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News for Darien

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Opening Ceremony for Darien's 1820-2020 Bicentennial on Friday at Town Hall

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Amid monumental murals depicting key events from Darien's history, the town will kick off its Bicentennial year with a glittering celebration to formally launch the town's 200th birthday year celebrations.

— *an announcement from the Darien Bicentennial Committee*

“This celebration is all about getting the community fired up with hometown pride,” said Miller. “Set against the backdrop of the WPA murals depicting momentous events from our town's history, the auditorium at Town Hall is the perfect venue.”

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The event will include special guest presentations, including performances by Darien High School's Tudor Singers, and a keynote address by Darien's Scott Pelley, award-winning correspondent with 60 Minutes and <https://darienite.com>: *A Reporter's Search for Meaning in the Stories of our Times*.

When doors open at Town Hall at 6:30 p.m., a slideshow presentation will feature old photographs from the collection of the Darien Historical Society and the Tudor Singers will perform special selections.

Members of Scouts BSA Troop 53 will open the formal program at 7 p.m. with the presentation of the colors. Al Miller, chairman of the town's 2020 Bicentennial Committee, will deliver opening remarks and First Selectman Stevenson will present a welcoming address.

"We are inviting the entire community to mark the beginning of a very special year for Darien," said First Selectman Jayme Stevenson. "Our town's 200th birthday will be a time to celebrate everything that is truly special about this community."

If You're Going ...

- The Bicentennial Opening Ceremony will be held on Friday, Jan. 10 in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2 Renshaw Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 7 p.m. (Snow date: Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.)
- The Opening Ceremony is free and open to the public. No registration is required, and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Tickets for the Bicentennial Cocktail Reception, hosted by the Darien Arts Center and Darien Historical Society, which follows the Opening Ceremony at the Darien Arts Center, are now sold out.

Speaker: CBS Anchor Scott Pelley

The highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Pelley, best known for his work on 60 Minutes and as anchor and managing editor of CBS Evening News.

Pelley will discuss his inspiring new memoir *Truth Worth Telling*, a book that brings readers to the front lines of history by chronicling the stories of those who have lived through recent historic events.

During the Opening Ceremony, Pelley will share his thoughts on free speech and freedom of the press, and how poignant and unforgettable stories of today become the history of tomorrow.

Following the Opening Ceremony, there will be a book sale and signing with Pelley, arranged by Barrett Bookstore.

Merchandise and Fundraising

Also, 2020 merchandise featuring the official Bicentennial 2020 logo (hats and t-shirts) will be available to purchase. Both the 2020 Bicentennial logo and the merchandise were designed by Darien High School students.

All 2020 commemorative items cost \$20 each and may be purchased with either cash or check. Proceeds benefit the town's 2020 celebrations.

Nearly 80 percent of the anticipated expenses for the town's 2020 expenses will be raised through private donations, Miller said.

To sponsor or donate, please mail check to Town of Darien, and include "2020 Bicentennial" in the memo line of the check. Checks may be mailed to Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820 and include ATT: 2020 Bicentennial on the envelope.

You can find information on Bicentennial events and projects is available at www.darienct.gov/2020.

To participate, volunteer or donate visit [this Web page](#) or email Info.Darien2020@gmail.com.

Thanks to Sponsors

Darien's 2020 Bicentennial Committee wishes to thank its First Official 2020 Sponsors:

Platinum Benefactor: A special thank you to The Darien Foundation for the \$32,000 leadership grant to fund the Darien Heritage Trail

Gold Sponsors: Baywater Properties Crestwood Advisors DR Bank Hollow Tree Self Storage The Waters Edge at Giovanni's

Silver Sponsor: RAND Insurance

Bronze Sponsors: Barrett Bookstore, Brown Thayer Shedd Insurance Agency.