

Community Program Options

Humanities to Go Programs

Through Humanities to Go, our statewide speakers bureau, nonprofit organizations and community groups can offer high quality cultural programming to the public at minimal cost to the host. Browse our 250th related programming below and click on the title to read the full program description.

How the Constitution Helps Us Disagree, Meg Mott

This presentation gives participants a chance to find new ways to think about a contentious issue using the basic principles of the Constitution: freedom of speech and due process. By the end of the discussion, participants will have a greater understanding of how the Constitution can help us to foster political friendships.

Peaceful Revolutionary, Enduring Symbol: St. Patrick's Life & Powerful Legacy Today, Mary Kelly



How does commemoration of historical events exert meaning in our lives? Explore themes of faith, freedom, and revolutionary change through St. Patrick's life and legacy. This presentation will transport you from Ancient Irish foundations to modern American remembrance forms, and illuminate why St. Patrick's name has endured for more than a millennium and a half.

Unpacking the Declaration of Independence: What it meant then and now, David Alcox

People will learn about the text of the Declaration of Independence, who the key players were, the Enlightenment influence and if the values espoused in the Declaration are still relevant today. They will be able to critically think about the document and have the knowledge of what it actually says.



Why Democracy? Joshua Duclos

For those who believe in the value of democracy (its efficacy and its morality), it is important to analyze, articulate, and explore the arguments in which democracy is grounded. This talk will do three things: (1) explain what democracy is; (2) explain why serious historical and contemporary thinkers have distrusted democracy; and (3) explore the best contemporary arguments in favor of democracy.

African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution, Glenn Knoblock

One of the most interesting aspects of the American Revolution is the role played by African Americans in the fight for independence. Glenn Knoblock examines the history of African-American soldiers' service during the war, including how and why they enlisted, their interaction with white soldiers, service on the battlefields, how they were perceived by the enemy and the officers under whom they served, and their treatment after the war.



Redcoats & Rebels: New Hampshire and the American Revolution, Mary Adams

New Hampshire often gets overlooked in the narrative of the American Revolution, overshadowed by its noisy neighbor to the south. Nowadays, few people know about Paul Revere's first ride, which was to Portsmouth in December 1774 to warn the patriots that the British were coming to reinforce Fort William and Mary, five months before the Redcoats marched on Concord and Lexington. And this is just the beginning of New Hampshire's revolutionary story.

Portraits of a Revolution, Inez McDermott

This program explores American portraits painted and sculpted during the years leading up to, and the decades after, the Revolution. The ideals, values and virtues expressly stated in our founding documents are easily identifiable in these portraits once we know how to "read" them.

Community Program Options, cont'd.

Ireland's Great Famine in Irish American History: Memory, Meaning, and Commemoration, Mary Kelly

Just as the Declaration of Independence inaugurated a new American nation, Ireland's Great Famine of 1845-1852 transformed American streetscapes with an extraordinary Irish influx. This program invites you to experience Ireland's Famine as a crucial episode for the Irish in America, and understand how its legacy continues to shape what it means to be Irish-American as the US marks its 250th anniversary.

What the Declaration of Independence offers U.S. Social Movements, Meg Mott

The Declaration of Independence acknowledges a most volatile right: the people's right to rebel. In 1776, that right was exercised through armed rebellion. But is that the only way to exercise that right?

We'll consider how the language of the Declaration guides social movements, across the political spectrum, to institute a government that seems most likely to protect each other's unalienable rights.



Book Groups

Through this program, participants engage with diverse perspectives in the humanities through literature to build understanding, empathy, and to support a culture of reading in the Granite State. Contact the facilitator to propose a book for discussion (check out PBS Books' [America250 Reading List](#) for ideas). Click the facilitator's name to learn more about them and find their contact info.



Kiki Berk

Kiki facilitates discussions on books relating to philosophy, science fiction, and fiction.



Alice Fogel

Alice facilitates discussions on poetry, novels, nonfiction centered on nature (plants, animals, geology), young adult and children's books.

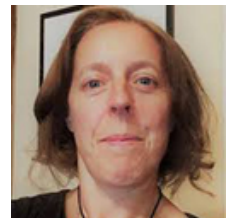
Carrie Brown

Carrie facilitates discussions on books relating to the theme of "coming of age in America."



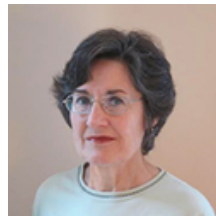
Mary C. Kelly

Mary facilitates discussions on popular history books.



Damien Costello

Damien facilitates discussions on books relating to Indigenous culture/tradition, philosophy, and religion and spirituality.



Liz Tentarelli

Liz facilitates book discussions about non-fiction books relating to historical topics.

Mohamed Defaa

Mohamed facilitates discussions on books relating to the Middle East.



Joshua Tepley

Joshua facilitates discussions on books relating to philosophy, speculative fiction and short stories.



Other Local Resources, Events, and Materials

“What the Constitution Means to Me,” Theatre

KAPOW

Fifteen-year-old Heidi earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In this hilarious, hopeful, and aching human Pulitzer Prize finalist play, she resurrects her teenage self to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives. Unleash your mind and ignite powerful conversations on democracy, equality, and justice with What the Constitution Means to Me – a thought-provoking exploration of our constitutional rights.

Playing in Meredith and Concord in February 2026

[Learn more](#)

American Independence Museum, Exeter, NH

The American Independence Museum develops programs, exhibits, tours, and events that advance a deeper understanding of the ongoing struggle for freedom and self-governance in America (and beyond) today.

In partnership with the William W. Treat Foundation, the Museum will present a 10-year exhibit series on the Bill of Rights. Starting in 2026 with the First Amendment, each annual exhibit will explore one amendment—examining its meaning in the 1780s and today—through artifacts, displays, and thought-provoking questions. Topics will range from free speech to the right to bear arms, quartering of soldiers, and beyond, concluding in 2035. For details, call (603) 772-2622 or email joe@independencemuseum.org.

New Hampshire Historical Society

Keep an eye on the website for more information about the 250th.

NH 250

Browse this website created by New Hampshire’s 250th Commission that lists statewide events and partners.



Resources from NH State Library Center for the Book

- [Items held at the State Library from or about the American Revolution \(1775-1783\)](#)
- [New Hampshire Related Revolutionary War titles](#)

National Resources, Events, and Materials

The 250th Anniversary Handbook - A

Downloadable Resource, American Association for State and Local History

Ideas for 250th related programming. Registration required to download a free copy.

America250 Reading List, PBS Books

“A curated literary journey that celebrates the path to American freedom and commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Making History at 250: A Field Guide for the

Semiquincentennial, American Association for State and Local History

A handbook with guiding themes, ideas, goals, and information to navigate commemorating the 250th anniversary.

The 250th Anniversary Handbook - A

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