



Spring is in the Air

FROM PRESIDENT MARIE BERRY

As we come across warmer weather, we can start to feel that Spring is in the air! Schedules are busy and spring activities are being planned. For our scholars, there will be a spring visit to Mystic Aquarium, new course selections for the coming year, GHS Junior and Senior proms in April and June, and the Guilford High School play returned after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. We were excited to have three ABC scholars in the play — including our own ABC junior, Kilee Simon, as one of the leads! Congratulations to our scholars for the dedicated effort and time they put into a wonderful production of the *The SpongeBob Musical*.



in our country. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts we continue to receive, including grants from community organizations, and contributions to the College Education Fund at the Guilford Foundation which has exceeded expectations and ensures our ability to provide education funds for our eligible ABC graduates.

In addition, our scholars have excelled academically this year. We are proud to congratulate our Guilford ABC senior, Arianna Alvarez, who was inducted into the National Honor Society and has been accepted for early decision into her first college choice, Tufts University in Medford, MA with a full academic scholarship!

Our Guilford ABC Annual Appeal was sent out in December and generously supported by our donors despite the many challenges we are currently facing

It's that time of year. The MJ Petretto Foundation Golf Event is looking for foursomes at this year's Golf Classic. It is on Monday, June 27 at The Farms Country Club in Wallingford. Details can be found at mjpfoundation.org. Please let us know if you will have a foursome or will have friends/family who would like to have a foursome. Any questions please contact: Jeff@ajzeitlin@comcast.net.

As always, we also want to thank all our staff and volunteers, and our many sponsors and donors who continue to support our mission to provide an excellent quality high school education to our talented scholars. Donations are always welcome by visiting the Donations page on our website at guilfordabc.org. Enjoy your spring! ▼



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Proud of our Scholars

FROM RESIDENT DIRECTOR LYNN PRENDERGAST

This winter, I had many reasons to be proud of the scholars. From helping others to entertaining the masses, they have given 100% effort and represented Guilford ABC with generosity and enthusiasm. Their empathy for those in need is genuine. They wanted to get more involved with giving back this year. A successful coat drive in New Haven helped many homeless people and gave us a chance to hear the stories of so many wonderful people. Working with board member Kyma Ganzer, the girls worked on a house in New Haven for Habitat for Humanity.



As you may have heard, *The SpongeBob Musical* was the spring musical at GHS. Andrea, Arianna, and I were lucky enough to see the fabulous production twice. Janelle not only made many of the props, but helped to run the house during the show like a professional. Jasmine danced and sang as numerous different types of fish and didn't stop smiling the whole time she was on stage. Kilee knocked the role of Sandy the Squirrel out of the park with her dancing, singing, and acting. They felt the support and love of many family members, board members, and friends. I am so proud of them for their dedication, late nights practicing, and being part of such an active school organization.

As we head into the end of the school year, I know I will have many more moments to be proud of my scholars. ▼



Senior Arianna Alvarez Perez coordinated collection of over 160 coats that were distributed at Trinity Church on the Green's Chapel on the Green in December.



The girls joined board member Kyma Ganzer and the New Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on a project with New Haven for Habitat for Humanity.

Guilford Education Fund

Guilford ABC began soliciting gifts to establish a GABC College Education Fund at the Guilford Foundation in 2019. Thanks to the generosity of GABC supporters who share our belief that education is a great equalizer, we were able to award our first GABC Education Fund gift in May 2019 to our graduating senior. With ongoing donor support, the fund continues to grow. This year we will be able to award four education gifts, one to our current senior entering college in the fall, and three to graduates who are continuing their studies. These education gifts, awarded yearly to ABC graduates to help defray college expenses, are managed by the Guilford Foundation. Donations to this fund should be sent to the Foundation, with a note designating the gift to the GABC Education Fund. ▼

Hole in the Wall

A Different Kind of Celebration

You may recall that back before COVID turned our world topsy-turvy we had great plans afoot for a gala to celebrate The Hole in the Wall's 45th Anniversary on May 3, 2020. After two hopeful reschedules, the latest to have been May 5, 2022, we polled many of our potential table sponsors and guests as to the likelihood of attending an indoor event for 200 guests. Based on the responses we received and with of an abundance of caution given current transmission risks, we have decided to reinvent the gala into a smaller event to honor the amazing dedication of our volunteers and managers. Thanks to all of them, despite a four-month closure in 2020, the shop's revenue has far exceeded budget expectations and helped to keep GABC flourishing through a very challenging time. And with Patty Sullivan's vision and leadership, we see a bright future in the months and years ahead!

Woodwinds has graciously allowed us to use our deposit and reserved date of Thursday, May 5 from 5:00 to 8:30 for a festive evening of dining and dancing for Hole in the Wall volunteers and managers, as well as GABC staff and board members as our guests. "Plus-ones" of attendees are welcome for a ticket price of \$32. This is a great opportunity for mixing and mingling, learning more about GABC, and maybe recruiting some new volunteers.

As always, thank you to all of our Hole in the Wall donors and consignors. It is your ongoing support that has fueled the vitality and growth of our business and Guilford ABC!

For more information, please contact Patty Sullivan at hitwabc@gmail.com or call the shop at (203) 453-2088. ▼



Above left, HITW manager Joan Simonetti will Lucille Jenkins who has been a faithful volunteer for over 30 years! And right, Manager Katie Cooney and Volunteer Yoko Alpert.

The Hole in the Wall has shown amazing growth, despite being closed for a while during the pandemic, as many households decided they had time to clean out closets and offer donated items. Net proceeds for 2021 made up for the four months we were closed in 2020, and we continue to see an increase in sales for 2022. As Guilford ABC's primary source of operating income, we appreciate the many donated items from local residents.



GABC HOST FAMILIES

Host Families are a very important part of the Guilford ABC program. We started the school year with a modified visiting schedule and by January we were back to full weekend visits. The weekends were filled with picnics, family celebrations and sporting events. The relationship between host families and scholars is incredibly significant and frequently results in life-long friendships. We appreciate all of our host families for opening up their homes and being a part of the girls experience in Guilford.





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Behind the Scenes at GABC

Every winter the board House and Grounds committee, currently ably headed by Ann Street, creates a list of summer home maintenance projects to be completed while the house is empty of scholars. A well-loved old house occupied by teenagers never fails to yield a robust list of routine annual maintenance jobs, deferred items from previous years, and a few "surprises" that crop up from weather events and general wear and tear. 2022 is no exception!

In addition to the usual yard clean-up, deep cleaning of the entire house, carpet and upholstery cleaning, shower caulking and grout repair, painting and carpentry touch-ups, and septic pumping, contractors will be completing some necessary exterior work, including rebuilding the bulkhead basement door, adding an outdoor faucet on the patio, and improving drainage near the rear foundation of the house

Stay tuned for information about our annual spring volunteer workday to be held on a Saturday morning in late April or early May. Projects will include garden bed spiffing, planting outdoor pots, power-washing, cleaning outdoor furniture, commissioning bikes, and cleaning out the garage. ▼