

THANK YOU for Making Twilight on the Thames a Success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's annual Thames River Heritage Park Foundation fundraiser, *Twilight on the Thames*! Your presence, generosity and enthusiastic support made the evening a tremendous success and helped us not only achieve but also exceed our fundraising goal for the second year in a row!

First and foremost, a huge THANK YOU to Ana Stankovic for once again opening her beautiful home by the sea to us. It provided the perfect setting for *Twilight on the Thames*, as we watched the late-afternoon light give way to a beautiful twilight over the water while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and a spectacular harvest table catered by Stone Acres Farm. It was truly a picture-perfect setting for a very special evening.

We are incredibly grateful for everyone's generosity and commitment to helping us further our mission to promote, support and sustain the heritage sites that make up Thames River Heritage Park.

A special shoutout to our wonderful Event Sponsors: Cross Sound Ferry, RJDA LLC, Linda Mariani and David Neusner, MEG Properties, Pamela Aey Adams, Ana Stankovic, Yankee Industries, Copy Cats Inc. and Muddy Waters Café.

Thank you to our Wine Sponsor, Grand Wine and Spirits, for helping make the evening the Toast of the Thames; our Dessert Sponsor, Big Y of Groton, for bringing the evening to a sweet ending; and our Beer Sponsor, Beer'd Brewing Co., for keeping the good times brewing as twilight settled over the Thames.

Thank you to our Signage Sponsor, FASTSIGNS, for helping us recognize those who supported the evening while also sharing the story of Thames River Heritage Park and the work we do throughout the communities we serve.

We are especially grateful to our individual donors, whose generosity helped us exceed our fundraising goal. Some made it possible for others to attend *Twilight on the Thames* by purchasing tickets on their behalf, while others chose to support us through direct financial contributions. Each gift, regardless of the type, made a meaningful difference. Our heartfelt thanks to Brent Eugenides, Ellen Cummings, Mark Oefinger, Paul Whitescarver, Jeff Blinderman, Gwenith Heuss-Severance and Judith A. Lhamon for your generosity and support of Thames River Heritage Park.

A HUGE thank you to Linda Hase, our Gala Committee Chair, for the countless hours, energy, creativity and yes, perhaps a little blood, sweat and tears, that went into leading this effort.

And thank you to our Gala Committee, including Marcy Pillsbury, Kathy Lotring, Linda Mariano and Ana Stankovic, for six months of planning, creativity and hard work that brought *Twilight on the Thames* to life. Thank you as well for your generous contributions to one of the evening's most popular live auction items, The Topsy Trolley!

Thank you to Mike Buscetto of Filomena's, our *auctioneer extraordinaire*, for bringing the fun and energy to our live auction.

Thank you to Lee Palombo, Brian Roush and Gregg Jacobson for volunteering your time and talents to chronicle the evening for the second year in a row. The beautiful photographs you create become the memories we keep long after the evening is over.

Thank you to Liz Paganetti for her wonderfully creative graphic design work for our auction, and to Tina Kenney for the gorgeous floral designs that graced our tables and helped create such an elegant atmosphere.

Thank you to John Oliva and Londa Weisman for lending us their golf cart so guests who needed a little assistance could safely and comfortably get to and from the festivities.

Thank you to Latresha Brown for providing our sound and PA services and helping keep the evening program running smoothly.

And to our wonderful volunteers—Julie Cagle, Rosemarie McKenzie, Paul Martineau and Elyse Vetrano—THANK YOU! From registration and auction setup to monitoring, troubleshooting and cleanup, you jumped in wherever you were needed. We simply could not have pulled this off without you.

A HUGE thank you to all of our in-kind donors, whose generosity helped make our silent auction such a success: Fat Tuna, Black Hawk Sport Fishing, Chester's BBQ, Coastal Fitness in East Lyme, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Flanders Fish Market, Florence Griswold Museum, Foxwoods Resort Casino, Pamela Aey Adams, Glen Datres, the TRHP Board Members who donated to The Topsy Trolley, Great Neck Country Club, Grota Solna, Jake's Diner on State Street, Johnson's Hardware, Kaleidoscope, Leif Nilsson Spring Street Studio and Gallery, Lyme Art Association, Martha Haran Sullivan, Marian Galbraith, Northern Light Gems, Carol Hessler, Old Lyme Inn, Side Door Jazz Club, Bowerbird, Oyster Club, Par 4 Restaurant, Past & Present Antiques, Paul's Pasta Shop, Sandra and Paul Brind'amour, Shennecossett Golf Course, Sneekers Cafe, Stonington Gallery, Garde Arts Center, Toast + Tonic Creative Kitchen, Cynthia Goetz, Linda Hase, T's Creations, Wayne Qian, Michelle Zraka, Christine Reed, Patricia Connair and Mohegan Sun.

To the staff of Thames River Heritage Park: Nancy Alden, Casey Howley-Brigham and Marci Marciniak; THANK YOU! You are the backbone of this organization, quietly taking care of the countless details that make an event like this possible. It really is ALWAYS in the details, and you make sure those details are done.

Thank you to the entire Board of Directors of the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation, who continue to chart the course for our organization and give so generously of their time, talents and support.

And finally, and perhaps most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended *Twilight on the Thames*.

Without you, there is no event. There is no opportunity to share who we are and what we do. There is no opportunity to raise the much-needed funds that allow us to continue our work.

Whether you attended, sponsored, donated, volunteered, planned, designed, photographed, catered, created, carried, set up, cleaned up, bid on an auction item, donated an auction item, bought a ticket, made a contribution, lent us something we needed, solved a last-minute problem, or simply asked, "How can I help?"; you were part of making this evening a success.

There are so many people behind an event like *Twilight on the Thames*, and every contribution matters.

From all of us at the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation, thank you for believing in what we do, for supporting our mission and for helping us continue to tell the stories of the Thames.

One River. A Thousand Stories. And many more to come!

With SO much appreciation...

Juen Henley
Executive Director
Thames River Heritage Park Foundation