



# **TOWN OF LEDYARD CONNECTICUT**

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

## **America 250 Planning Committee**

### **~ AGENDA ~**

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**Tuesday, August 12, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex**

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#### **REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81021486911?pwd=nUOGuVLmJfkzVbCo4bDNe1HYc61v2T.1>**

**Meeting ID: 810 2148 6911 Passcode: 196763 • +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. MOTION to approve the Ledyard Celebrates America 250 Planning Committee regular meeting minutes of July 8, 2025.

**Attachments:** [America 250 Draft Minutes 7.8.2025](#)

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. America 250 Planning Committee Discussion

**Attachments:** [America 250 Letter\\_Denise Merrill 9.3.2024](#)

[America 250 Planning Resources](#)

[America-250-CT-Planning-Guide](#)

[America 250 Ltr CT Initiatives 4.2.2025](#)

[America 250 Events Working List](#)

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**DISCLAIMER:** Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-2340

**Agenda Date:** 8/13/2025

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## MINUTES

### Minutes:

MOTION to approve the Ledyard Celebrates America 250 Planning Committee regular meeting minutes of July 8, 2025.



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

## America 250 Planning Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Draft Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

#### Regular Meeting

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**Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**Town Hall Annex**

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#### **REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION**

##### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83762413171?pwd=INLaBaCRkN5EI0a1T9rCYuWsqxV8Xj.1>  
Meeting ID: 837 6241 3171 Passcode: 691346 • +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Allyn called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

<b>Present</b>	Scott Johnson Jr.
	Douglas Kelley
	Mathew Novosad
	Kathrine Kohrs
<b>Excused</b>	Patricia Riley
	Peter Hary

In addition, the following were present:

Mayor Fred B. Allyn III  
Kristen Chapman - Executive Assistant to the Mayor

#### **III. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS**

None

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. MOTION to approve the America 250 Planning Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2025.

**RESULT:** APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

**MOVER:** Douglas Kelley

**SECONDER:** Kathrine Kohrs

**AYE** 4 Johnson, Jr. Kelley Novasad Kohrs

**EXCUSED** 2 Riley Hary

**V. OLD BUSINESS****1. Grant Opportunities**

The committee has received a \$1000 grant from the Ledyard Rotary Club. Mayor Allyn will donate \$500 for the pole banners.

**2. America 250 Planning Committee Discussion**

The Committee discussed the following events/initiatives for each month:

**Events by Month****July 2025**

- Ledyard Celebrates America 250 Kickoff Event - 4th of July Celebration at the Nathan Lester House

**August 2025**

- Banners in front of Town Hall

**September 2025**

- Voting Sticker Design Contest in Elementary Schools
  - Patty is in contact with elementary schools
  - Kristen will create a contest template for distribution in schools
- Article in events magazine with QR code to town website

**October 2025**

- History Day at Bill Library - October 4th
  - Roaming History Exhibit (Kate is working on posters)
- Beautification Committee - Bulb Planting
  - Committee will plant red, white and blue crocus to spell “America 250”
- Cemetery Tours
  - Doug & Kate to contact Cemetery Committee (October 17th rain date 18th)

**November 2025**

- Lantern Tours at Nathan Lester House
  - Doug to discuss with Historic Commission for dates
  - Registration online through Parks & Recreation website
- Veteran’s Day Tribute - Historical Veterans from Ledyard (is this happening?)
- Hometown Hero’s Ceremony/Quilts of Valor Dinner Senior Center (Scott)

**December 2025**

- Yuletide Celebration @Nathan Lester House - December 6th (Doug)
- Historical Baking Contest (Matt to organize Library event with cookbook club)

**January 2026**

- TBD

**February 2026**

- Historical Maps & Roaming Exhibit

#### March 2026

- Color Fun Run - America 250 theme (March 21st or 28th)
- Women's History Month Traveling Exhibit

#### April 2026

- Arbor Day Tree Planting - plant an Oak Tree in Town (Mayor Allyn)

#### May 2026

- Memorial Day Parade "America 250 Float"; parade walkers in colonial dress

#### June 2026

- Flag Day Celebration (Flag Retirement Ceremony - Boy Scouts)

#### July 4, 2026

- P& R Summer Camp "Celebrate 250" theme week
- Celebration Nathan Lester House
  - Re-Enactors
  - Historical Games
  - Awards for Community Group Events
  - Commemorative Coin
  - Live Music
  - Bury Time Capsule

#### Marketing Efforts

- ✓ "Ledyard Celebrates America 250" Logo - Pete Hary
- ✓ Dedicated Facebook Page - Parks & Rec  
(1) Facebook <<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574413022609>>
- ✓ Town Web Page - Mayor's Office  
Ledyard Celebrates 250 | Ledyard, CT - Official Website  
<<https://www.ledyardct.org/780/Ledyard-Celebrates-250>>
- ✓ Events Magazine - Kick off article Summer 2025 w/ Nathan Lester Event
- ✓ Flyers w/ QR code

#### Other Ideas

- ✓ Mural (High School wall?)
- ✓ Commemorative Bell (marking spot for time capsule)

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Community Organizations - Event Registration

Ms. Chapman will work with the MIS department to create a registration form for community organizations.

### 2. America 250 Voting Sticker Contest

Ms. Riley has been in contact with the elementary schools. Ms. Chapman will create a contest template for distribution in schools.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Khors moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded Mr. Johnson

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

VOTE: 4-0 Approved and so declared

**DISCLAIMER:** Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.



# TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard  
Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

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**File #:** 25-1504

**Agenda Date:** 8/12/2025

**Agenda #:** 1.

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## AGENDA REQUEST GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Subject:**

America 250 Planning Committee Discussion

**Background:**

(type text here)

**Department Comment/Recommendation:**

(type text here)

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

Hon. Denise W. Merrill  
Chair

Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.  
Vice Chair

## Membership

Nicolas Angeli  
Connecticut's Old State House –  
Youth Leader

Stephen Armstrong  
Connecticut State Department of  
Education \*

Anthony Champalimaud  
Member of the Public

Kathryn D'Amato  
Office of the Governor \*

Melvette Hill  
Commission on Women,  
Children, Seniors, Equity &  
Opportunity\*

Andrew Horowitz, Ph.D.  
Connecticut State Historian

Michael Johnson  
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal  
Nation \*

Robert Kret  
Connecticut Museum of Culture  
and History

Catherine Labadia  
State Historic Preservation Office

Margaret Khan  
Connecticut Library Association

Merle McGee  
Member of the Public

Deborah Schander, MLIS, JD  
Connecticut State Librarian

Elizabeth Shapiro  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development \*

Jonathan Slifka  
Department of Aging and  
Disability Services

Joe Smith  
Mohegan Tribe \*

Hon. Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State

Maisa Tisdale  
Mary and Eliza Freeman Center  
for History and Community

Sally Whipple  
Connecticut Democracy Center

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.  
Connecticut League of Museums

\* designee

Connecticut Humanities

September 3, 2024

Fred Allyn, III  
Mayor  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn,

On July 4, 2026, the United States of America will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! In anticipation of this event, Governor Lamont established the America 250 | CT Commission, which has been charged to provide assistance to municipalities for the development of programs, projects, and activities pertaining to the American Revolution.

We are reaching out today with an update on how Ledyard may participate. *Many cities and towns have created local committees to begin the work of planning commemorative activities. We encourage Ledyard to consider doing so as well!* The most comprehensive committees will bring together various perspectives—librarians, historians, economic development leaders, business owners, town clerks, representatives of social justice, environmental, and/or DEI groups, etc. Once completed, please let us know who the best point of contact is – we will continue to share information about programs, funding opportunities, and promotional guidelines as we move forward.

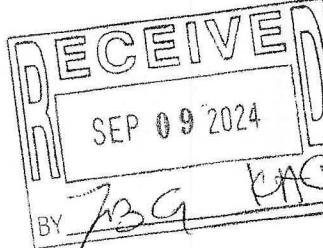
In addition to any independent work your local committee may do, we invite you to participate in two state-wide activities over the next two years. First, the Commission will develop a resolution recommitting to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, which we hope all of Connecticut's municipalities will adopt on or around July 4, 2025. Then, on July 4, 2026, we will host a recommitment ceremony at Connecticut's Old State House in Hartford, where representatives from all 169 municipalities will be invited to come together, like the nation did 250 years ago, and sign a copy of this resolution. Further information will be shared about these activities in the coming months.

You can learn more at our website: [www.ct250.org/local](http://www.ct250.org/local). If you have further questions, please contact us at [info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org).

Sincerely,



Hon. Denise Merrill  
Chair, America 250 | CT Commission  
Former Secretary of the State



Jason Mancini, Ph.D.  
Vice Chair, America 250 | CT  
Executive Director, CT Humanities

## America 250 Planning Committee Resources

[America 250 | CT](#)

[250th Planning Workshop – America 250 | CT](#)

[Community Calendar – America 250 | CT](#)



# AMERICA 250 | CT PLANNING GUIDE

In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the country. It is an opportunity for reflection on the ideals of the nation's founders and a time to consider the path forward in expanding our realization of those ideals today.

# COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Hon. Denise W. Merrill**

Chair

**Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.**

Vice Chair

**Nicolas Angeli**

Connecticut's Old State House –  
Youth Leader

**Stephen Armstrong**

Connecticut State Dept. of  
Education

**Michael Johnson**

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
Designee

**Anthony Champalimaud**

Member of the Public

**Kathryn D'Amato**

Governor's Designee

**Steven Hernández, Esq.**

Commission on Women, Children,  
Seniors, Equity & Opportunity

**Andrew Horowitz, Ph.D.**

State Historian

**Robert Kret**

Connecticut Museum of Culture &  
History

**Catherine Labadia**

State Historic Preservation Office  
Designee

**Douglas Lord**

Connecticut Library Association

**Merle McGee**

Member of the Public

**Deborah Schander, MLIS, JD**

State Librarian

**Elizabeth Shapiro**

Dept. of Economic & Community  
Development Designee

**Jonathan Slifka**

Dept. of Aging & Disability Services

**Joe Smith**

Mohegan Tribe Designee

**Stephanie Thomas**

Secretary of the State

**Maisa Tisdale**

Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for  
History & Community

**Sally Whipple**

Connecticut Democracy Center

**Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.**

Connecticut League of Museums



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Using the Guide	03
Connecticut Themes	06
Tell Inclusive Stories	07
Power of Place	09
Doing History	11
For the Common Good	13
Resources	15
About the Commission	17





## USING THIS GUIDE

2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the foundational document of the revolution that occurred in the late 18th century and resulted in the creation of the United States of America.

Planning for such an important commemoration in a comprehensive way can be a daunting task. Because of this, the America 250 | CT Commission has produced this planning guide to provide suggested commemorative themes, ideas, and information.

The Commission encourages partnerships between various organizations within your community—museums, libraries, community centers, schools, municipal offices and commissions, and others who contribute to creating vibrant local spaces—in order to develop a commemoration that includes a variety of voices and perspectives.

# GUIDING VALUES

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Events surrounding the commemoration of the 250th will take a variety of forms, from celebratory to analytical to commemorative, and will involve people with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs. Regardless of what form their participation takes, we ask organizations to work to align their initiatives with inclusive themes and values, to make welcome as many people from across Connecticut's communities as possible, and to encourage people to consider the future repercussions of today's actions. To do so, all projects, events, and programs should call for mutual respect and empathy. All activities should be accessible to as many people as possible; please bear in mind and attempt to accommodate socioeconomic, physical limitations, language, and other potential barriers to access. We ask, too, that organizations support one another in our collective efforts, including by sharing knowledge and resources whenever possible. Center relationships and the process of developing trust, and be honest and candid with all involved in the process.

# BEYOND 1776

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The founding legislation for the National Endowment for the Humanities states, “Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens.” We recognize this as the foundation for reinvigorating our democracy. By recognizing this moment in our history, the nation has the opportunity to lay the groundwork for a reawakening of civic engagement by encouraging the participation of all residents.

By thinking about this commemoration beyond the events and actions of 1776, we are able to consider the ever-evolving history of our state and nation. Expanding the scope of the commemoration allows us to reach new audiences that in the past have not seen themselves in commemorations of the American Revolution, while at the same time ensuring that every community in the state can engage with at least one theme, whether that community was the scene of an event directly related to the American Revolution or not.

There are many ways for local government, historians, historical societies, civics groups, and museums to begin this process. In several towns across the state there are commissions and committees being formed to coordinate and facilitate 250th-related planning and programming.

If you choose to do so, please send your information to Cyndi Tolosa, Project Manager for the America 250 | CT Commission, at [ctolosa@ct250.org](mailto:ctolosa@ct250.org). Your information will be added to the website and shared with people who may be looking to get involved.



## CONNECTICUT THEMES

Many of the America 250 | CT themes are drawn from Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 22-2 and align with themes established by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in their *Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial*.

Each community or organization may choose to use one or all of the themes in this planning guide as inspiration to begin to think about commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Each local community has its own unique story to tell and unique role in the history, culture, and civics of Connecticut.

# TELL INCLUSIVE STORIES

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The 250th serves as inspiration for CTH, its grantees, and the people of Connecticut to deal with and share stories that represent all of its people, past and present. For much of our history, the United States has excluded people—women, free and enslaved African Americans, Indigenous people, immigrants, people with disabilities, the poor, and many others—from full participation and representation in the nation’s political, economic, and cultural life. This commemoration is an opportunity to continue the nation’s reckoning with the past, both its glory and its missteps and flaws. By telling previously untold stories we will enable everyone to find a place in our nation’s narrative.

What stories remain untold in your community?

Whose voice has been heard in the past? How is this an opportunity to lift other voices?



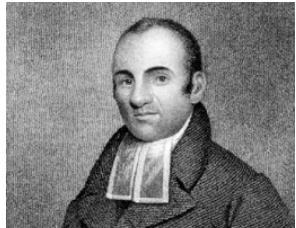
Electric Boat submarine

## Ideas

- How has **education** played a role in inclusion and exclusion?
- How can **industry** open avenues to untold stories?

## People

- John Anderson, Black governor
- Lemuel Haynes, minister
- Hannah Bunce Watson, publisher
- Toney, Black Loyalist refugee
- Capt. John T. Gonsalves, captain of the Charles W. Morgan



Lemuel Haynes

## Places

- Amistad Schooner, New Haven
- Mary & Eliza Freeman Center, Bridgeport
- Foreign Mission School, Cornwall
- Windham Textile Mill
- Old New-Gate Prison and Viets Tavern



New-Gate Prison Yard

## Events

- Robert Jacklyn and Land Ownership for People of Color - 1719
- Amistad Trial - 1839
- Opening of the American School for the Deaf - April 15, 1917
- Passing of the Gay-Rights Bill - May 1, 1991



American School  
for the Deaf

# POWER OF PLACE

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Connecticut is comprised of eight counties, 169 towns and cities, five recognized tribes, and countless communities with unique identities and contributions. The creation of a community-based structure will allow each of Connecticut's towns and cities to define their own programs and ideas about how they can engage their citizens. The building of an understanding of our American past will begin in the public spaces dedicated to learning: libraries, community centers, local museums, and historic sites. CTH will ensure the alignment between Connecticut's 250th activities and those of the greater region and nation, building relevance and aligning the state with other areas.

What makes your community unique?

What places and stories are typically preserved and valued? What other places exist?



Keney Park, Hartford

## Ideas

- Who was a part of your **community** historically and how did that change?
- How did the **natural environment** shape your community?

## People

- Abigail Hinman, New London
- Gladys Tantaquidgeon, Uncasville
- Igor Sikorsky, Stratford
- Hannah Occuish, New London
- William Lanson, New Haven



Igor Sikorsky

## Places

- Fort Griswold, Groton
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route
- Mashantucket
- Prudence Crandall House, Canterbury
- Naval Submarine Base, New London



Prudence Crandall House

## Events

- The Sons of Liberty topple statue of King George III – July 9, 1776
- British burn Danbury – April 26, 1777
- British burn Fairfield – July 7, 1779
- Washington & Rochambeau meet in Wethersfield – May 21-22, 1781



Toppling statue of King George III

# DOING HISTORY

To renew public engagement with history, the public must be invited to participate in the process of doing history. CTH will work with organizations in the cultural sector to drive collaborative and innovative approaches to celebrating the nation's 250th. Using avenues such as the digital humanities, cross-sector convenings, and engagement with social studies teachers, we will build a collaborative environment and provide access for all state residents to cultural experiences. Inviting audiences to engage with the historical method can help them become more comfortable with the ambiguous, contested, and always-evolving nature of history. The commission's work will focus on the role of Connecticut, its people, sites, and historic context of the time. It can boost tourism in the state by amplifying the story at historic sites, trails, and buildings, and by constructing programs around notable events.

What is history? How is it different from "the past"?

## Connecticut Archives Online

Promoting access to Connecticut's archival resources

Full text  Author  Title  Subject  

all repositories  Advanced Search

Number of hits: 30 Displaying records 1-20 

**Othniel Charles Marsh papers**

Date: 1817-1899  
Creator: Marsh, Othniel Charles, 1811-1899  
Abstract: These papers consist of correspondence, diaries, notebooks, school notes, and other papers of O.C. Marsh, scientist and first professor of paleontology at Yale and in the United States. Of special interest is the rather extensive correspondence with many of the leading natural scientists of his time; included are letters from Charles Darwin, Leonard and Thomas Huxley, Simon Newcomb, and Beataans

CAO website

## Ideas

- What **primary sources** are available? How do they allow us to make sense of the past?
- Where do we find sources for **previously untold stories**?
- Who holds **knowledge** in different communities? How is it shared?

## People

- Amos Doolittle, engraver
- Henry Barnard, education reformer
- Wallace Nutting, antiquarian
- Theodate Pope Riddle, architect
- Joshua Hempstead, diary 1711-58



Theodate Pope Riddle

## Places

- Connecticut Museum of Culture & History, Hartford
- Connecticut State Library, Hartford
- Hempstead Houses, New London
- Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame
- Hartford History Center



Joshua Hempstead  
Diary

## Events

- Annual burning of Benedict Arnold effigy
- Black Lives Matter protests, June 2020
- Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, est. 1976
- Lafayette's Farewell Tour, 1824-25



Burning Benedict  
Arnold's effigy

# FOR THE COMMON GOOD

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As we reckon with what the nation's 250th means in Connecticut, we will encourage civic engagement to continue to build our communities, state, and nation using the democratic ideals outlined in our founding documents. The 250th anniversary offers an opportunity to reconsider the origins of our government, democratic institutions, and broader civic life, and a chance to reflect on the ways we have changed them over time. Discussions about our democracy and civic intuitions can help strengthen understanding, inspire action, and reveal ways that all of us can participate in and shape our democracy.

How can understanding the origins of our government inform civic engagement today?

How do we determine who is an American?



Signing of the  
Constitution

## Ideas

- How have ideas of **citizenship** changed since 1776?
- What is a **representative democracy**? How do we encourage or discourage participation and representation?
- How have our **founding documents** changed in the last 250 years? Why?

## People

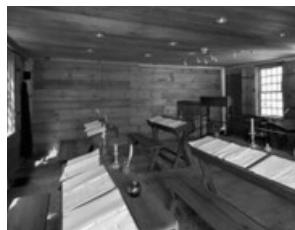
- Thomas J. Dodd, state senator
- Ella Grasso, governor
- Isabella Beecher Hooker, suffragist
- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights leader
- Maria Colón Sánchez, activist



Martin Luther King

## Places

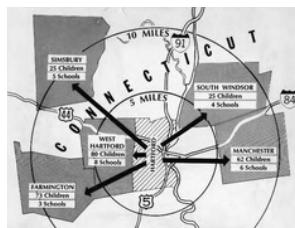
- Legislative Office Building, Hartford
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket
- Old State House, Hartford
- Peace Center of Connecticut, Hartford
- Litchfield Law School, Litchfield



Litchfield Law School

## Events

- Adoption of the Fundamental Orders – January 14, 1639
- CT General Assembly Approves the Declaration of Independence – October 10, 1776
- Sheff v. O'Neill – March 3, 1999
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation granted federal recognition – October 18, 1983



Map of school bussing  
(Sheff v. O'Neill)

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The **Connecticut Council for the Social Studies** will be hosting conferences for students and teachers focused on the themes of the 250th.

Teachers and students are encouraged to participate in **Connecticut History Day** and develop projects related to the 250th and the themes for this commemoration.

**ConnecticutHistory.org** is a state public history resource that provides engaging, well-researched stories about Connecticut history that link to reliable primary and interpretive resources.

Connecticut's **Kid Governor** immerses 5th graders in a real election for the CT Kid Governor, a fellow 5th grader who will represent them during a one-year term of active leadership. The program teaches about state government, voting, elections, and civic participation.

The Museum of the American Revolution has put together a **Summer Reading List** for 2023 young readers, covering books appropriate for ages 7-14.

**TeachIt** provides inquiry-based activities that reinforce the principles found in the state social studies frameworks to help Connecticut's teachers bring Connecticut history into the classroom. Additional lessons will also be created.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**Connecticut Archives Online (CAO)** was undertaken by the Western Connecticut State University Archives in 2008 and is a project that facilitates searching archival holdings in our state.

**Connecticut Collections (CTCo)** is a resource for teachers and students, researchers, other organizations looking to learn more about their own collections, and history and art lovers. It brings together resources from museums and archives throughout the state in one place.

The **Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA)** is part of the Digital Preservation Repository Program at the University of Connecticut. It is dedicated to the maintenance, delivery, and preservation of a wide range of digital resources for educational and cultural institutions and State Agencies in Connecticut.

**Connecticut Explored** is the nonprofit magazine of Connecticut history. Anyone with an interest in the untold stories of Connecticut's past can satisfy their curiosity with each issue of *Connecticut Explored*. The magazine offers a variety and range of stories that connect our past to our present and future.



## administered by **cthumanities**

CT Humanities (CTH) is the non-profit organization recognized by the State of Connecticut to coordinate and lead the plans for commemorative, educational, and civics-based initiatives leading up to and during 2026. CTH will serve as the administrative agent and act as the nonprofit fiduciary on behalf of any activities undertaken by the America 250 | CT Commission.

As the principal grantmaking organization for history, cultural, and civics organizations in Connecticut, CTH will bring together communities and cultural resources throughout our state and lead the sector in developing a meaningful commemoration.

# ABOUT THE COMMISSION

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In order to recognize this moment in our history, Governor Ned Lamont established the America 250 | CT Commission with Executive Order 22-2. The mission of the commission is to plan and coordinate activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding; and enhance tourism, economic development, historic education and preservation, and outdoor recreation within the state; and coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, as well as private and public organizations and partners. The Commission will develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive celebration, commemoration, and observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence through civic, cultural, and historical education events and programming; and will promote the documentation, identification, and preservation of cultural and historic resources, including archives, buildings, landscapes, objects, and sites related to the semiquincentennial period.

To learn more about the America 250 | CT Commission, including upcoming meetings and to read the Executive order, visit [CT250.org](http://CT250.org).

# STAY CONNECTED

[info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org)

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[www.ct250.org](http://www.ct250.org)

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LOGO

# AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

April 2, 2025

Hon. Denise W. Merrill  
Chair

Jason R. Mancini, Ph.D.  
Vice Chair

## Membership

Nicolas Angeli  
Connecticut's Old State House –  
Youth Leader

Stephen Armstrong  
Connecticut State Department of  
Education \*

Anthony Champalimaud  
Member of the Public

Kathryn D'Amato  
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Melvette Hill  
Commission on Women,  
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Elizabeth Shapiro  
Department of Economic and  
Community Development \*

Jonathan Slifka  
Department of Aging and  
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Sally Whipple  
Connecticut Democracy Center

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.  
Connecticut League of Museums

Fred Allyn  
Mayor  
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Mayor Allyn,

As you already know, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is taking place July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. **Thank you for providing a contact for the Town of Ledyard, which we have on record as yourself.** Please let us know if we should make any changes.

As we move into the final year before this important anniversary, we wanted to reach out and share with you some initiatives that will be taking place in 2025.

### Two Lights for Tomorrow – April 18-19, 2025

This two-day nationwide initiative uses the imagery of Paul Revere's midnight ride to raise awareness on Friday, April 18, followed by a National Day of Service on Saturday, April 19th to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Please see enclosed flyer for more details.

### Give 250 Connecticut – July 1-11, 2025

CT Humanities, on behalf of the America 250 | CT Commission, will be hosting 250 hours of fundraising for the 250<sup>th</sup>. Each local committee will be encouraged to create its own fundraising page via a centralized platform that allows them to compete for cash prizes and receive funding to support their local initiatives.

### Town Proclamations – Summer 2025

In preparation for the ceremony that Connecticut would like to host in 2026, a template for a proclamation will be shared with towns this summer, agreeing to align themselves with the goals and vision of the 250<sup>th</sup> in Connecticut as laid out by the work of the America 250 | CT Commission. Templates will be shared in the coming weeks for signing in or around July 2025.

The Commission is also looking into the possibility of propagating Charter Oak scions and distributing to towns interested in planting a Liberty Tree, plans to loan marketing materials for public events and festivals in your towns, and have sent a survey ([forms.gle/aa9AuBhxR4NMQmn8](https://forms.gle/aa9AuBhxR4NMQmn8)) to local committees to get a better sense of where they are in the planning process and resources that are still needed.

We are excited by all that is coming this year and look forward to sharing events, programs, exhibitions, and initiatives throughout the state next year. We will continue to update our website: [www.ct250.org/local](http://www.ct250.org/local). As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at [info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org) or 860-986-6704.

Sincerely,

*Cyndi*

Cyndi Tolosa  
America 250 | CT Project Manager



## 2024 Highlights:

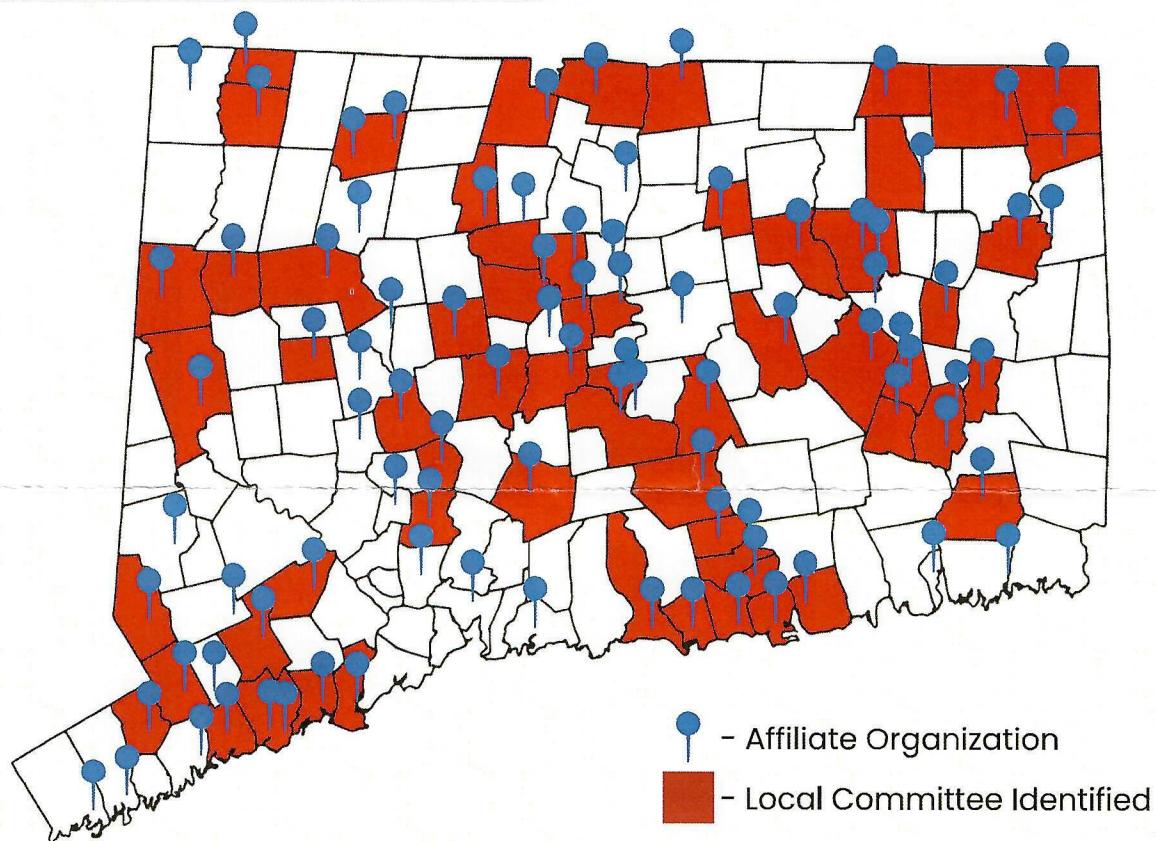


## Public Feedback:

A word cloud visualization featuring a variety of positive and affirming words. The words are arranged in a cluster, with larger and more prominent words including 'optimistic', 'free', 'enlightened', 'safe', 'inspired', 'motivated', 'hopeful', 'joy', 'proud', 'love', 'connected', 'unified', 'educated', and 'proud'. Smaller words surrounding these include 'feminist', 'ongoing', 'celestial', 'revolutionary', 'tolerance', 'dream', 'collaborative', 'expansive', 'respectful', 'thoughtful', 'redemption', 'welcome', 'empowered', 'innovative', 'community', 'patriotic', 'inclusive', 'more-history', 'appreciated', 'revealing-lesser-known-stories', 'freedom', 'culturally-oriented', 'respected', 'learning', 'we-nailed-it', 'accepted', 'challenged', 'amazed', 'cheerful', 'changed', 'involved', 'content', 'blessed', 'rainbow', 'renewed', 'revitalized', 'relieved', 'together', 'peaceful', 'illumination', 'ignited', 'fantastic', 'imaginative', 'better', 'impactful', 'recommitted', 'seen', 'victory', 'bridge', 'reflective', and 'grateful'. The words are rendered in a mix of blue, red, and orange, with some words appearing in multiple colors.

At festivals, convenings, and other gatherings, 143 individuals responded to the question, "In one word, how do you wish to feel after the 250th?"

# Local Efforts:



## Coming in 2025:

### EDUCATE

- 2025 conference
- Educator packet with background and curriculum
- Statewide exhibition
- America's Field Trip and other national efforts

### ENGAGE

- Local and state presence at festivals and events
- Site visits and convenings
- Town-by-town proclamations
- Recruit affiliate program applications
- Bring in public service and volunteerism

### EXCITE

- CT Visit website and visitation
- Marketing with partner organizations
- Plan signature events leading up to July 4, 2026
- Encourage grant funders to embrace funding America 250 | CT projects

If you have any questions, please reach out to Cyndi Tolosa, America 250 | CT Project Manager, at [ctolosa@cthumanities.org](mailto:ctolosa@cthumanities.org) or (860) 986-6704.

# TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

## APRIL 18-19, 2025

### A CALL TO ACTION

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred overnight on April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses its imagery as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.



### NATIONWIDE EFFORTS

Commissions across the country are calling on statehouses to display two lights on April 18, 2025. A light shining out in the darkness matters today as much as it did during the Midnight Ride.

On April 19, 2025, states are promoting a day of service. The possibilities for service can be tailored to the needs of each state's residents and in partnership with service organizations.

### CONNECTICUT EFFORTS

In Connecticut, we encourage community centers, municipal administrative buildings, museums, cultural centers, private residences, and any other organization that wishes to participate to display 2 lights on the night of Friday, April 18.

On Saturday, April 19, we encourage towns and organizations to plan service projects that will allow the community to come together *For the Common Good*. Some project ideas include:

- Planting flowers or community gardens in public spaces
- Neighborhood clean-up or simple maintenance project (i.e., painting a fence)
- Holding a food & supply drive for a local food pantry
- Writing notes for residents of local care facilities

### SHARE YOUR IMPACT

We will publicize a listing of all municipalities and organizations who choose to participate. Please use the QR code or [this link](#) to let us know you're in!

For help publicizing service projects, include a brief description of your plans on your form. **Submit by April 7, 2025.**

Email a recap with an image or two to [info@ct250.org](mailto:info@ct250.org) so we can share your success! **Submit by May 1, 2025.**



# Ledyard Celebrates America 250



## Events by Month

### July 2025

- Ledyard Celebrates America 250 Kickoff Event – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration at the Nathan Lester House

### August 2025

- Banners in front of Town Hall

### September 2025

- Voting Sticker Design Contest in Elementary Schools
  - Patty is in contact with elementary schools
  - Kristen will create a contest template for distribution in schools
- Article in events magazine with QR code to town website

### October 2025

- History Day at Bill Library – October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Roaming History Exhibit (Kate is working on posters)
- Beautification Committee – Bulb Planting
  - Committee will plant red, white and blue crocus to spell “America 250”
- Cemetery Tours
  - Doug & Kate to contact Cemetery Committee (October 17<sup>th</sup> rain date 18<sup>th</sup>)

### November 2025

- Lanter Tours at Nathan Lester House
  - Doug to discuss with Historic Commission for dates
  - Registration online through Parks & Recreation website
- Veteran’s Day Tribute – Historical Veterans from Ledyard (is this happening?)
- Hometown Hero’s Ceremony/Quilts of Valor Dinner Senior Center (Scott)

### December 2025

- Yuletide Celebration @Nathan Lester House – December 6<sup>th</sup> (Doug)
- Historical Baking Contest (Matt to organize Library event with cookbook club)

### January 2026

- TBD

### February 2026

- Historical Maps & Roaming Exhibit

### March 2026

- Color Fun Run – America 250 theme (March 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>)
- Women’s History Month Traveling Exhibit

### April 2026

- Arbor Day Tree Planting – plant an Oak Tree in Town (Mayor Allyn)

### May 2026

- Memorial Day Parade “America 250 Float”; parade walkers in colonial dress

# Ledyard Celebrates America 250



## June 2026

- Flag Day Celebration (Flag Retirement Ceremony - Boy Scouts)

## July 4, 2026

- P& R Summer Camp “Celebrate 250” theme week
- Celebration Nathan Lester House
  - Reenactors
  - Historical Games
  - Awards for Community Group Events
  - Commemorative Coin
  - Live Music
  - Bury Time Capsule

## **Marketing Efforts**

- ✓ “Ledyard Celebrates America 250” Logo – Pete Hary
- ✓ Dedicated Facebook Page – Parks & Rec
  - [\(1\) Facebook](#)
- ✓ Town Web Page – Mayor’s Office
  - [Ledyard Celebrates 250 | Ledyard, CT - Official Website](#)
- ✓ Events Magazine – Kick off article Summer 2025 w/ Nathan Lester Event
- ✓ Flyers w/ QR code

## **Other Ideas**

- ✓ Mural (High School wall?)
- ✓ Commemorative Bell (marking spot for time capsule)