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Chamber Sponsored Events

Daffodil Festival, fondly known as “Daffy,” and Christmas Stroll, affectionately dubbed “Stroll,” are the Chamber’s “signature” annual events, attracting visitors from across the US – and beyond – to our shores to celebrate the arrival of warmer weather in April and the festive holiday season in December. Both events transform the Faraway Island into an enchanting visual tableau, the stuff of which enduring memories are made.

Nantucket’s farewell to winter and kick-off to Spring, Daffodil Festival pays homage to the resilient yellow bulb which blooms in grand profusion across the island (one of the few flowers not coveted by our significant deer population). Highlighted by an Antique Car Parade, this enormously popular event typically takes place on the last weekend of April, highlighted by assorted family-friendly activities, including a Daffy Dog Parade, Children’s Parade, Daffy Hat Pageant, and Scavenger Hunt. Local shopkeepers conduct a friendly competition to creatively adorn their windows and vie for pride-of-place ribbons. Don your daffiest “chapeau” and duds, adorn your pampered pet in brilliant, buttery yellow and join us for a “daffo-delirious” weekend!

Preparations for Christmas Stroll begin – amazingly – in August when the order

is placed for over 100 balsam trees that will grace Main Street and its environs throughout December. At dusk on the day after Thanksgiving, an exuberant crowd gathers on our renowned cobblestoned thoroughfare to await the magical illumination of these trees, with our venerable Town Crier leading the countdown and ringing in Nantucket Noel. On the following weekend, Christmas Stroll attracts visitors from far and wide to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season. Our Faraway Island becomes a magical panorama evoking Dickens’ beloved Christmas Carol, with strolling Victorian carolers, a European-style marketplace, whimsically decorated storefronts and an appearance by Santa himself, whisked to the island in his nautical sleigh. Flanked by children young and old, he leads a Parade along the cobblestones, bound for the Jared Coffin House, where he meets with one and all to determine if they really WERE good this year.

Before the island settles down to a long winter’s nap, the Nantucket Hotel hosts a lavish themed fete in its grand ballroom, encouraging party-goers to “dress to the nines” and bid adieu to the old year with dancing, light bites, dessert buffet and a champagne toast to “ring in the new.”

Visit nantucketchamber.org for more details.

2018

Calendar of Events

April, May

Chamber's 44th Annual Daffodil Festival Weekend.....	April 27-29
Atheneum Used Book Sale	April 28
Nantucket Daffodil 5K Race.....	April 29
Wine & Food Festival Weekend	May 16-20
Figawi Race Weekend	May 26-28

June

Spring Restaurant Week.....	June 4-10
Sam Sylvia Pro-Am Golf Tournament.....	June 10-12
Nantucket Book Festival	June 15-17
Nantucket Film Festival.....	June 20-25

July

Town of Nantucket's Independence Day Fireworks	July 5
Nantucket Yoga Festival.....	July 6-8
Nantucket Comedy Festival	July 11-14
Small Friends Arts & Artisans Show.....	July 12-15
Nantucket Triathlon.....	July 14
Atheneum Dance Festival	July 16-21
Nantucket Garden Festival	July 17-19
NISDA Sandcastle & Sculpture Day	July 21, raindate: July 22
Nantucket by Design Show.....	July 31-August 4

August

Garden Club House Tour	August 8
Nantucket Preservation Trust August Fete	August 9
Nantucket Cottage Hospital's Boston Pops.....	August 11
Nantucket Community Sailing Race Week.....	August 11-19
Nantucket Boy's and Girl's Club Tim Russert Summer Groove Concert.....	August 18
Nantucket Community Sailing Opera House Cup Race	August 19

September, October

Nantucket Maritime Festival (Egan Maritime Inst.)	September 29
Fall Restaurant Week.....	September 24-30
Cranberry Festival.....	October 6
Nantucket Half-Marathon.....	October 7
NantucketGrown™ Food Festival.....	October 12-14
Annual Halloween Parade	October 31

November, December

NHA Festival of Wreaths.....	November 21-25
Chamber's Annual Tree Lighting & Community Caroling.....	November 23
Atheneum Used Book Sale	December 1
Chamber's 45th Annual Christmas Stroll Weekend	November 30-December 2
NHA Festival of Trees	December 1-31
Chamber's Home for the Holidays.....	December 8
Chamber's Holiday Red Ticket Drawing	December 24
Nantucket New Years	December 28-January 1, 2019



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44TH DAFFODIL FESTIVAL WEEKEND, APRIL 27-29, 2018

#ACKDAFFY, #NANTUCKETCHAMBER

It's flower power....to the max as Nantucket celebrates the advent of spring with its 44th annual Daffodil Festival Weekend April 27-29. The island virtually pulsates in brighter than "mellow yellow" hues as one-million-plus daffodils in staggering varieties grace roadsides, window boxes and...whatever! Revelers, kids and pets alike bedeck themselves in the beautiful bulb which bursts forth across the island, creating "good vibrations" for locals and visitors alike.



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The world-renowned Antique Car Parade on the morning of April 28th features 100+ vintage automobiles displayed on cobblestoned Main Street for viewing (and voting!) by festival-goers. (There are even a few vintage motorcycles!) Take a "selfie" with your favorites! Watch humans and hounds "strut their stuff" for coveted awards at the wacky and whimsical Daffy Hat Pageant and Daffy Dog Parade. Little tykes star in their own procession, decorating bikes and wheeled conveyances Daffy-style.

Antique automobile winners are announced by noon, and the vehicles perambulate out to the tres-charming village of 'Sconset for an al fresco Tailgate Picnic. Pack a bountiful basket of brunch fare and nosh with friends and family. If you opt to remain in Town, the Children's Beach Family Picnic features a free concert from the Bandstand, storytelling, face painting, balloon animals, and more! (It's a wonderful "mini-festival" for all ages.)

Don't miss the Garden Club Daffodil Show where you'll marvel at the multitude of varieties (some are pink!) Satisfy your inner sleuth (and vie for prizes!) by gathering a team and taking part in the weekend-long Scavenger Hunt, with cryptic clues cleverly hidden in the Downtown.

Stop by the Chamber office at Zero Main Street to pick up your official Daffodil Calendar of Events, peruse a variety of Daffy merchandise, and sign up for the Scavenger Hunt. Our limited edition Daffodil Festival enamel pin is coveted by collectors and features a unique image each year.

With the promise of warm weather ahead, it's time to don your "daffiest" garb, bedeck your pampered pet and vintage Peugeot in shades of buttery yellow, and join us as we celebrate the arrival of Spring on the Grey Lady.



FALL ON NANTUCKET, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2018
#FALLONNANTUCKET, #NANTUCKETCHAMBER

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Fall is perhaps the loveliest season on Nantucket, spotlighting the island’s singular beauty against a backdrop of rarefied autumn light coveted by artists and photographers. Serenity is the keyword, with the frenzied crowds of summer a distant memory. Outdoor pursuits abound during these halcyon days. Biking, nature walks and birdwatching are popular pursuits, or merely “watching the pass” from a sunny bench on Main Street. These fleeting months before winter’s onset are truly meant to be savored.

On most weekends, the Sustainable Nantucket Farmers & Artisans Market holds court at Cambridge and North Union Streets, with local vendors showcasing the island’s rich bounty – from honey to organically grown produce – in addition to their own handmade jewelry, art, textiles and clothing. Walking, harbor and biking tours are ideal ways to enjoy this exquisite season. Shearwater Excursions offers seal and whale watching tours, while various historic walking tours explore the island’s rich history.

In mid-September, the Island Fair in Tom Nevers features live music, livestock demonstrations, craft shows, and a prize for the largest homegrown pumpkin. Past, present and future maritime culture takes center stage at the Nantucket Maritime Festival, with shucking and harpoon throwing contests, live music, sea shanties and more. Fall Restaurant Week rounds out the month with renowned local establishments offering discounted prix-fixe three-course menus, highlighting Nantucket’s inspired and eclectic cuisine.

A flurry of plein-air events in October celebrate the island’s sustainability and

cornucopia of offerings. The Cranberry Festival at the Milestone Bog pays homage to the piquant red fruit with harvesting and sheep shearing demonstrations, live music, hay rides, a petting zoo, and a self-guided tour of the bog. Organic farming methods insure that the berries and berry products are purely natural. The NantucketGrown™ Food Festival – a collaboration of local farmers, chefs, fisherman, brewers, beekeepers and artisanal food producers – features tastings, foraging expeditions, demos, tours and more at various venues.

During Thanksgiving week, the Nantucket Historical Association’s much-anticipated Festival of Wreaths transforms the Whaling Museum into a charming winter tableau. An array of creatively inspired wreaths – from the traditional to the whimsical – crafted by local businesses, non-profits, schools and organizations – are displayed in an ongoing silent auction to benefit the NHA’s year-round outreach efforts. It’s an ideal way embrace the spirit of the season and contribute to a worthy cause.

CHRISTMAS STROLL NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1, 2018 & NANTUCKET NOEL NOVEMBER 23, 2018 - JANUARY 2, 2019 #ACKSTROLL, #NANTUCKETCHAMBER

To commemorate the unprecedented sightings of humpback and North Atlantic Right whales along the South Shore last summer, "Nantucket Sleighride" was dubbed a fitting theme for Nantucket Noel 2017. Images of the elusive gray behemoth swam through the consciousness of revelers (replacing sugarplums!) as they raised a toast to a magical, nautical and nice holiday season!

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Featuring a quintessentially old-fashioned (and world-renowned) Christmas Stroll Weekend (November 30 - December 1), our holiday season, dubbed Nantucket Noel, continues throughout the month of December with myriad events – from theater productions and art shows to walking tours and concerts – and much more – to entertain all ages.

It all begins on the day after Thanksgiving when a lively crowd gathers on Main Street at dusk for the annual Tree Lighting and Community Caroling ceremony. Our illustrious Town Crier leads a rousing countdown to usher in Nantucket Noel, and 100+ balsam trees lining the historic cobblestone thoroughfare magically illuminate to enchant one and all. Exuberant caroling – led by the *Accidentals & Naturals*, our high school a capella group – fills the night air, and the stage is set for a memorable month of camaraderie and cheer.

"Stroll" follows the weekend after, with the "Jolly Man in Red" arriving at Straight Wharf via Coast Guard boat. Throngs of ecstatic children and adults welcome him as he boards his nautical "sleigh" and leads a jubilant parade up cobblestoned Main Street to the Jared Coffin House where he visits with wee ones. Victorian carolers, youth choirs and local musicians create the perfect ambiance, piping traditional carols and songs of the season throughout the Downtown.



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At the top of Main Street, the Magical Talking Tree intrigues adults and children alike. Lively performances on the Main Street stage captivate "Strollers" as they meander along, popping into eclectic shops and boutiques. Merchants adorn their windows and doorways in seasonal finery, earning ribbons to acknowledge their handiwork.

To celebrate the arrival of 2019, Nantucket New Years will be highlighted by family-friendly events and activities across the island. Its central event – a lavish New Year's Eve themed ball at the Nantucket Hotel – entices revelers eager to "ring in the new" with a delectable prix fixe dinner, dancing and good cheer.

We invite you to join us as our Faraway Isle celebrates the yuletide season in a uniquely fun and festive way!