

Reserve your space in Westport History!

Pre-paid Ads due March 21, 2016

for the
Saturday, April 16, 2016


150th Birthday Bash for BEDFORD HALL *Commemorative Program!*

Program Ad Rates:

\$150 full page (5.5" x 8.5")

\$75 half page (5.5" x 4.25")

\$50 quarter page (2.75" x 2.1")

 Make checks payable to (non-profit 501 (c) (3) "**Westport Woman's Club**" and send with Ad by March 21 to Westport Woman's Club, attn: 150th B-Bash, 44 Imperial Ave., Westport, CT 06880.

www.WestportWomansClub.org

BEDFORD HALL: Serving the greater Westport Community for 150 years!

Keepsake Program to be distributed at the B-Bash, Sat. 4/16/16 to:

- Dignitaries (WWC, Town of Westport, Bedford Family, Saugatuck Church, Westport-Weston Y, Westport Historical Society, Historic District Commission, CT Braille)
- WWC Members
- PAID Ticketholders
- the MEDIA
- To be kept in the permanent Archives at the WWC, Saugatuck Church and Westport Historical Society

About c. 1866 Bedford Hall:

- 1866 construction at the old Saugatuck Church site funded by "Ladies Fairs"
- 1867-1950 serves as Saugatuck Church "Sabbath Meeting Hall"
- 1907 Woman's Town Improvement Assn. (WTIA) founded; later becomes WWC
- 1923 Philanthropist E.T. Bedford grants WTIA 2nd floor space in his newly built YMCA.
 - WTIA uses and shares the space for administration, meetings, a Woman's Exchange, art shows, nursing and public health services, and calls it "Bedford House."
- 1945 With demand for space at the Y growing after World War II, E.T. Bedford's son, Frederick, purchases the 1881 Sidney Watts House and grounds at 44 Imperial Ave. for the WWC
- 1949 The property lacks adequate meeting space, but the WWC moves there in April, 1949
- 1950 The Saugatuck Church plans to move its church building to a new site across the Post Road and sell its Meeting Hall to a non-profit
- September, 1950 Frederick Bedford and the WWC split the cost to purchase the Meeting Hall from the Saugatuck Church, move it to 44 Imperial, annex it to the 1881 Sidney Watts House and renovate it
- 1951-2014 The "anonymous" hall at the WWC serves as an auditorium, fundraising and rentals space. Also houses Westport's Food Closet (WWC joint venture with Town's Human Services) and subsidized tenant, CT Braille
- 2015 WWC remodels hall, documents its historical and service legacy and names it "Bedford Hall"
- 2016 WWC marks the Bedford Hall building's 150th birthday year with a public celebration and dedication of historical plaques and signs.