

Cuttyhunk Historical Society~Museum of the Elizabeth Islands

Annual Report 2025

The mission of the Cuttyhunk Historical Society is to record and preserve the history, traditions, and artifacts of Cuttyhunk Island and the Elizabeth Islands of Massachusetts, and to engage the community and public through education, exhibitions, and outreach.



Letter from the CHS President

Dear Friends,

Times have changed since the founding of CHS in 1978. The Elizabeth Islands continue to draw boaters, vacationing families, and tourists, but their stays are shorter and the pool of volunteers to run the museum has diminished. We hire staff to manage operations, create exhibits, and curate the collections. CHS's business model is to generate about 80% of operating costs through annual fundraising and fees and 20% from endowment, with grants and designated gifts

funding new initiatives. What will it take to grow our core lines of operating revenue to sustain an annual budget of \$140,000?

Cuttyhunk Island does not have many public spaces that are open to everyone; the Museum is one of those spaces. This fall, with the help of generous donors and Board member Annie Hinson, we embarked on a plan to enhance this space. We look forward to sharing it with you in 2026! Meanwhile Board member Bracken Hendricks has submitted an application to the federal government on behalf of Beech Tree Trust (BTT) for title to Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse which CHS has leased from the U.S. Coast Guard for 25 years. If successful, BTT will care for this historic landmark in perpetuity through regular cycles of repair, capital improvement, and erosion control. You will note in this report that CHS continues to receive donations toward its care.

We are grateful indeed for your support, well demonstrated in this Annual Report. Our commitment is to use your contributions to create exhibits that reveal our unique history, to care for our unique collection, to maintain public spaces that foster connections with the present as well as the past, and to envision a sustainable future for CHS.

My best,
Carolyn



cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org



2025-2026 CHS Board & Staff

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Mark Jackson, *Vice President*
Gretchen Kidder, *Treasurer*
Nate Hornbach, *Secretary*

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Gretchen Kidder, Kate Parker,
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Bracken Hendricks, Annie Hinson,
Bert Nagtegaal, Lolly Schenck,
Bev Snow
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Samantha Poirier, *Collections*
Anna Nagtegaal, *Administration*
Ben Sadler, *Winter Caretaker*
Michelle Carvalho, *Bookkeeper*

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2025

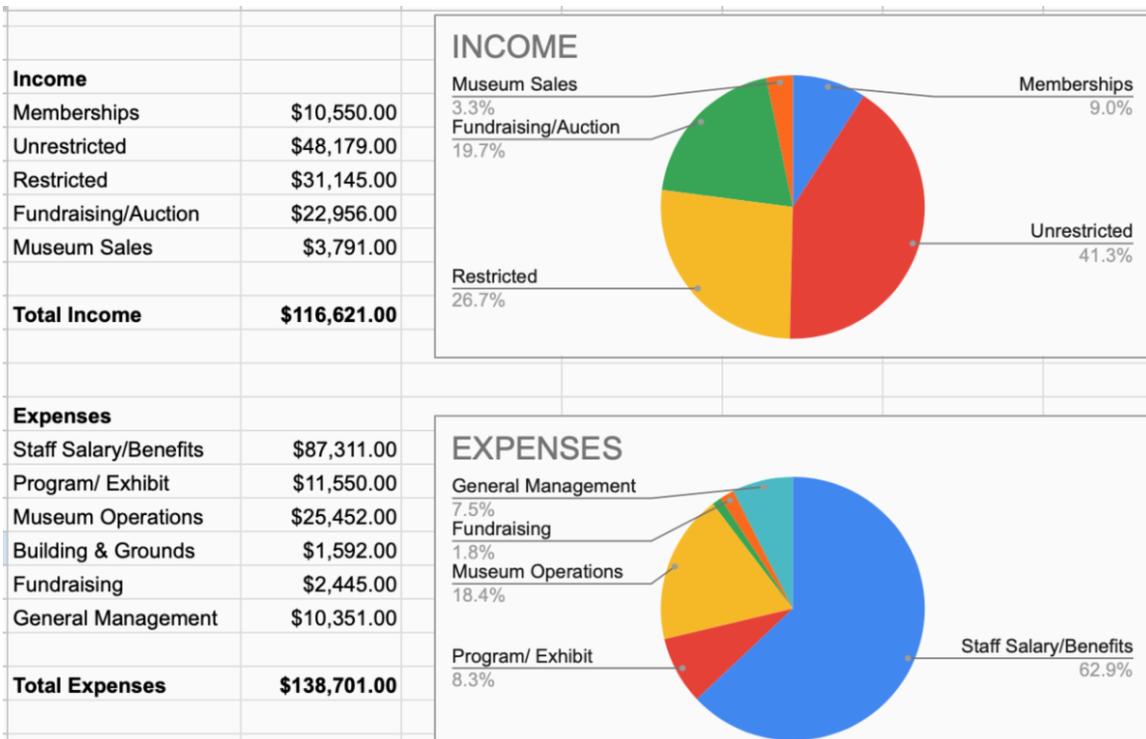
CHS Treasurer, Gretchen Kidder

CHS continues to be supported by generous donations from members and friends. While operating expenses exceeded operating income by \$22,080, all of this was offset by income from CHS's board- restricted Investment and Acquisition Fund this year. The major categories of income and expenses are shown in the charts below.

Unrestricted income from memberships, the annual appeal and the annual auction provided over 70% of the revenue. The biggest expense continues to be compensation for our hard-working staff including year-round Executive Director, Robyn Weisel, part-time Curator, Samantha Poirier, Bookkeeper, Michelle Carvalho and summer Museum Assistant, Anna Nagtegaal. Support for Samantha's curatorial work was provided through private donations and a grant through the Beech Tree Trust.

The endowment funds continue to be strong and together with generous dedicated donations, work is underway to establish a new fund that will support the renovation and maintenance of the CHS lawn and grounds for more community engagement and programming. There are currently two donor-restricted funds for maintenance of the building and grounds totaling \$328,898. This allowed for withdrawals of close to \$9,000 to address ongoing building maintenance needs. At the end of 2025, the board-restricted Investment and Acquisition Fund totaled \$778,275, allowing for the withdrawal of \$27,000 to support our operating expenses. In addition, CHS holds \$27,252 in a separate fund for the maintenance of the lighthouse at Tarpaulin Cove. Gifts of \$645 were made to this fund in 2025.

The Year in Numbers



Small Giving has Great Impact

From the CHS Executive Director, *Robyn Weisel*

A common misconception about giving time, resources and talent is that small amounts don't matter much. In reality, though, collective giving is the lifeblood of

most nonprofits, including CHS and the Museum of the Elizabeth Islands. Small, recurring donations and time add up to significant support ensuring operational sustainability and allowing organizations to plan for the future. It is through our appeals, memberships, programming, volunteering and events that we collectively support CHS.

Giving connects us to our wider community too. It builds social cohesion and demonstrates a shared commitment to strengthening our ties with our friends and family, and with the Islands. By giving, we sustain the organizations that are meaningful to continue into the future.

Supporting nonprofits, whether through donations, volunteering time, helping on a project/event, or including it in your estate planning, allows you to leave a lasting impact on the community. It serves as a model of generosity, often inspiring friends, family, and children to follow your example. Ultimately, giving to non-profits is a meaningful, reciprocal act which fuels the work of dedicated organizations while rewarding you, the giver, with purpose, joy, and a sense of belonging.

Thank you for all that you do to make CHS that place!
Robyn

Upcoming Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Museum Greeter
Garden Helper
Committee Member
Event Helper (Auction, Author Visits)
Office Organizing, Filing, Scanning
Housekeeping
CHS Ambassador and Friendraiser

Save-the-Dates

July 4- Opening Party, Auction 2026!
July 10- Lauren Wolk, Author Visit (*Beyond the Bright Sea*)
July 18- Art Fair on the lawn
July 30- Cindy Elder, Author Visit
August 1- Annual CHS Meeting
August 8- Art Fair on the lawn
August 18-20 - 250th American Celebration- SHALLOP TOUR visit

Our Generous Community

Supporting History for the Future

Donors & Members

Alden and Emily Anderson
Slater Anderson and Anne Geoghegan
Patty and Dave Andrews
Bill and Kass Ardinger
Barbara Ascher
Pamela Baldwin
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Marjorie Bernard
Allen and Sarah Berry
Doug and Zoe Billman
Gail Blout
Tom Bowler
Chip Bradish
Bruce Brooks
Jean and Sandy Brown
Tim and Judith Buckeridge
David Bullock
Michelle and Rob Burns
Richard Burroughs
Aurora Cammarata
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John Christian
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Sweyden Dibble
Laura Doe
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Jennifer Dorr and J.C. Norman
Melbourne Dorr
Tracey Dorr
Jay Douglas
Stephanie Drieze
Gerry and Cynthia Dubey
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Cindy Elder
Bob and Bee Elmore
Christine De Mauriac Fairchild
Shannon and Charles Field
Tibbie Field
Nancy Wilder and Jerome Frael



donors and members continued...

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Justin Reynolds
Mike Riley
Doris Rudolph
Anne Ryan
Winthrop Sanford
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Linny Schenck
Lolly Schenck
Holly Schroeder
Susan Schwarzwald and Werner Bargsten
Ben Shattuck and Jenny Slate
George and Anna Shaw
Ovadia R. Simha
Robert B. Smith
Beverly Anne Snow
Judi and Bob Sterns
Lise Stone and Stephen Heintz
David and Ann Marie Stonich
Steve Symonds
John and Betsy Tabor
Bill Tabor and Elise Fulstone
Allison Thurston
Steve Thurston
James Tietje
Nancy Tillinghast
Katy Tripp
Pam Tripp
David Tuttle and Bart Geissinger
Dave and Nancy Twichell
Sean and Lisa Uiterwyk
Dawn Vogt
Ellie von Wellsheim
Carmen I. Ward
David Warr
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Roger and Becky Williams
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David and Dede Frothingham
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Doug Garfield
Skip and Tally Garfield
Kitsy Garfield
Nina Garfield and Gregg Christopher
Wyatt and Rachel Garfield
Seth and Dorothy Garfield
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Coby Goodrich
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Tess Goodwin
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Susan Kontos
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Phoebe and CJ Lambert
James Leach

Stewart Young
Robert Younger and Robin Wilder

Tarpaulin Cove Lighthouse Fund Supporters

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Candace Haydock
Karen and David Nemiah
Arthur P. Hughes and Lanie Fleischer
Ed Kern
Diana and Bruce MacPhail
The Rev. and Mrs. Edward S. Prevost
Katy Tripp
Dave and Nancy Twichell

Volunteers

Kass*and Bill Ardinger, Sheila Barry, Sarah and Alan Berry, Zoe and Doug Billman, Jason Burns, Jane Chalton*, Ann and Jim Conway, Paula DiMare, Henry Devoe, Sawyer Devoe, Tracey Dorr, Bee Elmore, Tibbie Field, Andrew Frothingham, David and Patty Frothingham, Horace Garfield*, Ann Gary, Maddy Goggin, Tess Goodwin, Alison Granger, Tammis Groft, Annie Hinson*, Nate Hornbach*, Rachel* and Wyatt Garfield, Bracken Hendricks*, Mark Jackson*, Gretchen Kidder*, Roxy Leeson, Asa Lombard, Lee Lombard, Dale Lynch, Maddie Lynch, Elizabeth and Michael Prevost, Laura Mali-Astrue, Shelly and Jay Merriam, Janel and Bert Nagtegaal*, Kate Parker*, Carolyn Powers*, Bev and Ned Prevost, Lolly Schenck*, Anna and George Shaw, Bev Snow*, Bizzy Weisel, Greg Weisel, Henry Weisel, Kim Wiggins

**Board Members*

New Accessions from Donors

Donald and Judy Billings
Gloria Coder
Seth and Dorothy Garfield
Greg Hinshaw
Asa Lombard
Elias Quinn
Anna Shaw
Lise Stone

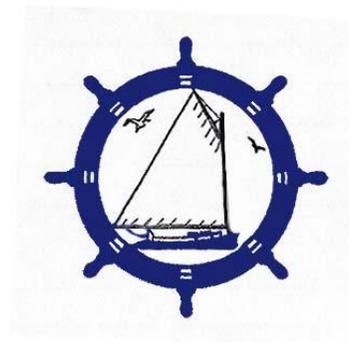
CHS Auction In-Kind Donors

Dix and Roxy Leeson
Sara Ellis and Paul Lehner
Joseph Li
Asa and Aimee Lombard
Karen Long
Nicholas Trott Long
David D. Low
Dale and Jennifer Lynch
Jennifer MacBain
Jane MacLeod
Diana and Bruce MacPhail
Mark and Blanche Magill
Will Makris and Douglas Reed
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George Martin
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The Rev. and Mrs. Edward S. Prevost
Sally Purcell
Barbara F. Purser
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Slater Anderson and Anne Geoghegan
Kass and Bill Ardinger
Allen and Sarah Berry
Chip Bradish
Jim and Ann Conway
Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farm
Jennifer Dorr
Stephanie Drieze
Maddy Goggin
Coby Goodrich
John Joseph and Dale Grayson
David and Annie Hinson
Nate Hornbach
Paul Huntley
Mark and Lexi Jackson
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Michele LaCamera
Roxy and Dix Leeson
Jennifer MacBain
Bert and Janel Nagtegaal
Kate and Michael Parker
John and Emily Pinheiro
Ben Shattuck and Jenny Slate
David and Ann Marie Stonich
Dawn Vogt
Robyn and Greg Weisel

Through QCD Giving

Advisors Charitable Gift Fund
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
JP Morgan
Raymond James Financial, Inc
Schwab Charitable
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut



Yacht Club Members

Baldwin Yacht Club
Cuttyhunk Yacht Club
Point Independence Yacht Club
Kingman Yacht Center
Wickford Yacht Club



Businesses and Nonprofits

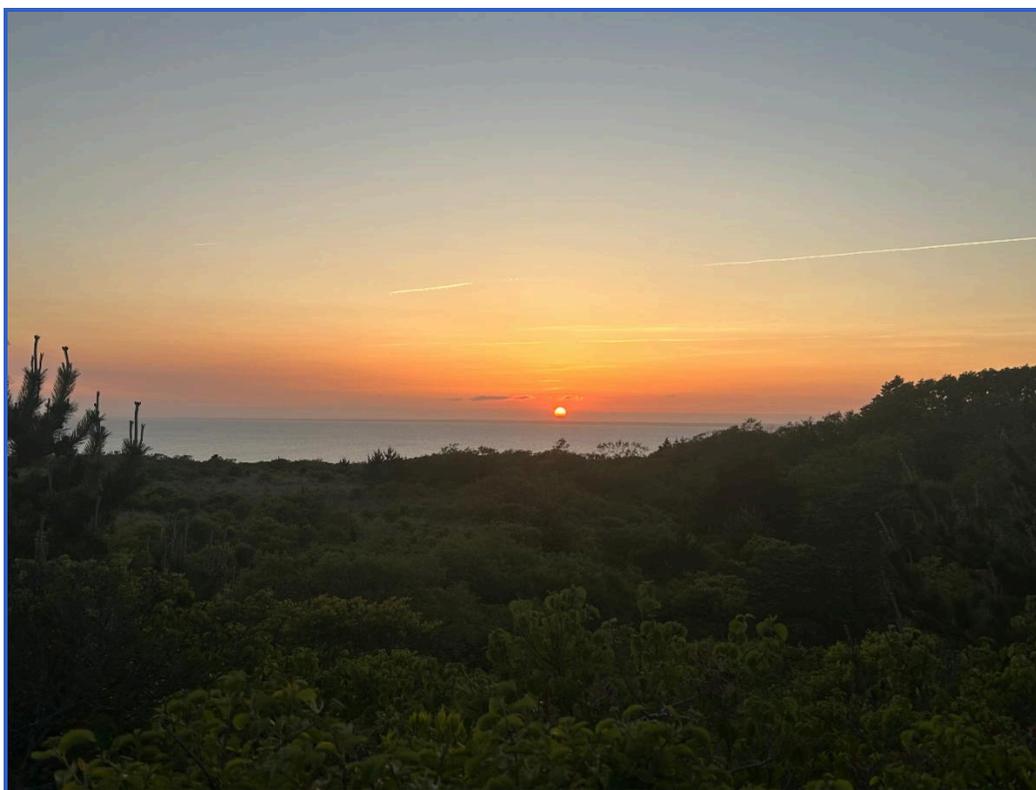
Allen County Public Library
Bass Bend Associates
Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms
Cuttyhunk Town Hall
Cuttyhunk Meeting House/Church
Gull Island Institute
Murray & MacDonald Insurance Srv, Inc

Foundations

Beech Tree Trust
Joseph Perini Memorial Foundation
Spartanburg County Foundation
The Verano Fund



CHS tries its best to be accurate in its donor, member and volunteer list. Our Annual Report encompasses the Fiscal Year 2025, which is January 1, 2025- December 31,2025. If we have made an error or there is a correction needed, please let us know and apologies in advance. www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Gifts in Memory and in Honor of...

- Patty and Dave Andrews ~ In memory of **Ralph Cataldo**
Pamela Baldwin ~ In memory of **Hilary B. Brown**
Gail Blout ~ In honor of **Kitsy Garfield and Allison Thurston**
David Bullock ~ In memory of **Jan Bosworth**
Aurora Cammarata ~ In memory of **William and Agnes Ryder**
Howard B. Cantor ~ In memory of **Roberta Cantor**
Cindy Carey ~ In memory of **John F. Carey**
Deborah Carney ~ in honor of **Dr. Janet Goguen**
Douglas and Jane Chalton ~ In memory of **Elizabeth Stevens and Dorothy Brown**
John Christian ~ In memory of **Jimmy Nunes and Ralph Cataldo**
Robert Cox ~ in honor of **The Cuffe/Wainer Family of Poochohunkkunnah**
Laura Doe ~ In memory of **Agnes and William Roper**
Pauline and Joseph Donoghue ~ In memory of **F. Merle & Henry Olson**
Sarah and Noel Dumas ~ In honor of **Kate Parker**
Bob and Bee Elmore ~ In memory of **Alec Brown**
Shannon and Charles Field ~ In memory of **Charles B Field, Jr**
Ms. Ruth S. Gammons ~ In memory of **Marge Smith**
Anne Goodrich Twichell ~ In memory of **Shirley and Frederick Goodrich**
Tess Goodwin ~ In honor of **Kitsy Garfield**
Brent and Serena Davis Hall ~ In memory of **Ruth Davis**
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Eddie Hornick ~ In memory of **Nancy Slocum**
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Joseph Perini Memorial Foundation ~ In memory of **Thomas Perini**
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Phoebe and CJ Lambert ~ In memory of **Nancy Baldwin**
Diana and Bruce MacPhail ~ In honor of **Martine Cherau**
Will Makris and Douglas Reed ~ In honor of **Bob Smith**
Shelly and Jay Merriam ~ In memory of **Scott Coope**
Ms. Bethany W. Mosshart ~ In memory of **The Tilttons & Winterbottoms**

Kate and Michael Parker ~ In memory of **Seymour DiMare, Scott Coope and Ralph Cataldo**, and In Honor of **Bee Elmore and Laura Mali- Astrue**
Thomas F. Parker and L. Michael Kraus ~ In honor of **Kate and Michael Parker**
Kirk Phelps ~ In honor of **Bruce Borges**
Clarissa Porter ~ In memory of **The Reverend and Mrs. Boone Porter Jr**
The Reverend Canon and Mrs. Nicholas T. Porter ~ In honor of **Gretchen Kidder**
Carolyn Powers ~ In honor of **The CHS Executive Committee**
Sally Purcell ~ In honor of **Robyn Weisel & CHS Staff**
Lolly Schenck ~ In memory of **Low Taylor**
Susan Schwarzwald and Werner Bargsten ~ In memory of **Scott Coope**
Beverly Anne Snow ~ In memory of **Gladys Snow**
Judi and Bob Sterns ~ In memory of **Carolyn Borges**
David and Ann Marie Stonich ~ In honor of my amazing sister, **Robyn Weisel**
John and Betsy Tabor ~ In memory of **Kate Tabor**
Allison Thurston ~ In memory of **Betty Jenkins**
Nancy Tillinghast ~ In honor of **Carolyn Powers**
Pam Tripp ~ In memory of **Joan and Whitey Lynch**
Robert Younger and Robin Wilder ~In memory of **Don Wilder**



In Memoriam

Dear friends we lost this past year

Hilary B. Brown
Ralph Cataldo
Scott Coope
Ruth Davis
Low Taylor
Don Wilder

Annual Reports, Quarterboards, publications, research materials, giving, virtual tours, and lots of other resources can be accessed on our comprehensive new website. Visit us at www.cuttyhunkhistoricalsociety.org

Visit our Website

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