The Gabelli Equity Trust Inc.

Shareholder Commentary – March 31, 2018

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To Our Shareholders,

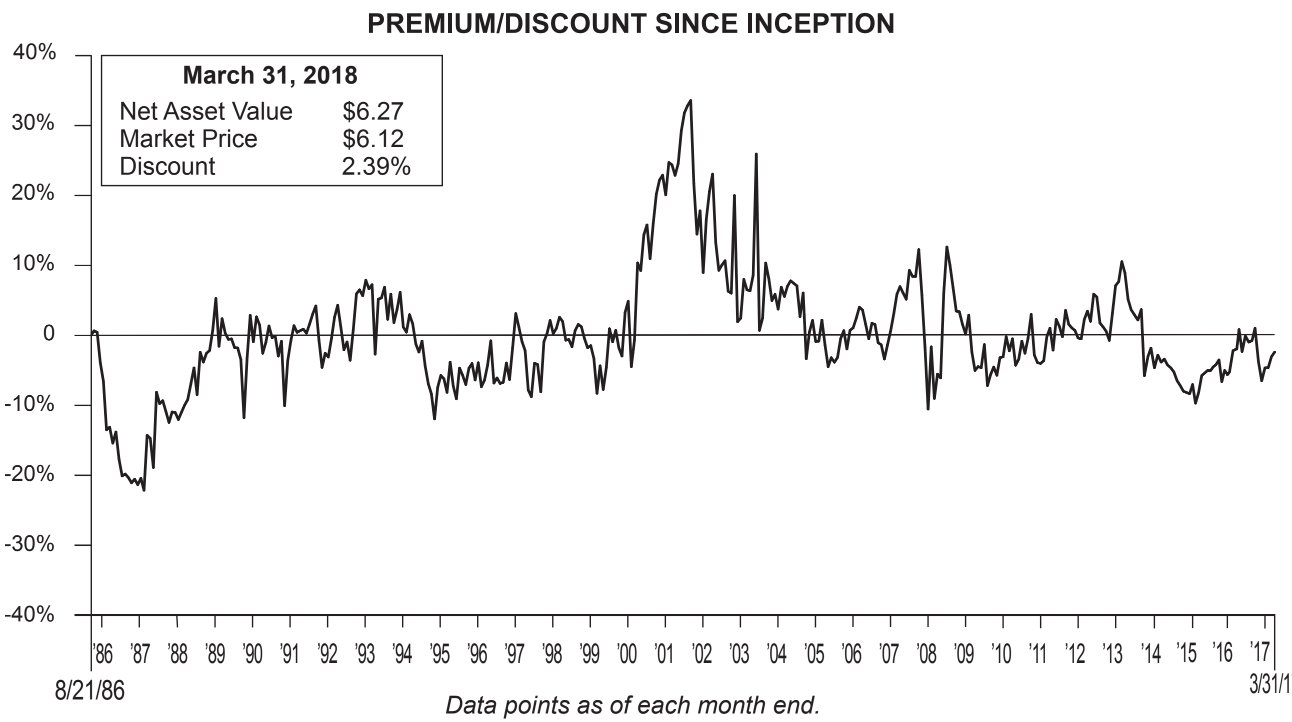
For the quarter ended March 31, 2018, the net asset value ("NAV") total return of The Gabelli Equity Trust (the "Fund") was (0.8)%, compared with total returns of (0.8)% and (2.0)% for the S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, respectively. The total return for the Fund's publicly traded shares was 1.3%. The Fund's NAV per share was $6.27, while the price of the publicly traded shares closed at $6.12 on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). See page 3 for additional performance information.

Premium / Discount Discussion

As a refresher for our shareholders, the price of a closed-end fund is determined in the open market by willing buyers and sellers. Shares of the Fund trade on the NYSE and may trade at a premium to (higher than) net asset value (the market value of the Fund's underlying portfolio and other assets less any liabilities) or a discount to (lower than) net asset value.

Ideally, the Fund's market price will generally track the NAV. However, the Fund's premium or discount to NAV may vary over time. Over the Fund's thirty-one year history, the range fluctuated from a 27% discount in December 1987 to a 38% premium in June 2002. On March 31, 2018, the market price of the Fund was at a 2.4% discount to its NAV.

The Fund's long term investment goal is growth of capital, with income as a secondary objective. The Fund seeks to generate a real rate of return of 10%. We believe that our stock selection process adds to the investment equation. We have a successful history of investment, providing shareholders average annual returns of 10.9% since inception.



Data points as of each month end.

Comparative Results

Average Annual Returns through March 31, 2018 (a)

	Quarter	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	15 Year	20 Year	25 Year	Since Inception (08/21/86)
Gabelli Equity Trust								
NAV Total Return (b)	(0.84)%	15.87%	11.20%	9.37%	12.64%	8.69%	10.29%	10.93%
Investment Total Return (c)	1.28	13.86	10.00	8.37	10.83	8.48	9.89	10.57
S&P 500 Index	(0.76)	13.99	13.31	9.49	10.10	6.46	9.47	10.18(d)
Dow Jones Industrial Average . . .	(1.97)	19.34	13.25	9.81	10.36	7.64	10.66	11.22(d)
Nasdaq Composite Index	2.59	20.90	18.13	13.31	12.96	7.95	9.74	10.00(e)

(a) *Returns represent past performance and do not guarantee future results. Investment returns and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. When shares are sold, they may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data presented. Visit www.gabelli.com for performance information as of the most recent month end. Performance returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of the Fund before investing.* The Dow Jones Industrial Average is an unmanaged index of 30 large capitalization stocks. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite Indices are unmanaged indicators of stock market performance. Dividends are considered reinvested except for the Nasdaq Composite Index. You cannot invest directly in an index.

(b) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in the NAV per share, reinvestment of distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend date, adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains and are net of expenses. Since inception return is based on an initial NAV of $9.34.

(c) Total returns and average annual returns reflect changes in closing market values on the NYSE, reinvestment of distributions, and adjustments for rights offerings, spin-offs, and taxes paid on undistributed long term capital gains. Since inception return is based on an initial offering price of $10.00.

(d) From August 31, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.

(e) From September 30, 1986, the date closest to the Fund's inception for which data is available.

First Quarter Commentary

January 2018 saw the stock market continue its near uninterrupted climb, but volatility finally returned with a sharp decline in February and continued choppiness in March, leading to major averages posting their first quarterly declines since 2015. Economic fundamentals continued to be largely positive - synchronous global growth, low unemployment, corporate profits boosted by tax reform, and lower personal taxes for many Americans – but a new set of worries came to the fore for investors already uneasy about stretched valuations: trade wars, regulatory risks in the technology sector, and the U.S. Federal Reserve's gradual liquidity reduction and rising policy rate, plus the prospect for the same from the European Central Bank.

There are many moving pieces for the market to digest in real time, and thus many unanswered questions – whether the $100 billion-plus trade tariffs are simply negotiating tactics, how aggressive Congress will be on data privacy and business models, how quickly inflation will come back, and how aggressively the Fed will raise rates to stay ahead of it. The most demanding question to be answered is — how much trouble the markets can withstand at once? In isolation, current headwinds seem manageable as long as fundamentals remain the priority. Rising uncertainties may keep the stock market on edge, but corporate profit growth, aggressive corporate stock buybacks, and deals should provide a cushion for any selloffs.

As always, our job as analysts and portfolio managers is to sift through the noise and buy a portfolio of strong businesses at attractive prices. Many excellent companies are now available at cheaper valuations than three months ago, a situation we welcome as value investors. While deal activity slowed in 2017, largely due to uncertainty over tax policy, we believe that the acceleration of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the first quarter is a harbinger of things to come. With our Private Market Value with a Catalyst™ methodology, we believe (y)our Fund is uniquely positioned to benefit from increased deal activity.

Deals, Deals & More Deals

Global merger and acquisition activity accelerated to a record $1.2 trillion in the first quarter of this year, up 60% compared to the first quarter of 2017, following the passage of U.S. tax reform and a boost from the catalyst of shareholder activists. CEOs are initiating major transactions sparked by excess cash and the goal of growing the top and bottom line. Overall, 11,136 worldwide deals were announced during the quarter, down 11% from a year ago, indicating that mega deals are driving transaction value. We anticipate that deal volume will accelerate as the year goes on and small and mid-cap companies will participate in the M&A upswing.

In January, Fund holding Dr. Pepper Snapple Group (+23%) announced it agreed to merge with privately held Keurig Green Mountain. Dr Pepper Snapple shareholders will receive $103.75 per share in a special cash dividend and retain 13% of the combined company, to be called Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP). KDP will have pro forma combined 2017 annual revenues of approximately $11 billion and iconic beverage brands including Dr Pepper, 7UP, Snapple, A&W, Mott's and Sunkist, along with leading coffee brand Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and the Keurig single serve coffee system, as well as more than 75 owned, licensed, and partner brands in the Keurig system.

We believe the ingredients of a robust M&A environment – low cost of financing, synergy-driven industry consolidation, and the availability of many new pure-play companies due to financial engineering – continue to be in place, and visibility on tax policy removes a major impediment to deal activity.

Investment Scorecard

Top contributors to performance during the quarter included MasterCard (+16%), which beat expectations with net revenue growth of 20% in the fourth quarter of 2017 and raised its medium term outlook; Rollins (+10%), which reported strong organic growth in 2017 across segments, with the termite/ancillary segment up over 8%; Swedish Match (+14%), which continues to grow its smokeless tobacco portfolio and saw sales boosted by its tobacco-free Zyn brand; Madison Square Garden (+17%), which rose on strong fiscal second quarter results from its Entertainment and Sports divisions, and 6% shareholder Silver Lake Partners filing a 13D stating that it believes shares are undervalued and would like to support MSG and its efforts to create long term value; and Curtiss-Wright (+11%), which continues to benefit from the commercial aerospace and defense growth cycle as well as the outlook for nuclear energy development in China and India.

Detractors from performance included Rogers Communications (-12%), which declined along with the pay-TV universe amid continued headlines regarding cord-cutting; Honeywell (-5%), which declined due to concerns about potential American and Chinese trade tariffs impacting the commercial and corporate aerospace industry; American Express (-6%), which declined after announcing the firm had suspended the first half repurchase program to rebuild capital ahead of the annual stress test in June; Wells Fargo (-13%), whose shares declined mainly to its ongoing legacy customer engagement practices and regulatory scrutiny from the Federal Reserve, which took extraordinary action in February to improve operational compliance; and Edgewell Personal Care (-18%), which reported continued disappointing fiscal first quarter performance amid the ongoing price war initiated by its primary mens wet shaving competitor Gillette.

Conclusion

Market volatility, long overdue, is back. As active stock pickers, this is the kind of environment for us to prove our mettle. Risks remain as always, but we also have an opportunity to buy many businesses at more attractive prices than we could just a few months ago, and we plan to take advantage of any opportunity "Mr. Market" provides us. We continue to seek high quality companies trading at a discount to Private Market Value – the price an informed industrialist would pay to own an entire business – and look for catalysts to surface value, such as industry consolidation, financial engineering, new management, regulatory changes, or a change in cash flow allocation.

Let's Talk Stocks

The following are stock specifics on selected holdings of our Fund. Favorable earnings prospects do not necessarily translate into higher stock prices, but they do express a positive trend that we believe will develop over time. Individual securities mentioned are not necessarily representative of the entire portfolio. For the following holdings, the share prices are listed first in United States dollars (USD) and second in the local currency, where applicable, and are presented as of March 31, 2018.

The Boeing Company (BA – $327.88 – NYSE), based in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the largest aerospace and defense companies. It is organized into four segments: Commercial Airplanes; Defense, Space & Security; Global Services; and Boeing Capital. Commercial Airplanes manufactures commercial jet aircraft and provides fleet support services, principally to the commercial airline industry worldwide. BA is a leading producer of commercial aircraft and offers a family of commercial jetliners designed to meet a broad spectrum of global passenger and cargo requirements of airlines. This family of commercial jet aircraft in production includes the 737 narrow-body model and the 747, 767, 777, and 787 wide-body models. Development continues on the 787-10 and certain 737 MAX derivatives and the 777X program. Defense, Space & Security is engaged in the research, development, production, and modification of manned and unmanned military aircraft and weapons systems for global strike, including fighter aircraft and missile systems; vertical lift, including rotorcraft and tilt-rotor aircraft; mobility, surveillance and engagement, including battle management, airborne, anti-submarine, transport and tanker aircraft. In addition, this segment is engaged in the research, development, production and modification of the following products and related services: strategic defense and intelligence systems, including strategic missile and defense systems, command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C^4ISR), cyber and information solutions, and intelligence systems; satellite systems, including government and commercial satellites and space exploration. Global Services provides services to commercial and defense customers. This segment offers aviation services support, aircraft modifications, spare parts, training, maintenance documents, data analytics and information-based services, and technical advice to commercial and government customers worldwide. Boeing Capital seeks to ensure that Boeing customers have the financing they need to buy and take delivery of their Boeing product, and manages overall financing exposure. BCC's portfolio consists of equipment under operating leases, finance leases, notes and other receivables, assets held for sale or re-lease, and investments.

Curtiss-Wright Corp. (CW – $135.07 – NYSE) is a leading manufacturer of actuation and electronic devices for the aerospace and industrial markets. The company makes high performance actuation systems used in airplane wings, pumps, and valves for the nuclear power generation industry, and provides laser and shot peening services to the aerospace, automotive, and general industrial markets. The commercial nuclear power industry is a significant growth driver for Curtiss-Wright. CW is the exclusive supplier of nuclear pumps to Westinghouse for the AP1000 reactors. The company has agreements to supply reactor pumps to power plants in China. We believe these agreements could be the first of many for the company to supply reactor pumps to the growing nuclear industry.

Honeywell International Inc. (HON –144.51 – NYSE) operates as a diversified technology company with highly engineered products, including turbine propulsion engines, auxiliary power units, turbochargers, brake pads, environmental and combustion controls, sensors, security and life safety products, resins and chemicals, nuclear services, and process technology for the petrochemical and refining industries. One of the key drivers of HON's growth is acquisitions, which increase the company's growth profile globally, creating both organic and inorganic opportunities. The company recently announced its plan to spin-off its Homes product portfolio and ADI Global Distribution businesses, as well as its Transportation Systems business, into two publicly traded companies.

IDEX Corp. (IEX – $142.51 – NYSE) is an applied solutions company specializing in fluid and metering technologies, health and science technologies, and fire, safety and other diversified products built to customer specifications. IDEX products are sold in niche markets to a wide range of industries throughout the world. The Company is benefiting from strong underlying growth across its end markets, as well as discrete initiatives driving market share gains, with organic sales up high-single digits in the most recent quarter, and organic orders up high-single digits in each of the past three quarters. IDEX is typically acquisitive, but management has been sounding a cautionary tone on valuation levels for potential acquisition targets, and has allowed cash levels to build by $140 million, or nearly 60%, to $376 million over the past 12 months ending 12/31/17.

Madison Square Garden Co. (MSG – $245.80 – NYSE) is an integrated sports and entertainment company that owns the New York Knicks, the New York Rangers, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, The Forum, and that iconic New York venue, Madison Square Garden. These evergreen content and venue assets benefit from sustainable barriers to entry and long term secular growth. MSG completed the separation of its associated regional sports networks in September 2015, leaving a reliable cash flow stream for MSG to reinvest and repurchase shares.

MasterCard Inc. (MA – $175.16 – NYSE) is one of the largest electronic payments processing companies, providing services in more than 210 countries and territories. It continues to capitalize on the strong secular global trend of moving to electronic payments from traditional paper. For all of 2017, clients charged approximately $5.2 trillion. At the end of December 2018, cards in force totaled over 1.8 billion. Longer term, MasterCard is well positioned to increase revenue, due to global growth in personal incomes, rapid increase in commerce, and movement to electronic payment.

Rogers Communications Inc. (RCI – $44.68 – NYSE), headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, is a diversified communications and media company. It owns the largest national wireless service provider in Canada, serving 10.5 million customers, the largest Canadian cable MSO, serving 1.7 million video customers, 2.2 million broadband connections, and 1.1 million phone subscribers, and a media business that includes TV and radio broadcasting, publishing, and sports. The sports business represents over 50% of media revenues and includes ownership of the Toronto Blue Jays Baseball club and a 37.5% investment in Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment, as owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Toronto Raptors, and the Toronto FC. RCI continues to follow Rogers 3.0 strategic plan, initiated in mid-2014 and focused on re-accelerating growth in a sustainable way and continuing the company's track record of translating revenue into strong margins and free cash flow, a solid return on assets, and ultimately increasing returns to shareholders. In January 2018, Rogers reported essentially in-line fourth quarter 2017 revenues and adjusted operating profit, as well as somewhat weaker than expected postpaid net additions, largely due to elevated churn – a result of heightened competitive intensity in the fourth quarter, particularly during the holiday season. On April 19, 2017, the company completed the CEO transition process that was initially announced in October 2016, as Joe Natale officially joined Rogers as President and CEO, after a confidential agreement was reached with TELUS Corporation to secure his early arrival. Mr. Natale was most recently President & CEO of TELUS, leaving the company in August of 2015.

Rollins Inc. (ROL – $51.03 – NYSE) provides pest control services to nearly two million residential and commercial customers throughout North America, primarily under the Orkin and Western Pest brand names. Its services are critical to homeowners and commercial establishments alike, in both expansionary and recessionary times. The company has benefited from growth in the commercial service area and mosquito and bed bug treatments. At the same time, the company has controlled costs through more efficient scheduling and routing. Rollins has been taking advantage of its strong balance sheet to make tuck-in acquisitions. It has also begun franchising more operations outside the U.S. Founded in 1901, Rollins is majority owned by members of the Rollins family.

Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. (FOXA – $36.69 – NASDAQ) is a diversified media company with operations in cable network television, television broadcasting, and filmed entertainment. FOX is in the process of selling the company's cable, international, and entertainment assets to Disney for $65 billion or ~$28 per share. Following the transaction, FOXA will consist of Fox News and The Fox Broadcasting Company. The company's concentration in live news and sports programming will be a significant advantage as it negotiates with both traditional and entrant distributors. Pro forma for the Disney transaction, FOXA is trading at 8.1x EBITDA.

Xylem Inc. (XYL – $76.92 – NYSE) is a global leader in the design, manufacturing, and application of highly engineered technologies for the transportation, treatment, measurement, and testing of water. The company is expected to benefit from favorable long term fundamentals in the water industry, driven by scarcity, population growth, aging of the infrastructure, and the need to improve water quality. Further, with a large installed base of pumps and systems, the company is well positioned to increase aftermarket revenue, which currently represents roughly 40% of total revenues. XYL expects to generate mid-teens earnings per share growth through 2020 as it accelerates its capital deployment strategy globally. The company is currently building out its infrastructure analytics capabilities as it integrates companies it has acquired in the past couple of years, such as Sensus and Pure Technologies.

April 25, 2018

Top Ten Holdings
March 31, 2018

Rollins Inc.	American Express Co.
Honeywell International Inc.	Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.
MasterCard Inc.	Curtiss-Wright Corp.
Swedish Match AB	Ametek Inc.
Berkshire Hathaway Inc.	Idex Corp.

Note: The views expressed in this Shareholder Commentary reflect those of the Portfolio Managers only through the end of the period stated in this Shareholder Commentary. The Portfolio Managers' views are subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. The information in this Shareholder Commentary represents the opinions of the individual Portfolio Managers and is not intended to be a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future results, or investment advice. Views expressed are those of the Portfolio Managers and may differ from those of other portfolio managers or of the Firm as a whole. This Shareholder Commentary does not constitute an offer of any transaction in any securities. Any recommendation contained herein may not be suitable for all investors. Information contained in this Shareholder Commentary has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed. Beneficial ownership of shares held in the Fund by Mr. Gabelli and various entities he is deemed to control are disclosed in the Fund's annual proxy statement.

10% Distribution Policy for Common Stockholders

The Board of Directors of the Fund (the "Board") has reaffirmed the continuation of the Fund's 10% distribution policy. Pursuant to its distribution policy, the Fund paid a $0.15 per share cash distribution on March 22, 2018, to common stockholders of record on March 15, 2018.

The Fund intends to pay a quarterly distribution of an amount determined each quarter by the Board. Under the Fund's current distribution policy, the Fund intends to pay a minimum annual distribution of 10% of the average net asset value of the Fund within a calendar year or an amount sufficient to satisfy the minimum distribution requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, whichever is greater. The average net asset value of the Fund is based on the average net asset values as of the last day of the four preceding calendar quarters.

Each quarter, the Board reviews the amount of any potential distribution from the income, capital gain, or capital available. The Board will continue to monitor the Fund's distribution level, taking into consideration the Fund's net asset value and the financial market environment. The Fund's distribution policy is subject to modification by the Board at any time. The distribution rate should not be considered the dividend yield or total return on an investment in the Fund.

If the Fund does not generate sufficient earnings (dividends and interest income and realized net capital gain) equal to or in excess of the aggregate distributions paid by the Fund in a given year, then the amount distributed in excess of the Fund's earnings would be deemed a return of capital. Since this would be considered a return of a portion of a shareholder's original investment, it is generally not taxable and is treated as a reduction in the shareholder's cost basis. Despite the challenges of the extra recordkeeping, a distribution that incorporates a return of capital serves as a smoothing mechanism resulting in a more stable and consistent cash flow available to shareholders.

Long term capital gains, qualified dividend income, ordinary income, and paid-in capital, if any, will be allocated on a pro-rata basis to all distributions to common shareholders for the year. Based on the accounting records of the Fund currently available, the current distribution paid to common shareholders in 2018 would include approximately 4% from net investment income, 25% from net capital gains and 71% from paid-in capital on a book basis. The estimated components of each distribution are updated and provided to shareholders of record in a notice accompanying the distribution and are available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The final determination of the sources of all distributions in 2018 will be made after year end and can vary from the quarterly estimates. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for all 2018 distributions in early 2019 via Form 1099-DIV.

Series C and Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock

During the first quarter of 2018, the dividend rates for the Series C and Series E Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Stock ranged from 2.451% to 2.958% and 2.381% to 3.011%, respectively. Dividend rates for the Series C and Series E Preferred Shares may be reset every seven days based on the results of an auction. Since February 2008, the number of Series C and Series E Preferred Shares subject to bid orders by potential holders has been less than the number of sell orders. Therefore the weekly auctions have failed, and the holders have not been able to sell any or all of the Series C and Series E Preferred Shares for which they submitted sell orders. The dividend rate since then has been the maximum rate. At March 31, 2018, the maximum rate was 175% of the "AA" Financial Composite Commercial Paper Rate and the Series C and Series E Preferred Shares are rated “A1” by Moody’s Investors Service and “AA” by Fitch Ratings. The Series C and Series E Preferred Shares do not trade on an exchange. The Fund was authorized to issue 5,200 Series C Preferred Shares on June 27, 2002, and 2,000 Series E Preferred Shares on October 7, 2003 at $25,000 per share. As of March 31, 2018, 2,880 and 1,120 Series C and Series E Preferred Shares, respectively, were outstanding.

5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock

The Fund’s 5.875% Series D Cumulative Preferred Stock paid a $0.3671875 per share cash distribution on March 26, 2018, to preferred shareholders of record on March 19, 2018. The Series D Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE under the symbol “GAB Pr D”, are rated “A1” by Moody’s Investors Service and have an annual dividend rate of $1.46875 per share. The Series D Preferred Shares were issued on October 7, 2003, at $25.00 per share and pay distributions quarterly. After five years of call protection, the Series D Preferred Shares became callable at any time at the liquidation value of $25.00 per share plus accrued dividends. The next distribution is scheduled for June 2018.

The Fund is authorized to purchase its Series D Preferred Shares in the open market from time to time when such shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of $25.00 per share. In total through March 31, 2018, the Fund has repurchased and retired 156,140 Series D Preferred Shares in the open market under this share repurchase authorization. The Fund did not repurchase any Series D Preferred Shares during the first quarter of 2018.

Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock

The Fund’s Series G Cumulative Preferred Stock paid a $0.3125 per share cash distribution on March 26, 2018, to preferred shareholders of record on March 19, 2018. The Series G Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE under the symbol “GAB Pr G”, were issued on August 1, 2012 at $25.00 per share. The Series G Preferred Shares pay distributions quarterly and, for the first twelve months beginning from the date of issuance (August 1, 2012), had an annual dividend rate of 6.00%, and thereafter an annual dividend rate of 5.00% for all future dividend periods. After five years of call protection, the Series G Preferred Shares became callable at any time at the liquidation value of $25.00 per share plus accrued dividends. The next distribution is scheduled for June 2018.

The Fund is authorized to purchase its Series G Preferred Shares in the open market from time to time when such shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of $25.00 per share. In total through March 31, 2018, the Fund has repurchased and retired 36,728 Series G Preferred Shares in the open market under this share repurchase authorization. No shares were repurchased during the first quarter of 2018.

Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock

The Fund’s Series H Cumulative Preferred Stock paid a $0.3125 per share cash distribution on March 26, 2018, to preferred shareholders of record on March 19, 2018. The Series H Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE under the symbol “GAB Pr H”, are rated “A1” by Moody’s Investors Service and have an annual dividend rate of $1.25 per share. The Series H Preferred Shares were issued on September 28, 2012, at $25.00 per share and pay distributions quarterly. After five years of call protection, the Series H Preferred Shares became callable at any time at the liquidation value of $25.00 per share plus accrued dividends. The next distribution is scheduled for June 2018.

The Fund is authorized to purchase its Series H Preferred Shares in the open market from time to time when such shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of $25.00 per share. In total through March 31, 2018, the Fund has repurchased and retired 27,127 Series H Preferred Shares in the open market under this share repurchase authorization. No shares were repurchased during the first quarter of 2018.

5.450% Series J Cumulative Preferred Stock

The Fund’s Series J Cumulative Preferred Stock paid a $0.340625 per share cash distribution on March 26, 2018, to preferred shareholders of record on March 19, 2018. The Series J Preferred Shares, which trade on the NYSE under the symbol “GAB Pr J”, are rated “A1” by Moody’s Investors Service and have an annual dividend rate of $1.3625 per share. The Series J Preferred Shares were issued on March 31, 2016, at $25.00 per share, and pay distributions quarterly. The Series J Preferred Shares will be callable at any time at the liquidation value of $25.00 per share plus accrued dividends following the expiration of the five year call protection on March 31, 2021. The next distribution is scheduled for June 2018.

The Fund is authorized to purchase its Series J Preferred Shares in the open market from time to time when such shares are trading at a discount to the liquidation value of $25.00 per share. Through March 31, 2018, the Fund has not repurchased any Series J Preferred Shares in the open market under this share repurchase authorization.

Long term capital gains, qualified dividend income, and ordinary income, if any, will be allocated on a pro-rata basis to all distributions to preferred shareholders for the year. Based on the accounting records of the Fund currently available, the current distribution paid to preferred shareholders represents approximately 14% from net investment income and 86% from net capital gains on a book basis. The estimated components of each distribution are updated and provided to shareholders of record in a notice accompanying the distribution and are available on our website (www.gabelli.com). The final determination of the sources of all distributions in 2018 will be made after year end and can vary from the quarterly estimates. All shareholders with taxable accounts will receive written notification regarding the components and tax treatment for all 2018 distributions in early 2019 via Form 1099-DIV.

Tax Treatment of Distributions to Common and Preferred Shareholders

All or part of the distributions may be treated as long term capital gain or qualified dividend income (or a combination of both) for individuals, each subject to the maximum federal income tax rate, which is currently 20% in taxable accounts for individuals. In addition, certain U.S. shareholders who are individuals, estates, or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds will be required to pay a 3.8% Medicare surcharge on their “net investment income,” which includes dividends received from the Fund and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of shares of the Fund.

www.gabelli.com

Please visit us on the Internet. Our homepage at www.gabelli.com contains information about GAMCO Investors, Inc., the Gabelli/GAMCO Closed-End Funds and Mutual Funds, IRAs, 401(k)s, current and historical quarterly reports, closing prices, and other current news. We welcome your comments and questions via e-mail at closedend@gabelli.com.

You may sign up for our e-mail alerts at www.gabelli.com and receive notice of quarterly report availability, news events, media sightings, and mutual fund prices and performance.

e-delivery

We are pleased to offer electronic delivery of Gabelli fund documents. Shareholders of our closed-end funds can now elect to receive e-mail announcements regarding available materials, including shareholder commentaries and Fund reports. For more information or to register for e-delivery, please visit our website at www.gabelli.com.Tax Treatment of Distributions to Common and Preferred Shareholders.

THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST
AND YOUR PERSONAL PRIVACY

Who are we?

The Gabelli Equity Trust (the "Fund") is a closed-end management investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Company Act of 1940. We are managed by Gabelli Funds, LLC, which is affiliated with GAMCO Investors, Inc. GAMCO Investors, Inc. is a publicly held company that has subsidiaries and affiliates that provide investment advisory services for a variety of clients.

What kind of non-public information do we collect about you if you become a fund shareholder?

When you purchase shares of the Fund on the New York Stock Exchange, you have the option of registering directly with our transfer agent in order, for example, to participate in our dividend reinvestment plan.

- *Information you give us on your application form.* This could include your name, address, telephone number, social security number, bank account number, and other information.
- *Information about your transactions with us.* This would include information about the shares that you buy or sell; it may also include information about whether you sell or exercise rights that we have issued from time to time. If we hire someone else to provide services—like a transfer agent—we will also have information about the transactions that you conduct through them.

What information do we disclose and to whom do we disclose it?

We do not disclose any non-public personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone other than our affiliates, our service providers who need to know such information, and as otherwise permitted by law. If you want to find out what the law permits, you can read the privacy rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are in volume 17 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 248. The Commission often posts information about its regulations on its website, *www.sec.gov*.

What do we do to protect your personal information?

We restrict access to non-public personal information about you to the people who need to know that information in order to provide services to you or the fund and to ensure that we are complying with the laws governing the securities business. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to keep your personal information confidential.

We have separated the portfolio managers' commentary from the financial statements and investment portfolio due to corporate governance regulations stipulated by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. We have done this to ensure that the content of the portfolio managers' commentary is unrestricted. Both the commentary and the financial statements, including the portfolio of investments, will be available on our website at www.gabelli.com.

The Net Asset Value per share appears in the Publicly Traded Funds column, under the heading "General Equity Funds," in Monday's The Wall Street Journal. It is also listed in Barron's Mutual Funds/Closed End Funds section under the heading "General Equity Funds."

The Net Asset Value per share may be obtained each day by calling (914) 921-5070 or visiting www.gabelli.com.

The Nasdaq symbol for the Net Asset Value per share is "XGABX."

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that the Fund may from time to time purchase shares of its common stock in the open market when the Fund's shares are trading at a discount of 10% or more from the net asset value of the shares. The Fund may also from time to time purchase shares of its preferred stock in the open market when the preferred stock are trading at a discount to the liquidation value.

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THE GABELLI EQUITY TRUST INC.
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Portfolio Management Team Biographies

Mario J. Gabelli, CFA, is Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer –Value Portfolios of GAMCO Investors, Inc. that he founded in 1977, and Chief Investment Officer – Value Portfolios of Gabelli Funds, LLC and GAMCO Asset Management Inc. He is also Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors of Associated Capital Group, Inc. Mr. Gabelli is a summa cum laude graduate of Fordham University and holds an MBA degree from Columbia Business School, and Honorary Doctorates from Fordham University and Roger Williams University.

Christopher J. Marangi joined Gabelli in 2003 as a research analyst. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. Mr. Marangi graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in Political Economy from Williams College and holds an MBA with honors from Columbia Business School.

Kevin V. Dreyer joined Gabelli in 2005 as a research analyst covering companies within the consumer sector. Currently he is a Managing Director and Co-Chief Investment Officer for GAMCO Investors, Inc.'s Value team. In addition, he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC and manages several funds within the Gabelli/GAMCO Funds Complex. Mr. Dreyer received a BSE from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Columbia Business School.

Robert D. Leininger, CFA, joined GAMCO Investors, Inc. in 1993 as an equity analyst. Subsequently, he was a partner and portfolio manager at Rorer Asset Management before rejoining GAMCO in 2010 where he currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. Mr. Leininger is a magna cum laude graduate of Amherst College with a degree in Economics and holds an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel M. Miller currently serves as a portfolio manager of Gabelli Funds, LLC. He is also a Managing Director of GAMCO Investors, Inc. Mr. Miller graduated magna cum laude with a degree in finance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

Jennie Tsai joined Gabelli in 2001 as a research analyst responsible for the healthcare and medical products industries. At Gabelli, Ms. Tsai is focused on medical sectors, including orthopedics, dental, ophthalmology, general medical and others. She received her B.S. in Commerce at the University of Virginia and an MBA in Finance from Columbia Business School.

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Shareholder Commentary
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