From Our Director

We have had an amazing few months here at The Gables. Since our last update, we have welcomed over 45,000 visitors. We saw twenty-five thousand guests in October alone. These figures put us up 10% over the same period last year!

On September 21st, more than 250 people attended our annual fund-raising event, Taste of the Gables. On November 15th, more than 120 Salem residents took part in our Salem Residents Appreciation Day party as we launched a program to offer free museum admission for Salem residents. Salem residents can now enjoy our historic house museums and waterfront gardens on a complimentary basis year-round, with the exception of October.

Over the past few months we have also completed some highly visible projects, including the installation of a new, wooden shingle roof on the Hooper-Hathaway House (1682) and the construction of a new, architecturally appropriate porch on The Settlement House (c 1806).

We are looking forward to the winter season and to next year, and the many things we have planned. Keep your eyes open for family friendly holiday activities, Christmas tours, special lectures and exhibits, community conversations on immigration, and of course, more preservation projects, including new roofs on the Retire Becket House (1655) and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace (1750).

None of these accomplishments or future plans would be possible without the work of the talented and dedicated staff here at The Gables. Nor would they be possible without your support. Please know that I remain grateful for both.

At this time of thanksgiving, on behalf of our Board of Trustees and our staff, I wish you, your family and friends a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Kara McLaughlin
Executive Director
Preservation
By Kevin White

The past few months have witnessed some major restoration on two of our historic buildings. The Hooper-Hathaway House (1682) has been the recipient of a new shingled roof. This project also included new gutters, downspouts and rake boards, as well as new copper dormer roofs and flashing. Specifications for the job were written and defined by our preservation architect, Bill Finch, and approved by the Salem Historical Commission. The work on this spectacular 17th-century home was done by Joseph Napolitano and crew (NAPCO), of Gloucester. They are specialists in Early American homes and have worked on many of the area’s most important historic houses. This is very exciting for us because it has returned the house to the way it was when it was first moved and restored by Caroline Emmerton in 1912. In addition to the roof, members of the Gables staff have been replacing clapboards and have restored many of the double hung windows in the house as well. This project was funded by many generous donors and a matching grant that we received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Also, across the street at the Settlement House, a beautiful new porch, designed by Seger Architects of Salem, has been built. This building, purchased by The Gables in 1966 from the Sons of Poland Associates, continues its long tradition of service. Originally built in 1806 as a Home for Aged Men, it now serves the Salem Prep High School, helping young men and women in our community achieve success in education. The porch, which is on the Derby Street side entrance, offers a substantial improvement in safety, functionality and overall appearance of the building. A great job was performed by Leland Hussey and his crew, of Swampscott, and the staff and students have relayed their thanks. In addition to these projects, two new rooftop HVAC units have been installed at our Visitors Center. These units service our Plumsock and Holyoke rooms and will improve the comfort level in these spaces.

As the garden season comes to an end, it seems like only yesterday that the lilacs were in bloom, and as the autumn weeks fly by, our landscape provides us with a seamless offering of horticultural delights. This grand display is the work of tireless hands and countless hours all bent toward keeping The House of the Seven Gables’ gardens and grounds a show piece here in Salem. The winter will provide its own glorious palette, but we shall look forward to the tulips in the spring.
Special Events
By Deb Costa

There are many exciting events on the horizon at The House of the Seven Gables. As we approach the season of giving, it is coming upon the time of year when we adorn the annual Gables’ Settlement Tree with ornaments that reflect the various groups The Settlement Association has helped over the past 100 years. These beautiful, handcrafted ornaments were made by Salem school children and will be for sale.

As a special holiday offering, on Saturdays in December prior to Christmas, we will be hosting special musical guests that will be performing in the Visitor’s Center. We will also be offering family friendly ornament making and serving light refreshments. These offerings will be held on December 6th, 13th, and 20th from 2-4PM.

On November 28th, we will begin offering our special Christmas themed tour, to kick off the holiday season. The tour of the mansion explains how our beloved traditions have evolved over time. There is an added bonus this season because on that Saturday, November 29th at 3PM, Ken Turino, of Historic New England, will be giving a lecture here at The Gables about the changing nature of Christmas celebration in New England.

And do not forget that The House of the Seven Gables is not just for weddings. We have unique spaces for your holiday get-togethers, large or small. Please contact Deb Costa, dcosta@7gables.org, for more information.
Museum Store
By Everett Philbrook

The Museum Store is delighted to announce that we will be carrying candy selections from two of Salem’s well-known confectioners. Harbor Sweets and The Old Pepper Company have joined with us to provide our guests with the very best locally made sweets. These candy companies have a history with the city of Salem that makes them both a great fit for our store. Now, as our guests shop for items related to author Nathaniel Hawthorne or the many aspects of our historic site, they will find sweet temptations that are hard to resist. Come by to sample these offerings for yourself; you will be glad that you did!

Settlement Program
By Ana Nuncio

On April 10, 2014, in keeping with its Settlement mission of community building and service to local immigrant families, The Gables participated in Youth Get-to-the-Point Day in Salem’s Point/El Punto neighborhood. This program was a citywide event sponsored by the North Shore Community Development Corporation, a Gables community partner. The facilities crew from The Gables installed a walkway using granite pavers from the street to the sidewalk to facilitate access by parents, children and staff to the Center. They also provided sturdy barrel planters in which the preschoolers eagerly planted an array of spring flowers, with help from their teachers. After all the excitement, the children went inside to listen to Caribbean Tales in English and Spanish, read aloud by teachers and Gables staff.
In Support of Women
By Ana Nuncio

Fahima Gaheez Vorgetts, long-time champion for the women and children of Afghanistan, will speak at The Gables’ Visitor Center on December 2, 2014 at 7 pm. Her talk will be followed by a trunk sale of Afghan handcrafts to raise funds for her causes, which include opening new schools for girls and literacy classes for women in Afghanistan, as well as creating income-generating projects for widows to help them become self-sufficient.

In 2004, Fahima Vorgetts received the Salem Award Foundation’s Award for Human Rights and Social Justice in recognition of her activism and distinguished work in those fields. Come hear her speak and show your support for these causes by purchasing one of the dazzling handcrafted items this holiday season.

With Open Arms
By Dan Marshall

A strong sense of community and the desire to instill that in others was a driving force behind Caroline Emmerton’s creation of the House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association in the early 20th century. To continue to foster Emmerton’s vision, we are opening our arms and our doors to our fellow Salemites, inviting city residents to enjoy our historic house tours and grounds for free year round, excluding October. So all you need do is show proof of Salem residency to experience our 350 year long story of family, architecture and social enterprise.

On Saturday, Nov 15th we hosted our “Salem Residents’ Appreciation Day Party” to kick off this new Salem perk. We had a great turn out, as many came to make family friendly holiday crafts, tour our historic mansion and peruse our museum store. Ken’s Kickin’ Chicken graciously provided pot pie for all and the On Point Musical Group performed a wonderfully eclectic mix of holiday favorites. It was gratifying to see so many of our neighbors come calling and we look forward to many more in the future.
Brick Project
By Karen Barter

The front entrance walkway of The Gables is in need of brick repair. This offers a unique opportunity for the community to honor their friends and family, whether living or deceased. Bricks can be purchased and inscribed with the name of your family member or friend. Order forms are available on our website, www.7gables/support/Giveagift/brickproject.org. Please note our website home page has a top tool bar. Click Support for a drop down list, and then go to make a Gift. That will lead to a page with the Brick Project. There you will find the instructions, click here to download Brick Project Order Form. Scroll over Brick Project Order Form, to download. This form does not connect to PayPal. Please print off the form, fill it in and mail it with your payment to The House of the Seven Gables, 115 Derby St., Salem, MA 01970.

Thank you for your support!

Prices:
• Brick (4” x 8”), red clay with laser cut script in black, 1-2 lines (maximum of 20 characters per line), $65 each
• Brick (8” x 8”), red clay with laser cut script in black, 1-3 lines (maximum of 20 characters per line), $125 each

The House of the Seven Gables reserves the right to not accept the wording of a donor if it does not align with our mission and code of ethics. In that event, we will contact the donor and attempt to find an agreeable alternative. No proofs will be offered, and placement will not be promised. This purchase is not refundable.

Taste of The Gables, 2014
By Karen Barter

Now established as one of the best events on the North Shore, Taste of The Gables was held on Sunday, September 21st in the big white tent on our oceanfront lawn. Lead by our Honorary Co-chairs, Sarah & John Seamans, and the Honorary Committee, Ann & Bill Leaver and Cynthia & Paul Soucy, many Gables friends were involved. Along with the event committee, chaired by Board of Trustees member KC Commoss, this group worked tirelessly for months gathering auction items, listing chefs & ads, securing sponsors, selling tickets and planning for another perfect night! (continued)
(Taste of The Gables, 2014 continued)
Over 25 chefs and beverage vendors came to display and serve their sumptuous specialties. Attendees could feast on squash-filled raviolis in a gorgonzola sauce from Vinwood Caterers, refresh with a Ryan & Wood vodka drink, enjoy a Finz raw bar of oysters and then wander over to Harbor Sweets for a chocolate morsel. The cast of chefs and vendors was truly outstanding! They included Tim Hopkins, Jodi Dee Bakes, Turners Seafood, The Adriatic Restaurant, Far From the Tree Cider, Opus, Thai Place, Thirsty Ventures, Events by BH, The Affordable Chef, Hotel Hawthorne, Sweet Peas, Cape Ann Brewery, Western Mass Flowers and Senor Sangria! All are listed on our website. Please remember to use the participating chefs and beverage vendors for your next party.

As the fog rolled in across the harbor, creating a mystical setting, attendees voted Ken Rothwell, of Ken Rothwell’s Catering, as Best Chef and Denis Rochford, of Hotel California Tequila, for Best Beverage. Gid’s Giddy Four jazz band set the mood with their smooth, velvety sounds, and Alyssa AlKhowaiter, soloist, delighted the crowd.

The silent auction of over 50 original pieces of art was crowned with The Gables’ mission posters of children from our educational programs and preservation projects in our historic houses. The live auction included 18 luxury items from sculpture to fine art and Chestnut Street dinners to Caribbean vacations.

The proceeds from the evening will benefit the preservation projects of The Gables’ eight historic houses. Paddles Up!, a segment of our live auction, raised over $10,000 to benefit our educational program, Caribbean Connection. This popular, award-winning program, for which there is a waiting list, will return next summer for underserved middle school children from immigrant families.

We are so grateful to our sponsors! Without their generosity, this event could not happen. We salute Eastern Bank, Soucy Insurance Agency, Footprint Power, KODA Enterprises Group, Will & Laura Wrightson, Beverly Bank, Breckinridge Capital Advisors, Clarke Brothers Fuel, Serafini, Darling & Correnti, Minuteman Security Technologies, National Grid, Waters & Brown and Insight Performance.

Next year’s event will take place on Sunday, September 20th here at The Gables. So mark your calendars, save the date and plan to have a reunion of friends and family come to celebrate at this awesome event! Website admissions begin in late summer.
From the Collection: A Portrait of Sir Charles Wager
By David Moffat and Ryan W. Conary

The accounting room of the House of the Seven Gables is both a means and a product of empire. The New World’s seemingly inexhaustible forests and fishing grounds had brought the interests of European powers along with their merchants looking to secure for themselves some benefit in the forward motion of world history. The Turners and the fictional Pyncheons of Hawthorne’s novel were two such families whose fortunes were based on the movement of goods from colonies to capitals and back. It was in their accounting rooms, the place in the house where the business of the sea was conducted, that their fortunes were solidified. They were the board rooms of the merchant venturers.

Today, above the mantel in the accounting room is a portrait of Sir Charles Wager (1666-1743). Wager was the First Lord of the Admiralty, the man in charge of the British Royal Navy, which guaranteed the reaches of British power in their colonies. In this portrait, he is finely dressed in a velvet coat and breastplate, the background is the sea, and though blotched with age, his flagship. We tend today to view the colonial era of trade like the Wild West, a free for all of exploitation and freedom, but we must remember it was the era of mercantilism, the system which emphasized closely regulating economic activities from the 1500s to the 1700s to create a balance of trade in favor of the colonial power.

Wager personified the glory and adventurous nature of the age, born into a prominent English naval family and raised by New England merchants. His grandfather was Vice-Admiral William Goodson, a well-known naval officer. When Charles II was brought triumphantly back to England in 1660, Wager’s father commanded one of the ships in the fleet. Referring to the elder Wager, diarist Samuel Pepys wrote on the 2nd of November, 1665, “A brave, stout fellow this Captain is and I think very honest”, traits that the younger Wager would ultimately inherit.

After the death of Wager’s father in 1666, his mother Prudence remarried a Quaker merchant, Alexander Parker. Wager would spend much of his youth around Quakers at one point being apprenticed to a Quaker merchant from Barnstable, Massachusetts, John Hull (1624-1683), who was involved in overseas trade. Hull would marry the daughter of Edmund Quincy, Judith Quincy, of the well-known New England Quincy family. Wager’s connection to New England ran deep early in his life, but his rapid rise through the Royal naval ranks would be what Wager is best remembered for. (continued)
(From the Collection continued)

Wager’s tenure as First Lord of the Admiralty coincided with the final decade of Salem merchant and Turner-Ingersoll Mansion owner, John Turner II’s career at sea, from 1733 until 1742. Wager and Turner were almost exact contemporaries, and would have been part of the same economic machine. Wager’s image, regal as it is, is a projection of power, a reminder to those who would skirt the regulations of empire the seriousness of the whole endeavor.

The accounting room portrait is a copy, an imitation of a much richer and more detailed original by Thomas Gibson now in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, arguably the preeminent institution relating to maritime activity in the world. It is one more reach of capital in colony, an example of the mercantilist system that three centuries ago intertwined the lives of men of opposite

When Seconds Count
By Merritt Kirkpatrick

The House of the Seven Gables recently received an important donation from When Seconds Count, a Salem – based group that provides emergency training, such as CPR and First Aid, for businesses and organizations. On October 9th, When Seconds Count, donated a Zoll AED (automated external defibrillator) and cabinet, and provided training to Gables staff members.

Shawn Lerner, the founder and CEO of When Seconds Count, had this to say: “We feel that The House of Seven Gables is a gem in the City of Salem, and as a Salem Business Owner I would like to offer my services to the Gables to help ensure the guests and staff are just a little safer with the installation of the Zoll AED”. Thank you to Shawn and When Seconds Count for your generous donation and support.