



Scholars Enjoy Full Schedules to Close Out Spring Semester

From leadership activities to manicures, fast runs on the recreational track team, singing in the spring musical and participating in the Model United Nations, plus very challenging coursework, the five Guilford ABC girls had a busy spring semester.

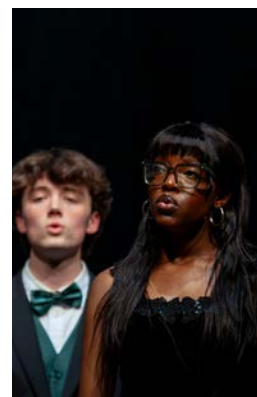
Jazhira, Irene, and Katie both were on the town recreational track team. Jazhira and Katie also played on the recreational soccer squad while Irene participated in the after-school Model United Nations program, exploring her interest in government.

Kyra sang with the Guilford High School select vocal ensemble, Voices, and was in the spring musical *Urinetown*. She attended meetings of the Guilford Board of Education as a student representative for Baldwin Middle School and Melissa Jones Elementary School.

Tamoja has taken a leadership role in the Guilford ABC House as she enters her senior year 2025-26. She also prepared for and participated in a summer course through the University of Vermont.

In addition to all this, the five scholars volunteered at the Hole in the Wall consignment and thrift shop just off the Guilford Town Green. Sales from the popular shop help support the Guilford ABC program. And for fun and personal care, Villa Nail Spa in Guilford provided a welcome break with beautiful manicures.

An end-of-year picnic at the Guilford ABC house found the girls shooting baskets as well as chatting with volunteers, family and guests, happy to conclude a busy spring semester. ▼



Clockwise: Jazzy, Kyra, Tamojah watch the Strawberry Moon rise in June; Katie and Irene at Kyra's National Honor Society induction ceremony; Kyra performs at the annual GHS Meals on Wheels concert as part of Voices vocal ensemble; the GHS Concert Choir performs at Woolsey Hall in March (Kyra, top row second from left, Irene middle row second from right).

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR SUPPORTERS



GUILFORD
FOUNDATION





A BETTER CHANCE
GUILFORD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Patton* PRESIDENT
Christine Dokko* SECRETARY
Mark Mackowiak* TREASURER

Maria Brown	Natalya Hyrb
Julia Chaffe	Michael Hryb
Georgia Cosgrove*	Eileen Limoncelli
Mary Cosgrove	Elisa Milano
Beth Fecko-Curtis	Kristina Powell
Janet Cronin-Rumanoff	Melonie Swan
Christa Florea	Wendy Ward
Laura Berkowitz	Corinne Wilson*
Gilbert*	Jeff Zeitlin
Abby Goodman	

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY BOARD

Marie Berry	Gwen Gunn
Charlene Blake	Lori Harris
Wesley Cain	Tobie Meisel
Melissa Dayton	Lisa Rogers
Regina Demitrack	Winnie Seibert
Connie Dickinson	Naralys Sinanis
Peter Dickinson	Ann Street
Kristen Eveland	Susan Welsh
Kyma Ganzer	Carol Wright

ABC SCHOLARS

Kyra Amani	Irene Opoku-Gyamfi
Jazhira Douglas	Tamojah Tomlinson
Katie Maldonado	

ABC STAFF

Judy Wright PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Lynn Prendergast RESIDENT DIRECTOR
Greg Putney PROPERTY MANAGER
Sharon Risse AFTER SCHOOL TUTOR
Patty Sullivan HOLE IN THE WALL MANAGER
Taylor Trombetta COOK

HOST FAMILIES

Mags & Greg DePetris
Samira & Adeniyi Fisayo
Dani & Rob Howard
Elisa & Dave Milano
Jennifer & Nathan Scoggin

NEWSLETTER

Managing Editor: Ellen Creane
Design: Words by Jen

*Opening the door to greater
educational opportunities
since 1974*

P.O. Box 140
Guilford, CT 06437
www.guilfordabc.org



Strengthening the Support Structure for Our Scholars

FROM PRESIDENT NANCY PATTON

As our scholars enjoy their summer months at home with their families, I'm thrilled to share some exciting news about staffing, Board additions and program changes underway at Guilford ABC.



Please join me in welcoming Judy Wright, who started in July as our new part-time Program Coordinator. Judy brings a deep understanding of our program, having served as a Board Co-President, Academic Advising Committee Chair, academic advisor and Student Selection Committee member, among other roles. She is a natural fit for this new position. As Program Coordinator, Judy will handle administrative tasks, serve as the primary point of contact for scholars' families and the community, manage program records and help to oversee staff positions. Her work will relieve the burden on some key Board positions and, importantly, allow the Board to transition back from a Co-President to a single President model.

At its June meeting, the Board approved three new members: Wendy Ward will serve as academic advisor to our new incoming sophomore; Janet Cronin-Rumanoff will join our House and Grounds Committee; and Beth Fecko-Curtis will join our Student Selection Committee. Their expertise and energy will be a valuable addition to the program! I'd like to thank Ann Street, who has transitioned from the Board to an Advisory Board position after her long tenure as House and Grounds Committee Chair, during which she oversaw substantial upgrades to the facilities.

In program news, the Board has decided to modify Host Family visits to restore some downtime for our busy scholars and to continue to attract Guilford families to make this meaningful commitment. Starting this Fall, scholars will visit their host families for one overnight instead of two, seven times throughout the school year. This change will free up a Saturday night and Sunday about once a month, allowing our scholars to do an activity together and plan for their busy week ahead.

These developments represent an important step forward in strengthening the support structure for our scholars while keeping their experience at the center of everything we do. Together with our Resident Director, Lynn Prendergast, the Board remains focused on providing our scholars the opportunity for an outstanding academic and community-living experience.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission and the promising futures of the students we serve. Enjoy the rest of your summer! ▼

GABC Taps Judy Wright for New Program Coordinator Position

The Guilford A Better Chance program has evolved over its 50-year history. Serving the personal and academic needs of the young women in the program, maintaining the house where they live, managing all the legalities has become complex and in need of continuity. Thus, the GABC Board decided that a part-time paid coordinator was needed. Board Members chose Judy Wright, whose 10 years of volunteer service in many positions fits the needs of the newly created position.



Judy began her volunteer service on the House & Grounds Committee in 2016. Over the years she has served as Board Secretary and as a Co-President for two years. In addition to her new duties as Program Coordinator, she will continue as a volunteer Academic Advisor as well as a volunteer on the Selection Committee.

She sees her role in the new position as “in the process of designing it. I will be taking care of non-student requirements, such as insurance, management of forms and deadlines, liaison with the national ABC program, and supervising the background checks for all volunteers involved with students,” she said. Judy sees a key importance of the position is “to keep communication open and moving along, too.”

Past Co-President Laura Berkowitz Gilbert explained that “with so many volunteers having very busy lives, there has been a need to preserve institutional knowledge and keep the program running smoothly. The Board is thrilled that Judy accepted the position!” ▼

Snakes Enliven M.J. Petretto Foundation Golf Classic

As golfers teed off and trooped over the greens at the Wallingford Country Club, a few errant snakes slithered by. Oh well, the 16th Annual M. J. Petretto Foundation Golf Classic participants “had a fun outing,” per Jeff Zeitlin, volunteer compliance officer on the Board of Guilford A Better Chance. The outing on June 16 included a pre-golf lunch, post-golf cocktail hour and dinner, along with silent and “live” auctions.

Zeitlin confirmed that Guilford ABC has been an engaged participant for many years, represented by golfers including a foursome led by Hole In The Wall manager Patty Sullivan. Board members Zeitlin and Mark Mackowiack also competed, as did Eric Brown, husband of Board member Maria Brown. GABC was also admirably represented with volunteers helping throughout the full-day event, including Charlene Blake, Mary Cosgrove, Eileen Limoncelli, Elisa Milano, Winnie Seibert and Corinne Wilson.

The event helps support the Guilford A Better Chance program. The check presentation of the proceeds from the event is expected in early fall.

The M.J. Petretto Foundation was established in 2009, inspired by M.J.’s nephew, Jesse, who suffered a spinal cord injury in a near fatal auto accident that changed his life forever. Thanks to family, friends, and the intensive rehabilitation received from Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford, Jesse is walking again. The M.J. Petretto Foundation’s commitment is to assist in assuring the continuing excellence of Gaylord’s program, and to help fund organizations that support education, health, and quality of life in Connecticut communities including Parkinson’s Exercise and Caregiver Support Programs (Shoreline), Shoreline Arts Alliance, and Guilford ABC.

“Guilford ABC is very grateful to the M.J. Petretto Foundation’s continuing support for our ABC education program,” Zeitlin said. ▼

*Your donations
support Guilford
A Better Chance.
Thank you!*

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Ascend Bank
Big Y
Bishop’s Market
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Estate of Milton S. Marcus Charitable Gift Fund
Guilford Foundation
Guilford Community Fund
Lenny and Joe’s Fish Tales
M.J. Petretto Foundation
Stop & Shop
Withers Bergman, LLC

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS/ IN-KIND DONATIONS

College Matters, Madison
Estate Artists (Sondra Baseggio)
Kerry Schutz Photography
Madison Tutoring, LLC
Mary’s Culinary Classes

In June, friends and family gathered for a year-end celebration.



A BETTER CHANCE
GUILFORD

**P.O. Box 140
Guilford, CT 06437**

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #96
Guilford, CT



Hole in the Wall Volunteers Contribute "Heart and Soul"

Even though time is flying - Hole in the Wall volunteers assure the shop runs like clockwork!!

Manager Patty Sullivan is passionate about the joy her volunteers bring to the shop that helps support the Guilford A Better Chance program.

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our operation providing hundreds of volunteer hours per week. We truly could not run the shop without our many diligent and dedicated volunteers."

Janet Emanuel (left), a 14-year veteran volunteer, donates her time two days a week and states "I love bargains, and I love supporting other people finding big bargains."

Gail Sonnichsen Rich (right) has been volunteering for 10 years and says, "There are so many hidden treasures waiting to be discovered and I love helping people discover them and helping them out."



Patty welcomes new volunteers who enjoy retailing and want to support the GABC program. She affirms, "The volunteers at Hole in the Wall have fun and form lasting, meaningful friendships all the while being of service to a local charity. You will not be bored for even a moment and will form lasting connections with wonderful people. But beware, it's hard to leave empty handed with the wonderful inventory that we sell!"

Hole in the Wall is seeking to fill a paid position of Associate Manager and also is in need of new volunteers. If you or someone you know might be interested, please stop by the shop and fill out a volunteer application or call 203-453-2088 to inquire. The smiles from Patty and current staff and volunteers will inspire you! ▼

HOLE IN THE WALL
31 Boston St, Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 453-2088