



SUMMER 2023 - NEWSLETTER

## President's Letter

Greetings to All,

It has been a busy year so far for GKS. We started out with our New Year's celebration on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We are also very excited about our new acquisition of the Clapboard Hill Schoolhouse, thanks to the Dudley and Griswold families. We are making plans for the preservation of this extraordinary piece of Guilford's history for all of us to enjoy.

Our big event for the Spring was the Wine Tasting at the Tavern. It was a sold-out event! We hope to continue to hold this event on an annual basis. We will complement this event with a Beer Tasting on September 30<sup>th</sup> – watch for details.

We were able to have our "Early Guilford Days" educational program for the elementary schools in person. This program was a virtual process at the beginning of the pandemic.

We continue to work on the properties to preserve them for years to come. The woodworking barn at the Griswold house was recently painted with generous assistance from the Guilford Rotary and GHS Interact club and a donation of paint from Page Hardware. If you have not seen it, it is worth a trip to the property to check it out. Both museums (Thomas Griswold House and Medad Stone Tavern) opened on June 3rd.

Other projects are always underway. The bridge at the Tavern is still closed, pending necessary structural planning. The windows at the Tavern also need restoration.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Guilford Keeping Society collects, preserves, and shares the history and heritage of Guilford, Connecticut for present and future generations.

Support from our members and the community is appreciated to help us with our mission.

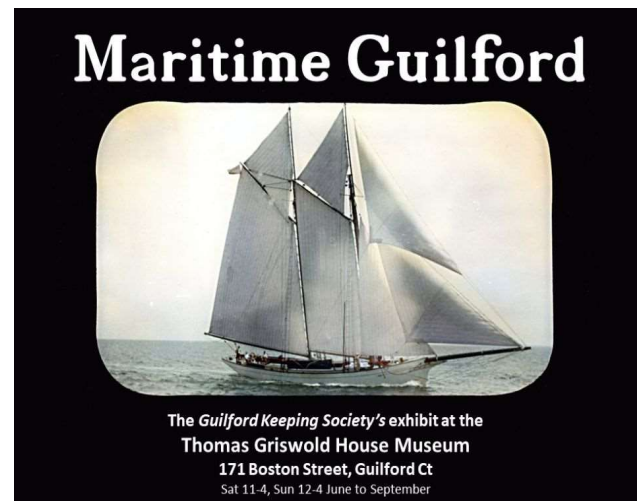
Summer is a special time of year in Guilford. We gather on the Green on summer nights to listen to the concerts. We enjoy the beach and parks with our friends and families. We at GKS wish all of you a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Best,

Robert Hartmann, Jr.

## Exhibit at the Thomas Griswold House

Please visit the "Maritime Guilford" exhibit this summer at the Thomas Griswold House. The material in the exhibit was researched by Pat Lovelace and put together by John Plant and Leslie Orłowski. Thanks to all three of them for their work on this fantastic exhibit.



Box 363, Guilford, CT 06437 (203)-453-2263. [www.guilfordkeepingsociety.com](http://www.guilfordkeepingsociety.com)

## Wines of the USA



The Guilford Keeping Society held their Wine Tasting “Wines of the USA”, a signature fundraising event on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Medad Stone Tavern. The event was a sold-out event with over one hundred tickets sold.

This event is the sixth of a series of wine tastings that highlight wines from around the world. This year’s theme focused on wines from the United States, and in particular, highlight regions in California and the Northwest.

As a very special added attraction, GKS was happy to introduce Nina Wemyss, distinguished wine historian and entertaining raconteur, who launched the event with a brief talk about the history of wine. In 2003, Nina was the featured wine historian on the History Channel’s “A Brief History of Wine”.



*Nina Wemyss*

Kirsta Ifkovic, owner of Frank’s Package Store, provided the wine selections for the tasting. The wines were available for purchase through Frank’s Package Store after the event.

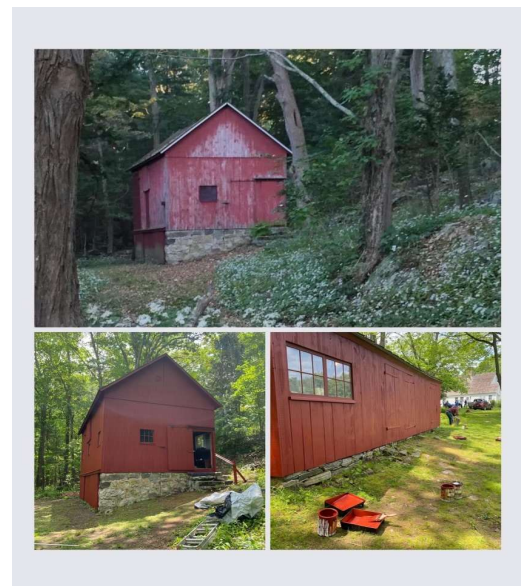
Food and hors d’oeuvres were provided by GKS. A Silent Auction also took place. Proceeds from the ticket sales and Silent Auction will be used for the various preservation projects that are planned for the Medad Stone Tavern, Thomas Griswold House, and the Clapboard Hill School House.

## Project at the Thomas Griswold House



The Woodworking Barn and Blacksmith Shop at the Thomas Griswold House have never looked better! The Guilford Keeping Society recently painted the two outbuildings with the help of the Guilford Rotary club and the GHS Interact club. The team got to work at the Thomas Griswold House property on a beautiful Spring Morning in May. The project took about three hours, it went by quickly, as there were many helping hands involved. The outcome looks amazing. Our gratitude goes out to the Rotary and Interact clubs and to Page’s Hardware for donating the paint!

The TGH Museum is now open for the season. Come on by and check out the new paint job.





## Early Guilford Days 2023



*Blacksmith Shop at the Thomas Griswold House*

The 30th year of Early Guilford Days took place on May 18, 19, 22 and 23. This program began in 1993 by Guilford Preservation Alliance Board members Becky Light and Sarah McCullough to teach students the history of their town. A Teacher's Guide was developed by a committee of museum volunteers and teachers in the summer of 1995. This curriculum was made possible through a grant of the Connecticut Humanities Council and was revised and republished in 2004 through a grant from the GPA.

During 2020 Virtual Learning activities and videos were put on the Hyland House and the Guilford Keeping Society web pages. The children were able to experience Early Guilford Days virtually rather than in person. In 2021 and 2022 Early Guilford Days were done at the schools. Using both the online materials and a day of activities at the schools, the students learned about early life in Guilford.



*Fun and Games at Early Guilford Days*

This year the program returned to the museums! Over 230 Guilford fourth graders took part this year in this special hands-on event! The Hyland House and the Griswold House stepped back in time to the early days of Guilford's history. Workshops such as weaving, tinsmith, blacksmith, bookbinding and calligraphy, paper cutting, colonial games, herbs, stenciling, knot tying, candle making, drumming and hearth cooking took place at the two historic museums.

Thanks to generous donations from the Guilford Preservation Alliance, and the four elementary school PTO's. funds are provided to do Early Guilford Days.



*Weaving at Early Guilford Days*

## Edith Nettleton Library Lecture Series

In conjunction with the Guilford Free Library, GKS provided two lectures this Spring. The first talk was provided on May 4<sup>th</sup> by Stephen Dudley (Vice President of GKS). The topic was on the Clapboard Hill School House, that was owned by the Dudley and Griswold families. The Clapboard Hill School House was recently acquired by GKS. It was a fascinating talk, if you missed it, the lecture can be accessed via the Guilford Free Library Website at <http://guilfordfreelibrary.org/recording-the-clapboard-hill-schoolhouse-with-stephen-dudley/48109/>.

The second lecture was held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. It was "A Tribute to Carl Balestracci, Jr.". The lecture was provided by four speakers: Chris Balestracci, Joel Helander, Matt Hoey III, and Patricia Lovelace. It also was a wonderful talk, if you missed it the lecture is available via the Guilford Free Library Website at: <http://guilfordfreelibrary.org/recording-a-tribute-to-carl-balestracci-jr/48447/>.

Guilford Keeping Society  
P.O. Box 363  
Guilford, CT 06437

*Return Receipt Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Guilford, CT 06437  
Permit No. 142



## Guilford Keeping Society Newsletter • Summer 2023

### 2023 Ornaments

GKS is happy to present **two** pewter ornaments for 2023. The first one is of the Guilford Institute, and the other is the Acadian House. The Guilford Institute was built by Sarah Griffing in 1855 as a private school, it later became the home of The Shoreline Times. The building was converted to condominiums in 2012.

The Acadian House was built by Joseph Clay in 1670. It is one of Connecticut's oldest surviving houses. The house has its name because a family of Acadians from Grand Pre, Nova Scotia was sheltered there by the Town of Guilford following their deportation from Nova Scotia in 1755. The ornaments will be sold at the Hartmann Group, the Museums, the GKS Website, Sachems Card and Party, and at the Handcraft Expo on the Guilford Green in July. The price is \$20 per ornament. Ornaments will also be sold at other venues throughout the year.

