2010-11 DH Annual Giving Campaign and Annual Report

As we settle down for the season and reflect on the closing year, please know that your contributions, support, and goodwill toward the museum are of benefit to the larger community. The current issue of Coastal Empire Economic Monitor notes a “bright spot in the regional economy is the continued strength of the tourist industry.” Our well-maintained historic property on a prominent street in Savannah’s National Landmark Historic District as well as the variety and quality of our programs are assets which buoy a regional economy which depends on the tourist dollar. The fact that we are a self-supporting entity in a place that draws historical travelers and experience seekers further amplifies this site’s value.

And then there are some places which have a value beyond measure. They provide a personal connection. We hope the DH is that for you. This is your museum home, a place for you to have a deep affinity and a sense of belonging. Your contributions make the good things happen for the Davenport House. Thank you!

As you review the DH Annual Report, know that the museum is sharing with you the work it does day in and day out as reflection of the community spirit which the HSF founders had in mind.

Continued on the next page

Please remember your Friends of the Davenport House Annual Giving Campaign donation! Thank you!!
cluding 40 at the patron level. Seven totaling $700. (Diane and Dan Reitman participant) from – (Loraine and Scott Boise match) to – Merck this time). are 83 contributors (even with last year).

- Kitty‖ in a suitcase and wooden butter and olive oil soaps, a ―Ghost House logo including a line of shea butter and wax bowls, which do not require lighting to be fragrant, made in Coralville, Iowa. A selection of vintage linens. Candle Company. It also now carries a selection of vintage linens.

**ANNUAL GIVING AND FUNDING** (November through December):
- Total donations from Friends Campaign 2010-11: $29,471 (even with the previous year).
- Total number of Friends in 2009-10: 139 (down 12 donors).
- Status of the current campaign (2011-12): As of December 14, there are 83 contributors (even with last year this time).
- Received a matching gift from Merck Partnership for Giving (Lorraine and Scott Boise match) totaling $500.
- Received volunteer grant funds from ExxonMobil Foundation (Diane and Dan Reitman participant) totaling $700.
- 2011 Oyster Roast: 143 attended including 40 at the patron level. Seventeen couples or individuals made additional contributions. One anonymous sponsor covered the expenses of the event.

**GARDEN** (calendar year):
- Improved garden lighting was obtained featuring unobtrusive fixtures which up-light the trees. A grant from Trustees Garden Club partially funded the project and the remainder will be raised with the 2012 Oyster Roast.
- Trustees Garden Club documented the Davenport House Garden, which included researching museum documents, executing a title search and taking photographs for submission to the Archives of American Gardens initiative through the Smithsonian Institution.

**GARDEN RENTALS** (calendar year):
- 21 total wedding rentals – 18 ceremonies and 3 receptions. There were 8 rental cancellations. DH wedding/garden rental business was up 23% over the previous year. For 2012 we have currently scheduled six garden rentals (two down from last year this time) – 5 ceremonies and 1 reception.
- HSF/Community use: UVA Alumni reception, 13th Colony Party, Downtown Neighborhood Association’s annual picnic, Coastal Museums Association year kick-off party.

**SAVANNAH GARDEN AND ANTIQUES EXPO:**
- Historic Savannah Foundation and the DH split revenues and expenses.
- DH Director was the event on-site volunteer coordinator. DH Assistant Director assisted with set-up and site management. DH maintenance technician was a laborer for the event. There were 68 on-site volunteers.

**COLLECTIONS** (calendar year):
- The replication of a 1765 Rhode Island watch box/hutch was commissioned to house the gold watch representing Isaiah Davenport’s timepiece in the Office.

- A selection of three French and five English fashion plates were acquired.
- Archival materials were obtained to continue documenting the house as a museum and its role in the preservation of the city including a photo of the hall from the archives of the St. Petersburg Times dated February 9, 1982, post cards of the DH entrance hall, the DH dining room and of Savannah’s City Market. Additionally a 1940 photo was obtained showing hurricane damage to downtown Savannah buildings.
- The sisal rug in Cornelia’s Room was resized to better accommodate visitors and the closing of the room’s door.
- Two iron garden chairs were given to Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum.

**MAINTENANCE** (calendar year):
- Exterior painting: Ironwork, front door, back steps and treads.
- Security lighting: replacement of fixture in the west garden area.
- HVAC: replacement of first floor (museum exhibit area) condenser unit; replacement of a defective high voltage fuse for basement area condenser.
- Museum Entrance and Exit: 2 commercial door closers installed; shop door ramp covered with nonskid rubber.
- Garden ambient lighting: Upgraded.

**EDUCATION AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING** (calendar year):
- Road Scholars (new): DH Director and Assistant Director created and presented a program from of the best components of the Our Old...
House: Preserving the DH and the Highlights in the DH Collection to make a two-hour experience for participants. The program was piloted in the fall 2011 series and is scheduled for the spring 2012.
- “Potable Gold”: Savannah’s Madeira Tradition. 8 performances in February, attendance: 87. Presented a modified version of the program to 105 people for the Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens’ Trolley Back in Time in March.
- Valentine’s Day weddings in the garden event. Fourteen couples exchanged vows. Judge Harris Lewis donated his time.
- Presented the house with Junior Interpreter staff on SuperMuseumSunday in February to 572 guests who received complimentary admission.
- Revised and presented “Tea at Mrs. Davenports” in March (9 performances) and “Tea in the Garden” in May (8 performances). Total attendance for the two tea programs 184.
- Maintained and presented programs: This Old House: Director’s Preservation Tour of the Davenport House (March, presentations 6, attendance: 22), Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side (April, presented 7 times; attendance 35), and Curator’s Tour and Highlights of the Collection (May – presented 3 times; attendance 16). Discovering 1820s Savannah: Early Bird’s Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew (May, presented 4 times, attendance 22)
- Executed the summer Junior Interpreter program with 15 students completing the program.
- Planned and executed the Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight during five days between Christmas and New Year’s Eve with 678 people in attendance (2010).
- Specials and customized programs for groups outside of regular offerings: In February the Associations of Georgia Historians met in the Kennedy Pharmacy and were entertained by a historical readers' theater program presented by AASU students followed by a tour of the DH. In March, a group with the Civil War Trust had a special tour and hospitality, and, Indiana Landmarks group participated in a Madeira program.
- In April, American Friends of Attingham had a special tour and reception.
- In May Harbor City Travel had a tour and reception; DH Junior Interpreters performed a readers' theater for the Georgia Association of Retired Teachers; a group of 140 spouses of Federal Credit Union employees had a special hospitality tour; and, a photography group with MentorSeries visited and photographed the property. In June, DH presented a tour and activity for HSF’s Hands on History camp; a group of MJCA summer campers received a tour and activity with Junior Interpreters. In September, staff presented a Docent Pep Talk to a Convention Consultants group.
- Authorized and funded through the Davenport House Endowment Directors, the first Davenport House Museum Community Service Scholarship was presented to Raven Bryant, a graduating senior at Savannah Arts Academy. The scholarship patrons were Lee and Betty Butler.
- Staff worked with a number of college professors and their classes including Dr. Barbara Fertig’s Heritage Tourism class at AASU, Dr. Jim Janson’s Museum Administration class at SCAD, SCAD Professor Jeff Eley’s architectural history class, SCAD’s Dr. Edward Daves Rossell’s Vernacular Architecture class, SCAD’s Professor of Fibers Dr. Jill Kinneár’s seminar class, and AASU’s Dr. Chris Hendrix’s Vernacular Architecture class.
- Two summer interns, Amy Jackson, Wesleyan College in Macon, and Amy Blankshein, SCAD, gained experience at the DH.

**Research** (calendar year):
- Researched and wrote Management of Fires and the Early History of the Savannah Fire Department for the January 2011 volunteer newsletter.
- Researched and wrote The Davenports and Marriage in the Early 19th Century Style for the March 2011 volunteer newsletter.
- Researched and wrote Carnegie Survey Documents Savannah through the Photographs of Frances Benjamin Johnston for the April 2011 volunteer newsletter.
- Transcribed, edited, researched and wrote A Letter from Cornelia – 1852 for the May 2011 volunteer newsletter.
- Researched and wrote Tidbits of History: Hugh McCall, Isaiah Davenport and W. R. Holland for the June 2011 volunteer newsletter.
- Researched and wrote More Information on the Boys (Davenport Sons and Service in the Civil War) for the July 2011.
- Researched and extensive revisions to: A Mortality Prevails! Savannah’s Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820 and the two tea programs. Presented docent trainings and Junior Interpreter trainings on the new revised program.
- Researched materials and wrote an article in the December volunteer newsletter and conducted docent training on “Best Bibs and Tuckers”: What Did Dressing Up in the 1820s Mean? Thinking About Holiday Clothes During the Davenports’ Time.

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PUBLICITY/COMMUNICATION  
(calendar year):
- DH partnered with the Savannah Music Festival to use the Kennedy Pharmacy for its Sound Design series of interviews with musicians during the 2011 festival.
- Professionally designed media was created for the Spring Garden Party, A Mortality Prevails, Harvest Lecture Series and Christmas Party.
- Calendar entries were picked up by local/regional media and posted on the Internet. Press releases were created for the DH Community Service Award, A Mortality Prevails! and Holiday Evening Tours.
- The DH’s profile on Goziac was updated with the assistance of Ab-shire PR.
- The DH was featured in local newspaper coverage on Valentine’s Days Weddings, Raven Bryant: Davenport House Museum Service Scholarship, December Home Fires (2010) and A Mortality Prevails!, which received the cover of ConnectSavannah October 5-11.
- The DH’s tea program was listed in the May/June issue of Tea Time Magazine and food research/DH photos appears in the December (2011) issue of Georgia Magazine.
- Staff appeared on WTOC’s Mid-Morning Live and WJCL’s Morning Show for both spring programming, A Mortality Prevails and Holiday Interpretation.
- Staff maintains a Davenport House Museum Facebook page which currently has 550 “fans”.
- Banners with photos and informational text about the DH, HSF and the Kennedy Pharmacy, created by SmackDab, were installed in the Kennedy Pharmacy.

KENNEDY PHARMACY USE  
(calendar year):
- A tenant resides in the KP apartment.
- St. Patrick’s Day ground floor use as Expo auction item.
- Community Use: Savannah Children’s Choir reception, Savannah Chapter of the Victorian Society in America reception and board meetings, Sound Designs series/Savannah Music Festival, Coastal Museums Association meeting and audit location, Colonial Dames meeting
- DH Operations use: Davenport House Committee meetings, Davenport House Endowment Directors meeting, summer volunteer luncheon, Docent Training Program (February, July, October), Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter Training.
- HSF Use: Civil War book preview, Tour of Homes presentation, Gala chairmen party, Clean-up Day, Meeting, HSF Hands-on-History Camp award ceremony & lunch, Vote Party (NT/W.W. Law House), DOCOMOMO gathering.
- DH Programming use: A Mortality Prevails!, Harvest Lecture Series, rain location for outdoor activities.
- Rental: SCAD’s Metals and Jewelry Trunk Show, a trunk shop, a private meeting, SCAD/Lucas Theater, 2 wedding receptions, SCAD student show.

LEADERSHIP:
- Davenport House Endowment Directors: Fredrick R. “Rick” Muller and Bill Lovett were welcomed as new Directors.
- Davenport House Committee: Sylvia Coker, Archie Davis, Sarah Lamar and Bill Lovett were welcomed to the DHC in October.

VOLUNTEERS:
- Held three docent training classes for six participants in February, four participants in July and five participants in October from which we now have 6 new volunteers currently giving tours at the museum. Several more will complete their evaluation following the holidays.
- Offered two volunteer continuing education trips: A tour of Highlights of Bay and Broughton Streets with Savannah Rambles (26 attended) and Bluffton/Hilton Head in November (32 attended).
- Calculated volunteer hours at 5,747 or $114,595.18 worth of in-kind hours donated at $19.94 an hour (Independent Sector/state of Georgia hour value).

STAFF:
- In 2011 DH hired two staff docents, Katherine Owens and Gabrielle Rashleigh. They joined docents Marty Barnes, Lauren Booker, Raven Bryant, Rebecca Carter, Ellie Darbyshire, Dirk Hardison, Helen McCracken, Annabelle F. Moe, Jenny Preetorius, Olesya Rybin, Emily Waller, Carlie Ayn Williams, Rachel Zettler. Beth Kinstler and Lauren Purcell are shop assistants.
- There are currently 60 volunteer docents, four shop volunteers and 35 active Junior Interpreters.
- Beth Kinstler was interim shop manager for three months in the spring when the shop manager was out due to illness.
- Staff attended four continuing training meetings – Preparing for the Busy Season in February, Hurricane Season/Disaster Preparedness in June, Yellow Fever program training in September and Holiday Interpretation training in November.
- Jamie Credle was membership chairman for the Coastal Museums Association summer 2011 campaign. She served as a member of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Awards Committee. She received a partial scholarship from Historic New England to attend their Program in New England Studies program in June. She remains on the faculty of the South-eastern Museum Conference’s Jekyll Island Management Institute presenting on “Museum Interpretation” in January.
- Ben Head attended the January Gift Shop in Atlanta.
- Jeff Freeman is the treasurer of the Coastal Museums Association.
A Maintenance Matter: Window Sashes!

Each summer the Davenport House staff inspects the property looking for preservation issues which need to be addressed. For the past several summers this process has been aided by preservation interns who document and photograph the site. In consultation with the staff, interns analyze the condition of the house and property in preparation for an annual site review with volunteer professionals. For the past eight years following this detailed site inspection and analysis, Dirk Hardison, a design consultant who has a long history with the house and Thom Hoffman, an engineer and professor at SCAD, have reviewed the analysis and made recommendations for items requiring immediate attention, those needing attention soon, and those that should be watched. This process begins the work plan for staff before the fiscal year (on October 1) begins.

On the whole, the house is in excellent condition for an one hundred and ninety year old building. There is a bit of “spalling” (deterioration of the face of a brick), which we watch, and a few cracks in the plaster, which we watch. But what has revealed itself over time is that the replacement parts which were added to the house in the 1956 restoration and later have not held up as well as the original parts. This was remarked upon in the 2002 Historic Structures Report (Surber, Barber, Choate and Herlein Architects, Inc.) - “We need to make a distinction between original elements and altered replacement elements – and how repairs should be made to the original verses the replacement parts. Goals of all repairs and conservation programs should be to ensure the integrity of the architectural elements and to preserve as much of the early fabric of the structure as possible. . . .” This conversation revolves around the window sash throughout the house. Surber and Barber continue, “Most of the deterioration of the window sashes is due to the choice of materials used in the restoration. It is doubtful that any amount of conservation can stabilize these sash in the long term.”

While this is interesting to read, it is frightening to see – windows being held together by the paint! Over the years, the museum made piecemeal repairs to the mid-20th century sashes – replacing sections of windows, etc. But following the 2011 inspection, the volunteers and staff are comfortable in saying that there needs to be a systematic replacement of window sashes. The yellow pine that was commonly used in the 1950s, etc. does not hold up to the elements, particularly on the south side of the house which receives the most weather – searing sun and driving rain – throughout much of the year. Replacement windows will be custom made to fit the windows of the house and be made of a wood – either mahogany, cypress or another strong and long lasting natural material.

Members of the DH community will hear more about this maintenance initiative and will see the work taking place over the next two years or so. Replacements will begin where there is the most deterioration. Proceeds from the 2012 Oyster Roast will be directed to this project. The DH is lucky through the generosity of its donors to be able to address such maintenance issues.

Anticipating a Fest - Preservation Fest

Historic Savannah Foundation will build on the community spiritedness that sustained the Savannah Garden Expo through the years with a new and vibrant series of activities to celebrate National Historic Preservation Month in May. The thematic shift is in keeping with the wish to promote, publicize and educate on the possibilities for the future of the preservation movement in Savannah.

“Preservation and its positive impact on our community needs to be front and center. Preservation Fest will create the momentum to make Savannah a model in the contemporary preservation movement,” said Roger Smith, president, Davenport House Committee. As with the Expo, the Davenport House will split the planning, responsibility and proceeds with its parent organization. Smith will lead the DH’s Preservation Fest efforts. “The event will kick off with an exciting bash followed by offerings throughout the month both substantive and serendipitous! The DH’s contributions will certainly be one or the other or both,” offers Jamie Credle, DH Director.

A committee was formed in the fall and planning is ongoing. Anticipate an announcement about the event’s leadership and details about the schedule of events. See the Historic Savannah Foundation website for the latest after January 15 – www.myhsf.org
2012 Second Annual DH Oyster Roast!

We had such a good time at last year’s oyster roast we decided to do another!

Nita Ann and Chris Klein have agreed to host the event at their home on Three Rivers which is ideal and scenic on Saturday, January 14 beginning at 1 p.m. Following the food and drink, Harris Lewis and John McEllen will host attendees for a viewing of their garden complete with coy pond and marsh views. And, for those who have not seen it, there will be an opportunity to see Camp Low which for years has been the location of fun and adventure for Girl Scouts in this area and beyond. Who knew it was there!!

The 2012 Oyster Roast Committee—Kim Bockius-Suwyn, Sylvia Coker, Connie Darbyshire, Cornelia Groves, Nita Ann Klein and Jenny Long— are working to make the event a fun and a successful occasion. The proceeds will be directed to museum maintenance needs including ambient garden lighting and window sash replacement. See a related article.

Please plan to attend for a good time for a good cause!

2012 OYSTER ROAST RESPONSE INFORMATION

Help us continue to restore the Davenport House.

**Window Patron** (includes a reserved table of 10 and event acknowledgement) _____ @ $2,500

**Garden Light Patron** (includes reserved seating for 2 and event acknowledgement) _____ @ $500

**Davenport House Patron** (includes reserved seating for 1 and event acknowledgement) _____ @ $250

I/We would like to attend this special event. _____ @ $125 each

I am unable to attend but would like to contribute to the DH with $______.

*Limited seating, please respond by January 3, 2012.*

Enclosed is my check payable to Friends of the Davenport House for $_______.

Or please charge my Visa or MasterCard.

Card # _____________________________ Exp. __________ Code _______

Phone ________________ Email ______________________________

Name _______________________________________________________

Address ______________________________

City __________________ State ________ ZIP __________

*Use the back of this card to list all guests in your party. Only those names appearing on the ATTENDANCE LIST will be admitted. An acknowledgement and driving directions will be sent to you after January 10.* For information call 912/236-8097.

*The Isaiah Davenport House Museum is the property of Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. which is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Your donation may be tax deductible.*
THREE FRENCH FASHION PLATES.


French Fashion Plate. 1820 Observateur des Mod No 1828 Modes Parisiennes. “Bureau, rue Feydeau, No. 20. Chapeau de paille d'Italie orné de marguerites, spencer en gros d’été a revers avec baoutons d’acier, robe de percale garnie de volans en gaxe.”

Location: Museum Archive.

Relationship to the collection: These materials broaden the museum’s understanding of fashions and clothing popular during the Davenports’ time.

FIVE ENGLISH FASHION PLATES


Georgian Fashion Plate. Morning Dress. Undated and no publication date details represented.

Notes from the seller: “They appear to have come from a scrapbook . . . . Possibly originally from publication called "The Ladies Pocket Magazine."

Location: Morning Room for Holiday Interpretation. Following: Museum Archive.

Relationship to the collection: These materials broaden the museum’s understanding of fashions and clothing popular during the Davenport’s time.

POST CARDS

Dining Room, Isaiah Davenport House, Savannah, GA. ca. 1980.

Entrance Hall, Isaiah Davenport House, Savannah, GA. ca. 1980.

Relationship to the collection: These materials document the museum’s institutional history by showing the period room interpretation of the 1980s.

City Market. Savannah, GA. photo ca. 1900. card reproduction, date?

Location: Museum Archive.

Relationship to the collection: This material documents the Ellis Square space prior to the destruction of the City Market which galvanized the organized preservation movement.

CARTE DE VISITE.

Captain Henry Kollock Davenport. ca. 1868-1872.

[Carte de visites are small photographs mounted on paper that were introduced in 1854 by a French photographer named A. A. Disderi. The standard format was a card 2 ¼ inches by 4 inches. They were relatively cheap to produce and they became immensely popular in the decade of the 1860’s. Soldiers, friends and family members could inexpensively obtain photographs and send them to loved ones in small envelopes. It was fashionable for friends and family to exchange likenesses of each other and carte de visite albums became a ubiquitous item in the homes of the middle and upper classes.]

Henry Kollock Davenport (1820-1872) was the seventh of Isaiah and Sarah Davenport’s children. He had a distinguished career in the U.S. Navy including being the senior officer in command of the sounds of North Carolina from June 1862 to June 1864. Since he is wearing the uniform of a captain, the image dates to between 1868 when he was promoted to that rank and 1872 which is the year that he died.

Location: Museum Archive.

Relation to the collection: This object is of a Davenport family member.

Continued on next page.
PHOTOGRAPHS
Promotion shot: 1982 Tour of Homes
Location: Museum Archive.
Relationship to the collection: These materials broaden the museum understanding of fashions and clothing popular during the Davenport’s time.

Photograph. “Savannah, GA., August 12 [1940]. HANDIWORK OF HURRICANE.—A tropical storm which whipped furiously a wide part of the Atlantic Seaboard did this damage at Savannah where at least two were known dead from the blow. This shot shows a section of building struck by the wind and the resultant showers of bricks. (AP Wirephoto 21400 1940)
Location: Museum Archive.
Relationship to the collection: This depicts the reality of the destructive force of nature and is a vivid illustration that “Yes, hurricanes do happen here.”

PLANE, WOOD MOULDING.
Markings: “M. Copeland/J. King.”
Date: Early to Mid-19th Century
Location: Office (exhibit area)
Relationship to the collection: Mr. Davenport’s 1828 estate inventory lists “a quantity carpenters tools.” Having this plane on exhibit in the Office illustrates that Davenport was a carpenter and owned tools of his trade.

WATCH BOX.
Reproduction by Foley Cabinetmaking, Hanson, MA. 2011
Reproduction followings a Rhode Island precedent, ca. 1765.
Dimensions 7 1/2” tall X 6 1/8” wide x 3 2/3” deep
Cherry dovetailed case, mahogany tablet door with carved shell pediment, restoration glass, brass hinges and knob.
Location: Office (exhibit area)
Relationship to the collection: The museum commissioned this object to house a gold watch which represents a “gold watch chain & seal” which appears on Isaiah Davenport’s 1828 estate inventory. The watch, etc. appears to have been the most expensive object Mr. Davenport owned. Having the watch housed in a handsome box shows how a pocket watch could turn into a mantle clock for Davenport to use while working at his desk.

New DH Leadership
Davenport House Committee and Davenport House Endowment Directors
As is customary with non-profit leadership, veterans roll off committees and/or boards and new people take up the mantle. This past October the Davenport House Committee welcomed four new members, Sylvia Coker, Archie Davis, Sarah Lamar, and Charlotte Rehmert, and last April the Davenport House Endowment Directors welcomed Frederick R. “Rick” Muller. The museum community is grateful to these kind and willing people who demonstrate their commitment to the DH and Historic Savannah Foundation through their thoughtful decision making, participation in programming and enthusiastic advocacy. It is through their leadership and stewardship that the museum will meet its challenges. And, as you will see, this is an impressive group with a variety of talents fitting the tasks required.

SYLVIA SPARKMAN COKER
Sylvia is a native of Savannah who attended Savannah Country Day before receiving her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt and her MED from the University of Virginia. She and her husband Charles lived in Hartsville, SC for many years before returning to Savannah two years ago. They are the parents of four daughters, Carter, Carrie, Eliza and Joanie.

She is a dedicated volunteer and has served on several school boards. She was chair of Thomas Hart Academy and was on the founding board of Trinity Collegiate School in Florence, SC. She was both a deacon and an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Hartsville as well as a Sunday School teacher for many years. She was on the boards of the Hartsville Community Concert Association, Free Medical Clinics of Darlington County, and the Merrie Woode Foundation in Cashiers, NC. She was a member of the Spring Beauty Garden Club in Hartsville and now is a member of the Trustees Garden Club in Savannah.

Of the DH she says, “I am very enthused by the Junior Interpreters program at the Davenport house. I think it is important to get our youth involved and to pass on our love and appreciation for historic preservation to the next generation. I would love to see addition special programs like the ‘Yellow Fever!’ event that would appeal to our younger visitors.”

ARCHIE DAVIS
When Cornelia Groves made the call to ask Archie to be on the Davenport House Committee, he said he couldn’t say no. He jumped in and agreed to chair the current Annual Giving/Friends of the Davenport House.

Archie, a native of Winston-Salem, NC, is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School and the University of North Carolina. He holds a MBA degree from Harvard School of Business. In 1966 he moved to Georgia and joined Citizens and Southern Bank. The following year he married the former Sally Johnson from the Americus area. In 1989,
Archie became founding director of The Savannah Bank and The Savannah Bancorp. He has been an important and community-spirited businessman throughout his career as indicated by his leadership. His involvement includes chairman of the Raptor Center of Georgia Southern, Savannah Technical College Foundation, Atlanta Downtown Development Authority and the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. He has been treasurer of Candler Hospital and St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System, and has served on the boards of Salem Academy and College, Savannah Port Authority (now SEDA), and UNC Alumni Board, and UNC Arts and Science Foundation.

He brings a joy for history to the Davenport House as indicated by his volunteerism including having been named 2008 Volunteer of the Year by the Georgia Historical Society as well as serving on the GHS Board of Curators. He has served as chairman of the Georgia Trust, treasurer of the Atlanta Historical Society and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and Foundation, and served on the board of Historic Savannah Foundation.

Archie and Sally, who are DH neighbors, have a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Sarah Lamar
Sarah, who currently also serves on Historic Savannah Foundation’s Board of Directors, has practiced law with Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C. since 1995, and became a partner in 1998. Her area of specialization is Employment Law. She is a native of New Haven, CT and received her undergraduate degree in history from Yale University and her J.D. from Emory University. She and her husband Scott Gress are the parents of three sons. She has served on the Board of Directors on the Savannah Area Tourism Leadership Council and is currently serving on the Board of Directors of VisitSavannah.

As the daughter of an historian as well as a history student herself, she spent much of her youth visiting battlegrounds and historic and has a great interest in and experience with the subject. She says, “I enjoy history and love Savannah and look forward to contributing to Savannah’s preservation where it all started.” Of the Davenport House she says she likes how it is beautifully maintained and the on-going interpretation of the house and the era. Of the DH’s future, she offers, “It’s very bright. It is in good hands.”

Frederick R. “Rick” Muller
Rick is a Principal at Chatham Capital Group, an independent wealth and investment management firm in Savannah. He received his B.A. in economics from The College of William & Mary, where he received a full football scholarship, and MBA from Columbia University. He and his wife Adele and their two children live in Ardsley Park.

He offers, “What draws me to the Davenport House is the fact that it is the modern origin of the historic preservation movement in Savannah. Having been raised in Atlanta, where "historic" is Lenox Shopping Mall, I have a genuine appreciation for historic buildings, not only the buildings themselves, but what they contribute to a city in terms of its culture or vibe.”

Of community service he says, “Having just finished two year term as Treasurer at Savannah Country Day School, I learned a lot about the world of nonprofits and specifically how much, generally, nonprofits have been negatively impacted by the downturn in the economy. I would like to do what I can to ensure the financial health of the Davenport House during my term.”

Charlotte Rehmert
Charlotte, a native of southwest Virginia, holds an undergraduate degree in education at the University of Dayton and Master’s Degree in Counseling from Wright State in Dayton. She taught in the public school systems of Dayton, OH; Arlington, VA; and Kingsport, TN. After living in England for five years, she began her career in social work. From case worker to case manager to supervisor she served the breadth of the field. In 1991, she became Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer of Shelby County, OH. In 2002 she returned to Savannah civil service, and became the Director of Chatham County Department of Family and Children’s Services.

Her community and board leadership has been extensive since then as she has served on the Chatham-Savannah Homeless Authority Board, The Salvation Army Board, the Safety Net for the Uninsured, the W.W. Law Foundation Board, Youth Futures Authority, Step-Up Savannah Poverty Reduction Steering Committee, First City Network Board, Ga. Regional Hospital Advisory Council Chair, Social Apostolate Board, and KidsNet Savannah Oversight Council.

“As for the DH House and Committee work, I hope to assist in strategic planning and fundraising to ensure that the DH and historic preservation efforts through our parent agency, HSF fulfills both agencies’ missions to educate, advocate, and preserve historic gems like the DH. I hope for the future that we can develop enough resources for DH to restore the lower level of the house museum and move our staff to the Kennedy Pharmacy. Also, as HSF thrives so will DH and vice-versa so I appreciate the current effort of the joint planning teams for the May Preservation Fest activities for 2012.”

Charlotte, a docent at the Davenport House, is the mother of two sons and the grandmother of four grandchildren, three boys and a girl.
Junior Interpreters: Learning the Ropes at the DH

2011 Summer DH JIs

Junior Interpreters (JIs) are teenage tour guides at the Davenport House. The JI program began in 2003 and since that time over 135 young people have taken the training course and given tours at the museum. In order to become a JI, a young person between the ages of 14 and 18 must take 14 to 16 hours of classroom work, usually in the evening from 6 to 8 p.m., give an evaluation tour to a staff member and agree to give at least one tour to the public. As a culminating activity for each JI class, these young people are the docenting staff for an entire day. Often veteran JIs assist the new ones during training and on JI Days which is what we call JI docenting day. It can be daunting to stand-up in front of tourists -- strangers, usually adults, with no vested interest in their success. The DH believes that training and using these eager, youthful workers provides them with important life-lessons. Their experience at the DH goes beyond learning the content of museum tours and communication skills. They learn to think on their feet, the self-satisfaction of demonstrating newly acquired knowledge to others, and the inner workings of a small business – because the DH is business - a non-profit business – but a business nonetheless.

There are two JI classes each year, one in the summer for anyone in the age group who agrees to attend training, follow the rules, and give a tour to the public at the end of the program. The strength of this program is that it draws young people with an affinity for history or museums within the region who are from different backgrounds – some public school, some private school, some homeschooled. The summer JIs create a friendship niche and affinity group within the DH. This group is usually small. The other JI class is a partnership with Savannah Arts Academy through its American history teacher Rod MacKay who recruits his students. Up to fifteen high school sophomores participate together in the fall JI program. The students are chosen from a lottery of interested students. The students commit to volunteering one of the two days following Thanksgiving with the DH on SAA JIs Days.

JIs meet monthly during the school year as well as giving tours on holidays and for special groups. They staff the house for SuperMuseum-Sunday in February and this year they have been invited to docent for the Tour of Homes and Gardens on Saturday, March 24.

Betsy Chapman, Deanna Clarke and Gabrielle Rashleigh completed the summer 2011 Junior Interpreter Program. This small but quality class of participants gave tours to the public on August 5 and has been volunteering at the DH ever since.

In October a new class of Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreters met on Tuesday nights over an eight week period and successful gave tours on November 25 and 26. An enthusiastic bunch, these newly trained DH docents are - Shelby Anton, Abbey Beeler, Katie Bradle, Clare Devlin, Aaron Jennings, Sophie Lichtman, Molly Mayne, Zoe Mims, Liana Mosley, Haley Powell, Skylar Rank, Hunter Ray, Samantha Snyder, Mary Charlotte Terradas, and Jarod Weis.

Some comments from the JIs about the experience:

I absolutely loved giving tours. And it was just fabulous to meet all of the interesting tourists. Thank you so much for this fabulous experience!

I think that the JI Day went very well! It was especially nice to give my first tour in a group to prepare myself for giving a tour alone to the public. I felt completely comfortable on my first solo tour and enjoyed all other tours throughout the remainder of the day.

Though it was a long day, I was glad to have the opportunity of giving many tours in one day so that I was able to, in a short period of time, figure out how best to give a tour and figure out what worked or not.

I really enjoyed being able to meet some new people who are similarly interested in Savannah’s history.

2011 Savannah Arts Academy JIs

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, 2011
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.

“Potable Gold” : Savannah’s Madeira Tradition
Friday and Saturday evenings in February 2012
[Program dates: February 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25]
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.

Valentine’s Day Weddings in the Davenport House Garden
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
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. Confirmed reservations are highly recommended as the event tends to sell out.

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s
Thursdays and Fridays (and one Wednesday) in March 2012 (1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 29, 30)
5 p.m., 4:30 p.m. on March 22, 29, 30
60 to 75 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 given with costumed interpreters in the garden.
The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side
Saturdays in April 2012 (except April 28)
[Program date: April 7, 14 and 21]
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 Savannah’s preservation movement. Coffee and treats in the Davenport House garden to follow.

Tea in the Garden at the Davenport House
[Program dates and times: May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 at 4:30 p.m. and May 24, 25 and 31 at 5:00 p.m.]
60 to 75 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.
The performance 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 2012 [May 5, May 12, May 19, May 26]
7:30 a.m.
100 minutes. Distances 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 and treats in the Davenport House garden will follow.

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A Delicate Mistake!

When Dr. S. Johnson lodged at Kettle Hall, in the University of Oxford, at a Mr. Thompson’s, a cabinet maker, the maid, by an unfortunate mistake, brought him one day a CHEMISE of Mrs. Thompson’s, to put on, instead of his own shirt. The Dr. contemplating on nothing but Ramblers and Idlers, and colossal dictionaries, shoved his arms, head and shoulders into the lady’s linen before he discovered his error. “Who has cut off the sleeves of my shirt? Who has cut off the sleeves of my shirt?” exclaimed the enraged and hampered moralist, with Stentorian vociferation, dancing and tugging and raring for freedom. This roar brought up poor Mrs. Thompson, who with the most consummate delicacy, shutting her two chaste eyes, slipped her hand into the room, and delivered her giant guest from his enchanted castle.

August 3, 1820. Columbia Museum.

"We tender our congratulations and present the compliments of the season to our friends… hoping that the new year may continue to us peace and political and social happiness; and their health and prosperity be greater in the coming than in the preceding year." Savannah Republican. December 30, 1820.