

WILTON LIBRARY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Constitution Series sponsored by Wilton Library and Wilton Historical Society begins Feb. 3

Wilton, CT – A sweeping look at the United States Constitution with its impact on Connecticut and the nation takes place in a 4-part collaborative series sponsored by Wilton Library and the Wilton Historical Society beginning Sunday, Feb. 3, from 2 – 4 p.m. at the library. The series is designed to provide thought-provoking insight into the Constitution – from its inception by the founding fathers to its relevance as legal governance for the nation in the twenty-first century. The speakers and topics for the 4-part series are as follows:

- **Session I—Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m. at Wilton Library:** *Connecticut and the Constitution with Christopher Collier.* Mr. Collier was the longtime Connecticut State Historian, is Professor Emeritus, University of Connecticut, and is the author of several books relating to the Constitution and the Constitutional Convention. He also grew up in Wilton in the 1940s and provided the forward to *Wilton, Connecticut: Three Centuries of People, Places and Progress*, Robert Russell’s history of Wilton. Mr. Collier will cover such topics as why Connecticut is called the “Constitution State,” the role of our state in the Constitutional Convention, and the issues that gave rise to a state and federal constitution.
- **Session II—Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. at Wilton Library:** *The Founding with Akhil Amar.* Mr. Amar is the Southmayd Professor of Law and Political Sciences at Yale University, where he teaches Constitutional Law at both Yale College and Yale Law School. He is the author of many books on Constitutional Law, such as *Processes of Constitutional Decision Making*, *The Constitution and Criminal Procedure*, *The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction* and *America’s Constitution: A Biography*. Mr. Amar will discuss the defining elements of these documents, the various interpretations of the Constitution, and issues that almost scuttled the formation of a national government.

(More)

- **Session III— Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m. at the Wilton Historical Society:** *The Constitution as amended in the Nineteenth Century, shaped by the Civil War—a panel discussion.* Panelists will discuss changes that occurred in the Constitution in the first one hundred years and what role the Civil War played in its refinement. The panelists are Constitutional scholars. Jed Shugerman, Harvard Law professor, graduate of Yale Law and Yale Ph.D., is an expert on nineteenth century legal history. Owen Williams, Raoul Berger Fellow at Harvard Law, is a graduate of Yale Law and a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, and is currently researching his book on the history of the Supreme Court during the Civil War. As of this writing, a third panelist is to be announced.
- **Session IV—Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Wilton Historical Society:** *Interpreting the Constitution with Sanford (Sandy) Levinson.* Mr. Levinson, Centennial Chair in Law at the University of Texas and visitor at Harvard and Yale Law Schools, is holder of several prestigious awards. He is the author of many articles and books dealing with diversity, faith, and other controversial issues. His most recent book presents the challenge: *Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (and How We the People Can Correct It).* Mr. Levinson will explain the legal theories with which Supreme Court justices have interpreted the Constitution—such as originalism, textualism, strict constructionism, and living constitutionalism. Professor Levinson will address two main questions: Is Our 18th Century Constitution adequate for the 21st Century World," or alternatively, "Can Imaginative Interpretation Correct Patent Deficiencies in our 18th Century Constitution?" This discussion was originally scheduled for Thursday, April 24.

The series is made possible in part by a grant from Devereaux A. Clifford and Family. Lectures will include question and answer periods and will conclude with receptions and book signings. Advance registration is strongly recommended. To register for any or all of the four sessions or for directions to the library, visit www.wiltonlibrary.org/events/constitution.htm or call (203) 762-3950. Wilton Library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. The Wilton Historical Society is at 224 Danbury Road (Route 7) in Wilton. For information about the Wilton Historical Society visit www.wiltonhistorical.org or call (203) 762-7257.

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