

Guilford A Better Chance

Fall 2017 Newsletter



Guilford ABC is pleased to welcome back three returning scholars from enriching summer travels and three new scholars who are enthusiastically embracing the opportunities offered by their new school and community.

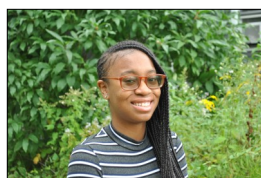


Sumaiyah Lee

This summer I got the chance to go to Spain with the Experiment in International Living program. I traveled around Madrid, Valencia, Mallorca and Barcelona. Getting to taste their

food and immerse myself in their culture was a dream come true! In Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona, I met with urban planners and architects to talk about ways to improve the mobility and structure of certain areas. In Mallorca, I spent 10 days with a host family where I learned the benefits of being resourceful and environmentally conscious.

During my junior year I hope to continue with Guilford High School's Dance Team and Track & Field. I have also joined the school's Unity Club and Women in Science Club. Going into my junior year, I am looking forward to getting to spend time with the girls in the house and starting to look at colleges.



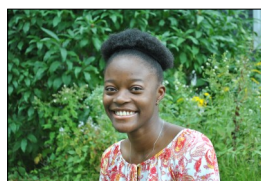
Jada Allison

My summer was filled with new adventures and experiences that created long lasting memories. I had the opportunity to travel with a group of high school students to South Africa

through Experiment in International Living. While on my month long journey, I visited Cape Town and Robben Island (the jail where Nelson Mandela was held in for many years). For ten days we stayed with host families in Plettenberg Bay. Staying with the host family was the best part of the trip because we were able to interact and experience the life of real South Africans. Lastly, we went to The African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg to work on our leadership and problem-solving skills.

In August, I joined National ABC on my second college tour, traveling to the West coast for the first time. On the tour, we visited colleges and universities from San Francisco to San

Diego. Between travels, I went to Atlanta with my family and spent time at home in Brooklyn. This year I plan to stay involved in CARE, Unity, Dance and Theater Tech and focusing on my college search.



Dorcas Saka

This summer brought travel, learning experiences, and new friendships. I began in Washington, DC for the first part of my trip with the Experiment in

International Living Leadership Institute. Our group of 30 students from across the US embarked on a week-long orientation there before traveling to our respective countries. I went to India with 14 other students and 2 group leaders to study Community Development and Public Health. Upon arriving in India, we were immersed into the culture (and hot, humid weather) in New Delhi before joining our Homestay Families in a small village called Satoli in the Himalayas. There, we worked with a local medical NGO, Aarohi, and helped to revamp their business plan. We also spoke with many inspirational people including the DEHAT girls, village residents and social workers. We did some sightseeing and visited many hospitals.

Upon our return to the US, we went to Vermont and worked on our post program projects at the School for International Travel campus. Then Jada, Sumaiyah and I went to California for the National ABC College tour where we visited 13 colleges and got to interact with other ABC scholars. The coming year will be busy with activities, academics and college applications.

To pay for their travels, all three scholars did extensive fundraising during the school year, including GoFundMe social media campaigns and other initiatives. As part of the EIL Leadership Team, Dorcas received a full scholarship for her trips to Washington, DC, India and Vermont.

Guilford ABC Welcomes Three New Scholars:



T-Jauni Barham

I am 14 years old and from the Bronx. I am currently a sophomore at GHS and am really excited to experience Guilford ABC, from the high school to the house and the other girls. I was introduced to the ABC program through a summer/Saturday enrichment school called the Fieldston Ethical Program. That program prepped us for acceptance into ABC. Now that I am a Guilford ABC scholar, I plan to use the opportunity wisely. This school year, I am in the Unity Club and hope to join the dance team next semester.



Julia Antwi-Boasiako

I am 14 years old and in my sophomore year at GHS. I am from Ghana and my family now lives in the Bronx. I was interested in the opportunity at Guilford ABC because I knew it would coach me on my path to college. I was also interested to know what it is like to be in a community high school. My goals for the coming year are to earn good grades and hopefully join the soccer team or contribute to other sports. My hobbies are playing soccer and swimming.



Lauren Cyrus

I am from Brooklyn, NY and in my freshman year at GHS. I learned about ABC from a neighbor who was a scholar. During my 8th grade year I interviewed at Guilford ABC and two others and am happy to have been accepted here. Compared to my school in Brooklyn, I feel that I have better opportunities and more freedom to participate in after school clubs and activities in Guilford. I am currently involved in the Unity Club and plan to try out for the dance team in December. My favorite classes are geophysical science and

mixed chorus and I enjoy bike riding in my spare time. Being an ABC scholar teaches me independence, discipline, and time management skills that will prepare me well for success in college.

Breaking News... We are pleased and proud to announce that the Hole in the Wall has been named the **#1 Consignment Store on the Shoreline** in the 2017 Shoreline Times Readers Poll. Kudos to Patty Sullivan and her wonderful staff and volunteers!



The Hole in the Wall Goes to the White House!



While manning his booth at the Guilford Art Center's Craft Expo on the Green in September, craftsman Brian Turner of Broomcorn Johnny's from Nashville, IN got an unexpected call from the White House. Much to his surprise, he learned that he had been selected to represent Indiana in the "Made in America Product Showcase" to be held the Monday after the Expo. That meant he would have to travel to Washington directly from Guilford after the show. The good news: he had his brooms and exhibit materials. The bad news: he had nothing appropriate to wear for the occasion.

After inquiring as to where he might find an affordable outfit nearby, he was (of course!) referred to the Hole in the Wall. He called and spoke to our wonderful store manager, Patty Sullivan, and she got to work finding an outfit for him. Needless to say, he was another satisfied customer and happily sent this photo of himself sporting his dapper attire at the event.

Oh, and in case you're wondering what company represented the Nutmeg State at the Showcase, it was Sikorsky and their helicopters.

*Brian Turner of Broomcorn Johnny's
in HITW's finest at the White House*

A Memorial to Barbara Pine

Guilford ABC's outgoing president, Barbara Pine, died peacefully on June 28th at Yale New Haven Hospital. Barbara, who presided at our year-end celebration in May honoring our 2017 graduating scholars, had been quietly and courageously battling colon cancer.

Barbara brought many professional skills to the board of Guilford ABC, which she joined in 2009 after her retirement from the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, where she both taught and wrote numerous articles on special needs adoption, ethical decision-making, family preservation and reunification, and child welfare policy. Barbara wore many different hats on the Guilford ABC board, including responsibility for overseeing major renovations to the house on Church Street where the scholars live. Most recently, she served two terms as ABC board president (2014- 2017) and was working toward a smooth transition to new leadership until days before her death.

Barbara was greatly admired for her leadership skills and her dedication to the ABC program. Among the many tributes from friends around the world, the most common refrain has been that she was "a bright caring light in the world." She also was a private person, loath to worry friends with her health problems; and an eternal optimist who believed that she would conquer her illness.

The Board of Guilford ABC is gathering ideas for a permanent memorial and tribute to Barbara. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please email them to Charlene Blake at cgbslk@gmail.com.

Memorial gifts in Barbara's name may be sent to Guilford ABC, PO Box 140, Guilford, CT 06437 or made online at www.guilfordabc.org.



Guilford ABC Program
P.O. Box 140
Guilford, CT 06437

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www.guilfordabc.org

Morris "Mo" Pleasure to return for GABC Benefit Concert



Mark your calendar for this special event!

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Where: The GHS performing Arts Center

Why: All proceeds support the Guilford ABC House

Plans for the weekend celebration include an ABC Cocktail Party on Friday, March 23 to celebrate our alumnae, board members, donors and Guilford High School staff. On Sunday morning, March 25, there will be a brunch gathering for alumnae and ABC scholars to mingle and get to know each other. All details will be on our website along with a link to ticket sales.

Our last two concerts have sold out, so get your tickets early!

This year Mo Pleasure will be accompanied by some special musician friends, along with key performers from the Guilford

High School Music Department. In addition, Mo will be working with the music department to provide a master class in the high level music classes.

We look forward to having all of our ABC supporters and families attend. Stay tuned for more details!



Guilford ABC
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Hole in the Wall

Guilford's oldest and only not-for-profit consignment and re-sale shop, operates solely for the benefit of Guilford's ABC program. For its many regular and loyal customers, Hole in the Wall is recognized for offering amazing values and legendary service in a warm and welcoming environment. ABC Scholars help out in the store on weekends during the school year.

Hole in the Wall is located at 35 Boston Street, across from the Guilford Savings Bank. It is open seven days a week: Monday-Friday 10 -5; Saturday 10-4; and Sunday 12-4.

Donations are accepted daily; for a consignment appointment, call the shop at 203-453-2088.

