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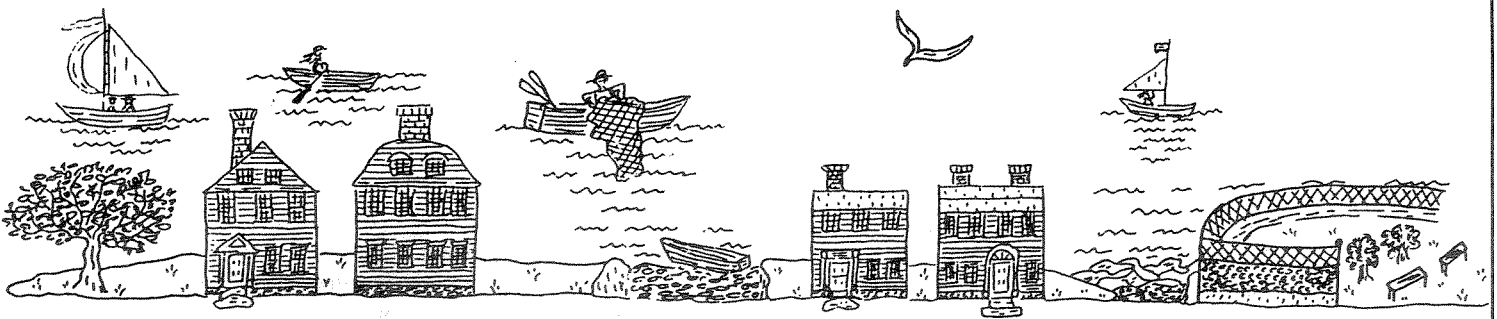
The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

AUGUST 1993

A Day on the Point By Land or By Sea



*Saturday, August 21
10am to 4pm*



The GREEN LIGHT

XXXVIII No. 4 AUGUST 1993

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Cook's Corner will return in the next issue.

Cover: Drawings by Eleanor Weaver,
composition by Nancy Espersen

Photo credits:

Page 7 & 14, Florence Archambault

Page 11, Nancy Espersen

Page 12, Amy Weintraub

Page 16, Phil Mosher

CALENDAR

August 21 (Raindate Aug. 22) -
"Day on the Point - By Land or
by Sea"

August 26 - New members cocktail
party - 6-8 p.m. - Villa Marina,
72 Washington Street

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849-4708

David Aguiar, 1st. V. President
849-3821

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(Note Phil's telephone number.
He is not the one listed in the
phone book.)

GREEN LIGHT

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for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store,
Poplar and Thames Streets; Aidinoff's
Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner Street;
Clipper Wine & Spirits, Third Street, and
the Walnut Street Market.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The summer months always seem to bring out the best and the worst of Newport. Very few communities have so many natural and cultural attractions that work in harmony with each other. Garden tours, concerts, historic exhibits, yacht races and the like abound in our city by the sea. Tourists drive for miles and endure the horrific conditions of the Jamestown and Newport bridges to experience the ambience of one of Rhode Island's biggest attractions.

Weekend revelers, however, also continue to visit our city and bring with them late night noise and leave behind early morning litter. July 4th weekend was especially difficult and probably best reflected by the two page litany in the **Daily News** of arrests and fines. I received numerous phone calls from members who grew weary of the noise, speeding cars, and trucks passing through our all too narrow streets. In fact, one gas lamp on Thames Street was lost because a huge moving van could not maneuver backing up the street. My conversation with the traffic sergeant, John Sperling, was minimally satisfactory as he was bemoaning the other areas of our city that were "worse" than the Point. We know the Point is unique, but that is no reason why our streets should not be supervised closely. We live on the Point to be near and "far" from the city's center. It is troubling to think that we may slowly lose the character of the Point because parts of the city are demanding a lion's share of services to contend with their chaotic conditions. We already have at least 13 neighborhood organizations in this city fighting for essentially the same quality of life. Why do we have to fight so hard for conditions and services that should be part and parcel of our City's Comprehensive Plan?

Speaking of the Comprehensive Plan, it would be telling to see how the cruise ship pier proposed for Goat Island would be consistent with the long term vision for the city. The media has been giving considerable coverage to the proposed pier. Many residents have detailed their thoughtful opinions in the newspapers. Our Board has received few letters from the membership, and we encourage the membership to continue sharing their thoughts so that they may be represented.

Lastly, as we look towards August and September, please remember August 21st (rain date August 22nd) for our "Day on the Point." Details follow in this issue. August 26th will be the date for the new members' cocktail party. Look forward to seeing you all at both events.

Christine Montanaro

A Day on the Point . .

Saturday, August 21 (rain date August 22)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Battery Park and Beyond

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Bake Sale and Coffee
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	House and Garden Tours Historic Exhibit
10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Point Hummer Contest at Battery Park Judging at 12:00
11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Boat Rides leaving from Sanford-Covell Dock 72 Washington Street
3 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Pie Baking Contest and Judging at Battery Park

Food and refreshments will be available at Battery Park and at selected sites throughout the day.

BAKE SALE

It's once again time to get out those wonderful recipes for the Point Bake Sale. This year we need TWICE as many goodies since it will be our biggest fund-raiser. I missed seeing some of our favorite and loyal bakers at the Point Picnic in June, but know you would like to help us out as always. Please call me to sign up your contribution.

The sale will be held at Battery Park on August 21st. You may deliver your delectables by 10 a.m. or I will pick them up August 20th. Again, please wrap in plastic wrap. Cookies, brownies, and bars sell best packaged in pairs. It is helpful to label what is inside the wrapping. A sign up sheet is posted at the Walnut Street Market or call me, Carol Marinan, at 841-5106. Remember, "you are the bake sale", so let's make it the most successful ever. Thank you in advance for you delicious contributions.

"Happy Baking"

PIE BAKING CONTEST

The very successful Pie Baking Contest will be back this year at "A Day on the Point". Maybe it will be an old family favorite or perhaps something new and different that will tantalize the judges' taste buds! Entries should be brought to Battery Park by 2:30 for a 3:00 judging. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place with a 4th place honorable mention. To obtain an entry form call Donna Segal at 848-7088.

POINT HUMMER CONTEST

Many definitions have been given to the term Point Hummer. Now let's hear yours! A Point Hummer Contest will be held at Battery Park as a part of "A Day on the Point". All you need to do to enter is give your definition of what or who is a Point Hummer. Entries will be taken from 10:00 a.m. until noon when the winners will be announced and prizes awarded. See you then!

. . By Land or By Sea

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN

Come to Battery Park on Saturday, August 21, and you will feel that you are back on the Point during the 50's and 60's - when "A Day on the Point" was an annual neighborhood event.

The Day on the Point Committee has worked hard to give you this day of nostalgia and no one should miss it.

The Committee has named the Day - THE POINT BY LAND OR BY SEA and that is exactly what is being offered.

There will be House and Garden Tours - and we all know how beautiful Point gardens are in August.

There will be Boat Tours along the coast of Washington Street.

A Bake Sale - (everything baked by "Pointers") - and fresh coffee all day.

Delicious food - prepared by the Doubletree Hotel.

An old-fashioned Pie Baking Contest - with celebrity judges.

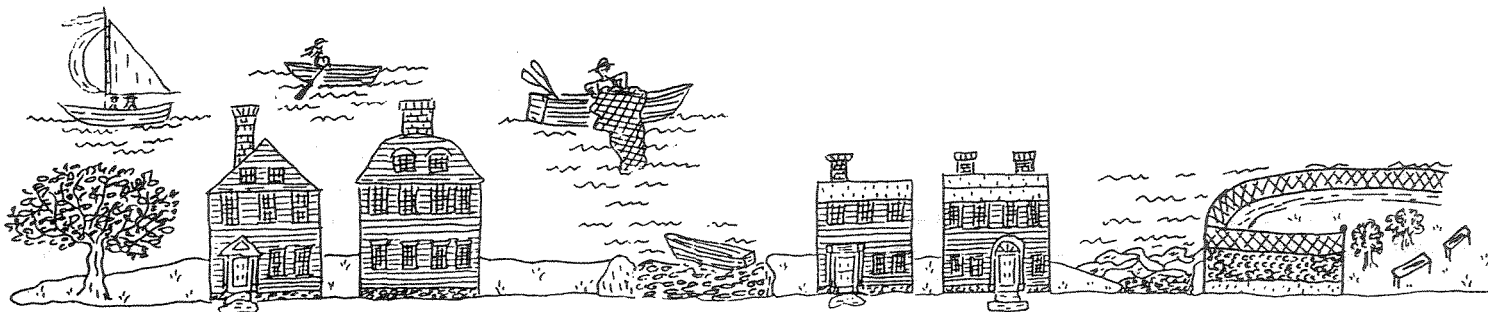
A special contest to see if we can finally determine what or who is a "Point Hummer".

An Historical Exhibit of significant events in the history of the Point.

And an opportunity to meet and visit with your friends and neighbors and relax in Battery Park.

The Day on the Point starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

Hope to see you in the Park August 21.



BEAUTIFICATION

It's such a pleasant experience to walk the Point this time of year and feast your eyes on the beautiful new or expanded gardens. There are many worth taking a peek at. As you take your walking tour, be sure to notice the sweet flowers that have been planted around trees; even telephone poles and street signs! Where ever a weed can grow, so can a flower.

Our Tree Warden Peter Simpson and crew have been busy trimming branches and cutting down dead trees. Many of these will be replaced. You will also see them doing work on the Marsh St. island. Mr. Simpson has come up with a plan to transplant some of the existing trees and foliage, while adding Fairy Roses as a ground cover, as well as new shrubs to hide the transformers.

Three azalea shrubs were donated to the Point and have been planted in Storer Park. Volunteers eagerly re-established the garden on the Marsh St. Connector at the entrance to our neighborhood. Before more planting could be done there, it was necessary to find a water source to cultivate that area. Gary Richards of the Doubletree Hotel has graciously agreed to have their garden maintenance take on that job. Steve Gautie of the Rhumb Line has been most cooperative in the accomplishment of this project as well.

In order to keep our beautification plans moving forward, we would like to establish a volunteer project called "Adopt a Block". There are many senior citizens unable to maintain the frontage of their property, such as pulling a few weeds, trimming a bush, or simply sweeping the sidewalk or gutter. These small helpful tasks might need to be done but once a month. Giving a little time to a friend or a neighbor would be so appreciated and would enhance the beauty of your own property at the same time. We would like a volunteer for each block. Please call me to sign up at 841-5106. We can all make a small but significant contribution.

Thanks to those who have taken on watering in our parks. A special thanks to Anne Reynolds for her valuable assistance and guidance with our projects and my transition into the Beautification chair.

Thanks also go to Mary Rommel for making this a smooth transition and encouraging me to follow her footsteps.

This, however, will be with some difficulty, since she has done a wonderful job for so many years.

Think "Beautification"!

Carol Marinan

New Members Cocktail Party

Thursday, August 26

6 p.m - 8 p.m.

*Villa Marina
(Sanford - Covell House)
72 Washington Street*

"OLDPORT DAYS"

The format for the "Day on the Point", which will replace the Point fair this year, brings to mind the "Oldport Days" which we wrote about in the August, 1986 issue of **The Green Light**.

At that time Fisher Benson told us, "From the records at the Newport Historical Society and various recollections, there were four "Oldport Days" - 1929, 1932, 1936 and 1938. The main thrust was towards entertainment rather than the sale of diverse goods."

Virginia Covell told us that "The idea of historical restoration was beginning to take hold of public imagination and the members of the Oldport Association were especially receptive."

A small two-page booklet explains that the celebrations were designed to raise funds for the Historical Society. The Oldport Association was formed to help restore and rejuvenate the Point area and we hope to reprint an article by Fisher Benson in a future issue which documents the work of the various organizations which helped to bring that about.

But back to "Oldport Days". Washington Street was closed off to traffic. Houses were bedecked in flowers, and young girls in Colonial costumes acted as hostesses. The celebration was designed to capture the imagination of all of Newport and we certainly hope that the upcoming "Day on the Point" will succeed in doing the same!

Florence Archambault

REPAST & REMEMBRANCE

The gathering and exhibit at the White Horse Tavern held June 5th was a delightful way to spend a Saturday afternoon. It is a toss-up as to whether the delicious hors d'oeuvres or the exhibit were the star of the day.

Seriously, though, Anita Raphael did a super job of setting up the exhibit by utilizing photos and newspaper articles of yesteryear. Enlarged photo copies made them easy to read and peruse. It was interesting to see which people were in them and what houses were featured. As a matter of fact, Suzanne Whitley discovered a **Providence Journal** article about her house that she had never seen before and accommodating Anita ran upstairs in the tavern and using the copier was able to present Suzanne with a copy of her own.

We were amused and entertained by being able to look through old scrapbooks. It appears that the Historical Committee, Anita and Rowan Howard, are off to a running start in the organizing of the Point Association's history. Those who didn't attend missed a good time.

Florence Archambault

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Babcock
Nicole Bernabo
Lydia Bernier
Elizabeth Bessette
Tom Cloud
Jane Holdsworth
Roger, Kathryn, and Molly Kirby
Patricia Murphy
Paul Norton
Mary Teixeira
Mr. and Mrs. David Waller
Ann Wiley

Membership dues for the Point Association run from October 1 through September 30. Thanks to those of you who have already sent in your renewals for 1994. I will be at "Day on the Point" on August 21 for those of you who would like to renew at that time.

An ongoing challenge is to keep the mailing list accurate. Please let me know of any corrections or changes either by calling me at 846-2907 or writing to Membership, The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport RI 02840.

Nancy Espersen
Membership

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

The annual Secret Garden Tour surpassed itself again this year. One hundred and seventy-five volunteers helped 2500 guests enjoy Point gardens in the glory of a perfect June weekend.

The three-day event is the result of a full year's planning by Myra DuValley and the board of the Benefactors of the Arts, who work tirelessly on the project and spend the proceeds on an ever-growing number of programs in the field of arts for students of our island schools.




3 BRIDGE STREET

The tour always has moments that are worth all the work. Some guests come to the same gardens every year to see how they have grown and changed from previous years, and even remember plants that have gone. They introduce themselves to the owners and tell of ideas they have taken home to use themselves. Point gardens come in all sizes and varieties, so have something for every gardener.

The Benefactors wish to thank everyone who helped hostess, sell plants, serve lunches, and attended so well to all the details which made such a pleasant few days. The neighborhood never looked better!

Anne Reynolds



TEN SPEED SPOKES

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Newport, Rhode Island 02840
401-847-5609



MORE THANKS TO MARY

Mary Heinz Rommel is a friend of about 20 years. She's been an active member of the Naval Officers Wives Garden Club and it was through her request that I lecture and demonstrate flower arranging for them that I met her. Her position in the Point Association as Beautification Chairperson was a job that she worked at diligently...asking the city to cut the grass in the parks when it was needed; replacing rubbish barrels to maintain our clean appearance for visitors. Her other projects included discussing brick sidewalks, adding young trees to our streets as outright purchases and as memorials, planting bulbs for spring beauty, and filling the tubs at Battery Park for summer enjoyment. She, with her committee, accomplished many things with city cooperation that otherwise might not have been done. As president of the Point Association during the 70s and the early 90s, it was a pleasure to work with Mary. Whatever was requested of her Beautification Committee, she always found time to give that little "extra" that made our Point area so delightful to be a part of. My tribute to Mary, as she retires from the Board, is that she is my friend and I value that friendship, and am grateful for all her efforts during my tenure as president. Her invaluable leadership as Beautification Chairperson has earned her much respect from those she came in contact with for her gentle persuasion in "getting the job done."

Joseph P.T. Vars

THANK YOU, MARY!!

Mary Rommel has given unselfishly of her time and energy through at least six terms as head of the Beautification Committee.

During her tenure, she has inspired many to participate in improving our immediate surroundings. She has arranged and directed numerous street and memorial tree plantings, garden contests and seasonal flower plantings and cleanup programs for our streets, parks and waterfront.

The Board and I hope you join us in expressing our gratitude for her efforts as she passes the chairpersonship of the Beautification Committee to Carol Marinan.

David Aguiar



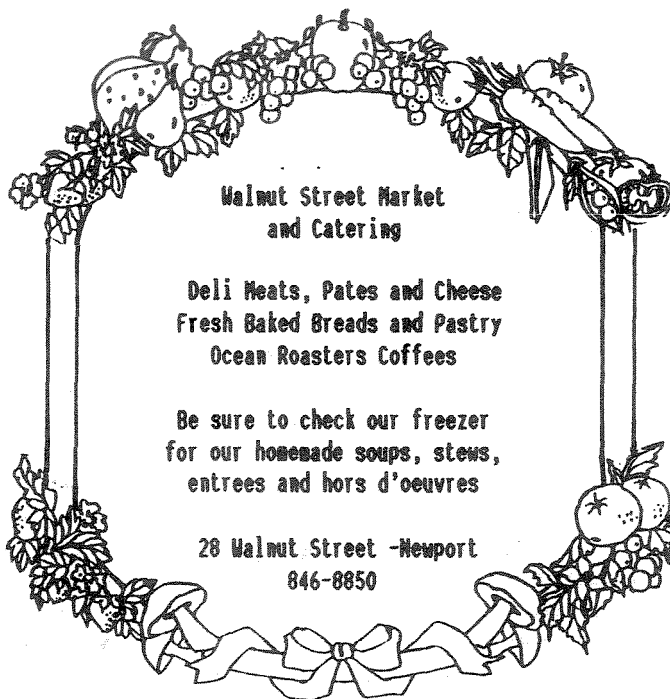
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Joseph P. T. Vars



OUR PARKS ARE GRANDSTAND SEATS

Recently Pointers had grandstand seats to watch the arrival and departure of two historical sailing ships...the **Bluenose II** and the replica of the **Bounty**, constructed in 1961 for the movie, "Mutiny on the Bounty."

Canada's **Bluenose I**, a fishing schooner, and known as the "Queen of the North Atlantic", was designed by a Nova Scotian, William Roue and launched in 1921. **Bluenose I** was built to win the International Fishermen's Trophy, which she did in 1938. Later, in 1945, she foundered on a Haitian reef.

Bluenose II was built (1963) to the same plans. She has the largest working main sail in the world. Not wanting to challenge her famous predecessor, **Bluenose II** does not race. She is Nova Scotia's goodwill ambassador. Her image has graced the Canadian dime since 1947. Certainly her stately arrival in Newport Harbor this June was an event that drew Pointers, and many other Newporters, to Battery and Storer Parks. The parks provide a grand view of harbor happenings.

Another June arrival was the replica of the fabled sailing ship, **H.M.S. Bounty**. An interesting note: one of the authors of "Mutiny on the Bounty", Charles Nordoff, was a guest as a child in the Benson house at 62 Washington Street.

The new **Bounty's** maiden voyage took her from Pitcairn Island across the Pacific to the Republic of Panama, where she docked in Balboa, the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal. The sailing ship had several of mutineer Fletcher Christian's descendants on board. The guest of honor was another Fletcher Christian, great-grandson of the mutineer.

The movie, and the **Bounty** too, received a great deal of publicity, and we were among those journalists sent to cover the story. AP and UPI, Reuters, and

many Latin American journalists converged on the sailing ship, and our Panama paper was the designated host to Fletcher Christian. We gave him a tour of the city and took him out for dinner.

Christian, a man in his 50s, had never been off Pitcairn Island. He spoke a strange kind of pidgin English, but what we remember most about him was his shyness and his confusion. The flashing of photographers' bulbs, and the questions fired at him, reduced him to absolute silence.

We remember best the burly, bearded crew members, and their kindness to our two small sons who were invited aboard the sailing vessel. Thomas Shawn, our oldest son, was much impressed. "Someday," he said, "I'll sail a ship like this one." Presently he is a crew member aboard the squarerigger **H.M.S. Rose**.

Pointers watched these ships arrive and depart (the **Bounty** headed for permanent berthing in Fall River), their white sails set, and the crews smartly on deck. These were events which served to remind us of our nation's history, and the upcoming Fourth of July. Again, on the Fourth, the parks served their purpose... the best view of the fireworks from Fort Adams.

Anita McAndrews



Splash Some Color into Your Life

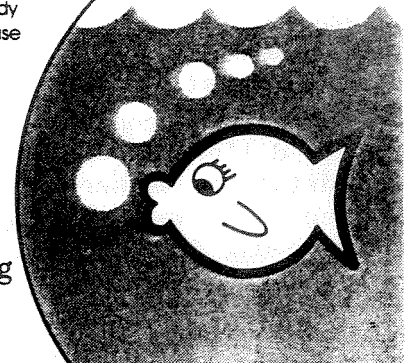


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CAN SEVERAL PEOPLE
WORK IN THE SAME KITCHEN?

A Point Memory of my Parents

Gaston S. P. de Bethune (1877-1966)
and

Marthe Terlinden de Bethune (1881-1978)

In his old age, my father began getting up earlier and earlier. Mother was still active with her lace and lingerie business, often late into the night. She could not keep up with Daddy's increasingly "early-bird" schedule. "But I've got to get up to make Daddy's breakfast," she insisted.

"No, you do not," I tried to tell her. "Please, let him putter in the kitchen. he has nothing to do."

Dad had worked in chemistry laboratories. There is but a thin line between a laboratory and a kitchen. But when he was brought up, a century ago, the social pattern did not even allow him into the kitchen. Now, at 75 and starting to rise before the crack of dawn, what do you know, he discovered that he could warm up old coffee, and, better yet, make new coffee. Before long, he was making toast.

My father was a neat and meticulous person. He soon advanced to a three-minute egg, done perfectly. Next, he undertook fresh orange juice, which he improved in his own style by including solid chunks of carefully skinned segments. This delightful tidbit he served in a bowl and you ate it with a spoon. I can never forget how he used to bring it up to Mother as an expression of his dearest love for her.

If I floated around the kitchen in the morning, I was careful not to disturb what had become a ritual. But Dad would not let me go by without making sure I admired the view of Narragansett Bay with the reflections of the rising sun flashing on the distant Jamestown windows across the water.

Dad learned to find his way in the kitchen late in life, but he enjoyed it for 15 years until the very morning he died, at almost 90.

Mother's approach to the kitchen was entirely different. While Dad was careful and meditative, Mother was more like a hurricane. She knew about good food and worthy menus. Her interest was in serious projects...adventure.

She, too, had to master the kitchen relatively late in life, after our family emigrated to America in 1928. She was 60 in 1941 when we moved from New York to 36 Thames Street, Newport, and she decided to start baking bread in the old-fashioned coal range. From Fisher Benson she learned to make pies. She clipped recipes from the *New York Times*. Yorkshire Pudding became a favorite. Then someone initiated her to pop-overs. A particular success was a light, puffy omelette that she made in the oven. And, in season, there were projects of canning pears and peaches in Mason jars. That was "for Dad."

But those were not everyday projects. By 1953, when we moved to Washington Street, I had long been elected to preside over the kitchen for the daily routine. Somehow, we were able to work together in the same kitchen. Dad could never approach the idea of dishwashing. Putting one's hands in the water seemed an impossible feat. But he was an excellent dryer, and better yet, he put everything away in flawless order. He also learned to set the table and to clear it, and to store things to perfection in the refrigerator.

After Father died, Mother and I continued for 12 years, and we began to work more closely in the kitchen. The summer before she died, at 96, we had still canned jars and jars of currant jelly. We had worked out an efficient division of labor, by which she handled one part of the work and I dovetailed the other. Four hands together, not a drop spilled.

However, my family experience is not my only observation of people working together in a kitchen. In my 20s I became acquainted with Saint Joseph's Catholic Worker House in New York's lower East Side. In those Depression days, there was a group of unrelated men who had come in on the bread line and remained to help. Maybe one had been a cook with the Merchant Marine. Somehow, these guys handled the unsophisticated cooking equipment and managed to produce meals, not only for a themselves, but also for a soup line that sometimes went around the block. This volunteering still goes on today in CW houses all over the country.

Today also, in the lower level of Saint Joseph's Church, a group of retired gentlemen volunteer every Monday to produce and serve a well-balanced meal for the hungry. I wish you could see how well these men work together.

(continued on next page)

For many years also, I experienced how the members of Mount Olivet Church, on upper Thames Street (now Community Baptist Church on West Broadway) raised funds by holding their famous Southern Chicken Dinners. Although space might be tight in the kitchen where the women labored over a hot stove, I never witnessed anything but cooperation and mutual courtesy.

Then there are our own Point Association pot-luck suppers, silver teas and Point Fair lunches where groups of neighbors volunteer to work together for the benefit of all.

Yes, people can squabble or disagree in a kitchen, an office, a factory, a workshop. But, if they want to, they can also find ways of enjoying cooperation, and even, as my parents so clearly showed me, of learning satisfying new skills into extended old age.

Ade Bethune

ROSALYS (POSEY) HALL

In the last issue Posey Hall thanked all those who had given of their time, energy and plants for the Annual Point Plant sale. In this issue we would like to thank her for all of her time and energy without which the sale would not be the success which it is every year. This year's sale raised almost \$1400 for the Point Association...and much of that was due to Posey's diligent and gentle way of encouraging others to participate in this endeavor.

There is always the assumption that readers know about the people who work so hard for the success of the association, but often there are those who do not know their backgrounds. Although born in New York City, Rosalys Hall spent some of the summers of her youth in Newport with her great-aunt, Maud Howe Elliott. She is the great-granddaughter of Julia Ward Howe.

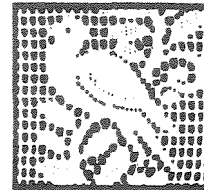
After her schooling she spent several years teaching nursery school and French. It is not surprising that we find that she is the author of several children's books since she comes from a prolific writing family, including her father and her great-aunt, Laura Richards, author of Captain January. Some of her books can be



found in the children's room at the Redwood Library. After she took a course in creative writing for children at Columbia University, she sold her first book and then worked in publishing until she retired and settled in Newport.

She has done many things for the Point Association including a stint as editor of **The Green Light**. She can often be seen walking the Point with her dogs. We are deeply grateful to Posey for her dedication. Thank you, Posey!

Florence Archambault



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WORLD SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Aparna, a college freshman of Indian descent from New Jersey, shared her excitement with the small group of writers gathered on the lawn overlooking the Cliff Walk. She'd stayed up past curfew the night before, talking in the stairwell of her dorm with a young black woman from Tanzania and a white South African student, Nelson Mandela.

Aparna and the other ten writing students in our group began each session together on the sloping lawn behind O'Hare Academic Center by taking two minutes each to talk about a new awareness, that came through an intercultural experience, or by making an unexpected friend.

Jamie, a young poet from Maine, shared the enthusiasm that the bus ride from URI had generated. "We're planning to lobby to make the World Scholar Athlete Games a six-month program," he said. The kids on the bus agreed with Jamie that meeting people his age from around the world was one of the most powerful experiences of their lives. "It's just like what you've been teaching us to do in our writing," he said. "I'm dropping the social mask, and just being real. The friendships I'm making aren't superficial."



Amy, kneeling left with young writers. Amongst this group of scholars are students from Poland, Tanzania and the Dominican Republic

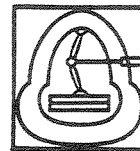
As one of the designers of the curriculum for the writers, and one of the instructors during the Games, I spent three days each with three different groups of sixteen to nineteen year-old writers, studying first fiction, then non-fiction, and finally poetry. Many of the writing exercises I assigned were based on

their own life experiences at the games. I often asked them to close their eyes and remember how they felt when they first arrived, or when they engaged in conversation with someone who initially appeared very different from themselves, or to reflect on a single incident that transformed a preconception, that gave them that tiny "ah-ha" of new awareness. By contemplating and then writing, the writers were able to put their experiences in a context that made sense to them. Writing clarified their feelings and deepened their understanding of the many encounters and events of the Games.

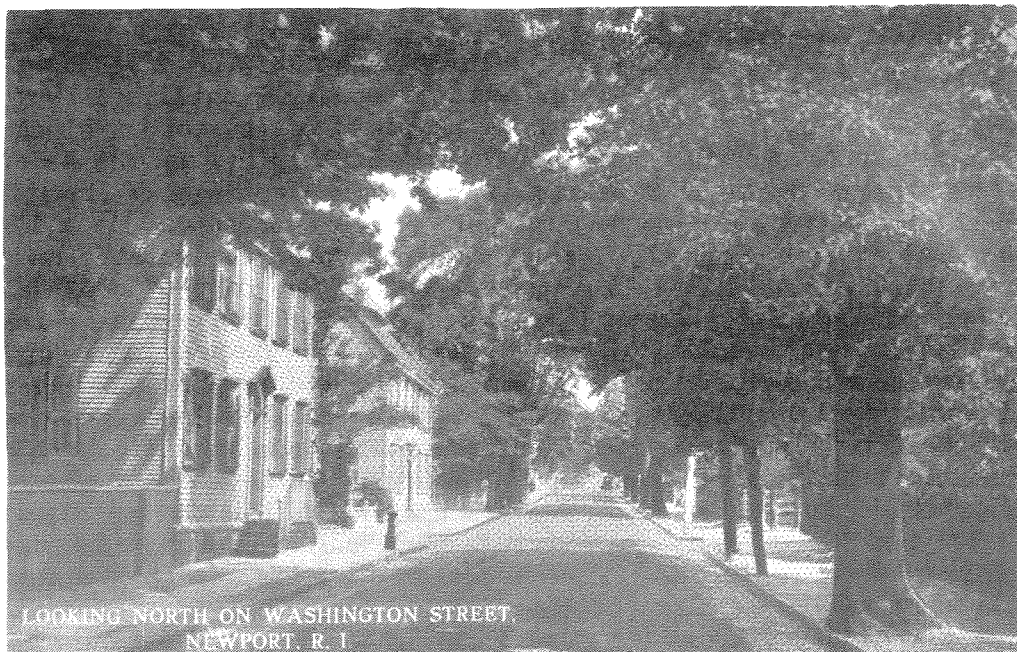
Mark, a student from Michigan, wrote to me afterwards. "You helped me find powerful personal images that fit perfectly into my stories, and you helped me find a process to release my inner voice." And, you Mark, and Serian from Tanzania, and Constantina from Greece, and Yami from Africa, and all my earnest students from around the world, you have given me an image of what peace sounds like. My students heard it too in the quiet we created together as we each listened to our own hearts. When I asked all 150 writers to close their eyes that first day and let go of their expectations, to sigh out self-judgement, and to breathe and relax into the very core of who they really were, I had no idea that the power of finding their own voices would sound like peace.

Amy Weintraub

(Amy lives on LaSalle Place. She assisted with the 1992 "Day on the Point". She also teaches yoga at the YMCA.)



The Third & Elm Press
Alexander Nesbitt Ilse Buchert Nesbitt
29 Elm Street, Newport



HISTORY ON POST CARDS

We are still looking for post cards of the Point. There is so much history pictured on them that does not appear anywhere else, so if you have some unusual ones, please contact me.

Florence Archambault

846-9024

This card (from the early 1900s) shows Washington Street looking towards the North. The abundance of trees lining the sidewalks serves to point out what a large number of them have been lost to disease, nature's fury in the guise of hurricanes and wind storms, and man's indifference to their preservation. They can never be recovered but we should be grateful that the city has seen fit to put into operation a plan to save those remaining and to add to them with new plantings.

GARDENER'S CORNER

The mosquitos are terrible!

I call your attention to an article in the July Consumer Report which warns people about putting insect repellent on the skin. They recommend spraying clothing and letting it dry first.

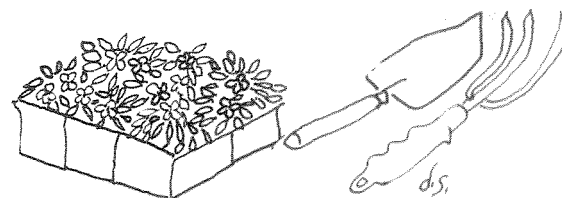
My lawn is brown!

As I write this, so is mine. No grass to mow in the heat and no need to water...it won't do any good! It's not dead, but dormant and will green up when the rains come with the cooler weather. I water only tiny lawns. While we're talking "water", never use the sprinkler or spray the flowers directly. I know it's like rain in nature but Nature is only interested in seed production. We want to prolong blooming. So we deadhead (cut off dead flowers) to force the plant to make new flowers. When the plants make seeds, perennials go dormant and annuals die... so water the roots. There are many devices for watering soil, but I prefer letting water flow at a trickle as I work. Holding a hose is boring and ineffectual.

What do I do about weeds without poisoning them and damaging the environment?

It will do little good for the EPA to clean up poisonous wastes if homeowners continue off-point contamination. New York state has cleaned up the Hudson but is still trying to persuade homeowners that little applications of insect and herb "icides" are a major threat to human and animal health. So...What to do? Number one is having healthy lawns and gardens. Healthy plants are less affected by insects and diseases. Learn about fertilizers and use plenty of peat or other humus when you plant, and cultivate it in as you weed. Add regular watering. Most plants need one inch of rain or water a week. You'll have fewer weeds and insect damage. Promise!

Anne Reynolds



JANET'S IDEA

In many ways it's our ties to the past that make our Point neighborhood so special. There are numerous stories of the energetic, creative, far-sighted and generous residents who have added to our history. Some of these stories have been told in **The Green Light**, and we continue to search and hope you will help with your additions. The Point Association was incorporated in 1955 and shows how a determined and dedicated people can affect what happens in their community. But whose brainchild was this? Well, here's another story.

Peter Simon was a shipmaster who lived at 25 Bridge Street, next to the Cove, and whose son, Peter Simon, Jr. (the dancing master) eloped with the unfortunate Hannah Robinson. That's the ancient history, but in the late 1940s John Perkins Brown purchased this house with the daunting task of restoring it. Mr. Brown had a hand and plan in several restoration projects and in the early 50s sold the house on Bridge Street to Edwin (Ned) and Janet Brownell. Ned had visited former family in that location and came back to Newport to work as a silversmith at Wheelock's on Clarke Street.

These were the early days when a few visionaries saw through the shabby exteriors to the Colonial gems underneath.

At that time Eleanor and George Weaver were tackling the George Gibbs house at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Second Streets. The Weavers knew everyone; the Brownells were newcomers, but Janet had an idea. One day she called Eleanor and asked if she and Ned could come over some evening to talk.

The talk turned into the Point Association, but not until a lot of groundwork was laid by the two couples who expanded the group by the addition of George's brother and wife and Eleanor's sister and husband.

These eight took hold of Janet's idea and worked on many fronts, setting up aims and principles, by-laws and a block-by-block \$1 membership drive. The Redevelopment Agency was clearing out upper Thames Street and local bar owners were looking to the nearby Point for relocation spots. This was before the days of zoning and historic districts so there were many battle lines to be drawn. Incorporation was called for and accomplished in 1955 with the Point Association supported by charter members from the neighborhood.

The Brownells have gone, but the Weavers here at Washington and Chestnut Streets have had their hands in many restoration projects. We thank them for this insight into that evening when Janet's idea was discussed in their kitchen and the part it played in preserving the residential integrity of the Point.

Kay O'Brien



DOROTHY SANSCHAGRIN

Dorothy Sanschagrín, **The Green Light's** resident artist, left the area in June to settle in New Orleans near her daughter, Jeannie.

Dorothy came to Newport from St. Louis after retiring from Civil Service as a technical artist, and we will miss the whimsical pen and ink drawings that populated the pages of **The Green Light**.

Any time that an idea was thrown out for an illustration, Dorothy would reply, "Oh, I think I can do that." And do that she did. She has given permission for us to reuse the drawings we have whenever we wish and hopefully we will be able to obtain some through the mail. Meanwhile, we wish her Godspeed and good wishes.

Florence Archambault

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I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

All winter the small rowboats and flat-bottomed skiffs lay unattended, tied to the chain-linked fence of the driftway. Snow, ice, and cold rain fell upon them. Few people took their daily walk along the Washington Street shore, unwilling to face the piercing cold wind of north or south.

In April a spring thaw brought the season's change. Suddenly boys of all ages appeared, examining closely the row of boats; determined, each one, to have a boat of his very own on the water that summer. Ads appeared in the *Daily News*, with tempting bargains in boats for sale. The knocker of 62 Washington Street was sounded loud and often, with inquiries of any boat for sale on the Point. Younger boys delved fearlessly into the cold water, bringing up some wretched derelict, battered by the winter's storms. They tried to nail on a few planks, but that didn't work.

Oars became extremely important, providing the means to locomotion. It was easy to row, almost anyone could learn. Rowing races took place often, girls being just as good as boys. Picnic food in baskets was rowed out to a sailboat for a day's expedition, with benefit to the young rower.

Lost in this period of time...in which outboards were conceived and brought to a high point, was the gentle art of sculling. Perhaps a spin-off from rowing, sculling was accomplished with one oar, which rested in a half-round socket in the stern of the skiff. Standing amidship, the sculler wiggled the oar back and forward, side to side, making a figure eight of a sorts, with the paddle end of the oar.

This motion had to be fast, or the oar would jump out of the socket. In fact, pressure to keep the oar's end in the water, was really the secret.

I don't believe that many people can scull any more...it's another lost art. But you could work up a good speed sculling and it only took one oar.

Esther Fisher Benson

With their successful bid of \$1.1 million, a first step has been taken by the Thames Science Center to build a science and technology museum in Newport. The museum bought the 2.4 acre site at the Washington Street and Long Wharf corner at an auction held by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Earlier plans had called for a 198-suite Hilton Hotel on this vacant lot. A pile of railroad ties is a reminder that formerly this was the end of the railway line connecting with passenger steamers on the New York/Fall River run. The director and chief officer of the Thames Science Center is Jane Holdsworth who has recently moved to Washington Street and is a new member of the Point Association. We look forward to hearing more of plans and progress in our next issue. Meanwhile, if members have any questions, feel free to call Jane at home at 847-2161 or at the TSC Preview Center at 77 Long Wharf, 849-6966.

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THIS YEAR'S PICNIC

Once again, weather made our Point Association picnic on June 23rd a most enjoyable occasion. There was a very stiff breeze off the water in the early afternoon, but by picnic time it had subsided enough to give us perfect picnic weather. About 100 persons of all ages arrived with baskets, coolers, chairs and blankets. As usual, the view over the bay, the boats at anchor or moving on the water, the Green Light, and the beautiful garden enhanced the evening. Children romped on the lawn, elders relaxed or strolled around to visit with neighbors. Many thanks to Anne Reynolds for sharing her lawn, her garden, and her magnificent views, and to Ross Freeman, who helped with the coffee. What a good way to start off the summer festivities!

Kit Hammett



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LATEST UPDATE

Asking questions or volunteering are two ways to learn more about the plans and progress of The Star of the Sea. The Board of Directors of this non-profit corporation is appointing two committees to develop ideas for the former retreat house, "The Cenacle", on Washington and Battery Streets, into a cooperative community of elders. Now that the option to buy has been signed, the Design Committee is discussing preliminary floor plans and lifestyle for the 40-some members of the future community and elder day care center. The Development Committee is dealing with matters of cooperative law and finances and aims to provide more affordable costs than those of a typical homeowner who now lives alone in a house that is too large. A phone call to 847-5428 is all it takes for an update or an opportunity to express your interest.

Kay O'Brien



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COMMON BURIAL GROUND

About 35 volunteers showed up June 12th for a cleanup day at the Common Burial Ground. Work on the 10-acre historic cemetery, bordered by Farewell and Warner Streets, was organized by the Newport Preservation Alliance. The morning was spent picking up litter, and clearing overgrown grass, weeds and brush from the old headstones. Another cleanup day is being planned for Saturday, August 14. If you plan to attend, wear long pants and gardening gloves. Bring loppers, pruning saws or other gardening tools if you have them.

In conjunction with the cleanup and the Newport Historical Society's Summer Meeting, a day long symposium on historical cemeteries will be conducted on Thursday, August 12. Work shops and slide shows on historic cemeteries, including the Common Burial ground, will be given. For information, about either the symposium or the cleanup, call the Newport Preservation Alliance at 847-0546.

The City Council has established a Common Burial Ground Advisory Commission. Its purpose will be to develop a plan for the preservation, restoration and management of the cemetery.



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POINTER-IN-THE-NEWS

In our June issue we profiled Anita Raphael, co-chairperson of the Point Association's Historical Committee. On another page in this issue, there is news of the "Repast and Remembrance" gathering she planned and developed at the White Horse Tavern in June. **The Providence Journal** of June 18th carried an interesting article about Anita's "Newport on Foot" Tours, with photos in color and in black and white, and an account of what she calls "above ground archaeology" about Newport's colonial-era buildings.

Kit Hammett



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FROM COUNCILWOMAN NAPOLITANO

"Oohs and aahs," punctuated by "unbelievable" were the descriptions overheard during my recent Secret Garden Tour. What a delightful experience and wonderful event for our residents and visitors! The Point, in a tasteful way, has done more for the promotion of Newport and its beauty than any other major event which the city has sponsored. Thank you for sharing your homes and your gardens!

Many residents have called me in regard to various city ordinances, particularly the "noise ordinance." Most recognize Newport as a tourist-based community. This does not preclude our visitors or residents from using common sense and courtesy. If a problem is not being addressed adequately by the city, please contact me to follow-up your efforts.

Some believe the "golden goose" is our tourist business. The "golden goose" is the preservation of our neighborhoods with their diversity of cultures, demographics, architecture, and, above all, the quality of life we should provide citizens year-round. Newport has long been known for its hospitality to its visitors. However, what used to be isolated abuses are fast becoming everyday occurrences, and as hosts it is insulting.

The Council is working on a number of ordinances which should alleviate some of the problems we have experienced. We also have requested greater enforcement of laws already on the books to protect the majority of law-abiding citizens. From the initial numbers of citations issued in July, there is a dramatic increase of people appearing in court for these types of criminal activities.

There have been some references in the news about the Marine Terminal, with a location on Goat Island to accommodate visiting cruise ships. I have been advised by Councilman Stokes and others working on this project for the state, that there will be a series of public workshops scheduled prior to any decisions being made.

In closing, I am happy to inform you of two decisions which will favorably impact the Point. After a series of discussions, it was decided that parking on the Pine Street extension will be prohibited after dark and before dawn. A sign to that effect will go up within the next few weeks. Any vehicles in that

location after dark should be reported directly to the Police Department for removal.

Secondly, a number of projects were eliminated from the Capital Improvement Plan for this year, with the exception of two. The first being the improvement to the access road to the City Yard, in conjunction with a road cut from the state, which will eliminate the trucks using the upper part of residential neighborhoods in the 1st Ward.

The other capital improvement which is scheduled is the repair of the seawall at the Hunter House. The project will be started soon and the cost will be shared by the Preservation Society, which recently increased its annual donation to the city from \$15,000 to \$50,000 a year. I consider both of these projects significant, and would like to thank the Preservation Society and Bruce Bartlett, Planning Director for the city of Newport, (also a Pointer) for their time and energy given to these endeavors.

Jeanne Marie Napolitano



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REMEMBERING ESTHER MORTON BATES

(The following is a talk about Esther Morton Bates given by Esther Fisher Benson upon the death of Mrs. Bates which was reported in the last issue of **The Green Light**.)

"For all of us older ones who heard Ess sing when her voice was at its prime, as well as for you younger ones who never had that privilege, this seems an appropriate time to think of her musical career and its culmination in her singing. It was her father who first recognized and encouraged her. She graduated from Radcliffe, with a Magna cum Laude in music. This involved the study of piano and cello as well as some singing. During her college years she was a member of the Radcliffe Choral Society, and later was chosen to sing soprano with the Harvard Choral Society. There followed some years when she took voice lessons and, finally, she took part in the programs of the Concord Summer School where, under the able direction of Thomas Whitney Surette, she came in contact with music teachers and enthusiasts who gathered from all over the country to increase their skills.

Then, with her Radcliffe classmate, Emma Denkiner, she put on a series of Elizabethan concerts with Ess singing the soprano and Emma playing the harpsichord. Dressed in colorful costumes of the 16th century, they displayed real ability and the concerts were well received. After this Ess ventured into a new field. She got a job as music teacher in the prestigious North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, Illinois. It was while here

that she received the invitation to sing the soprano part in Brahms' great Requiem with the Boston Symphony.

Her mother, on learning of this great honor, sent her a telegram saying "Mother proud as a peacock." And well she might have felt proud, for Ess in Boston performed magnificently. With the coming of the Depression and a failing interest in arts and concerts, Ess moved to Newport where she enjoyed playing in amateur concerts and giving singing lessons.

With her marriage to Gordon Bates, she began a new career as wife and mother of his three daughters. Ess's beautiful voice still lives on for those of us who heard her sing. Fisher Benson remembers, "I have never heard anything more beautiful than her voice - steady, clear as a bell, soaring to the line of Brahms' great Requiem 'I shall again behold him.'"

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