As the 350th anniversary of the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion (a.k.a. The House of the Seven Gables) approaches, we will be taking the opportunity to reflect on the lives of the people that worked in and around the home through almost four centuries. Since becoming a museum over 100 years ago, the stories we have shared have primarily revolved around the life and legacy of Salem native and world-famous author, Nathaniel Hawthorne; the architectural history of the house; and the social and cultural history of the occupants who built their wealth during the height of Salem’s maritime trade. Only a little attention has been paid to the lives of the many people who have worked in and around the mansion, as well as the historic buildings that now make up The House of the Seven Gables National Historic Landmark District. This year, we hope to shed more light on the lives of those individuals, from the indentured servants and enslaved people who lived in the home during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries to the social workers of the 20th century.

We hope that focusing on the lives of past workers will help people from all walks of life make connections with the world around them today. What is work life like for people today? What has changed for the better? What still needs to change? How do the answers to those questions differ based on who is asked and what part of the world they live in?

One thing I can say, is that people are working hard here at The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association. Much of this work is clearly visible, much of it behind the scenes. Over 100,000 people visited us in 2016 and they likely saw our visitor services staff working at admissions, leading tours, and assisting them in our museum store.
Dear Friends of The Gables,

During 2017, The Gables will present an exhibition and a series of programs and events that focus on the daily work life associated with inhabitants of The Gables over the past 350 years. While the early history of the life and work of the Turners and Ingersolls is engrained in the historical narrative that forms the foundation of The Gables, I think it is particularly important today to appreciate the contribution The Gables has made to current and recent generations of immigrant families in our community.

Over the past 100 years, The Gables has provided a safe and supportive environment to assist our local immigrants in learning the skills needed to integrate into the local community. The programs, whether vocational, social or educational, have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of our immigrant population but have stayed true to the original goals expressed by Caroline Emmerton to support and assist new immigrants in their transition to American life and culture.

At The Gables we are proud to continue Miss Emmerton’s tradition of helping today’s immigrants gain the skills needed to succeed in our community.

I hope you will have some time throughout the year to join us as we reflect on the past 350 years of work at The Gables and look forward to the years ahead.

by Andrew Meyers
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Andrew L. Meyers
In my research for our 2017 exhibit, Life and Labor Over Four Centuries at The House of the Seven Gables, I read primary and secondary sources about different types of labor across four centuries, such as maritime work, housework, slavery, indentured servitude, and industrial work. The breadth of information on labor in Salem meant that some topics, such as apprenticeships, agricultural labor, and midwifery had to be excluded so that the exhibit could tell a more direct story about the house.

One important part of the houses’ labor history which could not be included because of a lack of substantive information is the story of the domestic workers associated with The House of the Seven Gables in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In 1800, 30% of all female workers in the United States worked as servants and waitresses. By 1900, that number had fallen to 24%.

In 1860, Horace Ingersoll had two “domestics” living with him in The House of the Seven Gables: Catherine Rogue, age 35, and John Smith, age 25. Rogue was born in Ireland and Smith in France. The 1870 census listed a third, Ann Gilligan, a 27-year-old housekeeper from Ireland.

Caroline Emmerton, the founder of the House of the Seven Gables, lived in a large house on Essex Street. In 1900, her mother Jennie M. Emmerton had three Irish-American servants who were similar in age to Caroline.
Mary Sweeney, Mary Shiney, and Annie Sullivan. In that year, 69% of domestic servants in Massachusetts were identified as "Foreign Born White," the largest number of which were Irish-American. Nationally, German-Americans made up the next largest portion of female domestic workers. In Boston, 85% of domestic workers lived with their employer.

Caroline Emmerton herself had three servants from 1910 until her death in 1942. There was a chambermaid named Katherine Killilea, who immigrated to the United States from Ireland in 1889, a housekeeper named Mary J. Ruane and a maid named Katherine Lawless. Lawless remained an Irish citizen, but Killilea and Ruane were American citizens by the 1930s. The 1940 census indicates that annually Killilea earned $520, Ruane earned $780, and Lawless earned $676. For comparison: in 1940, the average man’s salary was $976.

In the 1910 Federal census, The House of the Seven Gables Settlement House is listed as having a 40-year old Irish servant named Annie F. Harrington. By 1930, Harrington was living with daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, John A. Hennessy, a sign painter. The duties of a servant working for the settlement house are unknown, but she may have acted as a maid for the resident workers.

More research is required to further understand the lives of the men and women whose professional domestic work contributed to the history of The House of the Seven Gables.
As this newsletter reaches your mailbox, The Gables will have hosted its first community dialogue of 2017, launching the third year of the series, *Community Conversations on Immigration and Immigration Reform.*

On the evening of February 22nd, as residents of Salem and neighboring communities crowded the Gables’ Visitor Center, this question hung in the air: “What does it mean to be a sanctuary city?” To answer this question, Braden Paynter of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience moderated the discussion among three municipal leaders: Salem’s Mayor Kim Driscoll, Councilor James R. Cote of Newton, and Councilor Josh Zakim of Boston.

Attendees learned about the pros and cons that these civic leaders considered as they thought about applying this status to their cities. After hearing from these leaders, the audience formed small discussion groups to deliberate over the proposed ordinance to declare Salem a sanctuary city.

**Future scheduled conversations in the Gables’ series include:**

- **March 22, 6:00 p.m. – “What Happens When Police Departments Help with Immigration Enforcement?”**
  - Roundtable discussion – Dr. Nik Theodore, professor of urban planning and policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago who recently completed a study on police involvement in immigration enforcement, will join Salem Police Chief Mary Butler in a discussion about the consequences of this law enforcement partnership.

- **May 17, 6:00 p.m. – “What Health Dangers Do Immigrant Laborers Face in the Landscaping Industry?”**
  - Jeanne Kempthorne, attorney mediator and founder of Good Neighbor Mediation Project in Salem, and Jamie Banks, executive director of Quiet Communities, Inc., Rick Reibstein, an environmental lawyer and law professor, will talk about the exposure of immigrant labor to harmful pollutants and noise in the landscaping industry. Prof. Reibstein will also address other environmental pollutants, including lead, pesticides, and mold that disproportionately affect immigrant- and low-income communities.

- **July 19, 6:00 p.m. – “What Does the Chinatown Trunk Murder Mystery in Early 20th Century New York Reveal About Social and Sexual Relations Between the Chinese and non-Chinese populations of the city?”**
  - Mary Lui, Professor of American Studies and History at Yale University and author of *The Chinatown Trunk Murder Mystery* will explore the sensationalist press coverage that surfaced in the early 20th century in New York during this dramatic trial, revealing the racial bias of the era’s immigration policy.

- **Sept. 14, 6:00 p.m. – “What Can We Learn About the American Labor Movement from the Pequot Mills Strike of 1933?”**
  - Professor Aviva Chomsky of Salem State University will share the dramatic, but relatively unknown, immigrant labor history that sprang from Salem’s Point neighborhood during the Pequot Mills Strike of 1933.
The Gables Gets an Upgrade

LED Light Project

In January 2016, The Gables changed over most lights to LED bulbs and fixtures.

29%

Decrease in the amount of kWh used on our National Historic Landmark District Museum Campus.

$2195

Savings in dollars in year one of the project. More funds can be devoted to preservation and education.

LED lighting helps to conserve energy, protect collections, and reduce operational costs.
Continuing their work on the collections care project, Zoë Quinn and Susan Baker Leavitt have been working on the proper storage – or housing in museum-speak – of the House of Seven Gable’s collections. As they work through the various storage areas used to house the Gables collections, the pair have come across some wonderful treasures. Most recently, they discovered over 20 old hats piled into a decrepit cardboard box. Each hat has been removed, inventoried, photographed, and placed in a special acid neutral box for long-term storage.

The hats, all made for women, date from 1810 to 1910. Included are calashes (hooped hoods) worn over tall hairstyles, quilted bonnets for winter, and small bonnets arrayed with silk ribbons and decorative silk flowers for the fashionable woman.
Join us on **Sunday, September 17th** at 5:00 p.m. for the fifth annual *Taste of The Gables*.

- Mingle with friends, artists, and authors, raise a paddle at our exciting live auction, or try your luck at the silent auction table, featuring dozens of local treasures.

- Twenty-five chefs and vendors offer their sumptuous servings.

- All proceeds benefit The Gables’ mission to educate at-risk students and preserve the historic houses and grounds on our National Historic Landmark campus.

Reservations available this summer at [7gables.org](http://7gables.org)
The House of the Seven Gables was one of 131 organizations nominated as an Essex National Heritage Commission “Trailblazer”! The top twenty vote getters will be “toasted” at their upcoming gala celebrating their 20th anniversary.

**Please help us ensure we are one of those twenty by voting and requesting your friends to vote.**

While the Gables could arguably be found in any of the four categories presented, we were nominated in the Educational Mission category for “fostering innovative learning experiences.”

Many people are familiar with the outstanding and highly visible programming offered by The House of the Seven Gables, such as our guided house tours, exhibits, lecture series and school field trips that are enjoyed by thousands of people from the region and around the globe. Equally important, but less visible are our innovative educational and community programs. Examples of these include the Caribbean Connections summer camp program, Adult ESL and Citizenship classes, the Community Conversation series, and Settlement Partnerships in the community.

Vote for us today! Please go to surveymonkey.com/r/TrailblazersVote to vote.

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**2017 Member Exclusive Events & Benefits**

APRIL 7: Member perk at the Life & Labor Exhibit Opening
APRIL 21: Caroline Emmerton’s 1920 Tour
MAY 21: Lunch on the Lawn
JUNE 3: Salem Food Tours Gables Member Tour
JULY 4: Celebrate the 4th at The Gables
OCTOBER 5: October Performance Sneak Preview Party

◊ All lectures in the 2017 Seven Lectures at Seven Gables series are free for members.
◊ Members receive a 20% discount to attend Taste of The Gables on September 17, 2017.
◊ Members enjoy a discount on every Museum Store purchase.