



GUILFORD PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

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FALL 2023

Mark Your Calendars for an Outstanding Witness to History Lecture Series on the Legacies of Slavery

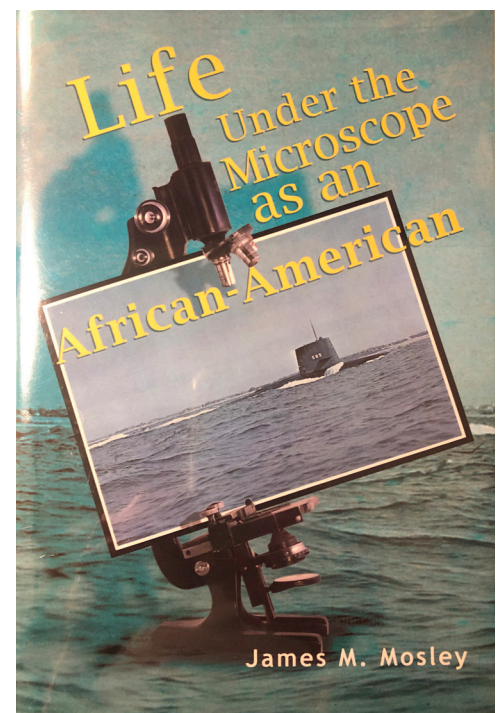


The Witness to History--Slavery in Guilford initiative of the GPA in collaboration with the Guilford Free Library announce their 2024 lecture series. This series will focus on the Legacies of Slavery. As Frederick Douglass warned in October 1870, "Slavery has left its poison behind it both in the veins of the slaves and the enslaver." Douglass further asserted that "habits of a nation are mightier than a statute."

The talks will include the following:

- On February 22, 2024, Jeffrey Fletcher, the Executive Director of the Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American Museum in Stratford will present an interactive overview of the museum.
- On March 21, 2024, Connie Royster will discuss the historical significance of her aunt, Constance Baker Motley who worked for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and became the first Black woman to serve on the federal bench.
- On May 16, 2024, James Mosley will talk about his book *Life Under the Microscope as an African American*. He will reminisce about his life in the US Navy as a submariner, his subsequent career in General Dynamics in the purchasing department and his work as the Minority Administrator for the Electric Boat Division.
- On October 24, 2024, six time Emmy Documentary Award winner Karyl Evans will show and discuss her two part work "The History of African Americans in Connecticut."

All talks will be held at the Guilford Free Library. Watch for further details and learn more about GPA's Witness to History programs at www.slaveryinguilford.org



Guilford Preservation Alliance Welcomes New Board Members

This past fall, the Guilford Preservation Alliance was pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors.

Formerly a legal aid attorney, **Glenn Falk** teaches American Legal History and related subjects at Trinity College in Hartford. With degrees in History from both Trinity and Harvard Colleges, Glenn regularly explores historic sites and also seeks to learn more about slavery in the area. He looks forward to assisting the effort to save the Ham Primus House in North Guilford.

Crystal Gaudio is a registered Landscape Architect and founder of Rubus Landscape Architecture, a woman owned firm dedicated to “making beautiful, culturally and historically contextual landscapes which are a joy to be in.” Her projects have included work on behalf of the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn, the New York City Coalition of Community Gardens and Forest Park Forever in St. Louis, Missouri. Most recently she has teamed with other consultants to improve open spaces along the Erie Canal.

In addition to **Glenn Falk** and **Crystal Gaudio**, current GPA Board of Directors include **Shirley Girioni**, President, **Tim Sperry**, Treasurer, **Marcia Safirstein**, Secretary, **Howard Brown**, **Wendy Dockray**, **Ellen Ebert**, **Doug Nygren**, **Bernie Pitterman** and **Tracy Tomaselli**.

GPA Extends Sincere Words of Appreciation to 2023 Information Kiosk Volunteers

Braving heat waves and sometimes difficult parking, fourteen Guilford residents staffed GPA’s Information Kiosk this past summer. Adult volunteers included Richard Moalli (Saturday mornings), JoAnn Mendillo (Thursday mornings) plus David and Susan Hall, Cathy and Maddie Hutchens, Marybeth Marx, Bernie Pitterman and Wendy Dockray. Mary Repetti provided expert guidance on some new signage. A group of students from Guilford High School –Gordon Chen, Nathaniel Greif, Leah Jackson, Alex Milano and Liam Nargi—also staffed the booth. Prior to the season, senior student Molly Dugas updated a detailed restaurant guide which is used as a resource. All of the students earned Community Service Hours for their efforts.

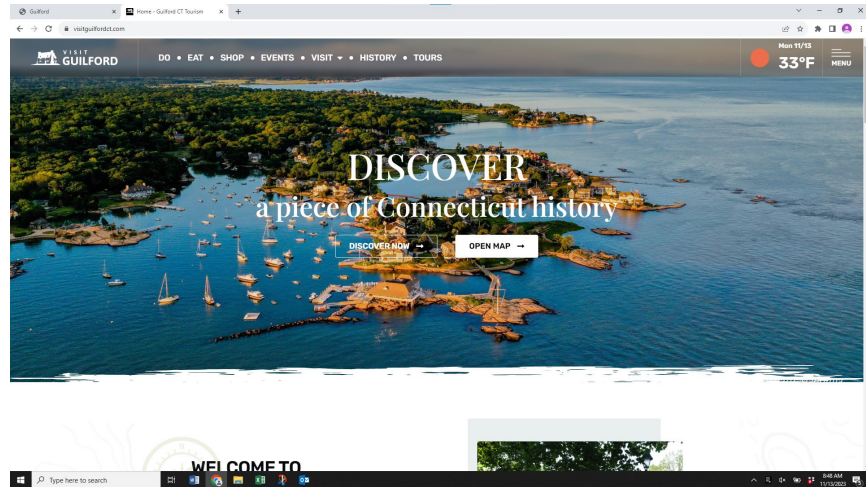
The Guilford Preservation Alliance extends sincere appreciation to all of these individuals for sharing their time and knowledge with more than 250 people requiring assistance.

The GPA also announces that Rich Moalli will assume a key role in management of the Kiosk in 2024. A true history buff and a familiar face in the booth, Rich understands the importance of tourism to Guilford as well as the value of assisting residents seeking more information about their own town. GPA thanks Rich for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

For more information about volunteering in the Kiosk please reach out to Rich via email richmoalli@gmail.com or GPA Board Member Bernie Pitterman at dudley858@gmail.com

Guilford Tourism Website Has New and Inviting Look

More than a year in coming, GPA's tourism website, www.visitguilfordct.com, has taken on a new image and been greatly expanded to provide more information about things to do, where to dine and shop, historic sites and tours and the town's rich past. The website is the product of collaboration between the Town of Guilford's Economic Development department and the GPA. The Town devoted \$11,000 to the project and the GPA \$4,000 which was part of a grant received from Connecticut Humanities. The website is now under the purview of the Town and the GPA working together.



Opening page of www.visitguilfordct.com

A number of individuals from Guilford supplied beautiful photographs including the opening picture from the collection of Richard Madonna. A great deal of work still needs to be done on the website including some new sections (ie farmers markets/stands), reorganizing of sections and populating its restaurant and retail pages. Restaurant owners and retail merchants are encouraged to contact Traci Brinkman, Public Information Specialist in the Selectman's office at brinkmant@guilfordct.gov. She will forward a link to the necessary listing form. There is no charge for a listing which can include photographs. Community organizations should also contact Ms Brinkman with events for the website's calendar.

A Guilford Minute: Death Notice, *Hartford Courant*, January 1793

Mrs. Marcy Bartlett was born November 15, 1699 the daughter of Sgt. Ebenezer Field and Mary Dudley. Marcy first married Joshua Blatchley. After his death, she married Ebenezer Bartlett, becoming his third wife. She was a midwife for about 50 years and had been at the birth of 1400 children.

—At Guilford, Mrs. Marcy Bartlett, relict of Mr. Ebenezer Bartlett, aged 94 years. She was in the practice of Midwifery about 50 years, in which she continued till about four years before her death, and had been at the birth of 1400 children.—

Guilford Preservation Alliance Draws Upon the Hugh McK. Jones Trust Fund to Support Diverse Preservation Programs

Many of the Guilford Preservation Alliance's initiatives are made possible by the Hugh McK. Jones Trust Fund for Historic Preservation. The GPA established the Trust to preserve or protect land or buildings of historical or architectural significance as well as to enforce preservation easements which the Alliance may acquire.

In 2023 the GPA utilized funds from the Trust to support several important community projects.

The GPA donated:

- \$10,000 to the Guilford Land Conservation Trust toward purchase of property in the view shed of the Meetinghouse Hill Historic District in North Guilford;
- \$5,000 to the Hyland House for repair of damage from powderpost beetles;
- \$5,000 to the First Congregational Church for painting of its exterior.

The Jones Trust also provides for loans to help owners rehabilitate, preserve or otherwise save significant historic buildings. One loan--to address fire damage in a classical revival home near the Town Green--was close to completing repayment by the end of 2023. The GPA currently replenishes the Trust through earnings, loan repayment and contributions from its members and supporters. For more information contact Shirley Girioni, GPA President at sagirioni@aol.com or Tim Sperry, Treasurer at sperry55@gmail.com.

Photographs at Train Station to Tell the Story “Made in Guilford”

Waiting for a Shoreline East train on the north side of the Guilford Train Station is about to become far more interesting. The Guilford Preservation Alliance is producing an exhibit “Made in Guilford” using historical photographs of ways people made a living in the town's past. The large photo panels will soon be mounted (with help from the Connecticut Department of Transportation) in the stairwell entry to the train station. The permanently affixed exhibit will feature large photographs as well as an informational panel, exploring the many ways the residents of Guilford worked and produced goods in the 1800s and early 1900s.

The exhibit accompanies a similar display on the south side of the station which was installed a few years ago and which focuses on historical photographs of the Guilford Train station beginning at about 1850. Both of these exhibits were well researched and drew upon many sources of information, especially from the Historical Room of the Guilford Free Library.

**To learn more about GPA and its work see www.guilfordpreservation.org,
www.visitguilfordct.com, and www.slaveryinguilford.org**