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# Golden Ball Tavern Grapevine

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Editor: Lauren E. Forcucci

Golden Ball Tavern Museum • 662 Boston Post Road • Weston, MA 02493  
<http://www.goldenballtavern.org>

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Dolly Madison's inaugural hat



Chinese export ware from GBT collection

## Our Fifth Symposium

*Hearth, Home and Haberdashery: Women in the Late Colonial and Early Federal Period* is the title of our spring symposium. We have an outstanding lineup of speakers: **Betsy Garrett Widmer**, author and scholar of early American decorative arts speaking on *Private Place, Public Stage: Considerations of Female Self and Society in Furnishing the Early American Home*.

**Edward Maeder**, expert on Early American textiles and clothing speaking on *Modesty, Morals and Millinery: How the Hat Shaped Public Perception and Politics in the Early Federal Republic*.

**Nancy Rubin Stuart**, author of *Mercy Otis Warren:*

*The Muse of the Revolution* speaking on *Mercy Otis Warren, Forgotten Founding Mother: America's First Female Playwright and Historian of the American Revolution*.

And **Karina Corrigan**, curator of Asian Export Art for the Peabody Essex Museum, speaking on *All the Tea in China: Asian Luxury Goods in Early America*, a talk focusing on tea, porcelain, and to a lesser extent silver and lacquer from Asia used by women in early American households.

Watch for the flier offering you a chance to sign up for this delightful day—May 10, 2010, from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at First Parish Church in Weston.

# Director's Report

BY: JOAN BINES, DIRECTOR

What a joy it has been to see new volunteer energy flowing into the Golden Ball Tavern this past year. Nothing compares to having a lively group of volunteers bring their energy and excitement to the museum. And what a boon it is to the cadre of loyal volunteers who have served the museum so faithfully even during the quieter years.

The major project was the making of the movie *Allegiance: The Legend of Isaac Jones*, recently edited into its final form and ready to show to the public and to be entered into film festivals and competitions.

Welcome, welcome, to **Karen Valovcin**, our new President of the Golden Ball Tavernkeepers, the member organization of the museum. We are thrilled to have her. I hope that you will all have a chance to meet her and perhaps to join her in her efforts to improve the running and the direction of the museum.

One next thrust is to update our website to make it a place where all our members can go to get up-to-the-minute information about happenings and offerings as well as to enjoy online exhibits and much more. We would like to be able to draw students in to curated exhibits of our archives, perhaps to do scavenger hunts, or play games. We have a wealth of documents from the time before the Revolutionary War when Isaac was negotiating the treacherous waters swirling around the issues of patriotism to the colonies versus loyalty to the English crown. We have wonderfully evocative letters that Isaac's grandson wrote to his parents telling of his harrowing and exciting travels by carriage, train and boat from Weston to Ohio. We want to make the web site a real portal to the public to draw it into the rich resources of the museum. **Lauren Forcucci** will play a big role in making these updates as she does in so much that happens at the museum.

The museum has a busy schedule this fall and winter thanks to the ingenuity and creativity of **Carolyn McGuire** and **Susie Nichols**. As Chairmen of the Education Committee they are planning trips to other museums, creating new curriculum and tours in collaboration with schools, organizing meetings and luncheons at which participants learn and share in a way that enriches the

entire group as well as the museum. They welcome volunteers, and, in fact, have already drawn in a group of new people who are learning about the museum and training as guides for our student visits. Of course, we can never thank **Kay Conrad** enough for her masterful running of the Education Committee for more than 20 years and for her continued leadership on the committee.

In addition to these initiatives, **Chris Anderson** is offering a number of workshops to teach participants crafts such as the making of Shaker boxes, and painted floor cloths. He is planning children's programs introducing them to colonial printing techniques, food preparation, and silhouette making. Chris is a life-long student of American hand crafts; he has studied woodworking at the North Bennett Street School, Massachusetts Furniture Institute, and Hancock Shaker Village. Last year, he collaborated with Friends of Weston Public Library's **Margot Siegrist** and **Sarah Faucett** to offer hands-on programs for students, offerings that we hope will continue this year.

A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers at the Outdoor Antiques Show. Please know how much your time and commitment really mean to all of us. And thank you to **Will** and **Sue McFarland**, Will for his continuing research and organizing, and Sue for her help with the herb garden.

Also thanks to **Joe** and **Elizabeth Forcucci** of the garden committee for their hard work making the gardens around the house look beautiful.

Twenty five years ago I put out a "Call to Arms", inviting the Weston and surrounding community to come bring their interests and skills to the museum. Over 30 people responded and from that pool, we drew wonderful volunteers to work with us. I am again asking any of you who would like to help us with the gardens, with education, with the Antiques Show, with registrar, with computer, with conservation, with house, to let us know of your interests. We welcome you.

# Education Committee Update

BY: CAROLYN MCGUIRE

The Golden Ball Tavern Education Committee has a 3-fold mission; to educate school children, to educate the public and to educate ourselves. We have recently added several new committee members, so we're poised for action!

Last year volunteers provided tours of the museum to third-graders from the Weston public schools and Dedham Country Day School, as well as eighth-graders from Mother Caroline Academy. In addition, volunteers were on hand to staff several Open Houses at the museum. As many are aware, our most exciting project was helping with Weston High School's film production, *Allegiance: The Legend of Isaac Jones*. Now that we have this high-quality film, we are able to use it as a valuable resource. The film was shown to last year's fifth-graders in Weston, who were studying the American Revolution.

The Committee's objectives for this year are to engage more public and private school groups, host more Open Houses, plan exciting field trips for our volunteers, and share the film with more people. Anyone interested in more information, or in being involved with the Education Committee, can contact **Carolyn McGuire** (781-893-0780) or **Susie Nichols** (781-647-7810).

# Our 42nd Outdoor Antiques Show

BY: TARE NEWBURY

CHAIR, ANNUAL OUTDOOR ANTIQUES SHOW

What a difference a year made! Reverting to the norm, we again enjoyed a wonderful and (almost) typical New England fall weekend. Spirits were high as was the level of volunteerism. Like the weather, the results were spectacular!

Everyone participated in making this year one that will go down in history. **John Thompson** and others picked up donations and Lyn Lord distributed posters. Tom Jackson's banner announced the event, and Peter and Susie Nichols "showed the way" with their wonderful signage. After a very short retirement, **Chick Swain** was once again in charge of the Fence Gang. Having received their tickets from **Pam Fox, Sue** and a large group of chefs fed the Friends on Friday night. **Bill Gallagher** was in charge of bartenders, potties and police (you figure out which was most important).

Thanks to **Karen Valovcin's** Ticket Team, visitors came in droves, and were welcomed by **Peter Gates'** team of gate keepers. **Rosemary Lydon** and friends provided for a sumptuous lunch under the tent on Saturday. Many tours of the Tavern were given, thanks to **Lauren Forcucci** and her team of guides. And we must not forget **Travis Powell** and **Chappy** who tallied all the receipts and paid all the bills.

Contributing to our success were the gate, Peatman's Café, the Quinn's Popcorn Stand, Marsha's Merchandise, and THE BARN! Under the leadership of **Pam Swain, Deena Powell** and **Bryn Madden**, many volunteers received, sorted, priced and displayed a plethora of items. Of course, all this is for naught if it doesn't sell; IT DID!

Thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to making this year's show such a success, and thanks also for the legion of Friends of the Tavern for their significant and continuing support.



**Don't forget to begin saving your treasures for next year's Annual Outdoor Antiques Show!**

**Look for your yellow postcard for more information!**

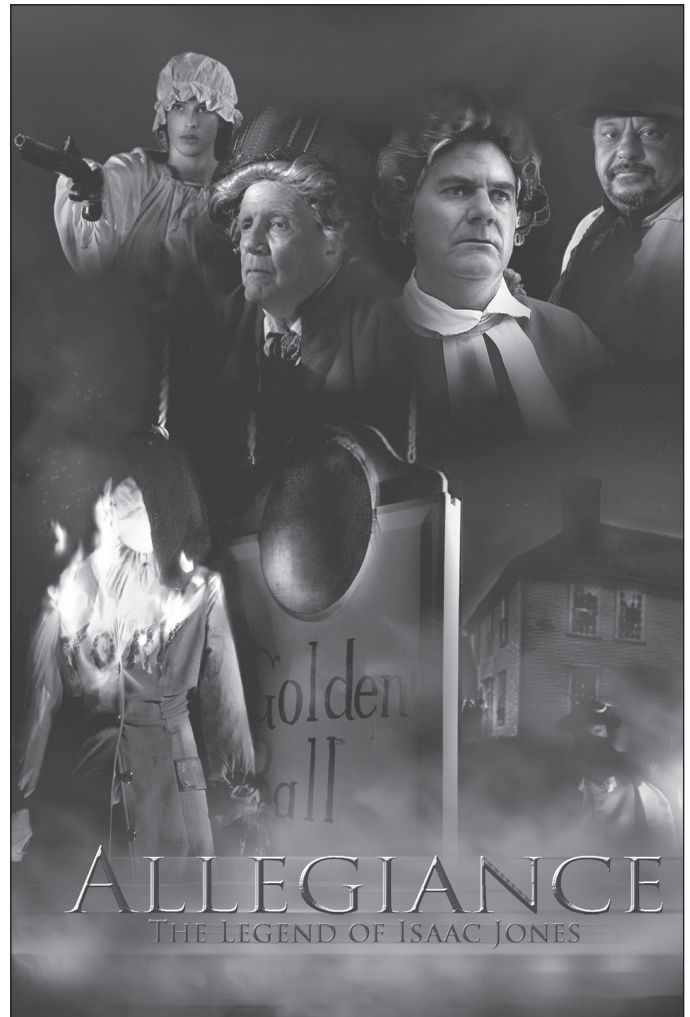
## Film Wrap-Up

“It’s a bitter cold Saturday in January. Men and boys in colonial breeches and coarse linen shirts gather in front of the historic Golden Ball Tavern on the Boston Post Road. Some wear masks and others have painted their faces. Someone throws a stone through an upstairs window, shattering it to pieces. Another man breaks down the door with an ax, and the mob storm into the tavern carrying lanterns and torches. They overturn tables, splinter chairs, and smash earthenware tankards. The leader demands to see the innkeeper, Isaac Jones, but he is away. In his bedroom, his wife Mary, is weak from childbirth. The baby, just two weeks old, howls. Isaac’s 17-year-old daughter Elizabeth confronts the mob with a pistol. They back off, leaving Elizabeth and her younger siblings terrified but unharmed.”

So wrote **Pam Fox** in her article on the making of the movie for the *Wellesley Weston Magazine*. She continues:

“Under the direction of Weston High School video production teacher Ted Garland, the “Weston Tea Party” raid on the tavern in March 1774 was recreated for the movie *Allegiance*, which tells the story of prominent Tory-leaning tavern keeper Isaac Jones during the turbulent pre-Revolutionary War years. . . *Allegiance* is a cooperative project of the Golden Ball Tavern Museum, Weston High School, and a team of 13 volunteer professionals from the Screen Actor’s Guild, all coordinated by producer **James Searles**.

The window sash, fake front door, taproom tables were made for the occasion by Weston resident **Will McFarland** and Weston High School Art Director **Chris Fehl**, who also made the tankards that were broken. McFarland also recreated a bar enclosure, known to have existed in the taproom, that will remain even after the film is completed. Thanks to **Chris Anderson** for guns and costumes, to Needham Historical for costumes, to people in Weston, parents, students, teachers, who



all came through to make the movie happen. A special thanks to **Karen Valovcin** for doing all of the costumes for the production, **Deena** and **Travis Powell** for letting the crew use their house to film the make-shift hospital scene, **Susie Nichols** and **Carolyn McGuire** for overseeing all the volunteers needed to cover the house for all the days of the shooting, and to **Kelly Wood** for being on call above and beyond to make the movie possible.

### Mark Your Calendars:

Workshops announced for 2010:

#### **Shaker Oval Box Workshop:**

May 22-32

#### **Painted Floor Cloths:**

March 20-21

#### **Dates to be announced on the following:**

- Time for Toys
- Make a Cake
- Silhouettes
- Let there be light
- Start a Revolution