

The Downtown Beat

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Please join our Holiday Stroll on December 6



Bridget Lajoie, Arianna Swink, and Jenny A. Liscombe-Newman at TL6 The Gallery in the Cummings Building spearheaded the upcoming Downtown Stroll and then did a lot of the work to sign up participants.

It was hot. It was sticky. It was August. At the DNB, Inc. downtown forum some thirty five stakeholders met to exchange ideas. Despite the heat, attendees Bridget Lajoie, Arianna Swink, and Jenny A. Liscombe-Newman from TL6 The Gallery were already thinking about the holidays. Jenny's hometown had a successful holiday stroll, why not downtown New Bedford?

At the forum, they suggested that this new holiday event would be an effective way of spreading the word about the our downtown's growing retail presence. Their suggestion quickly drew the support of now retired DNB, Inc. Executive Director Arthur Bennett and the DNB, Inc. Board who organized a committee to bring the event to life.

The women of TL6 didn't stop at making a suggestion. With the help of Alda Roderiques, Marybeth Vargas, former proprietors of the White Knight Gallery, and others, they started a face to face marketing campaign, meeting with between forty and fifty prospective participants, signing up an amazing forty three to date. They got a

positive reception from fellow retailers, finding a group who want to support each other and cross refer.

The Holiday Stroll is the successor to Holiday Shops, and despite the similarity in names, there are important differences. Holiday Stroll will encompass the entire downtown from Centre St. to County St. Secondly, the majority of Holiday Shops vendors were from out of town while the great majority of businesses participating in the Stroll will be local downtown New Bedford merchants. The Holiday Stroll will showcase veteran retailers like Elaine Lima at Elaine's Home of the Black Whale and many newer shops and restaurants.

The whole downtown area is humming with activity. New businesses open regularly. The Stroll will showcase not only retail, but also the entire downtown community: the restaurants, the museums, the parks, and the theaters. And it will showcase the hard work of the people who had an idea and were willing to work hard to make it successful.

Welcome Santa and lights

Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet their young admirers . . . musicians will perform . . . the aroma of holiday treats will fill the air . . . the city's giant tree will sparkle on the Library steps . . . all this and more is what visitors to New Bedford will experience on December 6 at the Downtown Holiday Stroll.

Everyone looking for a memorable way to kick off the 2008 holiday season is invited to be in Downtown New Bedford on Saturday, December 6. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at Custom House Square by fire truck at noon. There will be free children's activities at the National Park Visitor Center, at ArtWorks and at the Bristol Building on Purchase St. Fire truck rides will be available for the younger set.

Musicians will entertain in the Whaling Museum, Gallery X, Citizens-Bank lobby and more. Trolleys will provide free transportation in a loop around the entire Holiday Stroll area. Parking at the Elm St. and Zeiterion garages and on Custom House Square will be free.

At 4:00 Santa and his young followers will parade up William Street accompanied by the New Bedford High School Band to witness the lighting of the giant tree on the steps of the Public Library.

The entire SouthCoast community is invited to celebrate the holidays in downtown New Bedford.

For more information, call Downtown New Bedford, Inc. Executive Director Diane Nichols at 508-990-2777.

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Diane Nichols is new DNB, Inc. Executive Director



"It's a great time to be in New Bedford," says Diane Nichols who became Executive Director of Downtown New Bedford, Inc. on November 1.

"Downtown is the heart and soul of the city, and this is a great opportunity to make a difference. I have spent my entire adult life in New Bedford, and I see a city where much is going to happen. I want to see Downtown New Bedford, Inc. in the forefront, with focus."

She has hit the ground running, or perhaps strolling at a fast pace, becoming immediately involved in the planning for the Downtown Holiday Stroll on December 6.

One of her first goals at DNB, Inc. is to meet as many business owners as soon as possible, so she can put faces to names. You don't have to wait for her to come to you.

"I am very approachable," she says. "Stop by the office and say Hi."

Other short term goals include improving the organization's communications. Long term she foresees DNB, Inc. offering more programs and a broader range of services.

Diane is well known to most DNB, Inc. members from her years working at the Greater New Bedford Chamber of Commerce and for the past few years as the organizer of Summerfest.

"Summerfest shines a bright light on the city," she says. First time and out of state visitors discover a hidden gem. "I am happy to help people discover the city," she added.

She sees a new energy in the city, now, a youthful energy as a new generation of shop owners, restaurant and pub owners and gallery owners establishes new businesses. She sees a city whose reputation will continue to grow and is proud to be a part of it.

Bioneers by the Bay a resounding success for Downtown

On the weekend of October 24-26, downtown New Bedford was the site of a major environmental conference. Bioneers by the Bay blanketed the area with lectures, seminars, films and other events presented in seventeen different indoor and outdoor locations extending from the Zeiterion Theatre to the Whaling Museum.

The conference has been held annually at UMass Dartmouth for the past three years. The move downtown was the culmination of a two-year cooperative effort by the city and the event's major sponsor, the Marion Institute. (<http://www.marioninstitute.org>)

The logistics involved in moving from a single building on the Dartmouth campus to multiple locations in the heart of the city were complex. However, all involved appear to think the results were well worth the effort. "Everybody was very welcoming," said Marion Institute Executive Director Desa Van Laarhoven. "Store owners rolled out the



Bioneers line up for lunch at Custom House Square on October 24

welcome mats. Attendees were blown away by the architecture, the streets, and the friendliness of the people. It was an all-around success."

Mayor Lang even reported that two attendees were so impressed they approached him about the possibility of holding other conferences here in the future.

Chalk up another win for downtown New Bedford!

**Downtown New Bedford, Inc. Presents:
HOLIDAY STROLL '08**

Saturday, December 6 – 12noon – 9:00 pm



Downtown New Bedford has everything you need for a Jolly Holiday – join us for:
Handmade Goods -Boutique Shopping, Restaurants, Galleries, Live Entertainment, Kids Activities, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Tree Lighting Ceremony

Presented by Downtown New Bedford, Inc.
and the City of New Bedford
All live performances sponsored by the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

This program brought to you by a collective efforts of merchants in Downtown New Bedford

For more information contact Downtown New Bedford, Inc.
508-990-2777 or visit our web-site at www.downtownnb.org

Saturday, December 6

All Day: Specialty Shops, Boutiques, Restaurants and Galleries
Zeiterion Lobby “Toys for Tots”
Gallery X “Fight Hunger Holiday Food Drive”

Free admission to the Whaling Museum -
Local artisans vendor fair in Jacobs Gallery in the Whaling Museum and Gallery X

Roving Performances: Lulu the Clown and
Christmas Carolers from the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Free Trolley Rides providing transportation throughout the area

SCHEDULE

12 noon – Santa arrives by antique fire truck
in Custom House Square and travels to Santa’s workshop in John Magnan’s studio
at the foot of Centre Street
Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus – bring your camera for photos

Free Children’s Art Activities:

12:00 – 5:00 ArtWorks!

12:00-4:00 New Bedford Whaling National Park Visitors Center sponsored by WHALe

12:00-4:00 Bristol Building sponsored by SMILES Mentoring
Storytelling in the Zeiteiron Lobby

Santa on the Sphere www.oceanexplorium.org

12:00-5:00 YMCA Lobby

12:00-2:30 Jo-Lee Jazz Band, Whaling Museum Theatre

1:00-3:00 Showstoppers – Citizens-Union Bank Lobby

3:00-4:00 Buzzards Blue Band – Gallery X

3:00-3:45 Cheryl McCormack School of Dance, Whaling Museum Theatre

4:00 – Join the Parade to the City of New Bedford’s official Tree Lighting Ceremony, New Bedford Free Public Library

Parade features the New Bedford High School Marching Band and Jazz Choir



This event made possible by contributions from the following.
Visit them on December 6 and throughout the holiday season:



Art Studio & Yoga
Arthur Moniz Gallery
Bamboo Garden Restaurant
Bejeweled
Blush Beauty Bar
Brick
Cafe Arpeggio
Calico
Carter's Clothing
Catwalk Bar and Grille
Celia's Boutique
Colo Colo Gallery
Converse Photo Supply
Crystal Garden/Doll's Closet/
Green Lantern/This & That

Cork Wine and Tapas Bar
Crowell's Gallery
Elaine's Home of the Black Whale
Freestone's City Grill
Gallery X
Green Bean
Hibernia Irish Pub
Joe Piper
Judith Klein Art Gallery
Marianne Stebenne Pottery
Miguel's Restaurant
Moby Dick Specialties
New Bedford Ocean Explorium
No Problemo
On a Roll

Pegasus Artisans
Salon Lola
Solstice Skateboarding
The Artificial Marketplace
The Bay/The Cottage
The Bedford Merchant
The Corner Cafe
The Juice Box
The White Bouquet Florist Shop
TL6 The Gallery
Union City Bar and Grill
Vetu Gifts & Fine Consignment
YMCA Southcoast
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

ArtWorks! – Bristol Building – Citizens-Union Bank – City of New Bedford – Downtown New Bedford Inc. – Gallery X – John Magnan Studio – mediumstudio – New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park – The New Bedford Whaling Museum – Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport – Outlook EAP – Southcoast Media Group – WHALe – Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Additional Holiday Events in Downtown on December 6

Whaling Museum opens at 9 am - free admission for the day
www.whalingmuseum.org



10am – 4pm Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport
See Santa on the Sphere www.oceanexplorium.org



10am – 6 pm -- Umass Annual Holiday Art Sale – Star Store Building
www.umassd.edu/cvpa/events

10am – 2pm The First Unitarian Church – Annual Holiday Fair www.uunewbedford.org

5 pm - 8 pm – Preservation Society – Annual Holiday House Tour
(ticketed event) www.nbpreservationsociety.org

6pm - 9 pm Gallery Xmas Show and Reception www.galleryx.org

2 pm and 7 pm
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center – Christmas Carol
(ticketed event) -- www.zeiterion.org

YMCA – Free Family Swim Night -- www.ymcasouthcoast.org

6:00-9:00 pm – ArtWorks! Storytelling Cafe www.artworksforyou.org

6:00-9:00 pm – New Bedford Art Museum – “Home for the Holiday” reception
(ticketed event) www.newbedfordartmuseum.org

HOLIDAY STROLL LOGO DESIGNED BY MEDIUMSTUDIO

For the holidays, visit downtown's shops early and often

Holiday strolling is a very good idea. It's green. It's relaxing. It's easy. It's local. It gives you a feeling for our community where people are friendly, helpful and remarkably polite. While we invite you to attend the big, event filled holiday stroll on December 6, we know you cannot get to all downtown locations in one day. Since the Bioneers by the Bay identified over sixty downtown locations for their participants to visit, we suggest that you break the holidays into several manageable mini strolls. Shop downtown first.

A gift shopping stroll is very satisfying. We have familiar retailers who have been successful for years coupled now with a generation of promising new retailers who are bringing excitement, new products and a new buzz to our community. Wherever you go, you will find good service, most often from business owners who will take time to learn your name and your tastes.

For our own stroll, we visited new businesses, one that is about to open and some we had missed in prior issues. It is just a tiny taste of what is available here.

Judith Klein, who has been an artist at the Mosaic Gallery in the Bristol Building, will be holding a grand opening of her own **Judith Klein Art Gallery** in the same location on Saturday, November 29 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. An artist and a teacher for thirty plus years, she is happy to have her own studio although she shows her work in other galleries too.

She has paintings, collages, woodcut prints, mono prints, charcoal trays, hand painted clothing and even t-shirts.

Besides her own work she has Christopher Chapdelaine's image art, Gabrielle Giblin's acrylic and watercolor, Carol Vincent's clothing & accessories, Lory Bradley's ceramics, Kate Madigan's jewelry, Elizabeth Burns' jewelry and Elizabeth Howland's hand dyed silk scarfs.

Arianna Swink, Bridget Lajoie and Jenny A. Liscombe-Newman at **TL6 The Gallery** in the Cummings Building oversee a hub of originality and creativity. One of a kind jewelry, prints and pressed flowers are just a few of the items. They take pride in being able to locate things their customers want.

Not far away, at 772 Purchase Street, **This & That** owned by Sharyn Meehan has moved from Main Street in Fairhaven to join forces with **The Crystal Garden**, owned by Joyce Dutra, **The Green Lantern**, owned by Christine George and **The Doll's Closet** owned by Barbara Johnson. This & That has jewelry and country and seasonal gift items. The Crystal Garden has crystal, semi-precious stones, jewelry, lucky bamboo and amber. The Green Lantern has Buyer's Choice, jewelry and New Bedford prints. This is the fourth downtown location for Christine George. The Doll's Closet has a full line of clothing to fit the American Girl. She also has tea and birthday parties.

The Bay and The Cottage are now open at the foot of Elm Street in the old Skip's Marine Building. They are happy with their new location. Tony Vieira, owner of The Bay and Graca Rezendes, owner of The Cottage say their existing customers from the Dartmouth store have found them in their new location. The foot traffic is better now, and they have seen many new faces.

This is a great spot to shop for fine men's and women's clothing, and if you aren't sure about shopping for other people, a gift certificate is a good idea.

We thought jewelry might go well with the clothing of The Bay and The Cottage and stopped in at **bejeweled** on Centre Street to check out their very wide selection of things to choose from at all price levels. Just down Centre Street, recently opened **Colo Colo Gallery** owned by artist Luis Villanueva, specializes in contemporary art.

All of these shops are in one fairly small and very walkable area. We will be going back, maybe several times before the holidays are over, and we will be going to other shops too.

Artwork in the Judith Klein Art Gallery scheduled for a grand opening on November 29 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Volunteers Needed

Volunteering, says Gig Lang who was honored as DNB, Inc.'s Person of the Year for her extraordinary volunteer efforts, gives you the opportunity for friendship, laughter and praise in addition to celebrating success. She is privileged to serve the city, proud of it on a daily basis and willing to work tirelessly to make it a better place.

One of ten children in a family that included grandparents, Gig learned lessons early in life that are with her today. If you are going to volunteer, she says, do it early. Be the first one to raise your hand. That way you will get a choice of jobs. In a big family, if you volunteer to set the table, you will be outside playing long before the person who dries the dishes.

Humor aside, Gig Lang has an extensive volunteer resume we wrote about in the last issue which is on-line at: <http://www.downtownnb.org/>, then click on the newsletter

Downtown New Bedford is fortunate to have passionate volunteers like Gig Lang, but the need for more volunteers is high. Non-profits can never have too much volunteer help.

If you would like to get involved in volunteer work, there are many paths. Make a list of the kinds of things that interest you. The first phone call you make, or the first time you raise your hand can be the hardest part. But, if you are acting on Gig's advice, put that hand up early.

If any of DNB, Inc.'s varied activities interests you, call Diane or Marianne at 508-990-2777 to discuss your interests. DNB, Inc. can also give you contact information for other non-profits. Here are some of them:

The United Way of Greater New Bedford has a web site for prospective volunteers: <http://www.unitedwayofgnb.org/volunteer-opportunity.htm>. Or call (508) 994-9625.

The Marion Institute that so successfully produced Bioneers by the Bay always needs volunteers. Call them at 508.748.0816.

The Ocean Explorium has a very detailed volunteer sign-up sheet on its web site <http://oceanexplorium.org/pages/Volunteer.html>.

To inquire about volunteering at the **Whaling Museum** call 508 717-6823.

For **St. Luke's Hospital**, contact Janet Koska, Volunteer Team Leader 508-961-5274, e-mail, koskaj@southcoast.org.

For the **National Park** go to web site <http://www.nps.gov/nebe/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm>. Or stop in at the park headquarters at 33 William St.



Honored at the Downtown New Bedford, Inc. annual meeting



Left, Gig Lang is DNB, Inc.'s Person of the Year



Left, Community police officer Gary Sarmento and Shawn McGuire right, received Community Appreciation Awards.

Below, Kevin Santos, owner of Stat Ambulance and Waterfront Grille receives a Community Appreciation Award.



Murray Lukoff accepts a Community Appreciation Award for Halloran, Lukoff and Smith P.C.



Arthur Bennett, DNB, Inc. Executive Director for nine months in 2008 received special recognition for his work. DNB, Inc. president Kevin Pelland is on the right.



Downtown Beats:

Elaine Lima had the grand opening of her 7th downtown store on November 20th. She says it's her last store, but no one is betting on it.



Thank you Arthur!!

At the annual meeting, Arthur Bennett, Executive Director for nine months of 2008, thanked the Board for the education he had received and for the opportunity to get to know the people of Downtown better.

"The enthusiasm is amazing," he says. "The rebirth is here and underway." The real thanks go to Arthur for guiding DNB, Inc. through a period of two festivals, multiple meetings, endless proofreading and several added services. Thanks Arthur!!

DNB, Inc. Welcomes New members:

The Community Foundation of Southeastern MA The mission of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is to improve and protect the quality of life in our region.

Union City Bar & Grill - Our apologies to this restaurant which we identified as the Union Street Bar and Grill in the last issue!

And New Businesses:

The Hibernia Pub, 109 William Street, an Irish bar with entertainment. Call 508-999-9950 for the schedule.

Colo Colo Gallery, owned by Luis Villanueva 25 Centre Street, contemporary art.

The Juice Box 235 Union Street, owned by Jessica Suarez, is located diagonally across from the newly opened state Registry of Motor Vehicles office.

Chowder festival survey

At the Chowder Festival on September 14, a group of volunteers interviewed 161 attendees about their festival experiences. Some findings of note:

1. Word of mouth is as important as everyone always says it is. People heard about the Chowder Festival by word of mouth more than any other way, 31.49% of the time.

2. Fifty three percent of the people we interviewed were from New Bedford, the rest mainly from nearby towns like Dartmouth and Westport. There were some out of state visitors, but few from places as close as Fall River, Somerset and Lakeville.

3. Downtown safety was not raised as a concern of the people at the festival, perhaps because they already have had good first hand experiences.

4. Nearly 27% of the respondents would like to have more events downtown, something that is now occurring.

5. We like to eat. Twenty one percent favored more restaurants in downtown New Bedford.