From The Director
By Kara McLaughlin, Executive Director

What a winter this has been! With spring on the way and our staff in full swing, we expect a great year here at The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association! We are pleased to announce our 2015 Settlement Partnerships with Express Yourself, LEAP for Education, Salem Public Schools and The Parent/Child Home Connection Program.

We are also pleased that we have successfully completed the first phase of implementing a new museum management system that will allow us to serve our guests more quickly and efficiently.

Here’s a glimpse of what’s coming under our famous gables this season:

• **March 18th, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**  Launch of our Seven Lectures at Seven Gables series. We will welcome Nathaniel Hawthorne’s great-great-granddaughter, Alison Hawthorne Deming. An accomplished author in her own right, Ms. Deming will discuss her most recent book, *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*.

• **April 2nd, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  The opening celebration of our five-month long exhibit, *A Gracious Host: Visiting The Gables Through the Years*.

• **April 7th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  Featured lecture by Tad Baker, Salem State University professor and author of the recently published book, *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience*.

• **School Vacation Week, April 18th - 26th**, interactive program “Constructing History at the Gables” for families to enjoy.

Later in the spring, look for our new visitor’s guide to our historic gardens and the unveiling of our new brick walkway. As always, we will continue to preserve our historic campus. Work is currently underway on the Joshua Phippen House (c. 1782), and new period appropriate roofs will be installed on the Retire Beckett House (1655) and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace (c. 1750).

(continued)
(From the Director continued)

While all this is going on, we are also planning for the future. As two major milestones approach, excitement is building around two upcoming celebrations. The year 2016 will mark the 150th anniversary of our founder, Caroline Emmerton’s birth. And in 2018, the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion will be 350 years old! We have so much to look forward to!

I once again offer my thanks to the staff, Trustees and supporters like you who make our accomplishments possible.

With appreciation,

Kara McLaughlin
Executive Director

---

Employee Recognition - Winter Edition
by Merritt Kirkpatrick, Marketing & Creative Manager

There is still one more month of winter ahead of us, but spring is on the way and hopefully that means no more snowfall. With the feet of snow that we got over the last few weeks, it took an above and beyond effort from our grounds and maintenance crew to keep our site clear and safe for visitors and staff. The four members of our maintenance staff, Bruce Campbell, Kevin White, Francis Dybczak and Brian Payne, were indispensable, working long hours removing snow, facilitating parking and making sure the buildings and grounds were in superb condition during this trying winter. It is dedication like this that exemplifies the Gables’ family. We want to recognize our amazing staff for all of their hard work this winter, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year here at The House of the Seven Gables!

(right) The Gables crew worked hard and did an outstanding job making sure paths were clear of snow, and we were ready for business.
Settlement - Caribbean Connections, Part 1: Exploring the Role of Slavery in Building Salem’s Wealth
By Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

It was not just the willingness to take risks, a vigorous entrepreneurial spirit, or merit alone that built Salem’s fabled wealth in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The saying, “Fortune favors the bold” was common among the ship captains and sailors of Salem’s Golden Age of Sail, but we now know that a good deal more than luck was involved in building Salem’s wealth during that famous era.

This summer, The Gables will offer Caribbean Connections Part 3 to local Salem students as a way of uncovering more untold stories of Salem’s trade with the Caribbean region. The five-week summer program will be offered from June 29th through July 31st and will offer teachers and students an amplified perspective of the role that slavery played in building the wealth of Salem’s richest individuals.

It’s an unfolding story that hits close to home, as visitors to our site will discover. Did you know that John Turner II, the richest of all the Turners who inhabited the famous Gables mansion, was a slave owner? Turner had three slaves, Rebecca, Titus and Lewis, two of whom were freed after his death.

Join us for a summer of discovery that will weave together the tales of two regions, the Caribbean and New England, to offer a richer, fuller picture of American history.

Just a few of the local students that participate in our Caribbean Connections program.
The Gables in the 21st century: Not Your Average Settlement House
By Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

“If, as is generally conceded, the settlements do the best Americanization work, should not this settlement excel whose home is the ancient House of Seven Gables, the foundations of which were laid by the first immigrants who came here long ago, strangers in a strange land?”
--Caroline O. Emmerton

In keeping with the inclusive legacy of our founder, Caroline Emmerton, and her desire to help new immigrants adapt to their homes in the United States, Gables staff helped with the planning and publicity of a district-wide Latino Parent Night held at Salem High School on January 22nd. The event had four goals:

1) to give Latino parents an overview of the Salem Public School system;
2) to encourage more Latino parents to become part of a district-wide Latino Parent Council;
3) to motivate parents to become more engaged in their child’s school and its culture;
4) to obtain parent feedback about qualities they’d like to see in a school superintendent for Salem

Thirty-five parents attended the event, and the discussion was lively. These parents currently have children attending all twelve public and charter schools in the Salem school district: Bates, Bentley, Bowditch, Carlton, Horace Mann, Collins Middle School, Saltonstall, Witchcraft Heights, Salem High, Salem Prep, Salem Academy Charter School, and New Liberty Charter School.

Also, in keeping with the inclusive legacy of our founder, Caroline Emmerton, The Gables supported the City of Salem’s Immigration Workshop planned for February 11, 2015. A flyer announcing the workshop was created in English and Spanish and distributed city-wide in Salem to encourage Latino residents to discuss the implications of President Obama’s new Executive Order, among other immigration topics.

Personnel from USCIS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, as well as immigration lawyers and speakers representing local government, were featured during the event. The workshop was offered by the City at St. Peter’s ~ San Pedro Episcopal Church in Salem as a service to the local immigrant community in Salem, most of them from the Dominican Republic.
Special Events
by Deb Costa, Manager of Special Events

This year’s events season has started very quickly here at The House of the Seven Gables. We had a beautiful bridal shower here on January 18th, for which Vinwood Caterers of Ipswich did a magnificent job catering. They provided a delicious menu of vegan items and outfitted the Plumsock and Holyoke rooms, our signature function and event spaces, beautifully for the occasion.

Also, read further in this newsletter for information about our upcoming exhibit and opening party on April 2nd. Come experience the story of the Gables as you never have!

We are looking forward to another event filled year at The House of the Seven Gables!

Constructing History at The Gables
by Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services

When the snows of winter are gone and spring blooms in the region, the Gables will invite guests to explore how houses were built in Colonial Massachusetts. During April school vacation week, from April 18 – 26, between 11:00 – 2:00, The House of the Seven Gables will be hosting fun, family-friendly activities designed for all ages, to examine early New England home building and answer the questions: what worked best, what failed, and how did people learn from their mistakes?

Guests will learn about the tools of the trade and which materials were used most, experiment with different construction techniques at each of our hands-on stations using popular building toys, and fold and decorate their own paper house to take home.

(continued)
(Constructing History at the Gables continued)

Also, join us daily at 11:30 & 1:30 for “Why Do We Have Gables?” an interactive program to explore which parts of historic buildings are the strongest. Kids will be making shapes with their hands and bodies in this fun, interactive program.

This special programming is part of your museum ticket, which includes guided tours of The House of the Seven Gables and Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Birthplace and self-exploration of our Kid’s Cove maritime history area. Regular admission prices apply. Salem residents are FREE with proof of address.

Preservation
by Kevin White, Director of Maintenance & Preservation

Despite the cold and the mountains of snow, the past months here at the Gables have been witness to much activity. On the outside, work has been ongoing at the Phippen House, as the soffit and crown molding has been repaired along with the replacement of some seriously deteriorated clapboards, corner boards, etc. The Gables staff have been occupied with the replacement of board siding on the top half of the barn structure facing Hardy St. Both of these jobs were reviewed by the Salem Historical Commission and approval was given for the repairs. Projects such as these underscore the Gables commitment to its mission of preserving these historic structures.

On the inside, we have been busy with cleaning and painting. The waiting room in the Gables has been freshly painted, as has the attic room, affectionately called “Clifford’s Room”. The front hall and parlor are being touched up. Work such as this will continue throughout the winter and spring.
The House of the Seven Gables is pleased to announce *A Gracious Host: Visiting the Gables through the Years*, an engaging exhibition showcasing the vibrant history of visitation at The House of the Seven Gables. Journey through the past, and experience the history of one of America’s most famous homes as it transformed from a residence into a cultural icon. Through informational panels and object based exhibits, guests will see the house as they never have before.

Beginning on April 2nd, 2015, *A Gracious Host* will focus on key moments in the history of tourism at The House of the Seven Gables. From the last residents of the house until today, this exhibition will enthral visitors of all ages. For more than a century, The House of the Seven Gables has been one of the most iconic historic houses in America. Discover the beginnings of this historic treasure and how it came to be a popular tourist destination.

The beginnings of The House of the Seven Gables as a historic site date back before the museum’s founding in 1910. The story begins with the construction of the house by John Turner in 1668. Every house has a story worth preserving, and without the early builders and inhabitants, there would be no story to preserve. Fortunately, the story of the early residents is told on our guided tour, but leaves a gap between that of Susanna Ingersoll, who died in 1858, and Caroline Emmerton who acquired the house in 1908. During this 50 year period, the house was left to Susanna’s heir, Horace Connolly, was owned for 4 years by a series of absentee owners, and was purchased by the Upton family in 1883, who made it a home once again. The Upton’s recognized the historic importance of the house and invited guests to visit for a fee. They took advantage of the house’s storied past and began to generate greater interest in the mansion as a destination. While this was a step towards the house becoming a historical and cultural institution, it would not be until 1910 when Caroline Emmerton officially opened the house as a museum and base for her Settlement Association that The House of the Seven Gables would become the iconic structure that it remains today.
The Museum Store: Retire Beckett House
by Everett Philbrook, Manager of the Museum Store

The Museum Store, located in the Retire Beckett House, is proud to announce a milestone. Built in 1655, the Retire Beckett House will turn 360 years old this year! The house has a unique history, and like The House of the Seven Gables, it has a history of additions and removals.

The house was first built by John Beckett, facing Salem harbor on what is today Beckett Street in 1655. It would remain the home of several generations of the Beckett family, well known for their skill in ship building. Retire Beckett, John’s great-great-grandson and namesake of the house, would become the most famous of the family. One of the greatest commissions of Retire Beckett, was to build a yacht for George Crowninshield. This was the famed, “Cleopatra’s Barge”, thought to be the first yacht built in America. Reverend William Bentley of Salem recorded in his diary, that citizens of Salem would gather at the Beckett ship yard, to witness the launching of the ships he built. On May 29th, 1831, Retire Beckett died at age 77, and each of his sisters took ownership of a portion of the house, which they later sold. The new owners would then remove those parts from the original house. In 1856, the last remaining part of the house was sold, and that portion is the 1655 house that survives today.

The remainder of the house, minus its chimney, was purchased in 1916 by our founder, Caroline Emmerton. It was moved to our site in 1924, from a portion of Beckett street that disappeared many years ago to expand the Salem Power Plant. Although not restored, it has served the Gables well, first as a tea room and antique shop, and then as our Museum Store. Today, our visitors enter it and admire its low ceilings, heavy wood posts and beams, and our selections of books, giftware, and souvenirs. We can all be proud that Miss Emmerton saved it, as it is one of the oldest houses in Salem today. You can read the full account of the Beckett house, in Caroline Emmerton’s own book titled, “The Chronicles of Three Old Houses”, available for purchase in the Museum Store.
Taste of The Gables
By Karen Barter, Director of Development

We are already planning for our annual special event in September. Taste of The Gables has become a popular destination event for the competing chefs, beverage companies and guests. Save the Date for Sunday, September 20th here on our oceanfront lawn in the big white tent. Bring your friends and your appetite for the sumptuous servings that are offered by 25 chefs and beverage companies!

Our Silent Auction will display original works from local artists and our Live Auction, always a crowd pleaser, will offer select luxury items! The Committee is partly formed, and we are looking for a few new volunteers who have event experience, love to work hard, meet new friends and promote our mission. For sponsor information, chef or beverage applications, and ad information, please email kbarter@7gables.org.

2015 Immigration Community Conversations at The Gables
by Ana Nuncio, Manager of Settlement Partnerships

Beginning in April 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.

A few of the topics & speakers include:

**May 13th - How Immigration Became Illegal** - Aviva Chomsky, Professor of History and Coordinator of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies at Salem State University in MA.

**June 3rd - Community Roundtable Discussion: Why Can’t These Immigrants Be More Like Us?** Dawn C. Slaven, Community Relations Officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), will be a panel participant.

**June 24th - Immigrants as Assets, Economic and Social Contributions to the Present Day**
Denzil Mohammed, Assistant Director, The Immigrant Learning Center, Public Education Institute, Malden, MA.

Additional topics to be scheduled include:

**The French Canadian Legacy of Salem’s Point Neighborhood** - Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and Coordinator, American Studies Concentration at Salem State University

**Trauma of Immigration and its Impact on Children** - Elsabel Rincón, Migrant Advocacy Project and Marjean Perholt, Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services

**Community Roundtable Discussion: Where Do We Go From Here?** - Community solutions to address the needs of growing immigration populations on a local level – nationwide overview.
Salem Women’s History Day
By Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services

The House of the Seven Gables will celebrate Salem Women’s History Day this year, on Sunday, March 29, by offering visitors specialized tours of the Gables mansion. These tours will highlight the role of women, famous and obscure, rich and poor, who have been associated with the history of The House of the Seven Gables.

Of the many extraordinary women who called The Gables home, Susanna Ingersoll lived here the longest, was arguably the richest, and remains the most elusive. At 12:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. join us for an engaging talk, as noted scholar Robin Woodman brings to light Susanna Ingersoll and her success in the male dominated real estate market of 19th century Salem.

The Future Supporting the Past
By Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services

The future of the Gables has arrived with TAM! What is TAM you ask? The Assistant Manager is comprehensive software designed to support many aspects of museum and retail operations. Currently serving as a point-of-sale system for our admissions and store cash registers, when fully implemented it will also integrate group reservations, membership, events and online sales. The best part is it will allow us to meet our guests’ needs quickly and more efficiently.
Seven Lecture at Seven Gables Series 2015 (lectures begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Seamans’ Visitor Center. For more information please visit our website 7gables.org)

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 15, 2015
Ethan Casey, Home Free: An American Road Trip (CANCELLED)
Join us as travel writer Ethan Casey discusses his newest book, Home Free: An American Road Trip. Over the course of 3 ½ months in 2012, Ethan traveled more than 18,000 miles across the United States, seeking out and interacting with Americans who represent the various regions across the country. His journey was meant to inspire an American narrative that is relevant and revealing, and will remain highly readable.

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.