



An American *Story*

The Preservation Society of Newport County

CAMPAIGN DONOR REPORT

An American Story

HUNTER HOUSE
Built 1748
HEADQUARTERS OF ADMIRAL DE TERNAVY
OF THE FRENCH FLEET
1780 - 1781

GENERAL HOUSE
This house was one of the
earliest National
Historic Landmarks
and was preserved by the
National Trust for Historic
Preservation. It is now
open to the public as a
National Historic Site.
1945



Conservators study the van Mander tapestry at The Breakers

Many thanks to all who provided support to make **An American Story, The Campaign for The Preservation Society of Newport County** such a success!

As a result of your generosity over the past seven years, 2011–2017, more than \$35 million was raised to help support our mission to protect, preserve and present the exceptional collection of house museums, landscapes and cultural artifacts in our care.

Thanks to you, we have:

- a new Berwind-Stautberg Scholars Center
- a fully endowed Fund for Fellows
- a more robust collections fund
- growth in our endowment
- a new welcome center under construction

Your support allows us to tell the story of our rare and magnificent buildings, landscapes, and collections in new and exciting ways. The campaign, the first in our 72-year history, gave voice to the Preservation Society's story, *An American Story*. We could not have done it without you or the leadership of our outstanding Campaign Steering Committee.

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Thank you!



Gold Room ceiling restoration at Marble House

COVER Detail of the Gold Room ceiling at Marble House

BACK COVER Detail of Gold Room ceiling at Marble House that is undergoing conservation of the plaster putti or cherubs



The Berwind-Stautberg Center gathering room

The Elms Carriage House Restoration

The Elms Carriage House, a significant historic structure, was adaptively restored to host our fellows program.

Rededicated as the Berwind-Stautberg Center in 2016, it has elevated Newport's profile as an exciting center for the exchange of ideas by gathering fellows under one roof where they work and live, fostering intellectual exchange and creating a sense of common purpose. By providing high quality, free housing in Newport, the Berwind-Stautberg Center has helped us attract a broader range of candidates, making the fellows program more competitive.



James D. Berwind and Susan S. Stautberg

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ABOVE Restored window in The Berwind-Stautberg Center
 LEFT Elms Carriage House





Sunken Garden at The Elms

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Fellow Sarah Salem conducting an archaeological dig at Hunter House, 2016



Fellows attending The Newport Symposium



Fellow Alyssa Lozupone, 2014



Fellow Kaity Ryan in 2013,
currently Deputy Chief of Staff

The Fund for Fellows

A new Fund for Fellows was created and fully endowed to support four scholars annually to live and work in Newport.

The work enabled by this endowment has helped establish the Preservation Society as a leader in the scholarly interpretation of Newport's vibrant cultural heritage. Studies generated through the program to date have provided new information about the 18th century craftsmen who worked in Newport's Point District and about the surprising ties between slavery and the book trade, to name only a few topics. Fellows specializing in public policy created a community impact study that demonstrated the Preservation Society's \$109.4 million annual contribution to Newport's economy. Publications include the first comprehensive book focused on the founder of the Preservation Society, Katherine Warren, and the Preservation Society's mid-20th century history. The Fund for Fellows serves the museum and historic preservation communities by providing much needed research, publication, career training, and professional development opportunities to emerging scholars. Graduates go on to Ph.D. programs, other fellowships, and employment in their chosen field. Ultimately, they will become the museum leaders of the future.

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The Collections Fund



Support for the Collections Fund allowed us to strengthen a core function of our mission: stewardship of a significant collection of cultural artifacts and decorative arts.

The Collections Fund has enabled acquisitions that restored original items removed from the houses before the Preservation Society took ownership or to fill gaps in the collection. Among the many recent acquisitions are a pair of 18th century over door panel paintings by renowned Venetian master Sebastiano Ricci at The Elms; a rare ca. 1470 Sienese cassone, or marriage chest, from the Gavet-Vanderbilt collection at Marble House; marble busts of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794–1877) and his grandson, Cornelius Vanderbilt II (1843–1899) which have been on display (as long-term loans) at The Breakers since 1927; and a rare “sampler” representative of the distinctive “Newport School” of embroidery of the 18th century at Hunter House.

The Collections Fund also supported ongoing conservation efforts, ensuring that our collections are preserved for future generations to enjoy. Examples include a portrait of Anne of Ditchley (c.1680) by Sir Peter Lely, displayed in the Morning Room of The Breakers, and an early 17th century tapestry designed by Karel van Mander the Younger (1579–1623), who worked in Delft during the Dutch Golden Age.

Finally, the Collections Fund supported efforts to digitize our museum and archive collections, making them available online via a collaborative website for the display of Newport-related collections, Newportal (newportal.org).



Suite of furniture custom-designed for The Elms, reacquired with The Collections Fund



Jane Brand van Boecklin, Anita Berwind Strawbridge, and Julia Berwind seated in The Elms drawing room, 1938

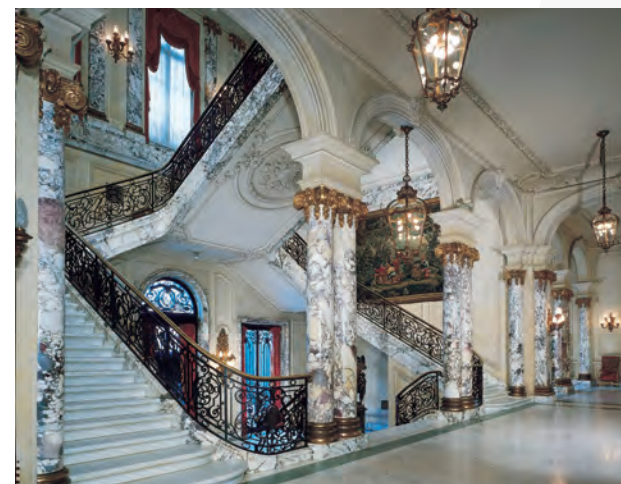
ABOVE Conservation of the Sienese cassone at Marble House



The Elms



Hunter House



The grand staircase at The Elms



The Newport Symposium



Recognition of Nancy and Robert Evans and Elizabeth and William Leatherman for their support of the endowment at Hunter House

The Endowment

We grew the Preservation Society's permanent endowment, a critical resource for institutional funding.

A robust permanent endowment enhances organizational stability, credibility, and prestige by sending a message of planned long-term stability, fiscal responsibility and financial viability. For donors, an endowment gift perpetuates their values and priorities in the wake of change by providing assurance that programs that are important to them will survive and serve as a permanent tribute to their support. In addition to contributions to the operating endowment, we received support to enhance specific endowment funds for Hunter House and The Elms.



The Elms Conservatory

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Groundbreaking for the Welcome Center at The Breakers, May 2017



Board Chair Monty Burnham at the groundbreaking ceremony

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Ticketing pavilion at the Welcome Center

The Breakers Welcome Center

The Welcome Center will improve the experience for over 450,000 annual visitors to The Breakers, secure the financial stability of the Preservation Society by streamlining a significant source of earned revenue, and present the Preservation Society as a world-class museum from the moment visitors arrive.

Inspired by park pavilions and conservatories from the Gilded Age, the one-story, 3,650-square-foot pavilion respects the historic integrity of the site. The building is sited in an existing grove where its low profile and pre-patinated copper roof will ensure that it does not visually intrude on significant sight lines. Inside, visitors can gather with family and friends; purchase tickets and memberships; explore the history of Newport and our properties; relax with light refreshments and access ADA-compliant restrooms. The Breakers Welcome Center is under construction and expected to open in summer 2018.



Conservatories from the Gilded Age inspired the glass walls and pre-patinated copper roof

Campaign Donors

The Preservation Society is grateful to everyone who gave generously to our comprehensive campaign. In addition to the support we received for our campaign priorities, we also received contributions that helped us grow the Annual Fund and Membership programs to \$1 million each and supported our special events and projects. We gratefully recognize individuals and organizations whose gifts totaled \$5,000 or more throughout the campaign period (April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2017). Thank you for your generosity.

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*We remember



Dick Burnham, Monty Burnham, Elizabeth McMillen, Earl McMillen

Celebrating our Success August 10, 2017



Curt Ramm conducting original score "Fanfare to The Preservation Society" at the campaign celebration



Glenn Darden, Kim Darden, Anne Self, Robert Self



Mark Licata, Angela Moore, Gary Moore, Carol Epstein, Jan Licata



Dayton Carr, Anne Garnett



John Peixinho, Bill Egan



Bernie Gewirz, Sarah Gewirz



Thank you!





THE
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OF NEWPORT COUNTY

424 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840 401-847-1000