

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN

375 and Still Going Strong



Sandy Goldstein, President

This year Stamford celebrates its 375th Birthday--so it's time to present activities that engage the public and highlight this city's fabulous history. Plans for the historic celebration began last August when Mayor Martin assembled a group of Stamford historians and community leaders and tasked them with putting together a yearlong celebration. After numerous brainstorming sessions, an engaging year of festivities began on April 17th and will span the entire year. So, here's some of the events to look forward to:

- Opening Ceremony on April 17 at 3pm at Old Town Hall. The Mayor, religious leaders and the public rang in the celebration with a conversation about the role of faith in our history. Monsignor DiGiovanni and Rabbi Daniel Cohen gave inspiring speeches. Historian Ron Marcus recapped Stamford's fascinating history & Marty Levine delighted the audience with anecdotes about 10 interesting Stamfordites. The Union Baptist Church choir lent their magnificent voices to the day's festivities, after which we laid a laurel wreath on the plaque in Veterans park which commemorates the city's founding.

- Re-dedication of Hoyt Barnum. This will take place Sunday October 23 at the site of the historic building's new home adjacent to the Stamford Historical Society

- Founding Event Re-Enactments. The Connecticut Fifth Regiment will re-enact colonial life at the Stamford Museum on May 14/15 and Oct 15/16. Live performances depicting stories of colonial Stamford will be held on Sept 24 at 1 and 3pm at Fort Stamford.

- Stamford Public Schools Students from pre-K to High School will participate in the year's celebration through art and video projects.

- Honor Residents A list of 400 residents garnered from across the community, spanning colonial to modern times has been collected. 150 of them will be featured in the Advocate throughout the year and the rest will be noted on the 375 website.

- Timeline An attractive Timeline highlighting significant people, events and happenings will hang at the Ferguson Library and Government Center.

- Looking Ahead What does the future hold? Stamford residents will look into the future and predict where we'll be in 25 years. Go to stamford375.org and record your predictions.

- Oral History Come to the Library and talk about your neighborhood and family history! The Library will have more information on the mechanics of this project shortly and it will be posted online at stamford375.org.

- Mill River Scavenger Hunt Join the fun at Mill River throughout the summer! Check stamford375.org for dates.

- Neighborhood Tours Our neighborhoods are beautiful and historic. On Saturday, July 9th a tour of the Downtown, conducted by Wes Haynes, will take place. Other neighborhoods are yet to be programmed. There will be a tour of the historic Atlantic St. Post Office on September 17th followed by a celebratory party.

- Labor Day Fireworks at Cummings Park!!!!!!!



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DOWNTOWN EXPRESSIONS ART IN PUBLIC PLACES



Triad by Bret Price

This summer, streets of Stamford Downtown will be adorned with 43 unique modern art sculptures. Downtown Expressions, this year's Art in Public Places exhibit, features sculptures by renowned artists from across the country, all of which will be on display throughout the Downtown and at the Stamford Town Center, from June through August, 2016. We invite you to enjoy each and every piece!



Tango by David Skora



Petit Glace by Jon Krawczyk



Navigator by Kevin Barrett

For more information or a map of exhibit locations, please call Stamford Downtown at 203-348-5285 or check our website at stamford-downtown.com in mid-May.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

Every year we're hard pressed to decide which sign of spring is our favorite. Is it the 2,500 pansies that are planted throughout the district by our volunteer Garden Groomers? Or is it the 56 sidewalk cafés that sprout on the sidewalks bringing with them a renewed sense of excitement and vitality? Fortunately, we don't need to choose; we can simply enjoy both together as we explore the vast array of fabulous restaurants on every downtown street.



One of 2,500 pansies planted Downtown



Downtown diners enjoying the outdoor patios

Sidewalk cafes are a key element of the vibrant downtown restaurant scene and we celebrate them throughout the season. But it's also important that they are a positive experience for all visitors, so this year expect some minor changes. We've worked with city staff and elected officials to ensure downtown sidewalks will be comfortable to maneuver for moms with strollers, those with disabilities as well as any other special needs.

Be sure to come downtown often throughout spring, summer and fall to experience our diverse cuisines and ever-changing seasonal landscape.

RETAIL CORNER

Spotlight on Bedford Street's new Retailers: Chic Jack's & Oceanblue Dive

Bette Midler, Bruce Springsteen, Yoko Uno, Cindy Lauper and Jack Nicholson were all patrons of this hip New York vintage clothing store which opened in 1975 at 151 First Avenue, known as "East Village Vintage Clothing". Editors of *Vogue* magazine and *Woman's Wear Daily*, scoured the racks for Valentino, Chanel and Pucci selections for their latest fashion shoots, loyally following the store as it grew and moved to Union Square at 891 Broadway and finally to 12,000 square feet at 303 5th Avenue. **Chic Jack's Vintage Clothing** now has a new home at 95 Bedford Street in Stamford Downtown. The newly opened boutique carries a wide range of offerings including: ladies ready to wear, evening gowns, cowboy boots, shoes, jewelry and handbags, all dating from turn of the century to the late 1990's.



Owners Jack & Mona Markus at Chic Jack's



Divers enjoying one of the many dive trips Oceanblue Dive offers every year

What began as a sporting club in NYC back in 2006, quickly grew to become one of the largest scuba clubs in the US with over 1,500 members. Founded by world class scuba instructor Michael Feld, the diving club thrived leading Michael to open a retail outlet called Reck's Dive Center (a block from the Norwalk Aquarium) in 2013. Now newly relocated to **108 Bedford Street**, and renamed **Oceanblue Dive**, the store offers scuba gear, dive apparel and resort wear. This unique shop offers scuba classes throughout the year plus 5-6 diving trips to the Caribbean.

Stamford Downtown Welcomes 4 new restaurants



Noir Stamford

Inspired by Europeans, "Bistronomie" is a progressive form of dining derived from blending 'bistro' and 'gastronomy' experiences together. Described by the owner, veteran art dealer Carrin Schechter as a "five-star cuisine sans the white tablecloths," **Noir Stamford**, located at **225 Summer Street**, introduced this innovative dining style to Stamford this winter adding to the city's robust culinary landscape. The international menu, which takes cues from across the globe, offers an undeniable and delicious nod to French cuisine.

Chez Vous, is an upscale French bistro opened at **188 Bedford Street** by two longtime friends and business partners, Alain Bars (owner of U& I Deco on Spring Street) and Erik Erlichson (former executive chef at Bistro Versailles in Greenwich and Chez Jean-Pierre in Stamford). This bistro has a wonderful vibe and carries on the French tradition, adding some spice to Bedford Street's restaurant offerings.



Chez Vous Owners Alain Bars & Erik Erlichson



The Bar at Kashi Japanese Cuisinet

Sushi lovers welcome the new upscale **Kashi Japanese Cuisine** Sushi Lounge located at **131 Summer Street**, across from the Majestic Theatre. Owners Daniel Lin, Evan Qiu and Sky Li are thrilled to be opening their 5th restaurant (their first in CT), having been successful in Huntington, Rockville Centre, Syossett and Bellmore, Long Island. The dramatic glittery interior with an active bar scene, gives you a hint of the fine dining experience that awaits as you experience Kashi's Japanese cuisine.

Born and raised in Peru, owner Edwardo Oshiro, fell in love with the family restaurant business. He brings his passion for cooking to his beloved restaurants called **Acuario**, meaning seafood. Opened for 10 years on Main Street Port Chester, the second **Acuario** already has a receptive crowd in their new location at **78 West Park Place** in the Columbus Park area of Stamford Downtown. Newcomers are encouraged to sample the homemade Ceviche or the Charcoal Chicken.



Acuario Stamford

NEW CONCERT POLICY THIS YEAR

ALIVE@FIVE is the regional premiere concert event of the season. Stamford Downtown has taken enormous pride in presenting stellar acts for the past 15 years and this year's lineup will be no different. However, there will be one significant change this year.

ALIVE@FIVE will not be admitting anyone under the age of 21 this year. The police have determined that this policy must be enforced in order to provide a safer venue for all who attend. This new policy must take effect this summer in accordance with our permit and city regulations.

We want to remind our audiences that we do have a family friendly alternative: **Wednesday Nite Live**, (formally Jazz Up July). We welcome you and your kids of all ages with their picnic baskets to our star-studded line-up of music.

The concert lineups will be announced in May. We promise that you will not be disappointed!



Stamford Downtown Events, Summer 2016

Downtown Expressions Art in Public Places June-August 2016

Each year Stamford Downtown hosts a distinguished outdoor sculpture exhibit designed to attract both local and regional audiences. Art in Public Places features sculptures lining the sidewalks and parks of the Downtown as well as the Stamford Town Center.

Brews on Bedford Saturday, June 11, 2016 1-5pm, Latham Park on Bedford Street

NEW THIS YEAR!
Brewfest featuring craft breweries from throughout the region. Visit stamford-downtown.com for ticket information

Stamford Downtown Farmers Market Saturdays June 18-October, 2016 9am-3pm, Prospect Street at Latham Park

Visit our farmers' market with vendors offering the freshest fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods and more! Straight from the farm and right to your home.

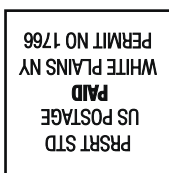
ARTWALK in Stamford Downtown June 24-25, 2016

Art work from professional artists as well as performing artists will be on display in galleries on a walking route in Stamford Downtown.

Alive@Five Outdoor Summer Concert Series

Thursday Evenings,
July 7, 14, 21, 28,
August 4, 11, 2016
5pm, Columbus Park

Live music from national and regional headliners, which attracts after work crowds. Thursday nights in Columbus Park have become a ritual in Stamford Downtown with great music, great dancing and great times! NEW THIS YEAR, Alive@Five is a strictly Over 21 event.



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Stamford Downtown Events, Summer 2016 (continued)

Wednesday Nite Live Wednesday Evenings, July 6, 13, 20, 28, 2016 6:30pm, Columbus Park

Summer sizzles with this dynamic concert series in Columbus Park featuring music from many genres.

Stamford Tables Summer Restaurant Weeks August, 2016

Stamford Restaurant Weeks is a great way to celebrate the summer with specially priced menus. Please visit stamford-downtown.com for dates and participating restaurants.

A Grand Summer Night, Dine Around August 10, 2016

Organized by the "Friends of Stamford Downtown," this annual delectable dining event raises money for outdoor sculpture and salutes fine dining in Stamford Downtown. Call 203-348-5285 for an invitation.

Arts & Crafts on Bedford September 17 & 18, 2016 Saturday, 11am-6pm, Sunday, 10am-5pm

Shop at our 100 craft and artisan boutiques on Bedford Street, which will be closed to traffic for the weekend.