



# On The House

News from the Gibson House



## GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM

Historic ✱ Authentic ✱ Illuminating

### 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 \$10;  
students and seniors (62+)  
\$8; children (under 12) \$3

### MEMBERSHIP:

to become a member,  
contact us at 617.267.6338  
or [info@thegibsonhouse.org](mailto:info@thegibsonhouse.org)  
or visit our website at  
[www.thegibsonhouse.org](http://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

Museum Administrator  
Michelle Coughlin

### Curator

Meghan Gelardi  
Holmes

Museum and Curatorial  
Assistant

Barbara Callahan

## Gibson Society, Inc. 2016-2017 Annual Report October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017



Photo by John Woolf

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to you, our members, friends, and donors, for supporting the Gibson House during fiscal year 2016-2017. This was a period of growth and productivity for the museum, with the introduction of updated programming, new personnel, and initiatives meant to enhance the visitor experience.

Among the year's highlights:

\*The museum continued to attract visitors from across the U.S. and around the globe. We were pleased to note a combined increase in visitorship and program attendance of 18 percent over the previous fiscal year, as the museum's active online presence heightens awareness of its unique offerings.

\*We remained a significant resource for students and scholars from the Boston area and beyond. In addition to welcoming classes from the Art Guild, the Boston Architectural College, Boston College, Fisher College, Mass College of Art, North Bennett St. School, Simmons College, Suffolk University, and Wentworth Institute of Technology, we hosted interns from Emmanuel and Scripps Colleges as well as the Winterthur Museum, the country's leading institution of American decorative arts.

\*We presented entertaining and educational programs on subjects ranging from Victorian mourning customs to reading the interiors in Edith Wharton's *House of Mirth*, and offered special tours on the museum's paintings, servant life, and family and work, the latter in conjunction with our Boston House Museum Alliance colleagues. We

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samuel H. Duncan,  
President  
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Vice President  
Lorraine Hanley,  
Treasurer  
Susan Ashbrook,  
Secretary  
Jacob Barry  
Jacqueline Blombach  
Frances Duffly  
David R. Hocker  
Lorie K. Komlyn  
Ruth Ann Kupfer  
Lauren Thomas  
Katherine B. Winter

William Pear II (Emeritus)

## TRIP ADVISOR REVIEWS

"I had the best time at the Gibson House Museum. The tour guide was super-friendly and knowledgeable. The house itself is charming [and] well preserved and there is so much to see....If you love history and museums, then you will enjoy this tour.... Highly recommend!"  
*Reviewed April 2018*

"It really is a beautiful house and the tour guide was fantastic! If you love history and the Victorian era, this is the perfect tour for you. It really is like stepping into a time machine. Great museum!"  
*Reviewed May 2017*

"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 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*

participated in Smithsonian Museum Day and International Women's Day, and welcomed neighbors at our Halloween and Holiday Open Houses. We also raised the roof at our Fifth Annual Repeal Day celebration.

\*At our Annual Benefit, held at the Chilton Club, we honored Suffolk University historian Robert Allison for his wonderful dedication to increasing awareness of and enthusiasm for Boston history. All proceeds supported the museum's mission of preservation, education, and outreach.

\*Thanks to generous donors, in particular Diane Gipson, we raised the final funds needed for our red carpet replacement project. We also received a generous gift from Gibson family descendant and museum supporter Rosamond Warren Allen that will enable us to reproduce the blue carpet in the second-floor family room.

\*After an extensive search, we hired the talented Meghan Gelardi Holmes to replace retiring curator of twenty-five years, Wendy Swanton. The museum has greatly benefited under Wendy's guidance and is now poised to head in new directions.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity and your part in ensuring our continued success. Thank you, as always, for your friendship and support!

Sincerely,

Michelle Coughlin  
Museum Administrator



Board members celebrate the installation of the museum's new bench last fall. Front row, from left: David Hocker, Lorraine Hanley, Ruth Ann Kupfer, and Susan Ashbrook. Back row, from left: Edward Gordon, Jackie Blombach, President Samuel H. Duncan, Frances Duffly, Laurie Thomas, and Jacob Barry. (Missing: Lorie Komlyn and Kitty Winter.)

## Treasurer's Report

Lorraine Hanley



The Gibson House ended fiscal year 2016-2017 with a surplus of \$7,493, the highest surplus the museum has seen in nearly a decade. Marketing and community engagement efforts by museum staff and board members continued to pay off, as museum admissions reached an all time high, earning \$18,525. Our strong revenue was due to generous donations from visitors, friends, and board members, which totaled \$32,225 in unrestricted funds. The 2017 annual benefit at the Chilton Club garnered an additional \$37,345 for museum operations and special curatorial projects. Another \$10,000 of income was generated from the sale of letters written by Harriet Beecher Stowe held by the museum. As the letters were not accessioned in the museum's collection, they were sold to the Stowe Center in Connecticut for preservation in their archives.

In fiscal year 2016-2017 the museum only used 20% (\$2,645) of budgeted endowment draw. With the exception of maintenance costs, museum operating expenses were in line with budget forecasts. Maintenance overrun was largely due to a necessary pipe replacement for the fire safety system.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the museum had approximately \$410,000 in its endowment. The museum has four endowment accounts, the largest of which is unrestricted with approximately \$364,700. The other three accounts are restricted as funds designated for the Curator, Tour Guides, and Special Projects. The Gibson House Museum ended the year on strong financial footing, and we will continue to work toward increasing its financial stability.



2017 Annual Benefit

The Gibson House Museum would like to thank the following supporters:

### **Contributors**

#### **1859 Club**

Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry  
Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman  
Jacqueline D. Blombach and Michael A. Duca  
Sheila and Charles Donahue  
Frances and Thomas C. Duffly  
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan  
Nelson S. Gifford

Diane Gipson  
Cindy and Robert S. Goodof  
David R. Hocker  
Barbara Hughey  
Ruth Ann Kupfer  
Judith and Christopher Leich  
Mary Hammond Norton  
Lauren Thomas and Peter Der Manuelian  
Katherine B. Winter

**Donors for Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

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Janet and William Younker  
Linda Zukowski



#### **Raffle Donors**

Michael A. Duca  
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan  
Friends of the Gibson House Museum  
The Garden Club of the Back Bay and Jacqueline D. Blombach  
Edward. W. Gordon  
Mary Ethel Grady/Willow and Urn Antiques  
Miss Kitty  
Paula Metcalf Lazar  
Peabody Essex Museum and a Friend of the Gibson House Museum  
Emily Shick  
Taj Boston and Lauren Thomas  
Katherine B. Winter

#### **Donors in Recognition**

In honor of Robert J. Allison, from  
College of Arts and Sciences, Suffolk University  
History Department, Suffolk University  
In memory of Dr. Henry Allen, from  
Laura M. and James Alleyn Duncan  
In honor of Samuel H. Duncan, from  
Mary Hammond Norton  
In memory of Alexander K. Severy, to be used for coat of arms  
repair, from Robert B. Severy

#### **Designated Donations/Matching Gifts**

Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry for Museum Assistant  
Dr. F. Towne Allen for Museum Assistant

Back Bay Hardware for front yard bench  
Jacqueline D. Blombach for Benefit flowers  
Boston Redevelopment Authority Prudential Center Community  
Benefits grant for front yard bench  
Sheila Donahue for Benefit musicians  
Frances Duffly for purchase of card table  
Lorraine Hanley for purchase of guidebooks  
Ruth Ann Kupfer for Museum Assistant, and for office air  
conditioners  
NVIDIA Corp. Employee Giving Program for Samuel H. Duncan  
Ryan & Wood Distilleries for Repeal Day donations

### **In-Kind Services**

Fisher College, for snow removal and lawn maintenance  
Janet Younker and Carlos A. Soto-Chaves, Garden Club of the Back  
Bay, for exterior floral plantings

### **Restricted Donations**

#### For replacement of carpets:

Rosamond Warren Allen and Paul Landry  
Ahna Wayne Aposhian  
Jacqueline D. Blombach  
Robert B. Dimmick  
Sheila and Charles Donahue  
Samuel H. and Nancy Jane Duncan  
Diane Gipson  
Lorraine Hanley  
Donna Harshman  
Barbara Hughey  
Kathryn Liede  
Rene Morrissette and Joseph Richard  
Anne Swanson  
John Wolfarth

#### For curatorship fund:

Susan Ashbrook and Fritz Casselman  
Sheila and Charles Donahue  
Nancy Jane and Samuel H. Duncan  
Frances Duffly  
Cindy and Robert Goodof  
Katherine B. Howe  
Barbara Hughey  
Judith and Christopher Leich  
David Meehan  
Loumona Petroff

### **Endowments**

#### For guides fund endowment:

Frances Duffly  
Cindy and Robert Goodof  
Kenneth Roberts





2016 Repeal Day Celebration

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**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 a private tour for six

**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](mailto:info@thegibsonhouse.org)



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**137 BEACON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116**

[www.thegibsonhouse.org](http://www.thegibsonhouse.org)

Proceeds to benefit the preservation  
of the Gibson House Museum



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

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

Gibson House Museum 137 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02116  
617.267.6338 [www.thegibsonhouse.org](http://www.thegibsonhouse.org) [info@thegibsonhouse.org](mailto:info@thegibsonhouse.org)