Spring 1997

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Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Guild Hall and are open to association members. If you have a concern that you would like the board to address, please call Coles prior to the meeting.
The President's Letter

The Point Association was formed in 1955 to "improve the Point Section, maintain the historical and colonial treasures and promote community spirit." Our mission today remains exactly the same.

We call the Point home because it's a marvelous residential neighborhood. We believe the character and spirit of the Point are worth preserving; not just for residents, but for the entire City of Newport. Strong residential neighborhoods and respect for our historic heritage are fundamental to Newport's future. Without these we become just another T-shirt and six-pack tourist town.

Maintaining the residential character of the Point and preserving our colonial treasures has not been easy in the past, and it's not easy today. The Point Association is working on several issues that threaten our neighborhood stability.

- Traffic on Point streets is increasing. We are seeing more speeding and an increasing number of trucks. City-wide traffic plans do not always respect the need to maintain quiet and safe residential streets. The Point Traffic Committee, led by Mark Williams, has done a comprehensive survey of maintenance and enforcement issues and has asked city officials for action. Another important step: the Point Association has employed a traffic engineer to work jointly with our Traffic Committee and the City on possible long term solutions. By the end of March we will present a plan to the City Council. If you have ideas or would like to help, please call Mark at 849-1319.

- Outdoor entertainment on Goat Island continues to be an issue. Noise from amplified music races across the water to the Point. We have employed an attorney to help us work through the issue and develop regulations we can propose to the City Council.

We need to be alert and involved with these and many other issues. Healthy residential neighborhoods are critical to Newport's future. Please call me at 849-5659 if you would like to help or have suggestions.

[Signature]
It is always good to remind ourselves of the purpose of the Green Light and the reason it was established over forty years ago. The following Mission and Goals were presented to the board at its February meeting and we would like to share them with you:

Mission and Goals for the Green Light

- To be the Point Association's source of information.
- To report events that are topical and relevant.
- To chronicle the rich history of the association and the area.
- To be a creative outlet for association members.

With these goals in mind we are working on some changes for the association's newsletter. The format of the inside front cover is new. The names and phone numbers of the entire board are now listed. The events calendar has been moved to the inside back cover.

School Bond Issue Forum

The Point Association mission statement affirms: "Voter Education and Programs for Community Awareness: to ensure that the Point Association is an informed voting body through communications at scheduled meetings, special mailings and the Green Light." In keeping with this assertion, there will be a forum for the:

Middle School Forum
Monday, March 10th
7 p.m.
St. John's Guild Hall
61 Poplar Street

A special vote on a $16.7 million bond issue is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th. Members of the Newport School Committee will be at the March 10th forum to answer questions. Both proponents and opponents, and those who have yet to decide, should come prepared with questions for the panel.

The Point Association takes no position regarding this issue. Questions pertaining to the forum may be directed to Coles Mallory at 849-5659.

Tour Vehicles Proposed on Point Streets

In 1984, as a result of a concerted effort by Point residents, Newport banned tour buses and through trucks from Point streets.

Now the city has received a request to use the Elm Street boat ramp and part of Washington Street for tours by amphibious vehicles. The vehicles are converted military surplus transporters "which seat 28-32 passengers and which are about the same size as the mass transit trolley buses."

If the City Council grants this request, the door would be open to other tour buses on Point streets. This would diminish the residential character of the Point and seriously impede our efforts to reduce traffic problems. The 15 member Point Association Board is unanimously opposed to tour buses on the Point and is working to defeat the proposal.

The City Council will consider this request on Wednesday, March 12th. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.
It's time for the:

**Annual Spring Cleanup**

**Saturday, April 19**

9 a.m. to noon

Storer Park

corner of Washington Street

and the Goat Island Connector Road

Join your friends and neighbors to clean up Storer and Battery parks! Bring your rakes, brooms, shovels, work gloves and enthusiasm.

*An added incentive:* Arrangements have been made to have extra mulch delivered for the cleanup. Whatever is left after trees and flower beds at the parks are mulched will be available for helpers to take home for their gardens.

Paul or Nancy Quattrucci (846-2434) or Deb Herrington (848-9735) are the people to call for more information about the cleanup.

**Attention Kids!**

Join the Adventure Club at the Point Cleanup on Saturday, April 19th, 9 a.m. at Storer Park. Bring your rakes, gloves and ideas to make Storer and Battery parks beautiful. Let's help keep our parks clean!

Beth Lloyd
849-8071

**Talking Between the Issues**

Often circumstances arise that affect our neighborhood and need our immediate attention. A communications network is being created to inform Point Association members of civic news that is pertinent to the Point. Since our newsletter is quarterly, we need a method to dispatch fast breaking news between issues of the Green Light.

Today, thanks to ever advancing technology, we have choices as to how we receive information. If you would like to be notified by telephone, call Anne Bidstrup: 849-1354 and she will add your name to the telephone tree. If you want to be included on the electronic distribution list and you use Nynex Call Answering, or have a fax machine or e-mail address, contact Beth Cullen, phone: 848-2945, fax: 848-7835, or e-mail: beth.cullen@ibm.net.

**HISTORY AND ARCHIVES**

Now that the archives are safely (and dryly) stored at St. John's Guild Hall, we have scheduled a History and Archives Committee working meeting there for 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12. Use the Willow Street entrance (through the kitchen). Please call Rowan (847-8428) or Marge (849-3045) if you plan to be there. And please come!

*Flash!* Starting the week of February 24th, our taping of Point residents' recollections of “Life on the Point” begins. This is an important step for us - the material will provide a valuable and interesting historical record. Watch for some transcripts of interviews in future Green Lights.

And prepare to enjoy the Evening of Restoration Stories - Part II at St. John's Guild Hall on May 15 at 7:30 p.m. This year we will be sharing stories about Point houses that have been moved. Nancy Espersen (846-2907) will be coordinating the event. Please call her if you have a story to share or would like to help.

*Note: See page 11 for a “moving” story.*

**The Point Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 24**

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), Joan Stickley (423-3723) or Sue Bowen (849-7079)


**Point Pot Luck Supper**

"A True Pot Luck!"

On Sunday evening, February 9th, over 125 Pointers emerged from hibernation to gather at St. John's Guild Hall. Visions of culinary treats enticed all ages to brave the winter night and rendezvous at the guild hall.

People arrived with their favorite dish. For some reason (to the benefit of those with a sweet tooth) the balance of the fare was weighted towards dessert. Never mind, the company was good and every dish devoured. A special mention for Lisa Lewis' scrumptious Valentine cookies, chocolate with red sprinkles. Please, Lisa, share the recipe - those cookies were incredible!

Some special guests attended. Mayor Gordon and his wife Linda were welcome company, as was one of the newest Point families, the Mallinoffs. Actually, City Manager Mike Mallinoff was "under the weather" and unable to attend, but his wife Laura and children Andrew and Jennifer joined the gathering.

A big thanks to Donna and Jack Maytum and to Peg and Lyn Comfort for pulling the event together so masterfully.

Beth Cullen

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**Holiday Reception**

"Cookies and Caroling!"

Many members of the Point Association gathered at St. John’s Guild Hall on Monday December 16th to celebrate the season. The occasion was the Point Association’s Holiday Reception, a new event this year. Father Cranston from St. John’s ably led singers (and want-to-be singers) in a merry session of seasonal songs. Many fine Point bakers participated in the Cookie Exchange. The results of their efforts were enjoyed by all in attendance as samples were included in the refreshments served. Look for notice of this event in next fall’s Green Light.

Peggy Comfort

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**Candlelight House Tours**

The *Christmas in Newport* Candlelight House Tours featured three Point homes last December. Betty and Frank Murphy, Joy and Ian Scott and Leila Jenkins graciously opened their homes for this annual holiday event. Many Pointers also volunteered as hosts and hostesses. Thank you to all who made the tours such a success.

Beth Cullen

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Pointers partaking at the pot luck!
Adopt-a-Tree Program

Spring is the time to think about our Point streetscapes. Is there a place near your house that would be enhanced by a new tree? The Point Association’s Adopt-a-Tree program offers a contribution towards the cost of the tree, as well as coordinating the planting of the tree on your street. Contact Deb Herrington (848-9735) for more details and an application. The deadline for applying is April 30th.

Welcome to Our New Members

Mary Albro Callaway  
Michelle Christianson  
Alice Cullen  
Ted and Vance Gatchel  
Joanne Keough  
Leslie Lampe and Bruce Long  
Wayne and Janet McAuliffe  
Kathy Sandru

Plan for the Plant Sale

The Point Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 24th, 9 a.m. until noon. This very popular annual event has been held for many years at 101 Washington Street. Admiral and Mrs. Eccles were the first hosts, followed by Virginia Wood and now Anita McAndrews and her son Shawn.

Begun as a plant exchange, the event has become a fund-raiser for the Point Association. It is a pleasant occasion where neighbors meet for a glass of lemonade or coffee, leave some plants and purchase some to take away. A number of local nurseries donate plants and larger nursery stock to swell the profits. We can sell any amount of plant material, so start early to divide perennials. Pot them up in time for them to get over the shock. If you root cuttings of house plants, or have seedlings or spares, bring them along to find a new life.

Suggestions for plants to dig from your gardens: hostas (any kind - there seems to be an endless demand for these in our shady gardens), phlox (label colors), daisies, violets, pansies, vinca, pachysandra, coral bells, ajuga... to name a few. If you need pots or advice, give one of us a call.

Anne Reynolds (847-2009)  
Joan Stickley (423-3723)  
Sue Bowen (849-7079)

The Point Association’s

Spring General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 10  
7:00 p.m  
St. John’s Guild Hall  
61 Poplar Street

Traffic, Goat Island (IDC) expansion plans and other important issues will be discussed. If there is a topic that you would like to have on the agenda, contact association president Coles Mallory at 849-5659.

ALL HANDS ON DECK  
for the  
HARBOR TOUR!  
Sunday, June 29, 1997

This year the Point Association will be “in tandem” with the Hill Association for a Newport Harbor Cruise aboard the Spirit of Newport.

Live music will be “afloat” along with lots of refreshments  
The silent auction table will be brimming with great “treasures”  
Some lucky sailor will return to shore with a “deck” prize!

Donations of items or services for the silent auction are welcome

Like to help along?  
Please call Anne Bidstrup at 849-1354  
(free “passage” for helping hands)

Look for reservation information in the next Green Light.

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Former Point Association vice president Roberta Majewski was pictured in an article celebrating Child and Family Services 130th anniversary. Roberta is the assistant to the president at the social service agency.

Stephen Walk was featured in a Daily News “Profile” interview. He lives in Newport (on the Point), owns a business in Boston and is Chairman of the foundation that runs Mystic MarineLife Aquarium in Connecticut.

The Daily News reported that Lyn and Peggy Comfort, co-owners of the Music Hall Cafe, were overwhelmed by the generosity of volunteers who helped to serve over 150 Thanksgiving dinners. The Flynns, Jack, Donna and their two sons Sean and Griffin, were among those who helped out.

Eileen O’Connell O’Reilly and Thelma Halvorsen Ebbitt were honored at the Mosaic Club’s 60th anniversary celebration in December. They both have wonderful stories about the Point that have been shared with the History and Archives committee.

Born-on-the-Pointers Benjamin and Geoffrey Pedrick were shown lighting the Hanukkah menorah in a Newport Life article about Touro Synagogue.

In that same Holiday issue, St. John’s Guild Hall, the site of many Point functions, was featured in John Grosvenor’s article on Carpenter Gothic.

A Point Bed and Breakfast, The Willows of Newport, was featured in mid-February as America Online’s Inn of the Week. The Willows is owned by Patty Murphy.

Greg Simone, owner of Ten Speed Spokes, was pictured in a January Daily News article discussing plans for a series of bike paths on Aquidneck Island.

The Johnstone family has received SAIL magazine’s Industry Leadership Award for the “family’s vision in creating enterprises that have drawn thousands to the sport.” Though Bob and Mary Johnstone now live in West Boothbay Harbor, Maine, they are still association members.

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**Inspirational Recipe**

In honor of Adé Bethune’s birthday, Joseph and Angela Vars sent this special greeting.

**Paté Adé**

1 teaspoon inspiration  
1 teaspoon vision  
1 tablespoon energy  
3 tablespoons compassion  
Large pinch of love  
(available from early home care)  
½ cup of the milk of human kindness

Mix together for stressless consistency. Pack into heart-shaped container. Slice thin and spread on the bread of life. This recipe will serve mankind for many years.

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**Kay’s View**

Editor Kay O’Brien is visiting relatives as this issue of the Green Light goes to press. Before leaving she offered Dorothy Manuel’s 1954 painting of the Cenacle Chapel for the cover. The trees have grown larger, but it is basically the same view that Kay enjoys each day from her house on Battery Street.

Kay’s View might be on the cover of this Green Light, but we certainly have missed her perspective and hard work on the inside. Many thanks to Beth Cullen and the rest of the staff for their extra help in preparing this issue.

Nancy Espersen
**Friends of Van Zandt Pier**

**Constructed to Last**

New Van Zandt Pier Not Likely to be Washed Away by Storm

"The new Van Zandt Avenue Pier is not likely to be washed away by storm and judging from the present aspect it may be called permanent construction. A cargo of heavy stone arrived from Maine and was discharged in the vicinity of the pier location. This stone is being picked up and placed so as to form piers. Some pieces of the stone are said to weigh 15 tons each and such chunks generally stay where they are placed. Six piers have been constructed but many more must be made, as the pier is to extend out about 200 feet. A wooden deck is to be constructed on the piers, but this will be above the wash of the seas.

The previous construction of Newport pleasure piers, with the exception of one at King Park, has been of the pile type, which worms have eaten away, ice has lifted and storms have wrecked. At the Van Zandt Avenue location slate rock slopes out into the bay beneath a light covering of clay. Piles have been driven into this clay as far as the rock, where driving had to stop. The result was a pier lightly located and hence very susceptible to damage by storms and the last one was almost picked up bodily and thrown ashore."

*Newport Daily News:*

*June 16, 1920*

Seventy-seven years later those Maine stone pilings are still standing, minus a few "chunks." The Friends of Van Zandt Pier are trying to maintain that "permanent construction" so this historic "Newport pleasure pier" will continue to be a neighborhood attraction. To join the crew, please contact Beth Cullen at 848-2945, or write Friends of Van Zandt Pier, P.O. Box 704, Newport, RI 02840.

Late breaking news: *City Year Rhode Island* has agreed to finish painting the pier! This group is an arm of AmeriCorps, a program that recruits young adults into a year of community service. Look for the crew at work on the pier sometime in April.
In the fall of 1996 we announced that the Star of the Sea had formed a unique partnership with Rhode Island Housing & Mortgage Finance Corporation to preserve and develop the former Cenacle/Corpus Christi property. This historic site, located on Battery Street between Washington and Second, will provide community living for independent elders. The first step of putting together the financing is under way, with the renovation of the property to start in late 1997 and occupancy during 1998.

As history buffs, we are looking into the origins of the Rice House, which was moved from Washington Street to Battery Street in 1964. Interesting pictures of this move appear on the next page. But does anyone know who built the house and when?

The L-shaped house already appears on a plat map dated 1876. The narrow triangular 23,600-sq.ft. lot is marked with the name Clarance Rathbone. The property has its own pier as does the John Auchincloss property to the south.

Does anyone know when the house on the Rathbone lot became the Rice House?

Another plat map, dating to 1907, shows the same house on the same 23,600-sq.ft. lot but with the addition of a rectangular 18,155-sq.ft. lot to the north named for Agnes L. Rice. The name “Bay Bank” seems to apply to the whole property.

On the same 1907 map, John Auchincloss’ 45,685-sq.ft. lot to the south is now owned by St. Regis House Corporation, the legal name of the Cenacle nuns who acquired the property in 1906 from Agnes Storer. There is an entrance on Second Street and another at the corner of Battery Street. The back of the house faces the bay.

Moreover, in 1906 a small 7889-sq.ft. lot had been sold to George Sage, who built the Washington Street house where I have now lived for over 40 years. But that is another house and another story.

Finding out one bit of information usually leads to more questions. There are fascinating and intriguing facts to be found about the Rice House and other Star of the Sea structures. Are you the person to discover them? Please contact me at 847-5428.

Adé Bethune
An Evening of Restoration Stories
Thursday, May 15 - 7:30 p.m. - St. John's Guild Hall - 61 Poplar Street

As part of National Historic Preservation week the Point Association will be sponsoring An Evening of Restoration Stories - Part II. The stories this year will be about Point houses that have been moved. Some houses have been taken down board by board and reassembled, others literally “lifted up” and moved on wagons pulled by a team of horses or on trucks. One house even floated on a barge across Newport Harbor before being taken to its current site on Farewell Street.

The Rice House has its own moving story. Originally located on Washington Street, the house was moved to Battery Street and connected to the St. Francis House in 1964. These photographs from Louise Sherman tell of the move across the grounds of the Cenacle.

Join us for more stories on May 15!
Winter Walking on the Point

Walking has been much easier this winter without the continuous ice and snow. Some almost balmy days bring stirrings of spring as green shoots bring promise of April blooms. Soon the work of volunteers at last October’s bulb planting will be evident at Storer Park and Marsh Street.

Harbor activities are on land this time of year with boats stored in yards and floats being repaired and readied for installation. The two Army ships have departed the shipyard and their place taken by a large ferry whose bow opens wide. On lower Washington Street activity is underway on the second phase of time-shares by Eastern Resorts.

For those venturing off Point streets, a favorite destination has been Queen Anne Square to watch the jail being built for the movie Amistad. And along Washington Square bright pink ribbons mark the utility poles, parking meters and other objects that will be removed for the filming.

Sunsets have been glorious this winter and now days are getting longer. It’s hard to believe but by mid-March the sun will reach the half-way point of its journey to the north. Here on the Point that means it sets directly down our east-west side streets. Happy days are almost here again when neighbors will be greeting each other along the sidewalks, in their yards and in the parks.

Kay O’Brien

Music Hall Café offers tastes that no other Newport restaurant can match... fresh seafood, prime meats, creative vegetarian and healthy Mexican dishes prepared with our Southwestern flair

250 Thames Street, Newport 848-2330

Designer Showhouse

In 1851 Alexander MacGregor, a Scottish builder and stonemason, built a house on Bellevue Avenue for Judge Swan. This house, called Swanhurst, will be the site for a month-long Designer Showhouse in June. Preparations have been underway for almost a year for this fund-raiser to benefit the Women’s Resource Center and Lucy’s Hearth. You can be a part of this exciting event by volunteering to hostess on Thursday, June 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - the Point Association’s shift. Please call Christine Montanaro (849-4708) to sign up.

Calling All Cooks!

When company comes do you have a special dish you like to prepare? Or perhaps you make a mouth-watering dessert. The women at St. John’s are collecting recipes for a cookbook and invite Point cooks to participate. Contact Teddi Shaw (846-7864) if you have a recipe to share.

Nina Lynette Home Vacancy

After years of 100% occupancy and a waiting list, there is now an empty room at the Nina Lynette Home, 87 Washington Street, a non-profit boarding house for Senior citizens not in need of nursing care.

Since an endowment pays for over half the cost of operating the home the rents are modest, and three meals a day are included. The house has an emergency generator, is handicapped accessible and fully sprinkled.

Telephone the Director, Laurie Shaw (847-2674) if you would like to visit the home, or the Admissions Chair Pauline Ward (846-9276) to make an application.

Herb Rommel

Music Hall Café

When Leaving the Point
Come to the Southwest

Music Hall Café offers tastes that no other Newport restaurant can match... fresh seafood, prime meats, creative vegetarian and healthy Mexican dishes prepared with our Southwestern flair

250 Thames Street, Newport 848-2330

kitchen pot-pourri

Sandra Crane • Proprietor

42 West Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842
Tel: 401 847 5880 • Fax: 401 849 4770

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Web Sitings

For our members who “surf the net” here are some new destinations. Friends of the Waterfront can be found at www.newport1.com/waterfront/. Their page, complete with photographs of the Point, is a great way to keep informed as to what is currently happening along Newport’s waterfront. And to get information about Newport city services, access City Hall via the Internet at www.cityofnewport.com.

Bulky Waste Pickup Dates

Curbside pickup of bulky waste for the Point is scheduled for March 19 and July 9. Call Public Works at 846-2474 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. to make an appointment. A list of items must be provided. Appointments can be made roughly a week and a half ahead of the pickup date but no later than two days before.

Don’t Forget!

How many times have we seen this sign? Yet when May 1st rolls around we’ve forgotten to get our parking sticker! Those of you who plan ahead can pick up your stickers at City Hall starting late March. Bring along a valid car registration, your driver’s license and proof of residency. The charge was $2 last year; this year’s fee has not yet been determined.

Newport Harbor Management
Citizens Planning Session

In 1654, William Dyer (an original settler on the Point) wrote about his concerns for Newport’s first town dock, to be located on West Marlborough Street. In 1711 town records show the need of a 20 to 30-foot area to be allotted at the water’s edge for public passage. This concern with public access was a result of Newport’s rapidly expanding commercial wharf area.

Three hundred years later Newport is still grappling with what are the “right” and “wrong” uses of our shoreline and harbor areas. The city does not have a harbor management plan, thus leaving Newport without the necessary legal backing to control development along our coastline. The CRMC (Coastal Resources Management Council), a state agency, has mandated that all cities and towns in Rhode Island with property adjacent to the waterfront must have a plan in place which dictates the appropriate uses for their shorelines.

In compliance with the CRMC’s mandate, the city of Newport has gathered a committee of sixteen volunteers to draft a harbor management plan. This group is a sub-committee of the Waterfront Commission and will make its final report of recommendations to the City Council within the next 12-18 months.

The first public hearing was held on Wednesday, February 5, 1997. Of the crowd of over 100 attending, many were Point residents. Such issues as the maintenance of public piers and right-of-ways, the condition of the state pier, allocation of moorings and boat traffic on the bay were discussed. It is in our interest to follow the actions of this committee and monitor their efforts in areas affecting the Point.

Beth Cullen
Gardening Corner
Starting Seeds

I have been asked to give directions for starting seeds. Okay, but I’m warning you that unless you have a greenhouse, a very sunny window or are willing to shift from sun to sun, forget about it.

That said, cover drainage holes of your flat or pot with a single layer of newspaper to fit, then fill with damp professional mix**. Press the mix to level it and water well. Sprinkle seeds sparingly and cover to depth desired (see seed packet). Water gently and cover with plastic wrap until you see little plants, then uncover. You will need to water often (with ½ strength liquid fertilizer) every couple of weeks as the plants mature. If you plant two or three seeds a pot you don’t have to transplant, but snip the weaker seedlings at ground level.

** Professional mix is sold under several brand names but is always made of peat, vermiculite and expanded mica. If you have trouble wetting it, add a drop or two of Dawn liquid detergent to your watering can.

Anne Reynolds

A “Whale” of a Question

The following is from association member Bowen Sweet: “My purpose in this letter is to inquire whether anyone might know if a whale was present in the bay about the time of World War I or before. I have a rib about 5 feet in length which I’ve stored for over 40 years - supposedly from a whale. I think it is about time I discarded it! I’ve never heard anyone make reference to this happening and I have no further information about it. The rib looks as if it has been stored for 40 years but might improve if polished.”

Any whale information to report to Mr. Sweet? Write to him c/o Green Light, The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840.
There is nothing new to report about the city’s intent to sell Potter School when the Department of Human Services moves. But we do have some history and memories of the school to share.

Liz Bermender, who attended Potter School, wrote about the Long Wharf/Lotteries/Education connection for the Spring 1995 Green Light. “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!” Erected in 1881, Potter School was one of the “free schools” built using funds from the Trustees of Long Wharf.

Bowen Sweet wrote that he went to Potter School for 7th grade when Miss Phelan was principal. Bowen’s wife, Marguerite Burdick, recalled that her aunt, Marguerite Burdick (same name), was principal before Miss Phelan. When the granite steps at the school became smooth from wear, Bowen’s father was hired to “ruffen” them up. He pock-marked the surface and formed Bowen’s initials on the right end. Another memory was of accidentally breaking a window which cost him $5.

A special thanks to Sue Gudikunst who diligently searched at the Historical Society, Board of Education, King Senior Center, and Daily News for an old photograph of Potter School. Geraldine Nagle offered a wonderful 1936 picture of what appears to be a talent review at a school. Our hopes were high that it was Potter School, but upon closer viewing, we think it might have been taken in Middletown. Do you have an old photograph of the school?

In Remembrance

We were saddened to learn of the death of William “Leon” Nightingale in December. Laura Osborne wrote of Mr. Nightingale’s remarkable life in the Fall 1996 issue of the Green Light.

Eileen Sullivan, formerly of Second Street, passed away last fall. Miss Sullivan’s niece, Kathy Sandru, fondly remembers visiting her aunt on the Point and attending Point Fairs with her.
Answer to the trivia question on page 14:

Anthony Edwards, currently starring as Dr. Mark Greene in the NBC Thursday night drama series *ER*, played Theophilus North. Other actors in the movie were Robert Mitchum, Lauren Bacall, Anjelica Huston, Harry Dean Stanton, Mary Stuart Masterson and Virginia Madsen.

During the filming of *Mr. North* in the summer of 1987, Annette Peterson's house at 107 Washington Street was transformed into Amelia Cranston's boarding house. A complete account of this adventure can be found in the October 1987 *Green Light* story “Hollywood Comes to the Point.”

In case you missed the movie, it is available at several local video stores.

Do you have a trivia question to share? Contact Nancy (846-2907) or Beth (848-2945).

Anthony Edwards and Lauren Bacall rehearsing a scene on Annette Peterson’s porch.

**In With the New**

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I am as delighted as you are that spring is just around the corner; however, spring brings an increased need to vigilantly protect and improve the quality of life we enjoy. The Point is one of the loveliest neighborhoods in Newport, thanks to the hard work of its residents over the years. It will continue to take hard work on all of our parts to maintain what we love about the Point and all of Newport in the year ahead.

Last year many improvements came to be; a more open and progressive approach to City government, the start of a community centered rapport between neighborhoods and the hospitality industry, ground gained against the party house 'animal' and the revitalization of the Van Zandt Pier, to name a few. This year we hope to see marked improvement in those areas and many more. Your help is needed, please volunteer. Call me at 848-9451 if you have time and talent to spare - we'll put you to work. Please call me with your thoughts - I'll do my best to incorporate them into my work.

One of the biggest issues coming up this spring is the proposed middle school bond referendum on April 8th. It is a huge amount of money for this overburdened community to absorb - $16.7 million borrowed that will eventually cost us twice that when interest is added in. This is not just a money issue, however. Thompson Middle School is in deplorable shape. Doing nothing is not an option. Many would argue, myself included, that doing nothing is precisely what has brought us to the brink of despair with our children's schools. This is not just an issue for parents. The children, their education and the schools are the heart of any community. Please give the middle school issue an extra look, for the future of Newport really does rest on how we, as a community respond.

Kate Leonard and I have been strongly criticized for questioning the proposed middle school plans at Dexter Street and the level of study the School Committee gave to alternative sites and proposals. We will continue to ask questions as that is our responsibility. This is far too huge a financial commitment to make without intense scrutiny. It is far too important a part of our children's future for us not to turn every stone in search of the very best choice.

I would like to draw your attention to the word choice. The part of this whole middle school process that upsets me the most is the lack of choice being offered to the people. The School Committee, by its own admission, has no contingency plan in case the bond does not pass. They have publicly said that should the bond fail to pass, the status quo will remain at Thompson. Obviously, they have chosen this tactic to pressure the people into voting for a new school. Where is the choice?

We have all said that doing nothing is not an option, but that is precisely the choice the people are being offered - a new school at Dexter Street - or nothing. That is an incredible disservice to the children, the teachers and the Newport community. I don't have an answer to this dilemma, unfortunately. I have no magical "Plan B" in my back pocket to offer, but I feel frustrated with this approach to planning for the future education of Newport's children. I welcome your thoughts on this critical issue.

I hope you will attend, with questions and comments at the ready, when the Point Association holds a forum on the middle school proposal on Monday, March 10th.
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SPRING EVENTS

MARCH

10
MIDDLE SCHOOL FORUM
7 pm, St. John's Guild Hall
Coles Mallory 849-5059, page 4

20
VERNAL EQUINOX
SPRING IS HERE!

APRIL

8
SCHOOL BOND
SPECIAL ELECTION
Polls open 8 am - 9 pm
Ward 1 votes at Potter School, Elm Street

10
SPRING MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
7 pm, St. John's Guild Hall
contact Coles Mallory, page 7

19
SPRING CLEAN-UP
9 am - noon, meet at Storer Park
Deb Herrington 849-1795, page 5

MAY

15
EVENING OF
RESTORATION STORIES
7:30 pm, St. John's Guild Hall
Nancy Egersen 849-2107, page 11

24
POINT PLANT SALE
9 am - noon, cr. of Pine & Washington
Anne Reynolds 847-2009, page 5

POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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New Member _____ Renewal _____

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