

Roxanne Maher

From: Gary St. Vil
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 6:54 PM
To: Gabrielle Rader
Cc: Roxanne Maher; Carmen Garcia Irizarry; Mike McKinney
Subject: Congratulations – 3rd Place Winner, 2026 Black History Month Essay Contest

Dear Gabrielle,

Thank you for submitting your essay to the 2026 Ledyard Black History Month Essay Contest.

I am pleased to inform you that your essay has been selected as the **3rd Place winner in the High School Essay Contest**. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

Your essay stood out to the judging panel for the way you reflected on the words and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., particularly in “Letter from Birmingham Jail,”** and connected his message about justice and moral responsibility to the challenges people continue to face today. Your thoughtful reflection clearly captured the spirit of this year’s theme, *“From History to Responsibility: The Legacy We Carry, The Future We Create.”*

Your submission was reviewed by a panel that included Town Councilor Carmen Garcia-Irizarry, Ledyard Police Department Sgt. Michael McKinney, and myself, and we appreciated the insight and effort you put into your essay.

You are invited to attend the Ledyard Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Annex, where this year’s contest winners will be formally recognized and presented with their awards. Attendance is completely optional, but you are welcome to attend and may bring family members if you wish.

Congratulations again on your achievement, and thank you for contributing such a thoughtful submission to this year’s contest.

Respectfully,

Gary A. St. Vil

Chairman, Ledyard Town Council
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339
(860) 980-0656 | gsvil@ledyardct.org
www.ledyardct.org

From: Gabrielle Rader <raderg@ledyard.net>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Gary St. Vil <GSVil@ledyardct.org>; garyastvil@gmail.com <garyastvil@gmail.com>
Subject: Black History Month Essay Contest

Hello Mr. St. VII, I was disheartened to see that no one had submitted anything for the Black History Month Essay Contest, so I decided to give it a try. I hope my entry is not too late! I have attached my essay below. Hopefully other people have entered by now!
Thank you very much,

--

Gaby Rader

Ledyard High School student