - of the 1,500 member Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce and various affiliates: a real estate development group, a CEO leadership council and a community leadership and training group. During this time he started and “spun-off” the Town Green Special Service District, the Visitor & Convention Bureau and what was then the RGP and is now REX, a regional development coordinating organization.

After graduating from college Matthew worked for the late Connecticut Senator Abraham Ribicoff’s Washington staff, ran for First Selectman of his home town Woodbridge Connecticut, was a reporter for Fortune Magazine during management school and following graduation became publisher of the national policy magazine The Washington Monthly for two years before leaving to join Science Park.

Nemerson has lived mostly in the New Haven area since 1964. He is married to Marian Chertow, PhD, a professor of environment and industrial policy at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and has two daughters. Matthew is a graduate of the Amity Regional High School, Columbia College (AB) in the City of New York, the Yale School of Management (MPPM (similar to an MBA/MPA)) and the Center for Creative Leadership in North Carolina.

Senator Steve Cassano was elected in November 2010 to represent the residents of the 4th State Senate District towns of Bolton, Glastonbury, Manchester and Marlborough; he was re-elected in 2012 and 2014 to represent the re-configured 4th State Senate District towns of Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester. Steve is Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, and a member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding, and Transportation committees.

Steve was first elected to public office as the deputy mayor of Manchester in 1977, serving as mayor from 1991 to 2005 at a time that included the development of Buckland Hills, the redevelopment of Main Street and a major expansion of new industrial parks. He taught sociology at Manchester Community College for 28 years, and he and his wife Holly operate The Children’s Place, an 8,000 square-foot day care center in Manchester that has a staff of three dozen employees who care for 100 children ranging in age from six weeks to six years old. The Cassanos have five children and six grandchildren. Steve graduated from Manchester Community College in 1968. He received a BA from Boston State in 1969, a Master’s Degree in Urban Sociology from SUNY Albany in 1970, and an MSW from the University of Connecticut in 1975.

Dawn Grant is a Program Officer for Community Investments at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving where she is responsible for implementing responsive grantmaking strategies. Dawn is also responsible for supporting the grantmaking of two giving circle funds. Dawn received a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Hartford and has extensive knowledge and experience in working with nonprofits.

Richard Manson serves as Program Vice President for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. He supervises its Northeast portfolio of sites that includes eight discrete geographic programs including Boston, MA to Jacksonville, FL. Among his responsibilities include senior credit decisions, strategic planning, communications, and public policy. He is a principal manager between the national organization and local corporate executives, public officials, and civic leaders responsible for shaping strategic direction of local programs. His responsibilities include local communication, fundraising and public policy strategies.

Mr. Manson also served as a senior credit officer for local programs and was a member of LISC's national credit committee. The committee oversees the allocation of multi-million dollar annual loan and grant awards in diverse geographic regions throughout the country. He served as a member of LISC's New Market Support Corporation. NMSC allocates tax credits that LISC has been awarded under the federal New Markets Tax Credit program. He is also a member of the JP Morgan Chase Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Manson has been with LISC for over 30 years. Prior to his assignment in the Northeast Mr. Manson held similar responsibilities as Program Vice President for LISC's Southeast portfolio. During his Southeast tenure Mr. Manson directed LISC's efforts in establishing new sites nationwide. He also oversaw an in-house community organizing strategy. This effort helped establish over 25 new Community Development Corporations in sites that lacked such an investment vehicle.

Prior to his promotion to senior management at LISC, Mr. Manson served as Program Director for a number of sites including the South Bronx, Kansas City, Houston, and Philadelphia. His development experience includes resident and commercial activities. Among his accomplishments has been the design and implementation of the initial \$80 million dollar non-profit rental production program in New York City and a \$10 million production program in Kansas City using the federal low income housing tax credits.

Prior to LISC, Mr. Manson was a Presidential Management Intern serving with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Manson received a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University and has a B.A. in economics from New York University.