

CT 1776: A Revolutionary Event

The Connecticut Conference of America 250

Central Connecticut State University
Alumni Hall, Student Center
Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, 2026
<https://www.ccsu.edu/event/ct-1776-revolutionary-event>



Conference Timeline – Day 1 Friday, March 20, 2026

7:45-8:30 a.m. – Registration

8:30 a.m. – Welcome and Introduction

8:45 a.m.

ACT 1 – January-July 1776 – The Dawn of Liberty

- “A Song for American Freedom” By John Dickenson, (The Liberty Song)
Connecticut Gazette, (New London) July 16, 1768 – The Music of Revolution – Richard Franklin Donohue
- “Excerpts from Thomas Paine’s Common Sense: A Living History Presentation” – Luke G. Boyd, Public Historian, Living Historian; National September 11 Memorial & Museum
- Instructing Connecticut’s Continental Congressional Delegation – Matt Warshauer, Central Connecticut State University
- The Declaration: A Reading – Howard Wright, Science Department Head, Renbrook School. Retired.

9:50 a.m. – Break – 10 minutes

10:00 a.m.

ACT 2 – July-December 1776 – The Scourge of War

- “A Song Composed by a Son of Liberty” *Hartford Courant*, May 8, 1775 – The Music of Revolution – Richard Franklin Donohue
- “Connecticut’s Armed Forces: Militia; State Troops; Navy & Continental Line” – Dave Naumec, Independent Museum Professional & Associate Researcher, Bywater Historical Services, LLC
- “Freedom’s Unfinished Promise” – John Mills, Alex Breanne Corporation
- “Connecticut’s Indigenous Troops 1776” – Dave Naumec, Independent Museum Professional & Associate Researcher, Bywater Historical Services, LLC

11:05 a.m. – Break – 10 minutes

11:15 a.m.

- “A Continental Soldier: Joseph Martin Plumb” – Matt Vallier, New England Civil War Museum; Connecticut Capitol Battle Flag Collection
- “‘The Web They Wove’: Women & Their Wardrobes During Connecticut’s Revolution” – Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue, Dirty Blue Shirts
- “What People Heard in the Pews: The Connecticut Clergy” – Nora Howard, Historian of the Avon Congregational Church & Town of Avon

12:15 p.m. – Break for lunch – 1 hour

1:15 p.m.

ACT 2 Continued.

- “Nathan Hale, A Life and Legacy” – Anne Marie Charland, CT Landmarks, Museum Administrator Nathan Hale Homestead
- “Patriot Federalist: Noah Webster’s Fight for American Cultural Unity” – Jeff Mainville, Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society
- “Ordinary People Were Tories, Too” – Bill and Kristen Keegen, Bywater Historical Services LLC.
- “The Catacomb of Loyalty: A Deep Dive into New-Gate’s Role in the Revolution Sneak peak performance of the original play, “Performance of The Slippery Truth: Prisonbreak at New-Gate” by Patrick Gabridge – Morgan Bengel, Museum Curator, New Gate Prison

2:35 p.m. – Break – 10 minutes

2:45 p.m. -

ACT 3 – 1777 and on – The Long Battle for Independence

- “A Song on the Surrender of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne and his Army, to Major General Gates” *Hartford Courant*, January 20, 1778 – The Music of Revolution – Richard Franklin Donohue
- “The Realities of War” – Dave Naumec, Independent Museum Professional & Associate Researcher, Bywater Historical Services, LLC

- “The Battle of Ridgefield: How Benedict Arnold and the Patriot Militia Galvanized Revolutionary Connecticut” – Keith Marshall Jones, Connecticut Colonel Publishing Company & Ridgefield Historical Society
- ~~“The Raid on Middlesex Parish (Darien), 1781” – Tom Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University, Director, Center for Connecticut Studies, Eastern Connecticut State University~~

3:10 p.m. – Break – 10 minutes

3:35 p.m. – Grand Finale: “Painting Patriotism, Healing Wounds: The Revolutionary Art of Col. John Trumbull.” – Dr. Walt Woodward, Connecticut State Historian emeritus and Associate Professor of History emeritus at the University of Connecticut

4:35 p.m. – Day 1 Ends
