



**General American Investors Company, Inc.**

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**GENERAL  
AMERICAN  
INVESTORS**

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**2009  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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## GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

Established in 1927, the Company is a closed-end investment company listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Its objective is long-term capital appreciation through investment in companies with above average growth potential.

### FINANCIAL SUMMARY (unaudited)

	2009	2008
Net assets applicable to Common Stock - December 31	\$864,323,372	\$674,597,801
Net investment income	3,400,143	13,446,046
Net realized gain	15,219,812	16,414,799
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation	204,253,481	(523,757,542)
Distributions to Preferred Stockholders	(11,474,004)	(11,899,613)
Per Common Share-December 31		
Net asset value	\$27.50	\$21.09
Market price	\$23.46	\$17.40
Discount from net asset value	-14.7%	-17.5%
Common Shares outstanding-Dec. 31	31,425,215	31,980,872
Common Stockholders of record-Dec. 31	3,689	3,806
Market price range* (high-low)	\$24.21-\$12.10	\$34.76-\$13.01
Market volume-shares	12,694,492	10,131,229

\*Unadjusted for dividend payments.

### DIVIDEND SUMMARY (per share) (unaudited)

Record Date	Payment Date	Ordinary Income	Long-Term Capital Gain	Return of Capital	Total
<b>Common Stock</b>					
Nov. 13, 2009	Dec. 28, 2009	\$.153697 (a)	\$.186135	\$.010168	\$.350000
<i>Total from 2009 earnings</i>					
(a) Includes short-term gains in the amount of \$.050416 per share.					
Nov. 14, 2008	Dec. 26, 2008	\$.185594	\$.254406		\$.440000
<i>Total from 2008 earnings</i>					
<b>Preferred Stock</b>					
Mar. 6, 2009	Mar. 24, 2009	\$.163303	\$.197768	\$.010804	\$.371875
Jun. 8, 2009	Jun. 24, 2009	.163303	.197768	.010804	.371875
Sept. 8, 2009	Sept. 24, 2009	.163303	.197768	.010804	.371875
Dec. 7, 2009	Dec. 24, 2009	.163303	.197768	.010804	.371875
<i>Total for 2009</i>					
(b) Includes short-term gains in the amount of \$.21426756 per share (\$.05356689 per quarter).					
Mar. 7, 2008	Mar. 24, 2008	\$.108585	\$.263290		\$.371875
Jun. 6, 2008	Jun. 24, 2008	.108585	.263290		.371875
Sept. 8, 2008	Sept. 24, 2008	.108585	.263290		.371875
Dec. 8, 2008	Dec. 24, 2008	.108585	.263290		.371875
<i>Total for 2008</i>					

General American Investors' net asset value (NAV) per Common Share (assuming reinvestment of all dividends) increased 32.1% for the year ended December 31, 2009. The U.S. stock market was up 26.5% for the year, as measured by our benchmark, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (including income). The return to our Common Stockholders increased by 36.9% and the discount at which our shares traded to their NAV continued to fluctuate and on December 31, 2009, it was 14.7%.

The table that follows provides a comprehensive presentation of our performance and compares our returns on an annualized basis with the S&P 500. Stockholder return reflects widening in the discount to NAV to the high end of its historic range, and may not fully illustrate that over many years General American Investors has produced superior investment results.

Years	Stockholder Return (Market Value)	NAV Return	S&P 500
3	-8.4%	-6.7%	-5.7%
5	1.1	1.2	0.3
10	2.8	2.9	-1.0
20	11.3	11.1	8.2
30	13.5	13.2	11.2
40	11.6	12.2	9.8
50	11.2	11.8	9.4

The market rally that began in the second week of March continued through the year, with our portfolio participating fully in the advance. Consistent with past experience, stocks turned up in advance of clear signs of a recovery in the economy. Typically, this phenomenon results from the creation of money, owing to massive monetary and fiscal stimulus, at a faster rate than the economy's ability to employ it. The excess liquidity then finds its way into equities as investors seek higher returns by purchasing riskier assets.

Data now support the view that the steep decline in the world economy is over and that recovery is becoming more firmly established, especially in Asia. The strength of the recovery in mature markets, importantly, is likely to be muted relative to previous cycles. Savings rates in developed economies are at record lows and, to the extent that it exists, pent-up demand faces the formidable head wind of tight credit and a still-weak jobs market.

In the U.S., where consumer spending is the main driver of GDP growth, we anticipate cyclical recovery to continue despite meaningful structural impediments. Because business spending generally recovers slowly following recessions, hiring is likely to be tempered, with the numbers of unemployed and underemployed remaining elevated for an extended period. Manufacturing jobs are declining secularly, while another construction boom, driven by housing, seems unlikely in the near-term. Additionally, advances in information technology are having a disruptive effect on labor markets.

Government intervention in the financial system has had its intended effect of stabilizing markets and generally making funds available at record-low interest rates. While many of the most profligate have been rescued, savers have been punished by near zero returns on their liquid assets. The budget deficit is likely to surpass \$1 trillion this year after reaching \$1.4 trillion in 2009, and the combination of Federal borrowing together with a firming economy is likely to put upward pressure on interest rates. Should our trading partners tire of funding the current account deficit by investing most of their receipts in U.S. Treasuries, dollar weakness would likely ensue. In turn, interest rates could spike, destabilizing capital markets.

The New Year has begun auspiciously. On average, earnings have been better than forecast. Stronger growth outside the U.S., combined with the weaker dollar, has had a favorable impact on companies with operations abroad and on the trade deficit. Corporate balance sheets are in relatively good shape and can support anticipated strength in demand. Worldwide, liquidity is abundant and the U.S. is likely to remain a destination of choice for capital, undergirding distressed assets and supporting appreciation. Despite expectation of a subpar recovery, the case for equities, on a longer-term basis, remains intact. While the investment environment may be volatile this year, with inflation seemingly contained stocks should be supported by low interest rates and reasonable valuations. Our investments remain focused on well-managed companies with strong financial characteristics that can generate consistent earnings growth and cash flow. We are confident that our portfolio reflects these attributes, which should result in continuing superior performance on a long-term basis.

The share repurchase program, a part of our ongoing effort to maximize NAV, continues. In 2009, the Company purchased 836,938 of its Common Shares on the open market at an average discount to NAV of 13.6%. The Board of Directors has authorized repurchases of Common Shares when they are trading at a discount to NAV of at least 8%.

In December 2009, the Board of Directors renewed authority originally granted in 2008 to repurchase up to 1 million outstanding shares of its 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock when the shares are trading at a market price below the liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share. In 2009, the Company purchased 380,013 of its Preferred Shares at an average price of \$23.56 per share.

Information about the Company, including our investment objectives, operating policies and procedures, investment results, record of dividend payments, financial reports and press releases, etc., is available on our website, which can be accessed at [www.generalamericaninvestors.com](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com).

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
 Spencer Davidson  
 Chairman of the Board  
 President and Chief Executive Officer  
 January 20, 2010

### Corporate Overview

General American Investors, established in 1927, is one of the nation's oldest closed-end investment companies. It is an independent organization that is internally managed. For regulatory purposes, the Company is classified as a diversified, closed-end management investment company; it is registered under and subject to the Investment Company Act of 1940 and Sub-Chapter M of the Internal Revenue Code.

### Investment Policy

The primary objective of the Company is long-term capital appreciation. Lesser emphasis is placed on current income. In seeking to achieve its primary objective, the Company invests principally in common stocks believed by its management to have better than average growth potential.

The Company's investment approach focuses on the selection of individual stocks, each of which is expected to meet a clearly defined portfolio objective. A continuous investment research program, which stresses fundamental security analysis, is carried on by the officers and staff of the Company under the oversight of the Board of Directors. The directors have a broad range of experience in business and financial affairs.

### Portfolio Manager

Mr. Spencer Davidson, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer, has been responsible for the management of the Company since August 1995. Mr. Davidson, who joined the Company in 1994 as senior investment counselor, has spent his entire business career on Wall Street since first joining an investment and banking firm in 1966.

### "GAM" Common Stock

As a closed-end investment company, the Company does not offer its shares continuously. The Common Stock is listed on The New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM) and can be bought or sold in the same manner as all listed stocks. Net asset value is computed and published on the Company's website daily (on an unaudited basis) and is also furnished upon request. It is also available on most electronic quotation services using the symbol "XGAMX." Net asset value per share (NAV), market price, and the discount or premium from NAV as of the close of each week, is published in *Barron's* and *The Wall Street Journal*, Monday edition.

While shares of the Company usually sell at a discount to NAV, as do the shares of most other domestic equity closed-end investment companies, they occasionally sell at a premium over NAV. During 2009, the stock sold at discounts to NAV which ranged from 10.7% (October 1) to 21.5% (March 9). At December 31, the price of the stock was at a discount of 14.7%.

Since March 1995, the Board of Directors has authorized the repurchase of Common Stock in the open market when the shares trade at a discount to net asset value of at least 8%.

### "GAM Pr B" Preferred Stock

On September 24, 2003, the Company issued and sold in an underwritten offering 8,000,000 shares of its 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B with a liquidation preference of \$25 per share (\$200,000,000 in the aggregate). The Preferred Shares are rated "Aaa" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and are listed and traded on The New York Stock Exchange (symbol, GAM Pr B). The Preferred Shares are available to leverage the investment performance of the Common Stockholders, it may also result in higher market volatility for the Common Stockholders.

On December 10, 2008, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 1 million Preferred Shares in the open market at prices below \$25 per share.

#### Dividend and Distribution Policy

The Company's dividend and distribution policy is to distribute to stockholders before year-end substantially all ordinary income estimated for the full year and capital gains realized during the ten-month period ended October 31 of that year. If any additional capital gains are realized and available or ordinary income is earned during the last two months of the year, a "spill-over" distribution of these amounts will be paid. Dividends and distributions on shares of Preferred Stock are paid quarterly. Distributions from capital gains and dividends from ordinary income are allocated proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock.

Dividends from income have been paid continuously on the Common Stock since 1939 and capital gain distributions in varying amounts have been paid for each of the years 1943-2009 (except for the year 1974). (A table listing dividends and distributions paid during the 20-year period 1990-2009 is shown at the bottom of page 6.) To the extent that shares can be issued, dividends and distributions are paid to Common Stockholders in additional shares of Common Stock unless the stockholder specifically requests payment in cash.

#### Proxy Voting Policies, Procedures and Record

The policies and procedures used by the Company to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities and the Company's proxy voting record for the 12-month period ended June 30, 2009 are available: (1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Company at its toll-free number (1-800-436-8401), (2) on the Company's website at [www.generalamericaninvestors.com](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com) and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

#### Direct Registration

The Company makes available direct registration for its Common Shareholders. Direct registration, which is an element of the Investors Choice Plan administered by our transfer agent, is a system that allows for book-entry ownership and electronic transfer of our Common Shares. Accordingly, when Common Shareholders, who hold their shares directly, receive new shares resulting from a purchase, transfer or dividend payment, they will receive a statement showing the credit of the new shares as well as their Plan account and certificated share balances. A brochure which describes the features and benefits of the Investors Choice Plan, including the ability of shareholders to deposit certificates with our transfer agent, can be obtained by calling American Stock Transfer & Trust Company at 1-800-413-5499, calling the Company at 1-800-436-8401 or visiting our website: [www.generalamericaninvestors.com](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com) - click on Distribution & Reports, then Report Downloads.

#### Privacy Policy and Practices

The Company collects nonpublic personal information about its customers (stockholders) with respect to their transactions in shares of the Company's securities but only for those stockholders whose shares are registered in their names. This information includes the stockholder's address, tax identification or Social Security number and dividend elections. We do not have knowledge of, nor do we collect personal information about, stockholders who hold the Company's securities at financial institutions in "street name" registration.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our current or former stockholders to anyone, except as permitted by law. We also restrict access to nonpublic personal information about our stockholders to those few employees who need to know that information to perform their responsibilities. We maintain safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard our stockholders' personal information.

**Total return on  
\$10,000 investment  
for 20 years ended  
December 31, 2009**

The investment return for a Common Stockholder of General American Investors (GAM) over the 20 years ended December 31, 2009 is shown in the table below and in the accompanying chart. The return based on GAM's net asset value (NAV) per Common Share in comparison to the change in the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (S&P 500) is also displayed. Each illustration assumes an investment of \$10,000 at the beginning of 1990.

**Stockholder Return** is the return a Common Stockholder of GAM would have achieved assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at the actual reinvestment price and of all cash dividends at the

average (mean between high and low) market price on the ex-dividend date.

**Net Asset Value (NAV) Return** is the return on shares of the Company's Common Stock based on the NAV per share, including the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at the reinvestment prices indicated above.

**Standard & Poor's 500 Return** is the time-weighted total rate of return on this widely-recognized, unmanaged index which is a measure of general stock market performance, including dividend income.

Past performance reported below may not be indicative of future results.

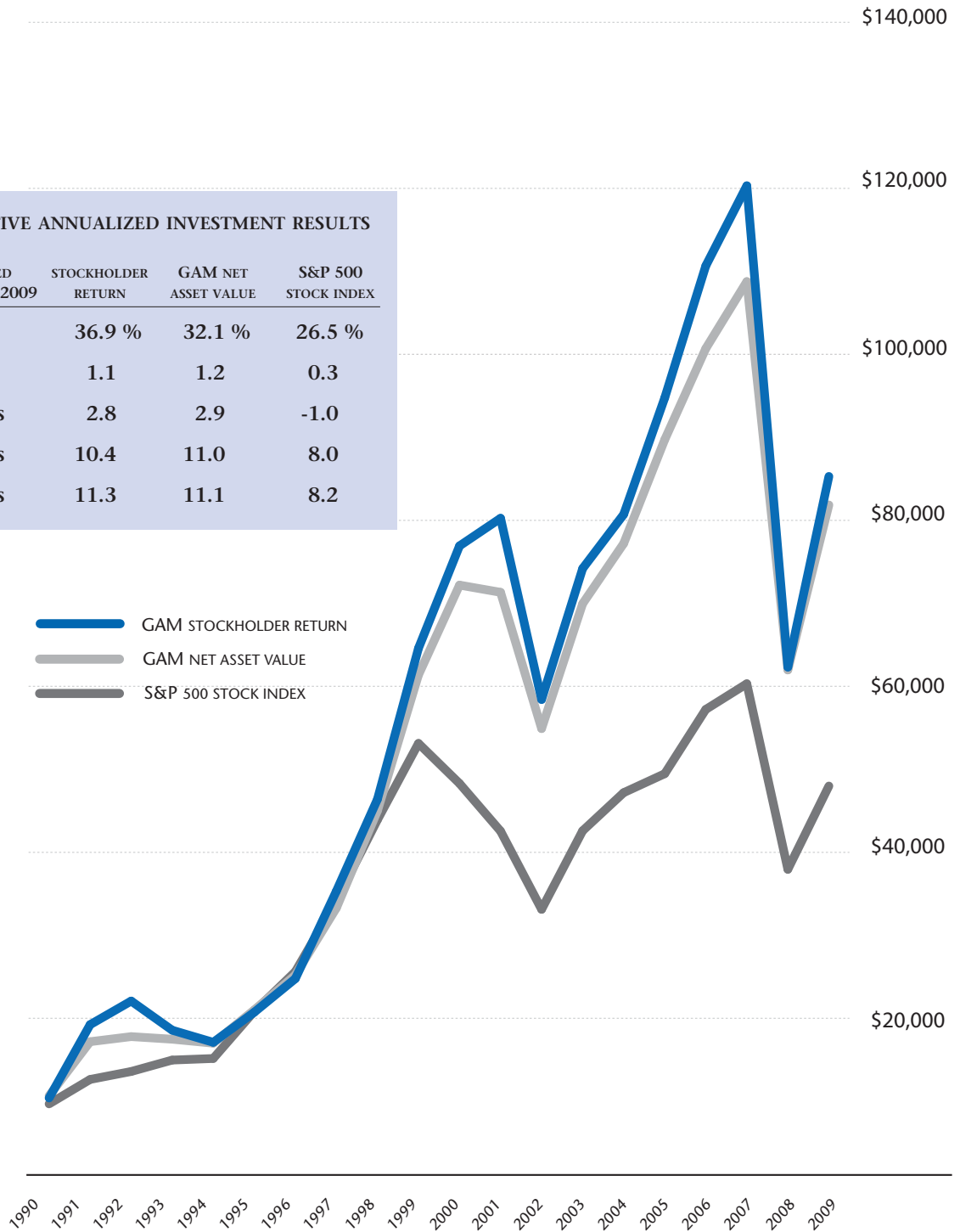
	GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS				STANDARD & POOR'S 500	
	STOCKHOLDER RETURN		NET ASSET VALUE RETURN		RETURN	
	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN	CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT	ANNUAL RETURN
1990	\$10,400	4.00%	\$10,669	6.69%	\$9,691	-3.09%
1991	19,240	85.00	17,187	61.09	12,637	30.40
1992	22,084	14.78	17,797	3.55	13,596	7.59
1993	18,568	-15.92	17,485	-1.75	14,972	10.12
1994	17,109	-7.86	17,006	-2.74	15,162	1.27
1995	20,739	21.22	21,016	23.58	20,848	37.50
1996	24,779	19.48	25,213	19.97	25,624	22.91
1997	35,330	42.58	33,294	32.05	34,165	33.33
1998	46,391	31.31	44,994	35.14	43,919	28.55
1999	64,586	39.22	61,372	36.40	53,125	20.96
2000	76,922	19.10	72,197	17.64	48,296	-9.09
2001	80,253	4.33	71,331	-1.20	42,553	-11.89
2002	58,416	-27.21	54,911	-23.02	33,132	-22.14
2003	74,194	27.01	69,956	27.40	42,595	28.56
2004	80,716	8.79	77,211	10.37	47,190	10.79
2005	94,761	17.40	89,719	16.20	49,470	4.83
2006	110,661	16.78	100,700	12.24	57,217	15.66
2007	120,311	8.72	108,766	8.01	60,312	5.41
2008	62,321	-48.20	61,975	-43.02	37,954	-37.07
2009	85,293	36.86	81,857	32.08	47,993	26.45

20-YEAR INVESTMENT RESULTS  
 ASSUMING AN INITIAL  
 INVESTMENT OF \$10,000

CUMULATIVE VALUE  
 OF INVESTMENT

**COMPARATIVE ANNUALIZED INVESTMENT RESULTS**

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009	STOCKHOLDER RETURN	GAM NET ASSET VALUE	S&P 500 STOCK INDEX
1 year	36.9 %	32.1 %	26.5 %
5 years	1.1	1.2	0.3
10 years	2.8	2.9	-1.0
15 years	10.4	11.0	8.0
20 years	11.3	11.1	8.2





INCREASES		SHARES TRANSACTIONED	SHARES HELD DECEMBER 31, 2009
NEW POSITIONS	Bond Street Holdings LLC	500,000	500,000
	Cephalon, Inc.	12,100	337,100 (b)
	Forethought Financial Group, Inc. Class A with Warrants	37,500	37,500
	Pfizer Inc.	655,808 (c)	655,808
ADDITIONS	Fidelity National Financial, Inc.	200,000	725,000
	Nelnet, Inc.	5,000	650,000
	The TJX Companies, Inc.	100,000	1,775,000
	Weatherford International Ltd.	100,000	2,150,000
DECREASES			
ELIMINATIONS	Target Corporation	250,000	—
	Wyeth	564,273 (d)	—
REDUCTIONS	American Express Company	25,000	325,000
	AXIS Capital Holdings Limited	25,000	275,000
	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A	10	130
	Heineken N.V.	25,000	350,000
	M&T Bank Corporation	5,000	150,000
	MetroPCS Communications, Inc.	300,000	135,500
	NetEase.com, Inc.	83,000	138,100
	The Travelers Companies, Inc.	15,000	200,000

(a) Excludes transactions in Common Stocks -Miscellaneous - Other.

(b) Shares purchased in prior period and previously carried under Common Stocks - Miscellaneous - Other.

(c) Shares received as a merger with Wyeth.

(d) Shares sold off as a result of a merger with Pfizer Inc.

#### DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS PER COMMON SHARE (1990-2009) (UNAUDITED)

*This table shows dividends and distributions on the Company's Common Stock for the prior 20-year period. Amounts shown are based upon the year in which the income was earned, not the year paid. Spill-over payments made after year-end are attributable to income and gain earned in the prior year.*

YEAR	EARNINGS SOURCE			
	INCOME	SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	RETURN OF CAPITAL
1990	\$.21	—	\$1.65	—
1991	.09	—	3.07	—
1992	.03	—	2.93	—
1993	.06	—	2.34	—
1994	.06	—	1.59	—
1995	.10	\$.03	2.77	—
1996	.20	.05	2.71	—
1997	.21	—	2.95	—
1998	.47	—	4.40	—
1999	.42	.62	4.05	—

YEAR	EARNINGS SOURCE			
	INCOME	SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	RETURN OF CAPITAL
2000	\$.48	\$1.55	\$6.16	—
2001	.37	.64	1.37	—
2002	.03	—	.33	—
2003	.02	—	.59	—
2004	.217	—	.957	—
2005	.547	.041	1.398	—
2006	.334	—	2.666	—
2007	.706	.009	5.25	—
2008	.186	—	.254	—
2009	.103	.051	.186	\$.01

**TEN LARGEST INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED)**

General American Investors

*The statement of investments as of December 31, 2009, shown on pages 12 and 13 includes 61 security issues. Listed here are the ten largest holdings on that date.*

	SHARES	VALUE	% COMMON NET ASSETS*
<b>THE TJX COMPANIES, INC.</b> Through its T.J. Maxx and Marshalls divisions, TJX is the leading off-price retailer. The continued growth of these divisions in the U.S. and Europe, along with expansion of related U.S. and foreign off-price formats, provide ongoing growth opportunities.	1,775,000	\$64,876,250	7.5%
<b>WEATHERFORD INTERNATIONAL LTD.</b> Weatherford supplies a broad range of oil field services and equipment on a worldwide basis. Its focus on helping customers to increase production from existing fields and to enhance recovery from new wells should lead to earnings growth.	2,150,000	38,506,500	4.5
<b>COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION</b> Costco is the world's largest wholesale club with a record of steady growth in sales and profits as it continues to gain share of the consumer dollar.	575,000	34,022,750	3.9
<b>QUALCOMM INCORPORATED</b> QUALCOMM is a leading developer of intellectual property and semiconductors for the mobile communications industry. The company stands to benefit greatly from the global adoption of mobile data applications.	700,000	32,382,000	3.7
<b>APACHE CORPORATION</b> Apache is a large independent oil and gas company with a long history of growing production and creating value for shareholders. The company's operations are primarily focused in North America, Egypt, Australia, and the North Sea.	295,478	30,484,465	3.5
<b>WAL-MART STORES, INC.</b> Wal-Mart is the world's largest retailer offering value to consumers in the U.S. and fifteen foreign countries.	550,000	29,397,500	3.4
<b>REPUBLIC SERVICES, INC.</b> Republic Services is a leading provider of non-hazardous, solid waste collection and disposal services in the U.S. The efficient operation of its routes and facilities combined with appropriate pricing enable Republic Services to generate significant free cash flow.	949,000	26,866,190	3.1
<b>DIAGEO PLC ADR</b> Diageo produces, distills and markets alcoholic beverages worldwide. Its portfolio of leading global brands includes Smirnoff, Johnnie Walker, Jose Cuervo, Captain Morgan, Tanqueray and Guinness. Additionally, the company markets numerous regional and local brands. The company's brand strength and global scale enable it to generate significant cash flow which it uses to reward shareholders in the form of dividends and buybacks.	350,000	24,293,500	2.8
<b>HALLIBURTON COMPANY</b> Halliburton offers a broad suite of services and products to customers worldwide for the exploration, development and production of oil and gas. The company has the scale, product depth and technology to provide value-added customer service and produce attractive long-term shareholder returns.	800,000	24,072,000	2.8
<b>ASML HOLDING N.V.</b> ASML is the world's leading provider of lithography systems for the semiconductor industry, manufacturing complex machines that are critical to the production of integrated circuits or microchips. ASML's products and services help their customers - the major chipmakers - reduce the size and increase the functionality of microchips, and consumer electronic equipment.	700,000	23,863,000	2.8
		<u>\$328,764,155</u>	<u>38.0%</u>

\*Net assets applicable to the Company's Common Stock.

## PORTFOLIO DIVERSIFICATION (UNAUDITED)

General American Investors

INDUSTRY CATEGORY	DECEMBER 31, 2009		DECEMBER 31, 2009
	COST(000)	VALUE(000)	PERCENT COMMON NET ASSETS*
Finance and Insurance			
Banking	\$10,764	\$19,384	2.2%
Insurance	71,719	119,013	13.8
Other	30,930	54,681	6.3
	<u>113,413</u>	<u>193,078</u>	<u>22.3</u>
Retail Trade	50,195	128,297	14.8
Oil and Natural Gas			
(Including Services)	80,957	115,721	13.4
Consumer Products and Services	87,069	109,455	12.7
Computer Software and Systems	80,004	74,746	8.6
Communications and			
Information Services	43,239	57,767	6.7
Miscellaneous**	47,719	49,541	5.7
Environmental Control			
(Including Services)	38,960	48,166	5.6
Aerospace/Defense	52,291	42,841	5.0
Health Care/Pharmaceuticals	38,914	40,041	4.6
Technology	40,141	38,802	4.5
Semiconductors	24,408	35,165	4.1
Machinery and Equipment	13,365	22,920	2.7
Building and Real Estate	23,385	22,127	2.6
Metals	19,940	18,025	2.1
Transportation	11,005	8,082	0.9
	<u>765,005</u>	<u>1,004,774</u>	<u>116.3</u>
Short-Term Securities	52,927	52,927	6.1
Total Investments	<u>\$817,932</u>	<u>1,057,701</u>	<u>122.4</u>
Other Assets and Liabilities - Net		(3,261)	(0.4)
Preferred Stock		(190,117)	(22.0)
Net Assets Applicable to			
Common Stock		<u>\$864,323</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

\* Net assets applicable to the Company's Common Stock.

\*\* Securities which have been held for less than one year, not previously disclosed and not restricted.

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

General American Investors

ASSETS	DECEMBER 31, 2009
<hr/>	
INVESTMENTS, AT VALUE (NOTE 1a)	
Common stocks (cost \$744,449,652)	\$975,416,920
Corporate debt (cost \$20,555,760)	29,357,226
Money market fund (cost \$52,926,704)	52,926,704
Total investments (cost \$817,932,116)	<u>1,057,700,850</u>
RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS	
Cash (a)	2,009,230
Premium deposited with brokers for options written	46,223
Dividends, interest and other receivables	1,358,336
Qualified pension plan asset, net excess funded (note 5)	3,566,593
Prepaid expenses and other assets	<u>2,887,262</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,067,568,494</u>
LIABILITIES	
<hr/>	
Payable for securities purchased	1,465,438
Accrued preferred stock dividend not yet declared	219,955
Outstanding options written at value (premiums deposited with brokers \$46,223) (notes 1b and 6)	7,500
Accrued supplemental pension plan liability (note 5)	3,347,928
Accrued supplemental thrift plan liability	2,532,330
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	<u>5,554,796</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>13,127,947</u>
5.95% CUMULATIVE PREFERRED STOCK, SERIES B - 7,604,687 at a liquidation value of \$25 per share (note 2)	<u>190,117,175</u>
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK - 31,425,215 (note 2)	<u>\$864,323,372</u>
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE	<u>\$27.50</u>
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	
<hr/>	
Common Stock, 31,425,215 shares at par value (note 2)	\$31,425,215
Additional paid-in capital (note 2)	595,653,151
Undistributed net investment income (note 2)	2,522,662
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (note 5)	(4,865,158)
Unallocated distributions on Preferred Stock	(219,955)
Unrealized appreciation on investments and options	<u>239,807,457</u>
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	<u>\$864,323,372</u>
(a) \$1,968,750 held by custodian in a segregated custodial account as collateral for written options.	
(see notes to financial statements)	

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

General American Investors

INCOME	DECEMBER 31, 2009
Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$332,152)	\$14,349,771
Interest	3,237,147
TOTAL INCOME	<u>17,586,918</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Investment research	8,465,743
Administration and operations	3,111,927
Office space and general	1,671,041
Directors' fees and expenses	255,223
Auditing and legal fees	213,339
Miscellaneous taxes	187,168
Transfer agent, custodian and registrar fees and expenses	150,682
Stockholders' meeting and reports	131,652
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>14,186,775</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME	<u>3,400,143</u>
<b>Realized Gain And Change In Unrealized Appreciation On Investments (Notes 1, 4 and 6)</b>	
Net realized gain on investments:	
Securities transactions (long-term, except for \$4,043,031)	15,407,515
Written option transactions (notes 1b and 6)	(187,703)
	<u>15,219,812</u>
Net increase in unrealized appreciation	<u>204,253,481</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME AND GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	222,873,436
DISTRIBUTIONS TO PREFERRED STOCKHOLDERS	(11,474,004)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	<u><u>\$211,399,432</u></u>

(see notes to financial statements)

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

General American Investors

OPERATIONS	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2009	2008
Net investment income	\$3,400,143	\$13,446,046
Net realized gain on investments	15,219,812	16,414,799
Net increase (decrease) in unrealized appreciation	204,253,481	(523,757,542)
	<u>222,873,436</u>	<u>(493,896,697)</u>
Distributions to Preferred Stockholders:		
From net investment income	(3,389,107)	(3,474,724)
From short-term capital gains	(1,654,369)	—
From long-term capital gains	(6,107,907)	(8,425,276)
Return of Capital	(333,668)	—
Unallocated distributions	11,047	387
Decrease in net assets from Preferred distributions	<u>(11,474,004)</u>	<u>( 11,899,613)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	<u>211,399,432</u>	<u>(505,796,310)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Adjustment to apply FAS 158 (note 5)	<u>1,911,451</u>	<u>(7,885,172)</u>
DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCKHOLDERS		
From net investment income	(3,248,669)	(6,024,428)
From short-term capital gains	(1,585,814)	—
From long-term capital gains	(5,854,806)	(14,620,307)
Return of Capital	(319,841)	—
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS	<u>(11,009,130)</u>	<u>(20,644,735)</u>
CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS (NOTE 2)		
Value of Common Shares issued in payment of dividends and distributions	6,430,088	7,928,339
Cost of Common Shares purchased	(19,553,159)	(1,986,688)
Benefit to Common Shareholders resulting from Preferred Shares purchased	<u>546,889</u>	<u>59,398</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS - CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS	<u>(12,576,182)</u>	<u>6,001,049</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	189,725,571	(528,325,168)
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK		
BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>674,597,801</u>	<u>1,202,922,969</u>
END OF YEAR (including undistributed net investment income of \$2,522,662 and \$5,759,182, respectively)	<u>\$864,323,372</u>	<u>\$674,597,801</u>

(see notes to financial statements)

	SHARES	COMMON STOCKS	VALUE (NOTE 1a)
AEROSPACE/DEFENSE (5.0%)	300,000	The Boeing Company	\$16,239,000
	215,000	Textron Inc.	4,044,150
	325,000	United Technologies Corporation	22,558,250
		(COST \$52,290,876)	42,841,400
BUILDING AND REAL ESTATE (2.6%)	1,872,000	CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. ADR (a)	(COST \$23,385,068) 22,127,040
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES (6.7%)	960,000	Cisco Systems, Inc. (a)	22,982,400
	78,000	Leap Wireless International, Inc. (a)	1,368,900
	135,500	MetroPCS Communications, Inc. (a)	1,033,865
	700,000	QUALCOMM Incorporated	32,382,000
	(COST \$43,239,261)	57,767,165	
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS (8.6%)	1,290,000	Dell Inc. (a)	18,524,400
	570,000	Microsoft Corporation	17,373,600
	138,100	NetEase.com, Inc. (a)	5,195,322
	67,100	Nintendo Co., Ltd.	15,895,142
	565,000	Teradata Corporation (a)	17,757,950
	(COST \$80,004,215)	74,746,414	
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (11.6%)	350,000	Diageo plc ADR	24,293,500
	350,000	Heineken N.V.	16,872,930
	466,100	Hewitt Associates, Inc. Class A (a)	19,697,386
	450,000	Nestle S.A.	21,857,764
	285,000	PepsiCo, Inc.	17,328,000
	(COST \$79,353,285)	100,049,580	
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (INCLUDING SERVICES) (5.6%)	949,000	Republic Services, Inc.	26,866,190
	630,000	Waste Management, Inc.	21,300,300
	(COST \$38,960,134)	48,166,490	
FINANCE AND INSURANCE (22.3%)	BANKING (2.2%)		
	500,000	Bond Street Holdings LLC (a) (c)	9,350,000
	150,000	M&T Bank Corporation	10,033,500
		(COST \$10,764,416)	19,383,500
	INSURANCE (13.8%)		
	175,000	The Allstate Corporation	5,257,000
	315,000	Arch Capital Group Ltd. (a)	22,538,250
	275,000	AXIS Capital Holdings Limited	7,812,750
	250,000	Everest Re Group, Ltd.	21,420,000
	725,000	Fidelity National Financial, Inc.	9,758,500
	37,500	Forethought Financial Group, Inc. Class A with Warrants (a) (d)	7,500,000
	280,000	MetLife, Inc.	9,898,000
	275,000	PartnerRe Ltd.	20,531,500
	83,000	Transatlantic Holdings, Inc.	4,325,130
	200,000	The Travelers Companies, Inc.	9,972,000
		(COST \$71,719,007)	119,013,130
	OTHER (6.3%)		
	325,000	American Express Company	13,169,000
	130	Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Class A (a)	12,896,000
	1,666,667	Epoch Holding Corporation	17,416,670
	650,000	Nelnet, Inc.	11,199,500
		(COST \$30,929,988)	54,681,170
		(COST \$113,413,411)	193,077,800
HEALTH CARE / PHARMACEUTICALS (4.6%)	337,100	Cephalon, Inc. (a)	21,041,782
	529,900	Cytokinetics, Incorporated (a)	1,542,009
	119,500	Gilead Sciences, Inc. (a)	5,170,765
	655,808	Pfizer Inc.	11,929,147
	195,344	Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	357,480
	(COST \$38,914,346)	40,041,183	
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (2.7%)	1,200,000	ABB Ltd. ADR	(COST \$13,364,456) 22,920,000

	SHARES	<b>COMMON STOCKS</b> (Continued)		VALUE (NOTE 1a)
METALS (2.1%)	254,200	Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. (a)		\$11,027,196
	150,000	Nucor Corporation		6,997,500
			(COST \$19,939,605)	18,024,696
MISCELLANEOUS (5.7%)		Other (b)	(COST \$47,718,963)	49,540,984
OIL AND NATURAL GAS (INCLUDING SERVICES) (13.4%)	295,478	Apache Corporation		30,484,465
	100,000	Devon Energy Corporation		7,350,000
	800,000	Halliburton Company		24,072,000
	250,000	McDermott International, Inc. (a)		6,002,500
	2,150,000	Weatherford International Ltd. (a)		38,506,500
	200,000	XTO Energy Inc.		9,306,000
			(COST \$80,956,754)	115,721,465
RETAIL TRADE (14.8%)	575,000	Costco Wholesale Corporation		34,022,750
	1,775,000	The TJX Companies, Inc.		64,876,250
	550,000	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.		29,397,500
			(COST \$50,195,392)	128,296,500
SEMICONDUCTORS (2.8%)	700,000	ASML Holding N.V.	(COST \$17,340,380)	23,863,000
TECHNOLOGY (3.5%)	750,000	International Game Technology		14,077,500
	1,900,000	Xerox Corporation		16,074,000
			(COST \$34,368,474)	30,151,500
TRANSPORTATION (0.9%)	236,100	Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.	(COST \$11,005,032)	8,081,703
		TOTAL COMMON STOCKS (112.9%)	(COST \$744,449,652)	975,416,920
	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT	<b>CORPORATE DEBT</b> (e)		
CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (1.1%)	\$9,600,000	Smithfield Foods, Inc., 7.75% due 5/15/2013	(COST \$7,715,415)	9,405,600
SEMICONDUCTORS (1.3%)	8,000,000	ASML Holding N.V., 5.75% due 6/13/2017	(COST \$7,067,846)	11,301,626
TECHNOLOGY (1.0%)	10,000,000	VeriFone Holdings, Inc., 1.375% due 6/15/2012	(COST \$5,772,499)	8,650,000
		TOTAL CORPORATE DEBT (3.4%)	(COST \$20,555,760)	29,357,226
	SHARES	<b>SHORT-TERM SECURITIES AND OTHER ASSETS</b>		
	52,926,704	SSgA Prime Money Market Fund (6.1%)	(COST \$52,926,704)	52,926,704
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (f) (122.4%)			(COST \$817,932,116)	1,057,700,850
Liabilities in excess of receivables and other assets (-0.4%)				(3,260,303)
				1,054,440,547
PREFERRED STOCK (-22.0%)				(190,117,175)
NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK (100%)				\$864,323,372

(a) Non-income producing security.

(b) Securities which have been held for less than one year, not previously disclosed, and not restricted.

(c) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/4/09, note 8.

(d) Level 3 fair value measurement, restricted security acquired 11/3/09, note 8.

(e) Level 2 fair value measurement, note 8.

(f) At December 31, 2009: (1) the cost of investments for Federal income tax purposes was the same as the cost for financial reporting purposes, (2) aggregate gross unrealized appreciation was \$293,300,284, (3) aggregate gross unrealized depreciation was \$53,531,550, and (4) net unrealized appreciation was \$239,768,734.

#### STATEMENT OF OPTION WRITTEN DECEMBER 31, 2009

PUT OPTION	CONTRACTS (100 SHARES EACH)	COMMON STOCK/EXPIRATION DATE/EXERCISE PRICE	VALUE (NOTE 1a)
AGRICULTURAL	250	Monsanto Company/January 10/\$75.00	
		(PREMIUM DEPOSITED WITH BROKERS \$46,223)	\$7,500

(see notes to financial statements)



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**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

General American Investors Company, Inc. (the "Company"), established in 1927, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a closed-end, diversified management investment company. It is internally managed by its officers under the direction of the Board of Directors.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

a. **SECURITY VALUATION** Equity securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the period. Equity securities reported on the NASDAQ national market are valued at the official closing price on that day. Listed and NASDAQ equity securities for which no sales are reported on that day and other securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last bid price (asked price for options written) on the valuation date. Equity securities traded primarily in foreign markets are valued at the closing price of such securities on their respective exchanges or markets. Corporate debt securities, domestic and foreign, are generally traded in the over-the-counter market rather than on a securities exchange. The Company utilizes the latest bid prices provided by independent dealers and information with respect to transactions in such securities to determine current market value. If, after the close of foreign markets, conditions change significantly, the price of certain foreign securities may be adjusted to reflect fair value as of the time of the valuation of the portfolio. Investments in money market funds are valued at their net asset value. Special holdings (restricted securities) and other securities for which quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value determined in good faith pursuant to procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board of Directors.

b. **OPTIONS** The Company may purchase and write (sell) put and call options. The Company typically purchases put options or writes call options to hedge the value of portfolio investments while it typically purchases call options and writes put options to obtain equity market exposure under specified circumstances. The risk associated with purchasing an option is that the Company pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. Additionally, the Company bears the risk of loss of the premium and a change in market value should the counterparty not perform under the contract. Put and call options purchased are accounted for in the same manner as portfolio securities. Premiums received from writing options are reported as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Those that expire unexercised are treated by the Company on the expiration date as realized gains on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. The difference between the premium received and the amount paid on effecting a closing purchase transaction, including brokerage commissions, is also treated as a realized gain, or, if the premium is less than the amount paid for the closing purchase transaction, as a realized loss on written option transactions in the Statement of Operations. If a call option is exercised, the premium is added to the proceeds from the sale of the underlying security in determining whether the Company has realized a gain or loss on investments in the Statement of Operations. If a put option is exercised, the premium reduces the cost basis for the securities purchased by the Company and is parenthetically disclosed under cost of investments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The Company as writer of an option bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security underlying the written option. See Note 6 for written option activity.

c. **SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENT INCOME** Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Dividend income and distributions to stockholders are recorded as of the ex-dividend dates. Interest income, adjusted for amortization of discount and premium on investments, is earned from settlement date and is recognized on the accrual basis. Cost of short-term investments represents amortized cost.

d. **FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION AND TRANSACTIONS** Portfolio securities and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars based on the exchange rate of such currencies versus U.S. dollars on the date of valuation. Purchases and sales of securities, income and expense items denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect on the transaction date. Events may impact the availability or reliability of foreign exchange rates used to convert the U.S. dollar equivalent value. If such an event occurs, the foreign exchange rate will be valued at fair value using procedures established and approved by the Company's Board of Directors. The Company does not separately report the effect of changes in foreign exchange rates from changes in market prices on securities held. Such changes are included in net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments on the Statement of Operations.

Realized foreign exchange gains or losses arise from sales of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions and the difference between the recorded amounts of dividends, interest, and foreign withholding taxes and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes in foreign exchange rates on foreign denominated assets and liabilities other than investments in securities held at the end of the reporting period.

Foreign security and currency transactions may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with those of U.S. companies as a result of, among other factors, the possibility of political or economic instability or the level of governmental supervision and regulation of foreign securities markets.

e. **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS** The Company expects to pay dividends of net investment income and distributions of net realized capital and currency gains, if any, annually to common shareholders and quarterly to preferred shareholders. Dividends and distributions to common and preferred shareholders, which are determined in accordance with Federal income tax regulations are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Distributions for tax and book purposes are substantially the same. Permanent book/tax differences relating to income and gains are reclassified to paid-in capital as they arise.

f. **FEDERAL INCOME TAXES** The Company's policy is to fulfill the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all taxable income to its stockholders. Accordingly, no provision for Federal income taxes is required. As of and during the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company did not have any liabilities for any unrecognized tax positions. The Company recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to unrecognized tax positions as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. During the year, the Company did not incur any interest or penalties.

**1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued from previous page.)**

g. **CONTINGENT LIABILITIES** Amounts related to contingent liabilities are accrued if it is probable that a liability has been incurred and an amount is reasonably estimable. Management evaluates whether there are incremental legal or other costs directly associated with the ultimate resolution of a matter that are reasonably estimable and, if so, they are included in the accrual.

h. **INDEMNIFICATIONS** In the ordinary course of business, the Company enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnifications. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown. However, the Company has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these indemnification provisions and expects the risk of loss thereunder to be remote.

**2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS**

The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of 50,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, and 10,000,000 shares of Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value. With respect to the Common Stock, 31,425,215 shares were issued and outstanding; 8,000,000 Preferred Shares were originally issued and 7,604,687 were outstanding on December 31, 2009.

On September 24, 2003, the Company issued and sold 8,000,000 shares of its 5.95% Cumulative Preferred Stock, Series B in an underwritten offering. The Preferred Shares were noncallable for the 5 year period ended September 24, 2008 and have a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends to the date of redemption. On December 10, 2008, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 1 million Preferred Shares in the open market at prices below \$25.00 per share. A total of 380,013 Preferred Shares were repurchased at an average cost per share of \$23.56 during the year ended December 31, 2009. The average discount of \$1.44 per Preferred Share, \$546,889 in the aggregate, was credited to additional paid-in capital of the Common Stock.

The Company is required to allocate distributions from long-term capital gains and other types of income proportionately among holders of shares of Common Stock and Preferred Stock. To the extent that dividends on the shares of Preferred Stock are not paid from long-term capital gains, they will be paid from ordinary income or net short-term capital gains or will represent a return of capital.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Company is required to maintain an asset coverage of at least 200% of the Preferred Stock. In addition, pursuant to Moody's Investor Service, Inc. Rating Agency Guidelines, the Company is required to maintain a certain discounted asset coverage for its portfolio that equals or exceeds a Basic Maintenance Amount. The Company has met these requirements since the issuance of the Preferred Stock. If the Company fails to meet these requirements in the future and does not cure such failure, the Company may be required to redeem, in whole or in part, shares of Preferred Stock at a redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus accumulated and unpaid dividends. In addition, failure to meet the foregoing asset coverage requirements could restrict the Company's ability to pay dividends on shares of Common Stock and could lead to sales of portfolio securities at inopportune times.

The holders of Preferred Stock have voting rights equivalent to those of the holders of Common Stock (one vote per share) and, generally, vote together with the holders of Common Stock as a single class.

At all times, holders of Preferred Stock will elect two members to the Company's Board of Directors and the holders of Preferred and Common Stock, voting as a single class, will elect the remaining directors. If the Company fails to pay dividends on the Preferred Stock in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of Preferred Stock will have the right to elect a majority of the directors. In addition, the Investment Company Act of 1940 requires that approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding Preferred Shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (a) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the Preferred Stock and (b) take any action requiring a vote of security holders, including, among other things, changes in the Company's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment policies.

The Company presents its Preferred Stock, for which its redemption is outside of the Company's control, outside of the net assets applicable to Common Stock in the statement of assets and liabilities.

Transactions in Common Stock during 2009 and 2008 were as follows:

	SHARES		AMOUNT	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
Shares issued in payment of dividends and distributions (includes 281,281 and 103,047 shares issued from treasury, respectively)	281,281	509,861	\$281,281	\$509,861
Increase in paid-in capital			6,148,807	7,418,478
Total increase			6,430,088	7,928,339
Shares purchased (at an average discount from net asset value of 13.6% and 19.8%, respectively)	836,938	102,047	(836,938)	(102,047)
Decrease in paid-in capital			(18,716,221)	(1,884,641)
Total decrease			(19,553,159)	(1,986,688)
Net increase (decrease)			(\$13,123,071)	\$5,941,651

At December 31, 2009, the Company held in its treasury 555,657 shares of Common Stock with an aggregate cost in the amount of \$13,354,222.

**2. CAPITAL STOCK AND DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTIONS - (Continued from previous page.)**

Distributions for tax and book purposes are substantially the same. As of December 31, 2009, distributable earnings on a tax basis included \$239,807,457 from unrealized appreciation. Reclassifications arising from permanent "book/tax" differences reflect non-tax deductible expenses incurred during the year ended December 31, 2009. As a result, undistributed net investment income was increased by \$1,113 and additional paid-in capital was decreased by \$1,113. Net assets were not affected by this reclassification.

**3. OFFICERS' COMPENSATION**

The aggregate compensation accrued and paid by the Company during the year ended December 31, 2009 to its officers (identified on page 20) amounted to \$6,863,500.

**4. PURCHASES AND SALES OF SECURITIES**

Purchases and sales of securities (other than short-term securities and options) during 2009 amounted to \$236,916,431 and \$207,569,760, on long transactions, respectively.

**5. BENEFIT PLANS**

The Company has funded (Qualified) and unfunded (Supplemental) defined contribution thrift plans that are available to its employees. The aggregate cost of such plans for 2009 was \$ 1,188,895. The Company also has both funded (Qualified) and unfunded (Supplemental) noncontributory defined benefit pension plans that cover its employees. The pension plan provides a defined benefit based on years of service and final average salary with an offset for a portion of Social Security covered compensation.

The Company recognizes the overfunded or underfunded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan as an asset or liability in the statement of assets and liabilities and recognizes changes in funded status in the year in which the changes occur through other comprehensive income.

## OBLIGATIONS AND FUNDED STATUS OF DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS:

	DECEMBER 31, 2009 (MEASUREMENT DATE)		
	QUALIFIED PLAN	SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN	TOTAL
CHANGE IN BENEFIT OBLIGATION:			
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$9,534,534	\$3,195,179	\$12,729,713
Service cost	277,950	93,365	371,315
Interest cost	584,624	194,275	778,899
Benefits paid	(538,394)	(165,253)	(703,647)
Actuarial (gains)/losses	474,858	30,362	505,220
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	10,333,572	3,347,928	13,681,500
CHANGE IN PLAN ASSETS:			
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	11,433,829	—	11,433,829
Actual return on plan assets	3,004,730	—	3,004,730
Employer contributions	—	165,253	165,253
Benefits paid	(538,394)	(165,253)	(703,647)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	13,900,165	—	13,900,165
FUNDED STATUS AT END OF YEAR	\$3,566,593	(\$3,347,928)	\$218,665
Accumulated benefit obligation at end of year	\$9,499,823	\$3,128,155	\$12,627,978
CHANGE IN FUNDED STATUS:	BEFORE	ADJUSTMENTS	AFTER
Noncurrent benefit asset	\$1,899,294	\$1,667,299	\$3,566,593
LIABILITIES			
Current benefit liability	268,218	(75,583)	192,635
Noncurrent benefit liability	2,926,960	228,332	3,155,292
ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	6,776,609	(1,911,451)	4,865,158
AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME CONSIST OF:			
Net actuarial gain	\$6,461,679	(\$1,884,525)	\$4,577,154
Prior service cost	314,930	(26,926)	288,004
	\$6,776,609	(\$1,911,451)	\$4,865,158
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE ASSUMPTIONS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND FOR DETERMINING NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009:			
Discount rate	5.75%	5.75%	
Expected return on plan assets	7.20%	N/A	
Salary scale assumption	4.25%	4.25%	
COMPONENTS OF NET PERIODIC BENEFIT COST:			
Service cost	\$277,950	\$93,365	\$371,315
Interest cost	584,624	194,275	778,899
Expected return on plan assets	(968,837)	—	(968,837)
Amortization of:			
Prior service cost	24,669	2,257	26,926
Recognized net actuarial loss	353,851	—	353,851
Net periodic benefit cost	\$272,257	\$289,897	\$562,154

**5. BENEFIT PLANS - (Continued from previous page.)**

PLAN ASSETS		EXPECTED CASH FLOWS		Qualified Plan	Supplemental Plan	Total
The Company's qualified pension plan asset allocations by asset at December 31, 2009, is as follows:		Expected Company contributions for 2010		—	\$192,635	\$192,635
<u>ASSET CATEGORY</u>		Expected benefit payments:				
Equity securities	82%	2010		\$563,621	\$192,635	\$756,256
Debt securities	—	2011		587,661	205,650	793,311
Other	18	2012		598,057	209,338	807,395
Total	<u>100%</u>	2013		636,715	217,742	854,457
		2014		687,177	221,905	909,082
Generally, not less than 80% of plan assets are invested in investment companies that invest in equity securities.		2015-2019		3,521,763	1,084,758	4,606,521

**6. WRITTEN OPTIONS**

Transactions in written covered call and collateralized put options during the year ended December 31, 2009 were as follows:

	Covered Calls		Collateralized Puts	
	Contracts	Premiums	Contracts	Premiums
Options written	9,295	\$1,444,184	650	\$180,399
Options expired	(3,376)	(446,663)	(150)	(29,954)
Options exercised	(3,619)	(474,577)	(250)	(104,222)
Options terminated in closing purchase transaction	(2,300)	(522,944)	—	—
Options outstanding, December 31, 2009	<u>0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>\$46,223</u>

**7. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENT**

In September 2007, the Company entered into an operating lease agreement for office space which expires in February 2018 and provides for future rental payments in the aggregate amount of approximately \$10,755,000, net of construction credits. The lease agreement contains clauses whereby the Company receives free rent for a specified number of months and credit towards construction of office improvements, and incurs escalations annually relating to operating costs and real property taxes and to annual rent charges beginning in February 2013. The Company has the option to renew the lease after February 2018 for five years at market rates. Rental expense approximated \$1,083,800 for the year ended December 31, 2009. Minimum rental commitments under the operating lease are approximately \$1,075,000 per annum in 2010 through 2012, \$1,183,000 in 2013 through 2017, and \$99,000 in 2018.

**8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

Various data inputs are used in determining the value of the Company's investments. These inputs are summarized in a hierarchy consisting of the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 - quoted prices in active markets for identical securities (including money market funds which are valued using amortized cost and which transact at net asset value, typically \$1 per share),

Level 2 - other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, credit risk, etc.), and

Level 3 - significant unobservable inputs (including the Company's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the Company's net assets as of December 31, 2009:

Assets	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Common stocks	\$958,566,920	—	\$16,850,000	\$975,416,920
Corporate debt	—	\$29,357,226	—	29,357,226
Money market fund	52,926,704	—	—	52,926,704
Total	<u>\$1,011,493,624</u>	<u>\$29,357,226</u>	<u>\$16,850,000</u>	<u>\$1,057,700,850</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Options written	<u>(\$7,500)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(\$7,500)</u>

The aggregate value of Level 3 portfolio investments changed during the twelve months ended December 31, 2009 as follows:

Change in Portfolio Valuations using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
Acquisition of Level 3 assets	\$17,500,000
Included in net change in unrealized depreciation on investments	(650,000)
Fair value at December 31, 2009	<u>\$16,850,000</u>

The amount of net unrealized gain included in the results of operations attributable to Level 3 assets held at December 31, 2009 and reported within the caption

Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation in the Statement of Operations: \$650,000

**9. LITIGATION**

The Company is subject to a legal action arising from a construction worker's personal injury that is covered under the terms of its insurance policies. Defense and legal costs are being funded by the insurer; damages are unspecified at this time. No liabilities or expenses have been incurred by the Company to date.

**10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through February 3, 2010, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. There are no events to report subsequent to December 31, 2009.

The following table shows per share operating performance data, total investment return, ratios and supplemental data for each year in the five-year period ended December 31, 2009. This information has been derived from information contained in the financial statements and market price data for the Company's shares.

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$21.09	\$38.10	\$40.54	\$39.00	\$35.49
Net investment income	.11	.42	.31	.34	.19
Net gain (loss) on securities - realized and unrealized	6.94	(16.15)	3.39	4.72	5.85
Other comprehensive income	.07	(.25)	.02	.03	—
Distributions on Preferred Stock:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.11)	(.11)	(.02)	(.04)	(.03)
Distributions from net short-term capital gains	(.05)	—	(.03)	(.01)	(.08)
Distributions from net long-term capital gains	(.19)	(.27)	(.36)	(.36)	(.30)
Distributions from return of capital	(.01)	—	—	—	—
	<u>(.36)</u>	<u>(.38)</u>	<u>(.41)</u>	<u>(.41)</u>	<u>(.41)</u>
Total from investment operations	<u>6.76</u>	<u>(16.36)</u>	<u>3.31</u>	<u>4.68</u>	<u>5.63</u>
Distributions on Common Stock:					
Dividends from net investment income	(.10)	(.19)	(.33)	(.29)	(.15)
Distributions from net short-term capital gains	(.05)	—	(.38)	(.04)	(.44)
Distributions from net long-term capital gains	(.19)	(.46)	(5.04)	(2.81)	(1.53)
Distributions from return of capital	(.01)	—	—	—	—
	<u>(.35)</u>	<u>(.65)</u>	<u>(5.75)</u>	<u>(3.14)</u>	<u>(2.12)</u>
Net asset value, end of year	<u>\$27.50</u>	<u>\$21.09</u>	<u>\$38.10</u>	<u>\$40.54</u>	<u>\$39.00</u>
Per share market value, end of year	<u>\$23.46</u>	<u>\$17.40</u>	<u>\$34.70</u>	<u>\$37.12</u>	<u>\$34.54</u>
TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN - Stockholder					
Return, based on market price per share	36.86%	(48.20%)	8.72%	16.78%	17.40%
RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA					
Net assets applicable to Common Stock, end of year (000's omitted)	\$864,323	\$674,598	\$1,202,923	\$1,199,453	\$1,132,942
Ratio of expenses to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	1.93%	0.87%	1.11%	1.06%	1.25%
Ratio of net income to average net assets applicable to Common Stock	0.46%	1.31%	0.78%	0.86%	0.51%
Portfolio turnover rate	24.95%	25.52%	31.91%	19.10%	20.41%
PREFERRED STOCK					
Liquidation value, end of year (000's omitted)	\$190,117	\$199,617	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Asset coverage	555%	438%	701%	700%	666%
Liquidation preference per share	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Market value per share	\$24.53	\$21.90	\$21.99	\$24.44	\$24.07

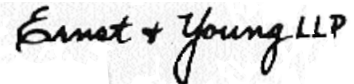
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF  
GENERAL AMERICAN INVESTORS COMPANY, INC.

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the statement of investments, of General American Investors Company, Inc. as of December 31, 2009, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of express-

ing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2009, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of General American Investors Company, Inc. at December 31, 2009, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The signature of Ernst & Young LLP is written in a cursive, handwritten style in black ink. The text "Ernst & Young LLP" is clearly legible.

New York, New York  
February 3, 2010



**OFFICERS***General American Investors*

NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS	NAME (AGE) EMPLOYEE SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS
<b>Spencer Davidson</b> (67) 1994	<i>Chairman of the Board since 2007 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since 1995</i>	<b>Sally A. Lynch, Ph.D.</b> (50) 1997	<i>Vice-President of the Company since 2006 securities analyst (biotechnology industry)</i>
<b>Andrew V. Vindigni</b> (50) 1988	<i>Senior Vice-President of the Company since 2006 Vice-President 1995-2006 securities analyst (financial services and consumer non-durables industries)</i>	<b>Michael W. Robinson</b> (37) 2006	<i>Vice-President of the Company since 2010 securities analyst (general industries)</i>
<b>Eugene S. Stark</b> (51) 2005	<i>Vice-President, Administration of the Company and Principal Financial Officer since 2005, Chief Compliance Officer since 2006 Chief Financial Officer of Prospect Energy Corporation (2005)</i>	<b>Diane G. Radosti</b> (57) 1980	<i>Treasurer of the Company since 1990 Principal Accounting Officer since 2003</i>
<b>Jesse Stuart</b> (43) 2003	<i>Vice-President of the Company since 2006 securities analyst (general industries)</i>	<b>Carole Anne Clementi</b> (63) 1982	<i>Secretary of the Company since 1994 shareholder relations and office management</i>
		<b>Craig A. Grassi</b> (41) 1991	<i>Assistant Vice-President of the Company since 2005 information technology</i>
		<b>Maureen E. LoBello</b> (59) 1992	<i>Assistant Secretary of the Company since 2005 benefits administration</i>

All officers serve for a term of one year and are elected by the Board of Directors at the time of its annual organization meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each officer is the Company's office. Other directorships and affiliations for Mr. Davidson are shown in the listing of Directors on the inside back cover of this report.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

COUNSEL Sullivan & Cromwell LLP	TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR American Stock Transfer & Trust Company 59 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038 1-800-413-5499 www.amstock.com
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS Ernst & Young LLP	
CUSTODIAN State Street Bank and Trust Company	

Previous purchases of the Company's Common and Preferred Stock are set forth in Note 2, on pages 15 and 16. Prospective purchases of Common and Preferred Stock may be made at such times, at such prices, in such amounts and in such manner as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

The policies and procedures used by the Company to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities and the Company's proxy voting record for the twelve-month period ended June 30, 2009 are available: (1) without charge, upon request, by calling us at our toll-free telephone number (1-800-436-8401), (2) on the Company's website at [www.generalamericaninvestors.com](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com) and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

In addition to distributing financial statements as of the end of each quarter, General American Investors files a Quarterly Schedule of Portfolio Holdings (Form N-Q) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") as of the end of the first and third calendar quarters. The Company's Forms N-Q are available at [www.generalamericaninvestors.com](http://www.generalamericaninvestors.com) and on the SEC's website: [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Also, Forms N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. A copy of the Company's Form N-Q may be obtained by calling us at 1-800-436-8401.

On April 30, 2009, the Company submitted a CEO annual certification to the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") on which the Company's principal executive officer certified that he was not aware, as of that date, of any violation by the Company of the NYSE's Corporate Governance listing standards. In addition, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related SEC rules, the Company's principal executive and principal financial officer made quarterly certifications, included in filings with the SEC on Forms N-CSR and N-Q relating to, among other things, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, as applicable.

## DIRECTORS

General American Investors

NAME (AGE) DIRECTOR SINCE	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION DURING PAST 5 YEARS	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS
<b>INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS</b>		
<b>Arthur G. Altschul, Jr.</b> (45) 1995	<i>Co-Founder and Chairman</i> Kolltan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  <i>Managing Member</i> Diaz & Altschul Capital Management, LLC (private investment company)	Delta Opportunity Fund, Ltd., <i>Director</i> Diversified Natural Products, Inc., <i>Director</i> Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, <i>Director</i> Medrium, Inc., <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i> National Public Radio Foundation, <i>Trustee</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Trustee</i> The Overbrook Foundation, <i>Director</i>
<b>Rodney B. Berens</b> (64) 2007	<i>Founding Partner</i> Berens Capital Management, LLC	Agni Capital Management Ltd., <i>Member of Investment Committee</i> Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, <i>Member of Investment Committee</i> Pendragon Capital Management Limited, <i>Non-Executive Director</i> Peterson Institute for International Economics, <i>Member of Investment Committee</i> Pierpont Morgan Library, <i>Vice President of Finance and Head of Investment Sub-Committee</i> The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, <i>Trustee and Head of Investment Committee</i>
<b>Lewis B. Cullman</b> (91) 1961	<i>Philanthropist</i>	Chess-in-the-Schools, <i>Chairman Emeritus</i> Metropolitan Museum of Art, <i>Honorary Trustee</i> Municipal Arts Society, <i>Trustee</i> Museum of Modern Art, <i>Vice Chairman, International Council and Honorary Trustee</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees</i> The New York Botanical Garden, <i>Senior Vice Chairman, Board of Managers</i> The New York Public Library, <i>Trustee</i>
<b>Gerald M. Edelman</b> (80) 1976	<i>Member, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology</i> The Scripps Research Institute	Neurosciences Institute of the Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Director and President</i> NGN Capital, <i>Chairman, Advisory Board</i> Promosome, LLC, <i>Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board</i>
<b>John D. Gordan, III</b> (64) 1986	<i>Partner</i> Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (lawyers)	
<b>Betsy F. Gotbaum</b> (71) 2010	<i>New York City's Public Advocate</i> (January 2002-December 2009)	
<b>Sidney R. Knafel</b> (79) 1994	<i>Lead Independent Director since April 2009</i> <i>Managing Partner</i> SRK Management Company (private investment company)	IGENE Biotechnology, Inc., <i>Director</i> Insight Communications Company, Inc., <i>Chairman, Board of Directors</i> VirtualScopics, Inc., <i>Director</i> Vocollect, Inc., <i>Director</i>
<b>Daniel M. Neidich</b> (60) 2007	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i> Dune Real Estate Partners  <i>Founding Partner and Co-Chief Executive Officer</i> Dune Capital Management LP (March 2005-December 2009)	Capmark, <i>Director</i> Prep for Prep, <i>Director</i> Real Estate Roundtable, <i>Chairman Elect</i> Urban Land Institute, <i>Trustee</i>
<b>D. Ellen Shuman</b> (54) 2004	<i>Vice President and Chief Investment Officer</i> Carnegie Corporation of New York	Bowdoin College, <i>Trustee</i> Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, <i>Investment Advisor</i>
<b>Raymond S. Troubh</b> (83) 1989	<i>Financial Consultant</i>	Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., <i>Director</i> Gentiva Health Services, Inc., <i>Director</i> Wendy's/Arby's Group, Inc., <i>Director</i>
<b>INTERESTED DIRECTOR</b>		
<b>Spencer Davidson</b> (67) 1995	<i>Chairman of the Board</i> <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> General American Investors Company, Inc.	Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation, <i>Director</i> Neurosciences Research Foundation, <i>Trustee</i>
All Directors serve for a term of one year and are elected by Stockholders at the time of the annual meeting on the second Wednesday in April. The address for each Director is the Company's office.		