

**UNITED: A STATE-OF-THE-ART  
PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX  
IN THE HEART OF WESTERLY**  
**PAGE 4**



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## Check out our upcoming events!



### Saturday, February 25th at 10:30am: Mozart for Munchkins

Join Mozart for Munchkins led by Alphonso Horne for a jazz program for kids and their grown-ups! This interactive program features jazz favorites and tunes to get everyone groovin' and moving and ends with an "instrument petting zoo" for kids to meet the instruments up close. Sponsored by Chelsea Groton Foundation. Tickets: \$5, children under 5: free. Visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org) to purchase.



### Saturday, February 25th from 2-4pm: Printmaking Workshop with Donna Frustere

Come explore the world of printmakers with artist Donna Frustere! Student will learn the basics of monoprint and monotyping, learning how to print, register, and create a pattern linoleum, wood, and gell plates, exploring rainbow rolls, other color mixing techniques, and the versatility of a print! Ages teen-adult. Tickets \$10. Space is limited; registration is required. Visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org) to sign up.



### Friday, March 3rd from 5-7pm: Exhibit Opening ~ 2nd Annual Emerging Artists Show

This exhibit will feature works in various styles and media of our region's young and emerging artists from area high schools, including Fitch, Ledyard, Stonington, Westerly, and Wheeler. Fresh, bold, expressive -- these are works that will inspire you! Gallery Hours follow on Wed/Fri/Sun afternoons 1-4pm or by appointment. Suggested donation \$5.



### Saturday, March 18th at 5pm: Music Matters~The Very First Piano, featuring Artem Belogurov

Stylish, deeply expressive pianist Artem Belogurov returns to La Grúa to play the North American début of one of the finest copies of 17th century, brilliant Florentine instrument maker Bartolomeo Cristofori, who developed a key-and-hammer action to make the harpsichord more expressive. Tickets \$20; \$25 at the door. Visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org) to purchase or for more information.



### Wednesday, March 22nd at 6pm: The History of the Mohegan Tribe, with David Eichelberg

David Eichelberg, Outreach and Traditions Specialist for the Mohegan Tribe, will speak about the history of the Mohegan Tribe and will discuss different tribal oral traditions, beliefs, music, and sacred practices in an interactive setting. Sponsored by Connecticut Humanities. Suggested donation \$5. For further information visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org).



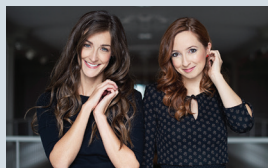
### Wednesday, March 29th at 6pm: Author Book Talk & Signing ~ Alex Prud'homme, Dinner with the President

Presented in collaboration with Bank Square Books. Inspired by the first reporting from inside the White House kitchen by his great-aunt Julia Child, Alex Prud'homme studies the tastes of twenty-six of America's most influential presidents--what they ate, why they ate it, how their meals were prepared and by whom, what it tells us about the state of the nation, and the ways in which their administrations' food policies affected people around the world. For tickets and further information visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org).



### Wednesday, April 12th at 6pm: Meet the Makers of Moromi Soy Sauce

Bob Florence, James Wayman, and Debby Michiko Florence, founders of Moromi, a North Stonington based company, will speak about creating handcrafted seasonings using traditional fermentation techniques with koji and natural microbiome to transform a variety of local ingredients into unique sauces and condiments. Part of this talk will also include a hyper-local food tasting with their products. Sponsored by Connecticut Humanities. Suggested donation \$5.



### Friday April 21st at 7pm: Music Matters ~ Duo Fortin-Poirier, Piano Four Hands

On the occasion of their second return to Stonington, Québécoise pianists Amélie Fortin and Marie-Christine Poirier and the 1886 Chickering concert grand will set off musical fireworks in a program spanning four centuries. Tickets \$20 online; \$25 at the door. Visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org) for more information or to purchase.



### Sunday, April 23rd from 10am-Noon: Earth Day Youth Art Workshop

Children will be able to work with local artists and participate in their choice of various art activities, including painting, crafting, clay, and more. All ages welcome. Registration is not required; stop in any time starting at 10am--we'll be creating until noon! Suggested donation \$5. Visit [LaGruaCenter.org](http://LaGruaCenter.org) for more information.

32 Water St., Stonington, CT | 860-535-2300 | [lagruacenter.org](http://lagruacenter.org)   



### Executive Office and Welcome Center

22 East Main Street, 2nd Floor

Mystic, CT 06355

#### Mailing Address:

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Phone: (860) 572-9578

[www.mysticchamber.org](http://www.mysticchamber.org)

[info@mysticchamber.org](mailto:info@mysticchamber.org)

### Chamber Staff

Bruce Flax, *President*

Morgan Yandow, *Membership Director*

### Volunteers

Ken and Joanne Levy

Celia Gallup

Nancy Cazpek

Gayle Oko

Rachael Seery-Bundesmann

### 2023 Executive Board

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## Chamber Update from the President's Desk

As we enter 2023 and all the year holds for the Chamber, the region, businesses and community, I want to reflect back on 2023. Last year was one to remember and highlighted by the October 15th Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Mystic Bascule Bridge, complete with Fireworks in the Mystic River. We opened the Mystic Chamber Bascule Bridge Visitor Center and along with Just Mystic Apparel, welcomed thousands of people to Mystic. Santa Arrives by Tugboat and the Lighted Boat Parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving saw the biggest crowd ever for the event, topping over 15,000 people that night, who saw the largest number of boats ever entered into the event.

The Chamber team, Morgan Yandow our membership director and myself are entering our third year and we continue to seek understanding of the Chamber's responsibilities and effect. Our focus will always be on the needs of the community, local organizations and our members.

Here are some photographic memories of 2022. The events scheduled for this year include our second annual Yogapalooza (June 21), Float Ella (July 8), Mystic Outdoor Art Festival (August 12 +13), The Groton City Brew Run (September 8), Santa Arrives by Tugboat and The Lighted Boat Parade (November 25) and the Party of 12 (Date TBD). We of course have Business Before Hours, Business After Hours, Ribbon Cuttings and pop-up community events throughout the year.

By the time you read this, the Visitor Center will have reopened with renovations completed. Please stop in to see our new space. We are excited to continue the Bridge Celebration, promote our members and the area!

I am looking forward to 2023 as we have some exciting news to tell you about in the next few months. In the meantime enjoy the weather change as Spring is within reach!

Bruce Flax, *President*



*Celebration of  
the 60th  
Anniversary of  
Coco's Salon in  
Pawcatuck*

*Mystic Matters  
Host Morgan  
Yandow learns the  
fine art of making  
macarons with  
Owner Adam  
Young.*



*Ribbon Cutting at  
Ignazio's the Pizza.*

*Ribbon Cutting at  
Cure Med Spa.*



# UNITED: A STATE-OF-THE-ART PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX IN THE HEART OF WESTERLY!

Located in the heart of downtown Westerly, the UNITED is a state-of-the-art performing arts complex hosting a wide range of films and live events. Whether you're looking for music, film, comedy, dance, or theater, the UNITED has something for everyone. Rarely does one size fit all, but the UNITED's state-of-the-art facilities, including a black box theater that can welcome both seated and standing room concerts, three additional movie theaters, a gallery space hosting intimate performances, poetry nights and other themed events, and a music school, RI PHIL Music School @ the UNITED, the UNITED is as close as one can get to a "mini Lincoln Center" without venturing into New York City. Fans of film, folk, rock, alternative, jazz, visual art, ballet, opera, author talks, tabletop gaming, and more will all find something to love at the UNITED.

Restored and reopened in 2021 with a mission to "unite the community through the arts," the UNITED is also a resource for community partners. The UNITED's "Signature Programs" amplify regional artists, creatives, and organizations, providing unique experiences for our collective audience. Current Signature Partners include the Chorus of Westerly, Festival Ballet Providence, Salt Marsh Opera, the Mystic Aquarium, Savoy Bookshop & Cafe, and many more! In addition to presenting regular events with these partners, the UNITED supports its partnerships with bespoke activations like "March of the Penguins" -- a month-long celebration of penguins to raise awareness for endangered African penguins in support of the Mystic Aquarium's conservation goals. Look

out for "Penguins on Parade" on the road between Stonington and Westerly, painted by students in both regional public schools. A series of other events throughout the month, including Penguins on Ice and Penguin-palooza, follow the parade! More information can be found at [unitedtheatre.org](http://unitedtheatre.org).

The UNITED also offers a range of educational and community programs that promote arts education and engagement for people of all ages, bringing audiences together from across the region with programs like Youth-on-the-Mic, an open mic for young performers at their sister venue, The Knickerbocker Music Center, and monthly improv workshops provided by Providence Improv Guild at the UNITED.

Spring performances include Watchhouse and The Wood Brothers in March, Pure Dance by Festival Ballet Providence, Peter Swanson (author), Dale Degroff (mixologist, King Cocktail), The Walkmen, and rare solo sets by Langhorne Slim with John Craigie in April.

New acts are booking every day, so be sure to subscribe to our weekly newsletter on our site to ensure you know all that is happening at the UNITED. Also, check out the newly launched UNITED Podcast Network, featuring shows like Box Office Culture and The Load-In - available on your favorite podcast app.

With a calendar packed with events for the entire community, it's easy to see why the UNITED is quickly becoming one of the most exciting destinations for arts, culture, and nightlife in Southeastern Connecticut and coastal Rhode Island.



# GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELIVERS TANGIBLE BENEFITS

Bruce Flax, President and Morgan Yandow, Membership Director of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce are entering our third year in our respective positions. Having joined during COVID, there is a noticeable atmospheric change in how the Chamber is received by the membership and their expectations. We have looked long and hard at everything we do and how we interact with our events, the community and our members.

It started with the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival which was canceled in 2020 and came back in 2021. We spoke with the Police and Fire Departments and looked at the logistics of the event, and changed the route, taking it off of route 1 and running by the river into the Mystic Seaport Museum. In the last 2 years we have created new annual events (Yogapalooza, Float Ella and the Groton City Brew Run).

With respect to our members, we have thought long and hard as to how we can provide tangible benefits. We transitioned to new Chamber Software that allowed us to communicate better with our members, created a new website, and elevated the profile of the Chamber....but that was just the beginning.

In 2022 we created the GO MYSTIC app that was downloaded over 5,000 times last year (from May to December) and it served as a gateway for locals and tourists, as a go to in deciding where to eat, stay, play, and find out what events are happening. It also has a work and live component that is a directory of our members with direct access to call them or visit their website. We continue to update features on the app to increase awareness of our members. Please note that the app can be downloaded at the Apple Store and Google Play and a robust listing on the app is free for all members. We have Rack Cards with a QR code to download the app distributed

to local hotels and tourist brochure racks throughout the region and we had a Public Service Announcement running on Channel 3 in Hartford (with QR Code) to communicate the benefits and encourage downloads.

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a NEW Member Benefit to help members and businesses with their Search Engine Optimization. Steve Bibby, Owner of Stratedia, will be conducting FREE SEO trainings for Mystic Chamber Members. These trainings will go in-depth about how you can help get your business ranked higher in google search. Each training has a different topic and by attending just one session, you'll learn at least one SEO strategy like website optimization, link building, keyword search and more. The next two, available free to members are How to Optimize Your Google Listing scheduled for March 29 and 2023 Social Media Trends scheduled for April 26.

The Mystic Seaport Museum has been generous to the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce members. As a Chamber member benefit the Museum offered free tickets to the "Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass: American Artists and the Magic of Murano" exhibit last Summer and in February they offered Chamber members free tickets to the current Seaport Museum exhibit - "Fish & Forest, Through the Lens of a Commercial Fishermom."

We understand the value of our events, but we also realize that they don't help everyone. The app, new programs and review of everything we do are hopefully going to translate to benefits for our members. If you are interested in finding out more about the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce including joining, please reach out to Morgan Yandow, Membership Director, [morgan@mysticchamber.org](mailto:morgan@mysticchamber.org).



ABOVE:  
Steve Bibby from Stratedia  
discusses Google during  
the Chamber's first member  
program, Basics in SEO at  
Andiamo in  
Mystic.



LEFT: Chamber members  
were offered two free tickets  
to the Fish & Forest exhibit  
at the Mystic Seaport  
Museum.



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## NEW MEMBERS



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**Website:** [www.bespokectn.com](http://www.bespokectn.com)  
**Email:** [jen@bespokectn.com](mailto:jen@bespokectn.com)

BESPOKE is a brand new fitness studio specializing in indoor cycling. Clients ride on state-of-the-art Keiser M3i bikes. Riders of all fitness levels can ride side by side working towards their own personal goals. A variety of planned rides coordinated with energetic music can be found on our weekly schedule. Our cycling coaches are positive, high energy, knowledgeable individuals who will motivate you to reach your personal goals. BESPOKE offers a variety of fitness classes and training options. Certified personal trainers will craft an individual plan custom tailored to your specific needs. Our trainers are dedicated to keeping you motivated to reach your goals and encourage you to go above and beyond. Nutrition coaching places an emphasis on the importance of eating locally sourced, healthy foods.



**Crafteriffic Art**  
**Address:** 16 Shamrock Circle  
 Windsor, CT 06095  
**Phone Number:** (805) 709-8250  
**Website:** [Crafteriffic.art](http://Crafteriffic.art)  
**Email:** [crafteriffic@live.com](mailto:crafteriffic@live.com)

I am the neighbor that decorates your house because she's run out of wall space at home. I've always been a maker, starting with model airplanes and scrapbooking. As my scrapbooks filled and subjects grew older, I started looking for new ways to express my creativity. I've always loved beaches and they serve as inspiration for much of my art and steered me toward mixed

media and resin art. I grew up close to the beach and resin art scenes and waves bring me back to the beaches I love.



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East Coast Pro Painting is family-owned and operated. We have over 20 years of experience in the painting industry. Our goal is simple, to treat every home as our own. We specialize in residential and commercial painting projects, with quality customer service. From power washing to detailed preparation work to using proper sealants, priming, and a fresh coat of paint or stain - we aim to run a business we are proud of. Our mission is to provide good people with great work. We believe in quality service, reasonable prices, and service that genuinely cares.



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Horizon Escapes is an independent travel agency meeting the needs of clients traveling for pleasure, adventure, and more. Between our team of 10 travel advisors, we specialize in Cultural Experiences, Cruises, All-Inclusive Resorts, Theme Parks, Honeymoons, Destination Weddings, and Custom Design Vacations. Our personal approach to understanding your vision enables us to create vacation memories that last a lifetime. We invite you to explore our knowledge and begin designing your dream vacation experience.



**Legacy Financial Advisors, Inc.**  
**Address:** 238 Robinson Street  
 Wakefield, RI 02879  
**Phone Number:** (800) 427-9781 ext 205  
**Website:** [www.lfsadvisors.com](http://www.lfsadvisors.com)  
**Email:** [lmchugh@lfsadvisors.com](mailto:lmchugh@lfsadvisors.com)

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Jessica's journey with crystals began about 25 years ago, however Mountain Hollow Crystals® wasn't born until 2019. "I like to think of our shop as an extension of who I am - a place to share my personal passions!" Besides crystals, you'll find books, indie tarot & oracle decks, aromatics, fair-trade products and more in her new shop location at The Velvet Mill. A 4th generation shop owner, Jessica credits her knack for retail to her mother and grandparents from whom she's soaked up knowledge over the years. Today, she and her husband, Jeremy, hand-select products whenever possible to ensure only goods of the highest quality find their way into the shop. They recognize the importance of ethical sourcing and do their best to consciously source their goods, use eco-friendly packaging, recycle what they receive, and are proud partners of both 1% for the Planet and Cloverly!



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**Email:** [info@willowprop.com](mailto:info@willowprop.com)

Willow Properties is a small real estate brokerage owned and run by three long-term residents of southeastern Connecticut, with decades of experience between them. Willow is located in downtown Mystic, on Willow Street, and specializes in residential, commercial sales and rentals, and is licensed in both Connecticut and Rhode Island. Proving for two successful years, that one does not need big corporations to sell real estate. Look no further, the sales professionals at Willow, have it all: creative marketing, an eye for design, integrity, work ethic, a working knowledge of business and relationships throughout our community. All these things are what set us apart from our competitors. Erika Rossetto, Judy Meucci and Ann Bergendahl are all licensed brokers, experts in real estate marketing, sales and transactions, and are ready to help you today!

## NEW MEMBERS



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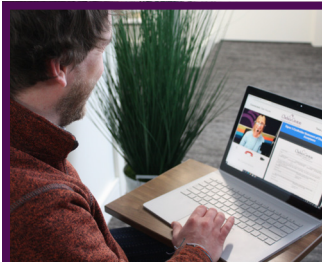
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# JOIN TODAY!

Phone: (860) 572-9578  
[www.mysticchamber.org](http://www.mysticchamber.org)  
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Window Wizards was founded in 2012 and is a professional window cleaning and exterior cleaning company. WW uses the latest technology in pure water window cleaning that leaves windows spot less and streak free. We even restore windows that have been damaged from hard water stains. Besides window cleaning WW offers soft washing of houses and roofs, exterior commercial building and window cleaning, surface cleaning, Post Construction Cleaning for new homes and remodels, and Dryer Vent Cleaning. WW prides itself in exceptional customer service and exceptional workmanship.



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# Bank & Bridge

## BREWING

MYSTIC, CT

---

February 18, 2023

Bruce Flax, President  
Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce  
22 East Main Street 2nd Floor  
Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Mr. Flax:

The purpose of this letter is to take the time to express my deep and sincerest appreciation for everything the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce has done to welcome and support my new business in downtown Mystic.

As you know, I am a former Marine Corps Captain, a current trial lawyer in Connecticut, and the owner of Bank & Bridge Brewing in downtown Mystic. In all my years being involved in chamber events and networking in different Connecticut towns, I have never felt such a warm comradery from the Mystic Chamber and, specifically, you and Morgan.

When I opened nearly 2 years ago, the Mystic community was extremely welcoming. But, the Mystic Chamber went above and beyond. The Mystic Chamber has done everything for my business from a ribbon cutting ceremony, to social media posts, to linking my business with other community businesses. More recently, you elected to host a young professional networking event at my restaurant. Aside from being impressed with the amount of people you were able to gather at the event, the real compliment is the way you and Morgan carried yourself personally and as a representative of Mystic.

It is obvious to me and others that each person and business matters. You make us feel like we are family. In fact, I do not just see you and Morgan as the Mystic Chamber, but as friends. It is evident that your priority is growing the Mystic community and bringing everyone together for community success.

I wish there was more I could do to return the goodwill. With that said, should the Mystic Chamber, or anyone in the Mystic community, need anything from me or Bank & Bridge, we are ready and willing to serve.

Sincerely,



Walt Bansley  
walt@bankandbridge.com



Walt Bansley was at the Bank & Bridge Brewery tent at the Chamber's Groton City Brew Run on September 9, 2022. They were one of over a dozen breweries offering beer after the sanctioned 5K Run.

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