



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Gloucester400™ Announces the First Quadricentennial Event

November 24th "Gloucester 400: Our Stories Begin, 1623 through 1722"

Gloucester, MA – November 4, 2019 – Gloucester Celebration Corporation (GCC), the official organizers of Gloucester, Massachusetts' 400th-anniversary celebration, today announced the first event leading up to 2023's yearlong festivities. On Sunday, November 24th, Gloucester400™ will host *"Our Stories Begin: 1623 through 1722,"* a candlelight celebration in gratitude for the City's first 100 years and the people – Native Americans and settlers – who first called Gloucester their home.

This commemoration will take place at the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church, at 10 Church Street, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (The church itself was the first Universalist church to be established in America). This event is the first of four annual celebrations planned to celebrate each century of Gloucester's 400-year saga, culminating in 2023's year-long festivities.

"Every great story has a captivating beginning and this is ours," said Linn Parisi, chairperson of the Gloucester400 Community Outreach Committee. "Gloucester's first century was a tumultuous and dramatic period in our city's history, intensified by waves of immigration to the area. We hope that, after attending this event, residents will be inspired to learn more about our early heritage through the men, women, and families who founded and powered the settlement forward, in addition to exploring their own place on our 400-year timeline."

In keeping with the 400th anniversary slogan, "Our People, Our Stories," the program will feature factual stories and historic accounts of the City's early decades, as well as musical interludes and a candle-lit reading of the surnames of Gloucester's first-settling families, many of whom still reside in Gloucester and the surrounding area. Noted local resident historians, Ms. Mary Ellen Lepionka and Ms. Stephanie Buck, will be on hand to discuss the arrival of the Dorchester UK Company in 1623, the Puritan settlers who followed, and the immigration of Europeans, as well as touch upon the presence of those Native Americans who were living on Cape Ann at the time. Stories of the

settlement's rapid changes and the impact of the many immigrants who followed those first settlers up to 1722 will round out the program. To capture and preserve the stories of Gloucester's first century, this event will also be videotaped and shared online.

How You Can Help

A wide range of Gloucester400 Committees are seeking volunteers whose interests and expertise align with their respective missions. Gloucester residents are encouraged to attend the public planning meeting to be held at City Hall on November 16th at 11 a.m. to join a committee and or sub-committee to help make 2023 an anniversary celebration to remember. Committees include:

- Arts Committee (including Visual Arts, Literary, Music, and Theatre sub-committees)
- Burial Grounds and Cemeteries sub-committee
- Business
- 400th Community Outreach and Engagement
- Dogtown/ Common Settlement sub-committee
- Education Committee
- Fisheries sub-committee
- Genealogy sub-committee
- Heritage Committee
- Logistics
- Millennial Outreach
- Sports and Recreation Committee
- Tourism
- Veterans Outreach
- Waterways Committee

In addition, if individuals or businesses that wish to sponsor any part of this or future events, please contact Linn Parisi (Glou400outreach@gmail.com or Gloucester400@gmail.com) to learn more. Sponsors and event support are always welcome and encouraged.

Gloucester's 400th Anniversary: "*Our People, Our Stories™*"

Gloucester, Massachusetts, America's oldest seaport, will be "400 years young" in 2023. To celebrate its past, honor its people, and welcome its promising future, the city has begun preparations for celebrating this historic milestone and organizing the year-long celebration of its anniversary. The theme of the quadricentennial is *Gloucester: Our People, Our Stories™* and focuses on celebrating Gloucester's history through the stories of the people who lived, sacrificed, rejoiced, worked, built, and innovated together – at times risking everything -- since 1623. Gloucester Celebration Corporation is the steering committee established to guide the efforts to create a momentous city-wide celebration among the people and businesses, and facilitate an exceptional year of festivities.

To provide the latest information about Gloucester400's many activities and opportunities, Gloucester Celebration Corporation has launched a website that will be continuously updated with news, fun, and useful information. Visit www.gloucesterma400.org for more information.

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