Director’s Message
by Kara McLaughlin, Executive Director

One thing I love about our quarterly newsletters is they allow time to pause for a moment and look back on what the organization has accomplished over the past few months and to look forward to what we have planned. I often note how much is going on here at The Gables. This time, however, what really caught my attention were the various communities that we engage and serve.

The articles on the following pages highlight programs and projects that have touched the lives of many people: youth that participate in our Settlement Partnerships and programs; museum visitors of all ages and nationalities; the preservation, museum and literary communities; historians; couples, garden enthusiasts; families celebrating special occasions; as well as long-time supporters and friends.

You will also see information on upcoming fall programs and events. We are especially excited about our annual fundraiser, Taste of The Gables. We have a special secret we would like to share that night, so we hope you can join us!

I consider it a privilege to be a part of an organization that is able to serve such a diverse group of communities.
Letter from the Editor
by Ryan Conary, Marketing & Reservations Coordinator

As we near the end of summer, we mark the beginning of what is, in my opinion, the most exciting season of the year. The heat of late summer makes way for autumn’s chill. Leaves begin to turn, sending a wash of fresh color over the landscape. Fall is a transition between New England’s climatic extremes, providing us a picturesque and often pleasant time to enjoy the bounty of our regions offerings.

The month of October is well known, especially to Salem locals, as the liveliest and most bountiful month for seasonal and cultural events. During October, the city celebrates Halloween with a month long festival, Haunted Happenings. At The House of the Seven Gables, we continue our annual October evening performances, Spirits of the Gables and Legacy of the Hanging Judge on select nights beginning Columbus Day weekend. These exciting, dramatic presentations take guests through the halls of two historic houses, where they will encounter the burdened characters from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s timeless novel in Spirits, and the real-life people affected by the events of the Salem Witch Trials in Legacy. Tickets are still available for both shows; please check 7gables.org for more information.

This past summer was one of exciting accomplishments and new initiatives for The House of the Seven Gables. On Sunday, August 23rd, we unveiled our brand new Historic Gardens Guide & Map, which is a gift to our guests with a donation of any amount. The Guide & Map is full of beautiful images and interesting information about the history and horticulture of our scenic seaside gardens. It also includes a map to assist visitors in exploring the grounds of the museum.

August 31st, marked the end of the exhibition, A Gracious Host: Visiting The Gables Through the Years. But with the removal of the exhibition panels, comes the release of the booklet, A Gracious Host, which will serve as a continuation of the experience. The exhibition and booklet highlight the history of The House of the Seven Gables not told on the guided tour. Between the publication of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s classic novel in 1851, and the restoration and opening of the house to the public in 1910, there is an untold history to explore. The booklet is available for purchase in our museum store.

With exciting new developments and continuing traditions, this season is sure to be thrilling for all of our visitors.
Taste of The Gables  
by Karen Barter, Director of Development

The 2015 Co-Chairs, Ann Leaver & Paul Soucy, both longtime friends and supporters of The Gables, thank you for attending our 3rd annual fundraising event, Taste of The Gables on Sunday, September 20th! The big white tent on our oceanfront lawn was surrounded by spectacular gardens, historic houses, and inside the tent over 20 local chefs and beverage vendors, bakers and candy makers were there to wow you with their sumptuous specialties! You may have wandered around to the music of live jazz band, ‘Gid Giddy’s Four’ and soloist, Alyssa AlKhowaiter.

A silent auction featured original works by local artists, sports memorabilia, and a few surprises. The live auction had some fantastic items including a signed jersey by New England Patriots Tight End Rob Gronkowski, Red Sox box seats for 10, a beautiful sculpture by Beverly Seamans, a stay at a ski house in Vermont, original David P. Curtis oil painting, Racket Shreve watercolor, and even a big dog! This was certainly one of the best events of the year on the North Shore! We would like to thank our many generous sponsors for helping to support this event.

All proceeds of the event benefit the dual mission of The House of the Seven Gables: education and preservation. We are dedicated to the vision of our founder, Caroline Emmerton. We honor her legacy of helping others through education, inclusion, and compassion.
Community Day at The Gables
by Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

On Thursday, August 6th, The Gables hosted a city-wide Community Day that showcased the talents of high school students. The event was led and organized by staff from LEAP for Education, Salem Public High School educators, and instructors from Salem State University.

This innovative partnership found a way to bring the Salem at SEA (Summer ELL Academy) program at SSU to an exciting conclusion at The Gables. Thought-provoking poster board exhibits by students, along with comment sheets for visitor responses, lined the perimeter of the conference area. Prominently displayed was this topic for exploration: Why is there a disconnect between immigrants and the larger Salem community?

Students also presented intriguing video presentations and performed live demonstrations of the bachata and merengue dances that are traditional to Dominican culture. As a culminating project, three Salem high students also presented their translation of the City’s Salem Guide for New Visitors in Spanish, advocating for its availability in print form in order to meet newly arrived immigrants “where they are”.

During the last week of July, just before presenting their projects for Community Day, the group of Salem at SEA students had met at The Gables and visited with younger students during the Caribbean Connections summer program. They watched the younger students rehearse a play entitled La Peineta Colorada (The Red Hair Comb) about slavery in the Caribbean.

Kids from LEAP for Education and from Salem at Sea program at SSU, two of The Gables Settlement Partners.
Caribbean Connections 2015
by Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

As the school year ended last June, Gables staff was busy preparing for the third phase of Caribbean Connections, a program that aims to help Salem students and their families discover the untold stories and the hidden connections between Salem and the Caribbean.

There was so much ground to cover during the five weeks of programming, which was offered from June 29th through July 30th. However, in less than a week, 12 students had been recruited, field trips were falling into place, permission forms were being collected from parents, and — at every turn, new learnings about the students and their families were shaping the curriculum.

Caribbean Connections first came into being in 2012, thanks to a partnership with Essex National Heritage Commission, which had been awarded an ABI (America’s Best Idea) grant from the National Park Foundation. At that time, the program targeted middle school students in Salem, offering them a chance to learn, in Spanish, about their heritage and historic connections between Salem and the Caribbean.

Why was Spanish used in the program, and why were the students learning in Spanish? Capitalizing on the flexibility that an enrichment program affords, Caribbean Connections teachers were able to use the dual language, or two-way bilingual (TWB) approach, which permits teachers to use the students’ native language to facilitate their access to concepts and big ideas.

Even students with strong conversational English skills do not have the literacy base that allows them to process and comprehend written text and major concepts. This is evident when results are released for state tests such as MCAS, when the academic gap between Latino students and their English-speaking counterparts looms large.

By using the students’ native language to help them understand the more advanced vocabulary and academically rich content of the curriculum, teachers can more effectively build literacy skills in their students’ native language, which in turn enables students to more easily acquire literacy skills in their second (or third) language.

A substantial body of research has shown the dual language approach to be successful when well-executed.

This year, the Caribbean Connections program was offered to students in grades 2 through 5, and the class consisted primarily of Dominican and Haitian students. The interest on the part of Haitian parents for their children to learn Spanish was striking, given the current backdrop of tensions around immigration on the Caribbean island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

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But in our little corner of the world, in the Settlement building, the students mingled — cautiously at first, but gradually with more confidence, as they came to know each other better. And students came not only from Salem, but also from Peabody and Danvers, having heard about the program through the Salem public school system and fellow classmates.

This year, staff from Essex Heritage and Salem Maritime National Historic Site again lent their time and talents to our programming, and the curriculum was enriched by field trips to the Industrial History Museum in Lowell and to St. Joseph’s Hall in Salem, where students were impressed by vivid stories about the lives of immigrant workers in the early 20th century.

Deeply moved about the plight of immigrant children in the early 1900s, second-grader Angelina Nelson wrote, “Kids are killed, they work 12 hours a day, families suffer for food, their lives are in evil hands. The parents and kids are suffering in their new lives.”

Teachers and students also dove deeply into a book called The Red Hair Comb, originally written in Spanish (La Peineta Colorada) by Fernando Picó. The topic of slavery in the Caribbean is central to the book, and students explored issues of race and slavery through a play that they created based on the book. The play was entitled “The March of the Fiery Crabs,” and clever costumes came together quickly with the help of Express Yourself instructor, Emily Goetschell.

Against the larger human drama that is now unfolding in the world, with stories reaching us daily about the plight of immigrants in Europe, the experiences of a small group of immigrant children in Salem, the City of Peace, are both poignant and hopeful.

With the help of our partners, Essex Heritage and Salem Maritime National Historic Site, we were also able to offer happy, transformative experiences to children and their parents. As a final field trip, kids, parents, and teachers took a boat trip out to Bakers Island in Salem harbor. This exhilarating experience motivated parents to call out in Spanish for the boat to go faster, and the action of the boat skimming on the water brought smiles to everyone onboard.

Back in the classroom on July 30th, the final day of the program, Chantalle Vargas, age 10, wrote:

“My favorite thing about Caribbean Connections is our field trip to Bakers Island. I loved going fast in the boat, and the water coming over to spray our faces.”
Kids from the 2015 Caribbean Connections program enjoy the Salem Maritime National Historic Site (top), and ??? (bottom)
Experimenting with History
by Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services

American poet Mark Van Doren once said, “The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.” As an English professor at Columbia University for 39 years, he had extensive experience in that field.

When you really think about it, Dr. Van Doren’s statement is a great approach to teaching history. By providing people with the opportunity to do something new, we can help broaden their experience with the past. Hopefully, we can entice them to explore how lessons from history can be useful in our modern lives.

Our newest museum program, The Living History Lab, opened in July and attempts to ‘assist discovery’, as Dr. Van Doren suggested. On Saturdays and Sundays through the end of October, visitors can play both historian and scientist by experimenting with a variety of hands-on historical activities. Perhaps they will write with a quill pen, card sheep’s wool to prepare it for spinning, touch and smell salted cod as they learn about 17th-century food, or play some Colonial games.

Over the course of the summer, we have had a great response to The Living History Lab. Our skilled historical guides have received high praise as they have conducted the ‘experiments.’ Our guests have also been good observers, diligently filling out their field notes and giving us some wonderful insights about the program. Here are some of the comments they have shared:

Sandy, after experimenting with Colonial toys, said her favorite part were “memories. Had these as a kid many moons ago.”

Eight year old Taylor’s favorite part was “smelling the foods.”

Anne felt that “touching the objects brings more reality to the explanations.”

“Dried fish – Yuck!” said Vanisha.

So, have our observations unearthed some long lost secret about the past? Have we made a major breakthrough that will change the history books? While I can’t be sure just yet, let’s say that the experiment is on-going and The Living History Lab is open for business.

Guests “experiment” with history at the Living History Lab.
An example of the field notes that Living History Lab guests get to fill out during their historic experimentation.
Wedding Season
by Deb Costa, Special Events Manager

The House of the Seven Gables has been the host for numerous weddings this season. Each event has been very unique and has highlighted the personality of the bride. I have to say that working with the bride and her family poses some challenges, but is something that I enjoy, and that allows me the opportunity to see the entire wedding process go from vision to reality. I am constantly learning from brides and the wonderful vendors who make the event into the wedding of their dreams. So far this year we have had seven weddings, a few wedding showers, a birthday party, and a rehearsal dinner. We will also be hosting a few corporate retreats and a baby shower, along with even more weddings. The House of the Seven Gables is a unique waterfront venue that has many amenities and options to make your own history here.
Scarlet Letter Needlepoint  
by Everett Philbrook, Store Manager

Compiled from, “The Custom House” – introduction to The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850):

“…one idle and rainy day, it was my fortune to make a discovery of some little interest…I chanced to lay my hand on a small package, carefully done up in a piece of ancient yellow parchment…the object that most drew my attention, in the mysterious package, was a certain affair of fine red cloth, much worn and faded. There were traces about it of gold embroidery, which, however, was greatly frayed and defaced; so that none, or very little, of the glitter was left. It had been wrought, as was easy to perceive, with wonderful skill of needlework; and the stitch (as I am assured by ladies conversant with such mysteries) gives evidence of a now forgotten art…This rag of scarlet cloth,—for time, and wear, and a sacrilegious moth, had reduced it to little other than a rag,—on careful examination, assumed the shape of a letter. It was the capitol letter A…I happened to place it on my breast. It seemed to me,—the reader may smile, but must not doubt my word,—it seemed to me, then, that I experienced a sensation not altogether physical, yet almost so, as of burning heat; and as if the letter were not of red cloth, but red-hot iron. I shuddered, and involuntarily let it fall upon the floor.”

The Museum Store is pleased to announce that an exclusive needlepoint kit of the scarlet letter itself is soon to arrive here. This image as described by Nathaniel Hawthorne has become a part of our literary heritage, and it is only fitting that we offer this piece as a tribute to an American masterpiece written in Salem, Massachusetts by one of our country’s greatest writers.
Brick by Brick
by Kevin White, Director of Preservation and Maintenance

We are pleased to announce the completion of the trolley stop memorial brick walkway. Over the past several months, our dedicated Development team has reached out to members of The Gables family to accomplish this worthwhile improvement to our campus. We are humbled by the support that was received. Many friends from The Gables past and present were very excited to share their memories of loved ones, in the dedication and donation of bricks, benches and trees to this newly refurbished area.

Thanks to this generosity, we are able to present a more welcoming face to our guests as they arrive for a visit, await a trolley ride, or contemplate their next adventure in our fair city. Three very fine benches replace the outdated waiting bench and the addition of trees in that space will provide needed shade and added interest in a formerly void area. The most important addition, however, are the memories so graciously inscribed on the bricks that were installed. Each one of those endearments brings forth the realization that The House of the Seven Gables has touched many a life in the one hundred plus years since its inception. With such a fitting tribute to our past, there is no doubt that we are well poised to face a bright future for The Gables in the years to come.

Many thanks go out to all of those who participated by the gift of a brick, tree or bench as well as those whose diligence helped bring this project to fruition. Special thanks go out to Karen Barter and the Development team for their planning and organization. We would like to recognize Robyn Kanter of Kanter Garden Designs for her work in planning the site and selecting the appropriate trees and plantings to enhance the area. Scott Thompson and crew of Thompson Garden Center in Salem worked hard in hot weather to complete the installation as well. The Gables staff was, as always, invaluable and supportive of this endeavor, exemplifying the very essence of the goals and values set forth by our founder so many years ago.

The memorial bricks were dedicated on August 23rd, 2015.
Salem’s Oldest House Celebrates Its 360th Year
by David Moffat, Lead/Senior Tour Guide

The Retire Beckett House, moved to the site of The House of the Seven Gables in 1924, is once again in the spotlight. This year marks the 360th anniversary of its construction and the occasion is being marked with an exhibit on the house’s history put together by Store Manager Everett Philbrook, Rachel Sherman, an intern from Salem State, and Dan Marshall, the Manager of Visitor Services.

Built in 1655 by shipwright John Beckett, the house is today the oldest house which survives in Salem. The Pickering House was once thought to be older, but dendrochronology and later research confirmed its construction to be from the early 1660s.

The Retire Beckett house was originally on a part of Beckett Street which disappeared in 1951 with the construction of the Salem Harbor Construction. Caroline Emmerton purchased the house long before that, in 1916, and brought it to the property eight years later. Its construction is typical of the seventeenth century: it has a steep-pitched roof and a framed overhang on the second story. When the house was first constructed, it may have had leaded casement windows, a batten door, and a massive brick chimney. The original exterior of the house is not known, though it may have been covered with large weather boards or hand-riven clapboards nailed directly to the studs.

The house’s appearance today reflects the changing styles of three centuries. The house has been through several alterations, and latter additions were removed in the 1800s, saving only the original portion. The interior of the house has been slightly reconfigured to become the museum store, but its original framing and low ceilings remain.

The history of the house is very closely tied to Salem’s shipbuilding industry and the surrounding community. In 1807 at the height of its trade, Salem had over 200 vessels at its disposal. Many of those ships were made by the Beckett family. Their shipyard was on Essex Street, and each successive generation of the family, from John Beckett in the mid-1600s to Retire Beckett in the early 1800s worked there. It was this last Beckett shipbuilder who would be the greatest.

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Retire Beckett, who lived between 1753 and 1831, was a “genius at ship-building” who constructed 25 documented vessels in the early 1800s. Beckett built ten ships, seven brigs, two brigantines, five schooners, and one yacht. The yacht, Cleopatra’s Barge, was the first in Salem, commissioned by merchant George Crowninshield Jr. in 1816, and is today considered Beckett’s masterpiece. It sailed in 1817, visiting 16 ports in Europe and North Africa. In 1820, the ship was stripped and sold to King Kamehameha II of Hawaii. It ran aground off Kauai in 1824 and was unable to be salvaged. Today, one of its cabins is recreated in the Peabody Essex Museum.

Shipbuilding was an integral part of Salem’s maritime trade in the 1700s and early 1800s. As the economy changed in the early 1800s and foreign trade became less viable from Salem, shipbuilding declined. As a result, Retire Beckett built his last ship in 1818 and lived to see the decline of Salem’s golden age.
The House of the Seven Gables Presents
Community Conversations on the Topic of Immigration

Starting in March 2015, The Gables will hold a series of community conversations on the topic of immigration and immigration reform. Community partners planning to contribute to this initiative include Historic New England, The Salem Award Foundation, Catholic Charities of the North Shore, and the North Shore Community Development Corporation.

Conversations are free and begin at 6PM. Speakers and topics include:

**May 13th** - *How Immigration Became Illegal*  
with Professor of History Aviva Chomsky

**May 28th** - *Trauma of Immigration and Its Impact on Children*  
with Elsabel Rincón, Independent Community Consultant

**June 3rd** - *Local Immigration -- Current Immigration Trends*  
with Dawn C. Slaven, Community Relations Officer, USCIS

**June 24th** - *Immigrants as Assets*  
with Denzil Mohammed, Assistant Director, The Immigrant Learning Center

**September 23rd** - *How Did We Get Here?*  
Community dialogue after book talk of Julia Álvarez’s book, *In the Time of the Butterflies*

**October 8th** - *Lessons Learned from National Dialogues on Immigration Project*  
with Braden Paynter, Program Associate, International Sites of Conscience Coalition, N.A.

**November 12th** - *Where Do We Go From Here?*  
Community Roundtable Discussion with Professor Westy Egmont
March 18, 2015
Alison Hawthorne Deming, *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*

To kick off our 2015 lecture series, Seven Lectures at Seven Gables, The House of the Seven Gables is pleased to announce award-winning author, and University of Arizona professor, Alison Hawthorne Deming who will be discussing her most recent book, *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*. The great-great-granddaughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Deming has written a beautiful new book that explores connections between humanity and the animal kingdom through natural history and firsthand accounts. The critically acclaimed *Zoologies* reveals Deming's distinguished poetic background and masterful writing style.

Prior to the lecture, from 5:00PM-5:45PM, there will be a members-only meet-and-greet with the author.

April 7, 2015
Emerson “Tad” Baker, *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience*

The House of the Seven Gables will be hosting Professor Emerson “Tad” Baker for a lecture about his new book. The author will discuss his recent work which sets the Salem Witch Trials in the broader context of American history from the seventeenth century to the present, and examines their enduring legacy.

May 20, 2015
Robert Patton, *Hell before Breakfast*

Historian and author Robert Patton visits The House of the Seven Gables to give a lecture on his new book, *Hell Before Breakfast*, which highlights America’s earliest war correspondents. A thrilling and evocative account of forgotten heroes of the 19th and 20th centuries, this book explores the accounts of war correspondents that would make headlines during a period of rapid progress and tremendous conflict.

June 17, 2015
Megan Marshall, *Margaret Fuller, a New American Life*

Distinguished author and scholar Megan Marshall will be visiting The House of the Seven Gables to discuss her Pulitzer Prize winning biography, *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*. A compelling account of the life of one of the most influential and important journalists and women’s rights activists in American history, *Margaret Fuller* is sure to captivate the audience. Join us for this stirring lecture and discussion.

August 19, 2015
Michael W. Judd and Elizabeth E. Judd, *Hawthorne's Stories for Children*

Join the Gables’ own tour guide Michael W. Judd and his wife Elizabeth for an evening of storytelling from Nathaniel Hawthorne’s classic children’s stories. Known for his romantic novels, Hawthorne wrote numerous short stories and fantastic works for children. The Judd’s will use Hawthorne’s children’s stories to create a charming and engaging experience for the whole family.

September 23, 2015
Book Talk & Community Conversation, *In the Time of the Butterflies / En el Tiempo de las Mariposas by Julia Alvarez*

Renowned author and poet Julia Alvarez’s influential book, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, will be the topic of a bilingual book discussion at The House of the Seven Gables. Join the community, as the backdrop of life in the Dominican Republic during the Trujillo Era becomes the theme of dynamic discussion amongst writers, book lovers and anyone interested in this fascinating subject. This event is just one in a series about the work of Julia Alvarez throughout the month of September around the area, hosted by the Peabody Institute Library.

November 18, 2015
Brunonia Barry, *The Map of True Places*

The House of the Seven Gables welcomes back New York Times bestselling author, Brunonia Barry, for a lecture on her book, *The Map of True Places*. Set in Boston and Salem, this well-crafted novel is immersive and beautifully written. Finding one’s true place in the world is a theme explored in this new book by the author of *The Lace Reader*. 
OCTOBER NIGHTS
AT THE GABLES

DAILY TOURS - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Discover the surprises in The House of the Seven Gables.
Guided tours run continuously from Sun-Sat 10 AM - 7 PM

EVENING THEATRICAL EVENTS
DURING WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER, THE HOUSE OF THE SEVEN GABLES
OFFERS TWO THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS PERFORMED IN THE ROOMS OF OUR HISTORIC HOUSES.

SPIRITS OF THE GABLES:
Witness two families entangled by a curse in this presentation of the novel performed in the mansion that inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne to write *The House of the Seven Gables*.

LEGACY OF THE HANGING JUDGE:
Scenes from the Witchcraft Hysteria are reenacted in this presentation performed in the rooms of Hawthorne’s Birthplace.

Performance dates:
October 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 23, 24, and 30 from 8 - 10:30PM
October 31 from 7 - 9PM

Performances begin every 5-10 minutes and are each approximately 35 minutes long. Last performance begins at closing. Combination tickets available. Reservations highly recommended.

978-744-0991 ext. 104

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the nature of their historic architecture, The House of the Seven Gables and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace are not wheelchair accessible. Guided tours and performances take place on multiple levels and guests will be standing or climbing stairs during their tour.