Bidding adieu after 9 years!
A Message from our Director

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I share this newsletter with you. After nine rewarding years as Executive Director of The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association (The Gables), I will be resigning from my position at the end of June.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as Executive Director. I am proud of the work I have accomplished with the help and support of an amazing staff and an incredible Board of Trustees. I believe I will be leaving The Gables in a stronger position than when I started. With that said, I feel the organization will be better served with a new leader who has the energy and skillset to build on the foundation we’ve established and take The Gables to the next level.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have had to meet and work with so many kind and dedicated people, including our many volunteers, members and supporters, our Settlement students, as well as outside museum and tourism professionals. Many of us have formed wonderful working and personal relationships and I look forward to continuing these even after my departure in June.

While I will be leaving my professional post, I will continue to hold this organization close to my heart and plan to support it and the people here long into the future. I hope you will continue to do so as well. It is only with your support and the work of skilled and enthusiastic staff that The Gables will thrive.

Thankfully, after finishing 2021 in a relatively strong position, we have been able to focus our efforts on rebuilding a team that was greatly reduced during the early days of the pandemic. I am pleased to introduce some of our newest team members in the following pages. It is with their help that we will be able to reopen our historic site to visitors and friends and continue to offer rich and meaningful programming. Read on to see what we have in store for the coming months.

While I will be moving on from The Gables, I am confident that the organization will continue to flourish with a newly invigorated team in place and with your ongoing support. Your understanding and flexibility have been invaluable in this uncertain time. We could not have made it this far without you. I am truly grateful for all you have done to support our work.

With deep appreciation,

Kara McLaughlin
Executive Director

P.S. The Gables’ Board of Trustees recently engaged Kittleman & Associates, a national recruiting firm that specializes in the recruitment of executive directors for the nonprofit sector, to conduct the search for my replacement. I look forward to assisting in any way I can to ensure a smooth and productive transition. To that end, I encourage you to share this announcement with anyone you think possesses the skills and qualities necessary to help The Gables advance our mission to be a welcoming, thriving, historic site and community resource that engages all people in our inclusive American story. The link to Kittleman’s application portal can be found on our website’s careers page: https://7gables.org/careers
March is National Women’s History Month and we are excited to participate in Salem Women’s History Day on March 27. The House of the Seven Gables Trustee Robin Woodman is presenting a lecture titled “The Women of The House of the Seven Gables and their Community.” Woodman’s lecture will focus on the Turner women who occupied the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion from 1668 until 1782 when the house was purchased by Captain Samuel Ingersoll. She will also touch on the Ingersoll women and The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association’s founder Caroline Emmerton. All of these women played a significant role in the Salem community and witnessed many important moments in history.

Woodman is a local historian who grew up on Forrester Street in Salem. She attended after-school programs at The Gables Settlement Association. After getting an undergraduate history degree at Lesley University, Woodman went on to obtain a master’s degree at Harvard University. She returned to the Salem area with a drive to give back to the community. Woodman has extensively researched the lives of women at The Gables. “I became fascinated when Allan Collechico, then curator of The Gables, asked me to speak on Susanna Ingersoll, whose life spanned from just after the Revolution to just before Lincoln’s presidency,” says Woodman. “I then went further back to study the Turner women. Their lives were harrowing and interesting, and I am excited to share their stories in this lecture.”

The Turner women are often overlooked. The way history has been researched and taught over the years has perpetuated the idea that women rarely, if ever, left their houses or had much interaction with the greater community. While there were restrictions placed on women historically, they often lived richer lives than is taught in history class. “I became interested in the women of the house because very few, if any, historians were researching them,” says Woodman. “Researching women’s history, especially in a place like Salem where the men are well researched and famous in their own right, is very difficult. You have to spend a lot of time chasing circles around the women to get at them.”

We hope you will join us virtually on March 27 at 6 p.m. to explore the complex lives of the women of The House of the Seven Gables.

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Meet our Team

We are slowly but surely rebuilding our team after the 2020 shutdown and we are excited to introduce you to three of our new staff members.

Hi, I’m Zoe Quinn, the new Director of Visitor Services and Public Programming. I received my master’s in history from King’s College London and my master’s in teaching history from Salem State University. I have been working in Boston-area museums for over 15 years performing duties related to visitor services, interpretation, collections and archives, and operations management.

As a North Shore resident, I know how much The House of the Seven Gables Settlement Association means to the community both in terms of preserving the region’s history, and as a source of support and education for residents and visitors. I am thrilled that my new position at The Gables will allow me to work with and serve the community in a multitude of ways while building support and interest in our mission.

If I’m not at The Gables you will most likely find me perusing local vintage and antique shops, binging Netflix with my cats, or heading to New Hampshire for a weekend getaway!

Hello, my name is Suzanne Hall. I joined The Gables team in December as the Assistant Visitor Services Manager focused in Group Sales. I graduated with a bachelor’s from the University of San Francisco (Go Dons!) and have a background in the travel industry, sales, and historic interpretation.

I’m thrilled to join the community at The Gables and share it with groups from near and far from all backgrounds. I’m passionate about public history and feel lucky to be surrounded by historic structures when I get to work each morning. These walls can talk!

When not at The Gables, you can find me hiking, running, or walking by the sea – I love being outside. I love all things food, puzzles, crosswords, trivia, and spending time with my family.

Hi! I’m Hannah Kogut. I’m excited to be working at The Gables in a cross-departmental role as the new Marketing and Development Coordinator. Before this role, I was working in the corporate marketing space. During the pandemic, I realized my heart wanted me to work in a museum and I enrolled in Tuft University’s Museum Studies program. After completing an internship here at The Gables, I was thrilled to be offered a job. Transitioning to work with The Gables has been a fantastic way for me to use my skills for a great cause and feel passionate every day about the work I do and the lives that our work touches.

I am very excited to assist with fundraising and member events planned for this year. I am hard at work collaborating with my fellow development colleagues to apply for grants that are vital to all aspects of our operations at The Gables. Plus, I’ll be running our social media, so please don’t hesitate to drop by and send a hello!

When I’m not working at The Gables, I enjoy traveling, making videos, reading for fun, and hanging out with my cat!
We are excited to be hosting a series of Community Conversations centered around racial equality. These events are designed to engage community members of in thoughtful and respectful conversation facilitated by Shawn Newton, a member of the City of Salem Race Equity Task Force. This task force was created by Mayor Kimberly Driscoll in June 2020 to assess policies, services, and community systems in Salem and address systematic racial disparity. The task force surveyed Salem residents from December 23, 2020, through January 8, 2021, asking people to share their experiences and priorities moving forward in five categories: education, economics, culture, public safety, and health care. The results of this survey were made available to the public in July 2021, along with their final report.

“Community Conversations: Understanding Racism and the Journey of the Race Equity Task Force” is designed to be an interactive dialogue with and between community attendees and the presenter. The overarching goal is to enhance awareness of the phenomenon of racism and the methods and techniques to undo it. The first two sessions will be a deep dive on understanding and dismantling racism, while the remaining sessions will focus on the journey of the City of Salem Race Equity Task Force.

Shawn A. Newton has over 25 years of experience in the higher education profession. He is the former Chairperson for the City of Salem Race Equity Task Force.

To learn more about the Race Equity Task Force and view their report, visit: https://raceequitysalem.org.

**Community Conversations: Understanding Racism and the Journey of the Race Equity Task Force**

**Monday, March 28, 2022: The Starting Point (Part 1)**
Prior to starting the journey of examining race equity in the City of Salem, it was important for the Race Equity Task Force to come to an understanding of what racism is. This month’s interactive dialogue is designed to be part one of a two-part learning experience of understanding the phenomenon of racism and strategies to address it.

**Monday, April 25, 2022: The Starting Point (Part 2)**
This month’s Community Conversation will do similar work to March’s interactive dialog of understanding the phenomenon of racism and the strategies to address it. Prior to starting the journey of examining race equity in the City of Salem, it was important for the Race Equity Task Force to come to an understanding of what racism is. Learning sessions, like the March Community Conversation and tonight’s dialogue, were the springboard for our work on the Race Equity Task Force. You do not have to have attended March’s Community Conversation to attend this conversation.

**Monday, May 23, 2022: The Charge**
Salem’s Race Equity Task Force was charged with identifying systemic and institutional racial inequities and, to the best of their ability, recommending potential strategies to help overcome those disparities. Our third interactive dialogue will not only focus on what this journey was like but discuss additional ways the community could work together in addressing disparities.

**Wednesday, June 27, 2022: Where Do We Go From Here?**
Our fourth interactive discussion will cover the recommendations made by Salem’s Race Equity Task Force for potential strategies to overcome disparities identified in their final report. We will also discuss how we as a community can work together to end racism.
A Classical Concert for Caroline

Join us at The House of the Seven Gables on **Saturday, April 9**, for an intimate chamber music concert celebrating Gables’ founder, Caroline Emmerton, during her birthday month. Three of Boston’s premier musicians, members of the Handel and Haydn Society, will present a program of string trios composed by Bach and Mozart on period instruments from the 1700s. A catered reception will precede the concert in the charming Hooper-Hathaway House (c. 1682) – a structure rescued from demolition by Emmerton in 1911. Two performances of this program are scheduled for the evening, each with a 50-guest limit. The first reception is at 2 p.m., with the concert at 3 p.m., and the second reception will begin at 5 p.m., concert at 6 p.m.. Tickets are $100 for members, $120 for nonmembers.

The Beacon String Trio will perform two pieces; Sonata for Viola da Gamba and continuo in gminor, BWV 1029 (arr. R. Hemsing) and Divertimento in E-flat major for string trio, K. 563 W.A. Mozart. Renée Hemsing’s arrangement of the Bach sonata adapts the viola da gamba part (a viol played vertically between the legs) for the viola da braccio (the shoulder-held viola we’re familiar with), and the continuo (harpsichord & bass instrument) part into the violin & cello part. “As Bach himself commonly rearranged his own music in various instrumental configurations, we hope to honor him in our string trio’s reimagining of this intricate and profound work,” says Hemsing.

The trio chose these two pieces because of the history of The house of the Seven Gables. “The House of Seven Gables transports one’s imagination back to its 1600s origins, so we felt it appropriate to include an important work by J. S. Bach, a composer who was born not so long after this house was built, and whose music, in many ways, built us as musicians,” explains Hemsing and Fishman. “The house was already over 100 years old by the time Mozart wrote his spirited Divertimento for String Trio (1788). While Mozart completed this piece only three years before his death at the young age of 35, in many ways, the story of The House of Seven Gables was just beginning.”

We hope you will join us for this incredible musical experience and continue to support our ongoing mission at The Gables. Please register early as seating is limited. The Gables will follow all public health guidelines put in place by the City of Salem. Please bring a masks as they may be required indoors. Email gcann@7gables.org with any questions.

**THE BEACON STRING TRIO**

Born of the artists’ love and need of chamber music during the shutdown, the Beacon String Trio expresses its commitment to the composer by performing on instruments of the composer’s period. In the best traditions of historically-informed performance, the Beacon presents invigorated, probing, and moving renditions of works by well-known masters, as well as unjustly neglected discoveries. Each member has achieved acclaim as an expert performer on period instruments and among them they have performed as members of Boston’s Handel and Haydn Society and with Boston Baroque, Boston Early Music Festival, Arcadia Players, Connecticut Early Music Festival, El Mundo, and numerous other ensembles. They have performed across the U.S. and in Canada, Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, and the Caribbean. They have recorded on multiple labels including CORO, Olde Focus, Centaur, and Telarc, among others, and their work has been acclaimed in commentary found in the New York Times, Boston Globe, Gramophone, The Strad, Fanfare, BBC Music, Early Music America, and the Boston Musical Intelligencer.

**THE BEACON STRING TRIO**
Susanna Ogata, violin; Renée Hemsing, viola;
Guy Fishman, cello
Collections Corner:
Chinese Export Paintings at the Gables

By Susan Baker, Collections Manager

Western Beauties, circa 1820

These two close-ups of paintings of young women were created in China as part of the Chinese Export economy that flourished in the 1700 and 1800s, particularly in Canton (Guangzhou). They were probably genre paintings produced to appeal to the Euro-American market and likely were copied by Chinese artists from images provided by Western merchants. The names of the sitters are unknown. Chinese Export paintings were unique in that they incorporated Western painting forms and techniques into Chinese painting traditions. Rarely are the artist’s names known.

“Western Beauty A” and “Western Beauty B” were painted around 1820. In one painting, the figure has a red ribbon in her hair, wears a red dress with a white kerchief, and holds material - perhaps embroidery work - in her hands. The other shows a woman with black hair, a bonnet tied under her chin with a red ribbon, a white dress, and green shawl. The detail is extraordinary, as the images were painted in reverse order on the back of the glass surface, meaning the detail layer was painted first with the artist adding additional layers over or around the detail - all from the back of the image. The result is a luminous, almost translucent image with vibrant colors and exquisite detail.

The Gables has several examples of reverse painting on glass in its collection. Although showing the effects of time, these two whimsical figures are Gables’ favorites.

DID YOU KNOW?

Portions of our archives have been digitized and are easily accessible through our website. Visit 7gables.org/archives to learn more about our collections.

Top: Western Beauty B,
Bottom: Western Beauty A.
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