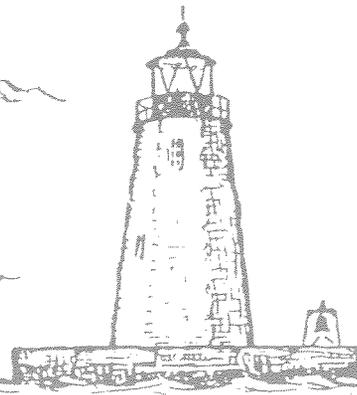


The
GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SPRING 1996



Finch House by Helena Sturtevant



The

GREEN LIGHT

XXXXI No. 1 SPRING 1996

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Other: Dorothy Sanschagrin, Eleanor Weaver, Amanda Preston and Ilse Nesbitt

Spring 1996 Calendar

March 24	Pot Luck Supper (page 4)
March 27	History and Archives (page 15)
April 11	General Membership Meeting Fall River Line Presentation (page 5)
April 20	Point Clean-Up (page 5)
May 12 - 18	National Preservation Week
June 1	Point Plant Sale and Adventure Club Bake sale (page 5 & 8)

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Roberta Majewski, 2nd Vice President	846-6194
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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

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Copies of the *Green Light* may be purchased 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 Walnut Market, Third and Walnut.

The President's Letter

Is it Spring yet? They say it is only through contrasts that we learn to appreciate. Alright, already, we appreciate Spring. Aren't we known for our beautiful and ambitious gardens? Just ask the Benefactors of the Arts. Actually, I love snow. I love Winter (my husband, Phil, can attest). It looks like I made a truce with the weather gods. So, let's move on to the best Spring on record!

During the last few months, we have had to bid adieu to two dedicated board members. Florence Archambault, who has been with the *Green Light* for years, has departed to write her second book about Occupied Japan collectibles. Anita Rafael, who has been the inspiration for History and Archives, has left to work full time on her employment endeavors. We will feel the loss of both and hope that they will be able to join us from time to time.

Despite the transitions at the Board and Committee levels, we continue to work faithfully towards maintaining our group as one of the foremost neighborhood groups whose influence cannot be ignored. The many hours of volunteer work continue to be needed, and we look to our membership for new people to come forward to share the load.

We welcome our new City Manager, Michael Mallinoff, who provides us with energy, vision, and determination. Mallinoff recognizes the historic value and natural beauty of our city and, with sleeves rolled, has set out to make the city prosper without sacrificing the quality of life for the residents. Impossible goal? We like to think it is still possible. We feel that the new City Council will prove to be an asset in Mallinoff's quest and will provide an environment for change. Hard choices and decisions will be needed but optimism still remains. We applaud Mallinoff's and the City Council's efforts thus far.

The next few months herald the famous Pot Luck Supper, the well attended April General Membership Meeting, the energized Spring Clean-Up, and the ever popular Plant Sale. Additionally, the Adventure Club has new events. The Association will host an evening talk during the National Historic Preservation Week, May 12-18. This year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has defined the theme as *Preserve Community*. Look for more information in the local papers and in a special mailing.

In closing, we look towards Spring and resurgence. We remind all members to be conscious of what efforts it takes to maintain our Association's standing. We urge volunteers to step forward and share in the hard work. Remember our Association's strength is only a function of its members' efforts.

Christine Montanaro

Green Light Update

With your *Green Light* in hand, check the Point Association activities and mark your calendars. One of the main purposes of this quarterly is to keep you all informed and involved.

What else would you like to see in the *Green Light*? We are always looking for new ideas for stories and columns, past and present, new people to be on staff or to submit stories.

Please contact Kay O'Brien or Nancy Espersen, co-editors for this year, with your suggestions.

Welcome to Our New Members

Mary Pat Butterfield
Roxy and Claire Ernsberger
Mrs. Eugene Faerber
Mrs. Thomas Haslam III
Pamela Hilton
Juliet V. Luistro
Shawn T. Reynolds
John and Catherine Sadler

History and Archives

Anita Rafael recently resigned as the head of the History and Archives Committee. The committee will miss her never-ending enthusiasm, her expertise, and her great knowledge of Newport history. We wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

During this transition time, collecting of Point-related newspaper articles, pictures, and memorabilia continues. The most recent additions to the collection are a set of *Green Lights* from Posey Hall, a framed proclamation to the Point Association from Rose Island Lighthouse and *Feast of Stephen* posters from Joe and Angela Vars, several items from Louise Sherman and pictures from Eileen O'Reilly, Tama Sperling and Francis Gyra (see page 15). An old filing cabinet was recently rediscovered at St. Paul's Methodist Church. When unlocked, many treasures from the '60s and '70s were found. Hats and lanterns used in the Liberty Tree pageant were also found at the church, and pictures of the event were sent in by Adelle Taylor of the *Pineapple Post*. If you have something to donate, call Rowan Howard (847-8428) or Kay O'Brien (847-7311). They will be happy to answer any questions you have about the project and make arrangements to pick up any donations.

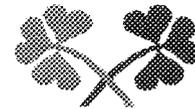
Membership

The membership committee has a new co-chair: Jill Muennich. She has lived on the Point for a year and a half and owns her own jewelry appraisal business. Perhaps you have already met her at an Association function or when she has pitched in to help at Point clean-ups.

A special thank you to Martha Shea for her outstanding effort in recruiting new members. She says that since she is no longer able to be actively involved in the Association, this is one way that she can still help. Since December she has introduced four new members!

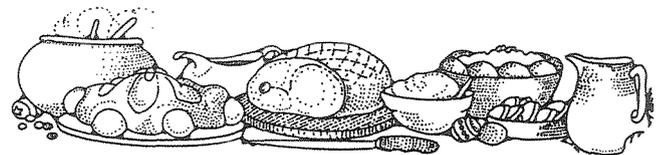
As always, if you have questions regarding your membership, or know of someone interested in joining, please contact us.

Nancy Espersen 846-2907
Jill Muennich 846-9094



Pot Luck Supper

St. John's Guild Hall
Poplar Street
(Use Willow St. Entrances)



Sunday March 24 6 pm

MAIN COURSES--POT LUCK CASSEROLES

Beverages (Coffee, Tea & Milk) will be provided

You may bring your own wine, beer, cider etc.

**EVERYTHING SHOULD ARRIVE PIPING HOT
WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER & PAPER BAGS**

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



The Point Association's General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 11
6:30 p.m. at St. John's Guild Hall
61 Poplar Street

Business Meeting

We will vote on the Mission Statement.
Please see the Winter *Green Light* for a copy
of the statement. Call Christine Montanaro
(849-4708) with any comments.

Guest Speaker

Melvin Lash
Topic - the Fall River Line

Mr. Lash, an expert on the Fall River Line, will run
an open forum. Please bring your remembrances
and memorabilia relating to the Fall River Line.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 20

9 a.m. to noon

Storer Park

(corner of Washington Street and Goat Island Connector Road)

Bring your rakes, brooms, shovels and work gloves
as we meet to clean up Storer and Battery Parks!

For more information contact Deb Herrington (848-9735) or Paul and Nancy Quattrucci (846-2434)

Point Plant Sale

Saturday, June 1

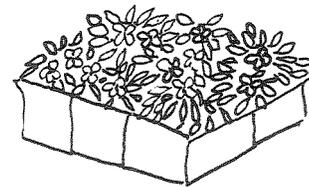
9 a.m. - noon

101 Washington Street

Keep us in mind as you plan your garden

We need your extra plants!

Herbs - Annuals - Perennials - Vegetables - Ground Covers



Call Anne Reynolds (847-2009), or Joan Stickley (423-3723) or Susie Bowen (849-7079)

Pointer-in-the-News

George W. Baer, Chairman of the Department of Strategy and Policy at the Naval War College, was recently awarded the prestigious Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize and the Bonnot Award for Naval and Maritime History for his book, *One Hundred Years of Sea Power, The U.S. Navy, 1890-1990*. George and his wife Kristina have been residents of the Point for 15 years.

* * * * *

Kit Hammett has been selected for induction into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame for her "unselfish service to the Girl Scouts of America." She will be honored at a dinner and awards ceremony in May at the Rhode Island Convention Center.

* * * * *

Point resident **Ramona Perham Yarborough** won the *Newport Daily News* Holiday Spirit Contest in December. She told of her childhood recollections of a very special jewelry box given to her mother by her father.

* * * * *

Rosalys "Posey" Hall and **Ade Bethune** took part in a celebration of the message of Julia Ward Howe and her crusade for world peace. Posey is the great-granddaughter of Julia Ward Howe.

* * * * *

Peggy and **Lyn Comfort**, co-owners of the Music Hall Cafe on Thames Street, and **Patience Connerton**, development officer for the Seamen's Church Institute, were recognized for their generosity this past Thanksgiving. The restaurant was open "to any and all who do not have a place to eat on the holiday" for a free Thanksgiving meal. Plans are to do this again next Thanksgiving.

* * * * *

Ben Gilson, Point Association Recording Secretary, had a work of art on display at the Spring Bull Gallery.

Brian Pelletier was highlighted in a *Newport Daily News* article about the gas streetlights that have become his life passion. He is assisting a local group, the Gas Light Brigade, in their efforts to expand the number of gas lights on the Point.

* * * * *

The Quaker Meeting House Restoration Project, currently being done by the Newport Historical Society, was the topic of a *Providence Journal* article. **Ron Potvin** was pictured in front of the Farewell Street site.

* * * * *

Pointers were photographed doing various activities: **Jim Gunning** raking leaves, **Sally Chermak** shoveling snow, **Nancy Quattrucci** attending a Newport Art Museum class and **Annette Peterson** cross-country skiing at the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

* * * * *

A "Pointer from the Past" was featured in the *Providence Journal's* Black History Month series in February. **Zingo Stevens**, also known as "Pompe," was brought to Newport in the 1700s by John Stevens to learn the trade of stonecutting. He eventually became the official gravestone cutter and engraver for the African-Americans who were buried in the Farewell Street cemetery. It is believed that he lived at 30 Thames Street before building a house on Poplar Street.

* * * * *

If you have any suggestions for Pointers-in-the-News, please let us know by contacting a Green Light staff member or by writing to us at the Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. We would greatly appreciate it!

Compiled by Sharon Schultz, Rowan Howard and Nancy Espersen



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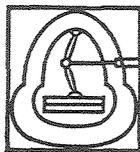
Christmas Explosion Presentation

It was Christmas morning, 1934. People were returning to their homes after midnight mass at St. John's when a massive explosion at the corner of Third and Willow streets shook the neighborhood. The blast reduced one house to rubble, took out half of another house, shattered windows in houses and sent debris flying everywhere. People were knocked from their beds and a small baby sleeping in her crib was covered with bricks from a collapsed chimney.

This was **The Great Christmas Explosion of 1934 on the Point**, the topic of a presentation given by Ron Potvin of the Newport Historical Society to a group of almost one hundred on Tuesday evening, January 16, 1996, at St. John's Guild Hall. The cause of the explosion is still unknown, though some people have their suspicions. A gas leak as the cause was ruled out and the gun powder theory was never proven. The landlord of the building was accused of arson, brought to trial but found innocent. So there still is a sense of mystery about the event.

Several in the audience recalled the event firsthand. Fred Kelly was a 12-year-old living on Third Street at that time. He was knocked from his bed and remembers glass falling on to the blankets. The family Christmas tree, which was bolted to the floor, remained in its place, but on the piano the sheet music for *Silent Night* was pierced by a shard of glass. And Barbara Watts, who attended the lecture with her daughter and grandchild, was the baby who was covered with rubble as she slept in her crib. Many more memories were shared individually over cookies and cider following the lecture.

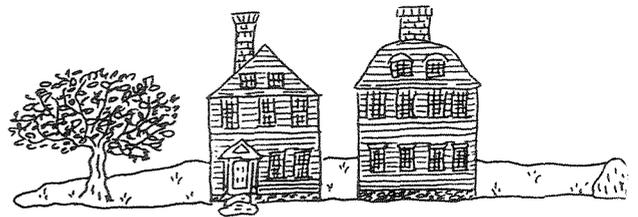
The presentation, which was postponed from its original date in December due to a blizzard, was co-sponsored by the Newport Historical Society, St. John's and the Point Association as a *Christmas in Newport* event.



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

Caroling on the Point - 1995

A small but enthusiastic group gathered for Christmas caroling on Wednesday, December 13, 1995. After being fortified by a delicious bowl of chowder and taking part in a quick practice session around the piano at St. John's Guild Hall, it was off to the Nina Lynette Home, the Schultz's, the Vars', the Elster's, the Johnson's, and Ilse Nesbitt's, with additional caroling along Second Street. Many thanks to Peggy and Lyn Comfort for supplying the chowder, to those who served goodies to the carolers along the way, and to Brady Johnson who so bravely led the group in spite of a case of laryngitis.



Gas Streetlights

A group of interested residents gathered at St. John's Guild Hall on the wintry eve of February 5th to hear Brian Pelletier talk about the history and other facts relating to the gas streetlights in Newport. Most lights were installed between 1974 and 1980, and there are approximately 175 in Newport to date. He announced he had gotten City approval to install more lights on the Point as funds become available through the new campaign initiated by Anne Bidstrup. The lights will be the same model as those in existence on the Point now, and will cost about \$5,000 each. The plan is for lights to be placed on Elm, Poplar and Cross Streets; and with appropriate spacing and placement, the total should be about 25. (Brian and Anne have marked tentative locations.)

Anne announced a bank account has been opened at the Bank of Newport under "Gas Light Fund" and any contributions can be made out accordingly and sent to her at 35 Poplar Street. The lights can have a plaque as part of the frame so that any light "Sponsors" for the total amount can have a name imprinted. Anne has received several phone calls from others who are enthused but unable to attend the meeting and she hopes more residents will get involved in this project to enhance the appearance of our neighborhood. Funds will be raised through grants, donations, sponsorship and fund-raising efforts. Any leads, expertise and help will be gratefully welcomed. Call Anne at 849-1354.

Adventure Club

Holiday Party

The Adventure Club held a holiday party on December 3rd that was for the birds - literally! The Point kids made treats for the birds with peanut butter pine cones and strings of Cheerios that were hung in Storer Park. The kids also learned some new games, including Dreidle, Dreidle, a Hanukkah game. Thanks to St. John's for donating the Guild Hall and to all of the parents and friends who donated the great goodies.

May Day Flowers

The Adventure Club will be visiting 25 older residents of the Point on Wednesday, May 1st and bringing a touch of spring into their homes with a May Day bouquet. If you know of a neighbor who would appreciate a visit, please contact Sharon Schultz at 846-6762. We are looking forward to the meeting of the youngest and oldest of the Point residents.

Summer Plans

The Adventure Club will meet weekly in the summer months. We hope to help out in the garden at the Nina Lynette Home, and in addition we have some great activity ideas. Among the ideas are an art show (of course, Pointers will be invited), a caravan to Roger Williams Zoo, natural tie-dyeing, Native American Day, kite making, and wheel day. If you would like to become involved in the Adventure Club, either as a participant or by leading an activity, please contact Beth Lloyd at 849-8071 or Jill Spohn at 849-2155. We would love to have you join us!

Don't miss the
Point Clean-Up on April 20th!

Bring your rakes, gloves
and ideas to make Storer and
Battery Parks beautiful!

Let's keep our parks clean!

Adventure Club to Visit Emus

Just what is an emu, you ask? An emu is a large bird, similar to an ostrich, that is now used for food. Its feathers are used in pillows and even its eggshells are used to make jewelry! The trip to the emu farm in Portsmouth is planned for mid-April. Adventurers watch your mailboxes for the late breaking flyer with the exact date and time to meet.

**BAKE SALE
&
LEMONADE STAND
AT THE POINT PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1
9 A.M. - NOON**



Helena Sturtevant: Aquidneck Island Views from the Collection of the City of Newport

Title

Looking back at Newport in the 1930s through Helena Sturtevant's eyes and paintings is both fun and fascinating at the current major exhibit at the Newport Art Museum. Many scenes are of the Point such as this issue's cover, *Finch House*, at the Walnut Street drift-



way and *Hunter House* shown here as a convent before its purchase by the Preservation Society. Current photographs, taken from the place the artist stood, accompany each painting and show the changes over the years. The 62 paintings belong to the City and have hung in City Hall and other civic buildings for many years. Now thanks to a professional cleaning and this outstanding exhibit, we can all enjoy another part of our historic heritage.

* * * * *

Helena Sturtevant: Aquidneck Island Views.

from the collection of the City of Newport continues through March 27, 1996, at the Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Avenue. Contact the Museum at 848-8200 for more information.

The Newport Art Museum
is open free to the public
the first Tuesday of every month
through the generosity of
The Bank of Newport

A Special Opportunity for Schoolchildren

The Secret Garden Tour, sponsored by the Benefactors of the Arts, provides the opportunity each June for Newporters and visitors to experience the special gardens of the Point. Monies from the tour are devoted to supporting programs in the arts for Aquidneck Island schoolchildren.

It is truly appropriate to use funds this year to invite all fifth-grade classes to the Newport Art Museum to see the exhibit of Helena Sturtevant, who devoted so much of her life to Newport children's art education. She was a founding member of the Newport Art Association, now the Newport Art Museum, and, as head of the Association, welcomed children from Aquidneck Island and Jamestown, who flocked up the hill to the bright second-floor studios in the Griswold House, home of the Association.

Miss Sturtevant studied at home in Middletown with a tutor and remained there except for training in Paris. The body of her work dwells on fields and farms, seascapes, and the town and country buildings of Newport and the island that made her personal landscape.

Fifth graders on the island have studied the history of Newport and they are now invited by the Benefactors of the Arts to come to the museum with their teachers. They enjoy naming the buildings and locating them on a large floor map and then drawing the buildings themselves.

The exhibit is not only attractive to look at and engagingly sprinkled with human and animal life but lends itself to teaching technical matters of light and shadow, perspective and point of view, as the artist uses techniques reflective of her European training.

When she died in 1946, Rabbi Jules Lipshole of Touro Synagogue wrote a long letter to the *Newport Daily News* recalling "an amiable individual, a warm-hearted personality saturated with dynamic humanitarianism and a pious love for her friends of every creed, color and faith. Her memory will be a recollection of useful and meritorious existence." Now fifty years later this beloved woman, by the legacy of her painting, enriches anew the lives of children and grandchildren of the people she loved so much.

Anne Reynolds

Pieces to the Point Puzzle

The Story of the Point contains many pieces to a puzzle, from the landing of the first colonist in 1639 to the present. Finding the pieces and then trying to put them together is both the charm and the challenge for everyone from "Born on the Pointers" to the newest neighbors. The Point was a busy, bustling part of town in 1758 when Dr. Ezra Stiles, pastor of the Second Congregational Church and later President of Yale College, took many walks and drew his famous map. Since that time there have been major changes to the area. The Cove, the body of water from Long Wharf to Marsh and Bridge streets, once busy with shipping, is gone, replaced by land fill as the railroad came to town. More recently, redevelopment cut a swath through the Point with America's Cup Avenue, the connector to Goat Island and the Newport to Jamestown Bridge. In this series we will highlight the organizations, individuals and events, the "pieces" that, when put together, make the Point what it is today.

In the first installments, we will concentrate on the houses of the Point and the history they hold. Julia Ward Howe remembered Newport as a girl in the 1830s as "a forsaken, mildewed place." The struggle to preserve the architectural heritage has many facets and faces. Plaques on houses give us clues to their origins - who their owners were and when they were built. The symbols on these plaques also tell us which organization did the restoration. One such symbol is the acorn and OC of Operation Clapboard.

Operation Clapboard

Tom Benson wrote the following article for the January 1965 *Green Light*.

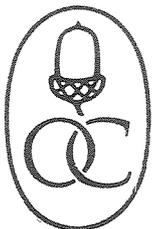
"Operation Clapboard was first thought of during the summer of 1963 when 3 or 4 Newporters decided that something definite must be done to save the rapidly diminishing number of Colonial houses in our city. In June of 1964 a group was formed, consisting of Mrs. C. Pepys, Tom Benson, and Lloyd Hyde. It was through Lloyd

Hyde's help that a grant was procured to the Preservation Society, covering a salary for Tom Benson. The object of Operation Clapboard is a practical two-fold one; to save old houses and to strengthen the Point community with more people who will take a hand in Newport's future. The upper Thames Street area seemed a logical starting place, since here there is a great concentration of 18th Century houses still standing, mostly in their original locations, on streets laid down before 1700.

It was decided at the first meeting of Operation Clapboard that, since there were some 8 or 10 people who had expressed interest in doing something with a part of Newport or in buying an old house to restore, these people should be brought together for purposes of discussion. This was done early in June at 62 Washington Street. At that meeting capital was raised of \$7,000, a legal group was formed, and it was decided to buy houses. Unfortunately \$7,000 only buys about 1-1/2 houses; therefore the track taken was that of buying contracts of sale on pieces of property which spread over a period of months. These contracts would then, in the intervening space of time between acquisition and actual deed exchange, be sold by Operation Clapboard to a person who wanted to restore a house. In effect Operation Clapboard was buying houses without ever actually owning them.

In other cases, people within the initial group, those who originally joined because they wanted to buy a house, would simply purchase outright one of the area buildings when it came on the market.

Thus far the dodges have worked. Operation Clapboard has been somehow involved in the placing of 21 houses. The people who have purchased them make up a wonderful variety of Newporters, Jamestowners, full-time residents, part-time residents



and investors, each one with a dedicated interest in Newport. As to Operation Clapboard's success, there are many reasons for it, the most important of which is real cooperation between all of the people involved, including buyers, sellers, tradesmen, professional men, organizations, and the City government."

Later in 1965 organizational discussions led to the formation of the non-profit Oldport Association, which is another story that will be told in a coming issue of

the *Green Light*. However, Operation Clapboard continued to help owners acquire and research their houses, many of which were opened for tours. Now as you walk the Point, check the signs on houses. You will be amazed to see how many carry this logo of the acorn, symbolizing great trees growing from small seeds, certainly true of the work of Operation Clapboard.

Kay O'Brien

* * * * *

Works In Progress

There have been a lot of changes at the corner of Second and Van Zandt since Frank and Betty Murphy purchased the property in August, 1995. This building, with its corner market boarded up since 1972, carries many memories for neighborhood children of trips to Spiers' variety store for penny candy. Before Ike and Sadie Spiers presided over the counter it was known as Martins' Market.



Now this house of a hundred plus years is being transformed. (Photograph taken in February, 1996.)

Do you have pictures of a current or recent restoration on the Point that you would like to share in an upcoming *Green Light*? Please contact Kay (847-7311) or Nancy (846-2907).

Historic Preservation Award

The Newport Historical Society, in conjunction with the Newport Preservation Alliance, will honor a noteworthy restoration of a private residence in Newport County with the Historic Preservation Award. This award will be an opportunity to recognize the efforts of individual property owners in preserving the historic resources of the area.

The guidelines for the project include sensitivity to the historic integrity of the building (which must be 50 years old or more to be eligible) and its site, the preservation of the original historic fabric and the skill of craftsmanship. Any exterior restoration must follow the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic preservation.

Nominations from the general public are welcome, but must be received by March 8. Forms and guidelines are available at the Newport Historical Society.

Winners of the award will receive a plaque suitable for mounting on the exterior of their building and two tickets to the Society's April 25 award dinner.

For more information about the Historic Preservation Award, please contact the Newport Historical Society at 846-0813.



Lecture Series Announced

The 13th annual winter lecture series offered by the Newport Historical Society will be "*Her True Profession*" - *The Changing Roles of Newport Women, 1700 to the Present*. For more information about the series, which starts March 15, contact the Historical Society at 846-0813.

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George Weaver

George Weaver, one of the founders of the Point Association, died February 21 at his home on the corner of Chestnut and Washington streets. Probably no single person had more of a hand in restoring historic buildings. Along with the daunting task of helping with 25 private restorations, George worked with Doris Duke's Newport Restoration Foundation to acquire and supervise the restoration of more than 80 Colonial and Victorian buildings.

As he walked the Point in recent years, many memories (and some pride) must have filled his mind. Now our legacy is the major part he and his wife Eleanor played in preserving the residential integrity of the Point.

A Celebration of British Cathedral Music II

After the immensely successful Celebration last summer, St. John's is looking forward to hosting another British choir.

The Wells Cathedral Choir from Wells, U.K., will arrive Wednesday, July 10 and depart Monday, July 15. They will be offering four days of fine choral music in the context of the historic liturgy of the Church of England, in the manner of great cathedrals.

This Celebration brings the Point neighborhood into the sight, sound and emotion of Newport's Music Festival.

Would you like to become involved by hosting a chorister from England? Last summer many families from the Point were hosts of the choir party, with mutual satisfaction.

Please call St. John's at 848-2561 for more information.

Kay Leslie-Carlo
Celebration Committee



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Winter Walking on the Point

by Kay O'Brien



Willow Street Driftway

Walking this winter has been both challenging and invigorating. Often wind blew from all directions. Sidewalks disappeared under the snows. A towering snowman appeared on Washington Street. Neighbors stayed indoors, but Tommy the letter carrier always had a cheery greeting. Now days are longer, the sun stronger, and when the snow melts, the grass looks greener. Without their leaves, trees take on a different dimension, house details catch the eye, and all the sand and debris is too evident.

There's construction along Long Wharf preparing for the proposed time shares. The shipyard is busy on a big ferry and boats will soon be readied for launching. We're ready to lose our pinched looks and get busy outdoors to welcome Spring. Winter has lasted too long.

* * * * *

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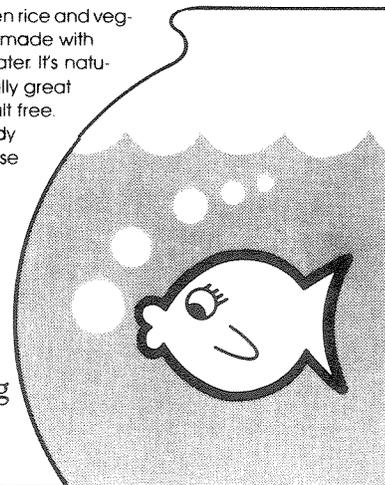
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From First Ward Councilor Laurice Shaw

It may not be any more evident than your tulip bulbs getting ready to poke through, but there's lots happening down at the southern end of our neighborhood on Long Wharf.

The American Shipyard

The shipyard, as you probably know, has applied for a loan from HUD to keep the struggling yard afloat. In December, the previous City Council agreed to let them request an additional amount, bringing the total to over 4 million dollars. As of the time of this writing, the whole mess is mired in red tape and environmental impact assessment requirements.

The purpose of this particular pile of Federal Loan money is to preserve jobs in small cities. The City's interest in helping the shipyard get this loan is to preserve a part of our 'working waterfront' in addition to the job retention goal. Unfortunately, there's not much work going on down there, if one believes the rumors of substantial layoffs.

What does the future hold for our sometimes troublesome neighbor to the south? I guess we'll all just have to wait and see. One bit of good news, however, is that a group of folks from the local 'traditional

maritime' industry have formed an alliance, from what I understand, to help ensure that the shipyard continues to be a part of our maritime heritage.

Long Wharf Time Shares

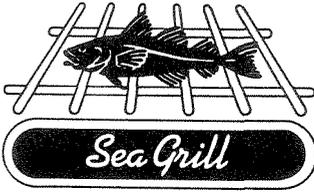
Phase One of another time-share development is in construction on Long Wharf. According to John Grosvenor of The Newport Collaborative, this phase will house offices and approximately 11 units. The architectural style and scale of this building seems to be in keeping with the smaller buildings on the wharf. John stressed his commitment to a project that is a vast improvement over the other time-share developments in the area. He said that his boss, Perry Harris, is likewise motivated, indicating that this is a 'signature development' of sorts. We're going to have to hold our breath and wait and see on this one too.

The Long Wharf Barge

The saga continues. Carl Bolender's barge/houseboat has been a fixture in that corner of the harbor for almost twenty years. If nothing else, it is an example of remarkable tenacity on Mr. Bolender's part and frightening inconsistency on the City and CRMC's part. What is going to happen next? Will this be the final chapter in a long and twisted story? Stay tuned.

Van Zandt Pier

In early March I am putting together a meeting of folks from the Point Association, the Swamp Association, and Friends of the Waterfront to be official "Friends of Van Zandt Pier." If you have a special interest in this, or any other issue you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to call me at 848-9451.



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HISTORY AND ARCHIVES - S.O.S. (SAVE OUR STUFF)



In the Fall 1995 issue of the *Green Light*, Joe Vars mentioned the three ² Katzman brothers who owned businesses on the Point. This is Hyman (Hymie) Katzman standing in front of his store at the corner of Walnut and Second. People now know the house as the Matthew Perry House, restored by Doris Duke's Newport Restoration Foundation in 1975. Francis Gyra, a Point Association member from Woodstock, Vermont, sent this picture to Fisher Benson last summer.

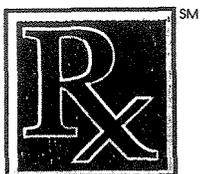
(1 was Cousin

The next meeting of the History and Archives committee will be
Wednesday, March 27
10 a.m. at the Nina Lynette Home
87 Washington Street
(Please use the Cherry Street entrance)

There's a lot of sorting, photocopying and reminiscing to be done.
 All are welcome!

Call Rowan (847-8428) or Kay (847-7311) for more information

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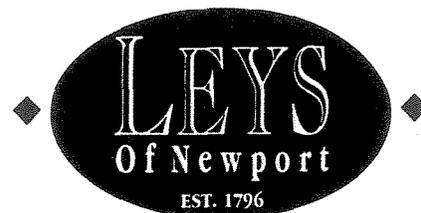
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A Gardener's Book Review

by Anne Reynolds

Grandmother's Garden The Old Fashioned American Garden 1865-1915

by Mary Brawley Hill
Harry N. Abrams, Inc. NY 1995

Mary Brawley Hill is an art historian who deprecates her expertise in gardening but certainly writes very well about garden design and color and who put together 175 color plates, even more photographs, and a compendium of quotations from poets, writers and artists. Beatrix Jones, landscape architect, is quoted, "The two arts of painting and garden design are closely related except that the landscape gardener paints with actual color, line and perspective to make composition . . . while the painter has but a flat surface on which to create an illusion." She notes the advantage of the painter is that no one ever looked to see how a painting looked from the back!

Ms. Hill remarks also on the painter's license to see as he likes. For instance, Julian Aldenweir (1852-1919) had what sounds like a great flower garden, "Peonies,

phlox, iris and other old-fashioned flowers separated by grass paths with a fountain circled by a box but . . . he preferred to paint the pastoral landscape adding floral accents as required, a process he called 'hollyhocking'."

Other painters filled the whole dooryard of the cottage with "an unlikely profusion of giant poppies while someone else painted from a photograph with no flowers then added masses of phlox and towering hollyhocks."

I am curious about Thomas Worthington Whittrege (1820-1910) . . . "who spent several summers in Newport, Rhode Island, drawn there because, as he put it, 'it was the home of my forefathers' . . . he painted many of the old houses including several with informal cottage gardens, combining vegetables and flowers." Maybe we have some of his paintings stashed in one of our Newport institutions or private attics?

If the text and illustrations of this beautiful book were not enough, I recommend it for its useful footnotes, index, and a bibliography long enough to provide reading ideas for another winter.

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Oil Spills

Following the March 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Alaska, Robert Covell raised the question, "Could this happen in Narragansett Bay?" The June 1989 *Green Light* carried his story of local oil spills but it was also prophetic, for as the issue was mailed, the *World Prodigy* spill occurred at the entrance to the Bay. With this January's story of the *North Cape* barge spill and the tugboat *Scandia* aground off Moonstone Beach in mind, here are notes from Covell's earlier history.

In June 1894 the Fall River Line steamer *Plymouth* ran aground off Rose Island trying to avoid a collision with a tugboat and barges but fortunately no oil spill. In April 1924 the tanker *Llewelyn Howland* ran aground on Seal Ledge off Price's Neck, covering Bailey's and Hazard's beaches with thick oil making them useless for swimming all summer. In August of 1958 in fog the inbound tanker *Graham*, loaded with oil, collided with the outbound empty tanker *Gulf Oil* opposite Fort Adams and Jamestown. In August 1960 the oil tanker *O.W. Thistle* ran aground off Fort Wetherell, with the oil spill further spread by the force of hurricane Donna twelve days later. Then the *World Prodigy* in 1989 and now the closing of the waters in Block Island Sound from oil discharged by the North Cape barge. Let's hope this history stops here.

Reminders

Bulky Waste Pickup Dates

The city has announced the dates for bulky waste curbside pickup. For the Point section they are: March 20, July 10, July 24, and November 13. Call Public Works at 846-2474 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment for pickup. Residents must provide lists of items to be picked up. Appointments can be made roughly a week and a half ahead of the pickup date but no later than two days beforehand.

Parking Stickers

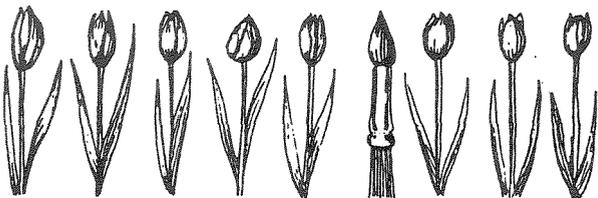
A sure sign of spring is when it is time to get your parking sticker. Stickers, which are required for parking on Point streets from May - October, 6 p.m. - 6 a.m., will be available at City Hall in late March. Your application must include valid car registration, driver's license and proof of residency.

Help Keep the Point Clean

Please clean up after your dog! With the spring weather approaching, there will be more people out walking, so let's all work together at keeping our sidewalks and parks clean!

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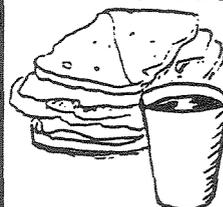
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Sunday Brunch, My Favorite Meal!

by Sharon Schultz

With spring and summer quickly arriving (and guests arriving soon after!) I thought I'd share three of my preferred Brunch dishes. They are quick and easy, allowing you to visit with house guests while preserving your sanity.

Blueberry Breakfast Bread Pudding

12 slices white bread
1 8 oz. package cream cheese, cubed
12 eggs
2 cups milk
1/3 cup maple syrup
1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup blueberries

Remove crusts from bread. Cut bread into cubes. Toss lightly with cream cheese cubes; place in a greased 13-inch x 9-inch pan. In large mixing bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, syrup and salt, mixing well. Pour over bread mixture. Cover and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. Bake uncovered for 40-45 minutes at 375 degrees or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Yield: 6 - 8 servings.

From Taste of Home, April/May 1995

* * * * *

Breakfast Burritos

1/2 lb. bulk pork sausage
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 cup (4 oz.) cheddar cheese, shredded
1/4 cup chunky salsa
6 flour tortillas

Brown sausage; drain. Return to pan. Stir eggs into sausage. Cook slowly, stirring occasionally until eggs are set. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese and salsa. Spread 1/2 cup egg mixture onto center of each tortilla. Roll and garnish with fresh tomato and fresh cilantro, if desired. Serves 4.

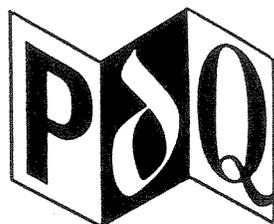
This dish was served at my bridal shower and was so delicious that it's been a favorite ever since!

Betsy's Chicken Sandwiches

12 slices thin-sliced Pepperidge Farm Bread
butter
2 cups cooked, diced chicken (small chicken breast)
1 cup diced hard boiled eggs (4 eggs)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
Tabasco sauce, to taste
1/4 cup diced onion (1 small)
1 can cream of chicken or 1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup sour cream

Butter both sides of 12 slices of bread. Make chicken salad with diced chicken, eggs, mayonnaise, onion and Tabasco sauce. Line an 11-inch x 7-inch baking pan with six of the bread slices (they fit snugly). Spread chicken salad over bread and top with remaining bread slices. In a separate bowl, mix soup and sour cream. Spread over chicken sandwiches. Sprinkle with paprika. Put in refrigerator overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes until hot and bubbly. Serves 6.

* * * * *



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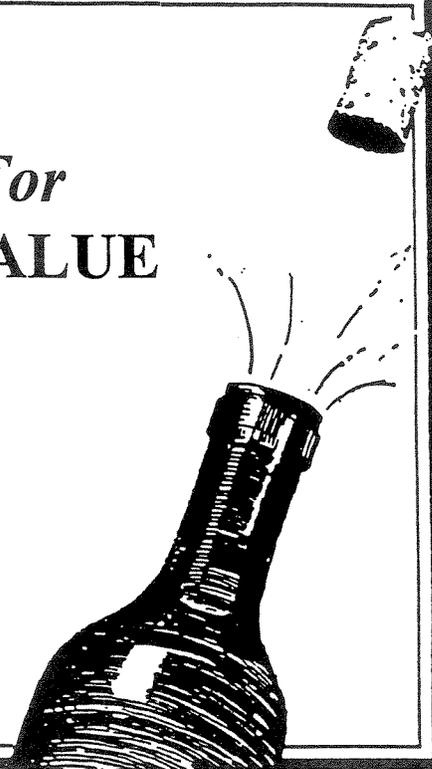
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