

Roxanne Maher

From: Anita Merando <armerando@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 5:15 PM
To: Roxanne Maher; Town Council Group
Subject: Community Relations Committee for DEI

Dear Members of the Ledyard Town Council,

I would like to thank the Ledyard Community Relations Committee for sponsoring the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Poetry Reading at Lucile's Cafe, and for the Celebration of Black History at New Life Christian Fellowship.

Both events were welcomed opportunities for celebration and fellowship. Through these two events, I got to know the town of Ledyard in a new way. I learned from the people sharing poetry at Lucile's, that honoring diversity helps us see each other in the fullness of our identities. Equity is about offering a hand up where needed and providing opportunity to all. Inclusion is about offering a place of participation to all. At the Celebration of Black History, I was moved by the music, and especially appreciated the sharing of the two young women who told very personal stories as they reflected on Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr's instruction to know their purpose in life. And the sharing of food was absolutely delicious!

In both of these settings I had an opportunity to better understand and connect with people in Ledyard that I might otherwise have not met. I am grateful for this, and look forward to future events hosted by the Committee.

Sincerely,
Anita Merando
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