2010 Annual Report to Friends of the Davenport House

As we complete the year’s activities the DH museum community can look back on a productive and successful 2010. Please know that our museum plays a notable role in the cultural life and the crucial tourism economy of Savannah. As the current Coastal Empire Economic Monitor points out, tourism is where the region’s economy is growing while other sectors are in decline. Well-maintained historic homes and sites create the ambiance that draws visitors to our city. Thanks to museum staff and volunteers, our paying visitors and Friends of the DH, the Davenport House presents an historically accurate and cared-for appearance that anyone visiting the city can view and enjoy free of charge. Within its walls, the DH gives its tour visitors and program patrons a glimpse into the past and a studied example of a well-preserved piece of port city history. As this is a time of reflection, let’s be proud that our house museum is vital and is looking to maintain its quality programming and attract new audiences to spread the word about preservation and the importance of exploring local history.

Below is a glance at the work accomplished since last December.

**Museum Visitation:**
- Total daily tour visitation for 2009-2010 (Oct. 1 through September 30, 2010): 33,120 (which is up 1,988 people/6% over 2008-09)
- Prescheduled tours: 75 including groups with tour companies, Elderhostel (now called Road Scholars), churches, schools, colleges and museums. This number does not include “day of” bookings with tour partnerships such as Oglethorpe tours.
- Old Town Trolley: Holly Jolly Trolley Tour - Between November 27 and December 23 (27 nights in 2009), the DH/OTT partnership 1,126 visitors, which was a 1.5% decrease from the previous year. The program continues in December 2010. Currently OTT offers four specialty cooperatives with the DH - Girl Scout visits, Partners package, Preservation Homes package (new in 2010) and an e-ticket (new in 2010).
- Oglethorpe Tours: The effort includes a triple pass (trolley, boat and house tour) and discounted admission through their trolley drivers.
- Pioneers in Preservation triple site pass program with partners Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace and the Andrew Low House: Participation was up 25% from the previous year (4486 passes sold).

**Shop:**
- Shop sales were up 7% over the previous year.
- The average sale per visitor was $3.10 which is down 21% from the previous year. The current figure is on par with other museum shops of its size as per the Museum Store Association.
- A new security system required by the credit card company was installed in the cash register system.
- New book selections included Great...
Houses of the South (which features the DH) and Restoring a House in the City; cookbooks -- Savannah Classic Seafood and Martha Nesbit’s Savannah Celebrations.

- The shop added a new line of jewelry and a reasonably priced Lady’s Lap Desk.
- Victoria Ward Collection created The Savannah Scarf featuring Savannah landmarks with the centerpiece being the DH iron medallion. The scarf is for sale in the shop.

Annual Giving and Funding:
- Total donations from Friends Campaign 2010-09: $29,409.75 (up 13% from the previous year).
- Total number of Friends in 2009-10: 151.
- Status of the current campaign (2010-11): Even with the number of donors (70) at this time last year.
- Received Wormsloe Foundation Grant for special projects: $1,500.
- Received a matching gift from Merck (Lorraine Boise match) totaling $150.
- Received volunteer grant funds from ExxonMobil Foundation (Diane Reitman participant) totaling $650.
- Memorial gifts were received in the memory of Carroll Credle, Florence DuBois and Eric Reitman.

Garden:
- Landscape and garden authority John McEllen consulted on garden maintenance.
- Trees in the courtyard garden were trimmed by Southeastern Tree Service.
- Garden rentals: 16 total weddings rentals – 14 “ceremonies only”, 1 rehearsal dinner, 1 wedding and reception, 1 engagement party. There were 4 wedding rental cancellations. DH wedding/garden rental business was down 5% from the previous year. For 2011 there are currently eight rentals – 6 wedding only, 2 weddings and receptions (one to incorporate the Kennedy Pharmacy) - scheduled.

Savannah Garden Expo:
- The event raised $13,000 which features Historic Savannah Foundation and the DH split.
- DH Director was the event onsite volunteer coordinator. DH Assistant Director was site set-up assistant. DH maintenance technician was a laborer for the event.
- There were 65 on-site volunteers.

Recognition:
The Davenport House was recognized with a 2010 Governor’s Award in the Humanities for serving as a model of preservation, museum interpretive practices, and educational programming.

Collections:
- A drawing by Savannah artist Christopher Murphy entitled Entrance, Davenport House ca. 1927 acquired by purchase.
- A sword belonging to Archibald Davenport as a ceremonial piece from the Savannah Volunteer Guard acquired by donation from Kathleen Day of Athens, GA.
- The borrowed Telfair Museum Queensware was replaced with Cantonware, also borrowed from the Telfair Museum.
- Avalon Appraisals conducted an appraisal of DH mantles and floorcloth.
- Staff located the Cornelia Davenport miniature which is the basis of the DH portrait as well as other images of Cornelia.

Maintenance:
- HVAC: A new capacitor was installed to the attic unit.
- Renovations to the lower level: Asbestos abatement, plumbing for ADA upgrade, tile installation, electrical work to accommodate new appliances, carpet installation, kitchen cabinetry installation, kitchen appliances installation, ADA upgrade to the rest rooms and water fountain.
- Window repair to address window rot. (Bloomquist Construction)
- Allan Coopersmith, historic wallpaper authority, repaired period rooms’ wallpaper dis-adherence.
- As a result of measurements taken of the velocity of air coming from AC units by engineer Charlie Van-denBulck, David Bloomquist installed vent air diverters to prevent the forced air from blowing directly on the reproduction wallpaper.
- A fire insurance inspector visited the site and made recommendations which were acted upon.
- Knox boxes were installed.
- Staff met with local police precinct officers and met with local fire house officers.

Education and Special Programming:
- Researched, developed and presented the new program – “Discovering 1820s Savannah: Early Bird’s Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew.” Five sold out presentations, three additional presentations added. Attendance: 115.
- Offered “Potable Gold”: Savannah’s Madeira Tradition. Eight performances in February; Attendance: 70 people. Presented a modified version of the program to 105 people for the Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens’ Trolley Back in Time in March.
- Executed the Valentine's Day weddings in the garden event. Nine couples exchanged their

Continued inside on next page.
- Presented the house with Junior Interpreter staff on SuperMuseumSunday in February to 513 guests who received complimentary admission.
- Revised and presented “Tea at Mrs. Davenports” in March (8 performances) and “Tea in the Garden” in May (7 performances). Total attendance for the two tea programs 191.
- Maintained and presented programs: “This Old House: Director’s Preservation Tour of the Davenport House” (March 7 presentations, attendance: 37), “Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side” (April, presented 5 times), and “Curator’s Tour and Highlights of the Collection” (May – presented 2 times).
- Executed the summer Junior Interpreter program with 7 students completing the program.
- Revised and presented “Yellow Fever! Savannah’s Epidemic of 1820.” Thirty-five performances over 10 dates in October. Attendance: 419.
- Executed for the sixth year the Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter program with 14 students completing the program.
- Planned and executed the Holiday Evening Tours during five days between Christmas and New Year’s Eve with 369 people in attendance (09).
- Staff worked with a number of college professors and their classes including Dr. Barbara Fertig Heritage Tourism class at AASU, Dr. Jane Rehl’s Museum Administration class at SCAD, SCAD Professor Jeff Eley’s architectural history class, SCAD’s Dr. Daves Rossell’s vernacular architecture class and AASU’s Dr. Chris Hendrix’s vernacular architecture class.

**Research:**
- Researched and wrote the volunteer newsletter article for May edition: *What We Learn When We Stroll: Walking Tour Discovering 1820s Savannah.*
- Researched and wrote volunteer newsletter article for June edition: *Archibald Davenport and the Savannah Volunteer Guard.*
- Researched and wrote the volunteer newsletter article for the August edition: *Christopher Murphy, Jr. Drawing: He Was Savannah When Savannah Wasn’t Cool…*
- Intern Tiffany Miller wrote up the wallpaper repair effort which was included in the September volunteer newsletter under the title *Our Wallpaper’s Excellent Adventure.*
- Discovered, transcribed and edited *A Letter From Cornelia Davenport Jackson* which appeared in the November volunteer newsletter.
- Researched & wrote materials including an article in the December volunteer newsletter and conducted docent training on *Fireplaces and Home Fires at the Davenport House.*
- Researched the content and the revised programs: *Yellow Fever! Savannah Epidemic of 1820* and the two tea programs.

**Publicity/Communication:**
- In cooperation with the HSF Branding Initiative: The DH worked with SmackDab Studios to produce a new website, new brochure and new letterhead. In doing this, exterior photography by Attic Fire took place. Staff has new email addresses ending in @davenporthousemuseum.org.
- For the first time the museum utilized a professional designer to create program media. Amanda Mitchell created the *Yellow Fever!* program posters and post cards. She also designed the DH Christmas Party invitations.
- In conjunction with HSF’s membership the DH joined *Tourism Leadership Council* and will participate in their publication Savannah: A Southern Journey.
- The DH was featured on the cover of the “Accent” section in the Savannah Morning News twice - once for the new *Isaiah’s Savannah* walking tour and once for the October *Yellow Fever!* living history program.
- Staff appeared on WTOC’s Mid Morning Live and WJCL’s Morning Show for both *Yellow Fever!* and Christmas.
- Calendar entries were picked up by the local media and internet.
- Staff maintains a Davenport House Museum Facebook page which currently has 278 “fans.” Staff also maintain calendar entries on Explore Georgia and Gozaic, etc.

**Kennedy Pharmacy:**
- Construction of the patio, shed and surrounding wall was completed. Pickets for the wall came from Wormsloe. Landscaping with boxwood hedges was executed. Plants were donated by Marilyn Sheridan.
- Shutter dogs were installed on the second floor west side windows.
- Sound and visual equipment were obtained for the pharmacy.
- 3M Safety Film was installed on the first floor windows.
- Armor Storm Protection was obtained for the first floor.
- The building received a smoke detection upgrade.
- Staff wrote the article from a *Conversation with Jim Abrahams: How the Kennedy Pharmacy Project Came to Be* for the January 2009 volunteer newsletter.
- On November 13, a *Stakeholders Forum* was held on the subject of the Kennedy Pharmacy.
Conclusion of Annual Report.

- **Rentals and use:** Rentals—Interactive Design Conference, a promotional event (a tile Company), SCAD’s Metals and Jewelry Truck Show, private meeting, SCAD/Lucas Theater; Community Use: Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER) organizational meetings, Coastal Museums Association, SCAD’s Historic Preservation Department retreat, Tour of Homes; **DH Programming use:** May Tea program for Girl Scouts, Yellow Fever!, rain location for outdoor activities; **DH Operations use:** Davenport House Committee meetings, Davenport House Endowment Directors meeting, volunteer luncheon, Docent Training Program, Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter Training; **HSF Use:** Board Orientation, Preservation Month Lecture, Poster Contest Display, Easement Reception, 1st Colony Reception.

**Leadership:**
- **Davenport House Endowment Directors:** Reed Dulany III was welcomed as a new Director. Hugh Golson was elected the new Chairman.
- **Davenport House Committee:** Claudette Engvall, Lynn Hadwin and Diane Reitman were welcomed to the DHC in October. Roger Smith was elected DHC Chairman in September.

**Volunteers:**
- Held three docent training classes – for two participants in February, four participants in July and for eight participants in October- from which we now have 4 **new volunteers** currently giving tours at the museum. Several more will complete their evaluation following the holidays.
- Offered two volunteer **continuing education trips:** An African American history tour with Day Clean Journeys in February (18 attended) and Ossabaw Island adventure in November (20 attended).
- Calculated volunteer hours at 4,961 or $100,460.25 worth of in-kind hours donated at $20.25 an hour (Independent Sector uses this hour value).
- SCAD historic preservation graduate, Tiffany Miller interned at the museum over the summer.
- AASU graduate student, Jessica Mathis, became a **garden guide**.

**Staff:**
- In 2010 DH hired eight new **staff docents**—Lindsey Deering, Emily Feldstein, Dirk Hardison, Emily Waller, Ellie Darbyshire, Carlie Ayn Williams, Rachel Zettler, Annabelle F. Moe and Lauren Booker. Lauren Purcell was hired as a **shop assistant**.
- Docent coordination joined the computer age with the acquisition of a laptop and Internet access.
- Staff compiled the **DH Front-line Operations Manual**.
- **Jamie Credle** completed her tenure on the board of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries at the Annual Meeting January. As Awards Chairman, she presented annual awards at the meeting’s banquet in Thomasville. Credle attended the American Association for State and Local History’s Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City in September. At the meeting she participated in a panel on the sustainability of historic house museums. She received $365 in assistance to attend the meeting from CMA’s Kiah Fund. In January she joined the faculty of the Jekyll Island Management Institute presenting on “Museum Interpretation.”
- **Ben Head** attended the January Gift Shop in Atlanta.
- **Jeff Freeman,** chaired the Visioning Committee Coastal Museums Association in 2010.

**Savannah Garden Exposition**
– April 15-16, 2011

**Preview Party and Silent Auction** – Thursday, April 14, 2011

We invite you to join us at the 11th Annual Savannah Garden Exposition! After many wonderful Expos on the grounds of the historic Roundhouse Railroad Museum, we are excited to announce that the 2011 Exposition will be held at a new venue: The Trustee’s Garden at 10 East Broad Street. The Trustee’s Garden rests on the highest bluff in Savannah and offers storied views of the river and many historic buildings.

This year’s event, “**History Blooms in Savannah**” will focus on all the meaning behind local colors. In keeping with that theme, we are seeking historic photographs of Savannah’s gardens to use in our 2011 Expo. They will be delicately copied and returned. If you have any photographs of interest, you can email scanned images to kwaid@myhsf.org or mail them to: Attn: Kimberly Waid, Historic Savannah Foundation, 321 E. York Street, Savannah, GA 31401.
From HSF’s Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President & CEO:

If you are a member of HSF, you will soon be receiving our 2010 annual report. If not, here is a glimpse of what we did this past year.

In many ways—big and small—HSF helps shape our environment. Whether it is through our direct intervention via the purchase and stabilization of endangered historic properties (e.g., 205 W. 41st Street) or our monthly presence and commentary at Historic District Board of Review meetings, we represent you and your interests in working to ensure that Savannah is a place that retains its character. As well, we place a premium on educating the public and our youth about the importance of historic preservation as good policy for guiding the growth of this city…and that is evident in our Preservation Lecture Series and the programs we bring to schools (Box City and Hands-on-History Camp). We do these things in furtherance of our mission to preserve and protect Savannah’s heritage through advocacy, education and community involvement.

I hope you agree that 2010 was a good year for HSF. We rebranded ourselves and freshened our logo; upgraded our website (www.myHSF.org); added new staff (Ms. Danielle Meunier, Preservation Assistant); established a $200k line of credit for our Revolving Fund; initiated a new neighborhood outreach program (Focus: Cuyler-Brownville); began programming the Kennedy Pharmacy for more use; and solidified an excellent working relationship with our flagship property, the Isaiah Davenport House.

You can read more about each of these things in the 2010 annual report. As you do, try to imagine a Savannah without HSF. Would this city look the way it does? Would it be as livable as it is? Would Savannah be the city that so many want to visit, live in and emulate? Maybe not.

Fortunately, that’s not a concern. Because HSF is here and we’re here to stay. As our city evolves, so does our work. We’re still the advocate for the Landmark District, but our voice must be heard in surrounding neighborhoods as well. The real estate doldrums have dampened our Revolving Fund, but we’re leveraging all we can to save as much as we can. We’re working with elected officials to make sure preservation is not something to be addressed only when convenient or popular. Preservation is the backbone of Savannah and its economy. Our unique and fragile identity is wrapped up in decades of preservation work.

So, when we ask that you reflect on the value of HSF to Savannah…we do so with a subtle implication that HSF is, in fact, very valuable to Savannah. If you stop and think about how HSF shapes our environment, then we’re confident you’ll continue to support us.

Sincerely,

J.T. Turner                      Daniel G. Carey
Chairman, Board of Trustees     President & CEO
**DAVENPORT HOUSE MUSEUM**

**2010 MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Object: **CEREMONIAL SWORD AND SCABBARD**

**Description:** Silver finish, inscribed with text and symbols.

**Provenance:** Presented to Lt. A. C. Davenport by the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Savannah Volunteer Guard . . . January 8, 1853.

**Donor:** Kathleen Day in honor of her grandfather Henry Uffelmann. The object has a direct connection to the Davenport family after their years of residence in the current house museum.

Object: **ORIGINAL DRAWING**

**Artist:** Christopher Murphy (1908-1978)

**Date:** ca. 1927

**Title:** “Entrance, Davenport House”

**Location:** Lobby of the museum

Additionally: A Savannah native, Murphy provides an artist’s impression of Savannah pre-preservation movement. In the 1920s, Murphy produced a set of five drawings, he titled “Five Beautiful Doorways at Savannah”, one showing the Davenport House entrance. In 1947, Savannah: Etchings and Drawings by Christopher Murphy, Jr. was published with text by Walter Charlton Hartridge. Included in this publication is a view similar to the newly acquired DH drawing.

**Relationship to the DH collection:** Depicting an era pre-restoration, the drawing fits squarely into the museum’s intention to understand the house’s role in the preservation movement in Savannah.

**Objects:** Variety of pieces, CANTONWARE

**Date:** Early 19th Century

**Location:** Dining Room

Additionally: Blue and white Chinese export porcelain would have been a common tableware in the fine homes of the 19th century. One ceramics authority writes, “Most of the porcelain shipped from China to the West during the 17th century through the 19th century was formerly known as ‘China trade porcelain,’ although now it is commonly referred to as Chinese export porcelain, including blue and white Canton ware. . . . The Canton blue and white patterned dinner and tea sets were favored by George Washington as well as the merchant classes. Eventually, it became an integral part of important private, as well as public, collections throughout Post Revolutionary America. . . .”

**Donor:** Telfair Museum of Art

**Location:** Loaned from: Telfair Museum of Art

**Provenance:** Presented to Lt. A. C. Davenport by the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Savannah Volunteer Guard . . . January 8, 1853.

For information about the museum:

324 E. State Street
Savannah, GA  31401
www.davenporthousemuseum.org 912/236-8097
info@davenporthousemuseum.org
Facebook:  “Davenport House Museum”

**Tours are offered Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. when the last tour begins and on Sunday from 1 until 4 p.m.**
Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight
December 26 -30, 2010
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Admission: $8 adults in advance, $10 at the door; $5 children in advance, $7 at the door
Glistening by candlelight, the Federal-style home welcomes visitors to an experience emphasizing the end-of-year celebrations of early 19th century Savannahians, including the Davenport household, who lived in the fine brick home on Columbia Square. Light refreshments, music and skilled interpreters, who show visitors through the home, are among the highlights of the presentation.

The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs and maneuver in the candlelit rooms.

Valentine’s Day Weddings in the Davenport House Garden
Monday, February 14, 2011
5 to 7 p.m.
Get married in the museum’s beautiful courtyard garden and make it a Valentine’s Day to remember! Ceremonies will be offered every 10 minutes. A local judge will officiate. $100 donation to the museum. Call 912/236-8097 for additional information.

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s
Thursdays and Fridays (and two Wednesday) in March 2011 (3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24, 31)
5 p.m.
60 minutes
Admission: $18
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in the historic atmosphere of the Isaiah Davenport House Museum. Patrons will tour areas of the historic home where tea service took place and will participate in an afternoon tea with costumed interpreters.

Our Old House: Director’s Preservation Tour of the Davenport House
Tuesdays and Saturdays in March 2011
[Tour dates: March 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29]
4:30 p.m.
60 minutes
Admission: $18
Acquaint yourself with the preservation and care of the Isaiah Davenport House, recipient of the Preserve America Presidential Award. The museum’s director will lead a tour in and around the home discussing the recent restoration, maintenance issues and techniques for preserving the site for the long term. The tour is limited to twelve people. Patrons will visit areas not normally on tour. The experience will end in the garden with light refreshments.
The program requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

“Potable Gold” : Savannah’s Madeira Tradition
Friday and Saturday evenings in February 2011
[Program dates: February 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26]
5:30 p.m.
75 minutes
Admission: $20 (must be 21 years of age)
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
Experience the historic atmosphere of the Davenport House while learning about and tasting a unique and flavorful wine. Patrons are oriented to the long and rich tradition of Madeira (wine) as it relates to the history of Savannah and then they will participate in a Madeira party. During the experience they will sample two types of Madeira and see the historic house at dusk including spaces usually off-limits to museum guests.
The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs and maneuver in the candlelit rooms.

Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side
Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays in April 2011 (except April 15, 16, 29, and 30)
[Program date: April 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 19, 22, 23, 26]
At 7:30 a.m.
90 minutes. Distance 2.5 miles
Admission: $20
Take an early morning walk through one of the oldest and most varied neighborhoods to learn how historic preservation has revitalized downtown Savannah. Tours led by the Davenport House director will introduce the personalities, structures and issues that have enthralled Savan-
nahn’s preservation movement. Coffee in the Davenport House garden to follow.

Tea in the Garden at the Davenport House

Thursdays and Fridays in May 2011

[Program dates: May 5 – 4:30 p.m., 6 – 4:30 p.m., 12 – 4:30, 13 – 4:30 p.m., 19 – 4:30 p.m., 20 – 4:30 p.m., 26 – 5:30 p.m., 27 – 5:30 p.m.]

60 minutes
Admission: $18
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.

Learn about tea traditions and experience an early 19th century tea in Davenport House’s beautiful courtyard garden. Patrons will visit areas of the home where tea service took place and will participate in an afternoon tea given with costumed interpreters in the garden.

Curator’s Tour and Highlights of the Collection

Wednesdays in May 2011

[Program dates: May 4, 11, 18, 25]
At 4:30 p.m.
90 minutes
Admission: $15

The museum’s curator will lead patrons on a special tour of the house explaining the basis for the house’s interpretation and recent restoration, examining highlights of the collections and viewing collection storage, which is normally off-limits to museum visitors. The tour is limited to 10 people. Following the tour there will be refreshments and a time for conversation in the garden.

The program requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

Discovering 1820s Savannah: Early Bird’s Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew

Saturdays in May 2011

[May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28]
7:30 a.m.
100 minutes. Distance 2.7 miles.
$20

See what survives of the 1820s Savannah that master builder Isaiah Davenport knew. Beginning at the Davenport House Museum (1820) participants will walk by some of the finest examples of preservation in the city and learn about what no longer remains. Topics to include the Great Fire of 1820, the yellow fever epidemic of 1820, Lafayette’s visit to Savannah in 1825 and the celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the United States in 1826. Coffee in the Davenport House garden will follow.

Fixing the First Impression!

Renovations to the Basement Level

During the coldest weather snap of year the Davenport House moved its offices and shop into the Kennedy Pharmacy for 10 days in January 2010 in order to do some long awaited renovations to the basement level of the museum. The move was necessitated by the need for an asbestos abatement before new carpeting and new tile could be installed. As far as anyone could recall the carpeting that was down had been there since 1965. It was time! The shop and lobby received new carpeting and new tile was installed in the rest rooms and kitchen. The larger rest room had some adjustments made to install additional grab bars which make it easier for people with mobility impairments to maneuver. The ancient water fountain was replaced after plumbing work with a new one. The kitchen received a face-lift with all new cabinetry and appliances. The electricians spent more time than expected in order to upgrade the outlets for the new appliances. Accompanying all of this work was the necessary painting and carpentry to put it back together again in a neat and understated way. As we move into 2011, many of us can hardly remember what it was like before. Our visitors surely do not know what it was like last but we hope they sense the new fresh and inviting appearance.

A Ball will be given at the Exchange on Monday evening next, the 1st of Jan. 1821.
Savannah Daily Republican.
NEW DAVENPORT HOUSE LEADERSHIP:

DAVENPORT HOUSE COMMITTEE
In October three new Davenport House Committee members, Claudette Engvall, Diane Reitman, and Lynn Hadwin began their tenures of leadership. Each brings knowledge and enthusiasm to the committee that is charged with advising the museum director and working in tandem with staff and Historic Savannah Foundation to meet the challenges of operating a first class historic house museum.

We asked each of them to give you a little bit of information about themselves and the DH to share with you.

Claudette Engvall
We (Claudette and Bob Engvall) have lived in Savannah eleven and a half years. I was born and raised in New Jersey, graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of X-Ray, Paterson NJ and was a registered X-Ray Technician prior to our marriage. After we were married we lived in Worcester, MA and then Simsbury, CT. I worked in various medical offices along the way but an interest in antiques lead to us owning an eighteenth century hand crafted American Reproduction furniture retail shop which I ran while Bob was still employed. We did complete interiors in addition to the furniture. In 1975 while Bob was in GA on a business trip I gathered some of the other wives and drove up to Savannah for the day and really liked it. After lunch at the Pirates House we wandered and came upon The Davenport House. I loved it. Little did I know that we would retire to Savannah. When we did, several women I knew were volunteers at DH and when I was considering volunteer opportunities their enthusiasm prompted me to sign up for the docent course. I enjoy working with the staff and the other volunteers. Also, I like sharing my love of the house with the visitors. The house appeals to me because I am a Federalist at heart and I like the concept of the 1820 interpretation. Sturbridge Village, Salem, Boston and Deerfield, MA were places we visited often when our children were young so that may be why. I like the fact that the staff keeps us informed of new information on the house and its inhabitants as it becomes available so the story of the house continues to evolve. I look forward to seeing the lower level of the house restored some day. Showing the working areas of the house like the kitchen and laundry could provide some demonstrations or even hands-on activities for visitors.

Lynn Hadwin
I have lived in Savannah for 65 years. I was born and lived in Furman, SC prior to Savannah. I attended Georgia Teachers College (now Georgia Southern) majoring in Business. I am a Realtor with Hadwin Realty.

When you ask what do I like about the Davenport House - EVERYTHING! I continue to be amazed every time I see the building and reflect on the talents of Mr. Davenport in building such a structure. Thanks to current and prior visionaries restoration became a reality for the house as well as for the city of Savannah and to some degree an inspiration and example for other cities in America.

Diane Reitman
We (Diane and Dan Reitman) have been in Savannah for 10 years. I was born in the Bronx, in New York City and grew up in Bayside and then farther out on Long Island in Roslyn Heights. I graduated from Boston University with a Bachelors degree in Sociology. I taught 3rd and 4th grade for 5 years before my children were born. Since then I've substituted, had an insurance agent licensing business, wrote poems for parties (for money- does that make me a professional?) and did some free lance writing for the in-flight magazines for the Thai and Malaysian airlines when we lived in Asia. I also volunteered a lot - League of Women Voters, National Council of Jewish Women, PTA, our synagogue, the American Women's Clubs of Bangkok, Malaysia and Singapore, as well as the museum groups in Bangkok and Singapore. Here I volunteer at the Telfair as well as the Davenport House, and most recently joined the board of The One Hundred.

I love working at the Davenport House. I enjoy meeting people from all over, and learning and communicating the history, not just of the house, but of the city, as well. It makes me feel like an integral part of my new home. The friendly atmosphere at the house also contributes to the whole volunteer experience. I'd like to see the Davenport House continue to be in the forefront of historic preservation. I think our interpretation is excellent and I hear that all the time from the people on my tours. I think we should continue our after-hours programs. They make us unique here in Savannah. I'd like to expand our interpretation with displays about the slave era and the boarding house times, and I'm interested in the idea of a speakers series in the pharmacy.

Ultimately, I'd like to see the Davenport House gain more regional and national recognition, and be a compelling reason for people to come to Savannah.

DAVENPORT HOUSE ENDOWMENT DIRECTORS
At the April Davenport House Endowment Directors meeting, Reed Dulany III began his service on the body that monitors the museum's investment account and owns the Kennedy Pharmacy Building.

Reed Dulany III
I was born in Savannah, graduated from the University of Georgia majoring in History with a minor in Business. After college I lived in Charleston but returned to Savannah, my hometown, in 1996. Today I am President of Dulany Industries.

I like the fact that the Davenport House served as the catalyst for the historic preservation movement in Savannah. This is of critical historical importance. I cannot imagine where Savannah would be today if that had not happened. The DH deserves our respect and our patronage for this reason.

I enjoy when the period rooms provide a sense of walking through a living house – where real people lived. I do not care for static museums. The DH offers so many wonderful stories that bring a sense of life. I would like to see even more ephemera in the rooms – items on the mantle pieces and on the beds. We should always strive to give our guests a sense of home-life and daily living in the early 1800s.
Let’s Get Serious about this PARTY!
Oyster Roast at Beaulieu to Raise Awareness and to Raise Funds to Program the Kennedy Pharmacy

A DH donor has offered a private compound at Beaulieu as the location for an Oyster Roast to support the DH’s programming efforts in the Kennedy Pharmacy. On Saturday, February 12 from 12:30 p.m. until. This beautiful marsh-side setting will be for like-minded shuckers to crack open some oysters and relish the cool weather. In addition to the roasted mollusks, there will be delicious fare and local musical entertainment. The hope is that patrons will want to share in a good time for the good cause. For information about the Oyster Roast at Beaulieu call 912/236-8097, fax 912/236-8097

Space is limited. Tickets will be $100 per person. Contributions may be made en lieu of attendance. Directions to the location will be mailed with an acknowledgement of receiving ticket fees.
Our Junior Interpreter World!

In August seven high school students, aShanté Coles of Savannah High/Liberal Arts, Ellie Darbyshire of Savannah Country Day, Cassidy Hatcher of Johnson High School, Ashley Rauls of St. Andrews School, Lauren Stewart of Savannah Christian, Carlie Ayn Williams of Savannah Christian and Emily Waller of Savannah Country Day, completed the summer program learning to give tours of the museum. Following their seven weeks of summer training and culminating activity, they continue to be active at the museum.

From a summer JI evaluation:  What did you like best about the JI program?

I loved meeting people that I would not have normally met. Going to a private school in Savannah means you’re friends with people who go to private school in Savannah so it was a lot of fun to get to know and spend time with other people. I also loved learning about the house. I’ve lived in Savannah for 15 years and have never known anything about the house until now!

This past fall, for the sixth year, the Davenport House presented the Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter Program. The students chosen were recruited from SAA teacher Rod MacKay’s sophomore American history classes. Fourteen students completed the eight week program by giving tours on November 26 and 27 to the public. The newly trained JIs are Tyler Allen, Lauren Booker, Ashante Clay, Annabelle Moe, Jamillah Kelly, Sarah Lanier, Molly McLaughlin, Hannah Morales, Matthew Portman, Elijah Scott, Lindsey Scott, Madison Thomas, Victoria Waters and Rachel Zettler

From SAA JI program evaluations:
I really enjoyed doing the JI program and would love to continue on with it. on the evaluation tour I was really nervous but I think that was because I was giving a tour to someone I know. I feel like all of my tours went very well on JI day.

Junior Interpreters attend monthly meetings at the museum and assist with programs throughout the year including SuperMuseumSunday, when the house is entirely staff by JIs, and Savannah Garden Expo. Some JIs eventually end up as staff docents and/or performers with the museum’s living history program.
Branding Initiative Means New and Polished Media! New Website, Brochure, Logo

At the HSF’s June 2009 Strategic Planning Retreat and resulting Long Range Plan, the #1 Priority Goal was to develop and implement a marketing plan. HSF set about executing Priority #1 with the hiring of SmackDab Studio to create media – the most important being their website. This website features the DH on the homepage. While this work was beginning DH folks sat back and appreciated until they were asked to get with the program and dovetail their media with the new HSF logo. The DH has never had a thought-out and coordinated visual image – at least in its media presentation. It had stationary, a website, a brochure, business cards, newsletters – none of which were linked visually to each other or with its parent organization.

Reluctant at first to join in, the DH was asked to update its website and link it with HSF. In the process, SmackDab created a new logo for the museum and Attic Fire, which specializes in architectural “glamour shots” of buildings -- often at dusk with all of their interior lights on - took a photo of the DH. The DH’s Attic Fire photograph is spectacular! Throughout the late summer and early fall, staff worked with SmackDab not to update its website but to create an entirely new one. The website is now up and running. A new brochure was also created and it too is beautiful. And what was once reluctance to spend the resources turned into understanding and great appreciation. “At a national meeting (American Association for State and Local History) I attended in September, I went to a number of sessions on small museum media and websites for museums. I came away with the feeling that our website is as good as any museum’s in the country and that we could have saved money but we would not have gotten the same quality product. It was either learn HTML – computer language, take a design class, get some design talent or hire someone to do it,” offers Jamie Credle, DH director. Being museum site dependent on visitation income, having a website that explains what we do – our hours, rental opportunities, programming – in an easily retrievable and attractive way is very important. The most significant part of the new website, along with it being so attractive and easy to use, is that DH staff can now update it easily and quickly. Creating this new media was an investment which will link the DH more easily to its audience and to its parent organization.

Check out HSF’s website at www.myhsf.org and the new DH website at www.davenporthousemuseum.org

The recipes below enlivens the DH Holiday Dining Room interpretation. The room features a fruit cake and a feather used to ice it!

An Excellent Cake.
Rub two pounds of dry fine flour, with one of butter, washed in plain and rose-water; mix it with three spoonfuls of yeast in a little warm milk and water. Set it to rise an hour and a half before the fire; then beat into it two pounds of currants, one pound of sugar sifted, four ounces of almonds, six ounces of stoned raisins, chopped fine, half nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice, and a few cloves, the peel of a lemon chopped as fine as possible, a glass of wine, ditto of brandy, twelve yolks and whites of eggs beat separately and long, orange, citron and lemon. Beat exceedingly well and butter the pan. A quick oven.

Icing for Cakes.
For a large one, beat and sift eight ounces of fine sugar, put into a mortar with four spoonfuls of rosewater, and the whites of two eggs beaten and strained, whirl it well, and when the cake is almost cold, dip a feather in the icing, and cover the cake well; set it in the oven to harden, but do not let it stay to discolour. Put the cake into a dry place.

Be a Friend:
DH Annual Giving Campaign!
Don’t let it sit on your desk. Go ahead and send it in. And, know that it is going to a good, local cause.
This is the time of year when you receive so many requests for charitable giving. Many come from far away in mass mailed envelopes with form letters featuring photocopied signatures. The DH tries hard to know you and personally let you know how grateful we are for your generosity. Let the DH to be your “museum home” and the place where you can appreciate the cultural and social nuances that make Savannah exceptional.

Friends of the Davenport House: Annual Giving Response Info

Make check payable to Friends of the Davenport House or charge by credit card:

- Visa
- MasterCard (circle) - Donation Amount to Charge: ___________

Account Number: _____________________________ Expiration Date: _______________

Signature: ___________________________________________________________________

Send to: Davenport House Museum, 324 E. State Street, Savannah, GA 31401

“... it is the season for reviewing the past, that we may profit by the lessons of experience, renew our good resolutions & be animated for our future course.” Savannah Republican, December 31, 1824.

Isaiah Davenport House Museum
324 East State Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Isaiah Davenport House Museum is a property of Historic Savannah Foundation.