

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Gary St. Vil  
**Sent:** Friday, February 21, 2025 8:37 AM  
**To:** Ryan Earley  
**Cc:** Jason S. Hartling; Naomi Rodriguez; Roxanne Maher  
**Subject:** 2025 BHM Contest: Deadline Extended to Friday, March 7th

Good morning Principal Earley,

Thank you for your continued support promoting the 2025 Black History Month contest and I would like to let you know that the **contest deadline has been extended to Friday, March 7, 2025. Additionally, students will now have the option to pick one of two essay topics.** Revised contest details are below.

**Contest Duration:** January 21 – March 7, 2025

**Essay Contest Topics:** Write an essay (minimum of 500 words) on one of the following two topics:

1. African Americans and Labor. Discuss the various and profound ways that African American work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary have played in shaping our country's history.
2. What does Black History Month mean to me?

### **Prizes for Ledyard Middle and High School Students:**

- 1st Place - \$100
- 2nd Place - \$50
- 3rd Place - \$25

### **Submission Guidelines:**

- Essay should include the participant's name, school, and grade
- Only one essay submission per student. No Group Projects
- This contest is open to all students residing in Ledyard, including those that are home-schooled or attending a private or Technical/Magnet school
- Essays should be sent via email to Town Councilor Gary St. Vil at [gsvil@ledyardct.org](mailto:gsvil@ledyardct.org)

**Award Notification:** Winners will be notified by March 10, 2025 and acknowledged by the Town Council at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting (student attendance is encouraged).

If you have any questions or require further information, please reach out to me at [gsvil@ledyardct.org](mailto:gsvil@ledyardct.org) or 860-980-0656.

Respectfully,

*Gary St. Vil*

Ledyard Town Councilor  
gsvil@ledyardct.org  
860-980-0656

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**From:** Gary St. Vil  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2025 7:30 PM  
**To:** Ryan Earley <rearley@ledyard.net>  
**Cc:** Jason S. Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>; Naomi Rodriguez <NaomiR@ledyardct.org>  
**Subject:** 2025 Black History Month Contest (Ledyard Middle School)

Dear Principal Earley,

As we embark on the celebration of Black History Month, the Town Council's Community Relations Committee - DEI would like to collaborate with Ledyard Public Schools to offer students an opportunity to showcase their creativity and express their thoughts on the significance of Black History Month. Please share the contest details below with your teachers and students.

Students at Ledyard Middle School can participate in the Essay Contest below. The contest is entirely voluntary, however, we encourage every student to participate. Ledyard Middle School and Ledyard High School submissions will be combined and a 1st , 2nd and 3rd place winner selected.

**Contest Duration:** January 21 – February 21, 2025

**Essay Contest Topic:** African Americans and Labor. Discuss the various and profound ways that African American work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary have played in shaping our country's history.

**Prizes for Ledyard Middle and High School Students:**

- 1st Place - \$100
- 2nd Place - \$50
- 3rd Place - \$25

**Submission Guidelines:**

- Essay should include the participant's name, school, and grade
- Only one essay submission per student. No Group Projects
- This contest is open to all students residing in Ledyard, including those that are home-schooled or attending a private or Technical/Magnet school
- Essays should be sent via email to Town Councilor Gary St. Vil at gsvil@ledyardct.org

**Award Notification:** Winners will be notified by February 24, 2025, and acknowledged by the Town Council at the February 26<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting (student attendance is encouraged).

We believe that these contests will not only encourage creative expression but also foster a deeper understanding of the significance of Black History Month. If you have any questions or require further information, please reach out to me at gsvil@ledyardct.org or 860-980-0656.

Respectfully,

*Gary St. Vil*

Ledyard Town Councilor

gsvil@ledyardct.org

860-980-0656