

If you can't see the below images, [click here](#) to see the Hidden Gems near the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel

Hidden Gems Near The New York Hilton Midtown Hotel

Whether or not you'll be attending APSA's 2024 National meeting, I encourage you to carve out a moment in your day to read about some hidden gems in the vicinity of the NY Hilton hotel. Even if you don't get to explore them on this trip, perhaps you'll have the chance to discover these treasures during another visit to New York City.

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Positioned at the intersection of 54th Street and 6th Avenue, The New York Hilton Midtown Hotel enjoys a central location in a bustling district. While you're likely familiar with its proximity to Times Square, MOMA and excellent restaurants (check out our restaurant guide [here](#)), there are also some hidden gems you might not be aware of, just a few blocks from the hotel.



Myzel's chocolates

Location: 140 west 55 street at 6 1/2 avenue.

Founder Kamila Myzel immigrated from Poland in 1980, seeking political asylum, and has devoted her career to the confectionery industry ever since. In 1990, she discovered a quaint establishment on West 55th Street, transforming it into a distinguished store adorned with an extensive array of chocolates and boasting over 100 varieties of European licorice, all curated under her meticulous guidance. Kamila makes delectable cookies and chocolate truffles, using her grandmother's authentic recipes.

This *small* store exudes a charming and nostalgic ambiance, garnering acclaim for its exceptional chocolate quality and the wonderful service by the dedicated staff. Regrettably, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges to this cherished establishment, and concerted efforts are underway to ensure its continued resilience.

Watch this CBS News New York video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXXpVIQIMZE>

Note: Myzel's Chocolates is located on 6 1/2 Avenue, contributing to the unique charm of the location.



6 1/2 Avenue

6 1/2 Avenue in New York City is a unique address that captures the essence of the city's vibrant and eccentric nature. 6 1/2 Avenue is a north-south pedestrian passageway nestled between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, extending exclusively from West 51st to West 57th Streets.

This pedestrian walkway was created as part of a zoning incentive program that allowed developers to create public spaces in exchange for additional building height. The concept behind 6 1/2 Avenue is to provide pedestrians with a more pleasant and interesting walking experience, offering shortcuts between major avenues and enhancing the urban environment. The public spaces often feature benches, artwork, and landscaping, making it a unique and charming aspect of Midtown Manhattan's cityscape.



The Stork Club

Location: 3 East 53rd Street between Madison and 5th Avenue

The Stork Club was a famous and iconic nightclub and restaurant. It was one of the most glamorous and well-known nightspots during the mid-20th century. The Stork Club was established in 1929 by Sherman Billingsley and quickly became a hotspot for celebrities, socialites, and the elite. Columnist Walter Winchell called the location “New York’s New Yorkiest place.” Mr. Billingsley decided to open an inner chamber for his best customers, a place where Hollywood folks, politicians, and other celebrities could sit quietly and chat, drink, or play gin rummy. Named “The Cub Room” it filled up nightly. Bing Crosby was a constant presence when in town, the only man allowed to smoke a pipe in the establishment.

In 1951, Josephine Baker, the renowned black dancer, went to the Stork Club for dinner, only to have her requests for service ignored. Other tables around Josephine’s were promptly served, but it would be an hour before Josephine received her food. Hollywood actress Grace Kelly was dining with a large group of friends. Outraged by the blatant display of racism she witnessed, Grace Kelly rushed over to Baker—whom she had never met. Together, they stormed out of the restaurant, with Kelly telling the press she would never return to the Stork Club. She never did. That marked the beginning of a lifelong friendship between Josephine Baker and Grace Kelly.



The club closed in 1965. The building that housed the Stork Club was sold to CBS, which demolished it and replaced it with a small park, named after the media giant’s founder William S. Paley.



We encourage you to uncover your own hidden gems as you explore this unique area (when you are not attending sessions at the 2024 National Meeting!). Feel free to share your experiences with us; we look forward to hearing about your discoveries! Share them with #APSA2024

On-site Registration

For information about on-site registration for APsA's 2024 National Meeting, click [here](#).



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