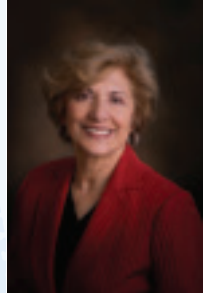




NUMBER 40 • WINTER 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



Stamford Downtown is replete with numerous houses of worship beckoning and welcoming people of all denominations. Many of the congregations have been serving the downtown community for generations. While all add spiritual depth and beauty to the downtown, three of them are celebrating milestones which are inspirational and which greatly enhance the fabric of our community.

The First Congregational Church, located at the intersection of Bedford Street and Walton Place, is celebrating 375 years of service. The Church has much to celebrate starting with a new, dynamic Pastor, Cari Jackson, who brings an infectious spiritual *joie de vivre* to her new job. The Church will kick off its 375 year milestone birthday celebration on March 21 with a procession from Old Town Hall to the Church on Walton Place. The celebration will focus on a year of

community service with major rebuilding, beautification and clean up programs. According to Rev. Jackson, "The Church is bringing diverse communities together by partnering with local business, other religious and community organizations and individual neighbors across Stamford to address the needs of individuals and neighborhoods that are often underserved or overlooked." The Church will hold outdoor music concerts and tours of the church's stained glass windows. The welcome mat will be open to all who wish to join in the celebrations and volunteer to help.

Beckoning thousands of congregants after 162 years of spiritual service is Saint John's the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, located on Atlantic Street in the heart of the downtown. Monsignor Stephen DiGiovanni has led this large congregation for 12 years. Monsignor is a major historic preservationist who has guided the renovation of the Church's rectory and Basilica, bringing both back to their former glory and beauty. On July 16, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI granted the title of Minor Basilica to the Parish Church of Saint John. This was a major honor as there are only 66 Minor Basilicas out of the nearly 27,000 Catholic parish churches in the USA. This grant affords St. John precedence among all the parishes in the diocese, ranking it immediately after the Bishop's church in Bridgeport, thus underscoring the unique nature of St. John in the Stamford community. According to Msg. DiGiovanni, "The Basilica of St. John in Stamford is a dramatic sign that a church built 150 years ago remains dynamic and inspires the community today." As a gift to the community, the Church will partner with the Richard Tucker Music Foundation to bring noted Metropolitan Opera stars to perform live at the acoustically extraordinary Church sanctuary. The program will be held Saturday evening May 1st.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, located on Washington Blvd, has been a significant member of the downtown community since the year 1861 and is the spiritual home to 200+ economically, culturally and socially diverse congregants. St. Andrew's, in spite of its small size, provides large-sized community service. It hosts significant programs such as a middle class daycare center, is the site of the Alternative Routes to Education Program and is also the venue for countless needed programs such as AA meetings, substance abuse support groups and art programs. St. Andrew's, under the magnificent leadership of its Pastor, Father Alton, averted the extinction of its parish due to dire financial circumstances by selling a portion of its property to a community-minded and seasoned developer who will build 94 units of housing, including 9 below market rate apartments in the heart of the downtown, adjacent to the University of CT. To accomplish the sale, the historic but severely deteriorated old rectory had to be razed. A small group of preservationists protested the plan and appealed the church's right to raze the building. Last month the court voted in favor of the church's position, much to the relief of the church's passionate congregants who were determined to save their parish. Shortly, construction will begin on the housing and on a new rectory. Father Alton believes that his Church will now be better able to serve both the spiritual, educational and community needs of a diverse downtown community.

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Summer Events Preview

A new year brings a new season of events for 2010 and this year is shaping up to be one of the best seasons yet. The slate is full of consistent favorites and programs designed to highlight our Downtown's dynamic ambience and enhance the Downtown economy. From multiple concert series to interactive sculpture exhibits, the DSSD is looking forward to an exciting season.

Art In Public Places



This year's sculpture exhibit, "It's Reigning Cats & Dogs" is similar to previous interactive exhibits such as the Cow Parade in 2000 and the Art-O-Mobiles exhibit in 2001 and will feature five foot tall fiberglass cats and dogs embellished, decorated and artistically enhanced by a team of talented and juried local artists. These sculptures will grace our streets and provide a cultural experience to thousands of visitors for the entire summer. For more information, please visit our website at www.stamford-downtown.com.

Bedford Street Promenade **NEW**

Stamford is a special place. Full of nooks and crannies: unique pockets of lively activity, all intertwined to create one of the most exceptional communities in the country. As a signature stretch of retail in the district, Bedford Street has always been the boutique section of Stamford Downtown. From art galleries and chocolate shops to nostalgic diners and upscale pubs, Bedford Street's atmosphere has always felt "off the beaten path" despite being in the heart of our city.

For three Saturdays in June, Stamford Downtown is looking forward to celebrating that atmosphere with the inauguration of a brand new event on Bedford Street. The Bedford Street Promenade will feature the best aspects of the neighborhood with extended outdoor cafés at many fine restaurants on the street, outdoor music from some of the best regional artists in the area and street performers to entertain and amaze those of us just out for a casual stroll on a cool summer's eve.

Come down to Bedford Street and join us for 3 weeks of fun in the sun, June 12, 19 & 26. The Promenade will be the place to be (and be seen!) on Saturday nights this summer!

Alive @ Five & Pops in the Park

Concerts in Columbus Park have become a staple of Stamford Downtown throughout the summer. On Wednesday and Thursday nights, Columbus Park is filled with good people, good times and GREAT music!

Our Pops in the Park series presented on the Heineken Stage on Wednesday nights was such a success in 2009 that there is a possibility of extending it for an extra week. Kicking off the event on July 7 is the hit machine, NEIL SEDAKA, who will perform song after song from his list of classics, such as *Calendar Girl*, *Whose Sorry Now?* and *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*. The rest of the lineup for Pops in the Park will depend upon funding considerations but hopefully will include the exceptional Stamford Symphony led by Eckart Preu.

Not to be outdone, Thursday nights in Columbus Park will come to life at the usual time! Alive @ Five's lineup is still in the works, but we can promise you it's going to be a big summer, full of fun, fun, fun from June 24 through August 5, ending with a phenomenal concert by the BEACH BOYS on August 5!



Sugar Ray, August 6, 2009



Big Apple Circus

Grab your floppy shoes, pick out your best pair of polka dot pants and find your nose because the Big Apple Big Top Circus is coming to Mill River Park in the heart of Stamford Downtown! For three weeks this summer, the circus will feature clowns, trapeze artists, exceptional equines and clever canines all ready to engage the entire community. Don't miss your opportunity to see amazing circus performers in action, starting July 10, 2010. Ushering in the 3 weeks of Big Apple Circus will

be a Circus Gala on Friday, July 9 hosted by the DSSD and the Mill River Collaborative. Be a part of the excitement at the Friday evening gala or come to the Patron Brunch (full of treats and treasures) preceding the circus on Saturday morning, July 10th. More information about the gala (July 9) and the Saturday, July 10 performance will be available at www.stamford-downtown.com in April. For additional circus information go to www.bigapplecircus.org.

Look for the return of the
i-Shop Stamford Downtown
discount card this Spring.
Many thanks to our sponsor
Fairfield County Bank
May 1 – October 31, 2010

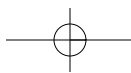
For more information visit
www.stamford-downtown.com
or call (203) 348-5285



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Happy 5th
anniversary to
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Roni Deutch Tax Center Grand Opening

Roni Deutch Tax Center, the fastest growing tax preparation franchise in the United States, recently opened five centers in Connecticut, including one at One Landmark Square, at 121 Broad Street in Stamford Downtown. John O'Neill, owner of the Broad Street location, said, "I'm excited to be a part of Stamford

Downtown's vibrant community. Come down and see us under the maroon awning on Broad Street!" John also made sure to point out that his shop will be open year round, and in addition to individual tax preparation services, will also offer accounting and payroll services for small businesses.



Rediscovering Bedford Street

An Urban Centerpiece Offers Urbane Destinations

Bedford Street is unique in the downtown. It has a particular atmosphere that is demonstrated by the diverse shops and restaurants that line this special stretch of Stamford. From boutiques to premiere restaurants and bars, Bedford Street begs to be explored from top to bottom.

Anchored on one end by a beautiful park and on the other end by the Ferguson Library and the commercial center of Stamford, Bedford Street is the perfect place to escape on your lunch hour, find just the right gift or spend a night out on the town.

Enhanced by brick sidewalks and accessible parking options, Bedford Street is easily the most "strollable" street in the Downtown. With this in mind, the DSSD has embarked on several new initiatives with Bedford Street merchants to enhance and celebrate the eclectic and family-friendly elements of the street's personality.

The Bedford Street Promenade will open the new event series. On three Saturdays in June (12, 19 & 26), Stamford Downtown will close Bedford Street to automobile traffic and invite participating restaurants and shops onto the street for a family and fun-filled event. With outdoor cafés and a temporary pedestrian avenue in the middle of the street, visitors will have the opportunity to sit outside or stroll the promenade.

Stamford Downtown is delighted to welcome several new businesses to Bedford Street as well. An art gallery and two new restaurants have recently chosen this wonderful street to call home. In January, Fernando Luiz Alvarez opened his new art gallery at 96 Bedford Street and has created quite a buzz throughout the district. Partnering with the Avon Theater and several other local businesses, Alvarez has turned a long vacant storefront into a cultural destination in the downtown.

Add to the mix a new flatbread sandwich lunch spot (Sandella's Flatbread Café) and a neighborhood favorite Italian restaurant, relocated to the Downtown (Quattro Pazzi), it's a fabulous time to rediscover this elegant and exciting area of Stamford.



Fernando Luis Alvarez

Beetle Bailey Cleans Up Stamford



Beetle Bailey Box

From Left to Right: Neal Walker, Bill Janocha, Mort Walker, Beetle Bailey, Sarge

The Signal Box Art Program began as a simple way to spruce up the Downtown. What could be more perfect than having local artists turn unsightly traffic signal boxes into Downtown works of art? This year, four artists went to work on transforming their assigned grey boxes into something new.

Anne Salthouse continued her window themed boxes this year with each "window" telling a different story. Her newest work can be seen at Tresser Blvd. and Grove St., but take a stroll up to Forest St. to see the complete set!

Some of the most colorful signal boxes in the district can be attributed to Lisa Eisenman-Salley, new to the DSSD's program. Lisa's designs include White Trellis (located on the corner of Greyrock Pl. & Tresser Blvd.) and Poppies (located on the corner of Bell St. & Washington Blvd.)

Alissa Siegel shows off a floral design (daisies) at the Transportation Center box. Alissa's first box, painted in 2008, depicts a scene of battling Dragons, located adjacent to UBS, along North State Street. Alissa's floral designs are reminiscent of impressionist paintings and are designed to beautify the landscape.

Last, but certainly not least, Team Mort Walker worked together to paint the last unfinished signal box in the program. Mort Walker is the nationally recognized cartoonist, known for his Beetle Bailey comic strip, featured in newspapers throughout the United States. "The Beetle Box," as it is affectionately known, is located outside the Government Center in the heart of Stamford Downtown and has just recently been featured on News Channel 12 and in the Stamford Advocate.

This Spring, the Signal Box Program will focus on repairing older boxes in need of a fresh coat! If you are interested in submitting a design, please email operations@stamford-downtown.com.



Daisies by Alissa Siegel



Arched Windows by Anne Salthouse



Poppies by Lisa Eisenman-Salley



White Trellis by Lisa Eisenman-Salley



Garden Windows by Anne Salthouse

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For more information visit
www.ballerschoolofstamford.org



Join us as Stamford honors
Juanita James
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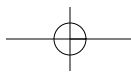
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DSSD Ambassador, Gary Walker, Named Employee of the Year

You've seen them around. They're hard to miss, especially with their bright yellow jackets and broad, kind smiles. The Stamford Downtown Ambassadors have done much to make the Downtown more accessible and more welcoming to residents and visitors alike. Always ready to provide directions or assist someone in need, the Ambassadors are consistently working hard to make Stamford a better place in which to live, work and play.

Among these men in yellow, Gary Walker celebrated his tenth year as a Stamford Downtown Ambassador and was subsequently honored by the DSSD and Allied Barton Security, the company that provides the Ambassador program. In addition to recognizing his ten year anniversary, Allied Barton honored Gary as its Employee of the Year, an award bestowed upon only one Allied Barton employee throughout the entire region. We at the DSSD are thrilled (and very lucky!) to have a dedicated and distinguished gentleman such as Gary on our team. Congratulations!



From Left to Right: Sandy Goldstein, Paul Dodson, Gary Walker, John Ruotolo and Dan Coelbo

Long Time Friend of the DSSD, Ernie Orgera, appointed Director of Operations for the City of Stamford

Seventeen years ago, Ernie Orgera, then Stamford's Traffic Maintenance Supervisor, helped shut down Bedford Street for the City's first Parade Spectacular. It was a small affair in comparison to the grand spectacle it is today, but Orgera remembers it fondly as the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Ever since that first parade, he has worked closely with the DSSD on a majority of their signature events and programs.

His title has changed slightly over the years as he has assumed more and more areas of responsibility, however his latest promotion is really the culmination of a lifetime of hard work for a city which Orgera has dedicated his energies to maintain and improve. As the Director of Operations for the city of Stamford, Orgera will oversee his previous department of Traffic and Road Maintenance as well as the Office of Administration, the Land Use Bureau and the Department of Engineering. The position is a cabinet level appointment and Orgera was quickly tapped by new mayor, Mike Pavia, to fill the role.

After 20 years on the force, Mr. Orgera retired from the Stamford Police department in 1990 at a Sergeant's grade. He has seen Stamford Downtown through its remarkable transition over the past few decades. Ernie said, "Stamford went from an area to which you wouldn't bring your family to a vibrant area of the city. The shops and restaurants are filled and people enjoy walking on the street." He is pleased to have been a part of that transformation through the years.

President of the DSSD, Sandy Goldstein, said, "We're extraordinarily proud of Ernie and grateful for his continued expertise and support of our events." Goldstein and Orgera have worked together through nearly 15 seasons of events in Stamford Downtown. Orgera fondly recalled some of the lighter moments he and the DSSD have experienced, such as a humorous mishap during Cow Parade 2000, the sculpture exhibit that featured fiberglass cows throughout the Downtown. According to Ernie, "When we marked the locations where [the cow sculptures] were going to be installed, we were supposed to use chalk. Unfortunately, we used paint instead. Some of the marks can still be seen today!"

As Orgera and the Pavia administration settle into their new roles, the DSSD looks forward to its continued partnership with the City of Stamford in enhancing and improving Stamford Downtown.



Ernie Orgera & Sandy Goldstein at Alive @ Five in 2009



Ernie Orgera & Don McLean at Alive @ Five in 2007



Ernie Orgera and the Statue of Liberty at the Parade Spectacular in 2001

Summer Events in Stamford Downtown

Art in Public Places, It's "Reigning" Cats & Dogs
June – August, 2010

French Market (Farmers' Market)
June 5 – November 6, 2010, 9am-2pm
Bedford Street at Forest – Saturdays

Bedford Street Promenade
Saturdays, June 12, 19, 26, 2010
Bedford Street

Alive @ Five Outdoor Summer Concert Series
7 Thursdays, June 24 – August 5, 2010, 5pm
Columbus Park

Pops in the Park
3 Wednesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 2010, 6:30pm
Columbus Park

Big Apple Circus Fundraiser Gala and Performance
Gala, Friday, July 9, 2010
Patron Brunch and Performance, Saturday, July 10, 2010
Mill River Park

Stamford Tables Summer Restaurant Weeks
August, 2010 (Dates TBD)

A Grand Summer Night, Dine Around
August 11, 2010, 5:30pm
University of Connecticut, Stamford
and Participating Restaurants