The Seabury Society
For the Preservation of the
Glebe House, Inc.

2021
ANNUAL REPORT

The Glebe House Museum &
Gertrude Jekyll Garden
P.O. Box 245, 49 Hollow Road, Woodbury, CT 06798

As of 1/20/2022
Annual Meeting 2021

Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 10:00 am
Via ZOOM
Glebe House Museum, Woodbury, Connecticut

I. Call to Order

II. Approve Minutes of previous Annual Meeting (2020)
   January 23, 2021

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
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes 2020

January 23, 2021

Attendance: Diana Anton, Mindy Belcher (President), Carter Booth, Sally Booth, Eileen Denver, Jim Frey, Robin Johnson, Chris Lesko, NJ MacAuto, Nancy Mackey, Rebecca Otten, Marianne Pin, Priscilla Price, Deb Soresino, Hugh Sullivan, LoriAnn Witte (Director), Lois Zane and Carol Ziske.

Call to Order: 10:05 am

President Mindy Belcher addressed the group to make sure that everyone received the PDF copy of the Annual Report and remarked that she thought the cover photo was beautiful. She also thanked Guy Gabrielson for restoring the sign that is pictured.

Minutes: Mindy remarked that we may not have a quorum present to vote on the approval of last year’s minutes. Carter Booth noted that we could approve them at the next Board Meeting. Mindy Belcher asked for a motion to review the minutes at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Carter Booth made the motion. Second by Carol Ziske. Motion passed.

President’s Report: Mindy Belcher began her report remarking that 2020 was a year that we will never forget, but that there were also a lot of new and interesting things that came out of the experience. Mindy noted that she is proud to say that we rose to the challenges and she thanked LoriAnn Witte for all of her efforts to keep us up and running during this time. Mindy expressed that she wanted to “celebrate the positivity” and all of the good things that came to be while we continued to move forward and even had fun along the way. She noted that it is nice to be part of a place where people are invested and pull together to fulfill our mission. During this difficult year we still had activities in the Garden, in the Museum, we presented outdoor events and were able to plan for the upcoming year. Mindy thanked everyone for all of his or her efforts to keep us going this year. Mindy read a quote that she loves by Voltaire: “Life is a Shipwreck, but we must not forget to sing in the Lifeboats.”

Mindy reviewed some of the highlights from her report. She noted that although we opened late (August) our membership actually grew this year. People were looking for things to do and places that were open. She thanked LoriAnn for getting the necessary supplies and safety protocol in order for us to be able to open to the public. We had some nice new things that we accomplished this year. Since we could not do our Festive Dinners with Friends (95th Anniversary Celebration) we presented a virtual fundraiser, Woodbury’s Treasured Past. This event worked out very well. Mindy noted that Guy Gabrielson helped with the logistics of the grid plan and laying it out in the yard. The fundraiser in a nutshell: we painted grids in the yard, which sold for $25 each. We had three buried coins out there and on the day of the event, our volunteer – Humphry Rolleston, used a metal detector to locate them. We presented this on Facebook Live and it was very successful. The event itself grossed $13,000. Which for the first time around was great. Mindy feels that if we decided to do another fundraiser it would be even more successful. She also noted that LoriAnn received many calls from other organizations wanting to know how we did the fundraiser. It also received media attention. Channel 8 news was in Woodbury for their morning news segment and was looking for a story. Mindy thanked LoriAnn for making the contact and getting them to the Glebe House to help promote our fundraiser. This brought participants from all over the state and helped increase our sales and bring new people to the Glebe House.

Mindy reported that the Summer Experience was able to continue this year. She noted that LoriAnn was able to make the necessary adjustments to the program so that it could go forward. She remarked that many camps did not open this year and that people were looking for something for their children to do. We received a grant from Ion Bank that allowed us to proceed with the program. We had a Youth Leadership week for older students and a week of summer programs for the children that were both very successful.

The Marshall Children continued in the beginning of the year, but needed to be postponed in the spring due to the pandemic. Although the program was on hiatus, we had very enthusiastic children who participated in All Hollow’s Eve later in the year.

Mindy noted that All Hollow’s was able to go forward with some adapting. Although only the cemetery tour was presented, the event was a sell-out and very successful. Mindy thanked all of the volunteers for the many hours that they
Mindy also thanked Priscilla Price for keeping each group of visitors organized and on schedule, which is not an easy job and is much appreciated.

Mindy thanked the Property Committee, who oversees the maintenance and repair of our site. She noted special thanks to Guy Gabrielson for all of the things that he does during the year to keep everything in shape. She also gave special thanks to Hugh Sullivan, who along with Guy Gabrielson, made it possible for us to do a much-needed chimney repair. This will take place in two stages. Stage one, thanks to their generosity, is complete. LoriAnn was able to secure a grant from the Watertown Foundation that will enable us to continue with the process of restoration in the spring.

Mindy noted that the Maple tree in front of the Cottage Annex had to be removed this year. There were many financial contributions to help make that possible. Mindy thanks everyone for the donations.

Mindy reported that the garden was a “special place” for people this year. Visitors could come and be outside and enjoy the beauty. It was a place of solace this year and it really filled a need for visitors. She thanked the Garden Committee for their dedication and care. She remarked that it is evident how much the Jekyll Garden means to the Garden Committee by all of the hours that they have given to keep it looking so lovely for our visitors and community.

Mindy remarked that we were fortunate to have some volunteers that were willing to come out and volunteer in person. We are very grateful to those valiant volunteers who came out and supported our activities, as they would not have been possible without them.

Mindy gave special thanks to Lois Zane for her dedication and to the energy that she puts into the care of the Glebe House. She is an inspiration!

Mindy thanked LoriAnn for meeting the challenges of the year, head-on, and for her constant follow-through to meet the needs of the organization. She also acknowledged what LoriAnn accomplished for the organization through the use of technology and social media, keeping our mission and goals moving forward. She also noted that LoriAnn had help with the technology & social media from Ava Witte.

She also thanked LoriAnn for her positivity and professionalism.

Mindy thanked Carter Booth for writing the tribute to Faith Warner, who passed away this year, after many years of loyalty and service to the Glebe House and her community. Mindy remarked that Faith always came through when we needed her and that her “one-liners” at our Board meetings added a degree of levity that will not be forgotten and will be missed.

Mindy thanked all of her fellow Board Members for their support, their trust and for everything that they do. She could not do this without them. She noted that it takes a “village” and that we have a pretty great village, that sang some good tunes in the lifeboat!

**Director’s Report:** LoriAnn Witte opened her report by thanking Mindy Belcher and the Board of Directors for rising to all the needs that arose during this uncertain year. She also noted that the Museum & Garden could not move forward without their support and thanked them for their positivity. She noted that she would only highlight the items that had not already been mentioned by Mindy in her report.

LoriAnn reported that the year began on a high note with 2019 ending as a great success and all that we looked forward to accomplishing in 2020. We came into the year on solid financial ground with activities and programs lined up for the winter months. The Marshall Children were learning about Maple Sugaring, the Colonial Life Series continued and we were participating in networking opportunities with other businesses. She noted that we participated in the Roxbury Land Trust one-room schoolhouse programs and the Nonnewaug High School Agriscience SAE fair. LoriAnn also noted that we began our committee meetings for our 95th Anniversary Celebration that was to be held in June 2020.

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LoriAnn reported that everything changed in March when the “lock-down” began and all of our activities had to come to a stop. She noted that this began the cancellation of in-person activities, as no one knew just how long this Pandemic would last. This began our foray into the virtual world as all meetings moved to online formats, such as Zoom. All of the organizations that we belong to such as CLHO and AASLH, as well as the State of Connecticut and the CDC, began hosting webinars and forums to disseminate information regarding COVID-19 and safety precautions that could possibly allow us to continue operating our businesses. LoriAnn noted that through all of this uncertainty there were bright spots, too.

Our Jekyll Garden was one such bright spot. LoriAnn noted that the gardeners were able to continue working outside and socially distanced. She thanked Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price for organizing everyone so that they were scheduled in smaller groups and felt safe while still remaining to volunteer. LoriAnn noted that is was due to the effort of the Garden Committee, that the Jekyll Garden was such a beautiful place of respite for those trying to escape the stress of the Pandemic. LoriAnn noted that many of the gardeners were on the zoom meeting and she thanked them for their dedication and hard work. She continued by saying that “we are grateful and appreciate all of their efforts, which do not go unnoticed!”

LoriAnn reported that she was so pleased with the incredible efforts that our Anonymous Supporter gave to us, with the help of his three assistants, who were named in the Property Report. She noted that after they completed much of the work, there was a late summer storm, but they returned to remove broken limbs and clear the property so that it looked neat and tidy again. LoriAnn looks forward to seeing the properties bloom in the spring 2021. She also noted that she received phone calls from members of the community including First Selectman, Barbara Perkinson, who wanted to compliment the organization for making the Hollow look beautiful. LoriAnn mentioned that having the triangle and east field well maintained not only improves the quality of the Glebe House, but also enhances the beauty of the entire Hollow. LoriAnn thanked Mindy Belcher for “Woodbury’s Treasured Past Fundraiser” noting that it was a fantastic idea and a great success. She noted that she was so pleased with the incredible efforts that our Anonymous Supporter gave to us, with the help of his three assistants, who were named in the Property Report. She noted that after they completed much of the work, there was a late summer storm, but they returned to remove broken limbs and clear the property so that it looked neat and tidy again. LoriAnn looks forward to seeing the properties bloom in the spring 2021. She also noted that she received phone calls from members of the community including First Selectman, Barbara Perkinson, who wanted to compliment the organization for making the Hollow look beautiful. LoriAnn mentioned that having the triangle and east field well maintained not only improves the quality of the Glebe House, but also enhances the beauty of the entire Hollow. LoriAnn thanked Mindy Belcher for “Woodbury’s Treasured Past Fundraiser” noting that it was a fantastic idea and a great success. She noted that she was very happy that News Channel 8 and Kent Pierce were here to do the segment about the event. The new segment aired on a Friday morning, but was run all weekend long and also added to the News Channel 8 website. LoriAnn felt that the event received a great push from this publicity. She also thanked the Board Members for purchasing tickets and supporting the event. She noted that the event was streamed on Facebook Live and although the hunt for the coins went on for quite a while, watchers stuck with us and had a good time.

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LoriAnn reported that our last event was the Shop Small Saturday – Holiday Shoppe Event. She noted that we were blessed with good weather for this event, as with all of our other outdoor activities. We sold almost everything that we had in stock for the shop in the one-day. The sales were just as successful as past years had been. The day also featured outdoor cooking demonstrations by the “Frontier Mess” in a chuck wagon provided by Joe Mangini. Docent, Jim...

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Howson, provided information while being dressed as a Revolutionary War Soldier for a “glimpse” of the Glebe. Although the house was not open to the public, both the Election Room and Kitchen doors were open so that visitors could view the decorated interior. LoriAnn noted that she utilized Facebook Live to bring the activities to members online.

LoriAnn closed her report thanking the Board of Directors, all of the Volunteers, our SAE students, our Members, our Donors, our Business Partners, and especially Lois Zane, for all that they do for the Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden. She noted that she could not do any of this without them and wouldn’t want to! She noted that “after a long, cold winter – there’s always a spring”.

**Friends of the Glebe House Report:** LoriAnn Witte gave a brief report on behalf of the Friends of the Glebe House. She noted that the Volunteers weathered the year with grace and plenty of flexibility. She also noted that the volunteers were able to switch gears and jumped into the use of Zoom meetings with ease and enthusiasm. The volunteers, who could not be “here” in person, supported us from a distance by providing items for activities and events. The volunteers who were on site for gardening and Glebe House tours learned new protocols for safety and followed them so that we would be able to open our doors to the public. Thank you to everyone for being willing to use the online resources that we set up to help keep us organized. LoriAnn noted that much of the report was covered in her Director’s Report, as well and that she wanted to thank everyone who helped in any way this season. Thanks to our volunteers we made it through the year!

**Registrars Report:** Lois Zane noted that there were no new additions to the collection. LoriAnn wanted to add that we had the opportunity to be part of a consortium through UCONN that applied for a NEH grant to digitize and preserve collections. She noted that although the group did not receive the grant, it allowed us to make important connections with Michael Kemezis of UCONN’s Library Science division and Diane Lee from CT Collections (online digital collections management system) through the CLHO. LoriAnn reported that through this process she found that “Past Perfect” (proprietary software) is no longer updating their software, but has now launched as a subscription service and is not the only choice for collections management. CT Collections is an open source collections management system, which is also a subscription, cloud based, and maintained and updated by CT Collections. She noted that going forward we now have other options. LoriAnn wanted to thank Lois Zane for taking such good care of the collection and constantly researching the items and sharing her findings with us. LoriAnn also thanked Marieta Gil for working with Lois helping to clean the Museum and keep the collection maintained.

**Property Committee:** LoriAnn Witte noted that Mindy Belcher had reported on most of the property committee items during her report. LoriAnn wanted to report that there were three main helpers for our “Anonymous Donor” who tackled the Triangle & East Filed properties. Bradford J Smith (Litchfield), David Montague (Newtown) and Ben Donato (Woodbury) all contributed their time and efforts to the project and we are thankful for their generosity. LoriAnn also noted that the Property Report includes a list of all of the things that were completed at those properties. LoriAnn also noted that she would like to give thanks to Samantha Molzon and Ava Witte for maintaining the stone walkway in our back entrance and also the new picnic area in the yard throughout the season. LoriAnn thanked the Garden Volunteers for keeping the hedges and large shrubs pruned. Property Committee Member and Chair, Hugh Sullivan, did not have anything else to add.

**Finance Committee:** LoriAnn Witte reported on behalf of the Finance Committee that as was to be expected in a year such as 2020, we had a sharp decrease in visitation, educational programs and events that led us to an income loss of 27%. She also noted that due to many major storms, our repair and maintenance expenses increased. LoriAnn went on to report that the Membership numbers increased by 98%. She thanked everyone for renewing their memberships and thanked all of those who became new members. Membership dollars are important to the operation of our organization. LoriAnn then read her thank you list: “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.”

LoriAnn encouraged everyone to look at the financial statements and noted that anyone could contact her for any questions or concerns.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to report or review.
**New Business:** LoriAnn Witte reported that the only new item to report was an upcoming program through Morven Museum & Gardens that we would be participating in. The program will be held via Zoom on March 16, 2021. Registration is available through the Morven Museum & Gardens website. She noted that she was asked to provide a cocktail recipe or two from our history, so she chose a Syllabub and a Bee’s Knees. Participants will partake of these during the program and share a toast at the end.

LoriAnn also noted that the CT Flower Show had been cancelled for 2021, but was scheduled to resume in 2022.

LoriAnn noted that a program: “Changing Landscapes” would be following the meeting for all of those who would like to remain online.

**Adjourned:** 10:54

Respectfully submitted,
LoriAnn Witte
Director/Acting Secretary
PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT

2021

With the close of 2021, the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden marked a year of notable accomplishments and fulfilled objectives. The museum continued its operation as a nonprofit organization and remained committed to the ongoing mission to provide a variety of educational and cultural programs, lectures, tours and special events. Sustainability throughout the challenges of a global health pandemic is commendable, and gratitude is owed to all who contributed to the success of the museum’s 96th year of operation.

Revenue increases in the forms of unrestricted donations, grants, special events and gift shop sales were all noted in 2021. Significant projects including the commencement of the inventory digitization process for museum collections, replacement of the museum’s outdated alarm system and a second phase of chimney repair were all accomplished during this year.

Throughout 2021 Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden continued to build upon a strong community presence. Always a vital thread in the fabric of Woodbury’s history, recent years continue to bring elevated awareness and an increase of visitors to the property. Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte, has successfully utilized technology in order to promote and increase the public’s awareness of the museum and garden as well as create a user-friendly on-line experience for donations and event ticket sales. In May, the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden were featured on the News 12 “On the Road” series. The museum grounds also welcomed guests as part of the Arts Alliance of Woodbury walk, a well-attended community event. A book sale and the popular Gertrude Jekyll plant sale also drew an array of enthusiastic supporters.

In May, the Glebe House was the subject of the Woodbury Library’s showcase series, and LoriAnn’s continued research efforts yielded interesting and educational lectures including “Our Secret Garden” and her “From the Attic” series. Also, in November, the Glebe House co-hosted the lecture “The Gift of Perseverance: The Many Lives of Samuel Seabury” a virtual presentation by Merchant House Museum Historian, Ann Haddad.

With careful planning, the museum and garden were able to welcome visitors for the season beginning in May. Director, LoriAnn Witte, implemented a successful scheduling format for museum tours and was diligent in adhering to safety guidelines for guests as well as volunteers. Throughout the season, the number of visitors to both the house and garden were remarkable, and membership has continued to grow.

Successful fundraising events were well attended throughout 2021. In June, the museum hosted a garden party, similar to the Wine and Roses event of years past. Walker Road Vineyard’s wine was once again the star of the show, and we are grateful to Jim Frey for his continued generosity and wine expertise. Guests attending the event were treated to individual hors d’oeuvres boxes as they took in the sights of the garden blooms and silent auction offerings. Tickets sold out quickly and well in advance for the ever popular All Hollow’s Eve event on the 23rd and 30th of October. Visitors of all ages embarked upon a luminary lit trail through the Old Burying Ground to hear tales of Woodbury’s past from ghostly re-enactors. New this year was the addition of the special attraction, “Witches of Woodbury and Friends”, tales of five New England witches, which was performed on the second Saturday. The first floor of the museum was open to visitors on both evenings, welcoming guests to the frightfully decorated and interactive “Dead and Breakfast Haunted Hotel”, designed by Board President, Mindy Belcher. Outside, with help from Westover school’s community service team, the museum’s front yard was transformed into the “Little Trail of Horrors” which led guests through the front yard and around the west side of the property. The enormity of this annual autumn event would not be possible without help from many, many volunteers. From the planning and behind the scenes work to the actors and legion of dedicated volunteers, it all comes together under the guidance and organization of Director, LoriAnn Witte. The museum concluded the year with a festive and well attended Wassail, complete with professional carol singers. The museum’s first floor was adorned with donated holiday decor items, and the gift shop was brimming with holiday trimmings. Guests enjoyed traditional cider wassail and holiday sweets while perusing the items for sale and gathering around the outdoor fire.

The 2021 summer season was highlighted by a successful Summer Education Experience for children. Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte, oversaw the program with assistance from youth leaders Anna Bunovsky and Annarose Goldwitz. With a focus on history, this program continues to evolve to provide engaging and educational content. We are once again grateful to Ion Bank for providing a grant to assist with scholarships for children in need as well as leadership training for our youth.
The Property Committee comprised of Carter Booth, Guy Garbrielson, High Sullivan, Jim Frey and Lois Zane continued its dedication to overseeing the maintenance and preservation of the museum, cottage and grounds. Phase two of chimney repair work was completed this year utilizing a $2,000 grant from the Watertown Foundation. The museum was fortunate to be able to rely upon the expertise and generosity of board members Guy Gabrielson and Hugh Sullivan while undertaking this project. Additional thanks to Guy for his cheerful and attentive approach to repairs and troubleshooting which goes on throughout the year. The property also continues to benefit from the beautification efforts of an anonymous benefactor. Thanks to the vision and generosity of this individual, the triangle and east field are showcasing a renewed beauty.

The popular allure of the Gertrude Jekyll Garden was evident in 2021. Increased numbers of guests visited the historic garden to enjoy the well tended show of blooms and foliage. We are greatly appreciative to the garden volunteers for their hard work and dedication to maintain and enhance the Gertrude Jekyll Garden for visitors to the property and provide beautiful backdrops for museum gatherings throughout the season. Garden restoration efforts continue under the expertise of volunteers led by Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price. Special acknowledgement to board member, Priscilla Price for continuing to act as board 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.

We are enormously grateful to the Friends of the Glebe House, our team of volunteers. These dedicated individuals help make it possible for the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden to fulfill its mission. Whether staffing the museum and garden, assisting with special events or providing support to the museum’s director, the efforts of our volunteers are vital to the success of the organization. Thank you to Director, LoriAnn Witte, for establishing and hosting the Valiant Volunteer Picnic, a wonderful new tradition for museum and garden volunteers.

We are immensely appreciative to the ongoing dedication of Lois Zane, Registrar of Museum Collections. Lois continues her commitment to the research, care and cataloging of museum collections. Lois’ industriousness is abundantly evident and she is a steward in the truest sense of the word.

The museum is grateful to our collections committee comprised of Carter Booth, Phil Stone, Tom Schwenke and Lois Zane. This year the museum acquired a William and Mary highboy, circa 1730-1750, which was donated by Monique Shay Antiques of Woodbury. Thank you to Carter Booth for implementing this acquisition.

The Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of new board member, Andrew Ward. With his passions for preservation and history, we look forward to Andy’s contributions at Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden for many years to come.

The board is exceptionally grateful for the dedication and professionalism of Museum Director, LoriAnn Witte. LoriAnn’s leadership, insight and work ethic are integral in the fulfillment of the museum’s mission. LoriAnn navigates challenges with positivity and a willingness to problem solve. Her efforts are immensely appreciated as are the results they generate for our organization. Her passion and appreciation for history are evident throughout her daily work which benefits the museum and garden.

With sincere gratitude, I thank all who have provided financial and operational support to the Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Garden. Foundations, community businesses, individual board members (who especially this year have been so attentive to my requests), museum members, volunteers and visitors who have all supported the ongoing efforts to preserve this historic house and garden and while continuing to provide unique educational and cultural opportunities for our community.

Respectfully submitted, January 22, 2022
Melinda Belcher, President

Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.
The 96th year of the Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden began with hope on the horizon as we closed an uncertain year with virtual celebrations and began planning for the 2021 season. Vaccines brought the promise of a future without separation and we had the experience necessary to adapt and work through the changes. We began the year determined to reach our goals and to bring our Mission forth in our community.

Our first priority was to increase exposure in our community and draw visitors back with new programs, events and educational opportunities. We achieved this goal by presenting a full season of activities that included virtual lectures and programs such as: Our Secret Garden, Changing Landscapes, and the Colonial Life Series: Weaving Through History. Virtual participants competed for prizes in a fun game of History Trivia, led by Steve & Priscilla Price. The Colonial Life series continued with foodways programs presented by the “Frontier Mess” and included a video presentation along with three hands-on programs. We offered virtual programs in partnership with: Morven Museum & Gardens, North-Suffolk Garden Club, Merchant’s House Museum and the Woodbury Library. Our new formats for Wine & Roses and All Hollow’s Eve (with the addition of the Witch of Woodbury & Friends) made them more successful than in previous years.

The new community event, Arts Walk of Woodbury, presented the opportunity to host local artists in our beautiful Jekyll Garden and to share the history of our site with a fresh audience. Another boost in our exposure came through our appearance in the News Channel 12 series, On the Road, which aired at the beginning of our season and reached audiences throughout the tri-state region.

We continued our goals for youth education by presenting two full weeks of Summer Programs for Children with a very successful Hands on History and Craftsman Week that were led by Anna Bunovsky & AnnaRose Goldwitz. The Marshall Children program was able to continue with a shortened series in the Fall, enabling the children to participate in our holiday activities and the Woodbury Christmas Festival.

Preservation of the historic Glebe House began with planning the replacement of the museum roof. Estimates were sought and funding options are continuing to be explored. As repairs and maintenance of the chimney needed to be done before roof work could be considered, these tasks were completed. Following the new copper cap installed the prior year, the chimney was repointed, washed and sealed during the fall. Funding for this preservation work was provided by the Watertown Foundation and the Board of Directors of the Seabury Society.

Fundraising events were planned to help raise the revenue needed to support our Mission. Wine & Roses was held in June and given a new format to keep guests safe and allow for social distancing. The garden party and auction utilized the entire Glebe property. Individual “picnic” style containers provided guests with light hors d’oeuvres and allowed them to find socially distanced seating and gathering places.

We presented two nights of All Hollow’s Eve events that were an incredible success, with both evenings nearly selling out. Our Cemetery Tours included many new volunteers that embraced their historic characters to the delight & fright of our guests. The all new presentation of the Witch of Woodbury & Friends was most lovingly put together by long-time volunteer Linda Barr Gale, who worked with Maribeth Cummings, Liz Jones and Pam McGlynn to bring these women to life and share their stories, around the cauldron, on a crisp fall evening. Board President, Mindy Belcher, styled our historic house as a “Dead & Breakfast” and treated our visitors to a new Haunted Museum experience.

The year closed with an Old-Fashioned Wassail that included carol-singing and warm fires to gather round’ in the garden, which brought new visitors to our site and led to the Woodbury Christmas Festival, where the Holiday Shoppe & Open House returned. These events all saw great success, drew new visitors and volunteers to our site and raised much needed funding to support our organization.

We applied to become part of Connecticut Collections (CTCo), an open source collections management system, that will allow us to digitize our collection information. We received acceptance notice in the fall and a donation from Board Member, Carter Booth, to cover the first-year fee. Training and data entry will begin in the winter 2022. This is an exciting project that will allow us to develop on-site and virtual exhibitions and programs utilizing our collections.
The alarm system received a much-needed update and was replaced by Master Security in December. The new system is wireless and works via cellular service which allowed us to discontinue the use of the old phone line in the Glebe House. The new system allows monitoring of the site via smartphone and can be upgraded with new devices as needed.

The restoration of the Gertrude Jekyll Garden is underway and made great progress this season thanks to the dedication of the Garden Committee led by Eileen Denver, Deb Soresino and Priscilla Price. Visitors found a place of beauty to wander, to rest and to enjoy. Taking care of this horticultural treasure is no easy feat and they are to be commended for their efforts.

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 continued to learn new safety protocols in order to share the story of the Glebe House and its inhabitants with our visitors.

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.

I am grateful for the confidence that the board, the volunteers and the museum’s supporters have placed in me as we navigated through yet another year of the pandemic and all its uncertainty.

I look forward to our 97th year and all that we will achieve, together.

Respectfully submitted,

LoriAnn Witte, Director
The Glebe House Museum & Gertrude Jekyll Garden weathered another 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. The monthly meetings of the “Friends of the Glebe” could not always be held in person, but many were offered as hybrid meetings allowing volunteers to attend in person or online. The outdoor picnic areas were used during the warmer months for in person meets earlier in the year. As vaccines for Covid-19 became readily available for all ages, many restrictions lifted and meetings were able to be held in the Glebe House Kitchen in October, November & December. The “Friends” seem to have become accustomed, as we all have, to necessary last-minute changes regarding meetings and activities.

Although many of “The Friends” opted to continue to give support from a “distance” during this season, we were still able to staff our museum hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the season from May – Mid-October. Our Docents and Shopkeepers were able to adjust as safety protocols changed, while we moved through the Pandemic and provided 488 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!

The Friends assisted in the events and activities that were able to proceed during the 2021 Season including: History Trivia Night, Book Sale, Earth Day, Wine & Roses, CT Open House Day, CT Historic Gardens Day, All Hollow’s Eve Cemetery Tours, The Witch of Woodbury & Friends, The Haunted Museum, An Old-Fashioned Wassail, and the Holiday Shoppe & Open House. 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. Thank you to everyone who donated items and time to our efforts! 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 were able to enjoy a virtual CT Historic Gardens program by Laurie Masciandaro, our Valiant Volunteer Thank You Picnic, and an in-person tour of the Leroy Anderson House given by Rolf Anderson.

The Friends of the Glebe are to be commended for their flexibility while assisting with the work of another unusual and difficult 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 garden season of 2021 proved to be a challenge as we continued restoring Gertrude Jekyll’s garden. Our volunteers worked especially hard and long—of course wearing masks and maintaining distancing—during the hot and dry (or rainy and chilly) days of a difficult growing season. We struggled to keep things watered well enough during the drought periods, and worked in the rain on many other days. Our volunteers are dedicated, and delighted to keep The Glebe House Museum’s historic garden flourishing!

As before, we divided and moved plants within the borders to closely match Miss Jekyll’s design. Some plants that we had too much of we potted up and put on our sale stand; others we planted in our growing-on garden for a later trip back to the borders. It was a long gardening season. Beginning in March, the gardeners pruned the Taxus (yew) hedge and the shrubs that needed to be pruned in dormancy. Soon we started the dahlias and canna’s that we had dug up and overwintered at home. Snaps and annual Rudbeckia had been 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. So was some of the rampant pulmonaria. The team did heavy work, planting replacement shrubs, hauling and applying mulch, and in fall putting deer-repelling netting on hedges and plants. We worked into December to clear the borders, then protect them with boughs and other greenery.

As ever, we had help and excellent advice from Wes Rouse, owner of Pine Meadow Gardens. His team provided beautifully arrayed pots for the Quad area, the steps of the museum, and here and there in the borders. We were also delighted to have the continued involvement of Naugatuck Valley Community College and horticulturalist Michael Schwartz. Under his guidance, NVCC overwinters the Jekyll fuchsia that is so important to the garden.

We’re proud that, with a lot of planning and effort, we have kept the Jekyll garden looking great during a very hot and tricky summer. It attracted many visitors on historic garden day and at our successful Wine and Roses celebration, which this year was moved to earlier in the summer, when so many of our flowering shrubs were in bloom. All during the warm months the garden also attracted numerous drop-by visitors, who continued to compliment us on the borders and ply us with gardening and restoration questions. It was all worth it!

Respectfully submitted: Eileen Denver, Priscilla Price, and Deb Soresino
Registrars Report for Museum Collections

Annual Report 2021

On August 30, 2021 the Seabury Society acquired a William & Mary pine transitional highboy (c. 1730-1750), donated by Ms. Monique Shay of Woodbury, CT, facilitated by Carter Booth and approved by the Collections Committee. The piece is currently being stored off-site by Board Member, Thomas Schwenke, at 50 Main Street N, Woodbury.

The Museum applied for and was accepted into Connecticut Collections (CTCo), an open-source collections management system, which directly ties to the Connecticut Digital Archives preservation system. Carter Booth donated the fee for the first year of admission to the program. Training, set-up and data entry will begin in early 2022. This is an exciting project that will not only allow us to digitally archive our collection, but also to create additional programming and virtual exhibitions.

Lois Zane continues to care for and maintain all of the current records for the Museum Collection and will assist Director, LoriAnn Witte, with information for data entry. We are truly thankful for her contributions!

Marieta Gil continued to help Lois Zane maintain and clean the Museum until she moved out of state. We thank Marieta for her efforts and continued support of our Museum & Garden from a distance!

Respectfully submitted by,

LoriAnn Witte, Director

For Lois Zane, Registrar
Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

January 22, 2022

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.

- Temporary Handrail made for safe access in/out of the Election Room Door during Special Events. Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.

- Hot Water Heater Repaired – Bottom Element & Breaker Switch Replaced.


- Museum Shop – Entry Storm Door – glass panel secured into place. Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.

- Storm-Window – 2nd Floor – replaced & new storm-window ordered for Election Room. Thank you, Guy Gabrielson.

- Hedges and large shrubs trimmed by Garden Committee.


- Chimney Repair Completed by Richard Criscione – Thank you to the Board of Directors and The Watertown Foundation.

- Triangle Property & East Field: Clean-up and maintenance.
  The patches that were left unmowed 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.

- Removal of invasive Bittersweet vines from Sycamore Trees in the Triangle – Thank you, Peter North and Priscilla Price.

- Full Fall Cleanup – including garden beds – by Long Meadow Landscaping, LLC

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 made to our beautiful historic house as needed!

Respectfully submitted,
LoriAnn Witte, On behalf of the Property Committee

As of 1/20/2022
The Pandemic continued to cause many changes throughout our fiscal year. Although we did not return to the consistent figures of the pre-pandemic years, we did see an increase over 2020. The end result was an increase in visitation, donations (both unrestricted & restricted), educational programs, grants, and museum shop sales which contributed to a 20% income increase overall. Although our events income overall did not match the revenue of 2020, our All Hollow’s Eve & Witch of Woodbury and our Wine & Roses events, topped the revenue (for these events) in the past 10 years.

Operating expenses saw an 3.6% increase with postage, bank and credit cards rising; while payroll expenses and professional services saw no increase in cost and remained the same as 2020. Repair and Maintenance showed increases in the Garden and House categories. Garden increases were due to plant material expenditures for the restoration and the House increases were due to the cost of chimney repairs and the security system update. Our utilities saw an 8.7% increase over 2020, due to rising costs in telephone service, internet and water. Expenses in Educational Programs increased by 51% over 2020 with stipends for the Children’s Summer Program interns, advertising costs and supplies. Events expenses decreased by 82% largely due to the absence of the Festive Dinners with Friends event and the treasure hunt raffle of 2020. Even with all of the expense fluctuations, overall the expenses only increased by 6%.

Our Unrestricted Donations made up 25% of our income, our Investment Income also came in at 25%. Events and Grants came in at 15% each with Education Programs bringing in 7%. Our total gross profit increased by 20%, with our Net Ordinary Income seeing an 34% increase over 2020.

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 is able to weather this very turbulent time in history.

We are thankful to the following for contributions that we received through Grants: 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 and the Colonial Lords of Manors in America.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

LoriAnn Witte - For the Finance Committee
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### Profit & Loss
January through December 2021

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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 2021

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SEABURY SOCIETY
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GLEBE HOUSE, INC.

BOARD CLASSES 2022

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)
Philip Stone (2nd term)

Class of 2024
Joanne Bauer (1st term)
Mindy Belcher (1st term)
Jim Frey (1st term)
Guy Gabrielson (1st term)
Priscilla Price (1st term)
Andy Ward (1st term)
Carole Ziske (1st term)

Officers
President Mindy Belcher
Vice President Vacant
Treasurer Duncan Belcher (Acting)
Secretary LoriAnn Witte (Acting)
At Large Carter Booth, Jim Frey, Guy Gabrielson, and Hugh Sullivan.

As of 1/20/2022
The Seabury Society for the Preservation of the Glebe House, Inc.
PO Box 245 – Woodbury, CT 06798
Phone: 203-263-2855
office@glebehousemuseum.org
www.glebehousemuseum.org

Board of Directors—2022

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   Woodbury, CT 06798
   Night Phone: 203-733-3285
   Home E-Mail: loriannewitte@gmail.com

BAUER, Joanne
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   Cell: 203-233-6673
   E-Mail: joannegbauer@gmail.com

BELCHER, Mindy (President)
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   Cell: 203-494-2212
   E-Mail: MindyBelcher@bhhsne.com

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   E-Mail: Frey65@SBCGlobal.net

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   Home Phone: 203-263-0461
   E-Mail: g gabrielson@charter.net

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E-Mail: Hugh.sullivan@bennettsullivan.com

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E-Mail: jandrew.ward@gmail.com

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ZISKE, Carol
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E-Mail: carolzdirector@gmail.com

As of 1/20/2022