

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Karen Dalv

Dear Friends,

The 2012 fiscal year was successful in several regards for Dumbarton House. An ambitious schedule of programs and exhibitions in the intimate setting of our historic house museum attracted audiences in impressive numbers, some 19,000 in total. An outdoor summer film festival, jazz and classical music performances, a show of Federal period fashions and, for a fourth year running, a museum walk weekend in the Kalorama and Dupont neighborhoods of Washington, D.C. were only a few of the programs that made Dumbarton House a popular destination.

The Friends of Dumbarton House annual campaign achieved record results, with over \$200,000 in contributions from over 2,000 true and loyal friends in the year. The generous response to our appeal is gratifying. It is a ringing endorsement of the importance of our mission and tangible proof

of the pride we take in Dumbarton House, headquarters of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America.

Dumbarton House strengthened its relations with the Georgetown community in the 2012 fiscal year. Our services to the community did not go unrecognized, and last December Dumbarton House was the proud recipient of the Georgetown Business Association's Communitarian Award.

A fitted carpet with a pattern dating to 1800 and window treatments that combine elements of two designs, one from 1804 and the other from 1792 were installed in the parlor. The room now looks much the way it must have when Joseph and Maria Nourse made Dumbarton House their home.

Several capable and dedicated members of staff left Dumbarton House during the year. They made invaluable contributions to our success and lasting impressions on their colleagues during their tenure with us. We wish them satisfaction and success in all their future endeavors. Their departure presented an opportunity for us to review our staffing needs and redistribute responsibilities to meet the requirements of our headquarters and museum operations efficiently and effectively.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to Janie Grantham for her leadership and support during her eight-year term as chair of the Dumbarton House Board. She and I are confident that Dumbarton House will have a bright future. Our relations with our neighbors in Georgetown will grow stronger, and our programs and exhibitions will continue to draw visitors to the historic house museum in even greater numbers.

Yours sincerely,

Kaken & Daly

Karen L. Daly, Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Janie Grantham



Anna Duff

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks go out to every Dame from every Corporate Society who has supported our NSCDA National Headquarters over the years, both through annual dues and gifts to the Friends of Dumbarton House campaign.

It has been a pleasure working with the Board members whom you have sent to represent each Corporate Society. What a committed, talented group of women! It is owing to their efforts that we have met our budget from year to year and brought the Lemoine Sampler to Headquarters. And we now have an NSCDA gallery in the museum showcasing the work of every Society in advancing the NSCDA mission. I am delighted that the funding for the building project in the non-museum areas of Headquarters has been secured. Our NSCDA National Headquarters will have adequate space for staff to serve our members better and care for the Dumbarton House museum collections more effectively.

Our achievements could not have been possible without the strong support of Headquarters' staff and our executive director, Karen L. Daly. Sincere thanks to each one of them.

I am confident that success will continue under the leadership of Anna Duff. It has been a distinct privilege to serve as chairman of the Dumbarton House Board.

Sincerely,

Jane H Growthen

Janie Grantham, Chairman

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Thank you to the Ladies of the Dumbarton House Board whose terms expired during FY2012:

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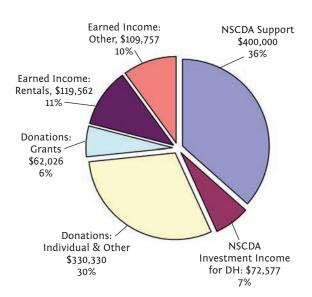
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Sadly Missed

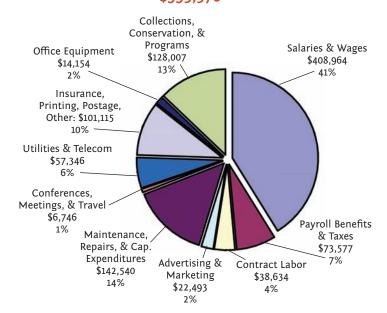
Mrs. Ben Mather Osbun (Jo) Mrs. William Bark Grine (Connie)

FINANCIALS

Income Fiscal Year 2012 \$1,094,252



Expenses Fiscal Year 2012 \$993,576



Income and expense amounts are based on preliminary, unaudited figures. Instead of depreciation, capital expenditures are reported, and investment income includes only the amount drawn from invested funds, not the total return on investments. Fiscal Year 2012 ended with a surplus of \$100,676.

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Programs

Dumbarton House remained a popular destination in Washington, D.C. in the 2012 fiscal year, serving an audience of almost 19,000 in the period. A total of 4,203 visitors joined tours of the museum, 25 percent more than the year before. A wide range of programs, including lectures, concerts, theatrical performances, film screenings, walking tours, and a book signing, drew over 5,000 participants. Among them:

- Three films based on the romantic novels of Jane Austen were screened in summer for a combined audience of 561 viewers. The film festival was made possible through the generous corporate sponsorship of the Georgetown offices of Long and Foster Realtors.
- The museum played host to 264 guests at an "Evening in Casablanca" last March with a jazz ensemble and dancing.



Musicians performing Federal period music during the annual Dupont Kalorama Museum Walk Weekend

- For a fourth consecutive year, Dumbarton House was one of the museums visited in the annual Dupont - Kalorama Museum Walk Weekend last June. A total of 1,032 participants joined the Dumbarton House tour.
- A second annual holiday open house brought 430 guests to Dumbarton House on December 3. The museum was decorated as a home would have been in the Federal period, and music was performed in the parlor. Dumbarton House partnered with three other historic house museums, Tudor Place, Woodrow Wilson House and Anderson House, for the occasion.



Dining table set for Christmas dinner

• In July, with funding from the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., Dumbarton House produced a video on the War of 1812. Following a quiz show format, the film, directed by Diane Williams, is aimed at promoting knowledge of the war among citizens.

Partnerships

- The Georgetown Business Association honored Dumbarton House with its Communitarian Award last December in recognition of its service to the Georgetown community.
- The museum loaned two objects from its collection to the Washington Antiques Show exhibition in January, one a dinner invitation from President John Adams to Joseph and Maria Nourse, and the second, a dinner invitation from First Lady Dolley Madison to a Miss Pease.
- The Citizens Association of Georgetown presented its William Cochran Award to Executive Director Karen L. Daly in May in recognition of her "exceptional efforts to protect and enhance the community's parkland and architectural resources."



Karen Daly accepting the Georgetown Business Association's Communitarian Award with sculptor John L. Dreyfuss and Vincent C. Gray, mayor of Washington, D.C.

National Headquarters

 Karen Daly traveled to New Jersey to attend the two-day Region IV workshop and meeting of the National

- Board of the NSCDA in October. Then, in May, she traveled to San Francisco to attend the Region I meeting. There she made a presentation for the National Museum Properties Committee on efforts to engage the community through interpretation, gardens and partnerships.
- For the first time, Dumbarton House staff members assisted with registration and planning for the October NSCDA National Board meeting, held in New Jersey.
- Dames affiliated with the Alexandria Town Committee of the Virginia Society toured the historic house museum at the time of their meeting at Dumbarton House on October 7. Dames affiliated with the Tennessee Society toured Dumbarton House on April 7.
- The District of Columbia Society hosted several programs at Dumbarton House in the fiscal year. On November 8, Vince Vaise, chief of interpretation at Baltimore's Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, gave a lecture on the War of 1812. On February 22, to mark George Washington's birthday, there was a screening of The Washingtons of Sulgrave Manor, a documentary film written and directed by Ken Winber. On March 14, Mrs. Brantley Knowles, former chairman of the National Museum Properties Committee and current NSCDA archivist, made a presentation on the organization's diverse museum properties across the country.

Antiques Week in New York City

Last January, for a second consecutive year, Corresponding Secretary Ruthie Frangopoulos organized a New York Antiques Week program. A group of 23 Ladies of the Dumbarton House Board, some of them accompanied by their spouses, traveled to New York City for tours of Grange, Alexander Hamilton's former home, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, Manhattan's oldest house, the New York Historical Society and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The group also attended the Winter Antiques Show.



Nancy Parker Wilson, Edith Stickney and Lee Helvey at New York Antiques Week

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Historic Site Maintenance

Masonry

With a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dorothea De Schweinitz Fund for the District of Columbia, a detailed study of the mortar used in the construction and repair of the facades of Dumbarton House was conducted. An analysis of mortar samples taken from 18 areas at six elevations yielded their composition. The formulas that resulted will be used in mixing replacement mortars corresponding to different construction and repair dates whenever maintenance is required. Lo and behold, in the process of collecting samples, a counterfeit copper British half penny (circa 1775) was discovered.



A counterfeit British half penny came to light while mortar samples were being taken from the facades of Dumbarton House.

Fire Protection

Having reached the end of its useful life, the site-wide fire alarm system failed in summer and, as a matter of urgency, had to be completely upgraded earlier than planned. New smoke detectors, fire pulls, control panel, and software were installed. Dumbarton House staff overnighted in the building's West Wing and, to ensure the safety of the building, collection, staff, and visitors, a walk-through of the structure was conducted hourly around the clock until the system was functioning again.

Historic Interiors

Parlor

Following extensive research, a new fitted carpet was laid in the historic parlor in summer. The pattern, dating to 1800, was taken from the archives of Grosvenor Wilton Company Ltd., one of the U.K.'s oldest carpet manufacturers. Its bold original color palette – yellow, blue, green, white, and black – reflects the prevailing fashion of the Federal period.

Natalie Larson, a historic textile furnishings specialist formerly of Colonial Williamsburg, designed and installed window treatments in the parlor. The pattern combines elements of two designs, one by George Smith dating from 1804, and the other by Thomas Sheraton from 1792. The installation entailed an examination of the holes surrounding the



The completed parlor

windows to determine where curtain pins, pintels and rods may have been located. An analysis of putty and paint helped date the treatments used over the generations, and a metallurgic assessment offered clues to the hardware placement.

Cataloguing

Caring for the hundreds of historic artworks, artifacts, manuscripts and documents that comprise the museum's collection remains central to the Dumbarton House mission. A generous two-year grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services concluded in the 2012 Fiscal Year. With the grant, the Dumbarton House collections were inventoried, photographs and collections records were updated, and reports on the condition of each artifact were produced. A second grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities came to an end in the year under review. It covered the cost of procuring furniture for collections storage and archival supplies.



Through an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, the Dumbarton House collections can be viewed electronically on the American Heritage's National Portal to Historic Collections.





With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Dumbarton House collections are now more safely stored.

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Collections



In the 2012 fiscal year, several important objects were acquired for Dumbarton House's

permanent collection. Among them were three pieces of Chinese export porcelain in the Morris family "Quaker Farmer" pattern and a 1793 invitation to Joseph Nourse and his family to attend a ball following George Washington's election to a second term as president.



The District of Columbia Society donated a Chippendale armchair that had once belonged to Robert Peter of



Tudor Place,
Georgetown's
first mayor.
It is currently
on view in the
museum's Best
Chamber. With
a contribution
made in honor of
Martha Randall
Galbraith of the

Texas Society by her mother, Dumbarton House acquired a four-piece silver tea and coffee service by John Gaither, a silversmith who worked in Alexandria and Washington, D.C. from 1807 to 1816.



Exhibitions

Music in the Federal City

To showcase the lively music culture of Washington, D.C. during the Federal period, Dumbarton House displayed





A song in Maria Nourse's music book c.1780. The book, a gift of Mrs. R. C. Williams, was included in an exhibition devoted to the music of the Federal period.

musical instruments and music books from the period in the museum's upper passage. The exhibition included books that had been owned by early resident Maria Nourse and two of President James Monroe's daughters, Eliza and Maria. The exhibition coincided with the 125th anniversary of the Friday Morning Music Club, a group of musicians who perform throughout the year at Dumbarton House in concerts that are free and open to the public.

The American Red Cross at Dumbarton House 1942 - 1945



To mark the seventieth anniversary of its association with the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, Dumbarton House mounted an exhibition that included photographs and documents highlighting the work of the Red Cross during World War II. The NSCDA closed Dumbarton

House museum in wartime and made the building available for relief services benefitting American soldiers overseas and citizens at home. Dumbarton House also hosted a blood drive as part of the commemoration.

NSCDA Preservation Pilot Gallery

Last fall, in keeping with its Interpretive Plan, Dumbarton House installed a pilot NSCDA gallery on the second floor of the museum, in the room that formerly had been the Parlor Chamber. The gallery, Daughters Preserving the Virtues of Their Ancestors, is based on a conceptual plan developed by students enrolled in a museum studies class at The George Washington University. It focuses on the mission of the NSCDA with regard to historic preservation, patriotic service and education. It also recounts the history of three of the organization's properties: Gunston Hall, Sulgrave Manor and Dumbarton House.

Jennie Buehler, a recent graduate of the Corcoran College of Art and Design, was retained as an intern to design the exhibit. The pilot NSCDA gallery is the product of the collaborative efforts of Dames, Dumbarton House staff, volunteers and many others.





The NSCDA Preservation Pilot Gallery

DONORS

ur gratitude goes to all our donors for the loyal and generous support they extended Dumbarton House in Fiscal Year 2012. Although every effort has been made to include all donors who supported Dumbarton House with gifts of \$50 or more between September I, 2011 and August 31, 2012, omissions and errors may occur. Please let us know of if there has been an omission, or if amendments are needed in a message to DevelopmentAssistant@ DumbartonHouse.org.

Members of the Abigail Adams and Dolley Madison Societies play a key role in advancing the mission of Dumbarton House as we strive to preserve our historic house and collections while educating the public about life in the early capital.

Abigail Adams Society

The Abigail Adams Society honors Friends of Dumbarton House who support the operations of Dumbarton House through annual, unrestricted contributions of \$1,000 or more.

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Mrs. William Bark Grine (NC) Hilary F. Gripekoven (OR)

Sue Halton (OR)



The herb garden and the bench given by the District of Columbia Society in memory of the late Kevin Christen, former Dumbarton House caretaker

In the spring of 2008, Lisa Gordon (Mrs. Donald Bruce), a member of the Abigail Adams Society, visited Dumbarton House in the company of her husband and aging father, a WWII veteran. Of her father, she wrote, "He was happy I was supporting Dumbarton House. It was a father's benediction and a daughter's promise to celebrate the day, Dumbarton House, defining the greatness of a nation, and Daddy, dedicated to that nation."



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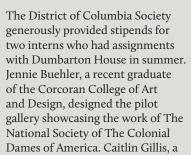
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Caitlin Gillis

student in the graduate program in museum studies at The George Washington University, conducted research to help in developing programs for families and young adults.

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Dolley Madison Society

The Dolley Madison Society honors individual Friends of Dumbarton House donors who support the operations of Dumbarton House through annual, unrestricted contributions of \$750-\$999.

Anonymous

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Donations were made to Dumbarton House in memory of the following individuals:

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Beverley Amberg from Mrs. Ralph Nicolson Hobbs Americus Town Committee from Mrs. Robert Gene Parks Katherine LeFlore Arbour from Mrs. Jeptha Fowlkes Barbour IV

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David Gordon; Mrs. James Rutland Moore

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Nellie Christian from Mrs. Michael Steven Seiferth
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Dahling Jr.

Karen Daly from Mrs. John Dudley Bridgforth
Karen Daly & The Dumbarton House Board & Staff from
Mrs. Gregory Anthony Forman

Ms. Katherine McCracken Davis from Mrs. Spencer E. Harper Jr.

Ouida Davis from Miss Elizabeth Davis Keightley
Josephine H. Detmer & Humayun Mirza from Miss Zareen
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The Georgetown Garden Club generously defrayed the costs of the initial landscaping of the East Park in the early 1990s based on a plan developed by Meade Palmer, a noted landscape architect. Dumbarton House is grateful for the Club's continued support and is pleased that the community enjoys the park year round.





With generous contributions from Stuart Cobb and Jeri Crawford, and from Janie Grantham and Nancy Nimick in memory of Jo Osbun, the former caretaker's apartment was remodeled to create office space for the Education Department.

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MO Society

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Through a generous contribution from Madeleine Hughes and Janie Grantham in honor of Mrs. James W. (Debbie) Wilson in FY 2011, conservation of this Oriental sewing box was completed in FY2012. Its black lacquer (Urushi) finish had developed hundreds of fissures, and its gilt decorated surface had been abraded. Conserving the object was a painstaking process. The box was placed inside a specially made wooden box, and bamboo dowels were used to press the lacquer where it had lifted from the surface back into place. The sewing box had been a gift from Miss Carolyn R. Nash, a member of the District of Columbia Society in 1966.



Dumbarton House volunteers (from top left) Mary McCleary, Eleanor Stork, Sally Shroyer and Sally Smyser with Education Manager Kanani Hoopai (right)

Dumbarton House Fund for the Future

The Fund for the Future supports the long-term preservation of the national headquarters and historic house museum of The National Society. Donors to the Fund for the Future ensure the survival of our 200-year-old building, grounds and collections for the benefit of generations to come.

Donations were made to the Dumbarton House Fund for the Future in memory of the following individuals:

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Anne Genter *from* Mrs. Edward Vincent Randall Jr.

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A Federal period fashion show, a joint program with the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine



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The gift of a bequest in your will is one of the best ways to ensure the long-term future of Dumbarton House. We ask that you consider leaving a legacy. We have established The Legacy Circle to honor those who designated a bequest in their estate plan for NSCDA-Dumbarton House Fund for the Future. Members of The Legacy Circle include:

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Please contact Karen L. Daly at Dumbarton House if you would like more information, or if your name was mistakenly omitted: 202-337-2288 ext. 228 or KarenDaly@DumbartonHouse.org.

MUSEUM MEMBERS



NSCDA Essay Contest Winners visited Dumbarton House in June 2012.

In Memoriam

Sadly, Dumbarton House Board Member-At-Large Connie Grine (Mrs. William Bark Grine) passed away on May 7, 2012. She served in several capacities during the 11 years she was a member of the Board. Initially she was the Lady of the Dumbarton House Board representing North Carolina. Ultimately she was named vice-chairman. From 2008 until her death, she was a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. All of us who had the pleasure of working with Connie miss her enlightened leadership and unflagging support.

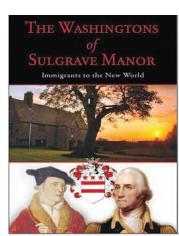
Museum Members enjoy a range of benefits including free admission, invitations to special events, discounts on select programs and private rentals. Member support helps sustain Dumbarton House in its critical mission of preservation and education. Listed below are FY2012 Museum Members at the \$50 level and above:

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DVD cover of The Washingtons of Sulgrave Manor





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MISSION

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service, and educational projects.

he mission of the Dumbarton House museum, a Federal period historic house museum, is to preserve the historic structure and its collections and to educate the public about life in Washington, D.C., during the early years of the Republic. Emphasis is placed on Joseph Nourse, first Register of the Treasury, and his family, and their occupation of the property from 1804 through 1813.



New York Antiques Week participants

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