

FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF WGBH

Sharing the VISION

FALL 2015



Another Masterpiece *Downton Abbey's* Final Season



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View from the President



Tune in Sunday, January 3 at 9pm on WGBH 2 for the premiere of the sixth and final season of *Downton Abbey* on *Masterpiece*

More than any other WGBH series, *Masterpiece* is part of people's lives. Whether you love great classics like *Little Dorrit* and *Poldark*, brilliant period dramas like *Downton Abbey*, or suspenseful, 21st-century mysteries with a classic twist like *Sherlock* with Benedict Cumberbatch, *Masterpiece* is there for you, your family, and millions of fans every single week—on television and online.

In January 2016, *Masterpiece* celebrates its 45th anniversary and Rebecca Eaton's 30th anniversary as executive producer. During her reign—may it long continue—*Masterpiece* just keeps getting better, with critically acclaimed hits, stacks of awards, and a series that is bigger than ever. This past year, *Masterpiece* increased its Sunday night footprint by 50 percent, adding 20 additional hours of new programming.

"The expansion of *Masterpiece* is kind of a television miracle," says Rebecca. "It's a tremendous affirmation of the material, the work of our British partners, the loyalty of our viewers, the commitment of WGBH and PBS, the support of our corporate funders, and, in particular, the extraordinary generosity of the philanthropists here in Boston and across the country who've contributed to the *Masterpiece* Trust."

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about the *Masterpiece* Trust (which was established five years ago to help secure the series' future) and one of its contributors: arts patron Dave Wimberly (page 3). We'll also introduce you to our newest Overseers (page 6), as well as take a close-up look at RLS Fellow Kirstan Barnett (page 5), whose commitment to fostering social good is both wide and deep. We're grateful to them, and to all of you, for ensuring that WGBH has the critical private support to create and deliver intelligent, compelling content that millions of Americans count on every day.

JONATHAN C. ABBOTT
PRESIDENT AND CEO



Arts Patron & *Masterpiece* A Perfect Match

DAVE WIMBERLY traces his enthusiasm for the arts back to his early years growing up in Dallas, where he regularly attended the city's outdoor summer operetta series. "I always enjoyed the acting, the productions, the whole fantasy world of theater," says the founder and chairman emeritus of Frontier Capital Management Company, LLC.

That enthusiasm grew into a lifelong commitment to ensuring that the arts are accessible to all—from his chairmanship of the Huntington Theatre, where his leadership gift funded construction of the Virginia Wimberly Theatre (seating 380) in honor of his late wife, a talented pianist and music teacher...to his major support of the *Masterpiece* Trust, established in 2011 to ensure the future of WGBH's award-winning drama series.

"I see a lot of similarities between what the Huntington Theatre is doing on a small scale and what WGBH, *Masterpiece*, and executive producer Rebecca Eaton are doing on a worldwide stage," says the Wellesley resident, who also spends time in Montana where he practices the art of fly-fishing. "I believe in making high-quality music and drama available to as many people—through as many venues—as possible. And what better way than through public media: television, streaming, and all the new technologies ahead."

A longtime *Masterpiece* fan, Wimberly was first introduced to the Trust by his friend, WGBH Trustee Emeritus Bill Pounds, on the occasion of *Masterpiece*'s 40th anniversary gala five years ago. He and his friend Sue Dahlie also joined Bill and his wife Helen on what he describes as WGBH's "amazing" *Downton Abbey*-inspired *Masterpiece* Tour to England in 2013. "That kind of networking through friends is very effective, particularly for nonprofit organizations," says Wimberly, an RLS Benefactor and strong advocate for both the series and the Trust.

"*Masterpiece* is a national jewel," Wimberly says. "Supporting the Trust, and encouraging others to do so, is the best way I can help ensure that *Masterpiece* has the resources to create important new works with some of the best actors on the planet for years to come."

Masterpiece Milestones

The coming year might be described as an *annus mirabilis* for WGBH's *Masterpiece*:

- We are celebrating *Masterpiece*'s 45th anniversary as the longest-running, most honored prime-time drama series on American television.
- We're saluting Rebecca Eaton on her 30th anniversary as executive producer—her nose for great scripts, characters, and talent has never been keener.
- And we're marking the fifth anniversary of the *Masterpiece* Trust, a collaborative effort with public television stations nationwide that provides philanthropists who care deeply about the series with the opportunity to secure its future by supporting it in a substantial way: with gifts of \$25,000 or more. Seventy-seven individuals have stepped forward since 2011, contributing \$14.6 million and counting.

Masterpiece Trust donors have praised the Trust as a "really smart national/local



collaboration" that allows them to support both the national series and their home station. It is an innovative fundraising model that helps ensure

Masterpiece will continue to thrive. This past year, the series increased its Sunday night footprint by 50% with 20 additional hours of programming that included *Wolf Hall*, *Poldark*, and *Grantchester*.

"I am profoundly and personally grateful to our *Masterpiece* Trust friends here in Boston and across the country," says Rebecca. "And I promise you that your trust is well placed. Keep an eye out for some great new productions in 2016, starting with the grand finale of *Downton Abbey* and a new *Sherlock* with Benedict Cumberbatch!"

**For more information, contact
Win Lenihan, VP of Development, at
617.300.3804 or win_lenihan@wgbh.org**

News from the Ralph Lowell Society

RLS Impact

Ralph Lowell Society members' impact has never been greater, as this issue of *Sharing the Vision* so amply demonstrates.



Each of the individuals profiled are philanthropists who are making a difference in their spheres of interest, and

through their significant annual RLS support of WGBH.

And RLS membership comes with privileges: RLS events give you access to the extraordinary talent behind WGBH's acclaimed productions. This fall, we enjoyed a preview of *American Experience's* new biography of Walt Disney, followed by a discussion with executive producer Mark Samels and film contributors, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and Harvard Business School professor Nancy Koehn.

Many of us attended the WGBH Food & Wine Festival's Chef's Gala Reception. And classical fans gathered in WGBH's Fraser Performance Studio for stellar performances by pianists Michelle and Christina Naughton, and Conrad Tao.

Keep an eye out for your invitation to RLS's *Downton Abbey* event on Saturday, December 5, where we'll celebrate the series' final season. Then mark your calendar for March, when we'll gather to watch *Downton's* final episode in Yawkey Theater (details to follow).

As RLS Chair, I intend to continue expanding our membership in the coming year, and the best way is through you. I hope you'll invite your friends to attend an RLS event in 2016, take a tour of WGBH, and more. RLS director Kaja Fickes (page 5) looks forward to hearing from you.

As always, thank you for making WGBH a priority in your life!



SIMONE STEDRY WINSTON
CHAIR, RALPH LOWELL SOCIETY

A Performance Paired To Perfection

Twin sisters and pianists Christina and Michelle Naughton delighted RLS members and friends with a performance of works from their upcoming CD, which they recorded right here in WGBH's Fraser Performance Studio. Guests enjoyed a chance to mingle with the talented sisters at a reception following their masterful concert.



RLS FRIENDS **GINNY AND ANDREJ STARKIS** CHAT WITH PIANISTS **CHRISTINA AND MICHELLE NAUGHTON**



RLS FRIENDS **KAREN AND JOEL SIRKIN** ENJOY THE EVENING



FROM LEFT: RLS CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE MEMBER **GLORIA ROSE** (OVERSEER), RLS BENEFACTOR **KAREN LEVY** (OVERSEER), AND **LINDA WAINTRUP** SHARE A MOMENT DURING THE POST-PERFORMANCE RECEPTION



MICHELLE AND CHRISTINA NAUGHTON REGALE THE AUDIENCE WITH THEIR REMARKABLE TANDEM MUSICIANSHIP

Food, Wine, and Friends

WGBH's annual Food and Wine Festival was a hit again this year with a delightful evening of music and 24 restaurant-hosted tables featuring delectable foods and delicious wines. RLS members enjoyed complimentary tickets to the Chef's Gala Reception held at the WGBH Studios.



FROM LEFT: RLS BENEFACTORS **OSCAR MALCOLM** (TRUSTEE) AND **SANDRA STRATFORD** ENJOY THE EVENING WITH RLS FELLOW **HEATHER HOHENTHAL**



RLS SPONSOR **JANE OWENS** (SHOWN RIGHT, OVERSEERS ADVISORY BOARD) AND A FRIEND RECEIVE WINE TIPS FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF HOEPLER WINERY



WGBH'S CALDERWOOD STUDIO WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A FESTIVE HOTSPOT FOR THE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL



RLS FRIENDS **BRIAN AND SUSAN SCHANING**



An Angel Investor in Social Good

KIRSTAN BARNETT is a force of nature. She's general counsel at a Boston-area hedge fund. She's enrolled in an MBA program at MIT. She's co-founder of SheGives, a philanthropic foundation made up of "smart women, giving smartly" that grew out of her involvement in angel investing in start-up companies with friends. "I like to be equally strategic and thoughtful about my investments for social good," she says, "so I thought, why don't we figure out a way to direct this model to high-impact Boston-area nonprofits?" And she's an Overseer and Ralph Lowell Society member who cares deeply about WGBH's public media mission.

When did WGBH first come on your radar?

WGBH is the single largest producer for PBS, and I've been watching public television my entire life. I appreciated WGBH long before I moved to Boston in 1998.

What are some of your all-time favorite WGBH productions?

Masterpiece's Prime Suspect, certainly. When I lived in New York in the early 1990s, I was transfixed by the original versions of *Traffic* and *House of Cards*. And, of course, *The French Chef* is seminal. Julia Child's influence is remarkable, especially in Boston. I was recently at a lunch for leaders in women's philanthropy hosted by chef-owner Jody Adams. We were talking about how blessed we are to have so many talented women restaurateurs here. I believe we owe a debt to Julia, whose icon status was magnified through WGBH.

With so many worthy causes, why have you made WGBH a priority?

WGBH has the unique power—and responsibility—of producing content that is not commercially driven. Without WGBH and its illuminating programming—*Masterpiece*, *Nova*, *Frontline*, *American Experience*...educationally rich children's programs—we would be less fierce, less determined, less courageous, less curious, and less inspired.

Favorite activities, besides bicycling with your adorable rescue dog Lola?

I am halfway through an executive MBA program at MIT. My "favorite activities" are studying System Dynamics, Operations Management, and Macroeconomics with my stimulating and supportive classmates.

Meet Kaja Fickes, New RLS Director

When I first told friends I was coming to work at WGBH back in 2004, I knew I had made a wonderful decision based on the gleam of recognition in their eyes and the great diversity of congratulations I received, from "I grew up on *Zoom*" to "*Frontline* is my favorite news program" to "*Masterpiece* is my



Sunday obsession" and on and on. WGBH executes on its mission to educate, inspire, and entertain in so many vital ways and as director of the Ralph Lowell

Society, I look forward to sharing the breadth of our work with you in the coming months and years. I also hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you at our events and hear what program, initiative or philosophy inspires your support. In the meantime, thank you very much for your generosity to WGBH!

Time to renew your membership?

Contact the RLS at ralph_lowell_society@wgbh.org or 617.300.3900 today to make your gift by year's end. Thank you!

RALPH LOWELL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- FRIEND • \$1,500
- FELLOW • \$2,500
- SPONSOR • \$5,000
- BENEFACTOR • \$10,000
- PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE • \$25,000
- CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE • \$50,000
- INNOVATOR'S CIRCLE • \$100,000

RLS Chair • Simone Stedry Winston
 Director • Kaja K. Fickes
 Senior Development Officer • Beth Zogby
 Senior Events Manager • Jeanmarie Roberts
 Development Officer • Marion Westgate
 Development Associate • Carrie Colodner
 Development Assistant • Glenna Pop-Stefanov

2015 Becton Fellows

The Becton Fellowship, which is supported by the Becton Fund in honor of WGBH's former president and current vice chair, Henry Becton, Jr., recognizes promising WGBH producers and content creators whose work is emblematic of WGBH's mission. Congratulations to this year's Fellows!

Patricia Alvarado Núñez

Patricia is co-executive producer of WGBH's local chorale competition: *Sing*



That Thing! She's produced 75+ hours of TV programming, including award-winning documentaries, music specials, and on-location

and studio-based programs. She was the series producer for WGBH's *La Plaza*, one of the longest running Latino series on public TV; *Maria Hinojosa: One-on-One*; and *Neighborhood Kitchens*. She also co-produced *American Experience's Fidel Castro*. Her work has earned her 10 New England Emmys, 2 TELLIs, and 2 CINE Golden Eagles.

Jillian Orr

Jillian is the executive producer of WGBH's Children's Media group. She leads the First 8 Studios digital team, with a focus



on researching/developing/designing optimal learning technologies in collaboration with scientists, educators, and families to

support healthy child development. Her current work includes exploring how tablet technology can enhance preschoolers' STEM learning and collaboration. She also is working with pediatricians to develop interactive e-books and multimedia to help families and young children understand diagnoses, such as Type I diabetes.



From left: Overseers Patricia Jacoby, Chair Will Thorndike, Paul Lee, and Donald Ware

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Overseers

Chair Will Thorndike welcomed the Board of Overseers' newest members, who "bring an extraordinary breadth of talent and expertise." Overseers play a critical role in strengthening and promoting the public's appreciation of the mission and work of WGBH. As valuable ambassadors, they contribute their time, ideas, and resources.

RED BARRETT is president and CEO of Permal Capital Management. He serves on a number of fund advisory boards and holds board positions at various private and public companies.

STACY COWAN is a partner at Morgan, Brown & Joy, LLP. She is a member of the American Bar Association, National Employment Law Council, MA Black Lawyers Association, Corporate Counsel Women of Color, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and a founding board member of UP Academy Charter Schools of Boston and Dorchester. She is a trustee at the Museum of Science and recent past co-chair of WGBH's Community Advisory Board.

SALLY CURRIER is a member of Hestia Boston, a trustee at FUEL Education, and a member of the New England Advisory Board for Facing History and Ourselves.

PATRICIA (PAT) JACOBY is deputy director emerita of the Museum of Fine Arts. She is a trustee of Mount Auburn Cemetery, director of Cambridge Center for Adult Education, manager of White Oak Cottages at Fox Hill Village, and member of Thursday Morning Talks of Mount Auburn Hospital and the MFA Visiting Committee for Prints, Drawings and Photographs.

PAUL W. LEE is of counsel at Goodwin Procter LLP. He serves on the boards of The Boston Foundation, Common Impact, Asian American Justice Center (chair), MA Asian American Committee (past chair), and the Asian Community Development Corporation (board president).

LEE PELTON is president of Emerson College. He chairs the Board of the Boston Arts Academy and sits on numerous others: Boston Chamber of Commerce, Museum of African American History, Museum of Fine Arts, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts, and the Council of Independent Colleges. A Harvard alumnus, he has served the University in many capacities.

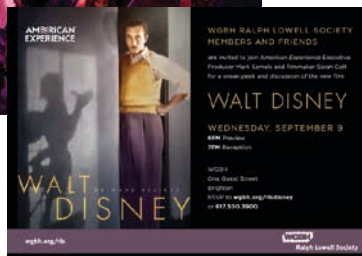
JONATHAN POORVU is president of Property Resource Group. He is an overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a trustee of Cambridge Center for Adult Education, and Miss Hall's School.

DONALD WARE is a partner at Foley Hoag LLP, chair of the firm's Intellectual Property Department and past member of the firm's Executive Committee. He served as chair of the board of the A.R.T., and on the boards of The Nature Conservancy and the Capitol Center for the Arts.



Making Believe

This fall, RLS members and friends enjoyed watching a preview of *American Experience*'s two-part documentary about the legacy of one of America's most enduring and influential storytellers: Walt Disney. Guests were then treated to a lively panel discussion with *American Experience* executive producer Mark Samels and film contributors—Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and Harvard Business School professor Nancy Koehn. Following the presentation, guests had the opportunity to chat with panelists during a reception in Yawkey Atrium.



RLS SPONSORS **RED** (OVERSEER) AND **DIANA BARRETT** ENJOY THE EVENING



RLS BENEFACTORS **HARRY SHERR** AND **CYNTHIA STRAUSS** (OVERSEER) WITH WGBH PRESIDENT **JON ABBOTT**



AMERICAN EXPERIENCE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **MARK SAMELS** AND RLS CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE MEMBER **TERRIE BLOOM** (TRUSTEE)



FROM LEFT: RLS SPONSOR **LIZ ROGERS** (OVERSEER), VP FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMMING **JOHN BREDAR**, RLS FRIEND **ELEANOR CLARKSON**, AND **SARAH CROWLEY**

2015 McGhee Fellow

Sarah Colt

Established in honor of WGBH's longtime vice president for national programming, the Peter S. McGhee Fellowship is given annually to a mid-career filmmaker who has shown exceptional promise in the production of nonfiction television.



This year's McGhee Fellow is Emmy Award-winning writer, producer, and director Sarah Colt. Her newest film, *Walt Disney for American Experience*, is just the latest example of two decades of exemplary work creating thought-provoking documentaries for public media. Sarah's previous *American Experience* credits include *Henry Ford* and *The Polio Crusade*. She currently is working on a four-hour documentary on the Gilded Age set to premiere in 2018.

2015 Rey Producer

Chris Hastings

WGBH's Margret and Hans Rey/*Curious George* Producership was established by



a bequest to support work that reflects Margret Rey's lifelong interests in science, public affairs, arts, health, and children's programming. This year's Rey Producer

Chris Hastings is executive producer and editorial manager of content for WGBH's World Channel and WorldChannel.org. He oversees content development, acquisition, and production, as well as day-to-day operations of the channel. In his role as executive producer, he curates the award-winning documentary series *America ReFramed*, *Local*, *USA*, and *Your Voice*, *Your Story*. Chris began his tenure at WGBH with our children's series *Zoom*.

Sharing the VISION



FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF WGBH • FALL 2015



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for the January 3 premiere of *Downton Abbey's* final season on *Masterpiece*!

“If you could distill the essence of *Masterpiece*, it might be that it is stories about families. Family stories are sagas: love, betrayal, money, infatuation, infidelity, illness, family love, and family deception. **Masterpiece stories are our own stories**, writ large, usually with happy endings, and usually in times and places much more exotic or melodramatic than our own. And that is what I love most in the world—stories.”

—Rebecca Eaton

MASTERPIECE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



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Sharing the Vision is a
publication of WGBH

Editorial
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Associate Director
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