The Green Light
Bulletin of the Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

Spring 1995

St. John's Guild Hall
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Page 7 - Nancy Espersen
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Art Work: Ilse Nesbitt, Dorothy Sanschagrin
and Eleanor Weaver

OFFICERS

Christine Montanaro, President 849-4708
Donna Segal, 1st Vice President 848-7088
Robert Majewski, 2nd Vice President 846-6194
Lois Dickison, Corresponding Secretary 846-4367
Ben Gilson, Recording Secretary 847-9243
Philip Mosher, Treasurer 849-4708
(Note Phil's telephone number. He is not the one
listed in the phone book.)

GREEN LIGHT

CO-EDITORS
Florence Archambault
Katharine O'Brien

STAFF
Esther Fisher Benson
Nancy Espersen
Rowan Howard
Anita McAndrews
Ann Reynolds
Sharon Schultz
Joe Vars

Virginia Covell - Editor Emeritus

John Howard - Advertising
Katharine O'Brien, Nancy Espersen and
Sharon Schultz - Circulation
Nancy Espersen - Typing

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at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar and Thames
Streets; Aidinoff's Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner
Street; Clipper Wine & Spirits, Third Street and
Walnut Market, Third and Walnut.
I hope this letter finds each and every one in good health and well on the way to keeping the New Year’s resolutions. It was a gentle holiday season because of mother nature’s benevolence. We look forward to a magnificent spring to awaken us in the proper fashion.

The Holly Tea and caroling were two ways the association celebrated the season. Many thanks to Dede Elster and her faithful helpers as their hard work and efforts ensured yet another successful Holly Tea. The caroling was a hit because everyone had an enjoyable time even when we were singing.

Upcoming events are outlined in the text of this issue. Please mark your calendars accordingly. We look forward to seeing everyone come out of hibernation.

The last several months have been busy with members attending several community meetings. It is always inspiring to see how diligently association members work for the community. It is especially encouraging to see the very lengthy volunteer list generated from the membership renewals and applications. Thank you to all those who are willing to help out in an active way. We will be contacting you as needs arise.

One of the most demanding and possibly more pivotal committees is the American Shipyard Task Force. The task force is charged with reviewing proposals for land use at the last remaining shipyard in Newport. We are a committee of thirteen and represent a good cross section of the community that includes four Point residents as well as Waterfront and Save the Bay, and city officials and commission members.

In exchange for the city’s preliminary support of a $3.6 million federal loan, the shipyard has to work with the city on a land-use plan with the task force. It is important to remember that this opportunity may very well be the first time a private owner of waterfront property has worked with a city-appointed group about land use.

The primary goals of the task force are to ensure that the 8.8 acre parcel of land should continue to be owned by a single entity, that the yard remains as a working shipyard, that the property creates new jobs with a variety of marine-related uses, and that the development of the property is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Underlying these goals is the hope that the present property owner can be fiscally viable to ensure the longevity of the shipyard and its operations.

Preliminary plans presented to the task force by the architects from the Newport Collaborative propose buildings along Washington Street be leased to marine-related retail shops. In addition, in order to accommodate an expanded marina/yacht yard, there has been a preliminary request to extend into the channel by as much as 350 feet. The task force could not support extending a marina into the channel by 350 feet but is willing to review a more conservative plan if the final intent would mean more jobs year round.

If you have been reading the newspapers, there are many controversial factors surrounding the American Shipyard. The shipyard owes thousands of dollars to the city in back taxes. It has also been revealed that Mr. Kreso Bezmalinovic, the present owner, pleaded guilty in 1988 to federal charges of paying an illegal gratuity to an agent from the Environmental Protection Agency. He was sentenced to three years probation and was fined $10,000.

The task force will be making its final recommendations to the City Council by its March 22 meeting. To use a phrase coined by the chairman, Dennis McCoy, our recommendations would be a plan for the property that is “viable financially, flexible enough to accommodate changes in the ship and yacht repair industry, and to be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, the Point.”

The task force meetings are public and held at City Hall on alternating Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is March 2. We encourage you to attend.
POINT PLANT SALE
MAY 13

As the days grow noticeably longer, we’re thinking of spring and the Point Plant Sale. The date this year is Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will again take place in Anita McAndrews’ beautiful garden at 101 Washington Street. Anne Reynolds and I are co-chairing the event.

The organizational meeting will be Wednesday, March 22, 4 p.m. at Anne’s home, 88 Washington Street. We will be calling all the volunteers from last year, plus the new Point Association members who expressed interest in working at the plant sale. Anyone else who is interested and/or has plants to contribute can call Anne (847-2009) or me.

Joan Stickley
423-3723

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

With the guidance and encouragement of Anita Rafael, we have started the huge task of preserving the Point Association’s history and archives collection. There is a lot that needs to be done, and it seems like we haven’t made much progress, but we are having fun poking through scrapbooks, notebooks, and boxes of fascinating clippings and pictures. Our next get-together is March 8, 10 a.m., at Kay O’Brien’s, 12 Battery Street. Everyone is welcome. If you have the interest but not the time on the 8th, let us hear from you. We are flexible about days and times to meet. In the meantime, we will keep sorting and collecting.

Rowan Howard 847-8428
Kay O’Brien 847-7311

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The Green Light would like to welcome new staff members Rowan Howard (proof-reading), Sharon Schultz (board liaison and circulation) and Joe Vars (40th anniversary). Each brings an expertise that makes them valued members of our group. And there is always room for more! If you would like to be a member of the Green Light staff, or would like to submit an article or story idea, contact Kay O’Brien at 847-7311. She would love to hear from you!

40th ANNIVERSARY SERIES
IN NEWPORT THIS WEEK

In honor of the Point Association’s 40th anniversary, Newport This Week is publishing a year-long series of monthly articles about the association. Under the 40th anniversary logo designed by Ilse Nesbitt, the first article, Saving a Neighborhood from Dereliction, written by Anita Rafael, appeared in the January 26th edition. The winning story in the Point Hummer contest of 1993, written by Elise LaParle, was featured February 23. The series continues through December. Our thanks to Dick and Cheryl Poholek for coordinating this project.
FIRST POT LUCK SUPPER

The first Point Association Pot Luck supper was held in St. John’s Guild Hall April 22, 1971. Here’s the report from the July 1971 Green Light. “The Pot Luck Supper was the largest turnout we have ever had and tremendously successful. By now we know what good cooks we have, and everyone ate and ate, which proved we all agree. The tables looked most elegant, decorated with flowers, and the food was lined up on the stage for each to help himself. All ages came, even a baby in a backpack, and everyone talked steadily while eating the vast and tempting variety. Dede Elster was the chairman, and we certainly believe her when she says she has served pot luck suppers all over the world.”

POT LUCK SUPPER
In Celebration of Its Re-Opening
Our Pot Luck Supper will be held at
ST. JOHN’S GUILD HALL
POPLAR ST.

SUNDAY MARCH 19 6:00 p.m.
There will be no admission charge at the door.
MAIN COURSES—POT LUCK CASSEROLES.
Beverages (Coffee, Tea and Milk) will be provided.
You may bring your own wine, beer, cider etc.
EVERYTHING SHOULD ARRIVE PIPING HOT WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER & PAPERBAGS
Every Container and Server should be labeled
If you have NOT received a phone call, please bring:
MAIN CASSEROLE which serves 10
VEGETABLES which serve 12
GREEN SALAD which serves 12
or
DESSERT which serves 12

A PARK FOR MARY FERRAZZOLI

Friends of the Waterfront liked the suggestion to place our bench in memory of Mary Ferrazzoli at the triangular piece of land at the end of Washington Street. FOW has expanded the idea by requesting a small southwest corner of the State Pier to create a park in Mary’s name. With the bench donated from the Point Association and trees and landscaping donated from other groups, this park would be a beautiful vista and a fine tribute to our friend of the waterfront, Mary.

Please support this proposal by Friends of the Waterfront and call or write your councilperson.

Thanks to all who have contributed to Mary’s fund for a bench. Please add your contribution.

Liz Bermender

STATE TAX CREDIT FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The Newport Historic District Commission (HDC) will host a meeting Thursday, March 9 to provide details about the state historic tax credit for exterior renovation and maintenance for owners of historic properties in Newport local historic districts and National Register districts. Owners may qualify for a credit of up to $500, applying 10% of eligible exterior restoration and maintenance work toward their state personal income tax. Roberta Randall, Preservation Architect for the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission, will be the guest speaker, discussing the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for Historic Rehabilitation. All attending will receive a copy of the Easy Guide to Rehabilitation Standards, a 60-page publication designed to assist property owners. The public meeting will be held in the King Room of the Newport Library, 300 Spring St., beginning at 7 p.m. Residents planning to attend should call the Newport Planning Office at 846-9600 ext. 217 to ensure adequate handout material.
RECOLLECTIONS AND BEGINNINGS

My family’s first association with Newport was in 1677 when our ancestors arrived from France . . . a French nobleman, his wife and their infant son. Since that time there has always been a family member in Newport and now throughout the county, but specifically “The Point.” I was born here, began my schooling here, graduated from Rogers High School, moved away (only to Massachusetts), returned home and have been living on the Point for 25 years this time. My wife’s family arrived about 1708 in Maine and led similar lifestyles. In fact, her mother and my father went to school together. Close Knit? Old Fashioned? That was then? It is still happening. Old families on the Point are welcoming new arrivals just as they did 200 years ago. “Born on the Point” children respect their certificates and are boastful of living on “the Point.” A neighborly area, as neighborly as one makes it. Special, because of those who live here; a mega mix of artisan students, young executives, longtime families and concerned residents. Visible changes through the years didn’t just happen; they were enthusiastically promoted. They include the gas lights, new trees, cleaner streets, safe parks, sparkling houses, noticeable gardens in season and a general sense of pride. It is as though Norman Rockwell paintings of the Four Freedoms apply here. Due to all these attributes of the Point we find valuable excerpts in old Green Light issues that tell us of the anxious residents that met, discussed and formed the Point Association of Newport 40 years ago in 1955.

Joe Vars

The October, 1960 issue tells us that in a period of five years the Association was responsible for “the planting of some 150 trees (mostly appreciated), action taken over the soot problem, the condition of the seawalls, the rat population, the control of dogs, the survey of the unmarked and ill-lighted streets and sidewalks, and many other aspects of upkeep. That not all these problems have been solved, or that some have been solved by other means, is not for lack of agitation on the part of the Association.”

A number of worthwhile houses were saved, clean-up programs instituted and a garden contest with over 30 entries was held.

In the October 1965 issue George and Eleanor Weaver, two of the original founders of the Association, relate on the Association’s tenth birthday, that “Looking back at the Point Association’s accomplishments, we can’t help but beam with something like parental pride.” But they warn, “there still remains so much to be done, little time can be spent luxuriating in past achievements.”

“There are still many weeds to pull, more streets to clean, more houses to paint, more trees to plant, more signs to renew, more lights to install, more driftways to improve, more parks to beautify, more trash to clear away, and the ever elusive city ordinances to have enforced.”

Times never change.

* * * * *

Do you have stories or reminisces about the early days of the Point Association. Contact Joe at 847-4289 or by write to him c/o The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840.
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Benjamin J. Gilson has joined the board as Recording Secretary. Ben, a native of Evanston, Illinois, lived in China during his high school years, later graduating from Dartmouth College and Harvard Medical School. He completed his residency in the Navy at Bethesda Medical Center in Maryland. Ben retired as a Navy Captain in 1987 and currently has a private practice in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He and wife Sarah have been renovating a house on the Point since 1981. Their local activities include the Swanhurst Chorus, the Tiverton Chorus, the Newport Art Museum, the Chinese Room Committee of the Newport Public Library and Trinity Church.

Dick and Cheryl Poolek are the Point Association’s new publicity co-chairs. Relative newcomers to the Point, they purchased their home at 58 Second Street in September, 1994. They are not new to the area, having moved from the Historic Hill district of Newport and having previously lived in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Cheryl works as a recruiter in the human resources department at Fleet Bank, while Dick is a radio sales executive currently employed by WRX-103.7, local host station of the Imus in the Morning show. Dick and Cheryl are delighted to be actively involved and contributing to the Point Association community.

Sharon Schultz moved to Newport a year and a half ago from Key West, Florida, and recently joined the Point Association Board as the liaison to the Green Light. Sharon has a biology degree from Bates College and has taught biology labs at Barnard College in New York City, and most recently worked as the project coordinator for a non-profit coral reef preservation group called REEF RELIEF. Currently, Sharon is a stay-at-home Mom caring for 9-month-old Carolyn and husband Doug, who is pursuing his masters in Environmental Engineering at the University of Rhode Island. In addition to her work with the Point Association, Sharon is also an active volunteer at the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

* * * * *

Our thanks to outgoing board members Carol Marinan, Ann Wiley, and Gail Gunning. Their enthusiasm and unique contributions have been a real plus for the Point Association.

Point Plant Sale
Saturday, May 13
9 - 12
101 Washington Street

We need you extra plants!
Herbs-Annuals-Perennials
Vegetables-Ground Covers
Call Joan Stickley 423-3723
or Anne Reynolds 847-2009

KIT HAMMETT HONORED

A brunch honoring retiring Point Association board member Kit Hammett was held last November at her Washington Street home. A letter from President Christine Montanaro was read, thanking Kit for her years of dedicated service while on the board. Kit, who continues to write and suggest story ideas for the Green Light, has a new assignment for the history and archives committee. She carefully reads newspapers and magazines, and clips the articles that pertain to the Point.
**THE WALNUT MARKET IS OPEN!**

The changes in the corner of Walnut and Third became noticeable in early February. Lights were on in the Walnut Market. Trucks were making their deliveries. A sign promised that the market would be opening "any day." Passers-by peeked in the windows to see what was going on. Anticipation was in the air.

And opening day did come. On Monday, February 20, 1995, the Walnut Market opened for business. Owner/manager Helga Ganger is opening the market as a "neighborhood general store . . . the kind you used to see." She stresses that she is working hard to keep her prices competitive and offers the basics plus items not always found in convenience stores. There is a deli section which offers salads prepared by her mother, Christiane Ganger.

Helga invites you to stop by and browse. She welcomes suggestions for what you would like to see in the Market. Winter hours are Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Watch for the Grand Opening Celebration this spring.

Walnut Market owner/manager Helga Ganger and her mother Christiane.

**POINTER-S-IN-THE-NEWS**

George and Janice Kelly Gillis were the subject of a feature article in the *Providence Journal’s* new magazine HER on February 15. The couple, Point residents, own and operate Kelly + Gillis, a small shop on Long Wharf between the Newport Marriott and The Gap. Their shop specializes in highly personal American art works, especially Appalachian folk art.

* * * * *

Margaret Jacoby, a Point Association member and part-time resident of Goat Island, was featured in the Good Folks article in the December 25, 1994, issue of the *Providence Sunday Journal*. A professor at the Community College of Rhode Island and the founder of its physics department, Prof. Jacoby specializes in astronomy and gives her students guided tours of the galaxy outside of class time. She was also cited for devoting extra time to helping them make career choices and opening their eyes to opportunities they may not have thought of.

* * * * *

Florence Archambault, co-editor of the *Green Light*, will compete in the 41st Annual Chicken Cookoff in Atlanta, Georgia on April 28th. She will represent the state of Rhode Island and prepare her chicken recipe for judging. The winning recipe can be found in this month’s Cook Corner.

* * * * *

The Rhode Island State Council of the Arts has awarded Point resident George Marshall a grant for an Individual Artist’s Project. He will undertake a multi-media project that will document the work and lives of noted Rhode Island artists who are approaching the latter part of their careers. Two of the artists under consideration are Ilse Nesbitt and Ade Bethune.
FRIENDS OF THE WATERFRONT

Friends of the Waterfront (FOW) recently launched a new program called Guardian Cadre in which 21 guardians will be appointed and charged with the task of keeping a watchful eye on individual pieces of the waterfront. This non-profit group’s mission is to protect the historic rights of way, historic uses and public access to the water. The guardians will work as a team to keep FOW alert to potential problems.

Guardians are still needed for several points of interest in our area including the Van Zandt Pier, Elm Street Pier, Storer Park and the State Pier. For more information about the program, please contact FOW president Vic Farmer at 847-1355.

ENGLISH CHOIR COMING TO THE POINT

St. John’s Church is pleased to announce A Celebration of British Cathedral Music will be held this summer. The Men and Boy’s Choir of All Saints’ Church, Northampton, England, will be singing daily at the church on Washington Street July 18 - 23.

St. John’s would like to hear from hospitable Pointers who might like to host a real English chorister for the week. Contact Brady Johnson at 846-7564 for more details.

Welcome to New Members

Mr. G. Carleton Hepting
John Knight
Herbert and Barbara Michael
Jill Muennich
William and Virginia Urschel

CHRISTMAS IN NEWPORT

The day after Christmas many strolled along Second Street for the Christmas in Newport Candlelight House Tours at the Scotts’ at #81, the Fosters’ at #48, and the Quattrucci’s at the corner of Elm. Thanks to the gracious owners and their hostesses.

Also, congratulations to Pointers who were winners in the doorway contest: 39 Poplar Street, 51 Third Street, Rue de France, the Willow Inn, and the White Horse Tavern.

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The View is Priceless...

Brunch Is Considerably Less

Come see for yourself...Made-to-order waffles, eggs, carved meats and omelettes. Fresh fruit and berries. Vegetable and cheese platters; an incredible salad bar.

The Brunch is as endless as the view! See you Sunday!

$16.95 Adults
$13.95 Seniors • $8.95 Children under 10
Children under 4 Free
Each Sunday from 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WINDWARD RESTAURANT

A Newport Dining Tradition
Located at the Newport Islander Doubletree Hotel
(401) 849-2600
Per person plus tax. Not valid with any other discounts.
Last November St. John’s parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Zabriskie Memorial Church of St. John the Evangelist. Nearby on Poplar Street is St. John’s Guild Hall which has a fascinating history of its own.

In recent years the building was deemed unsafe due to termites and neglect. Since the building was designed by George Champlin in the Gothic style and is of historic importance, a generous grant was received from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust for the much needed repairs and renovations. During recent months, Pointers have witnessed much activity at the building with transformations outside and inside. The Guild Hall has taken on a new look and is ready to take on a new life. You are all invited to come see the changes while enjoying the Point Association’s Pot Luck Supper.

The history of the Guild Hall goes back 120 years when St. John’s began as a mission of Trinity Church on the Point. The new mission’s first service was held on July 11, 1875 in a house at Third and Poplar Streets owned by Peter Quire, a Trinity parishioner and son of freed slaves.

Attendance and interest increased to such a point that in October that same year (since there were no large buildings in this section of town) it was decided “the only way out was to erect a suitable building.”

So it was that on February 13, 1876 (only five months later) the first service took place in The Free Chapel of St. John the Evangelist (what we now know as the Guild Hall). Even though the building seated 250 people, the crowd was so large that many had to be turned away.

In 1882, the building was remodeled and improved enough so it could be considered suitable for a parish church no longer dependent on Trinity. On the Feast of St. John the Evangelist that year, the chapel was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Thomas M. Clark. One hundred communicants were reported to the diocese in 1883, of which 83 had transferred from Trinity.

Although in 1882 the church was debt free, by 1889 it was in desperate straits when maintenance costs became so overwhelming that the parishioners could not deal with the task. Even the women were called to a meeting (although not offered a vote!) to help come to a decision about whether they could continue as an independent organization.

However, through the efforts of Captains Stephen Luce and Alfred Mahan of the Naval War College, help was on the way. The two men were friends of the Zabriskie family of New York and Newport. Sarah Titus Zabriskie had married and divorced Dr. Frank Jackson. At that time divorce was not countenanced in their family circle, while piety and generosity to the Anglo-Catholic cause was expected.
Past and Present

Her mother, Sarah Jane Titus Zabriskie had died in 1892, leaving a sizable fortune to her daughter who agreed to build a church in her mother’s memory, hoping her generous contribution would forestall ostracism from Newport society.

In November 1894 the church, as we know it today on Washington Street, was finished and consecrated as the “Zabriskie Memorial Church of St. John the Evangelist.”

The growth of the church family created a pressing need to convert the old deconsecrated chapel into a Guild Hall, which opened before Christmas 1895. It must have been considerably changed as the renovations cost over $6,000.

This was the beginning of the close relationship between St. John’s and the population of the Point. Many activities, especially those involving the young people, took place there and some Pointers have happy memories of events they attended.

In the early 1900s a sewing school was run by the Misses Ann and Hannah Wilbour on Saturday afternoons. Catherine Jencks (later Mrs. Albert Knox) taught nine-year-olds dancing on Tuesday afternoons after school during the winter months. Her sister, Polly, taught calisthenics.

The boys were not forgotten and many attended the Boys Brigade run by Mrs. Knox. Phillipine Arnold remembers playing the piano for the young men’s drills and marching.

The youth activities were not only attended by church members but by others living on the Point, and the Hall became a community center.

When the Point Association was formed 40 years ago it also became involved in a relationship with the Guild Hall. Numerous association events took place there.

One of the more notable ones was the performance of *The Feast of Stephen*, a colorful Christmas pageant written and directed by Emilia Cresswell. It was so popular that the December 1978 issue of *Yankee* magazine featured a photo of the cast with the caption: “Local actors take a curtain call after a radiant performance of *The Feast of Stephen* at St. John’s Guild Hall on Poplar Street.”

For many years the Point association held its street fair, *A Day on the Point*, on Willow Street, using the hall as the central focus where food was dispensed to large crowds. With the completion of the current renovation, it is hoped that the Guild Hall will once again become a community center for the Point. Father Jonathan Ostman, current rector, tells us that AA meetings will be held there and that the parish would encourage Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and other groups to use the hall for their meetings. He says he really wants to make the community feel welcome.

The Point Association salutes the return of St. John’s Guild Hall as a welcome focus for life on the Point.

Florence Archambault
The Adventure Club has been hibernating for the winter! Let's wake up and meet for the Point Association's clean-up, April 29, at our favorite parks! For more information about our group, call Beth Lloyd at 849-8071.

Drawing by: Davis and Marguerite
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

Enclosed is a poem I wrote and dedicated to my mother, Anna Theresa Kelly, after she became ill with Alzheimer’s Disease and went into a nursing home. The onset of the disease was fast and the decline rapid. She is still alive but not as the person my family and friends knew. Many members of the Point know her. Our family was brought up on the Point and my father was among the many who had boats on the shores.

Corrine as a child with her mother, Anna Kelly

THE DEAR ONE

Although the process is a slow one
It’s hard to sit and watch.
She’s slipping so slowly away from us
I sometimes awake and say,
“Oh Lord, are you coming to get her,
will you be coming for her today?”
When once the roles were reversed, she
combed my long golden hair, it’s
now I that combs her soft and silvery
hair.
Her eyes were once filled with gleaming
sunlight, her smile was warm and
tender.
She now sits staring blankly, I wish I
had a smile to lend her.
So we must all stick together, to lend a
shoulder, heart and ear.
So when the Lord does come for her, we
can hold her memory dear.
Corinne Peckham

GULL ROCK

As you start across the Newport Bridge, have you
ever wondered what kind of lighthouse stood guard on
the rocks just to the north off the Naval Base?

This was the home of the Gull Rock Light Station
built in 1887. The light was first placed on the peak of
the roof and later moved to a 45-foot steel tower. A
keeper occupied the steep-roofed building on the rock
for many years, the station being rebuilt in 1928. In the
mid 1950’s the building was torn down and the station
converted to an unattended light and fog bell powered
by submarine cable. With the opening of the Newport
Bridge, the light was no longer needed because boats
could not pass under the low deck of the bridge at the
east side of the bay. The 600-pound, 3-foot-high light
was lifted by Coast Guard helicopter bringing the
function of Gull Light Station to a close. The October
1985 Green Light tells us “that before there was a light
on Gull Rock, the Fall River Line used to hire a
Newport man to go out to Gull Rock and blow a horn to
help guide the steamers on their passage up and down
the Bay.”

Kay O’Brien

ARNOLD ART STORE & GALLERY

Plant a little creativity into your life

210 Thames St, Newport ~ 847-2273
Whenever you walk along Washington Street, pause for a moment at the corner of Marsh and Washington at the Simeon Potter house. Listen! Can you hear the cry? “Boys! Boys! Boys!” Picture Captain Joseph Finch leaning far out a second floor window on the west side, calling at the top of his lungs, “Boys! Boys! Boys!”, then to the east window to bellow again! With his returning students echoing the call, the sound carried far over the calm waters of the Cove to Long Wharf. Twenty-five boys “whose families were unable to educate them” attended this Long Wharf Free School, well-taught by Capt. Finch and his wife, Elizabeth.

Perhaps you were wondering what the connection is between Long Wharf, lotteries, and public education.

From 1752 to 1840, lotteries were a popular way of raising money for every conceivable reason - - to pave streets, build bridges, to establish libraries, to build wharves. Then, as now, lotteries were a real mania with the people!

In 1769, the proprietors of Long Wharf petitioned the General Assembly for a grant for a lottery to raise money to rebuild the wharf damaged by high tides, to rebuild warehouses destroyed by a disastrous fire, and to wharf out 170 feet westerly.

Again in 1779, a lottery paid for the repair of the wharf when it was burned during the British occupancy.

In 1795, 36 of the most prominent merchants asked for an act of incorporation as a Board of Trustees, obtaining a grant for a $25,000 lottery to rebuild Long Wharf and to build a hotel “representing that all profits arising from said wharf and hotel should be appropriated to building one or more free schools, in such manner as the Trustees may direct.” The Trustees of Long Wharf with a lottery began their long commitment to public education in Newport!

In 1814, on land and in a house donated by Simeon Potter “to support a free school forever for the poor children of every denomination” the first Long Wharf Free School was started.

In 1862, at Third and Willow St., the Willow Street School, later Callender, was built at an estimated cost of $11,900. In 1880, a second school, Potter, was built and turned over to the city to operate.

Over the years, Long Wharf was enlarged and leased adding to the Trustee’s Fund. A $25,000 payment from the U.S. Government ended the Trustee’s responsibility for Long Wharf in 1946. After the sale of Callender School and with an amended charter, authority was given to use the funds for scholarships and grants.

On a personal note, I attended both Callender and Potter Schools from Kindergarten through sixth grade, fondly remembering some wonderful teachers. My father built and launched boats from Long Wharf. When my daughter graduated from Rogers High, she received a Long Wharf Trustee’s Scholarship. (Phi Beta Kappa, Honors graduate of the University of Rhode Island)

As stated so beautifully in 1863 at the dedication of the Willow Street School, “Men can live in everlasting gratitude of their fellow men by a generous disposition of the means that God has given them; by a liberal founding of some institution of learning or some public benefaction by which their names may be continued in perpetual remembrance by all who came after them. This Long Wharf Trust is now established upon a basis that we hope will endure for ages.” And it has. Thank you, Trustees of Long Wharf for your good will to public education in Newport.

Liz Bermender

Quotes are from the handbook, Services at the Dedication of the School House Erected by the Trustees of the Long Wharf, May 20, 1863.

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RESTRICTED PARKING
6 p.m. - 6 a.m.
May - September

Don’t forget the May 1st deadline for parking stickers (stickers are required for parking on Point Streets). Your application at City Hall must include valid registration, driver’s license, and proof of residency.
The Old Fall River Line was founded in 1847 by a group of men connected with the Old Colony Railroad. The line was founded because the trip from Fall River and Newport to New York, even with the train connection from Boston, was faster by sea. The first steamer to fly the pennant of the Fall River Line was the *Bay State*. The *Priscilla* shown in this post card was perhaps the most beautiful of the line’s ships. Built by John Roach & Son in 1894, she was 440 feet long, and her gross tonnage was 5,292 with a speed of 22 miles an hour. She remained in service until the line closed down in 1937. Aaron Slom’s *The History of the Old Fall River Line* tells us that “The principal innovation, internally, was the position and decoration of her dining room. The *Priscilla* had her dining room placed on the main deck aft of the quarter deck as it was the most convenient place for passengers. The room was decorated in mahogany; more or less in oriental style - a curious departure from the standard observed elsewhere on the boat, and one of the first instances where more than one architectural style was used in the interior of a steamer.”

Florence Archambault

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GARDENER'S CORNER

The Garden Writers Association of America has a project. It is Plant a Row for the Hungry. Sounds good for anyone with the space. I keep my vegetable garden tiny so I can enjoy tending it, but still have extra tomatoes (I seldom grow zucchini!) that neighbors can’t eat. I take them to the Jonnycake Center on Beacon Street for them to give away. Organic Gardening adds “Be sure to tell them it’s organically grown.”

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The Friday before our first snowstorm I worked in shirtsleeves on my south facing slope. Next morning I spent with my catalogs - garden of course. My wandering eye fell on “If all you want is cheap, shop elsewhere . . . Please use some judgment when calling about orders.” Flower catalogs are usually greasy sweet and this minatory tone was a slap and breath of fresh air. Using the catalog requires a bit of research. Chamecyrics Obtusa Kamaen is described as “more threadlike than ‘Nana Lutea’.” No pictures, but frank, if subjective, text. Hundreds of varieties of plants but, “Please be sure to mark the appropriate list codes . . . If you try to confuse us you’ll probably succeed.” I placed an order. Arrowhead Alpines, P.O. Box 857, Fowlerville, MI 48836. I’ll let you know how it works.

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Maria at the Public Works Department was pleased to get a call from an interested group about yard waste pick-up. Pick-up will be for several weeks this year. Watch the newspaper for specific dates. The leaves and other garden waste may be put in paper bags made for that purpose but are equally acceptable in barrels. Just be sure to keep it “pure” - no other trash. You will be doing your part to keep the dump from filling up and helping the environment as the material will be composted at Rhode Island Nurseries.

Anne Reynolds
NINA LYNETTE GARDEN

Does this lady look familiar to you? She stands watch over the Nina Lynette garden on Cherry Street. This spot will be available for a community garden this spring. Sound interesting? A meeting to discuss this project will be Saturday, March 25th at 10:30 a.m. at The Nina Lynette Home, 87 Washington Street. Contact Laurie Shaw at 847-2674 for more information.

RHODE ISLAND IN AN EGG SHELL

Our Green Light on Goat Island is part of a decorated eggshell that is destined to go to the White House for an Easter-time display. Well, it's not much - just a 1/4-inch tip of a toothpick - but it's there!

The beautifully decorated egg represents Rhode Island in this display from all 50 states. It is the work of Joan Creamer, an East Greenwich product designer, who describes this egg as her most elaborate product to date. The outside of the large chicken egg represents the Ocean State, with a mermaid, shells and a starfish on an ocean theme. The inside of the egg (opened by two doors) has scenes representing the Green Light on Goat Island, the Newport Bridge, a mansion and two sailboats, against a background of Providence - all miniature, of course!

The egg, in a specially designed container, was shipped to the American Egg Board, sponsors of the display, in Chicago, and will go to the White House by Easter-time, then to the Clinton library in Arkansas.

Kit Hammett
Last June I entered a recipe in the National Chicken Cooking Contest and promptly forgot about it. Imagine my surprise when a few days before Christmas I received a phone call informing me that my recipe was one of the winners and that I had been chosen to represent the state of Rhode Island in the 41st Annual Chicken Cookoff in Atlanta, Georgia on the 27th of April. Grand prize is $25,000!

Unfortunately I had played with the recipe some more and came up with what I consider a better one but I am limited to cooking the recipe exactly as it was entered. Here it is:

**DILLIED CHICKEN**

2 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts, halved
4 TBSP. cooking oil, divided
1 English cucumber, peeled and thinly sliced
1 c. diagonally sliced scallions, white and green part included
1/2 c. minced fresh dill, divided
1/8 tsp. salt
1 c. halved small mushrooms
1/8 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1/2 c. white wine
1 container (8 oz.) sour cream

Cut the chicken breasts part way through and flatten. In a large heavy frypan, place 1 TBSP. of the oil and heat to medium temperature. Add cucumber, scallions and 1 TBSP. of the dill. Cook, stirring, about 1 minute or until cucumber is translucent. Remove from pan and sprinkle with salt. In same pan, place 1 TBSP. oil and heat to medium temperature. Add mushrooms and 1 TBSP. dill; cook 2 minutes and remove from pan. In same pan, place the remaining 2 TBSP. oil and again heat to medium temperature. Add chicken and cook about 6 minutes or until chicken is brown on both sides. Add remaining dill, pepper and wine. Simmer, turning occasionally, until fork can be inserted in chicken with ease. Remove chicken from pan and place on serving platter. To pan drippings, add sour cream, cucumber mixture and mushrooms. Stir until heated through. Pour over chicken. Makes 4 servings.

The changes I made include cutting the chicken in strips and returning it to the pan with the vegetables. Also stir an envelope of instant chicken broth and seasoning into the sour cream before adding it to the pan.

Louise Sherman sent a recipe from her *Better Homes and Gardens Cookbook* she would like to share with you. She says it is wonderful.

**APPLESAUCE MEATLOAF**

Heat oven to 350 degrees
1 c. soft bread crumbs (1 1/2 slices)
1/2 c. apple sauce
1 lb. ground beef
1 slightly beaten egg
1/4 c. chopped fine celery
2 TBSP. finely chopped onion
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp. salt and dash of pepper

Blend thoroughly and shape into 8x8x2 inch loaf baking pan.

With spoon make a crater-like depression in top of loaf.

Combine an additional 1/2 c. applesauce, 1 TBSP.
brown sugar, 1 1/2 tsp. vinegar and 1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard. Pour into depression. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serves 4 or 5.

Louise says she used regular mustard and it worked well.

Florence Archambault

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Mail to: The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840