**Update: DH Friends Annual Appeal 2010-2011**

What the Davenport House does is pretty basic. It tells a story that is precious in order to inspire visitors to assess what they have and determine what is worth saving. It is a values story. Our unlikely band of civic activists, the founders of Historic Savannah Foundation, moved not to protect their own personal property but to save and protect a property for civic betterment. And now that place – our place, restored in all its authentic glory, is used as a symbol of what can be done when people work together for a common goal.

For the past forty-eight years our museum has worked in tandem with Historic Savannah Foundation as a self-supporting participant in educating visitors and the community about preservation. Thanks to you and your contributions this museum is healthy which is saying a lot. If you keep up with funding of historic sites and museums you must know that staffing levels have been cut and programs eliminated – in many cases properties “moth balled” - all over the United States because of the recessed economy. Because of our prudent management, willing staff and volunteers, and lively programming, the DH is managing it’s operations through the current situation.

Just letting you know - as often as possible, we need you in whatever way you can participate – as a volunteer, a donor and a program participant. Currently there are 120 Friends of the Davenport House whose annual contributions range from $20 to $1,500. As of March 1, we are very close to meeting the goal for year. Reaching and going beyond is important now as gasoline moves toward $4 a gallon. We suspect this price increase will impact the travel plans of many and could negatively affect our museum visitation during what should be our busiest time of year. Thank you again if you have already made your donation or thank you in advance if you have not. As Friends Campaign chairman Cornelia Groves says, “We have to keep the Davenport House going. Its story is too important to do otherwise.”

**DH Community Service Scholarship Announced**

This spring the Davenport House Endowment Directors initiated a scholarship program which will be awarded to one graduating high school senior at the conclusion of the school year. The recipient will have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the Davenport House during his or her high school career. A committee will evaluate candidates and the public announcement will be made at the spring garden party. Lee and Betty Butler have funded this year’s award. “The Endowment Directors are recognizing the fine character of past Junior Interpreters when they suggested we establish a new award. Student volunteers have made a notable contribution to the life of this museum. That can only get better with the establishment of this scholarship,” notes DH Endowment Directors president, Hugh Golson.
**Expo VITALS:**

**LOCATION:** Charles H. Morris Center/Trustees’ Garden, 10 East Broad Street, Savannah

**PREVIEW PARTY:** Thursday, April 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.; tickets $75 each

**FEATURES:** Food and Fellowship, Silent Auction, Shopping in the Open Air Market, Early Viewing of Competitions

**EVENT AND OPEN AIR MARKET:**

**DATES AND HOURS:** Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**DAY ADMISSION:** $10 which covers admission and speakers

**FEATURES:** Garden specialty vendors, lectures, photo exhibit, competitions viewing

**COMPETITIONS:** Tabletop Design, Exhibition Gardens, Window Boxes, Containers

**COMPETITION AND EVENT THEME:** *History Blooms in Savannah*

**FRIDAY SPEAKERS:**
10 a.m. Hugh Golson, “History Blooms in Savannah,” free with admission to the Expo
12:30 p.m. – Paula Dietz, “Gardens of the World, ” free with admission to the Expo
3 p.m. – Daniel Carey, “Preserving Savannah – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow,” free with admission to the Expo

**SATURDAY SPEAKERS:**
10 a.m. Serena Nasworthy, “Butterfly Gardening in the South,” free with admission to the Expo
1 p.m. Roy Heizer, “Savannah’s Garden Plants,” free with admission to the Expo

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

**Film screening:** Saturday, April 16 at 2:30, “Greenfingers,” $5

**WINE TASTING AND GARDEN TOUR:** Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. Rendezvous Location: Lafayette Square, $50 per person

**FOOD VENDORS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY:**
Thrive and The Little Yellow Trolley.

**BENEFICIARIES:** Historic Savannah Foundation and the Isaiah Davenport House Museum

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** call 912/236-8098, info@davenporthousemuseum.org

**FOR THE LATEST ON THE EXPO:** See myhsf.org

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**Expo Preview:**

**The Past and The Party**

At the Savannah Garden Expo Preview Party on Thursday evening, April 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m. guests will sample specialties from five of Savannah’s fine restaurants – treats ranging from hor d’oeurves to savory entrees to desserts – while socializing with the supportive crowd. In addition to tasting delicious things, maybe the guests will feel the history. For this 11th Expo, the event offers a new location, Morris Center-Trustees’ Garden, with stunning views of the Savannah River from the bluff on Fort Wayne, a 1762 military site built during the Revolutionary period and named for General “Mad Anthony” Wayne. Prior to the building of the fortification, the location was the site of the Georgia colony’s experimental garden – where mulberry trees, olives and grapes were propagated in search of cash crops for the “mother land.” In the 19th century, the east Broad Street area had the reputation for catering to a rough clientele with tippling shops and the like popular with sailors and laborers. Many long-time residents remember the area as the site of the Savannah Gas Company with looming natural gas tanks. The area spawned the mid-20th century preservation movement with work accomplished by Mr. and Mrs. Hansel Hillyer and Mrs. Maraduke Flood. The preservationist and bon vivant Jim Williams moved his antique shop to the site beside the Pirates House in 1954 and for the next two decades revitalized through historic preservation the Washington and Warren Squares areas.

If the history doesn’t move the celebrants, the jazz band will! As will the hope of “good stuff” at the silent auction. Featured items will include vacation opportunities (such as a day-trip to Cumberland Island’s Greyfield Inn), art, gift certificates and plant material.

Tickets are $75 per person and may be obtained through Historic Savannah Foundation’s website myhsf.org

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Southern artist Cedric Smith created the painting “History Blooms in Savannah,” which is shown at the top of this page and on the front page, for the 2011 Savannah Garden Expo.
The Expo’s featured speaker for the Carolyn Ross McDonald Lecture Series is editor and garden writer Paula Deiz who will speak on Gardens of the World on Friday, April 15 at 12:30 p.m. No doubt inspiration for her talk will come from her recently published book Of Gardens Selected Essays.

Paula Deitz has delighted audiences for more than thirty years with her vivid descriptions of both famous and hidden landscapes. Her storytelling skills allow us to share in the experience of her extensive travels, from the waterways of Britain’s Castle Howard to the Japanese gardens of Kyoto, and home again to New York City’s Central Park. Deitz’s essays describe how people, over many centuries and in many lands, have expressed their originality by devoting themselves to cultivation and conservation.

Paula Deitz is Editor of the Hudson Review. As a writer and cultural critic in the fields of art, architecture, design, and landscape design, she is a frequent contributor to the New York Times, The Architectural Review, and Gardens Illustrated.


Note: The movie “Greenfingers” which was inspired by an essay of Deitz’s, will be screened on Saturday, April 16 at 2:30 p.m.

Savannah native Hugh Golson is a lecturer and author whose specialty is Chatham County history. He will be the inaugural speaker talking on “History Blooms in Savannah” on Friday, April 15 at 10 a.m. A noted public school educator, he has served as Savannah-Chatham County School Board president. He has served in leadership positions in many education, civic, and heritage organizations including Savannah-Chatham Historic Site and Monument Commission, Georgia Historical Society, Chatham Association of Educators, Historic Savannah Foundation and the Historic District Board of Review. He also currently serves on the boards of the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Society, Bonaventure Historical Society, Davenport House Endowment Fund (president), and the Mulberry Grove Foundation.

On Friday, April 15 at 3 p.m. Daniel Carey will speak on “Preserving Savannah – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.” Louisville, KY native Carey is the President and CEO of Historic Savannah. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame, he received a Master’s degree in Folk Studies/Historic Preservation from Western Kentucky University. He began working for the Office of Historic Properties in Frankfort, KY and in 1991 moved to Charleston, SC to work for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. After nearly ten years serving in the Southern Office he moved to Fort Worth, TX to run the Southwest Office of the NTHP.

On Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. Serena Nasworthy will speak on “Butterfly Gardening in the South.” She is a retired business owner and Georgia Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. She is Past President of Friends of Oatland Island and founding member of St. Francis of the Island Episcopal Church.

Roy Hiezer will speak on Saturday, April 16 at “Savannah’s Garden Plants.” He is the owner of Greenfeet Walkabout which explores the flowers, plants and trees of Savannah's downtown historic district. Roy is a Certified Plant Professional in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, gardening lecturer, and member of the International Palm Society.
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**All Went Beautifully:**

**OYSTER ROAST AT BEAULIEU POINT**

Surpassing all expectations the Davenport House’s first oyster roast at a private home on Beaulieu Point was worthwhile and spirited. In the throes of Christmas the planners — Cornelia Groves, Gaye Drummond, Ann Koontz and Marilyn Sheridan — ruminated over the prospects of drawing a crowd and the weather. Their big hope was to attract 100 people to a mid-day, mid-winter celebration of steamed mollusks, good company and a recommitment to the Davenport House and its charge to program the Kennedy Pharmacy. When the count was tallied, 143 people had purchased tickets. Forty of those chose to be donors with an added contribution and seventeen people unable to attend made contributions. The most sizeable and significant donation came from an anonymous Friend of the Davenport House who underwrote the cost of the event so that all the money raised could be directed to programming components for the pharmacy.

The significance of the day, February 12, the date that the colony of Georgia was founded, was not lost on the crowd. One notable difference between February 12, 1733 and 2011 was elaborated on by historian and DH Endowment Directors chairman Hugh Golson who said that the day 278 years ago was a damp, rainy day — miserable! Our Georgia Day was the first bright and beautiful day in some time. The warming sunshine and the marshside setting produced an uncommonly convivial afternoon. Casual dressed attendees skillfully wielded oyster knives on three tall tables. A buffet meal followed. Guests sat at tables adorned with camellias grown on the property. A highlight was the performance by Joyful Sounds, a newly formed gospel group from Savannah’s Macedonia Baptist Church, who offered several selections for the appreciative assembly. The singers were backed up by a guitar and a four-year-old drummer!

For the DH and the event’s planners, this party was serious fun. The monetary rewards are deeply appreciated and will be carefully managed. An added impact is bringing the DH and Savannah’s preservation story to new patrons as well as reminding our tried-and-true. “The sincerity of our community’s effort could not be lost on those enjoying the Oyster Roast. From the decorations which featured paper replicas of the house, to the speakers, to our hosts, it was a time to celebrate history and the perpetuation of a meaningful story that continues to have relevance,” offered DH director, Jamie Credle.
Tea Programs in March and May!

Along with becoming familiar with tea serving equipment and seeing rooms in the house where tea was served, participants for this spring’s tea programs meet costumed characters portraying people of the 1820s. At the conclusion of the programs, guests sit down and take tea with the costumed performers. Having recently found several period sources to draw conversation from, performers have new and particularly lively banter this spring. The museum used biographies of Mrs. Basil Hall, a British visitor to America, Margaret Smith Bayard, an early 19th century hostess in Washington, DC, and Robert MacKay of Savannah – all of which shed light on the time. Shading the conversation with historical references, participants will meet an esteemed visitor from Washington, DC and may hear a poem about succotash, consider the latest dances and have their tea leaves read. “Our programs [in March and in May] about tea are intended to make our visitors’ experience with history fun. We expect them to leave happy and amused with their encounter with the past,” concludes Credle. The performers in this year’s programs include Jamie Credle as Mrs. Julia Johnson, Lauren Purcell as Hephzibah, Jan Vach as Mrs. Margaret Bayard Smith, Cassidy Hatcher as Mary, Jeff Freeman as Mr. Jeffries and Shannon Wichers as Charlotte. Thank you to Raleigh Marcell for researching the dialogue and directing the program.

Where else but the DH in the spring can you hear poetry in the afternoon, sip tea and talk about the president’s hair?

“Let the green Succotash with thee contend
Let the beans and corn their sweetest juices blend,
Let butter drench them in its yellow tide,
And a long slice of bacon grace their side,
Not all the plate, how famed so-ever it be,
Can please my palate like a bowl of thee…”

From: Joel Barrow’s Hasty Pudding

Assisting the DH:
AASU Students Perform for Historians
by Barbara Fertig, Professor, AASU

On February 24th history students from Armstrong Atlantic State University presented a half hour of 1820’s gossip to an audience that included the Board of Directors and members of the Georgia Association of Historians, in Savannah for the Association’s annual meeting.

The presentation in the Kennedy Pharmacy was a cooperative project between the Isaiah Davenport House and the History Department at Armstrong. Students in the fall semester Heritage Tourism class chose research projects based on readings about tourist preferences in subject matter, and applied these interests to daily life in Savannah in the period during which the Davenports resided in the house. The result was a series of vignettes about the private concerns of various local social groups, from cigar smoking to cadaver disposal to operas at the Savannah Theater.

The short program, which was planned as a part of an evening of Savannah social life, was coordinated by Katherine Alt, student assistant to the Department, and delivered by Alt and fellow students Matthew Walker, Amber Ramsby, TaNika Roberts, Lorena Werner and Oscar Crosby, all of whom had contributed to the research. Davenport staff provided the encouragement, as well as access to the Davenport property, that made the project possible.
Davenport House Spring Programs

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s Thursdays and Fridays (and two Wednesdays) in March 2011 (3, 4, 10, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24, 31)
5 p.m., 60-75 minutes, $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 Tuesday and Saturdays in March 2011
[Tour dates: March 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22 and 29]
4:30 p.m., 60-75 minutes, $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.

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, $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 Savannah’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 p.m., 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., 4:30 or 5:30 p.m., 60-75 minutes, $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, $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.

Discovering 1820s Savannah: Early Bird’s Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew Saturdays in May 2011
[Program dates: May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28]
7:30 a.m., 90 minutes, $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 to follow.

Celebrating America’s Treasures: DH Garden Party on May 15th—Party with a Purpose! JOIN US!!

The National Trust for Historic Preservation designates May “Preservation Month” and this year’s theme is Celebrating America’s Treasures. What better way to show your preservation spirit than by partying with your peers in the DH garden! Our annual garden party is Sunday, May 15, 2011 when volunteers and Friends of the Davenport House are feted, celebrated and appreciated! By socializing with like-minded DH’ers you (y’all) demonstrate your support for what the museum does while you strengthen the bonds of community. This year’s garden party will initiate the awarding of the first Davenport House Community Service Scholarship to a worthy graduating high school senior! Invitations will be in the mail in late April.

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.
DH Collections News:
Cooper Bratton of North Carolina is a descendant of the Davenport family through Cornelia Davenport’s line. Several months ago she brought to the museum portraits of her ancestors Cornelia Davenport and Henry Rootes Jackson in hopes of having them evaluated by a conservator. They offer us a look at the woman who spent her girlhood in the DH and the husband she probably met while in school in Hartford, CN.

With Your Help We Will Reach Our Goal!: DH Annual Giving Campaign!
We are approaching our goal for the year and with your help we will reach it. Please make a contribution to the Davenport House Museum.

Friends of the Davenport House: Annual Giving Response Info
Every dollar counts! Donations are tax deductible.
Renewal: ________  First time member: ________  Additional Gift: ________
In honor of: ____________________________________________

Name: ___________________________  Telephone: ___________________________
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Make check payable to Friends of the Davenport House or charge by credit card:
Visa  MasterCard  (circle) - Donation Amount to Charge: ___________
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Isaiah Davenport House Museum
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