

FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF WGBH

# Sharing the VISION

SUMMER 2016



## *Nova Journeys* Back in Time



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## View from the President



On the cover: *Nova's Great Human Odyssey* premieres this fall on WGBH2 and PBS stations nationwide

**N**ova's *Great Human Odyssey*, premiering this fall, traces the paths that led our ancestors out of Africa and around the world. Hosted by Canadian anthropologist and filmmaker Niobe Thompson, the film is a spectacular global journey that retraces our human origins, adaptability and survival. This sweeping two-hour special takes viewers to the Namibian desert, the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, and across the arctic sea to unlock the great mysteries of human civilization.

Four decades now since it first aired, WGBH's *Nova* continues to expand perspectives, inspire new understanding and encourage engagement with the world through science. It's the most-watched prime-time science series on American television, coupled with an extensive digital presence.

In this issue, we'll introduce you to a few of the extraordinary donors who help make WGBH's work possible. We remember WGBH Science Visiting Council member Carolyn Lynch (p. 3), whose lifelong love of science and education lives on through a gift to *Nova* from the Lynch Foundation. You'll meet WGBH Science Visiting Council members Neil and Anna Rasmussen (p. 4), passionate *Nova* fans who care about science's future—and who recently committed a generous gift from their family foundation in support of the series. And long-time WGBH overseer, Woody Ives, and his wife, Elizabeth (p. 9), who are investing in WGBH's future with a planned gift.

You'll also meet Steve Glick and his wife Julia Clarkson (p. 6), who enjoy the family-friendly benefits of Ralph Lowell Society membership, and whose favorite series to watch with their two kids is *Making Stuff*, another *Nova* production. We also learn about the Society's namesake, Ralph Lowell, and introduce our newest Trustees. We're extremely grateful to them, and to you, for helping WGBH create original, innovative content that millions of people connect with every day.

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Jon", positioned above the name and title of the President and CEO.

JONATHAN C. ABBOTT  
PRESIDENT AND CEO





## Remembering Carolyn Lynch

WGBH mourns the untimely passing of longtime supporter and WGBH Science Visiting Council member Carolyn Lynch, who died on October 1, 2015. Just weeks earlier, Carolyn spoke with us about the importance of science education, and the significant gift she and her husband Peter made through their family foundation in support of an ambitious new Nova production. Our deepest condolences to her family and the many people whose lives she touched.

Her father was a high school science teacher, her grandfather was a chemist, and both were powerful role models. **CAROLYN LYNCH** grew up in rural Pennsylvania and spent her youth exploring the natural world (collecting butterflies, dissecting roadkill, rescuing nestlings), reading science fiction, and getting a close-up look at the rigors and wonders of science with her grandfather in his basement chemistry lab. She went on to earn a BA in biology from the University of Pennsylvania—one more step in pursuing what she described as her “lifelong passion for science and learning.”

It was that passion that drove Carolyn’s enthusiasm for a new *Nova* film about black holes. “Carolyn’s and Peter’s gift allowed us to green light this two-hour special about one of the most cutting-edge subjects in science today,” says WGBH’s Paula Apsell, senior executive producer for the award-winning series.

Carolyn first learned about the film at a meeting of WGBH’s Science Visiting Council. She was immediately intrigued. “Scientists haven’t directly observed black holes, but they’ve observed their gravitational effects in outer space,” she said. “It’s a very exciting part of astrophysics right now, and somewhat crazy. *Nova* is the *only* science outlet today that could take a difficult subject like this and make it both accessible and entertaining for millions of people.”

“We live in a complex world,” she continued. “Without a basic knowledge of science, it’s hard to effectively participate in society. *Nova* is in a keystone spot right now in helping the public understand and learn about science.”

What did she hope their gift would achieve? “Peter and I love learning and care deeply about education,” Carolyn concluded. “I expect that in the process of being amazed and entertained, audiences will learn some important scientific concepts and they’ll feel better about science at the end of it.”

### A Lasting Legacy

“Discover where your passion lies. Act on it. And you will accomplish great things.” Those were words that Carolyn Lynch lived by, and her many friends are honoring her through their generous gifts in Carolyn’s memory to a WGBH/*Nova* project near and dear to her heart. *Mystery of the Monster Black Holes*, hosted by astrophysicist Janna Levin, is a two-hour film and educational outreach effort that will explore one of the most enigmatic and mysterious objects in the universe.



“Carolyn was very excited to know that her support allowed *Nova* to move forward with this important project,” says her husband, Peter Lynch. “Our family is grateful to her many friends for honoring her in this way.” Thirty donors have contributed nearly \$43,000, and their generosity will have a lasting impact. The funds will be used to augment a robust educational outreach initiative about black holes aimed at 6th to 12th graders, says WGBH’s Paula Apsell, *Nova* senior executive producer.

“I was shocked and terribly saddened by Carolyn’s death,” says Paula. “I loved working with her on WGBH’s Science Visiting Council and was always buoyed by her enthusiasm and intelligence.” Paula recently announced that *Nova*’s *Mystery of the Monster Black Holes* will be dedicated to Carolyn’s memory. “Janna Levin and our entire team at WGBH/*Nova* remain forever grateful for Carolyn’s great interest in the subject and her support.”

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## Science Visiting Council

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WGBH's Science Visiting Council is a group of individuals from around the country—leaders in science and technology, business, philanthropy and education—dedicated to promoting science literacy through public media. Members serve as advocates for WGBH's and *Nova*'s work to advance the public understanding of science and science literacy. With 17 current members, the Council, founded in 2008, is committed to actively promoting scientific understanding and the value of science education, and ensuring that



*Nova* and WGBH continue to play a leading and constructive role in science literacy and education. Members serve as both ambassadors for and supporters of these efforts.

New members who joined the council in 2015-2016 include **William R. Hearst, III**, of San Francisco, Chairman, Hearst Corporation; **Paul A. Offit, MD**, of Pennsylvania, Division of Infectious Diseases, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; **Anna Rasmussen**, Principal Trustee, Neil and Anna Rasmussen Foundation; and **Neil Rasmussen**, Co-Founder and former CTO, American Power Conversion Corporation.

There are opportunities throughout the year for Council members to convene. The next gathering will coincide with SMASH16 (Science Media Awards & Summit in the Hub), which will be held at WGBH in September. A collaboration with the Jackson Hole Film Festival, SMASH will bring together leading scientists and science communicators from around the world to share ideas, discoveries and celebrate excellence in science media.



## Strengthening the Future of *Nova*, and Science

**P**assionate *Nova* fans **NEIL AND ANNA RASMUSSEN** of Concord, MA, recently committed a generous gift from their family foundation to support the groundbreaking science program, now in its fourth decade.

Neil recalls watching *Nova* as a child, when he first became fascinated with science. "I also remember that every news program had a science editor who would address science-related issues for viewers—something that seems to have completely disappeared now. And that's frightening," says Neil. "Somewhere we have to pick up the slack."

And that's exactly what the Rasmussens are committed to doing. An engineer by training, Neil recently scaled down his full-time responsibilities as senior vice president of innovation for Schneider Electric to focus more on charitable work. In addition to their recent generous gift, the couple also joined *Nova*'s Science Visiting Council, a group of science enthusiasts around the country dedicated to maintaining the program's leading role in science literacy and education. Neil also reconnected with his alma mater, MIT, where he and Anna founded the Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics in 2013, and where they are working to "attract the best and brightest students and re-engage them with science" according to Neil, via fellowships from their family foundation.

"There are many problems in the world today, but there are also many opportunities to leverage science to help people," says Neil. "But it starts with young people. This is why *Nova* is such a gem—it's a gift to future generations. *Nova* serves a very important role in our society's future by portraying the science profession as fascinating and fulfilling, so that we attract the best and brightest young minds to science, instead of to Wall Street or to creating the next Instagram."

Anna, who couldn't agree more, adds, "I feel strongly that if more of us tuned into *Nova* once a week at least, whether on television or on the computer, I think that each and every one of us would find ourselves armed and ready to make more enlightened and wise decisions about our present and our future. Can any one program be more powerful than that?"



# News from the Ralph Lowell Society

## RLS Reflections

In past issues, I have ended this column by thanking you for making WGBH a



priority in your life. Now, as my term as chair of the Ralph Lowell Society comes to a close, I want to emphasize how gratifying it has been to make

WGBH such a priority in my life these past two years.

I've had the good fortune to work with our remarkably generous board and RLS committee members for the benefit of WGBH, and together we have seen consistent growth of the RLS in both funds raised and new members. I am thrilled to share that in 2015, we welcomed over 120 new members to the RLS family. In joining us, these new members will experience all the benefits of being in the Ralph Lowell Society, including access to amazing talent at signature events highlighting the breadth and depth of WGBH's programming.

In the last few months, our community has bid a fond farewell to *Downton Abbey*, with our Season 6 preview bash and then a viewing party for the series finale in Yawkey Theater, celebrated appropriately with tissues and tea. We also enjoyed concerts in our Fraser Performance Studio with twin pianists Christina and Michelle Naughton, and violinist Lara St. John. And, we marked the advent of WGBH's newest production celebrating the art of civil discourse, *Point Taken*.

I look forward to seeing you at future Ralph Lowell Society events, and I hope you will join me in extending a warm welcome to our new RLS chair, Cynthia Strauss.

Thank you for making WGBH a priority in your life. I know I will continue to do so in mine.



SIMONE STEDRY WINSTON  
CHAIR, RALPH LOWELL SOCIETY

## Building Birdhouses

It was fun for the whole family as WGBH's youngest members joined PBS KIDS Bob the Builder and *Rough Cut* host Tommy Mac at our studios for a hands-on morning of building and decorating their own birdhouses to take home.



A YOUNG FAN COLLABORATES ON THE PERFECT COLOR SCHEME



A FINAL FLOURISH ON THE ROOF TOP AND WE'RE ALMOST DONE



CONCENTRATING HARD WITH HAMMER IN HAND



A ROUND OF SMILES FOR A JOB WELL DONE

## Talking with Tavis

PBS late night show host Tavis Smiley stopped by WGBH to tape a leg of his "One Great Idea Tour." While here, he also taped a segment of *Greater Boston* with host Jim Braude. RLS members at the Sponsor level and above mingled with Smiley prior to the taping, then sat in "on-set" for the interview.



TAVIS SMILEY WITH GREATER BOSTON HOST JIM BRAUDE



OVERSEER STACY COWAN, TRUSTEE EMERITUS DR. AUGUSTUS WHITE, WGBH PRESIDENT JON ABBOTT



TAVIS SMILEY, RLS SPONSOR EVIE FROST (RIGHT) AND GUEST ELIZABETH HUNNEWELL (LEFT)



TAVIS SMILEY, WGBH PRESIDENT JON ABBOTT, OVERSEER STACY COWAN



## Delivering for WGBH

**STEVE GLICK'S** relationship with WGBH began as a child growing up in Lexington. "First it was all about *Sesame Street* and *Zoom*," he says. "But as I got older, I preferred public radio. My parents would have it on all the time so I got a lot of exposure to it. As a teen and then a young man, I'd find myself sitting in the driveway for 15 minutes to hear the end of a story. This still happens."

Today, Steve serves on the Board of Overseers for WGBH and he and his wife, **JULIA CLARKSON**, have been Ralph Lowell Society members since 2013. The couple live in Brookline with their own budding public media fans, two boys, ages ten and twelve. A busy investment professional at Sankaty Advisors, Steve is a big fan of the multi-generational benefits that come with being a Ralph Lowell Society member. "I've been to some WGBH events with my kids and want to go to more! What better activity to do with your children than something educational and fun? The RLS gives wonderful access to these types of family enrichment opportunities."

### Why did you join the Ralph Lowell Society?

As long-time enthusiastic consumers of public media, Julia and I take so much pride in the fact that WGBH is based in Boston. I think a lot of people don't realize what a jewel WGBH is and how much national programming is produced right here. One of my mentors, Woody Ives (see p. 9), kept telling me I should get more involved with WGBH. He was my neighbor and I used to deliver his newspapers as a boy.

### What do you enjoy most about being more engaged with WGBH?

I like feeling close to the institution and knowing that I am, in some small way, helping to support the mission. It's so critical to deliver thoughtful, quality media when there is so much shallow, commercially driven content out there. I also think that the people I've met through the Ralph Lowell Society are a very special group, and I look forward to RLS events because I know I'm going to have interesting conversations.

### Are there any WGBH programs you and your kids like to watch together?

By far, our runaway favorite show is *Nova's Making Stuff* with David Pogue. We love it. The host is terrific. Really, anything *Nova* related is terrific.

## What's in a Name

Curious about the "Ralph Lowell" part of our name? Read on! Mr. Lowell was a World War I veteran, a banker, and a philanthropist. Lucky for us, he was also one of WGBH's founders and our first president.

**RALPH LOWELL** delivered on his ancestor John J. Lowell's commitment to education and vision for free public lectures for all of Boston's citizens—only he did it



twentieth-century style. As trustee of the Lowell Institute in the early 1950s, Lowell recognized the potential of emerging broadcasting

technologies to extend the institute's efforts. He helped create the WGBH Educational Foundation to broaden the reach of public lectures through radio (WGBH FM), and a few years later, helped launch WGBH TV. In 1973, Ralph Lowell was recognized as one of seven "Grand Bostonians" for a life that "mirrored the spirit and dignity that have made Boston and its people so extraordinary." This grand legacy of generosity, innovation and enriching people's lives through public media thrives today thanks to Ralph Lowell Society members like 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

Outgoing RLS Chair • Simone Stedry Winston  
Incoming RLS Chair • Cynthia Strauss  
Director • Kaja K. Fickes  
Senior Development Officer • Beth Zogby  
Senior Events Manager • Jeanmarie Roberts  
Development Officer • Marion Westgate  
Development Associate • Carrie Colodner



## Celebrating *Downton Abbey* Season 6

*Masterpiece* executive producer Rebecca Eaton welcomed RLS members, *Masterpiece* Trust supporters, and special guests—cast members Jim Carter (Mr. Carson) and Phyllis Logan (Mrs. Hughes)—to a roaring 20's party with music, dancing and more, to celebrate *Downton Abbey*'s sixth and final season.



GUEST **SUKI FREEMAN** POSES FOR A PHOTO WITH *DOWNTON ABBEY*'S **JIM CARTER** (MR. CARSON)



RLS FRIEND **VIRGINIA ZIOEBRO** WITH DAUGHTERS, **TINA AND DALE**



WGBH PRESIDENT **JON ABBOTT**, *DOWNTON ABBEY*'S **PHYLLIS LOGAN** (MRS. HUGHES), **JIM CARTER** (MR. CARSON), AND *MASTERPIECE* EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **REBECCA EATON**



RLS BENEFACTOR **LYNN DAYTON** (TRUSTEE) AND RLS FELLOW AND CHAIR **SIMONE STEDRY WINSTON**



DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY - 1920'S STYLE



*MASTERPIECE* TRUST SUPPORTER **RUSSELL DE BURLO** AND *DOWNTON ABBEY*'S **PHYLLIS LOGAN** (MRS. HUGHES)



RLS FRIEND **TONY COREY** (OVERSEER, RIGHT) AND GUEST **SCOTT MACDONALD**



RLS SPONSOR **DR. THERESA MCLOUD** (SECOND FROM RIGHT) AND GUESTS **VICKIE MUSE**, **SUBBA MCDERMOTT**, AND **MICHAEL GEE**

## A Fond Farewell

After six seasons, RLS members and *Masterpiece* Trust supporters gathered to say goodbye to the residents of Sunday night's favorite household, upstairs and down. Fans watched the *Downton Abbey* series finale on the Yawkey Theatre's big screen before the broadcast premiere, followed by afternoon tea.



BANK OF AMERICA MANAGING DIRECTOR **DYAN GOODWIN** AND *MASTERPIECE* SENIOR SERIES PRODUCER **SUSANNE SIMPSON**



A FULL HOUSE OF FANS ENJOYS THE FINAL EPISODE OF *DOWNTON ABBEY*



RLS SPONSOR **MARTHA MUGAR** AND GUEST **MERRY RAY**

**DOWNTON ABBEY**  
— THE FINAL SEASON —

**W**GBH President **Jon Abbott** and Board of Trustees Chair **Rick Burnes** welcomed six new Trustees at the annual meeting in February. "Our new Trustees are dedicated supporters of WGBH's mission," says Rick. "We are delighted to add such a diverse group of talent and breadth of experience to our already strong Board leadership, and look forward to working together in the year ahead."



## A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Trustees

### Elected Trustees



**BENJAMIN GOMEZ** is managing director of Pilot House Associates. A graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia University Graduate School of Business, he is a director of Knopp Biosciences and Marine Polymer Technologies, and a Trustee of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Newton-Wellesley Hospital.



**WILLIAM N. THORNDIKE, JR.** is managing director and founder of Housatonic Partners. A graduate of Harvard College and Stanford Graduate School of Business, he is a director of numerous companies, a trustee of the Stanford Business School Trust, chair of College of the Atlantic and a founding partner at FARM. He is the author of *The Outsiders: Eight Unconventional CEOs and Their Radically Rational Blueprint for Success*.



**STEPHEN K. WAGNER** is an accomplished financial and governance professional with a highly successful 40-year career at Deloitte & Touche LLP. He retired from the Deloitte partnership in 2009 and continued as a senior advisor until 2011. He serves on the board of directors of Dover Corporation.

### Institutional Trustees



**MARTY MEEHAN** is president of the University of Massachusetts, the first undergraduate alumnus to lead the UMass system. He previously served in Congress and as chancellor of UMass Lowell. He has an undergraduate degree from UMass Lowell, and an MPA and JD from Suffolk University.



**ANTHONY P. MONACO** is president of Tufts University. He previously served as pro-vice-chancellor for planning and resources at Oxford University. A distinguished geneticist, he received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University, and his MD and PhD at Harvard Medical School.



**LEE PELTON** is president of Emerson College. Pelton earned a PhD at Harvard University and is a former dean of Colgate University and Dartmouth College. He serves on several not-for-profit boards including the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Museum of African American History, Boston Arts Academy, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Council of Independent Colleges.





“WGBH is truly a one-of-a-kind, world-class organization.”

WOODY IVES

## The Joy of Giving in Your Lifetime

**F**ans of WGBH since their children were little, **WOODY AND ELIZABETH IVES** used to race home from skiing to catch *Masterpiece's Upstairs Downstairs*. While some of their favorite shows have come and gone over the years (and they've hung up the skis), the Lexington couple remain devoted fans of Boston's public media station.

“WGBH was and is an important part of our lives,” says Woody. “Elizabeth and I check what's on WGBH 2 and WGBX 44 every evening and often debate which great show we should watch. Last night it came down to *Inspector Morse* vs. *Nature*. *Inspector* won.”

If the Ives name sounds familiar, that's because Woody's ties to WGBH are familial. His second cousin was David O. Ives, who wore many hats during his forty-year career with Channel 2, from president to the enthusiastic announcer who cried, “Bid, Bid, Bid!” during auctions.

But that's not the reason he and Elizabeth, a renowned painter, support WGBH. “For us it's about the programming,” explains Woody, who is both an active member and former chair of the Overseers Nominating Committee. “And being a leader in your field. When you produce 35 to 40 percent of prime-time public television *and* provide content to the entire public media system *and* dominate children's educational television, then you are truly a one-of-a-kind, world-class organization.”

And being a world-class organization, adds Woody, is why WGBH is designated as one of the beneficiaries of a Charitable Lead Annuity Trust, or CLAT, he and Elizabeth set up in 2009.

“I'd heard another donor give a presentation about doing this. About wanting to give the money he'd made during his lifetime while he was still alive, and it made an impression on me.”

“The intention, when we set up the trust, was for it to benefit the health and education of our unborn great grandchildren,” says Woody. “And it's done well. The trust has grown through good investments. I've found there's great joy and satisfaction in designating money while you're still alive to support the things and people that are meaningful to you.”

### What Will Your Legacy Be?

A lead trust is just one of many ways to leave a legacy through a planned gift to WGBH. Through a bequest from John Lowell, Jr. (see p. 6) for “public lectures for the benefit of the citizens of Boston,” WGBH was created in 1951. Since then, legacies both large and small have ensured WGBH's ability to be a vibrant and vital public media resource that millions of Americans count on every day.

Your planned gift to WGBH will ensure that in an increasingly crowded media landscape, there will always be a place for independent, in-depth information and educationally rich entertainment in the public interest, free and available to all.

It's easy to include WGBH in your estate plan. You can bequeath a specific dollar amount or asset, or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate. It takes just one sentence in your will to create a lasting legacy to WGBH. And, your assets remain untouched through your lifetime.

What will your legacy be? If you've already included WGBH in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can recognize you as a member of our Great Blue Hill Society.

**To determine what planned giving option is right for you, contact WGBH's Office of Gift Planning at 800.220.7122 or [gift\\_planning@wgbh.org](mailto:gift_planning@wgbh.org).**

# Sharing the VISION



FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF WGBH • SUMMER 2016



*Nova's Treasures of the Earth*, a three-part series, premieres on PBS this fall

“Through four decades of directing work on the popular science broadcast series *Nova*, **Apsell has shown she has that gift of telling solid, brilliantly researched stories with a larger purpose**—to inform the debate by bringing wisdom and perspective to public policies that shape the science enterprise.”

—Dr. Michael S. Brown

NOBEL LAUREATE AND PAUL J. THOMAS PROFESSOR OF MOLECULAR GENETICS AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE JONSSON CENTER FOR MOLECULAR GENETICS, UT SOUTHWESTERN



**Paula S. Apsell**  
**Nova Senior Executive Producer**  
**Director, WGBH Science Unit**

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