



June 23, 2023

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**Old North Church & Historic Site Celebrates Independence Day with Performances of “Paul Revere’s Ride,”
an Original Play, Children’s Story Time, Guided Tours, and a Historical Summer Clothing Presentation
Tuesday, July 4**

WHAT: On July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Old North Church & Historic Site** will celebrate Independence Day with a one-day family friendly event. Known for “One if by land, and two if by sea,” and the midnight ride of **Paul Revere**, the legacy of Boston’s oldest surviving church as a symbol of American independence and active citizenship is discussed in history and civics classrooms nationwide.

This year’s celebration includes: live printing demonstrations in the Printing Office of Edes & Gill, children’s story time sessions; a three dramatic readings of Longfellow’s Paul Revere’s Ride poem at 11am, 2pm, and 4pm; guided tours of the church’s gallery and bell tower and nearby Copp’s Hill Burying Ground; and an interactive experience with public historian **Adam Hodges-LeClaire** who answers the question: How did Bostonians working and living outdoors dress for sweltering summer heat 250 years ago? This presentation will use an ongoing 18th century tailoring demonstration as well as reproduction 1770s summer clothing and accessories to explore the wardrobes and varied cultures Americans developed to ‘beat the heat’ before air conditioning and suntan lotion. Suitable for ages from elementary school on up.

In the evening, Old North Church will host a performance of the original play “**Revolution’s Edge**,” with doors opening at 5 p.m. Produced in partnership with **Plays in Place**, “Revolution’s Edge” is a gripping historical drama set on April 18, 1775, the day before the Battles of Lexington and Concord and mere hours before the famous “two if by sea” lantern signal would shine from Old North’s steeple. The story centers on the interaction between three members of Old North’s congregation, who share a faith but are politically divided as Boston sits on the brink of war, searching for information and answers as to the best path forward for both their families and the colonies.

WHO: **Nikki Stewart**, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated, which operates Old North Church & Historic Site, will be onsite for interviews and can speak to the national landmark’s place in American history as Old North Church celebrates its 300th anniversary year.

WHEN: Monday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

***Best interview/photo/filming opportunities**

- **10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.: reading of *Paul Revere’s Ride***
- **10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ongoing interactive tailoring and print demonstrations**
- **5 p.m.: doors open for “Revolution’s Edge”**

WHY: Old North Church is a beacon of American independence. Old North Illuminated is a secular nonprofit that inspires active citizenship and courageous, compassionate leadership by interpreting and preserving the Old North Church & Historic Site. Offering onsite experiences, K-12 classroom lessons, and virtual programming, Old North Illuminated shines an analytical light on the past to build a brighter future. Old North Illuminated envisions a future in which everyone will see their stories, struggles, and hopes reflected in places of prominence and our shared American history.

In April, Old North Church & Historic Site was designated as a Site of Conscience by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience (ICSC). Founded in 1999, the ICSC is the only global network of historic sites, museums and memory initiatives that connects past struggles to today’s movements for human rights. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

WHERE: Old North Church & Historic Site, 193 Salem St, Boston, MA 02113

SOCIAL: Old North Illuminated on social media: Facebook ([@oldnorth1723](https://www.facebook.com/oldnorth1723)); Twitter ([@OldNorth1723](https://twitter.com/OldNorth1723)); Instagram ([@oldnorth1723](https://www.instagram.com/oldnorth1723)); and YouTube ([Old North Church & Historic Site](https://www.youtube.com/OldNorthChurch&HistoricSite)).

HOW: For advance and onsite interview, photo and filming opportunities, call Allison Epstein at 203-915-8364 or email allison@teakmedia.com | **Onsite media contact: Nikki Stewart, 617-510-4417.**