ANNUAL GIVING AND ANNUAL REPORTING
And ting ting tingaling too!

Here we are at the close of 2012, reviewing the year and blinking in wonder at the future. Before putting this end-of-year newsletter together, we always vacillate between doing a comprehensive review of what went on at the museum over the past 12 months (so you will know your donations are well spent), just hitting the high spots (knowing you probably will not read the comprehensive report), or taking a few photos of smiling museum goers and leaving it at that. Well, we choose the comprehensive list hoping that you see in concrete ways that your donations have allowed the museum to reach many, many people. So read it if you will!

If you don’t feel like reading the whole thing, please know 2012 was a good year for the Davenport House. Museum visitation continues to grow, participation in programs is respectable and the museum’s Friends program is healthy. And there are few things which set this year apart and of which we can be proud. The construction project linking the Davenport House and the Kennedy Pharmacy was completed. The museum commissioned the production of two DVDs – *Historic Savannah Foundation Story* and *Isaiah Davenport, Portrait of a Master Builder*. These have been playing on the local government channel as well as abbreviated versions on YouTube for the world to know our important story. The museum created four orientation panels which were placed the basement level to be reviewed before or after a museum visit. The museum paid attention to its stewardship responsibilities and engaged in a comprehensive window repair project.

Please know that your gifts allow these projects to happen. Thank you and enjoy the holidays knowing you have made this museum’s season bright.

And, if you have not made your donation to the Friends of the Davenport House Annual Giving Campaign, it is not too late. See the form on the back of this newsletter.

2011-2012 Annual Report to Friends of the Davenport House

**Museum Visitation and Tour Business**
(October 1 through September 30):
- **Total museum visitation** for 2011-2012 (Oct. 1 through September 30, 2011): 37,249 (which is up 2,270 people/6% over 2009-10). Another 1,538 attended museum programs. Total first-hand visitation: 38,787.
- **Prescheduled tours**: 59 including groups with tour companies, Road Scholars, churches, schools, colleges and museums. This is down 8% over the previous year. This number does not include “day of” bookings with tour partners such as Oglethorpe Tours and Old Town Trolley.
- On a regular basis the DH provides museum services to following tour companies: Oglethorpe Tour, Old Savannah Tours, Coastline Travel Day Clean Journeys, Discover Tours, Savannah Rambles, and Vacation Station.
- The DH partners with Savannah’s trolley and tour companies to bring visitors to the museum. **Old Town Trolley** brings the largest visitorship with daily tour business as well as four specialty cooperatives which are a 3-House pass, Girl Scout visits, a Partners package and a e-ticket. OTT also brings the museum visitors between Thanksgiving and Christmas with **Holly Jolly Trolley Tour (November/December)** in 2011 between November 25 and December 23 (29 nights), the DH/OTT partnership Holly Jolly Trolley Tour saw attendance of 1,548 visitors. The
program continues in November/December 2012.
- **Pioneers in Preservation**
  triple site pass program with partners Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace and the Andrew Low House: The DH received and/or sold 4,970 passes in fiscal year 2011, which is approximately even with last year.
- **Convention Consultants partnership with Tauck Tours**: For the third year the museum continued its relationship with Tauck Tours through its local agent Convention Consultants to provide a DH/Madeira experience to travelers in its Charleston/Savannah tour. In the spring, the museum saw 488 travelers on 14 dates and in the fall 228 travelers on 8 dates for an after-hours program. The museum is on the Tauck Tours’ 2013 schedule for 30 dates.
- **Road Scholars**: In the 2011-2012 school year, DH began an expanded relationship with AASU’s Road Scholar Program seeing 474 participants in the fall and spring. The DH continues to evolve its offerings and will see RS participants in the 2012-2013 school year. There is a booking in December as well as 11 dates scheduled for spring 2012.
- **GroupOn**: The museum participated in the deal-of-the-day internet/email company with a four-for-two offering on 9/1/2012 with total sales of 301.
- **Living Social**: The museum participated in the deal-of-the-day internet/email company with a two-for-one deal on 5/21/2012 with total sales of 171.
- **Signage**: A loading and unloading sign on Habersham Street by the shop door was acquired from the City of Savannah to clarify trolley and motor coach use at the DH and on Columbia Square.
- **Shop** (October 1 thru September 30):
  - The average sale per visitor was $2.64 which is ten cents off of the previous year.
  - The biggest change to the shop operations and museum orientation was acquiring and putting into place a new point of sale system in 2012.
  - A DH gift card program was developed.
  - The year’s new book titles: The Ultimate Gullah Cookbook, Savannah in the Civil War, Shrimp, Collards and Grits: Recipes, Stories and Art from the Creeks and Gardens of the Lowcountry, Gardens of Savannah, Savannah’s Historic Churches, A Savannah Christmas assorted new children’s books
  - **New gift items**: jewelry from Annelleece; silk scarf with architectural motifs, shea butter and olive soaps, selection of toys and children’s items, tote bag with the replication of the 1818 map of Savannah, framed botanical prints, the Savannah Towel with Davenport Ironwork as the design, the Savannah Calendar for 2013 from Dixie Postcards; and the Savannah Fans
  - **Custom items**: post card of the DH stairs
  - **DVDs**: Isaiah Davenport, Portrait of a Master Builder also contains the Historic Savannah Foundation Story, Historic Homes in Savannah, Savannah Squares, Savannah in the Civil War, and World of Juliette Gordon Low
  - **Original art**: DH was featured on the front of the DNA Christmas Tour Poster
  - **Continuing on the best seller list**: The Best of the Best Cookbook (a Junior League cookbook $7.95), Savannah Then and Now ($19.95), The Savannah Guidebook (5.95); the Doll House Dolls ($17.95). Note that except for the jewelry all these items are under $20.00

**Annual Giving and Funding**
(November 2011 thru October 2012):
- Total donations from **Friends Campaign 2011-12**: $34,503.59 (15% above the previous year)
- Total number of **Friends** in 2011-12: 157 139 (up 18 donors)
- Status of the **current campaign** (2012-13): As of December 3 there are 83 contributors (even with last year this time)
- Received a matching gift from **Merck Partnership for Giving** (Loraine and Scott Boise match) totaling $250.
- Received volunteer grant funds from ExxonMobil Foundation (Diane and Dan Reitman participant) totaling $1,250
- **2012 Oyster Roast**: 85 tickets were sold including one table at the Window Patron level ($2500) and six couples at the Lighting Patron level. Eight couples or individuals made additional contributions.

**Garden** (calendar year):
- Two ornamental crabapples were removed and new ones put in their place.
- The pond received a new pump, filter and clarifier.
- The shrubs received extra pruning and two new potted boxwoods were acquired.
- The irrigation system was inspected and repaired.
- Security light on the North wall

“Remains of the Day” - Tea Party Cleanup 2012
- Garden rentals (calendar year): 14 total wedding rentals – “ceremonies only.” There were seven rental cancellations (in some cases the day of). DH wedding/garden rental business was down 30% from the previous year. For December 2012 through 2013 there are six garden rentals (two down from last year this time) scheduled – 4 “wedding ceremony only” and 2 wedding and reception.

- HSF/Community use: 13th Colony Party, Downtown Neighborhood Association’s annual picnic

2012 Preservation Fest:
- DH Committee took a leadership role in two of the series of seven events that replaced the Savannah Garden Expo as a cooperative fund-raising venture between HSF and the DH.
- Two events during the month long series, Isaiah Davenport, the Carpenter and the Preservation Festival Garden Party were executed at the property. The Isaiah Davenport, the Carpenter was a content focused experience which premiered the DVD Isaiah Davenport, Portrait of a Master Builder, providing insights by scholars and experts on Davenport and three buildings (including the DH) attributed to Davenport. In addition, Greg Guenther of Guenther Wood Group offered commentary on early 19th century woodwright’s in his shop. The Garden Party featured a plant auction with specimens contributed by Debbie Critz and a container garden competition coordinated by Diane Kaufman.
- Historic Savannah Foundation and the DH split revenues 70/30%.

Collections (calendar year):
- The museum acquired the correct “sacking bottom” for the bed in the Boys Room.

- The DH’s Collections Policy was amended to include the 1829 Bill of Sale as a basis for the museum’s interpretation. A change of banks and an affirmation of the volunteer maintenance team recommendations were also included.
- DH staff participated in a panel discussion on museum collections policies at the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries in Milledgeville in January and the Southeastern Museums Conference in Williamsburg, VA in November.

Maintenance (calendar year):
- A series of repairs took place with 10 museum windows being affected including sash replacement.
- The security system in the Kennedy Pharmacy was made wireless.

Linkage: (See a related article)
- Construction and landscaping took place in the lane between the Kennedy Pharmacy and the Davenport House, visually linking the two buildings.

Education and Special Programming (calendar year):
- Two DVDs were produced through CosmosMariner Production, Historic Savannah Foundation Story and Isaiah Davenport, Portrait of a Master Builder.
- Four orientation panels for the basement level were created by Mick McKay. There topics are: What style is it, People at the DH, Who was Isaiah Davenport, Why does this house matter.
- An artificial food making workshop with John Sherrer of Historic Columbia Foundation was presented at the Kennedy Pharmacy and sponsored by the DH in September.
- A Davenport House Dancers (early 19th century dancing) program was initiated by professional dancer Elizabeth Albe in June. Seven participants have been faithful and now are able to perform the four dances taught over the summer.
- Outreach programs: Jamie Credle and Raleigh Marcell presented “Lafayette in Savannah” (twice) as part of Senior Citizens, Inc. winter curriculum. Jamie Credle presented “Alcohol Consumption in the Federal Period” as part of Senior Citizens, Inc winter curriculum. Jamie Credle gave the talk “Remember the Ladies and the Historic Savannah Foundation” to the Skidaway United Methodist Church for its April salad luncheon.

- Road Scholars: For the 2011-2012 school year, DH Director and Assistant Director presented the two-hour experience “How to Save a House.” In the fall, a new program was presented which allowed for a more tactile experience in “World of Isaiah Davenport”. A number of touchable items were acquired to add to this tour experience. Spring 2013 Road Scholars will participate in this program. New in 2012, RSs will participate in a two-hour End-of-Year Holidays at the DH program which includes a performance by the Davenport Dancers.

“Potable Gold”: Savannah’s Madeira Tradition. 8 performances in February, attendance: 110 people. The museum 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 their vows. Judge Harris Lewis donated his time.

Speaker prepping for faux food workshop
- Super-Museum-Sunday (the community’s free museum day): 582 guests visited the museum which was staffed by Junior Interpreters on February 5.

- Tea programs: March’s “Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s” was revised and presented 9 times to 97 participants. In May “Tea in the Garden” was presented 9 times to 144 attendees. Total attendance for the two tea programs was 244 (number includes a Mother’s Day Tea for 20).

- Saturday Morning Walking Tours: The museum maintained its two spring walking tours. In April Early Bird’s Preservation Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side was presented three times to 19 attendees. In May Discovering 1820s Savannah: Early Bird’s Walking Tour of the City Isaiah Knew was present four times to 34 attendees.

- The summer Junior Interpreter program had nine student participants.

- The museum’s October living history program “Dreadful Pestilence: Savannah’s Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820” was revised and presented on weekends for 16 performances during the month to 312 attendees.

- In the fall the Savannah Arts Academy Junior Interpreter Program took place for the eighth year with 13 students completing the program.

- In December 2011, the museum planned and executed the Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight during five days between Christmas and New Year’s Eve with 650 people in attendance.

- Specials and customized programs for groups outside of regular offerings:

  - In March, a group of Wellesley College alumni participated in a Madeira Program and a group from Triangle Presbyterian Church attended a breakfast tour. In April a group with the Massachusetts Colonial Dames participated in a tea program and a group with the Garden Club of America had a breakfast experience.
  - In June, DH presented a tour and activity for HSF’s Hands on History camp participants.
  - In June, Davenport House Endowment Directors awarded the second Davenport House Museum Community Service Scholarship to Carlie Ayn Williams, a graduating senior at Savannah Christian Preparatory School. The scholarship patrons were the Critz Family.

- Throughout the year, staff worked with a number of college professors and their classes including 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, AASU’s Dr. Chris Hendrix’s vernacular architecture class, and Dr. Christine Carr’s Material Culture class at SCAD.

- Three summer interns contributed to the life of the museum during the summer. Meredith Halloran, a graduate of SCAD, assisted with the annual maintenance inspection and collections inventory. Doreen Roy, graduate HP student at SCAD, conducted a windows assessment with a comprehensive report. Emma Smith, a junior at AASU, transcribed the Isaiah Davenport’s biography and counted the steps between the three Preservation Pass Partners.

- Research (calendar year):

  - Staff research include the following volunteer newsletter articles:

  - January 2012 - “a quantity of carpenter’s tools”: Isaiah’s Carpentery Business
  - February 2012 - A Look at - Alcohol and the Early Republic: Diet, The Use of Wine Metonymically, Too Much Whis-

- Publicity/Communication:

  - Professionally designed post cards/invitations/posters were created for the Spring Garden Party, Dreadful Pestilence, Harvest Lecture Series and Christmas Party.

  - Calendar entries were picked up by local/regional media and the Internet.

  - Press releases were created for the Holiday Evening Tours, DH Community Service Award, Faux Food workshop, Harvest Lecture, Lane Construction Project, and Dreadful Pestilence/Yellow Fever program.

  - The DH was featured in magazine articles including Georgia Magazine, December.
2011 (topic: Christmas food and drink), Savannah Magazine Homes Supplement, Spring 2012 (topic: Isaiah Davenport, the Carpenter) and Historic Tours of America: The Nation’s Storyteller, October–December 2011 (topic: Founders of Historic Savannah Foundation).

- Staff appeared on WTOC’s Mid-Morning Live and WJCL’s Morning Show: Dreadful Pestilence and Holiday Interpretation.
- Staff maintains a Davenport House Museum Facebook page which currently has 788 “fans”.

**Kennedy Pharmacy Use:**
- Apartment rental: The long time tenant moved out. Repairs were made. Tenants were found and moved in. The lease was revised and a move-in, move-out form developed.

- **Community Use:** Coastal Museums Association meeting and media workshop location, Colonial Dames meeting, Telfair/Women in Business meeting, Savannah Tech lecture and Savannah Chapter/Victorian Society in America meeting.

- **DH Operations use:** Davenport House Committee meetings, Davenport House Endowment Directors meeting, summer volunteer lunch, tax credit workshop, HSF Presentation, HSF Hands Academy Junior Interpreter Training.

- **Eaton House Museum Use:** Docent Training Program meeting, summer volunteer lunch, Davenport Society in America meeting and Savannah Chapter/Victorian Society meeting, Savannah Tech lecture meeting, Telfair/Women in Business workshop location, Colonial Dames Association meeting and media workshop.

- **Volunteer Field Trip 11/2012**

- **Rental:** SCAD’s Metals and Jewelry

Trunk Show, movie filming “Desires of the Heart, Bethesda luncheon, rain location for weddings.

**Leadership:**
- **Davenport House Endowment Directors:** New Endowment Directors were welcomed in April. They are Holden Hayes, Jenny Long and Mills Morrison. Lee Butler was elected president in April as well.

- **Davenport House Committee:** Several open seats on the Davenport House Committee were filled during the year. Martie Campbell, Jan Vach, Nancy White and Brooke Wilford agreed to serve the open places. Diane Kaufman was welcomed to the DHC in October. Roger Smith was elected to a second term as DHC president in September. Brooke Wilford agreed to become Vice-President, Martie Campbell Secretary and Charlotte Rehmert agreed to as second year as treasurer.

**Volunteers:**
- **Two Docent Training Programs** were conducted during the year (February and July). The February class began with 10 participants. Seven completed the program. They are Sheryl Dominic, Pamela Eaton, Chassidy Mallory, John Sorel, Don Starr, Joan Waite and Josh White. The summer training program was held for four participants. Two, Fran Molettiere and Joyce Zehl, have completed training and are full-fledged docents.

There were two continuing education field trips offered for volunteers during the year. Nineteen participants attended “A Day at SCAD” led by Jonathan Stalcup. In November, twenty-four attendees visited the newest museum offering in the area, Savannah Children’s Museum, North Garden at Ships of the Sea, Pinpoint Heritage Museum - 24

- A rough estimate of volunteer time shows 5,000 in-kind service hours were donated to the DH in 2012. If the museum were paying those volunteers, it would have cost about $101,900 (using the volunteer hour calculation provided by Independent Sector/state of Georgia/hour value/ $20.38 an hour)

**Staff:**
- New hires during the year: Adrienne Williams, shop assistant; Clare Devlin, Linda Garner, Chassidy Malloy, Liana Mosley, Haley Powell, Josh White as staff docents. They joined docents Marty Barnes, Lauren Booker, Ellie Darbyshire, Dirk Hardison, Annabelle F. Moe, Emily Waller, Carlie Ayn Williams, Rachel Zettler and Lauren Purcell, shop assistant.

- There are currently fifty volunteer docents, three shop volunteers and 25 active Junior Interpreters.

- All 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 in November.

- In January Jamie Credle participated in the Jekyll Island Management Institute presenting on “Museum Interpretation” and in June attended the Association of Living History Farms and Agricultural Museum (ALHFAM, the nation’s professional living history interpreter organization) in Dallas.

- Jeff Freeman is the treasurer for the Coastal Museums Association. He attended an IT/Disaster Preparedness Workshop and took an online class entitled Care of Furniture and Wood Artifacts.

- Beth Kinstler attended the January Gift Shop in Atlanta.
When I arrived in November 2002 I had no expectations. I really did not know what to think having spent seventeen years in junior positions in fascinating museums and then being put “in charge.” It has been an absorbing ride and I am happy to still be here.

From the very first moment, I have been grateful the Davenport House Committee and Historic Savannah Foundation took a chance on a museum person to be a director. At the present time the museum field is scratching its collective head at the recent hiring at high profile museums and historical sites of non-museum people such as public relations executives and business people as leaders. Because I had a house museum background there were some things I knew what to do about immediately and there were others that required beginner’s luck, tutelage and/or on the job experimentation.

Here are ten thoughts for ten years at the Davenport House.

Good stuff and a vision of the future was in place: Prior to my arrival the DH had put in place collections management standards, an intelligent interpretation through its Furnishings Plan and expertise of respected scholars and an exemplary restoration of the two exhibit floors. In addition it conducted Historic Structures Report which has been a foundation documents used ever since. The Kennedy Pharmacy had been purchased and a vision the DH/KP/HSF campus was germinating.

Giving the Storytellers the Tools: Upon arrival, we developed a Docent Training Program to perpetuate the interpretation already created. Every new docent takes training. Our docent trips, newsletter, Junior Interpreters are all part of this initiative to serve our guests. Along with being our “audience” our guests make possible operations through admission income. Our primary product is our tour experience.

We can’t do it without Friends: In October 2003 at the instigation of DH angel and patron Cornelia Groves, the museum began the Friends of the Davenport House Annual Giving Campaign in order for people to make a financial stake in the museum’s well being. Since 2010 the museum has also grown its friends through Oyster Roasts! Contributors, our Friends, are the keys out the museum’s financial well-being.

Programming to Serve the Mission and Generate Income: I have always asked my husband to help me with my work and he has done so with talent and relatively little complaint. Raleigh Marcell is a professional playwright as well as being our maintenance man. He spends his volunteer creating museum shows which are interesting including all of the versions of our Yellow Fever show, portions of the Madeira program and the tea programs. Over the years the museum has created a menu of programs offered throughout the year which bring visitors and income to the museum, including walking tours, special focus tours – on collections and preservation as well as our holiday tours. Recently we have initiated new mission related endeavors such as our lecture series and DVDs creation. Interesting programs, tours and media make for an interesting museum.

Accolades are more than just a good party: I represented the DH in receiving some impressive accolades over the past decade beginning in 2004 when the Yellow Fever program received the Museum Program of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries. This was sweet but nothing can ever compare with the Oval Office and the Rose Garden and 2005 Preserve America Presidential Awards though receiving the Governor’s Award for the Humanities in 2010 was close. These accolades have been reputation builders and affirmers giving the museum credibility that it would have had otherwise.

We are Creating a Campus: The biggest thing to happen to the DH facility in the past ten years has been the rehabilitation of the Kennedy Pharmacy and figuring out how it fit into the museum’s operations and future. The recently completed lane construction/landscape linkage project is part of this.

Leadership Counts: Wonderful people put their confidence in me and work faithfully to insure the DH’s success beginning with Davenport House Committee and its presidents Clare Ellis, Hilton Swing, Elizabeth Muller, Dale Critz, Sr., Ann Koontz and now Roger Smith, Davenport House Endowment Directors and their leaders Wiley Ellis, Craig Barrow, Dick Platt, Paul Pressly, Hugh Golson and Lee Butler. All have worked within the umbrella of Historic Savannah Foundation and its larger mission to preserve Savannah’s heritage through education, community involvement and advocacy.

Focusing on the House: The heart of the matter has always been the museum house and seeing to its care has been a lesson in stewardship. Thank goodness for talented preservation volunteers, trustworthy contractors, and a well-built structure. A Cyclical Maintenance Plan put in place in 2004 and shortly thereafter site specific disas-

AND 10 YEARS LATER . . .

Jamie Credle, Director, Davenport House Museum
A Good Idea is a Good Idea – Even Eleven Years Later: Visually Linking the Kennedy Pharmacy and the Davenport House

In 2001 a young urban visionary was asked to come up with a concept to link the Davenport House and the Kennedy Pharmacy visually. Though not related historically, the two buildings form the basis for a museum campus of what will one day include the DH shop, visitor orientation center and office space in the Kennedy Pharmacy leaving the museum house for a pure historical experience. The decade old Master Plan reads: “The urban plan, sidewalk and streetscape along Habersham Street are viewed as the primary means of linking the two buildings. . . . The Master Plan proposes to unify the public realm along Habersham Street by reinforcing the spatial enclosure of the street with a garden wall, improving the horizontal paving across the lane, and creating continuity by supplementing and unifying sidewalk landscaping.” The young urban planner was Christian Sottile, who has gone on to an impressive career and is the Dean of DCAD’s School of Building Arts. He must have been surprised in 2011 when museum leaders asked him to revisit his 10 year old plan.

During the intervening 10 years, the Kennedy Pharmacy was rehabbed with the help of SCAD’s historic preservation students and Professor Jim Abraham. At the museum’s 2010 Stakeholder’s Forum voices noted the unappealing appearance of the State Street Lane behind the DH and how the two buildings “do not really go together.” Staff gave Sottile a call and he gladly revised the plan which was used as the genesis of the recently completed lane construction and landscaping project.

It is going a take a big effort to realize the entire plan of moving the shop and offices to the Kennedy Pharmacy and reinterpreting the lower level of the museum house. In the meantime, the two buildings still “go together” because of the Pharmacy’s function as a meeting room and rental facility used in conjunction with the museum.

With the support of the Davenport House Committee, the Davenport House Endowment Directors funded the project which was completed in October. Though a small project by city standards, it was not without complications. Savannah Hardscapes agreed to execute the work especially if it could be a test case for permeable pavers. There was concern from officials about the durability and maintenance of the pavers on a city street – which is what the lane is. The permeable pavers component excited the leaders because if proven, a functional storm water channel could be a boon for future lane repair projects. It would also link the “green” movement (the permeable paver advocates) with the historic preservation movement (us).

With David Bloomquist leading as the project manager (volunteer – project manager - mind
you) and the design concept in hand, the project moved forward at a snail’s pace — which was not the fault of any of the community spirited people who saw it through. Michael Hughes of Thomas and Hutton Engineering provided the drawings which ushered through the permitting process. Grant Gammon of Gammon Surveying spent several hours on the project. Savannah Hardscapes not only contracted to do the project but donated $5,000 worth of materials. Finally, John McEllen, landscape consultant, put in hardy shrubs, ewe and boxwoods which dress up the lane but are durable given their location.

The project involved replacing concrete with bluestone directly adjacent to the DH garden on the Habersham Street sidewalk, placing pervious pavers on gravel 17 inches deep in the lane surrounded by granite curb, screening the AC units with an accessible fence and planting complementary shrubs and groundcover. The DH accomplished several things with this project. It visually linked its two buildings — the DH and the KP, it improved the appearance of the lane area — including a public street and a public sidewalk, it tested (and continues to test) pervious pavers — all done in the spirit of civic improvement and community awareness.

On November 1 the DH Endowment Directors hosted an early morning breakfast, thank you and press conference to thank those involved. City officials, Historic Savannah Foundation leaders and a terrific showing of DH leaders came together to reflect on the project — all before the workday began!

LEADERS OF KP/DH LINKAGE PROJECT “UNVEILING”
David Bloomquist of Bloomquist Construction, project manager,
Christian Sottile and Anthony Cissell (Christian Sottile was also involved but unable to attend) of Sottile and Sottile, concept designer,
Michael Hughes of Thomas and Hutton Engineer, project engineer,
Grant Gammon of Gammon Surveying & Associates, site surveyor,
Jonathan Rhangos of Savannah Hardscapes, contractor,
Shannon Baughman of Barlett Tree,
John McEllen Landscape Consultant,
City of Savannah
Cornelia Groves, Davenport House Patron,
Hugh Golson, Immediate Past President,
Historic Savannah Foundation

Welcoming DH New Leadership

As is the process for most non-profits there is a rotation of leadership annually. People that have served their commitment roll off and new people come in. The Davenport House Endowment Directors’ year begins in April and at that time the group said thank you to Hugh Golson, outgoing president, Connie Darbyshire and Craig Barrow. Holden Hayes, Jenny Long and Mills Morrison have all agreed to following in their footsteps. C. Lee Butler became president of the Endowment Directors in April as well.

We asked them to share a little about themselves for you to know them better.

Holden Hayes, who moved to Savannah fifteen years ago from Atlanta, is President of The Savannah Bank. He is graduated from The University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgia Southern University. He served on the Board at HSF in the early 2000s and currently volunteers with Hospice Savannah, The Rotary Club of Savannah and Light the Night Walk.

When asked what he likes about the DH he said “its history and commitment to Savannah.” Over his tenure as a DH Endowment Director he hopes to foster a better understanding of Savannah’s historical resources and how the community as a whole can help. He sees the DH’s future as a continued opportunity to grow and steer the community to a deeper understanding of its shared past.

Jenny Long says she is “almost native of Savannah having spent my entire childhood and youth here.......” She is a graduate of Duke University with a BS in Nursing. She is married to Blake Long and they have three daughters. Currently she is serving on the Board of the Savannah Book Festival, is a member of Seeds and Weeds Garden Club and the Altar Flower Guild at Christ Church Episcopal. She says she “loves the Davenport House for the way it authentically depicts life in early Savannah. I also appreciate the many programs offered so that the House is not just a museum but an active part of the community. It is such an important and valuable part of our history!! I hope that through my exposure to all that the Davenport House has to offer that I will become more knowledgeable about this wonderful resource and can then share and advocate for its continued growth and expansion in the community. I see the Davenport House becoming a center for education and continued restoration of our city and a leader in the country for historically accurate life and legacy.”

Mills Lane Morrison, Jr. is a Savannah native with a lifelong interest in the history of Savannah and the Lowcountry. He lives in Isle of Hope and practices law in South Carolina. He has served on several local
boards including the Coastal Heritage Society and the Savannah Benevolent Association. He offers that he “is honored to be a part of the Davenport House team and looks forward to helping make the Davenport House an even greater asset to the Savannah community.”

Throughout 2012, the Davenport House Committee added new members to fill vacant seats. By the time October and the new fiscal year came around, there was a full slate of fourteen active members. New DH Committee members are:

**Martie Campbell** is from Massachusetts with family roots in New England going back to 1630! She attended Vassar and married Marshall Campbell. They had three children together. She came to the DH as a docent 2006. She has an affinity for history. She has a passion for architecture and decorative arts – interior designer specializing period interiors – her favorite the Federal period. She serves on the Advisory council at the Learning Center of Senior Citizens, Inc., is a member of TAG – Telfair and coordinated docents at the Green-Meldrim House. What she likes about that DH is that she used to summer a half an hour from where Isaiah Davenport grew up in Rhodes Island! Through her service at the DH she hopes to make our visitors more aware of the importance of history and the importance of preservation! As she looks to the future, she hopes the DH will continue to maintain its excellence and be a source of learning for all visitors!

**Diane Kaufman** is the founder, owner of Mermaid Cottages on Tybee Island. She began her vacation rental business 8 years ago after 26 years with Marriott International. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a BS in Business Administration and major in Marketing. Her family includes daughter Katie who lives and works in Brevard, NC and Danny and Sophie—her two labs. She is excited about following in the footsteps of our “Seven Ladies” and is inspired by their story. She plans to use her marketing and public relations experience to move the DH forward.

**Jan Vach** is a long time docent, living history interpreter and artistic director for windows displays and anything of that nature. Daughter of a Navy man, she was born in Portsmouth, VA and lived in Rhode Island, New York, Florida, California and Hawaii. “The Viet Nam War brought the family to San Diego, where I went to High School and College. College undergraduate years were spent at San Diego State University. I received my Masters in Counseling from University of San Diego. I taught Advanced Placement US History and journalism for 15 years. The next 10 years were spent in counseling and the last four years of my career I was the District Career Counselor to the 14 schools in the Sweetwater Union High School District.” She volunteers at the Harper Fowlkes House, is a member of TAG at the Telfair Museum, a member of the Savannah Chapter of the Victorian Society in America and is a contributing artist in the Landings Art Association. I am also the special day trip coordinator for the Newcomers Club and the social chair for the Geechie Sailing Club. Of the DH she says, “I love everything about the DH! “I love the opportunity to educate the public about our history and the significance of the DH. I love our outreach program and the way we docents have so many ways to participate. I love the opportunity to work with young people and participate in the many educational programs.” She continues, “As a DH Committee member, I will support the DH staff in the goals they set for the house. I would like to see the DH prosper financially.”

A DH neighbor **Nancy White** is a retired Armstrong Atlantic State University history professor with specialties in Women’s history and the American South. She received her BA in Political Science from Mount Holyoke College and her MA and PhD in History from American University. Prior to volunteering at the Davenport House, Nancy served a long and productive tenure with the Flannery O’Connor House. She plans to use her expertise for the betterment of the Davenport House.

**Brooke Wilford** is a native of Connecticut where her family has lived for generations. She and her husband Andrew, a Patent Attorney moved to Dobbs Ferry, New York where they raised two children. Two years ago, Brooke and Andrew moved permanently to Savannah. She received a degree in music from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA, a certificate for college women from the Katherine Gibbs School in New York and a MA in Nursery-6 Childhood Education from Fordham University in New York City. She taught in two schools for nearly 20 years before retiring to help her husband run his law practice. She has been an active volunteer in the Junior League first in Connecticut and then in New York City. “In Dobbs Ferry I worked first as a secretary and then a Vice President for the Home & School Association and then as secretary for the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation for over 10 years.” She and her husband have been involved with historic restoration and preservation for some time. Of it she says, “We have nearly completed restoring our 1870s row house here in Savannah and are embarking on a new project in Washington Square.” She says of the DH, “It Davenport House is the perfect place for me to put all my experience. I love being a docent, being part of the living history and helping to teach hose who come to DH. I enjoying helping with the special events and helping to raise funds. I can’t wait to see what the future brings.”

**Goodness gracious! Such wonderful and accomplished people on the DH’s team!**
Get your Oyster Knife Ready!

2013 Third Annual
DH Oyster Roast is scheduled!

Come prepared for a good time for a good cause!

Dr. and Mrs. Keith Dimond will host the DH Oyster Roast at their home in Vernonburg on Saturday, March 9 from noon until 4 p.m.

The 2013 Oyster Roast Committee—Sylvia Coker, Connie Darbyshire, Cornelia Groves, Nita Ann Klein, Jenny Long, Katherine Slagel and Brooke Wilford — is preparing for a fun and a successful occasion. The proceeds will be directed to museum maintenance needs and plans for the re-interpretation of the basement level. See the related articles.

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

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2013 OYSTER ROAST RESPONSE INFORMATION

Help us preserve and interpret the Davenport House.

PEARL PATRON (includes a reserved table of 10 and event acknowledgement) _____ @ $2,500

PATRON (includes reserved seating for 2 and event acknowledgement) _____ @ $500

EVENT TICKETS _____ @ $125 each

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

Limited seating, please respond by February 23, 2013.

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

Or please charge my Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover (circle one)

Card # ___________________________      Exp. __________

Three or Four Digit Code on the Back _______ Billing Zip Code __________

When mailing your reservation form please include the names of all attendees on your reservation. Only those names appearing on the ATTENDANCE LIST will be admitted. An acknowledgement and driving directions will be sent to you after February 24. 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).
Holiday Evening Tours by Candlelight
December 26 - 30, 2012
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Admission: $8 adults in advance, $10 at the door; $5 children in advance, $7 at the door
Description: 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
Thursday, February 14, 2013
5 to 7 p.m.
Donation: $100 donation to the museum. Confirmed reservations are highly recommended as the event tends to sell out.
Description: 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.

“Potable Gold”: Savannah’s Madeira Tradition
Friday and Saturday evenings in March 2012
[Program dates: February 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23] 5:30 p.m.
75 minutes
Admission: $20 (must be 21 years of age)
Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
Description: 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.

Tea at Mrs. Davenport’s
Thursday and Fridays in March
[Program dates and times: March 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 5 p.m., 20, 21, 28 and 29 4:30 p.m.] 60 to 75 minutes
Admission: $18 Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
Description: 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. The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs.

3rd Annual Davenport House Oyster Roast
Saturday, March 9
12 noon until 4 p.m.
Location: Private Home
Inquire about tickets.

Early Bird’s Preservation - Walking Tour of the Landmark Historic District’s East Side
Saturdays in April 2012
[Program date: April 6, 13, 20, 27] At 7:30 a.m.
90 minutes. Distance 2.5 miles
Admission: $20
Description: 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
Thursdays and Fridays in May 2013
[Program dates and times: May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 4:30 p.m. and 24, 30 and 31 at 5:00 p.m.] 60 to 75 minutes
Admission: $18 Reservations recommended. Limited attendance.
Description: Learn
avenport 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 2013 [Program dates: May 4, May 11, May 18, May 25]
7:30 a.m.
120 minutes. Distances 2.7 miles.
Admission: $20
Description: 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.

Garden Party to Close
2013 Preservation Fest
Thursday, May 23
Location: Davenport House Garden
Inquire about tickets
Lots of Young People Lovin’ the House: DH Junior Interpreters

During the summer of 2012, the museum had a banner number of young people to take the Junior Interpreter Program to learn tour guiding skills and give their first tours to the public. Nine JIs completed the program in August. They are Eric Aupperle, sophomore, Savannah Arts Academy, Bastian Friedrich-Moe, freshman, Early College and brother of Annabelle F. Moe, who was in the 2010 SAA JI program, Deanna Flynn, senior, Jenkins High School, Kalynn Gibbs, freshman, Groves High School, Katherine Hewitt, senior, Savannah Christian Preparatory School, Mary Hibberts, sophomore, Savannah Arts Academy; Angela Nave, junior, Savannah Arts Academy; Macy Thompson, junior, Savannah Arts Academy and Nora Webb, sophomore, Savannah Arts Academy. The DH celebrated their willingness to learn at the museum during their summer break.

The fall’s partnership with Savannah Arts Academy was equally successful. Thirteen American history students in Mr. Rod MacKay’s classes took the course and successfully gave tours to the public over Thanksgiving weekend. These newest DH interpreters are Irune Aparicio, Kate Bosen, Jasmine Ellsion, Madeleine Hardage, Sean Jackewicz, Rosy Lu, Catie Morris, Abigail Ostendorf, Harrison Pettigrew, Brandon Pitts, Usha Rahn, Marvin Scruggs and Cierra Smith.

We are grateful to the veteran JIs who mentored new JIs both in the summer and fall. It shows their leadership skills and commitment to DH. These young people are Ellie Darbishire, Clare Devlin, Jamillah Kelly, Annabelle Moe, Liana Mosley, Haley Powell, Gabrielle Rashleigh, Lindsay Scott and Rachel Zettler.

Here are some teen perspectives on the experience:

How was Junior Interpreter Day (when they gave tours)?

I think that it went well. I was nervous at first but after I got going I really enjoyed it. May partner Cierra was amazing and I really had a ton of fun. . . . Some of the people in my groups were intimidating. When I said “uhm” I felt like they thought I didn’t know what I was talking about.”

“It was awesome. I did 2 days. I met people from all over and they enjoyed me!!”

Do you have career goals that the DH can help you with?

“No, not really. It taught me to deal with people better, so it helps more with life skills.”

“Most likely. I’m really into Art History and if I decide to be a professor, this experience will definitely help.”

What would you change?

“The selection of snacks.”

What did you find most useful in putting together your tour? “Reviewing and creating an imaginary tour.”

“Writing my main ideas down on paper really helped me collect my thoughts.”

What did you like best?

“I liked how we got to go into the house so often that I actually felt very comfortable in it while giving tours.”

What did you like least?

“The people. When we were outside a lot. Getting to tell people that I was a JI.”

“The first breath you take before you give your first solo (tour)! The whole experience was great.”

What did you like least?

“My evaluation tour. I was so nervous to get it right and do outstanding.”
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.

Remember the Davenport House Shop for holiday gift purchases!!