Fourth of July at The Gables

We will again be inviting members and their guests to our special oceanfront celebration. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic dinner and purchase wine or beer from a cash bar on-site. We will serve cake and lemonade to celebrate our country's and Nathaniel Hawthorne's birthdays! Parking in our lot is free, but limited. The celebration will take place from 4 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Salem Through Hawthorne’s Eyes

The after-school enrichment program, Salem Through Hawthorne’s Eyes, has begun its second year in partnership with The Gables. This partnership was formed with the Salem Public School district after Salem Public High School teachers Pam Kessaris and Megan Cunningham submitted an innovative proposal in 2013. The proposal involved teaching high school students - many of them English language learners - the deep themes around Hawthorne’s life and times. Approximately 15 students per session have been gathering at The Gables and Salem High School for each session since the spring of 2013, with a total of 60 young people served through the two-year partnership. Thanks to The Seven Gables’ Grant, students use Kindles to explore vocabulary words and to research various literary figures, including Herman Melville and the Peabody sisters. The grant has also funded field trips to sites in Concord, Massachusetts that were significant in Hawthorne’s life, as well as special tours of The Gables mansion. For more info, please email Ana Nuncio. unauncio@7gables.org

Settlement

As we carry out our dual purpose mission of preservation and education, our settlement work in educational programs for underserved children from immigrant families takes many paths and often involves community partnerships. One such partnership is described below.

Express Yourself 20 — Express Yourself (EXYO) has started its second year of partnering with The Gables, after receiving The House of the Seven Gables Settlement grant in 2013. Express Yourself is a non-profit, performing arts organization that celebrates the power of the creative arts to change the lives of underserved youth in our community. The Gables’ Partnership Award enables students from Salem’s immigrant community to participate in this worthwhile program.

On May 22, 2014, Express Yourself will celebrate 20 years of performances in collaboration with the Citi Performing Arts Center-Wang Theatre. EXYO is currently preparing young women from Salem to participate in this performance, that is FREE and open to the public. Bus transportation is available to Boston.

Please email Ana Nuncio for more information. unauncio@7gables.org

Views from The Gables

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe an entire year has passed since I first started here at The Gables. No matter what the season, there is always something on which to focus at our National Historic Landmark Site. This is a very busy place!

The year was filled with accomplishments in various areas: preservation and maintenance of our historic houses and gardens, educational programming, lectures, exhibits, fundraising and staffing. We were especially happy to add seasoned professionals to our Visitors’ Services and Marketing Departments.

On a sadder note, we learned of many longtime friends of The Gables who passed away. These losses and this long winter make us yearn for new seasons and brighter times.

With the coming of spring, there are promising signs pointing to not only new life in the garden, but also toward increasing visitation, exciting preservation projects, new settlement programs, and more facility rentals.

A great deal has happened during the past year. I continue to be grateful for the efforts of the dedicated and talented staff here at The Gables and for the support of our trustees, volunteers, community partners, and friends. I look forward to serving for many years to come!

With appreciation,

Kara McLaughlin
Executive Director

Taste of The Gables 2014
Save the Date: Sunday, Sept.21, pm
Please see our website for details. 7gables.org

On May 16, 6:00 p.m. Ben Strohecker, author presents The Day the Ocean Changed to Chocolate April 19-27th Family Programs for School Vacation May 16, 6pm Bill Martin ! May 22, EXYO at The Wang!

SAVE THE DATE

April 1st, 5-7pm Malala Portraits Member Reception April 3-10 Malala Portraits April 4th, Malala Reception April-May 11 Spoonful of Sugar at Wenham Museum April 16, 6:00 p.m. Ben Strohecker, author presents The Day the Ocean Changed to Chocolate April 19-27th Family Programs for School Vacation May 16, 6pm Bill Martin ! May 22, EXYO at The Wang!
Memorials

Alan Collachicco

Alan Collachicco, who served as Curator and Deputy Director at The Gables from January 2010 until April 2012, passed away on February 28, 2014. Alan’s keen enthusiasm about everything related to The Gables left a loving imprint on several historic houses on-site, including the Hawthorne Birthplace. Seen here is one of Hawthorne’s famous quotes, which graces a wall in this house and brings to life for visitors Hawthorne’s thinking about the meaning of life. Warm memories of Alan abound in the minds and hearts of Gables’ staff members. He had the innate ability to breathe life into the historical character of The Gables with his excellent interpretation of the museum spaces.

Alan’s exuberant and playful personality also impressed schoolchildren who were part of The Gables’ ELL Summer Program for English language learners in the summer of 2011. That summer, the class met upstairs in the Hooper-Hathaway House on the property. Alan spontaneously visited with all kinds of goodies in hand. After tasting an assortment of buttery cookies that Alan had brought from A&J King Artisan Bakers in Salem, a second-grader declared, “these are the bestest cookies I’ve ever had in my whole life!” As Alan prepared to say goodbye to the class, several young students lined up to go downstairs with him - he was so much fun!

In lieu of flowers, Dr. William Towne has asked that donations be made to The Gables in memory of Alan, and that any donations received be used to preserve cultural artifacts here. Condolences can be sent to Dr. Towne at the address below. Please be sure to include the Post Office box information:
P O Box 617, Pocasset, MA 02559
Quote by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Photo by Kristen Cunha, Gables Curatorial Dept.

Mary Nora Burke

During this long winter, we lost another member of The Gables’ family. Miss Mary Burke passed away on March 12, 2014 at age 96. Mary was the assistant to our founder, Miss Caroline Emmerton, for 48 years and a longtime Gables’ friend and advocate. Mary completed secretarial school and started her new job at The Gables the very next week. After one day, she told her mother that she didn’t plan to stay long, as most of her co-workers were much older than she was; but, she grew to love The Gables and her co-workers and stayed for 48 years! Mary’s lifelong dedication to The Gables and her love of literature, architecture, history and gardens made it the perfect fit. In a taped DVD, she described her years at The Gables and stated, “I loved every minute.” Mary’s love of Ireland, her gardens, and The Gables were three recurring themes of her life. She will be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know her. Her funeral fittingly took place on St. Patrick’s Day. A memorial fund in Mary’s name has been established at The Gables.

Taste of The Gables 2014
Save the Date: Sunday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the event committee for what promises to be a fun filled and delicious evening of fundraising for The House of the Seven Gables. If you are interested, please email Karen Barter (kbarter@7gables.org). We will soon offer sponsorship opportunities, chef and beverage registration forms, and advertising opportunities on our website. Artists are asked to contact the above e-mail address with proposals for art contributions.

New Designations of Membership:

We will be offering a new designation: The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society (Individual and Corporate) at $2500. This new membership level is designed for the philanthropic leadership of the North Shore.

Sustainer: $5 (or more)/month, electronically charged to members. (All benefits would equal the amount of member’s yearly donation.) This sustainer arrangement will allow donors the ease of electronic payment monthly (with no billing necessary), and will provide The Gables with continuous monthly revenue. The automatic payment would continue until a donor chooses to stop. The monthly amount would be determined by the donor, with a minimum of $5 per month. We hope this new member category will allow many more to join.

New Benefits:

Your Gables membership now allows FREE admission to all of our 2014 Exhibits and to all Seven Lectures at Seven Gables. These privileges are in addition to the previous benefits of unlimited admission to The Gables house tours, museum discounts and special sales, invitations to events, and receiving The Gables newsletter electronically.

Gables Garden Calendar 2014 is given as a free thank-you to all members. The calendar is available to you in our Museum Store or will be mailed to you upon renewal. The calendar lists all scheduled events for 2014. Each month features a beautiful garden photo and includes a “quote of the month” by Hawthorne.

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Memorials
Donald Seamans

Longtime friend of The Gables, philanthropist, and former trustee, Donny Seamans passed away in January 2014 with his family by his side. Meeting with Donny last fall by the fire in his Marblehead home was a truly momentous occasion. There was a warm congeniality that made me feel like an old friend. Donny shared his long relationship with The Gables, starting with his parents’ involvement, for over 40 years. He remembered being held and bounced on the knee of Ms. Caroline Emmerton, founder of The Gables. Thanks to the Seamans family, Marblehead was well represented in our volunteer force, from the 1960s all the way to the present.

Donny reminisced about the “love of his life,” his darling wife Beverly, who had passed away the previous year. His eyes sparkled as he recalled seeing her walk up from the boat with another suitor. He knew right away, at first sight, that it was love for sure. He told me how lucky he always felt that she had chosen him. Their life was full of fun and friends and family, the faithful companionship of dogs, and always, the ocean nearby.

Last September, although in failing health, Donny came to our gala, Taste of The Gables. He created such a buzz, as he always did, with old friends gathering around his table in friendship and excitement to see him. At the VIP Reception, as he sat under the arbor with John and Sarah, he was continuously greeted by old and new friends. His presence helped to bring some old friends back and unified the old and new supporters of The Gables. Rarely is one individual so influential to the success of an organization. Donny was certainly all of that!

When failing health plagued him, Donny's spirit was always light, and he was still very much “in charge”. His son, John, was his constant companion during this last year. His dedicated family was present when he discussed current events, the latest grandchild’s accomplishments, and as he listened to his caregivers’ stories about their own families. He radiated positive energy and always demonstrated an inclusive, welcoming spirit to all.

The Gables was the lucky recipient of Donald Seamans’ energy, influence, and philanthropy. His leadership raised the funds to build our existing Seamus Visitor Center, and he was also instrumental in establishing the Counting House on our property (also known as Kid’s Cove). The Seamans family was the driving force behind many initiatives that benefitted The Gables over the past 60 years.

We have lost one of our biggest supporters and dearest friends. We send our deepest condolences to his family. His dedication and generosity to The House of the Seven Gables brought our organization to a whole new level. Donny, we were blessed to have known you, and we will be forever grateful. KB

Taste of The Gables Donny, John & Sarah Seamans with Ann Leaver

Welcome to Merritt Kirkpatrick

The House of the Seven Gables is pleased to welcome Merritt Kirkpatrick as our new Marketing Manager. Prior to coming to The Gables, Merritt was the Director of ArcWorks Community Art Center in Peabody, MA. There she oversaw the day-to-day operations of two art galleries, a gallery shop, and their classes. Merritt also worked as a Curator at the George Peabody Museum and Leatherworkers Museum in Peabody. At both organizations, Merritt was responsible for marketing, communications, and public relations. She has a proven ability to establish and maintain ongoing relationships with customers, donors, and community leaders. Merritt has a Master’s degree in Museum Communications from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she interned at the prestigious Barnes Foundation. We are all excited about her joining The Gables staff.

Farewell (but not Goodbye), and Welcome!

On another note, we are sad to say that Stephen Weber will be retiring at the end of March. We thank him for his three-and-a-half years of service at The House of the Seven Gables. As our high performing Group Tours Coordinator, Stephen will be sorely missed. Stephen worked to keep our tour groups coming back each season, and was instrumental in making the October ticket sales run smoothly. Upon retirement, Stephen will take on the role of tourist and plans to travel widely. He will still come to The Gables from time to time to lend his expert advice in the area of group travel on an as-needed basis.

Fortunately, we did not have to look far for Stephen’s replacement. Ryan Conary will take on Stephen’s duties as our Marketing and Reservations Assistant. Ryan knows that he has very big shoes to fill, but we have the utmost confidence he will rise to the challenge! Ryan has served as a Senior Guide at The Gables for almost two years. He obtained an Associate Degree in Business from McIntosh College in Dover, NH and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Salem State University. During his two years as a guide, Ryan has done extensive research about The Gables and the life of Nathaniel Hawthorne. You may recognize his name since he has contributed to The Gables Newsletter in previous issues and was recognized as Employee of the Month last Fall.

Perfect gifts!

It’s here! The new version of The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne has arrived! We are so excited to offer this beautiful new edition that includes a new jacket cover, a foreword by our Ex. Director, Kara McLaughlin, and a dust jacket with historical details co-authored by Everett Philbrook, Museum Store manager.

Please come and get your copy while they last. We are also happy to announce the addition of Hestia collections to our store. Each is a little art treasure. The collection includes ornaments featuring The Gables, Salem Common, The Custom House and more.
Seven Lectures at Seven Gables 2014

We have an exciting line-up of authors this year! Last year we were delighted to fill the hall for most lectures. We expect that trend to continue this year. Be sure to reserve your seats at groupseven.gables.org. Remember, this year we are offering all lectures FREE to our members. Please see www.7gables.org to become a member.

2014 Lectures are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., except in September, when the lecture is held on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Members FREE Non-members $15 per person

April 16th Ben Strohecker, author of The Day the Ocean Changed to Chocolate. Founder of Harbor Sweets, Ben is the illustrator/author of this delightful children’s book that features Marblehead, The Gables and other familiar local scenes.

May 21st Bill Martin, author of Cape Cod, Back Bay and many other best-selling authors. This is sure to be a great night! Book signing to follow.

June 18th Jon Way, author of Urban Howlings - Coyotes. Hear all about our neighbors, the coyotes. Jon describes an ever-diminishing habitat for these creatures of the wild, and offers ideas about how humans can co-exist with them.

Aug. 29th Matthew Thomas, author of New England Powder Houses. Enjoy a night of history as we are taken back to colonial days in New England, when local residents relied on gunpowder stored in local powder stores to defend their lands.

September 27th Sat. at 2:00 p.m. Robyn Kanter will present a FREE Garden lecture. Robyn, our Gables’ gardener extraordinaire, will share her gardening wisdom and wonderful slides. The Gables offers this as a FREE lecture in conjunction with the Trails & Skills program of Essex National Heritage Commission.

November 19th Captain Michael Rutstein, author of Schooner Fame. This lecture will detail the schooner’s story: its plan, selection of trees for material and the building of the schooner in Essex. The lecture will be accompanied by slides.

We are grateful to Footprint Power and Rep. John Keenan for sponsoring this series.

Note: Sponsorships are still available for this series. Please contact kbarter@7gables.org in our Development Department for more information.

Maintenance & Preservation

The winter season here at The House of the Seven Gables brings with it both opportunities and challenges. While the cold is here, we find a time to catch up on needed interior work. During these past months, we were able to perform some needed painting in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace and in the Visitor Center. Also, twenty sets of window sash that had been specially fabricated for Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace were fitted, primed, painted, and installed by our staff. Three new sets of sash were also installed in the Hooper-Hathaway Dining Room. Other windows have been repaired and re-glazed. Basement cleaning and organization took place during the winter months, as did annual inspections. With the next season almost upon us, we have been procuring bids for upcoming projects, such as the Hooper-Hathaway roof. We hope to see action on this front early this spring, Outside, the staff has worked tirelessly on ice and snow removal.

EX: Exhibits at The Gables

Our new exhibit series called EX has had a great first season! Coming up in April will be a brief, but striking, exhibit of The Malala Portraits. For anyone who missed the story about this courageous teenager, Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani student who stood up for women’s rights (specifically, the education of girls in her country). She was subsequently the victim of an assassination attempt. Fortunately, this brave young woman survived, and after intensive rehabilitation, continued her crusade and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Students at Manchester-Essex Regional Middle High School created these multi-media portraits under the guidance of their teacher, Marion Powers. Save the following dates:

April 1st, Members’ Exhibit Preview, 5–7 p.m.
April 3–10 Exhibit is open during regular Gables hours.
April 4th, Student Artist & Parent Reception, 5–7 p.m.

We gratefully acknowledge MIDDLEOAK for their sponsorship of The Underground Railroad.

Gables’ Employees of the Month

December 2013 Michael Judd and Ana Nuncio were named Employees of the Month in December.

Michael Judd, senior tour guide at The Gables, helped with our new calendar. Upon hearing of the calendar project, Michael brought in a disc of his wonderful garden photos, taken as the seaside garden changes with the seasons. These photos were a great addition to our Gables’ Garden Calendar 2014. He also helped with the proofreading. By volunteering his talent and support, Michael made the production much easier and greatly improved the product.

Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships, was also named Employee of the Month for her work proofreading the calendar. Her suggested changes enhanced the style and content greatly. Her “same-day delivery” timing streamlined the print order and helped take the pressure off other staff members. Michael Judd to left being awarded by Melissa Reynolds, HR manager. Ana Nuncio to the right with “Peter”.

Maintenance (continued from Page 4)

It is very fortunate indeed that we invested in an additional new snow-blower early this winter, as it has been quite a challenging season so al inspections. With the next season almost upon us, we have been procuring bids for upcoming projects, such as the Hooper-Hathaway roof. We hope to see action on this front early this spring. Outside, the staff has worked tirelessly on ice and snow removal. It is very fortunate indeed that we invested in an additional new snow-blower early this winter, as it has been quite a challenging season so far. We all look forward to milder weather soon.