



A newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and Museum of the Elizabeth Islands

P.O. Box 181, Cuttyhunk, Massachusetts 02713

Fall 2023

Art Imitating Life

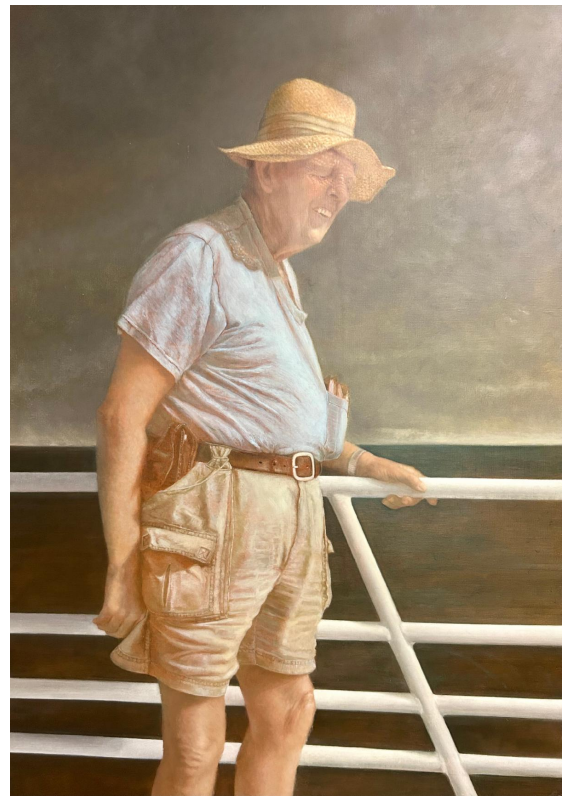
Robyn Weisel, CHS Executive Director

The portrait of Alan Wilder by Tamalin Baumgarten was one of the works of art in the current exhibit, *Island as Muse* most commented on. Its realistic portrayal and illuminated light takes visitors by surprise and delight. In August, I had the coincidental opportunity of meeting Alan in person at a Frank Reposa art reception (right bottom). It's a surreal experience to see and chat with an iconic Cuttyhunker after only seeing his portrait for months. Tamalin captured him perfectly!

Each of the pieces of artwork from the CHS collection evoked wonderful stories and memories from our visitors this summer. The *Life Saving Station*, by Robert Swain Gifford (1903), was seen from different perspectives and conversations were had as to whether the painting is looking at Canapitsit from the Nashawena shoreline or from Barges Beach looking toward the east.

That is what is so extraordinary about art. It draws on the experiences of the viewer, as well as the artist, and sparks conversation and appreciation of the different interpretations it provokes.

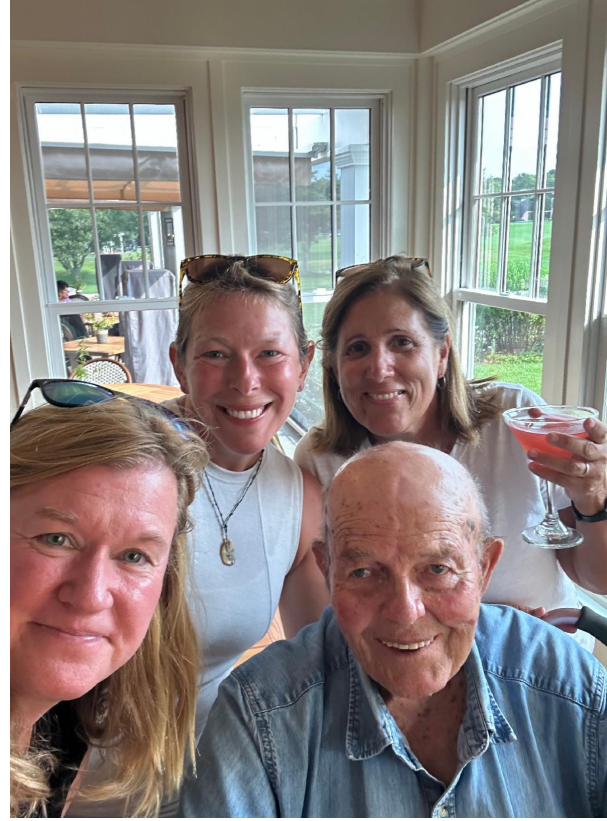
Island As Muse has had a successful start and overwhelmingly positive feedback from visitors and residents alike. If you haven't seen the show yet, it will continue in 2024, so stop in and see it before this very special event ends!



Portrait of Alan Wilder by Tamalin Baumgarten



Debating Over Perspective, *The Life Saving Station* by R.Gifford: l-r; Ned Prevost, George Shaw, Jay Merriam, and Ann Conway.



Pictured from top-left clockwise: Quinnie Hornbach, Robyn Weisel, Alan Wilder, and Lisa Uiterwyk at Farm Neck Golf Course on Martha's Vineyard.

CHS Opening Party and Art Auction 2023





Our Opening Party and Auction raised nearly \$12,000! Events like this as well as our seasonal programs and appeals contribute to our overall operating budget. Thanks to all who support CHS in a various of ways! We appreciate YOU.

Pictured L-R Clockwise: Rachel Garfield and Christina Watkins; Sheila Barry and Sarah Berry; crowd at the art auction table; Bob Elmore and Pippa Aracena Garfield; Sofie Day and Aoife Galloway; Doug Chalton, Carolyn Powers, Doug Garfield; John Tabor taking in the artwork; and Anne Kimball with Bee Elmore.



CHS President's Letter



Dear Elizabeth Islands Community,

What a productive season it was for Cuttyhunk Historical Society and its museum. Thousands of visitors enjoyed the *Island As Muse* exhibit curated by Tammis Groft and Bob Smith and the Opening Party was a grand success in kickstarting fundraising efforts and fun for all ages. In addition to kite days, ladies nights, and tours for deaf sailors, we helped the Cuttyhunk Schoolhouse celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary (1873-2023). The monograph written by Elizabeth Prevost describing its remarkable history accompanies this *Quarterboard*. Enjoy!

At the Annual Meeting in August we welcomed new leaders to the Board of Directors and honored Tammis Groft as Volunteer of the Year. We paid tribute to retiring board members Laura Mali-Astrue and Bob Smith and to retiring Treasurer George Shaw. Their contributions have strengthened the Society immeasurably.

At summer's end, we welcomed back Samantha Poirier, our curator, for work with the collection. During September she and Robyn made important improvements to our filing systems and storage areas, and, thanks to Samantha and a grant secured by Robyn from Mass Cultural Council, we can now document our collection on PastPerfect web edition. There is much work ahead but the building has never been better organized for those efforts.

The Board and staff join me in wishing you a prosperous fall, nourished by the memories, discoveries and friends you made on the Elizabeth Islands.

With warmest regards,
Carolyn Powers
President



Pictured Top: (L-R)Tammis Groft, *Islands as Muse* co-curator and CHS volunteer of the year along with friend and CHS President, Carolyn Powers. Below, Right: Superintendent, Dr. Margaret Frieswyk, at the 150 Schoolhouse Celebration.

Thank You!!

We would like to acknowledge and thank our out-going board members:

Laura Mali-Astrue
Lise Stone
Bob Smith

Their strong commitment and hard work moved our organization forward in its mission.



Volunteer of the Year Tammis Groft!

This year's Volunteer of the Year is someone who has grace, wonderful taste, remarkable skill and talent when it comes to museum work. Tammis Groft, along with Bob Smith, made up a phenomenal, collaborative team. Tammis' guidance on everything from hiring Sam to exhibit design and collection procedure has helped CHS in long lasting and meaningful ways. She is brilliant at what she does and with good spirit! Thank you Tammis for everything- you are truly deserving of this recognition!



Pictured Top: Opening Party, Tammis talking to Lisa Smith;
Bottom, giving a special tour.

Out and About - CHS Programs and Events



Above: The kite workshop isn't just for kids—some of the teenagers got into it too!
Below: Pop-up art studio under the tent



Above: Artist, Tricia Mansfield, takes a break on the porch to do some pop-up painting!

Volunteering is Your Unique Way of Sharing

At CHS there are so many ways to help—from greeting visitors to gardening to helping inventory collections. We appreciate your skills and abilities and understand how valuable your time is. Just an hour or two can help CHS accomplish many to-do's. Please get in contact and let us know what you can do to help out!

Contact us:
cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Oh Yes It's Ladies Night!

Ladies Night at the Museum has become a seasonal staple. This summer friends got together to spend some time checking out the new exhibit, having a cold drink and catching up on their island arts culture

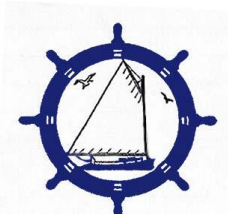


Visitors, Visitors, Visitors!



Above: Robert Cox, a relative of Paul Cuffe, stopped by CHS to look at some archives and items from his family history with his friend, Anita Allison. Opposite page top and bottom: Deaf Sailors came in every week in July for a special interpreted tour of the museum. Middle: Baldwin Yacht Club came in for an evening tour. Below, some of the Veeder family came in to check out their family tree.





Our Season in Numbers

- 3,200 Summer Visitors
- 16 Private Tours
- 137 Deaf Sailors w/ASL Tours
- 3 7 8 + Event/Programming Participants
- 970 Emailed Quarterboards and virtual publications

Did you know? CHS has approximately 6000 objects in its collection and over 200 original works of art!



Museum Projects and Volunteers- Behind the Scene at CHS

This past summer we had many wonderful people helping on CHS projects - Anna Nappi, Indiana State College intern, worked on two publications that captured exhibits, including the current one. We hope to have it available for purchase next season.

Also, several busy island guys (pictured l-r: Sam Heintz, Thomas Mason, Sawyer DeVoe, Charlie Anderson, and Andrew Frothingham) helped with various projects around the museum. Without the help of many different kinds of skills and talent, CHS would not be able to function. We are so thankful for all our engaging and wonderful supporters!





When I first arrived in the spring, I was tasked with helping CHS achieve greater accessibility with their collection. The initial aim of the project was to upgrade the museum's current collection software, PastPerfect. This is a museum catalogue system that manages artifact information in one location. Until recently, the only way to access that information was to log onto the laptop in the museum office. Now that PastPerfect has a cloud-based option for their software, staff will be able to log onto the database to update records from anywhere with internet access. This will be especially

useful in the off-season when most are off island.

It is believed that there are approximately 6,000 objects in the CHS collection. At this time, less than 1,000 of these objects have been catalogued onto PastPerfect. With this new software, though, the process of adding records can be started during the shoulder months and completed when on-site at the museum. The end goal of this entire process will be that visitors and researchers will be able to access specific information about items in the collection through the CHS website if and when they are unable to visit in-person.

In addition to the digital storage of the collection, we have also been updating and rearranging the physical inventory of the collection (see photos below). This has meant reorganizing files and shelving storage and assessing previous exhibit materials. Creating adequate workspaces and managing the correct storage of artifacts aids in continuing CHS's mission of preserving the history of the Elizabeth Islands.

Pictured l-r: Kevin Mach (volunteer extraordinaire), Robyn Weisel (CHS-Executive Director), Samantha Poirier (Curator/Collections), Elizabeth Weisel (Cuttyhunk & CHS Ambassador)

ROOM 2

Before



After



ATTIC

Before



After



Pictured above: Before and After photos of the various storage spaces within the museum building. This work will better organize the collection and enhance the preservation of archival objects.

In memoriam...

**Miller Brown
Tess Day
Lance Hinrichs
Ann Parsons
Larry Prusak
George Wadleigh**



"Our memories of the ocean will linger on, long after our footprints in the sand are gone."

*Continuing in the Bosworth and
Akin Rooms...*

ISLAND AS MUSE

~
**ART from the CUTTYHUNK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION**

Continuing the momentum of an exhibit so enthusiastically embraced by so many, the CHS will keep Island of the Muse up for another season and looks forward to welcoming visitors to further dive into the beautiful artwork of Cuttyhunk artists.

From the Manuel "Manny" Sarmento mosaic to the artwork of beloved Flo Fairchild, the needlework of Nancy Hornbach and the beautiful work of Harry Neyland, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

*"We are such stuff as dreams are made on"
The Tempest, Act IV*



Wanderer Exhibit We Need YOUR Help!

Looking further forward to 2025, the CHS is planning a Wanderer shipwreck exhibit. In order to make this an engaging and fascinating exhibit, we are soliciting the help of our community. We are looking for volunteers, re-searchers, historians, educators to help build an exciting show. We will be setting up a committee of interested volunteers soon. Please let us know if you're interested or have something to share/donate/tell us about!



Welcome New Board Members to CHS



Kass Ardinger has been enjoying Cuttyhunk summers her whole life, thanks to her grandparents, Olga and Millard Ashley, who built the Long Shack in the late 1950's. Kass is an attorney and lives with her husband, Bill, in Concord, NH. Both semi-retired, Kass and Bill now share their love of Cuttyhunk with their three young grandsons (future CYC'ers!), and where Kass can lovingly care for the flower gardens of her late mother Joy Spanos.



Jane Chalton is a fifth generation Cuttyhunker who still maintains the original island homes of her ancestors. Her family have long supported the historical significance of the island's heritage beginning in the early seventies with the grassroots historical society's displays held in the Cuttyhunk school house. Jane is retired from teaching English in higher education institutions around the world. She spends her time now supporting the CHS, the Cuttyhunk library and playing with grandchildren. Half her time is devoted to living on the island while the rest of her time is spent either at her home on the mainland or traveling.



Bev Snow is a seventh generation islander. Her family managed the Bosworth House for several generations and she lives in the house her grandparents built on the island (across from CHS). Although she is still working her day job in West Palm Beach, Florida in the power industry, she spends as much time on the island in the spring and fall as possible. Bev was in the CYC classes from its start in 1956, and was an instructor for several years. She is looking forward to

eventually retiring and spending summers on the island.



2023-2024 CHS Staff & Board

Robyn Weisel
Executive Director

Samantha Poirier
Curator

Anna Nagtegaal
Museum Assistant

Anna Nappi
Museum Summer Intern

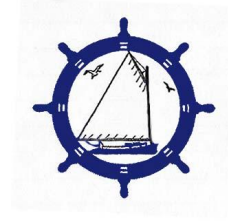
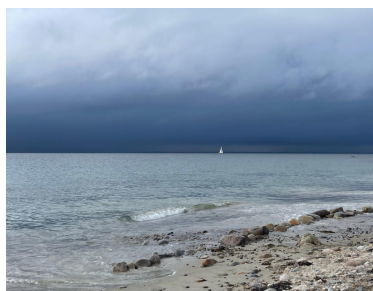
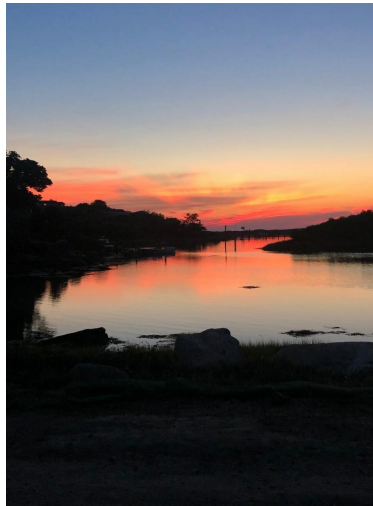
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**Carolyn Powers**  
*President of the Board*

**Jane Chalton\***  
*Treasurer*

**Bev Snow\***  
*Secretary*

**Kass Ardinger\***  
**Horace Garfield**  
**Rachel Garfield**  
**Nate Hornbach**  
**Bert Nagtegaal**  
**Kate Parker**  
**George Shaw**  
**Allie Thurston**

\* new member



## Cuttyhunk Historical Society & Museum of the Elizabeth Islands

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Serving the Elizabeth Islands  
PO Box 181  
23 Tower Hill Road  
Cuttyhunk Island, MA 02713

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The purpose of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society is to record and preserve the history, traditions, and artifacts of Cuttyhunk Island and the Elizabeth Islands of Massachusetts, and to engage the community and public through education, exhibitions, and outreach.

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All CHS photos by or collected by  
Robyn Weisel

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*Quarterboard* is the newsletter of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and is published twice a year.

Visit our website for membership and to make a donation. Click  
**HERE!**



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