



On The House

News from the Gibson House



GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

LOCATION:

137 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02116
617.267.6338

HOURS:

open year-round, visits by
guided tour Wednesday
through Sunday on the
hour at 1:00, 2:00, and
3:00 p.m.

Reservations are required
for group tours of 12 or
more; please call
617.267.6338.

ADMISSION:

members free; adults \$9;
students and seniors
(62+) \$6; children (under
12) \$3

MEMBERSHIP:

to become a member,
contact us at
617.267.6338 or
info@thegibsonhouse.org
or visit our website at
www.thegibsonhouse.org

VOLUNTEERS

The Gibson House
Museum is looking for
volunteers. If you are
interested in historic
house museums and the
history of the Back Bay,
please contact us to
discuss volunteer
opportunities at GHM.

MUSEUM STAFF

Michelle Coughlin,
Museum Administrator
Wendy Swanton,
Curator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samuel H. Duncan,
President
Edward W. Gordon,
Vice President

Gibson Society, Inc.

Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2015-2016 October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the Gibson House experienced another vibrant and financially healthy fiscal year. We made progress toward our goals, introduced new initiatives, and increased our outreach.

Among the year's highlights:

*We continued to attract visitors from across the U.S. and from six of the seven continents.

*We hosted groups from more than a dozen schools and gave special tours for young students and seniors. We oversaw a strong internship program and provided projects for students from Boston College, Boston University, Emmanuel College, and Suffolk University. Interns who write for the museum's blog develop their communication and research skills, and this past summer students from Winterthur, the country's premier museum of American decorative arts, documented numerous items in the GHM collection for the Boston Furniture Archive.

*We received increased media coverage that included articles in *Boston Homes* magazine and the *Boston Guardian* and a spot on WCVB's "Chronicle," which brought in local visitors who had never before experienced the Gibson House's unique history and charm.

*We presented a variety of programs on subjects ranging from early baseball to historic house museums and offered special tours designed around particular themes. We recently hosted a group tour for a family descended from Gibson House servant Patrick Dooley and are using information about Patrick's life and other servants' stories to enhance our behind-the-scenes servants tour.

*We hosted another successful Annual Benefit at the Chilton Club, this time honoring preservationist William C. Clendaniel. All proceeds supported the museum's mission of preservation, education, and outreach.

*We received gifts from generous private donors and a grant from the Felicia Fund that will enable us to launch our red carpet replacement project.

We appreciate your past generosity and support, and hope that you will continue to be a part of our success story. Won't you consider making a gift today to help us preserve and share this unique time capsule of Boston life?

Sincerely,

Michelle Coughlin

Lorraine Hanley,
Treasurer
Susan Ashbrook,
Secretary
Jacob Barry
Jacqueline Blombach
Frances Duffy
David R. Hocker
Lorie Komlyn
Ruth Ann Kupfer
William Pear II
Lauren Thomas
Katherine B. Winter

TRIP ADVISOR REVIEWS

"The house is beautifully preserved, from the gorgeous gilt Japanese wallpaper in the entrance foyer downstairs, to the peculiar vented airway that originally controlled the heating/cooling of the house (but now banned). Our guide gave us a comprehensive history of the family that built and lived in the house, and pointed out all the interesting features in each of the rooms..... we thoroughly enjoyed the tour."

Reviewed January 2017

"Visited today and enjoyed the guided tour. This is an amazing time capsule of a house. Excellent and knowledgeable guide mixed with small and intimate group of visitors made for a very special experience. A must, should you really want to see what life was like for the well heeled in Victorian Boston!"

Reviewed August 2016

"Step back in time as you enter this house. Everything looks like the owner just stepped out. Simply amazing tour. See what it was like to live in 1860. Full of antiques, a must see."

Reviewed May 2016

"A really interesting

Museum Administrator



2016 Benefit honoring William C. Clendaniel

Treasurer's Report

by Lorraine D. Hanley

The Gibson House Museum had a strong year. Income from admissions and tour groups exceeded budget forecast by approximately \$1,200, and given the extensive media and press coverage the museum received (WCVB's "Chronicle," *Boston Homes* magazine, the *Boston Guardian*), we hope to attract even more visitors next year. With regard to restricted gifts, the Gibson House had a successful year fundraising. A sizable sum of donations (nearly \$30,000) was earmarked for the guide and curator endowments. The endowment balance, at fiscal year end, was \$344,693, including approximately \$54,450 in restricted funds.

The fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$3,592 due to the unexpected expense of restoring and repairing the back patio and stairs (\$7,600). There was also a decrease in unrestricted gifts, due to the fact that the museum did not do an annual appeal, a fundraising effort that will be re-implemented in FY2016-2017. Insufficient unrestricted funds required us to withdraw an extra \$4,400 over the budgeted endowment withdrawal to cover expenses.

A balanced budget for 2016-2017 was presented to and approved by the Board. The new budget takes into account increased costs to employ and train a new curator as Wendy Swanton, our curator of twenty-five years, will retire at the end of 2017. The Gibson House plans to cover these costs through increased outreach and fundraising.

Contributors

1859 Club

Dr. F. Towne Allen and Dr. Linda Portnoy Allen
Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry
Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman
Jacqueline Blombach and Michael Duca
The Honorable and Mrs. Levin H. Campbell
Sheila and Charles Donahue

hour spent with a great guide looking all around a house still furnished with genuine furniture and items from [the] mid 19[th] c[entury]. The kitchen alone is a treasure trove, with cookware and utensils. Excellent."
Reviewed July 2015

"We were so glad we took the tour. It was truly a time capsule of Victorian Boston. Everything in the house is original-- that includes the furniture, carpets, wallpaper, bathtub, unique heating system, etc. Our tour guide was knowledgeable and seemed to enjoy sharing information about the house and family. A fun and unique experience."
Reviewed Jan. 2015

Frances and Thomas C. Duffly
John B. Duncan
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Nelson S. Gifford
Diane Gipson
Cindy and Robert S. Goodof
Elizabeth T. Harbison
David R. Hocker
Ruth Ann Kupfer
Judith and Christopher Leich
Mary Hammond Norton
David O'Dowd
Proprietors of Mt. Auburn Cemetery
Kenneth Roberts
Robert B. Severy
Katherine B. Winter

Donors for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Judith A. Alukonis
Louise Ambler
Eileen Bagley
John Amodeo and Brian De Lorenzo
Desiree and Jacob Barry
Barbara Bean
Kathleen Bennett
Jenny Bergman
Judith A. Bevis
Dara Regan and Olivier Bouchier
Lance Brisbois
Rebecca Brooks
Ronald Brooks
James Buttrick
Elizabeth Chace-Marino
Sally Cheffy
John F. Coburn
David Cohen
Paul Connelly
Paul M. Connolly
Francine and Bill Crawford
H. Crehan
Marie Crocetti
Fay Dabney
Mark Davis
Robert Davison
Claire W. Dempsey
Nancy Devereaux
Robert B. Dimmick
Carl J. Doebler
Richard Doring
James Alleyn Duncan
Lindsay G. Fischer
Angela Fischer
Laura Fitzmaurice
Stuart and Barbara Freeland
Carolyn Fuchs
James Gallagher
Michael Gibbens
Cathy Gibson
Edward W. Gordon
Gerard Goulet
Laura Gresh
Richard Griswold
Lorraine Hanley and Grayson Allen

Teresa and Stephen Hanley
Helen Hannon
Gregory Hanselman
Donna Harshman
Josie Haywood
Nancy and Thomas High (BackBayHouses.org)
Nancy and Norman Holcomb
Craig Hughes
Kim Lesley Hunter
Elizabeth B. Johnson
Mary Kane
Diana and Howard Kassler
Marilyn Kearney
Ann H. Kneisel
Judith S. and John Knutson
Lorie Komlyn
Joseph Koontz
Rosanne Kumins
Mimi and Paul LaCamera
Joan Christison Lagay
Robert Lawrence
Sandra Levine
Frederic B. Lincoln and Matthew Somers
James C. Lundy
Jane Marshall
Mary Martin
Abigail Mason
Shelley J. McVicker
Maureen Meister and David Feigenbaum
Elizabeth M. Mellett
Lindsay Miller and Peter Ambler
Brian Miner
Matthew Montgomery
Keith N. Morgan
Mary Ann and Richard Morrill
New England Historic Genealogical Society
Carl Nold
NVIDIA
Jo Anne and John O'Neill
Carolyn Osteen
Susan P. Park
Andrew Parthum
Loumona Petroff
Robert Pitts
Margaret S. Pokorny
Antonia Pollak
Susan Prindle
Patricia Quinn
Lilian Randall
Margaret E. Richardson
Elizabeth and Dr. Mark Rockoff
Margaret and Peter Sherin
D. Brenton Simons
Lynn Smiledge
Barry Solar
Harvey Soolman
Carlos A. Soto-Chavez
Jeanne and Donald Stanton
Nancy A. Stone
Nancy C. Stutzman
Patricia Ann Sullivan
Anne Swanson
Wendy Swanton
Joseph Sypek

Jolinda and William Taylor
Lauren Thomas and Peter Der Manuelian
Keith Tornheim
Wayne Towle
Sam Wallace
Lewis Whitlock
Sandra Willand
Elsie and Patrick Wilmerding
Marty Walz
Sonja Yates
Janet and Bill Younker
Linda Zukowski

Raffle Donors

The Boston Athenaeum
The Boston Pops Orchestra
Childs Gallery
Robert B. Dimmick
Jacqueline Blombach and Michael A. Duca
Frances Duffly
Samuel H. Duncan
A Friend of the Gibson House Museum
Edward W. Gordon
Gordon's Fine Wines and Liquors
Mary Ethel Grady/Willow & Urn Antiques
Redstone Liquors
Emily Shick
Shaker Workshop of Arlington
Taj Boston
Katherine B. Winter

Donors in Recognition

In honor of William C. Clendaniel:

Thomas Aaron
Architectural Heritage Foundation
Gregory Jackson and Peter Sanborn
Mrs. Jeffrey Marshall
Patricia Quinn
Jane Roy
Virginia White

In honor of Rosamond Warren Allen and Elizabeth T. Harbison
Elizabeth Field

In honor of Samuel H. Duncan, to be used for curatorship endowment
Mary Hammond Norton

In honor of Alyson Shaw
Charlotte Troyanowski

In memory of Henry Allen
James Alleyn Duncan

In memory of Patrick Dooley
Elizabeth and Keith Brooks
Ann K. and Thomas Gallo
Rhodi and Patricia Harries
Francis X. Mangan and Martha Favre
Nina and Jack Mangan

Designated Donations/Matching Gifts

Rosamond Warren Allen, for purchase of Rosamond Warren Gibson's
silver carriage clock
Jacqueline D. Blombach for Benefit flowers
Sheila Donahue for Benefit musicians
Frances Duffly for purchase of guide books and donation box
NVIDIA Corp. Employee Giving Program for Samuel H. Duncan
Ryan & Wood Distilleries for Repeal Day donations

Robert B. Severy for restoration of large vase in music room
Connie Stevens and Glen Gurney for donation of Christmas tree

In-Kind Services

Fisher College, for snow removal and lawn maintenance
Laura Gresh, for design of Benefit invitation
Mary Prince Photography for Benefit photography
Janet Younker and Denise Crean, Garden Club of the Back Bay, for
exterior floral plantings

Restricted Donations

For carpet replacement:

Louise Ambler
Robert Davison
Sheila Donahue
Frances Duffly
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Felicia Fund
Nelson S. Gifford
Diane Gipson
Donna Harshman
Lorie Komlyn
Rosanne Kumins
Keith Tornheim

Endowments

For Guides Endowment:

Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman
Ronald Brooks
Frances Duffly
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Cindy and Robert S. Goodof
Elizabeth T. Harbison
Nancy C. Holcomb
Ruth Ann Kupfer
Judith and Christopher Leich
Mary Martin
Mary Ann and Dr. Richard Morrill
Carl Nold
David O'Dowd
Kenneth Roberts

For Curator Endowment:

John B. Duncan
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan
Nelson S. Gifford
Mary Hammond Norton
Jo Anne and John O'Neill



© Mary Prince photography

Program Committee Director Ed Gordon leading one of his ever-popular walking tours.

Membership

Is your membership up to date? The support of members is crucial to the operations of the museum, allowing us to preserve this virtually untouched nineteenth-century historic structure and allowing us to make its history and collections available to ever-wider audiences and to student groups from across New England and beyond. Your tax-deductible contribution will go a long way. **If you haven't renewed your membership lately, we urge you to do so now.**



Photo by John Woolf

Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Levels:

Individual \$50

One museum guest pass, free or reduced admission to most programs sponsored by the Gibson House Museum, newsletter, and e-mails of upcoming events

Family/Dual \$75

Same as above with two guest passes

Friend \$250

Same as above with four guest passes and a private tour for four

Sustainer \$500

Same as above with six guest passes and an invitation to a reception with the museum curator

1859 Club \$1,000

Same as above and an invitation to a private outing created for this level of membership

Student (18-25) \$25

Free or reduced admission to most programs sponsored by the Gibson House Museum

The museum is a nonprofit organization; contributions are tax-deductible.

Please make payment to: The Gibson Society, Inc.,
137 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116

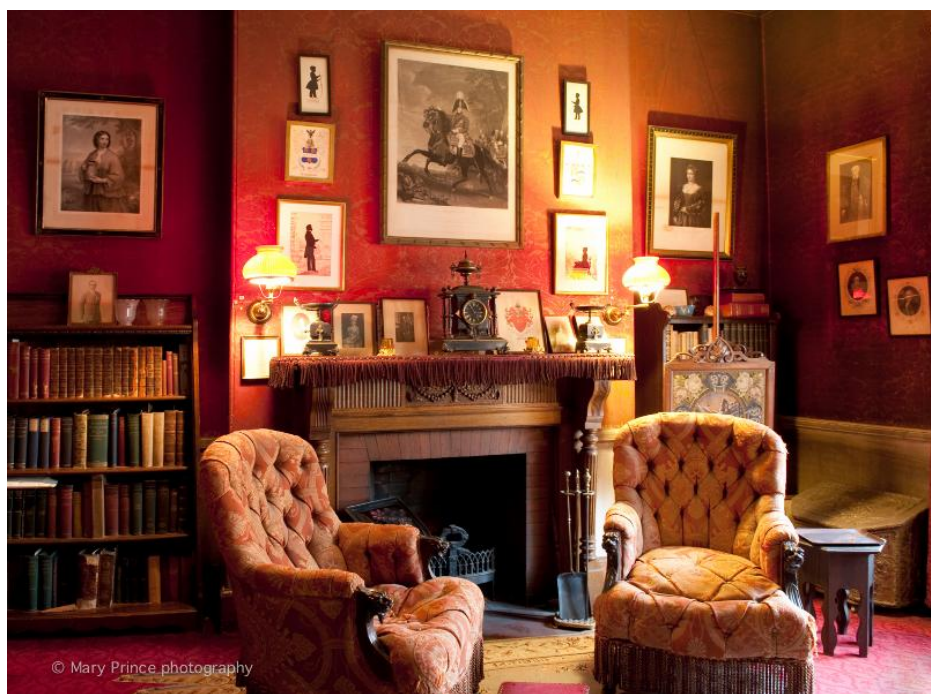
617.267.6338

info@thegibsonhouse.org

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www.thegibsonhouse.org

Proceeds to benefit the preservation
of the Gibson House Museum



© Mary Prince photography

Second floor red study; photo by Mary Prince, Mary Prince Photography of Boston

Gibson House Museum 137 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02116
617.267.6338 www.thegibsonhouse.org info@thegibsonhouse.org
The Gibson House Museum is an authentic Victorian row house located at 137 Beacon Street. Built in 1859, it is one of Back Bay's earliest houses and stands as the historic house museum of the Back Bay. The Museum is open to the public and preserved as a time capsule of the daily life of a well-to-do Back Bay Boston family and its domestic staff. The Gibson House Museum is a National Historic Landmark and listed on the Massachusetts State Register of Historic Places.

Gibson House Museum A National Historic Landmark