Our families and communities are more connected when we have a shared understanding of our history, which is why museums and historical societies are so important. Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center is a historic landmark and a state treasure. I'm pleased that federal funding ensures the Keeler Tavern [Museum] keeps its doors open for years to come.

- Congressman Jim Himes

Annual Report 2020 - 2021
Vision
To be the region’s preferred historic site for interpreting centuries of lived experiences and their larger meaning in the history of New England and the nation.

Mission
The Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center:
1. Explores the site’s lives and events and the insights they provide into centuries of our national experience, and
2. Interprets their contemporary relevance for our shared citizenship and civic culture.

We pursue this mission by preserving and protecting the museum’s physical and intellectual assets and sharing them with the widest possible audience, whether on our campus or through programs of outreach.

Board
Rhonda Hill
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Christine Boris
Patty Linnon
Paul Schmidt
Hilary Micalizzi
Karen McChesney
Joel Third
Phyllis Robertson
Diana Martin
Elise Haas
Jenn Hansen
Sarah Baudendistel
Paula Curry

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2nd Vice President/Governance
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Past President/Trustee Chair

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Mary Ann Connors
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Erica Askin
Katie Burton
Mandy Wall
John Bradley
Roger Keller

Executive Director
Assistant Museum Director & Chief Curator
Director of Private Events & Rentals
Director of Education
Curator of Collections
Head of Communications & Grants
Visitor Services Coordinator
Museum Interpreter
Caretaker
Looking back on the 2020-21 fiscal year, the word “change” resonates. The pandemic created instantaneous and unwanted change. But it also made clear the importance of museums: museums as community gathering spaces; museums as places to learn and process; and museums as crucial economic drivers for their towns, their regions, and their states. Our board, staff, and volunteers have gone above and beyond to ensure KTM&HC maintained – and expanded – its important place in the lives of our audiences.

The changing conditions of the pandemic encouraged us to develop new approaches, like pivoting to virtual offerings and expanding the use of our campus. We developed new programs, like the virtual “Tavern Tastings” series and guided outdoor walking tours, and changed existing events, like moving the Holiday Boutique to the Carriage Barn and turning the Spring Gala into a Gala-to-Go. Many of these changes proved popular and will continue after COVID protocols disappear.

Recent national and international events have reminded us of the importance of engaging in meaningful, respectful discussion, especially when the topics are uncomfortable. Keeler Tavern’s colonial-era origin was as a place of discourse and debate, and therefore it is clearly KTM&HC’s role today to enable and encourage these discussions, connecting them to our past to work toward a better future. Part of our emphasis on change has been, and continues to be, increasing opportunities for such dialogue.

I’m grateful for the continued support received from our members and donors, even when our doors were closed. We worked hard throughout the year to secure CARES Act funding in the form of grants and loans. Through these contributions, KTM&HC has been able to continue to employ our top-notch staff, maintain and preserve our site, and expand our virtual offerings.

At the end of our fiscal year, in accordance with our bylaws, three dedicated, long-term members of the Board rotated off: another big change. We thank Cheryl Crowl (past president, guide trainer, cookie lady), Connie Fenton (membership chair, garden committee chair, shopkeeper), and Margo McEachern (gift shop manager, boutique manager, and volunteer extraordinaire) for their years of service and are grateful that they are continuing to help us in many and varied ways.

Looking ahead, change will continue to be a theme of KTM&HC, as we grow and expand our platform. I hope you will continue to be part of the journey!

Rhonda Hill, Board President
In a year that brought more challenges than anyone could have anticipated, Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center proved its resilience, relevance, and resolution. We have emerged as a stronger institution with a greater sense of purpose and direction, and this year’s annual report reflects how we adapted and innovated to ensure KTM&HC continued to deliver on our humanities mission.

Our operations and budget were significantly impacted by the pandemic. All indoor activities, including tours, school programs, public programs, and events, stopped in March 2020 and staff shifted to remote work. The lack of in-person/on-site activities resulted in an almost fifty percent drop in income for FY 2020-2021, and pandemic relief funding, though helpful, only offset revenue loss by half and left us with loans to be repaid.

In the face of uncertainty and stress, however, our team pivoted and found creative solutions. After the initial visitation loss, our school and public programming staff rebuilt, maintained, and even expanded audiences by quickly creating and implementing outdoor, hybrid, and virtual offerings. Interactive virtual learning field trips for students and collaborative public virtual program series such as “Tavern Tastings” were livestreamed from our historic tavern. In the wake of national racial justice protests last summer, we launched the “Let’s Talk Hard History!” public program series, bringing panelists and audiences from a wide geographic area together over Zoom to discuss race and privilege in present-day America using our site’s history. In the spring, we celebrated Ridgefield’s designation as the first Cultural District in Connecticut: our site anchors the southern edge of the District and emphasizes the humanities’ importance as an economic driver. We were thrilled to resume tours and in-person events in June 2020, and by the end of June saw record-breaking attendance and revenue numbers.

Looking forward, we are developing an exciting five-year strategic vision focused on capacity-building, relevance, inclusivity, and accessibility. Fueled by decisions made during the 2020-2021 FY, our four priorities for the coming year are: reinterpretation; board development; physical campus integration and wayfinding; and the integration of a new customer relationship management system. I am deeply appreciative of the support KTM&HC received from the staff, board, and volunteers during this past year. Rhonda’s steady leadership and understanding of change management has helped us weather this storm successfully.

Hildegard Grob, Executive Director
FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2021 financial results reflect both the impact of COVID-19 and the continued evolution of our programs. Public sector grants and loans (some of which do not require repayment) helped to fund operations, and strong financial markets enabled us to limit our use of investment income to about 3.5% of our investment portfolio. Maintenance of our campus buildings and grounds, as well as preservation of our collections, continued throughout the year, and we were able to invest over $150,000 in facility improvements.

While the pandemic limited some of our traditional program and education activities, we continue to develop alternative programs (e.g., virtual experiences and self-guided tours) and expand our education outreach. Generous funding has supported these initiatives and we expect further growth in Fiscal Year 2022 and beyond.

Continuing our objective of becoming a major regional history center and helping to anchor Ridgefield’s newly designated Cultural District will require continued financial support. KTM&HC is a completely independent organization and receives no recurring financial support from public sources. We are grateful for the generous support of members, friends, and the community at large and look forward to working with everyone as we pursue an exciting future together.

The financial results charted here are for operations only and exclude overall investment activity, the Capital Campaign, capital expenses, and related depreciation.

### SOURCES OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>53,923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rentals</td>
<td>113,480</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions, Programs &amp; Education</td>
<td>52,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Investment Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$437,964</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Program &amp; Fund-Raising Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Payroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Collections</td>
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<td>Office &amp; Technology</td>
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<td>Insurance &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$437,964</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Interpreter Olivia Berenson and Chief Curator Catherine Prescott led tours at the museum’s reopening in June 2021.

2. Visitors enjoyed an outdoor concert at one of 2020’s Music at the Museum events, an annual collaboration with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra.

3. Children visiting the award-winning #HandsOnHistory exhibit in October 2020 talked with Chief Curator Catherine Prescott about the interdependency of farms, families, and businesses across Ridgefield’s history.

4. Jay Steele, longtime KTM&HC member, proudly showed off his gingerbread house, complete with cannonball stuck in the corner post, in December 2020.

5. Director of Education Melissa Houston, livestreaming from the Keeler Tavern, taught students from afar with interactive virtual learning programs that were supported by a grant from Connecticut Humanities.

6. From left to right: Don Sturges of Sturges Brothers, Inc.; Chief Curator Catherine Prescott; Executive Director Hildegard Grob; Todd Levine, CT State Historic Preservation Office, CT Department of Economic & Community Development; First Selectman Rudy Marconi; and architect Sean O’Kane of Sean O’Kane AIA Architect PC marked the completion of the Collections Storage Research Facility, partially funded by a Connecticut state grant.

7. Our annual spring gala fundraiser became a Gala to Go, with ticket holders picking up packaged catered meals and participating in online programming. The gala committee, from left to right: Felicia Paduano, Christine Boris, Hilary Micalizzi, Mary Ann Connors, Rhonda Hill, Cheryl Crowl, and Kam Daughters.

8. The newly restored North Entrance of the Garden House in May 2021. In addition to improving the accessibility of the entrance, the project included the installation of a new glass roof, railings, and lighting, thanks to the generous support of an Anne S. Richardson preservation grant.


10. Mark Blandford and Don Daughters ring in the Fourth of July celebration and Watermelon Fest in summer 2020.

11. Visitors came for seasonal gifts, décor, crafts, chutney, and more at the annual Holiday Boutique, which took place in the Carriage Barn to adapt to pandemic-era social distancing protocols.

12. Connie Fenton, head of the gardening committee, in the historic walled garden in April 2021.
This list recognizes the many people whose contributions are the heartbeat of KTM&HC, and which might take the form of finances, in-kind donations, volunteer energy—or all three. All gifts acknowledged here were received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. If your employer matched your donation, and/or you paid for membership, your name appears in the category that captures the combined total. Payments to the capital campaign made during the fiscal year are also reflected in these totals. Please direct corrections to the Museum office.

$20,000 and Up

Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
Anne S. Richardson Fund
Connecticut Humanities
Joan A. Payden

$10,000 to $19,999

Cheryl and Christopher Crowl
Anita and Nick Donofrio
Greg Jensen
Fairfield County Bank

$5,000 to $9,999

Christine and Jeff Boris
Robert Ellis
Liz and Steven Goldstone
Rhonda Hill
Christine and Philip Lodewick
Mary Ellen and Denis Loncto
M&T Charitable Foundation

$1,000 to $4,999

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Brian and Diana Martin
Hilary and Frank Micalizzi
Lori and Walter Seibert Jr.
Allison and Jon Stockel
Joel Third
Terry McManus and Brian Truskowski

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Anne Coffman and Paul Schmidt
Susan Wolf and Stephen Reynolds
Karen and James Wylie

$100 to $499

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Kay Ables
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Mary Anne and Randall Baldwin
Beverly Barnard
Sarah and Erik Baudendistel
William Beckwith
Patricia and Robertson Bennett
George Black
Martine and Jean Boillot
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John Bradley
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Jessica and Chris Carter
Donna M. Case
Amy and Tom Casey
Laurie and Chris Christiansen
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Anna and Ted Cleveland
Grace and Doug Clewell
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Stacy and Mark Kys
Cheryl and John Kwasnik ★
Lesley Lambton ★
Emma and Tom LaRose Andrews
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Laura Leonard
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Marilyn and Vincent Maneri ★
Jeanne Manto
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Mary Martin
Susan McAllister
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Gaetana and Edmund McGill ★
Susan McGourthy ♥
Loretta and Lee McMaster ♥
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Derrick Meyer
Mary and Bob Migliorino
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Luba Molnar ★ ♥
Amy and Andrew Montanari ★
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Mary Ann and Thomas O’Grady
O’HDesign3 ★
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Marnie and John Olson ★
Adrienne Orlan ★
Felicia Paduano ★ ♥
Jason Papes
Cheryl Patterson Zaic ♥ and Gregory Zaic ★
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Catherine and Nicholas Perna ★ ♥
Marie and John Pinchbeck ★
James Plum
Bernice and Joseph Pontelandolfo
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Mary Laura Pritchard ★
Gina Quad
Kathleen Richards ★
Suzanne Rieve
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Patricia Roche ★
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Sally and Jack Sanders ★
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Darcy and Sam Scatterday ★
Lenore Schneider ★
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Colette Shulman
Jan and Paul Siegel ★
Jane and Philip Sine ★
Susie and Gary Singer
Sabina and Walter Slavin ★
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Maureen Tucker ♥ ♥
Wendy and Howard Tuthill ★
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JoAnn Williams ★
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Mary Lee and Tom Wolf ★
Mary Lou Worrall ★
Vicki and David Yolen ★
Christine and John Zidik ★

Jackson Carter (center), a recent graduate of Ridgefield High School, was the recipient of the 2021 Bettie Jane Third Memorial Scholarship. Here, he posed with Chief Curator Catherine Prescott (left) and Board Member Joel Third (right).
Lynn Felici-Gallant and Paul Gallant ★
Mercy Fernandez
Dorothy D. Fielder ★
Patti and Barry Fisher ★
Beulah and John Fisher ★
Michael and Barbara Fisher
Jules G. Franko ★
Debbie and Daniel French ◊
Laura Fried ★
Steven Frummerman
Stacey Fujiwara
Julie Gallagher ★
Patricia and James Gareau
Laurence George
Anne Gilson
Evelyn and Richard Godbout
Ann Godzwon and Ville Vieltojarvi
Robyn Goldman
Steven Goldman
Wayne Goldman ★
Roxana and Rainer Gonet
Dawn Gottschalk
Jane Grein
Denise Grier
John Grissmer ◊
Polly Guerin
Alex Guiiano
Jean and Jon Haddon
Eileen Hahnenkratt ★
Martin Handsby
Alan Hanley
Anvernette Hanna
Terry L Harlow
Palma Harman ❤
Ann and Stephen Harrington ★
Gerry Hawaux
Fran Head
Matthew Helmin-Walker
Julie Henderson
Christy Hendrie
Terrianna Herlihy
Hattie Herman
Marion Roper and Jack Hiller ★
Thomas Hogan
Dean Hottie
Hermine Hull
Barbara and Frank Iannotti
Janet Ingraham
Robert Ingraham ★
Margot and Paul Ingrassia
Bernice and Matthew Iwinski
Janet Jacobs
Mary and David Janasek
Linda Jaslow
Katherine Ann Johnson ★
Pamela Jones
Georgianne and Richard Kasuli ◊
Isabel Katz
Raymond E. Keefe ★
Peter Keeler ★
Robert H. Keeler ★
Robert B. Keeler ★
Wally Keeler
Joseph Keneally
Noelle and Brendan Kenny
Deborah and Rob Kinnaird
Kerry Knop
Karen Kopec ★
Helen and Joseph Kovaks
Maureen and Tom Kozlark
Charlene Kozlowski
Caroline Kravath
Marilyn Kreitz
Jeffrey Kruilich
Rebecca Kujstermans
Susan Kueskin ★
Jenny Lake
Michelle Lamb
Rhonda Lehman Davenport
Thomas Lesko
Stacey LeVine
Nancy Libby
Joyce Ligi ★
Patricia Ligios
Leslie Lindenauger
Jean Linville
Christine Lippincott ★
Angela and Jim Liptack ★
Nancy Loomis
Domenica Lopez
Bill Lutzius ★
Suzanne MacAvoy ★
Regina MacKay
Alisa Maclin
Marie and Frank Madden ★
Tom Madden ★

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Ann Williams
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Eva Wingate
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Virginia Witucke
Lynn Worthington
Beth Yanity
Tiffany Yizar
Robert Yucker

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Ruth Reed
Amy Riedel
Flavia Rizk
Vivian Robert
Muriel Roberts
Christine Robertson
Kristin Rodriguez
Judi Rotar
Andrea and Meredith Rubin
John M Runge
Fru and David Saily
Diane Salek
Ingeborg Sands
Zach Sarlo
Berte Schachter
Michelle Schaffer
Rita Schaffer
Jennifer Schenkel
Lee Ann Schneider
Scott Schneider
Kathryn N. Schumann
Mary Schumann
Ellen F. Scott
Suzanne Scoville and David Sederholt
Catherine and Raymond Sementini
Ruth Shapleigh-Brown
Darla Shaw
James Sias
Delaney Sieber
Kathleen and Scott Smith
Erica Sommerer
Joann L. Spence
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Rachel Spitzig
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Helen Stevens
Carol Stoddard
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Sunburst Plumbing & Heating
Patricia Swift
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Ilona Thomson
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Louise Wagner
Steven Walsh
Cross Wang
Carol Wanielewski
Heather Warriner
Barbara Manners and Morgan Weber
Diane Wendel
Dana Weneck
Susan Weston
Ann Williams
Kerry Williams
Eva Wingate
Jonathan Winn and Amanda Curtin
Ken and Annmarie Wippermann
Renee Witterstaetter
Virginia Witucke
Lynn Worthington
Beth Yanity
Tiffany Yizar
Robert Yucker

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Hilary Micalizzi
Josh Fischer Design
Sean O’Kane AIA Architect, PC
Sturges Brothers, Inc.
Susan Scala

Matching Gift Companies
Chevron Corporation
GE Foundation
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In memory of Chris Crowl:
Phyllis and John Robertson
In memory of Murray Darvick:
Temi Bova
Anna and Ted Cleveland
Mary Kaletta
Margo McEachern
Judy Pankenier
In memory of Eileen Linnon:
Margo McEachern
In memory of Maria Maley:
Margo McEachern
In memory of Charlie Pankenier:
Georgia Carrington and Rebecca Strominger
Mary Ann and John Connors
Anita and Nick Donofrio
Beth and Chuck Hancock
Barbara and Steve Hartman
Susan McAllister

Friends Lost
We note with sadness the passing of the following friends:
Henry Boucher
Charlie Creamer
Murray Darvick
David and Anita Daubenspeck
Barry Fisher
Dorothy Hall
Eileen Linnon
Maria Maley
Charlie Pankenier
John Pinchbeck
Leo Plum
Violet Scala
Dee Strilowich
Kay and Ed Van Den Ameele
Joan Williams
Mary Lee Wolf
Mary and Thomas Meringolo
Derrick Meyer
Nancy Meyer
Kathy and Robert Moriarty
Phyllis and John Robertson
Terrie Roese
Patricia Swift
Marylou Worrall

Matching Gift Companies
Chevron Corporation
GE Foundation
GitHub
IBM International Foundation/Matching Gifts
Mastercard

In memory of Leo Plum:
William Beckwith
George Black
Aileen and Joe Egan
James Sias
Patricia and Stephen Steinour
Steven Walsh

In memory of Hilary Micalizzi:
Lauren Mariani

In honor of Joel Third:
Kathy Graham

Margo McEachern
Mary and Thomas Meringolo
Derrick Meyer
Nancy Meyer
Kathy and Robert Moriarty
Phyllis and John Robertson
Terrie Roese
Patricia Swift
Marylou Worrall

In memory of Leo Plum:
William Beckwith
George Black
Aileen and Joe Egan
James Sias
Patricia and Stephen Steinour
Steven Walsh

In memory of Hilary Micalizzi:
Lauren Mariani

In honor of Joel Third:
Kathy Graham
“Our families and communities are more connected when we have a shared understanding of our history, which is why museums and historical societies are so important. Keeler Tavern Museum & History Center is a historic landmark and a state treasure. I’m pleased that federal funding ensures the Keeler Tavern [Museum] keeps its doors open for years to come.”

- Congressman Jim Himes