This month I took the advice of Will Demick, one of our talented guides here at The Gables and, most recently, a guest contributor to our monthly e-news, and looked to Nathaniel Hawthorne for inspiration.

“If we look through all the heroic fortunes of mankind, we shall find [the] same entanglement of something mean and trivial with whatever is noblest in joy or sorrow. Life is made up of marble and mud.”
—Nathaniel Hawthorne, The House of the Seven Gables (1851)

I think many would agree that life is often so busy we rarely have time to recognize the greater accomplishments achieved when the completion of our individual tasks are collectively combined over time and united with the tasks of others. The writing of this letter provides an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate both mud and marble.

October is always our busiest time of year. Accommodating more than one-third of our annual visitation in one short month requires far above what is typically required in terms of staff size and time. Yet our dedicated team members, enable The House of the Seven Gables to provide memorable, enjoyable and educational experiences to an incredibly diverse array of visitors. While our museum team was attending to guests from around the world, behind the scenes our Settlement team members prepared to help and welcome some of the newest members of our community who have enrolled in our adult ESL and citizenship classes.

The day-to-day tasks of coordinating events, providing tours and preparing lessons are the entanglement of the mean and trivial Hawthorne refers to. They are the mud. Sharing with you that this year’s Taste of The Gables was our most successful fundraiser in recent history, that our visitors consistently have five-star experiences, and that we are helping close to 50 people learn English and prepare to become American citizens is the marble.

As 2017 draws to a close, we look forward to the coming year when we will celebrate the 350th birthday of the building that has become an icon of American Culture, an icon that enables us to engage so many in our good work.
I hope you will join us.

Kara McLaughlin
Executive Director
Greetings,

Celebration is in the air, and we have many reasons to celebrate. This year marks the 10th anniversary of our National Historic Landmark District designation. In October alone we received more than 31,000 visitors to the museum for tours and events.

Next year we acknowledge a very significant year in history. The Turner-Ingersoll Mansion (known today as The House of the Seven Gables) is turning 350 years old! We will be celebrating all year long with a slate of lectures, programs, exhibits, and parties that highlight the rich history and noble mission of this important historic site.

We are truly grateful for the preservation efforts of the house's many stewards that came before us over the past three and a half centuries. Without their foresight and commitment to preserving our past we might not have a reason to celebrate today. The Gables is one of few remaining seventeenth-century structures on its original building location in Salem. The house thrives as a museum and as a place of cultural and historical interest, with more than 100,000 people visiting each year. Our goal is to continue preserving the Gables for generations to come.

We welcome you to join us in the yearlong celebration — 1668 to 2018 keep the legacy alive.

Happy Holidays.

Ellen F. Dunn
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
As we look forward to celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion (known to us today as Hawthorne’s The House of the Seven Gables), it becomes apparent that memories and personal experiences are some of our clearest connections to the past. Our theme for 2018 focuses on 350 years of stories at The House of the Seven Gables. We plan on sharing stories from the history of the house and its connections, as well as stories from our visitors and supporters. But some of the most compelling and important stories can be found amongst our staff. These are just a few recollections and revelations from our staff in their own words:

Deb Costa, Special Events Manager
“I have worked at The House of the Seven Gables for around 15 years. During that time, I’ve worked at and participated in many aspects of our organization. One of my favorite stories from past years at The Gables is a little holiday game the guides used to play called ‘Season of Mouse-rule’. As guides we lead visitors on a similar path during tours, so we would come up with activities to have a little extra fun. This is where the mouse comes in. I purchased several little toy mice that I would hide in various places around the house in plain sight amongst the Christmas decorations. The only time that you were allowed to hunt for a mouse was when you were on tour. The rule was that when you found it, you were allowed to hide it in another spot. This spiced up tours in the winter months when there are fewer visitors. We lost a couple of mice but someone did a really good job of hiding one because I know there is still one left in the house somewhere. It is “hidden” in an unusual spot so if you take the tour see if you can find the last remaining mouse.”

Everett Philbrook, Store Manager
“Since my first visit here was in the summer of 1972, I have developed a lifelong appreciation of our historic site. I remember that back then visitors entered through the cent shop door on Turner Street. It was with great pleasure that I was able to join the guiding staff here in the summer of 1987. I am honored to continue to be able to tell the story of our site to visitors. There is a warm feeling here and a sense of the past that captivates me. I look back nostalgically on my early days at The Gables. I have met members of the Hawthorne and Upton families, local celebrities and film stars, I have had the pleasure of working with many dedicated staff members, I have watched the site and its interpretation evolve to its present state, and I see a new generation interested in it and a desire to learn more about it, To me, The Gables is an icon to the incredible story of Salem, Massachusetts.”
Mary Langone, Finance Assistant
“One of my favorite times working at The House of the Seven Gables is when we offer our Women's History Tour during Salem Women’s History Day in March. It highlights the many brave, strong women associated with the house. Our founder, Caroline Emmerton, a philanthropist who used her money to restore the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion while simultaneously making sure that newly arrived immigrants would have safe havens to learn English and job skills here in Salem; an ideal we remain committed to. Susanna Ingersoll, the cousin of Nathaniel Hawthorne, fighting against her male relatives to keep her home, never depending on a husband for support, supporting herself instead. The indentured servant Joan Sullivan, suing for her right to speak her native language and pursue her religious beliefs in the 18th century. It’s impossible not to derive inspiration and strength from these, our forebears.”

Dan Marshall, Manager of Visitor Services
“Community engagement is a buzz word in museums today. We attend seminars and trainings on how best to achieve this and how we can divert resources to this important approach to sharing our cultural heritage. I, however, have the advantage of working at an institution that was founded over 100 years ago with that very purpose in mind. I feel privileged to help us continue to be a “community center” where ideas can be discussed, support can be given and the past can be used to help give perspective to the future. I am humbled that my hand can be amongst the countless others before me that have worked to preserve our 350 years of history. And I am proud to be able to contribute to Caroline Emmerton's continuing legacy.”

Below: Residents discuss the topic of sanctuary cities during the first Community Conversation of 2017, and students from the 2016 Caribbean Connections program.
A CELEBRATION OF LOVE: GETTING MARRIED AT THE GABLES

Julie Arrison-Bishop
SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

The House of the Seven Gables has a long history of hosting weddings. From the Upton Family gathering in the parlor to the modern bride with an Alice in Wonderland themed event, hundreds of couples have chosen this historic and magical place to exchange their vows.

The Upton Family used the parlor in the famed mansion for a number of occasions and events. Perhaps the most joyful were the weddings that took place in this room. Ida Upton Paine, daughter of Henry O. Upton, the owner of The Gables from 1883-1908, was married to Frank Paine in 1895. Sarah Lillian Arey, the granddaughter of Mr. Upton, sent out invitations engraved with The House of the Seven Gables for her wedding to W. Clark Haywood. Other granddaughters including Helen, married Robert MacIlroy and Ednah, married Patrick Tumely.

Information and pictures from the Upton’s ownership of the mansion was gathered into a scrapbook by Elizabeth Upton Haywood-Eaton between 1983 – 1999. Mrs. Eaton was the great-granddaughter of Henry O. Upton. A small section is dedicated to Upton family weddings and shares information about exact locations in the home where the special events happened. A Salem Evening News glued into the book helped to outline the history of the events. There are even pictures of Mrs. Eaton from her wedding in August of 1944 where she describes wearing the same dress her mother did in October 1905.

Today, couples continue the tradition of celebrating love and gathering family at The House of the Seven Gables. Small but lovely affairs are often held on the grassy nook next to the Hooper-Hathaway House and lively parties are held under a tent on the Seaside Lawn. Deb Costa, the Special Events Manager, loves helping engaged couples to plan their celebrations. “I love helping a couple’s ‘dream day’ be as perfect as possible.”

A few dates remain to make your special celebration happen in the midst of the 350th anniversary of The Gables. Feel free to contact Deb at 978-744-0991 x130 or dcosta@7gables.org if you want to plan your wedding or special event with us.

On October 25, 1905, Sarah Lillian Arey (pictured here) married William Clarke Haywood in a ceremony held in the southwest corner of the parlor in The House of the Seven Gables.
A CELEBRATION OF LOVE:
GETTING MARRIED AT THE GABLES

Top left: Elizabeth Haywood Upton wears her mother, Sarah Lillian Arey Haywood’s dress for her own wedding in 1944 when she married Arthur Tibbets Eaton.

Clockwise from top right: For decades, The Gables has been a place where scores of couples have begun their stories.
The first round of *Caribbean Connections* as a summer enrichment program first took place onsite at The Gables in the summer of 2012. Fifteen students, most of them newly arrived from the Dominican Republic, had been guided to our programming by the Salem public school district.

Our instructors were able to deliver instruction in both English and Spanish, so our curriculum served as a kind of “buffer and bridge” to introduce students to American schooling later that fall. At the beginning of the eight-week program, the students were a shy and silent group.

Students had no idea that the staff at The Gables, in partnership with the Essex National Heritage Commission, would help them explore the hidden connections between Salem’s maritime history and the Caribbean region, with special focus on the Dominican Republic that summer.

Imagine their delight at being able to share the original name, *Quisqueya*, for the island that is now the Dominican Republic. Imagine their pride in learning that the first university in the New World, founded by Dominican monks in 1518, was the Universidad Santo Tomás de Aquino (or University of Saint Thomas Aquinas) in present-day Santo Domingo.

In the weeks that followed, conversation in our classroom was always lively and intense, as students expressed their ideas in rapid-fire Spanish. Instructors made sure that a rich strand of English vocabulary was added with each lesson, guiding students to record new English words and expressions in their bilingual notebooks.
As a final project, students created a striking map of the Transatlantic World from 1492 through the early 1600s, when Salem was founded. The map was a riotous display of colors and languages, with arrows marking the famous (and infamous) trade routes that had pulled continents together over a span of three centuries.

On the final day, one of the teachers suggested that a title was needed for this map, something to pull together this exuberant display of student learning. After a moment of careful consideration, Edison Tavarez (now a proud Salem High student) thoughtfully declared: “Los productos se acaban, pero las personas no.” -- “Products come and go, but the people continue.”

This map, now a little worn over four summers of teaching, is still used to inspire new generations of students who enroll in Caribbean Connections. This simple but profound statement still lingers in the minds of our teachers. One can still hear Edison’s voice carrying forward the Caribbean story, contributing to the rich narrative of The House of the Seven Gables.

Above: The Caribbean Connections program continues to be an integral part of the Settlement programming at The House of the Seven Gables. In this picture from the 2017 program, students respond to a reading of the Red Hair Comb.

Below: In 2016, Caribbean Connections students put on a play based on The Red Hair Comb by Fernando Picó. Some of the characters featured are Vittita, the young girl who helps a runaway slave in Puerto Rico in the 1840s, and Don Pedro Calderón, the foreman of the plantation who is capturing runaway slaves. The students also portrayed crabs with candles on their backs who scare away Don Pedro and two fierce bull mastiffs.
Recent years have witnessed a considerable amount of preservation work here on our campus. Many of the individual pieces that make up this whole may go completely unnoticed. Take for instance the garden beds and trellises that were rebuilt a few years ago. Although fairly new, they are now seamless in their appearance among the surrounding antiquity. On the buildings, hundreds of feet of clapboards have been replaced on the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion and the Hooper-Hathaway House, and there are hundreds more to go. Window sashes were replaced in the Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace a few years ago. New sashes were fabricated and installed in the Hooper-Hathaway House dining room complimenting the earlier restoration of paint and wallpaper there. The diamond pane windows in the Hooper-Hathaway House were rebuilt and reinstalled last year as well. On the Retire Beckett House, the door to the garden area was replaced with a new door, using the old hardware. The many multi-pane windows in our buildings require constant upkeep with re-glazing and re-painting etc. Thresholds, window sills and other repairs contribute, without notice to the overall upkeep of our landmark.

On the more evident side, the Hooper-Hathaway House, the Nathaniel Hawthorne Birthplace, and the Retire Beckett House had new cedar shingle roofs installed in the past several years. These jobs included rake boards and gutters as well. The mansion itself, which has suffered shingle loss in recent years is slated for a new roof and paint job next year to coincide with the 350th anniversary. The parging on the chimneys will be restored also.

Inside the mansion, the restoration of the Accounting Room and Dining Room Chamber is undoubtedly one of the most ambitious preservation projects undertaken in our history. Having the structure stabilized in this space opens up great possibilities going forward. The completed accounting room is now a showpiece, and presents a wonderfully enhanced pallet for our stories. We will in the coming months and years continue such diligent effort as our stewardship dictates.

In 1668, John Turner paid to have this house built. The fortunes of all who lived here are dispersed. The names of many who lent their hand to this work are lost to time. However it is the work of their hands that stands today. We celebrate the lasting and important work of all of those who have been involved in preserving these structures.
In this celebratory season we like to look back on the fun had by residents of The House of the Seven Gables. The Upton family was known around Salem for their musical and dancing abilities, so it is no surprise that they could throw a party as well. Here we see examples of two dance cards from Henry O. Upton’s dance school sociables, an event where one could show off the moves learned in class while enjoying the company of peers. These were not the dance parties we think of today, however, where music is played by request and everyone mingles together on the dance floor.

In the 19th century, etiquette ruled the ballroom and asking a lady to dance was a very delicate process. A gentleman was expected to approach a lady without getting too close, bow before speaking to her, and then politely ask the honor of her dance. She, in return, was to grant the request unless she was already promised to another partner for that dance. Worn around the wrist, these dance cards recorded the partners for each song, helping to remove the risk of slighting a gentleman in the room. This program of dances was listed in the order in which the band was to play them and included a pencil for recording the lady’s dance partner for each song. These dance cards then became souvenirs of the evening’s festivities.

Top and middle: Two dance cards from Henry O. Upton’s dance school sociables. (Courtesy of The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association)

Bottom: A program of dances for a dance school sociable. (Courtesy of The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association)
Views From The Gables

EDUCATION • PRESERVATION • COMMUNITY SERVICE