Faith Killiam Warner
1922 - 2020

Faith Warner was actively engaged as a volunteer with the Glebe House Museum for over fifty years. She actively served on the Board of Directors and was the Honorary Chair for two "Festive Dinners with Friends" fundraisers. Faith supported the Glebe House in many ways with her generous contribution of time, fundraising skill and decorative arts donations. Together with her late husband, Lucian D. Warner, she embodied the mission of the Glebe House Museum as a teaching institution for all age groups in the greater Connecticut area.

As noted in her obituary, "Faith is remembered for her quick wit and humor, concern and love for others, amazing memory for poetry and love of words, musical interests and talent, pearls of wisdom and above all a life well lived with exceptional high standards."

We will miss her!
Annual Meeting 2020

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10:00 am
Via ZOOM
Glebe House Museum, Woodbury, Connecticut

I. Call to Order

II. Approve Minutes of previous Annual Meeting (2019)
    January 25, 2020

III. Reports:

A. President
B. Director
C. Friends of the Glebe House
D. Gertrude Jekyll Garden
E. Registrar - Collections
F. Property
G. Finance

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Adjournment and Program: “Changing Landscapes”
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.
Annual Meeting 2019
Minutes
January 25, 2020

In Attendance: Mindy Belcher (President), Carter Booth (Board Member), Eileen Denver, Mary Ewert, Jim Frey (Board Member), Robin Johnson, Christine Lesko, Marita McDonough, Deb Soresino, and LoriAnn Witte (Director).

Called to Order: President Mindy Belcher at 10:18 AM

Approval of Minutes: Mindy Belcher asked if all in attendance had reviewed the minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting. She also asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the minutes. None were cited and a request was made for a motion to approve. Carter Booth noted that there were not enough members present for a quorum and so the approval was tabled until the next Board Meeting. LoriAnn Witte noted that all Board Members would receive a PDF copy of the Annual Report that includes the minutes from the 2018 meeting. Everyone will have the chance to review before the next meeting.

President’s Report: Mindy Belcher commented on her report and highlights of the year. She noted that we had a great year that included innovative planning with everyone working hard to implement some really imaginative activities that brought a lot of (new) people to our site in record numbers. Mindy explained that she felt a really nice sense of energy amongst the Board Members, Staff and Volunteers. She went on to say that we broadened our outreach, which was one of our goals. She noted that LoriAnn has done a fantastic job with getting us out there in the public eye with media, press coverage and social media outlets. We were in the newspaper many times. We have many followers on social media and our website is updated on a regular basis. Jim Frey noted that the numbers we received on All Hollow’s Eve (500+ visitors) are a testament to our presence in the community. Mindy reported that we saw increases in special event visitors & revenue, museum visitors, donations, garden donations, annual appeal donations, and museum shop revenue. Mindy noted that those are all very positive signs as we move forward. Mindy highlighted several of our biggest events including Festive Dinners with Friends 2019. Our biggest fundraiser of the year had a few new host homes, great auction items, wonderful sponsors, and a fabulous Honorary Chair in board member, Hugh Sullivan. The theme for the event was “Architectural Preservation: A Window to the Past – A Vision for the Future”, highlighting architectural preservation and its importance. Hugh Sullivan has been a wonderful resource for us and we wanted to thank him by making him our honorary chair for the event.

Mindy noted that what we have (the Glebe House) is irreplaceable and we are in a “virtual” age, but this is a real place – “brick & mortar matters.” Mindy thanked those present who were sponsors for the event. Mindy reported that our Children’s Programs did very well with LoriAnn keeping an eye on what the needs are for children and parents with more options available to families. We are offering our same quality, historical programming with a slightly different structure to help fill the needs of the community. We had a lead counselor with several junior counselors, including Mindy’s daughter. ION Bank and Connecticut Community Foundation offered grant support so that we could offer scholarships to families in need and stipends to the young people who participated as counselors. Mindy reported that the Marshall Children program is still going strong. The children participate in many activities at the house and are learning to become young docents. We have received “rave” reviews from parents regarding the uniqueness of the program and how much their children enjoy being a part of it.

Our “All Hollow’s Eve Cemetery Tours & Haunted Museum” brought a record number of visitors this year. This event has grown to be our second biggest fundraiser and our largest attended event. Mindy thanked everyone that participated and helped in making this event work. She noted that “It takes an army and we couldn’t do it without you!” Mindy said that Carol Ziske did an incredible job bringing the “Wheel of Mis-
fortune” to life for the haunted museum. The game was very audience interactive and the guests “loved” it. Guests came through several times to play the game, spin the wheel, and answer the questions. Guests were able to “exit with their life”, but those who did exceptionally well were awarded a golden pumpkin prize. Overall, the whole evening was extremely successful and the weather was cooperative, which is always a big help. Thank you to every volunteer who helps!

Mindy also reported that we were able to capitalize on the Haunted Museum by auctioning off two private parties, at Festive Dinners, that were held post All Hollow’s Eve and were enjoyed by all of the guests. The guests were entertained with the “Wheel of Mis-fortune” game and were treated to hors d’oeuvres and wine.

These parties brought many new people and many new supporters.

Many new collaborations allowed us to work with other community organizations and network for new support. Mindy reported that we worked with the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce and participated in the Harvest Stroll, which although it was not a huge success, turned out to be successful for us and brought many visitors to our site. We collaborated with Waterbury Symphony Orchestra to present a Music Day event that allowed visitors to learn to drum and we also hosted an open house during the Picnic & Pops. LoriAnn noted that we also presented Musical Readers programs during the winter months. Mindy also noted that we participated in Earth Day with our own booth and plant sale. We also hosted a fashion photo shoot that was featured in Litchfield Magazine. Other activities that she noted were: the Hurd House Celebration, History Bites, Holiday Gala and Christmas Festival. Mindy thanked Sally Booth for the donation of her beautiful wreaths that are sold at the holiday events. Mindy also thanked the volunteers and Marieta Gil for doing such a spectacular job with the Holiday Boutique/Shoppe.

Mindy thanked Guy Gabrielson for being an invaluable asset to our organization and always being at the ready to make repairs on our property and buildings. LoriAnn noted that among all of the other repairs reported, that Guy also pulled and replaced the signpost that our Glebe House sign hangs on.

Mindy noted that two separate Eagle Scout projects were completed during the 2019 season. A new picnic area was created under the trees in our yard and a stone entryway leading to and from Hollow Park. She mentioned that it was wonderful to see how much pride the Scouts took in achieving these goals and creating these areas for the Museum Property. She also noted that we hosted a “thank you” picnic for the Scouts and their families. LoriAnn noted that Jason Zulpa, the scout who did the walkway, invited her to his Eagle Scout ceremony & reception at North Church. She went on to say how impressed she was by the ceremony and the turnout from the community. She mentioned that Scouting teaches “good” stewardship and it is something that remains ingrained in them as adults. “These young men are the future and will take up the mantle in our community.” LoriAnn also mentioned that Benjamin Johnson was the Eagle Scout that created the picnic area. Thank you to the Scouts and their Mentors!

Mindy reported that the girls from Westover School came and did community outreach at the Glebe House. The students spent two afternoons cleaning and painting the front picket fence. Thank you to Ace Hardware for the paint and supplies! The Westover students also came and stuffed the annual appeal envelopes for us. Thank you for all of your help.

Mindy thanked the Garden Volunteers for all of their hard work and mentioned that she met some visitors from Australia, while setting up the haunted museum, and they remarked that they came to see the Gertrude Jekyll Garden and thought it was beautiful.

Mindy thanked the ALL of the Friends of the Glebe for all that they do. We could not do this without you! Thanks to Bonnie Bradley for scheduling everyone. LoriAnn remarked “the day Bonnie gives up that job you will find me under my desk.”

Mindy noted that even with all of our help, we still need more volunteers. LoriAnn noted that the 2020 season would be all about volunteering. “2020: The Year of the Volunteer” We want to offer perks to our volunteers and special activities. If any volunteers have friends or others that they can promote to or bring on, please help get them on board. Mindy noted that LoriAnn held a thank you BBQ and potluck for the Friends of the Glebe and even though it was a cold and windy day it was very well attended. LoriAnn promised that the next one would be held when it is warmer!
Mindy thanked Lois Zane for her many years of dedication to the Museum. She takes on every task with care and professionalism and we are grateful for her stewardship. Mindy also thanked Carter Booth for being on the Collections Committee and Carter noted that this is his fifteenth annual meeting! Mindy thanked LoriAnn for her dedicated service, her leadership and accomplishments, noting that she has provided a nice sense of community at the Museum & Garden. Mindy took a moment, on a personal note, to thank Carter Booth for always checking in with her and offering his help and support. It is most appreciated!

2020 here we come! Our 95th Anniversary lies ahead with many hopes and dreams for the success of the season. Thank you!

**Director’s Report:** LoriAnn Witte noted that she would only cover the highlights, as Mindy covered much of the information for the year. She began by reporting that the 94th Season ended on a successful note with much new collaboration. The Museum joined the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, which introduced us to the other local businesses in our area and allowed us to network with them. We participated in the Harvest Stroll that the Chamber organized and although the day was not an overall success, it was very successful for the Museum & Garden and brought in many visitors. LoriAnn reported that the year began with the challenge of replacing our computer and getting our systems back online. She thanked Tim Szczgiel and Sales Chain for the donation of a computer and Marieta Gil for the donation of a new printer for the office. Once those challenges were passed she noted that the winter months were filled with grant writing and program planning for the upcoming season. We received most of the grants that we applied for. Connecticut Community Foundation approved a sponsorship for Festive Dinners with Friends and a grant for Youth Development. ION Bank approved a grant for the Summer Programs for Children. The Women’s Giving Circle approved a grant for a Colonial Life of Women Series. These workshops brought in new members and supporters that have since come to more events at the Museum. Mindy added that if anyone has an idea of something new that we could present, please bring these ideas to us. Even if you go to an event at another site that you enjoy, let us know. LoriAnn continued with reporting that the unrestricted donations saw an increase over the year, including funds from the Gabrielson Family Fund, the Diebold Foundation, The Colonial Lords of Manors in America, ITW Matching Grants, Mindy Belcher & the Board of Directors of the Seabury Society, and many memorial donations. She noted that our success is not possible without the generosity of our donors! Thank you! LoriAnn noted that we had already discussed many of the events and activities, but we had not mentioned our Winter’s Afternoon Tea. This event was well attended and brings in revenue during a “slow” time of year. Visitors enjoy being inside the historic house at beautifully set tables. Many other places do “teas” but they do not host them inside their historic site and so the “atmosphere” is not as enjoyable. Other organizations only give their guests’ tea & cookies, while we really treat them to wonderful food and a selection of fine teas in a beautiful setting. This makes our event very popular. A “Spring Tea” is planned in late March 2020. LoriAnn continued with noting that the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra presented Musical Readers programs during the winter months and as these are geared towards young participants, it brings a whole new audience to the museum. LoriAnn reported that we participated in the Connecticut Flower Show through our membership in CT Historic Gardens. The show is held every year in Hartford at the Convention Center and is very well attended. She noted that the Gardeners had their brand new “Volunteer Kick-Off Day” during the spring. The Garden Committee put an emphasis on getting new volunteers and promoting the restoration of the Jekyll Garden. LoriAnn thanked Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price for all of their hard work, leadership and dedication to our Gertrude Jekyll Garden. They also gave fabulous detailed tours of the garden to groups of visitors. She also thanked all of the volunteers who give their time to bring Gertrude’s vision to life!
LoriAnn also mentioned our Earth Day booth and the plant sale that the Garden Volunteers put together. This not only brought in funds for new plants, but also made our booth very popular and well attended. This plant sale continued through the season, utilizing the rack that Guy Gabrielson made, and earned more funds by selling re-potted plant material that was taken out of our garden. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to keep the plants watered & selling! LoriAnn also thanked Wes Rouse and Pine Meadow Gardens for all of the work that they do to help the garden volunteers keep the garden looking beautiful. Wes always sends his crew before special events and makes sure that all of the heavy work that requires a crew gets done. We thank him and his crew for sharing our passion for Gertrude’s vision.

LoriAnn shared that this year the History Day was for the 5th grade classes and that they were here two days before school ended which made it a bit challenging! The kids and teachers really enjoyed the day and our volunteers really enjoy presenting it to them. CT Historic Gardens Day brought more than 200 visitors to our site. The weather was lovely and the event was heavily promoted and in several magazines.

The Summer Experience for Children was really successful. We had several full weeks of classes and used the shorter holiday week to try our new individual program days. The most popular individual program day was the colonial cooking day. LoriAnn noted this has prompted her to plan colonial cooking for adults for 2020.

Although we already discussed All Hollow’s Eve at length, LoriAnn wanted to mention how proud she is of all of the volunteers who helped the event come to fruition. There were 495 visitors on the first night in 4 hours! The volunteers know what goes on behind the scenes. They know the work that it takes to keep all of those guests happy and to keep them moving through the evening. We are so thankful for all of you! We could not do this event without you! LoriAnn wanted to especially thank Mindy Belcher for all of her hard work getting the house together and coming up with the “Wheel of Misfortune”. This was a challenging year and Mindy faced it with her usual tenacity & sense of humor and really brought this Haunted Museum to life. Thank you for all of your contributions!

This year’s cookie donation funds ($288) were donated to the Woodbury Cemetery Association for their Stone Restoration Fund. The WCA always allows us to use the cemetery for our event and we wanted to be able to give something back. The WCA is so happy and so grateful for our support. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made and bought cookies. Those donations would not have been possible without you!

LoriAnn also noted that we participated in Shop Small Saturday in November and that the Holiday Shoppe was a fantastic success. She thanked everyone who helped to get the shop together and donated & made items, especially Marieta Gil. Thank you! She also reported that “Yum-Yum” bread was back! Thank you to Rebecca Otten, Rosemary Paul and Rosemary SantAndrea for all of their contributions!

We sold all but 4 loaves and LoriAnn did not mind finding a home for them.

The Holiday Shoppe was very profitable and made this holiday season one of our most successful years.

LoriAnn thanks Sally Booth for all of her beautiful wreaths that were sold at the Holiday Gala and during the Christmas Festival.

In closing LoriAnn reported that we did 33.5% better in profit than at the close of 2018. This has allowed us to come into the winter of 2020 in a stable financial position with operation funds to get us through the lean months before our season opens in May. We head into our 95th Anniversary year in a strong position and that is a good feeling.

LoriAnn again thanked the Board of Directors and the Friends of the Glebe (Volunteers & Gardeners) for all of their hard work and dedication, without whom none of this would be possible. She read many of her “thank you” notes directly from her report, which you can see in the attached document.

She closed her report remarking that she is looking forward the 95th Anniversary Season.

**Friends of the Glebe Report:** LoriAnn Witte is the acting Secretary for the Friends of the Glebe and remarked that she will keep her comments short. She started by thanking the Hospitality Chairs, Marieta Gil & Eileen Denver, for organizing all of the treats for our meetings and the cookies for All Hollow’s Eve.
Thank you to Bonnie Bradley for organizing our calendar and making sure that the Museum always is staffed. Thank you to Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price for organizing and leading our Garden Volunteers. Thank you to Lois Zane for all of her dedication to the Glebe House and her dedication to her fellow volunteers. Thank you and welcome to our new volunteers, Marita McDonough & Ann Johansmeyer. The “Friends” provided so many things to the organization all season long from our daily house & garden tours to major events. Everything you have given makes an impact and we could not function without you! Thank you!

LoriAnn noted that the revamp of the museum shop is working well. We are narrowing down the items that visitors want to see and purchase from us. She noted that the books are a strong seller and have had to be restocked many times. Simple items: our Glebe House pens, the notecard sets and the postcards are all big sellers. Our visitors want items that relate to our house & garden or our history. As previously noted the Museum Shop sales have increased in 2019, while the cost of goods went down by 50%. This means that we are doing well with stocking the right type and numbers of product for the season.

LoriAnn reported that the Friends of the Glebe participated in three, day trips during the season. In June, the group went to the New York Botanical Gardens. The group traveled to the Florence Griswold Museum in August and to Kykuit in October. They were all wonderful trips and well attended. LoriAnn noted that the Friends group likes to spend time together and that they enjoy the camaraderie of these activities. It’s something that we can do as a group. LoriAnn noted that more trips would be planned for 2020.

LoriAnn also reported that the Volunteer Picnic was well received, even though the weather did not cooperate and it was cold and windy. She promised to have 2020’s picnic during the warm weather! LoriAnn reported that the volunteers gave 2,750 hours to the Glebe House & Gertrude Jekyll Garden and we could not function without you. She thanked the volunteers for the gift of their time and talents. She also noted that if anyone wants to share ideas about activities or events, please let her know your thoughts. Your input is always welcome & appreciated.

**Garden Report:** Eileen Denver discussed the wonderful group of volunteers and how they approached putting the garden group together for the season. She explained that they approached Linda Zukauskas from Voices to come to the garden and interview the gardeners and volunteers for a story that would be printed in Voices to help promote that the garden was seeking new volunteers. The article was printed and was very well received. The article mentioned the Volunteer Kick-Off day and the event was very successful. Many of those who came to the event have stayed on and become part of the regular garden crew. Eileen noted that it is a very good group and now includes four men, who are great to have as they can handle many of the more difficult tasks and are experienced in garden & landscaping. The newer crew has created the need for more hours that are not on weekdays, as many of these folks are still working regular jobs. Eileen explained that the Garden Group has worked very hard to be able to accommodate these volunteers, so that they can participate.

Deb Soresino reported that when she started in the garden about 10 years ago, the garden crew was mostly just “weeder” and that this has changed in past years. She remarked, “What keeps the volunteers coming back year after year is the knowledge that they are working towards restoring the garden to Gertrude Jekyll’s original plan.” Many of the gardeners are now coming from longer distances such as Ansonia and Seymour. All of the work in the garden is taking time, she noted. Time to plan and time to plant. Deb noted that they are using “New England” thriftiness to cut costs and that the volunteers are putting in the extra time that these measures take. The gardeners work season has increased to begin in March and go through the end of the fall months. Deb also reported that the finding of Gertrude Jekyll’s directions regarding the Yew hedge and it’s intended height of 5 feet, confirmed the plans to prune the hedge back to it’s intended size and allow it to fill in from there. She said that the volunteers are excited about the new season and look forward to “re-establishing” to only Jekyll Garden in the US.

Registrar/Collections Report: LoriAnn Witte reported for Lois Zane, who was absent. LoriAnn noted that there were no additions or changes to the collection during the calendar year. Lois Zane continues to maintain and care for all the records regarding our collection. This year, Marieta Gil has started working with Lois, learning how to properly care for and clean the museum. LoriAnn thanked both for their contributions and for working together.

Property Report: As Guy Gabrielson was absent from the meeting LoriAnn briefly reviewed the list of items that had been taken care of during the year. These can be seen in the report. She also thanked Guy for all of the work that he does to keep our property and historic house in working order and looking beautiful. LoriAnn also thanked the Eagle Scouts for their projects and the Westover Students for repainting the picket fence.

Finance Report: LoriAnn reported: Total gross profit increased by 33.5% over 2018. Overall expenses increased by 6.1% over 2018. The Profit and Loss Statement was reviewed and included with Annual Report. Events are the largest portion of our income with donations coming in second and educational programs third. LoriAnn noted that it looks like the “Grant, Inc.” category fell by 11%, however this is not “actually” the case, as the bookkeeping allocation columns were changed for the 2019 calendar year. The “Grant, Inc.” column now only includes unrestricted funds that can be used as the Seabury Society sees fit. All other funds that are given for specific projects or programs must be allocated with those projects or programs, as these funds are restricted to these purposes. LoriAnn also explained that where our “bottom line” looks as if we made a tremendous profit, this is really the final number that you are seeing with our investment accounts added. The investment accounts bounced back this year and earned back funds lost in the 2018 calendar year. It was a really successful year and our numbers ended in the black!

LoriAnn noted that this ended the reports. She also noted that there was no old business to attend to from the last meeting.
Mindy Belcher asked if there was any new business.
LoriAnn noted the upcoming Colonial Life of Women workshops and the Connecticut Flower Show.
No other new business was reported.

Motion to adjourn was made by Robin Johnson and second Christine Lesko.
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
LoriAnn Witte
President’s Annual Report
2020

As 2020 came to a close, the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden had marked a year unlike any in recent time. As the Covid 19 virus swiftly traversed the globe, many aspects of daily life were disrupted by the challenges and constraints inflicted by a pandemic. Throughout this unprecedented time, however, planning and work continued at the museum and garden. Ingenuity and innovation came to the forefront to inspire novel ideas which allowed the Glebe House Museum to remain steadfast in its mission as a nonprofit organization to provide a variety of educational lectures, workshops, tours and special events.

The museum doors opened for the 95th season on August 8, 2020 in full compliance with federal and state policies. Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte was resolute in adhering to guidelines and successfully oversaw the training of volunteers to make the museum reopening possible. Though fewer in number, the museum’s programs and events throughout 2020 maintained high standards and continued to attract visitors and supporters while museum membership continued to grow. Highlights of the past year include a theorem painting workshop, virtual video presentations of the museum and garden, a buried treasure fundraiser and the always popular All Hollow’s Eve.

An entirely new and successful fundraiser was created this year by Board President, Mindy Belcher. Designed to take place outdoors, the Buried Treasure event, which took place on November 8th, received heavy media coverage and drew participants from all over the state. Based on the concept of a 50/50 raffle, numbered ticketed grids were represented on the Glebe House lawn and sold for $25.00 each. Three of the grids contained a buried coin located by a metal detector on the day of the event. The three winners equally shared fifty percent of the total ticket sale proceeds, and the museum retained the other fifty percent. Many thanks to Guy Gabrielson for designing the grid, LoriAnn Witte for painting the lines, and all those who sold and purchased tickets. Special thanks to docent Humphry Rolloston who portrayed Reverend John Marshall wielding the mystical metal detector.

Overseeing the 2020 summer season at the Glebe House Museum, Museum Director LoriAnn Witte implemented a successful Summer Education Experience for children as well as a Youth Leadership training week. We are grateful to Ion Bank for providing a grant to assist with scholarships for children in need. While focused on historical content, this program continues to evolve in order to engage youngsters while providing a quality educational experience. Lead counselor this year was Anna Bunovsky, who was assisted by Ava Witte and Evelyn Stone. With ongoing success, the after school Marshall Children program continued to attract enthusiastic students. This program which offers a fascinating window into 18th century life was unfortunately put on hiatus in the spring, but participants eagerly returned to participate in October’s All Hollow’s Eve event.

The October 24th All Hollow’s Eve cemetery tour, which has become a major fundraiser for the museum, was once again a sellout. Careful planning and modification (including a reduced number of available tickets) allowed for visitors of all ages to enjoy the luminary lit trail through the Old Burying Ground where ghostly re-enactors told stories from Woodbury’s past. Additional characters and vignettes were added to this years event, keeping it a dynamic. In keeping with guidelines, this year’s event took place entirely outdoors (the haunted museum
was not part of this year's offering). The enormity and success of All Hollow's Eve requires weeks of planning and dozens of dedicated volunteers working under the guidance of Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte. Special thanks go to board member Priscilla Price for keeping tours on schedule and to board member Guy Gabrielson along with Steven Price and Andrew Witte for traffic and safety duties along Hollow Road.

The Property Committee continued in its dedication to overseeing the maintenance and preservation of the museum and grounds. A chimney leak was addressed this year after receiving approval for a grant from the Watertown Foundation. Phase one of the repair was made possible by the generosity of Board members Guy Gabrielson and Hugh Sullivan. Phase two work is tentatively planned for the spring and should be funded by the grant. Additional thanks to Guy Gabrielson for restoring the Glebe House Museum sign along with many other skillful repairs done throughout the year. Though not planned, one of the large maple trees near the driveway had to be taken down this year after sustaining tremendous storm damage. Thankfully, there was no harm to the buildings.

The museum property benefitted from an unexpected anonymous benefactor this year. Along with a team of three assistants, a local environmental educator and conservationist began the beautification process of the Hollow Road triangle and east field. Years of overgrowth and deterioration will soon give way to renewed beauty in the Hollow. We are very grateful for the vision and generosity of this individual.

The Gertrude Jekyll Garden was a welcomed source of beauty and solace during 2020, offering an attractive outdoor destination for many visitors. Garden restoration continued under the expertise of Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price, who led the volunteers in their ongoing work. We are appreciative to board member, Priscilla Price, for her role as a liaison to the garden volunteers. The Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden is also extremely grateful to Wes Rouse and Pine Meadow Gardens for ongoing professional guidance and expertise.

We are enormously grateful to the Friends of the Glebe House, the dedicated volunteers who help make it possible for the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden to fulfill its mission. Especially this year, we are appreciative to those valiant volunteers who continued to offer their time and efforts to serve the museum and its visitors.

We are thankful for the dedication of Lois Zane as Registrar of Museum Collections. Lois’ great care and commitment to the Glebe House are evident at all times. Thank you also to Carter Booth, Phil Stone and Tom Schwenke for serving on the Collections Committee.

The Board is always grateful for the exceptional work and dedication of Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte. LoriAnn met the challenges of 2020 head on, navigating the requirements and adaptations necessary for museum and garden operations. In addition to her many regular responsibilities, LoriAnn adeptly maneuvered through CARES Act applications, successfully securing funds for museum operations. Also important, she utilized the power of technology and social media to maintain a vibrant museum presence as well as effectively communicate with Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden supporters. We are very grateful to LoriAnn for the positivity and professionalism she brings to the organization.
This year sadly brought the passing of longtime board member, Faith Warner. Faith’s service and support will be greatly missed and we fondly remember to her contributions to the organization over many years.

During such an unprecedented year, it is paramount to express sincere appreciation to all who have provided financial and operational support to the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden. Foundations, community businesses, individual board members, museum members, volunteers and visitors all supported the ongoing efforts to preserve this historic house and garden and provide unique educational and cultural opportunities for our community. May 2021 be a year of health and prosperity for all!

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Belcher, President
The Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.

DIRECTOR OF THE GLEBE HOUSE MUSEUM & GERTRUDE JEKYLL GARDEN
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

January 23, 2021

The 95th year of the Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden began with the excitement of ending a very successful prior year, that left us on solid fiscal ground and ready to begin the new year on a high note. We began planning for our Annual Meeting and had many activities lined up for the winter months to come. We partnered with the Roxbury Land Trust for a “one-room” schoolhouse program. The Marshall Children were learning about maple sugarling and tapped the Glebe House trees. The Colonial Life Series continued with the Art of Theorems and Vinegar Grained Frames. We participated in “get social” networking events through our membership in the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, not knowing just how un-social we were about to be. An SAE Fair at Nonnewaug High School offered us exposure to the Agriscience Department with the opportunity to recruit students for the Gertrude Jekyll Garden and our property. Preparations had even begun for our 95th Anniversary Celebration that was to be held in June at Woodbury Barns & Farm. Although we were aware of an illness that had many other countries in its grip, we had no idea what effect this Pandemic would have on our lives through the foreseeable future.

As we entered the month of March, it was clear that things were about to change. Covid-19 began its spread, the lock-down began and we started navigating the maze known as Coronavirus. The CDC and the State of Connecticut began disseminating information to the public and to businesses with the dos & don’ts of how to, or even if you could proceed with business. It was during this time that it became necessary to cancel all of our presently planned, in-person activities, but we were still hopeful that the year would turn around and we would be able to resume our schedule and even have the house open to the public. The Garden Committee continued with their spring plans and usual maintenance, as they were all volunteering outside and maintaining the new social distancing rules. The garden would become a welcome and beautiful place for all wanting to escape the stress of our new life in the pandemic. As the garden received care, an anonymous supporter began the work of cleaning up our Triangle Property and the East Field. Our supporter organized and executed a process that has enhanced not only the Glebe House properties, but the entire Hollow.

It was during this time that the world of virtual activities hit us with all its technical glory. We began with the challenge of another new computer configuration, as the operating system in our current computer was no longer updateable. With the help of gifts from the Board of Directors we were able to purchase a new PC for the office and change over our software and files. Much of the Director’s time was focused on grant writing and applying for CARES Act funds to help us get through the very difficult fiscal year and fund our educational programs and special projects. We received funding from many sources including: Connecticut Community Foundation (95th Anniversary), ION Bank (Summer Programs for Children), The Watertown Foundation ( Chimney Repairs), The Gabrielson Family Fund, the Diebold Foundation, CT Humanities (SBA CARES Act funds), and the Board of Directors of the Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc. Our success would not have been possible without their generous support.

As museums, history organizations, and other non-profits scrambled to find ways to reach the public and continue their missions, it was clear that we would need to “switch gears” and do the same. New names, now commonplace, like Zoom, Google Meets, and other online platforms became the norm for meetings and educational programs. Our first foray into the virtual world consisted of meetings and many Covid-19 education programs through the State, CDC, and the many membership organizations in which we belong. This allowed us to become comfortable with the new medium which was to inhabit our lives.
Our first virtual presentation was put together for the CT Virtual Open House Day in June. This yearly event usually includes tours of the house and garden, free of charge to visitors for the day. Our virtual tour of the house and garden was made available through the CT Open House website, our website, Facebook, Instagram and our newly created YouTube Channel. It was well received and so the next presentation, a garden tour featuring Eileen Denver, was planned for CT Historic Gardens Day. Later in the year, a virtual version of the All Hollow’s Eve Cemetery Tour, a Facebook Live presentation of our Woodbury’s Treasured Past Fundraiser, a “Tuesday Talk” for the Woodbury Library and a reading of the Night Before Christmas, all followed. Our world online even expanded into a music video for the song “The Fox” by Connecticut artist, Jillian Caillouette, which was filmed by Sightline Visuals here at the Glebe House, opening up a new audience for our historic site.

As the weeks of the virtual world, turned into months, the term “screen fatigue” was born. All of the hours spent in front of a computer screen began weighing on adults and children alike. The mild weather brought the CDC & State approvals for small out door activities and groupings, provided that all guidelines were followed. This allowed, along with a grant from Ion Bank Foundation, our Summer Experience for Children to continue in July. There was a week spent with the Youth Leadership and a week of Colonial Craftsmen Days. While the children were on site for summer programs, the house could not be open to the public and so it was opened in the first week of August. The volunteers did a great job adjusting to the new safety protocols and offered short tours to individual “covid pods” to minimize the risk of exposure time indoors.

Although we could have small groups on site and offer outdoor activities, having our usual events, such as Festive Dinners or Wine & Roses, which would normally include a large gathering of people with food & drink, was not possible. In an effort to raise the much-needed funds that these events would bring in, a new event was created by Board President, Mindy Belcher. The “Woodbury’s Treasured Past Fundraiser” included a treasure hunt grid game with a cash prize. The exciting idea took flight with the help of News Channel 8 and Kent Pierce who presented a morning news segment helping to promote it. Tickets were purchased by people statewide and the event was a great success. All Hollow’s Eve was also a great success and the tickets sold-out. Although we were not able to present the Haunted Museum, the Cemetery Tours were given an added theatrical element by scattering some haunted vignettes throughout the tours. The tours were kept to a manageable size for social distancing requirements, while timing them further apart to allow for the proper ratio of guests on site. We were also able to continue our tradition of providing cookies for our guests by pre-packaging the homemade treats and having them distributed by volunteers as guests were leaving.

Our final event was held on Saturday, November 28th for Shop Small. We presented our Holiday Shoppe, outdoor Chuckwagon cooking demos, and a “glimpse of the Glebe” for the holidays. The event was so successful that most of our shop items were sold in that one day. The online magazine, Luxury Experience, came to the event and shared a story and photos on their site. As the town had already cancelled activities for the Woodbury Christmas Festival, we did not pursue having a second date in December.

All of this would not have been possible without the incredible core of volunteers that gives so much of their time and talents to keep this organization running. We thank our Board Members, led by President Mindy Belcher, for their dedication and unwavering support in keeping the Seabury Society and its mission of preserving and maintaining the Glebe House and Garden, moving forward for future generations.

We are grateful for our “Friends of the Glebe”: Shopkeepers who greeted our guests with enthusiasm and our Docents who learned new safety protocols to be able to share the story of the Glebe House and its inhabitants with our visitors. Thank you to Bonnie Bradley for her flexibility in using online sign-ups to assist in organizing everyone’s time and making sure that we had museum staff for the 30 days that we were open to the public.
We thank our Garden Volunteers, led by Eileen Denver, Priscilla Price and Deb Soresino, who along with the help of Wes Rouse of Pine Meadow Gardens and Mike Schwartz of Naugatuck Valley Community College, have worked tirelessly to make sure that Gertrude’s vision comes alive in all its beauty.

We thank Guy Gabrielson for his love & care, making repairs to our historic house and property.

We are most grateful to Lois Zane for her support as registrar and steward of the house & collection, but also for sharing her love of history, her knowledge of the Glebe House and her friendship.

Thank you to all of our donors and friends who support us in so many ways. The love and care that you put into this historic site amazes me and makes me grateful to be a part of its history.

We mourn the loss of longtime members and friends of the Glebe House, including Ann (Hinman) Lilley and Faith Killiam Warner. We are grateful for their contributions and the legacy that will be shared with future generations through our museum and garden.

There was hope on the horizon as we closed this uncertain year with a virtual new year and civil unrest. A new vaccine brings the promise of a future without separation. We have the knowledge of knowing that we can and will adapt to work through the changes. We will continue to strive to reach our goals and to bring our Mission forth in our community.

I am truly grateful for the confidence that the board, the volunteers and the museum’s supporters have placed in me as we navigated through this year. I look forward to our 96th year and the promise of Spring.

Respectfully submitted,
LoriAnn Witte, Director
FRIENDS OF THE GLEBE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden weathered the year of the Pandemic with the efforts and support of more than 40 dedicated volunteers who played an important role in presenting the house to the public, caring for the garden, and ensuring the continued wellbeing of the organization. Even though the monthly meetings of the “Friends of the Glebe” could not be held in person due to social distancing mandates, they began in May and were held, via Zoom, a popular online meeting platform. Although many of “The Friends” opted to give support from a “distance” during this season, we were still able to staff our delayed and limited museum hours during the months of August, September and October. Bonnie Bradley took on the task of filling our unusual work calendar, with the help of an online scheduling tool, Sign-up Genius, following up with volunteers and making sure that our museum was staffed. Our Docents and Shopkeepers were able to adjust to the new protocols that were put in place for the safety of visitors and staff and were able to provide 59 guests with guided tours. We thank them for their flexibility and support!

Eileen Denver, with the help of Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price, led our enthusiastic gardeners. They were able to work safely out of doors, keeping socially distanced. They not only worked countless hours in the Jekyll Garden helping to make it look spectacular, but also continued their restoration plans by transplanting many of the Jekyll Garden plants, moving them to their planned locations. They continued the successful plant sale, which helped bring in funds for the purchase of new plantings. The garden became a lovely respite for many visitors looking to escape the stress of life during Covid-19. We are grateful for their dedication!

Marieta Gil went above and beyond in organizing the Holiday Shoppe which was staged under tents in the garden. Handmade items made by Marieta, Rebecca Otten, Rosemary Paul, Joan Marron and Rosemary SantAndrea helped raise much needed year end funds. Thank you to everyone who donated items and time to our efforts! The Friends assisted in the events and activities that were able to proceed during the 2020 Season including: All Hollow’s Eve Cemetery Tours, Woodbury’s Treasured Past Fundraiser, and Shop Small Saturday. They made batches of cookies for All Hollow’s Eve, made and donated items for the Holiday Shoppe, volunteered hours to staff the events and so much more. These events are not possible without your support!

Lois Zane came to the museum most days of the week to care for the items in the collection and assist the Director with special projects. We thank her for her continued dedication!

The Friends of the Glebe are to be commended for their flexibility while assisting with the work of this past year. They continued to bring history and the Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden to life for those visitors who ventured out this year. We thank them for their hard work, dedication and the many volunteer hours that they have given. Our historic site could not function without them!

Respectfully submitted,
LoriAnn Witte, On behalf of the Friends of the Glebe
The restoration of Gertrude Jekyll’s garden continues, with our dedicated team of volunteers working in masks and socially distanced, often in smaller teams on separate days. Despite the challenges, the gardeners are clearly delighted to help keep our historic garden flourishing. The team has worked especially hard and long during the hot (or rainy) days of summer, dividing and moving hundreds of plants within the borders to more closely match Jekyll’s design. Small plants were moved to the growing-on garden for a later trip back into the borders. Perennials were removed from areas where they didn’t belong and were potted up and sold to visitors who were happy to help the team earn money for “the cause.”

2020 was a long gardening season. Beginning in March the team pruned the taxus (yew) hedge and the shrubs that needed to be pruned in dormancy. We started the dahlias and cannas that we had dug up overwintered at home. Snaps and annual rudbeckia were grown from seed. In due time, the lily of the valley, which had threatened to take over some of the garden, was dug up, potted, and sold. As the season moved into fall, the team did even heavier work, planting replacement shrubs, applying five cubic yards of mulch, and putting netting on hedges and plants.

As we do every year, we had help and excellent advice from Wes Rouse, owner of Pine Meadow Gardens, whose team comes early in the growing season to do prep work, plant some annuals and perennials, design the beautiful pots that add so much to the borders, and play a big role in end-of-season work. We are thrilled with the continued involvement of Naugatuck Valley Community College and horticulturalist Michael Schwartz. Under his guidance, NVCC overwinters the Jekyll fuchsia, and in the spring starts our precious dahlia tubers.

We’re proud that, with a lot of planning and effort, we have kept the garden looking great during a very hot and tricky summer. Despite the challenging heat, the garden attracted a surprising number of small groups of drop-by visitors, who respected our masks and distancing but, happily, also continued to compliment us on the borders and ply us with gardening and restoration questions. It’s all worth it!

Respectfully submitted: Eileen Denver, Priscilla Price, and Deb Soresino
There are no additions to report for the 2020 calendar year.

This year offered an opportunity to work with UCONN and the CTDA to further assist the Museum in digitizing the collection and bringing it online for public research. The Museum participated in a consortium that applied for NEH funds and although the grant was unrealized, we made valuable connections through our networking. This networking has opened the possibility of becoming a part of Connecticut Collections, an open-source collections management system, which directly ties to the Connecticut Digital Archives preservation system.

Lois Zane continues to care for and maintain all of the records for the Museum Collection and we are truly thankful for her contributions!

Marieta Gil has been assisting Lois with the care and cleaning of the museum space & collection. We thank Marieta for taking the time to work with Lois and making sure that the museum & collection are handled carefully while being kept clean & tidy.

Respectfully submitted by,
LoriAnn Witte, Director
For Lois Zane, Registrar
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

January 23, 2021

The property committee consists of members Hugh Sullivan (Chair.), Carter Booth, Jim Frey, Guy Gabrielson, and Lois Zane.

The committee continued its work to maintain and preserve our property, while keeping up with the general maintenance of our historic site.

- Perimeter rail fence: several rails repaired – Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.
- Glebe House Sign Repaired & Repainted – Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.
- Hedges and large shrubs trimmed by Garden Committee.
- Installation of new Garden Donation Box – Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.
- Installation of New Shelf in Cottage Closet – Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.
- Storm Cleanup – Damaged Trees – Thank you, Neal Tree Service for donating your time & effort.
- Tree Removal – Driveway Picnic Area – Thank you, Rocky Ridge and the many Donors who gave to the “tree removal fund”.
- Triangle Property & East Field: Clean-up and maintenance: Pelletized dolomitic lime (slow release) was added to raise the ph. A slow release fertilizer (without any phosphorus) was added. Red monarch clover and a study lawn grass blend were added which along with occasional mowing will discourage invasive plants. The patches that were left un-mowed are predominantly narrow-leaf and rough-stemmed goldenrod and white aster. Invasive plants within those wildflower patches are few in number and are being controlled through clipping. Wood chips and bark mulch around the base of the sycamore trees are intended to suppress growth of vines and protect the shallow roots of the trees. - Thank you to our “Anonymous Supporter” who is an environmentally conscious & committed community member and his helpers, including Bradford J. Smith (Litchfield), David Montague (Newtown), and Ben Donato (Woodbury) who have enriched the beauty of the historic Hollow and so lovingly cared for these properties.

We thank the committee for its support and contributions of talent, time and effort in the preservation of this remarkable piece of 18th century architecture and its property. We give special thanks to Guy Gabrielson for the many repairs to our fence and house.

Respectfully submitted,
LoriAnn Witte
On behalf of the Property Committee
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2020

January 23, 2021

The Pandemic caused many changes throughout our fiscal year. The end result was a sharp decrease in visitation, educational programs, and events which contributed towards a total income loss of 27%. While most of our expenses decreased during the year, due to several damaging storms, our Repair & Maintenance Expenses increased by more than 50% leaving our total expenses at an increase of 2.7%. Although the year was difficult, the Museum & Garden did see an increase in Membership of more than 98%. This number reflected new memberships, as well as renewals. There was also a 45% increase in restricted donations for use in education, garden, and collections.

Our events made up 27% of our income, while our investments came in at 24% and our donations came in at 19%. Our total gross profit decreased by 65.5% compared to 2019.

The Seabury Society is thankful for the contributions of many Private Donors, Foundations, Local Businesses, Board Members, Volunteers, Members and Friends. It was with their help and generosity that the Museum & Garden were able to weather this very turbulent year.

We are thankful to the following for contributions that we received through Grants: Connecticut Community Foundation, ion Bank Foundation, The Diebold Foundation, Connecticut Humanities (CARES), CT State Historic Preservation Office (CARES), The Watertown Foundation, The Gabrielson Family Fund, SBA CT CARES Act.

Great care was taken to closely monitor expenses, project-specific grants were awarded and used to continue programming, and the events that were able to continue, successfully raised both funds for the Museum and awareness of the Museum’s historic contribution and educational role in the community.

*please see attached P&L statements for details.

Respectfully submitted by,
LoriAnn Witte
For the Finance Committee
# Profit & Loss

**Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden**  
**January through December 2020**

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<th>Income</th>
<th>4100 · Membership</th>
<th>4200 · Visitors</th>
<th>4300 · Donations - Unrestricted</th>
<th>4310 · Donations - Restricted</th>
<th>4420 · Education Programs</th>
<th>4440 · Events</th>
<th>5000 · Museum Shop</th>
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<td>4444 · Christmas Festival</td>
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<td>4445 · Festive Dinners</td>
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<td>4104 · Friends</td>
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<td>4305 · Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>4220 · Special Tours</td>
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<td>4427 · Summer Camps</td>
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<td>4303 · Unrestricted Donations</td>
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<tr>
<th>Gross Profit</th>
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Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden

Profit & Loss

January through December 2020

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<th>Jan - Dec 20</th>
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<td>8020 · GAINS/ LOSSES</td>
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<td><strong>Total 8020 · GAINS/ LOSSES</strong></td>
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Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden  
Profit & Loss  
January through December 2020  
Accrual Basis

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Net Income</td>
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SEABURY SOCIETY
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GLEBE HOUSE, INC.
BOARD CLASSES 2021

Class of 2021
Mindy Belcher (2nd term)
Jim Frey (2nd term)
Guy Gabrielson (2nd term)
Joanne Bauer (2nd term)
Priscilla Price (2nd term)
Carole Ziske (2nd term)

Class of 2022
Carter Booth (1st term)
David Schorsch (1st term)
Hugh Sullivan (1st term)
Sun Williams (1st term)

Class of 2023
Thomas Schwenke (2nd term)
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As of 1/19/2021