

**"CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF."**

**— FIRST AMENDMENT, U. S. CONSTITUTION**

The concept of religious freedom, the bedrock of the Bill of Rights, our protection from tyranny in all its forms, is often taken for granted by Americans. Yet in 17th-Century New England, many considered religious freedom to be dangerous, even punishable by death. Still, there was one place where religious liberty was the rule, in Roger William's Rhode Island. How did religious freedom thrive in Rhode Island, surrounded by colonies where persecution was common? How much progress have we, as a nation, made in tolerating others' religious beliefs and practices? Government influence in religion; religious influence in government – where is the line? And have we crossed it? What role do sacred sites play in connecting Americans to the history of religion and religious freedom in the U.S.?

**Join us for a gathering to examine the legacy of Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island, and early advocate of religious freedom.**

*Keynote address by  
Dr. Thomas Bremer, Rhodes College,  
Memphis, TN, noted scholar of  
religious history and author of  
"Blessed with Tourists: The Borderlands  
of Religion and Tourism  
in San Antonio."*

John H. Chafee

**BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY**

National Heritage Corridor Commission

One Depot Square

Woonsocket, RI 02895



*Pre-Register by October 8, 2008*

*sponsored by*

John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities  
and Cultural Heritage, Brown University  
John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor  
Roger Williams National Memorial



## ROGER WILLIAMS AND AMERICA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

*October 24 and 25, 2008*

*Sir: THE JOHN  
BLOVDY TENENT,  
of PERSECUTION, for cause of  
CONSCIENCE, discussed, in  
A Conference betweene  
TRVTH and PEACE.  
VVO, H O,  
In all tender Affection, present to the High  
Parliament, (as the Result of  
a long time)*

*Roger Williams*



*Friday, October 24, 2008: Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI*

8:00	REGISTRATION	Coffee & Continental Breakfast at RISD, The Chace Center Auditorium
9:00	WELCOME	
9:05	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Dr. Anne Valk, John Nicholas Brown Center
9:10		Introduction of Keynote Speaker
9:15	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Dr. Thomas Bremer, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN; author of “Blessed with Tourists: The Borderlands of Religion and Tourism in San Antonio”
10:15	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30	SESSION 1	<p><b>“ The Principle of Religious Freedom and Roger Williams – Making the Connection”</b></p> <p>Panel Chair: Ranger Sparkle Bryant, National Park Service</p> <p>Panel Members: Ranger John McNiff, National Park Service;</p> <p>Dr. Stanley Lemons, First Baptist Church; Dr. Anthony Carlino, Rhode Island College.</p>
12:30	LUNCH	Self-Purchase. Outdoor seating available at Roger Williams National Memorial.
1:30	SESSION 2	<p><b>“ Industrialization and Religious Freedom”</b></p> <p>Panel Chair: Ranger Kevin Klyberg, National Park Service</p> <p>Panel Members: Dr. Elizabeth C. Stevens, Rhode Island Historical Society;</p> <p>Dr. Eve Sterne, University of Rhode Island; Dr. Michael True, Assumption College</p>
3:00	BREAK	
3:30	SESSION 3	<p><b>“ Religious Freedom and the Black Church in America”</b></p> <p>Panel Chair: Rodrick Echols, Boston University of Theology</p> <p>Panel Members: Dr. Cheryl Gilkes, Colby College; other panelists – TBA</p>
5:00		Travel to the Reception, John Nicholas Brown Center, 357 Benefit St, Providence, RI
5:30	RECEPTION	<p>Sponsored by the John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University</p> <p>Reception Speaker: Bix Gabriel, International Coalition of Museums of Conscience</p>

*Saturday, October 25: Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI*

8:00	ARRIVAL	Coffee & Continental Breakfast at RISD, The Chace Center Auditorium
8:45	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Ranger Chuck Arning, National Park Service
9:00	SESSION 1	<p><b>“ Sites of Dialogue: A New Perspective on Religious Freedom”</b></p> <p>Panel Chair: Ranger Chuck Arning, National Park Service</p> <p>Panel Members: Professor Julian Bonder, Roger Williams University;</p> <p>Ranger Kelly Fellner, Boston Harbor Islands, National Park Service; panelist – TBA</p>
10:45	BOARD BUSES	Box lunch Served on Bus (Good walking / hiking shoes required.)
	TOUR #1	<p><b>“ Hassanamesit – John Eliot’s 2nd Praying Village in the World of the Nipmuc”</b></p> <p>Archaeologist, UMASS-Boston – TBA;</p> <p>Rae Gould, Nipmuc Tribal Archaeologist, Nipmuc Tribal Nation;</p> <p>Ranger Chuck Arning, National Park Service</p>
	TOUR #2	<p><b>“ Newport Religious Heritage: A Walking Tour”</b></p> <p>Newport Historical Society and National Park Service Ranger</p>
	TOUR #3	<p><b>“ Roger William’s Providence: A Walking Tour”</b> National Park Service Ranger</p>
4:00	RETURN	Buses return to Conference Site

**REGISTRATION** *Please return this form in a separate envelope.*

**FEES: DAY 1, \$25; DAY, \$35, (INCLUDES BOX LUNCH) BOTH DAYS, \$50.** A STUDENT ID GETS YOU INTO ANY SESSION FREE  
**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 8, 2008,** PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR DAY 2, DAY 1 ‘WALK-IN’ AVAILABLE

**CONTACT PERSON**

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>

**LIST NAMES ATTENDING:**

1.	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 1 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH DAYS
<b>PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR DAY 2 TOUR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 1	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 2	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 3
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 1 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH DAYS
<b>PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR DAY 2 TOUR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 1	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 2	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 3
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 1 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY 2 ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH DAYS
<b>PLEASE CHOOSE YOUR DAY 2 TOUR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 1	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 2	<input type="checkbox"/> TOUR 3

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$** **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CORRIDOR KEEPERS**

**MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO: JHCBRVNHCC, ONE DEPOT SQUARE, WOONSOCKET, RI 02895**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RANGER CHUCK ARNING, 401-762-0440, OR WWW.NPS.GOV/BLAC.**