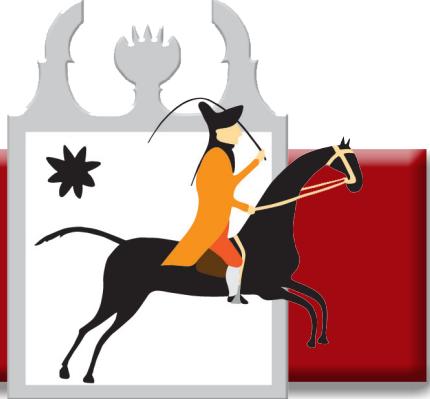




Fall / Winter 2018

TAVERN TIMES



THE NEWSLETTER OF KEELER TAVERN MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER • RIDGEFIELD • CONNECTICUT • 06877

Christmas at the Tavern HOLIDAY STROLL

Friday, November 30
5:00 – 9:00 PM

FREE family event.

Visit the festively decorated Tavern. I SPY game for kids. Hot drinks & sweets on the terrace.
Holiday Boutique OPEN.
Crafters in the Visitor Center.
Easy parking.



All Aboard For The Polar Express!

A special holiday event for youngsters will be held Thursday, December 13th and Friday, December 14th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. *The Polar Express*, the popular book by Chris Van Allsburg, will be read in front of the fireplace in the Cass Gilbert Garden House. Each child will make a craft to take home, games will be played and light refreshments enjoyed.

Since space is limited all children must be registered. Call 203-438-5485 or visit keelertavernmuseum.org to make your reservation. Cost is \$20 per child. Families of three or more children \$15 per child.



December 4 – 8

LUNCHEONS

Two Seatings Daily
11:30 AM & 1:15 PM

Reservations: call or online

BOUTIQUE

10:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Also open December 9
1:00 – 4:00 PM

Visit us online for more information about our other holiday events

Join us for the Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center's annual luncheon tradition. It is a great way to begin your holiday celebrations. The 300 year old tavern will be open for first floor informal touring. Christmas trees and other seasonal greenery plus a warming fire in the large stone fireplace will add to the holiday spirit.

Enjoy a chicken Madeira lunch with Keeler Tavern's special chutney in the Cass Gilbert Garden House, decorated for the holidays. A vegetarian/vegan gluten-free alternative is available. Lunch by prepaid reservations is \$30 per person. Single contact and payment requested for groups of 6 or more. Wine can be purchased at \$5 per glass. Reservations may be made online at keelertavernmuseum.org or by calling 203-438-5485. Payment can be made by MasterCard, Visa, AmEx or check.

The Holiday Boutique is open December 4th through December 8th from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. It will also be open Sunday, December 9th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Choose from a bountiful selection of gifts and holiday decor in the Cass Gilbert Dining Room. Be sure to visit the Visitor's Center where the work of fine craftsmen can be found and purchased. Also visit the Carriage Barn where local artist Tina Cobelle-Sturges is offering her paintings and greeting cards for sale.

The Holiday Boutique is open for early shopping November 30th through December 2nd, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM. Special items will be for sale and in addition there will be a 15% discount for members and 10% discount for non members during this time only.





Reaching New Heights with The Fall Party @ Keeler

On behalf of Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center we would like to send out a heartfelt Thank You to everyone who supported our Fall Party @ Keeler on September 29 to benefit our Education Initiative. Thanks to the generosity of the attendees and sponsors, we now have the funds secured to continue to offer for another year our full suite of school programs in Social Studies and Civics to area students, including students from underserved communities.



For centuries Keeler Tavern has been a gathering place where people come to enjoy each other's company, indulge in good food and libations, renew old acquaintances and make new friends. This year's inaugural Fall Party @ Keeler reached new heights as the social event in town not to be missed. Conceived by a young and energetic committee, the Fall Party spilled out across the historic campus, from the rustic Tavern to the elegant Garden House surrounded by lush gardens to the classic Carriage Barn. Guests were led along candle lit walkways to explore the many charming indoor and outdoor spaces. From the moment the doors opened at the Visitor Center to the time the afterparty closed at the Carriage Barn Lounge, people couldn't stop raving about this event. Everything looked spectacular and everyone had a terrific time. It truly was a magical night!

We are grateful to our fabulous Fall Party committee, Christine Boris, Josh Fischer, Jenn Hansen and Kit Keidel, for giving us a special event that set a new tone for successful fundraising. Their hard work and unrelenting enthusiasm in light of multiple obstacles, such as looming rain and considerable competition in town, is much appreciated.

All funds raised at The Fall Party support our full-day, immersive and curriculum-aligned school programs in Social Studies and Civics for students in Pre-K to grade 12. Last year, some 2,325 students attended 37 programs from 21 area schools in 7 different towns. About half of the students come from Ridgefield schools and about a quarter are from Title 1 Schools in underserved communities, including Danbury and Bridgeport. Without the generous support of our Fall Party attendees and sponsors we could not continue to offer these programs, which ensure an education rich in history and civics so crucial to our democracy.

With gratitude,

Hilary E. Micalizzi

Hilary Micalizzi, Board President
Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center

Hildegard M. Grob

Hildegard M. Grob
Executive Director



Farmingville 3rd Grade Teachers Received Award at Fall Party @ Keeler

Farmingville Elementary School 3rd grade teachers Christine Parsons, Emily Casolo and Beth Zawatski were honored at the Fall Party at the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center.

The Anna Keeler Teaching Award for Excellence in History and Civics Education was given for collaborating with Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center's education staff in developing a new program called *Early Settlement* a new full-day, curriculum-grounded program. Utilizing the Museum's extensive resources and collections the program teaches about Ridgefield's early days, including the use of maps and 18th century ledgers to understand basic principles of geography and economics, respectively, by engaging students in interdisciplinary learning using the Museum as a classroom extension. The 3rd grade team at Farmingville Elementary School (FES) who received the Award are Christine Parsons, Emily Casolo and Beth Zawatski. Established in 2015, the award recognizes teachers whose passion and dedica-

tion motivate students to understand how the past shapes the present and informs the future.

"We're proud and honored to be this year's recipient of the Anna Keeler Award," said Emily Casolo on behalf of her colleagues. "We've never had a museum ask what they could do for us! The Keeler Tavern education team was so open-minded. They were positive risk takers, like us--focused on what was best for our students. We are so appreciative of their willingness to dive into something totally unfamiliar and meet the needs of our new Integrated Studies curriculum. It all came together to create this inspiring experience for our curious learners."

Adds Principal Susan Gately, "The positive response from the Keeler Tavern education team and the depth of their knowledge and resources allowed our Farmingville Grade

3 teacher team to open a whole new and authentic avenue of learning for our students."

According to Melissa Houston, KTM&HC Director of Education, the *Early Settlement* program was a success because of the active participation of the teachers. "The teachers were willing to try new ideas and to fully engage in hands-on learning. We truly appreciate how they welcomed us into their curriculum!"

In its inaugural year, the Fall Party @ Keeler benefits KTM&HC's Education Initiative. All proceeds from the event support the Museum's school programs, which provide students from Ridgefield and area schools with immersive learning experiences in three-centuries of history and civics.

Hildegard Grob, Executive Director

Who is Anna Keeler?

Anna Keeler (1787 – 1852) was the youngest surviving child of Timothy and Esther Keeler, who operated the Keeler Tavern during the Revolutionary War. When her brother William died in 1827, Anna inherited the Tavern after her older brothers quitclaimed the property to her. Then in 1829, she married her long time suitor Abijah Ressegue and together ran what they called the Ressegue Hotel. Anna Marie, their only child, was born in 1830. At the time a woman who married became part of her husband's family



and was thus removed from her family's line of inheritance.

As a young woman Anna Keeler taught at Whipstick School, one of several one-room schools in Ridgefield, where she was paid 10 shillings a week. Later Anna insisted on teaching her immigrant Irish maids how to read and write. Anna spent her entire life in Ridgefield, living to be 75. Her portrait and that of Abijah can be seen in the Ressegue Dining Room.

The Anna Keeler Award given to teachers each year has been named in honor of this early educator.

FALL PARTY @ KEELER

In a lovely late September evening members and friends of the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center enjoyed a very special Fall Party @ Keeler.

Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, dinner and drinks and had the pleasure of strolling the campus. They were entertained by live music and a roving magician. All had an opportunity to take part in the raffle, and live and silent auctions. Thank you to all the donors and sponsors who made this evening possible. This major fund raising event for the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center was planned by Christine Boris, Joshua Fischer, Jenn Hansen and Kit Kiedel.

The evening ended with an After Party in the Carriage Barn and all left as the votive lights still twinkled.



Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was held in the Garden House on the evening of October 22nd. Members and staff met in the Garden House where they enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner preceded by drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Before the business meeting, President Hilary Micalizzi introduced Dr. Leslie Lindenauer, WSCU, who spoke on the *Power of Historical Memory* to the interested audience.

The financial report was shown and discussed and the Board of Directors for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019 was presented to the members. Three new members were added to the board: Christine Boris, Jenn Hansen and David Perkins. Questions from the members concerning the financials were answered by Executive Director Hildegard Grob.

Earlier this year Charlie Pankenier resigned as a Board member. We thank him for all the work he has done for the KTM&HC and all he continues to do.

Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center Board of Directors

Hilary Micalizzi, *President*

Rhonda Hill, *First Vice-president*

Sara Champion, *Second Vice-president*

Shen-Zhuang Chien, *Treasurer*

Patti Linnon, *Secretary*

Christine Boris, *Member at Large*

Cheryl Crowl, *Education/Guide Training*

Connie Fenton, *Gardens/Grounds & Membership*

Teri Fischer, *Marketing*

Elise Haas, *Newsletter*

Jenn Hansen, *Member at Large*

Karen McChesney, *Curator*

Margo McEachern, *Gift Shop*

David Perkins, *Member at Large*

Phyllis Robertson, *Maintenance & Restoration*

Joel Third, *Development*

Maureen Tucker, *Special Tours*

Honorary Members

Barbara Cmiel

Patricia Stephens

Tavern Tidbits

Joel Third, Board member of the KTM&HC spoke early in November at the Ridgefield Library about some of the historic maps in his collection. He told the fascinating story of America's discovery through using these maps. The maps will be on display at the library through November.

The play "Sisters", based on the relationship between Anna Marie Ressegue and her servant, Phyllis Dubois by Joan Hudson and Royal Shirée will be presented again in the spring. The play explores the lives of two women of different races living in the same house.

Gradually the staff is moving from the second floor of the Tavern Building to the second floor of the Visitor's Center, 152 Main Street which has been newly renovated.

Early in November William D. McEachern spoke about *The Battle of Glendale. Lee's Lost Opportunity to end the Civil War*. He is the brother of Margo McEachern Gift Shop Manager.

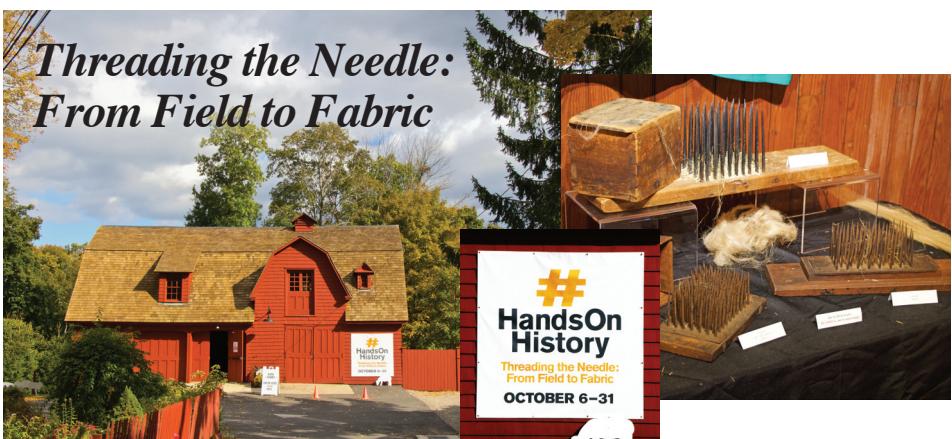
Scarecrows Scarecrows & more Scarecrows

During the 6th Annual Scarecrow Contest, scarecrows decorated the business area of Ridgefield's downtown for the last weeks of October. These varied and unusual creatures were dressed by businesses and residents of Ridgefield. The Scarecrow Contest was part of Ridgefield's *Fall in Love with Ridgefield* weekend.

The wooden frames to decorate the scarecrows were purchased in the weeks before from the Museum and returned ready for display. They were installed along Main Street shopping district. Friends and families were able to vote for their favorites.



Threading the Needle: From Field to Fabric



As part of its planned #HandsOnHistory program, KTM&HC installed *Threading the Needle: From Field to Fabric* in the Carriage Barn. Throughout October Sunday lectures accompanied the exhibit.

The growth and development of raw materials to make linen, wool and silk fabrics was on exhibit. Families with children were able to participate in preparing and spinning fibers, and dyeing cloth. The exhibit provided an opportunity for visitors to learn where Ridgefielders acquired the fabrics they needed for clothing, bedding and other uses.



The Exhibit was installed by Catherine Prescott, Assistant Museum Director, Erika Askin and Karen McChesney, Curators.



The Garden House

At the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center
Available for weddings, rehearsal dinners, anniversary & cocktail parties, as well as business meetings. Suitable for up to 90 guests, with catering facilities and air conditioning. Call the museum office 9 am to 5 pm at 203-438-5485.

132 Main Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
keelertavernmuseum.org

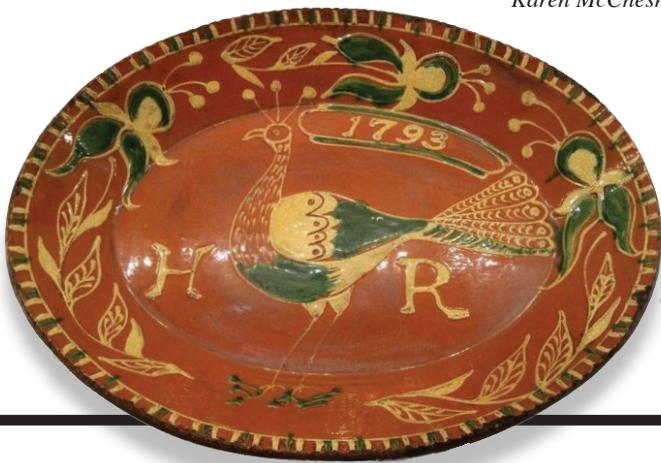
REDWARE

Redware is a clay-bodied ware heated in a low-fired kiln at 1,700 to 1,800 degrees F. It has a porous clay body made impermeable only by the use of a glaze, typically lead-based

The clays needed for redware production are found in much of the United States. Whether the clay is gray, blue, yellow or red when dug from the ground, the iron deposits in the clay turn it the characteristic color of red when fired. At times this color varies from a red-brown to orange, depend-

ing on the firing temperature and the mineral content of the clay. The lead in the glaze may have resulted in a shortened life span for the potter and an unhealthy choice for food service for the patron as well. Many had no available alternatives for dishes.

Karen McChesney, Curator



Donors Keep Us in Business

Many people don't realize that Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center receives no government support for its operations. And that means every gift is vital. From mid-June through October 31, 2018, nearly 100 people gave generously, many of them doing so at our Fall Party on September 29, 2018. Funds raised through the Fall Party are dedicated to our school programs, which bring to life our site's stories for nearly 2,500 students yearly.

Our Capital Campaign continues, helping us raise the money needed to transform our newly expanded campus. For example, thanks to dedicated volunteers, all of them former employees of IBM Corporation who keep track of their donated

hours, KTM&HC was eligible for and received a \$2,000 Community grant, which will be used for audio visual equipment in the new Visitor Center. When you see any of these special people—Beth Hancock, Patty Linnon, Charlie Pankenier, John Somma—please thank them!

The capital campaign received an extra boost earlier this year from a local philanthropist whose challenge to us—to raise \$50,000 by December 31—is generating gifts of all sizes. Motivated by the donor's 1:1 match, 42 generous individuals responded between June through the end of October, including Theresa and Dean Miller and Barbara and Bill Wyman, who made multi-year pledges.

Our total for the Cannonball Challenge is nearly \$17,000. Your help is needed if we're to make the \$50,000 goal by year end and earn the match, for a total of \$100,000 raised! You can do so easily by going to the Capital Campaign tab on our website.

The membership drive for 2019 is about to get underway—and we owe thanks to the people who add something extra or bump their membership up a level when they renew or join. Members who put a little (or a lot!) extra on the "donation" line on the membership form are true heroes. Please join them if you can. Every little bit counts!

Angela Liptack, Associate Director

**Make History:
Rock
The Tavern!**



Participate in our Cannonball Challenge. A generous local philanthropist has challenged KTM&HC to raise \$50,000 by December 31st. All gifts will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, for a total of \$100,000. Take the challenge, and your gift will help us finish the Visitor Center renovations.

New Members

Welcome to these new members of the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center

Marge Davidson

Kate Gluckin

Wayne Goldman

Dick Morris

Sunburst Plumbing and Heating

We look forward to meeting you at museum events.

Connie Fenton, Membership Chairman

The following groups enjoyed special tours over the past several months!

Ability Beyond

(Bethel), August 16 and August 21

The Gunnery

(Washington, CT)

students on bicycle tour, September 24

Prospect Senior Center

(Cheshire & Waterbury), September 10

Ridgefield home schooled students
toured the #HandsOnHistory exhibit
with Catherine Prescott and plan to
return to tour the Museum

To arrange a special tour contact
Maureen Tucker through the
Museum.

Maureen Tucker, Special Tours

Tavern Times is published
three times yearly by the
Keeler Tavern Preservation Society, Inc.
Elise Haas, Editor

ONE OF



Hildegarde Grob, Executive Director of the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center, has been named to the 25 Most Dedicated, Most Creative and Most Influential People in Ridgefield. Hildi and the other 24 nominees were honored by Ridgefield Magazine at a reception at BMW of Ridgefield on November 10th. Congratulations Hildi!

Obituaries

Long time volunteer
in the Gift Shop

Kathleen "Kitty" Trench
passed away last June.
Condolences were sent to
her husband, Joseph, and
her family. She will
be missed.

Volunteer

Gloria Biagiotti
died in August.

Condolences to her
husband Aldo and family.

The ***Gift Shop****

Featuring seasonal gifts throughout the year!

**Museum Gift Shop Always CT Tax Exempt*

Check our website for expanded holiday hours. Visit our Crafters at 152 Main Street.

Defibrillators at KTM&HC

Recently KTM&HC acquired two defibrillators (AED) providing this vital emergency equipment for those in need. One was installed in the Hoyt Room on the first floor of the Museum and the other in the hallway of the Garden House support Building.



On site training for AED and CPR Certification will be scheduled in the near future. Please advise Hildi Grob, Executive Director if you would be interested in attending.



The Eve of Ghosts & Goblins

Halloween evening good witches and ghosts roamed KTM&HC property and handed out candy to trick or treaters. Thank you to the volunteer witches who looked for and greeted all the many small visitors.



Join the Volunteers

Volunteers are always welcomed at the Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center. If you would be interested in training to be a tour guide, assisting in the Museum Gift Shop or performing as an re-enactors for special events held on the campus of the Museum we would be pleased to hear from you.



Call 203-438-5485 or visit keelertavernmuseum.org and one of the staff members will be happy to assist you in finding the perfect area of KTM&HC where you can enjoy meeting new people from near and far. Join the many other volunteers at the KTM&HC and become part of the continuing history of this 300 year old property.



The Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center is open Saturday, Sunday, & Wednesday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM (last tour begins at 3:30 PM)

Museum Gift Shop is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Closed the Month of January

Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center 2018 Calendar

November / December 2018

Nov. 27– Dec. 2 Early Shopper Days
 Nov. 27– Dec. 2 Crafters in Visitor Center
 Nov. 30 Holiday Stroll & Christmas at the Tavern

Tuesday – Sunday, 12 Noon – 4:00 PM
 Tuesday – Sunday, 12 Noon – 4:00 PM
 Friday, 5:00 – 9:00 PM

December 2018

2	Holiday Artist Show: Artists' Reception	Sunday, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
4-8	Holiday Art Show	Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM
4-8	Christmas Luncheons (Two Seatings)	Tuesday to Saturday, 11:30 AM & 1:15 PM
4-8	Holiday Boutique & Crafters	Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM
9-23	Holiday Boutique	Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
13-14	The Polar Express	Thursday & Friday, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
24	Holiday Boutique	Monday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
 Thursday & Friday, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
 Monday, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Keeler Tavern



Museum
and History Center

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