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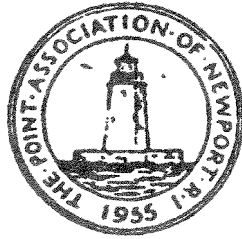
# The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

*Winter 1997-98*



*Winter on Training Station Road*



# The GREEN LIGHT

XLII No. 4 Winter 1997

## Features

President's Letter	3
Annual Meeting	4
Holiday Cookie Swap	5
Political Notes	6
Beautification	8
Traffic Calming Update	9
The House on Training Station Road	10
Marine Terminal	12
Goat Island "Clam Bake"	13
The Black Duck Incident	14
Edith Ballinger Price	15
Adventure Club	16
Gingerbread Boys & Girls	17
Letters to Green Light	18

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Front Cover: Photo of Pat Sherman's House on Training Station Road see page 10-11

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## The Point Association Board

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(849-5659)

Deborah Herrington, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
(848-9735)

Anne Bidstrup, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
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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

We are the largest, oldest, and most active of Newport's neighborhood organizations.

We do three things - and we do them well.  
We build a sense of community and caring.  
We make our physical neighborhood a nicer place to live.  
We engage in political advocacy on issues that effect our neighborhood.

We make a difference. Consider what the Governor's assistant said when the marine terminal location was announced, "The location has been mutually agreed upon by the state Department of Transportation, the City of Newport, the Point Association, Sail Newport and other groups." True, we are not always so successful, but we always try and usually influence the results.

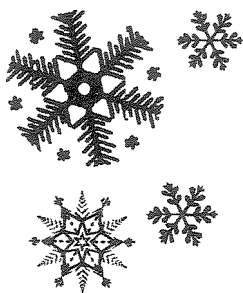
The extent of our activities is impressive. Here is a partial list: plant sale, harbor tour, beautification of our parks, street tree plantings, wine tasting, new member party, historical presentations, Halloween parade, candidate forums, The Green Light, cocktail party, traffic calming, marine terminal, noise abatement, no "Ducks", holiday cookie exchange, annual and spring meetings, and the list goes on.

When I accepted this task a year ago, I underestimated the breath of activities and involvement of the association. But I also underestimated the commitment of our members to our neighborhood and your willingness to be active and involved. Your energy has made service to the Point Association a wonderful opportunity and a daily challenge.

The Point Association is successful because Point residents care about our neighborhood and are willing to work.

My thanks to all of you for your commitment and your energy.





# The Point Association Enters Its 43<sup>rd</sup> Year



## *Annual Meeting Review "New Urbanism"*

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of the Point Association gathered at St. John's Guild Hall for the annual meeting. With an association as active as ours, there is always a lot to hear about as we close one year and start anew.

Our president, Coles Mallory, opened the meeting by outlining the association's budget and then calling upon board members to give their reports. Happenings within the Noise Abatement, Traffic Calming, Harbor/Waterfront, Adventure Club, Green Light, Nominating, and Beautification committees were all summarized. (*More in-depth information on committee activities may be found within this edition of the Green Light.*)

Once the general association business portion of the meeting was over, everyone settled in to hear a presenta-

tion given by members of Newport's city staff. Using a series of computer graphics, outlines and photographs, City Manager Mike Mallinoff, Director of Planning, Zoning and Development Bruce Bartlett and City Planner Anirudh Pandit, illustrated their vision for Newport. The planning concept, "New Urbanism," was used to describe a new yet old paradigm of community development.

The assembled may have thought, "What's the big deal? Newport has all of the characteristics that are being described ... tell me something I don't know." Well - that's the good news! Despite the trendy semantics (it seems everything today has to be labeled with a catchy buzzword), the principles behind New Urbanism mirror what so many communities long for and Newport possesses; things like: a modified grid pattern of streets, a mixed use of space by the juxtaposition of business and residential areas, welcoming and attractive public gathering places, special attention paid to neighborhood beautification, and a defined natural edge or border, all of which make up the basic ingredients that combine to make a city livable, sustainable and, most importantly, focused on building the sense of community for all residents. The New Urbanism theory takes the automobile out of its place of prominence and replaces it with people.

The presentation reinforced what Point residents care about and have successfully accomplished - preservation of a balanced environment, concentration on disallowing developer-initiated, piecemeal building; partnership with local government to ensure that the planning process is open to all affected, and the enhancement of the natural and cultural beauty surrounding us. By spreading the message citywide, Newporters can embrace our collective neo-traditional character, and foster a sense of place and community. By recognizing and celebrating our diverse resources, Newport - the tourist destination, and Newport - the city speckled with healthy, active neighborhoods - will thrive.

Beth Cullen



### When Leaving the Point Come to the Southwest

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## Welcome to Our New Members

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David and Carole Clark  
Dominic and Deidre Corrigan  
Russell and Esther Dulac  
Mrs. Carol C. Flohr  
Anne Forbes  
Frances Greene  
Martha Marie Grogan  
Jennifer Hall  
Angie Hoyle  
John Kavanagh  
Joseph P. Kelly  
Laura Jenifer Mallinoff  
Manuel and Sara Medeiros  
Max and Trish Poirrier  
Muriel E.B. Quinn  
Gerald A. Simone  
Dick Slater  
Matthew Tupper and Kimberly Murphy

## NEW NOMINATING COMMITTEE ON THE LOOKOUT

How does this organization stay so vital? It happens because so many people generously step forward to volunteer their time for the association. This year: Kay O'Brien, Nancy Espersen, Mary Lynn Rooke, Bryan Babcock, and Loretta Goldrick will make up the team that will be out recruiting new officers and committee chairs. When they contact you, please consider joining in; there are so many fun and rewarding ways to participate in our dynamic community.

## Point Association Officers 1997-1998

President	Coles Mallory 121 Washington Street 849-5659
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Deborah Herrington* 54 Poplar Street 848-9735
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Anne Bidstrup 35 Poplar Street 849-1354
Corresponding Secretary	Loretta Goldrick 20 Second Street 849-9425
Recording Secretary	Suzanne Varisco* 35 Second Street 841-5220
Treasurer	Arthur Gudikunst* 28 Elm Street 849-4367

\* 1997-98 new officers



## Holiday Fun for Everyone !

Join your Neighbors for the Point's  
Annual Cookie Swap and Sing-a-Long,

**Monday ~ December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**5 o'clock**

**St. John's Guild Hall**

**Here's how to take part in the Swap:**

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**Package in bags of 12 for the exchange table.**

**Put the rest on a plate for all to sample.**

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# The Changing of the Guard

Notes from George Perry and Laurie Shaw

Dear Friends on the Point:

I am thrilled at having been voted your First Ward Councilman, I look forward to serving our community in the City Council. I am dedicated to working hard with you in our constant pursuit to maintain and improve this wonderful area.

There are plenty of issues that will need careful attention over the next few years. Issues include the fate of the American Shipyard; the proper construction of the Marine Terminal at Perotti Park; continued monitoring of noise and nuisance; the proper planning for commercial development of Connell Highway; the waste water plant; and, appropriate traffic and parking planning for our area.

All of these issues, plus others we may not yet have anticipated, will affect us in the next few years. I will need your constructive input to help the council reach the right resolution on all of these important matters. I welcome your feedback. You may reach me at 848-5598, or write to me at 102 Third Street, written comments will allow for better tracking and follow through.

I pledge to work very hard to help you make Newport a better place to live and to visit. Our success depends on open communication and perseverance. Together, we can bring about positive results for this great city.

Enjoy the holiday season!



George Perry

Hi Everyone

As I begin my last "official" *Green Light* article, I am filled with conflicting emotions. First, I feel grateful for having had the opportunity to assist the community that I love so much; at the same time there's a sense of relief from the procedural duties of the office.

During my tenure on this creative, yet extremely challenging body, I have learned that the City Council is most successful when it acts in concert with all the other components that make-up Newport. Your part in this alliance is essential, for without your continuous input, government has the tendency to

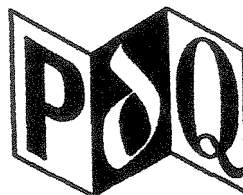
forget that filling your needs is its reason for being. Remember what Lincoln said at Gettysburg: "... of the people, by the people and for the people..." this still holds true today, but only if you do your part.

The recent election was a barometer reading of how well government is responding to the will of the people. I'm delighted at George Perry's success because his philosophy and principles closely match my own, so I feel the First Ward will be well represented. Please continue to follow and examine the performance of those you have elected. Your individual thoughts and visions can lead to widespread actions that can positively effect all of us. Your involvement will ensure that the council continues to steer the right course for Newport's future.

Newport faces many challenges. As we set goals for the city, attention to our schools must be a top of the priority. The new School Committee has the potential for a fresh approach to solving the many problems that trouble our local educational system. Again, I must emphasize the urgent need for your awareness and participation. Stressing quality in education is everyone's duty. A partnership has been formed between Child and Family Services of Newport County, Americorp and the Family Center to recruit volunteers to tutor/mentor children in kindergarten through third grade for one or two hours a week. This is a terrific opportunity to make a difference in our community. Contact Donna Southworth at 842-6982 to find out more about this program.

Everyone asks what my plans are for all of my free time. As yet, I don't have a definitive answer. I do know that I have no intention of retiring from community activism, so City Hall isn't rid of me yet. Civic involvement is too rewarding and enjoyable to give up completely. Thank you for your support and your efforts to make Newport the best it can be.

I hope your upcoming Holiday season and New Year are full of peace, happiness and abundance - especially peace.



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# CANDIDATE DEBATE


One of the Point Association's objectives (as stated in the Mission Statement) is to promote voter education and programs for community awareness. In keeping with this important aim, on October 16th a candidate debate was held in St. John's Guild Hall in conjunction with the Swamp Association, for the benefit of all Point and Halsey Street area residents, as well as the general public.

As invitations had been mailed soon after the municipal primary, we were able to host all six candidates vying for the at large posts, but only one of the two candidates (George Perry) for First Ward council seat, as David Carlin responded that he had previous engagements.

The questions from the audience were varied, and hopefully provided all in attendance with the responses they needed to make informed choices on election day. The planned segment wherein candidates question each other, which usually produces interesting discourse, was unfortunately dropped at the last minute.

We thank Don Dery of the Point Association, who served as moderator initially; Tom Kane, President of the Swamp Association, who served as timekeeper and moderator when Don Dery had to leave; Mike Cullen of the Point Association for filling in as Timekeeper; and Elaine Amaral, Vice President of the Swamp Association and Anne Bidstrup, Vice President of the Point Association who, also coordinated the event, for serving as "screeners" for the questions submitted by the audience. Anne, who has recently been appointed State Membership Chair for the League of Women Voters, added her LWV debate experience, making this political event a great success.

Thanks to all who participated, we look forward to more such informative civic events.



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# Point Parks and Trees

The past year or so has been a very productive and satisfying time for the Beautification Committee, and judging by the numerous positive remarks we have received, that feeling is shared by Point neighbors as well as other Newport residents.

Adding a bit of definition to Storer Park has always been a challenge. Progress in that direction was made with the addition of six benches facing the harbor by the west sea wall and eight pin oaks along the park crosswalks. These enhancements were made in part through generous financial donations from Storer Park abutters, Don and Rowena Dery and former residents Gerry and Suzette Seigel, as well as from the managements of the Doubletree Hotel and the Island Development Corporation. You may have recently noticed three new concrete and pebble-sided trash containers at various locations in the park. Again, to the Doubletree Hotel for contributing the funds to the for them.

A valuable addition to Storer Park this fall has been the installation of a water faucet adjacent to the bubbler at the Bridge Street entrance to the park. Much of the credit for ordering the apparatus and coordinating the installation effort between city departments goes to Scott Wheeler, City Tree Warden and Parks Supervisor.

Scott is currently assisting the Beautification Committee in determining suitable locations and species of trees in conjunction with the Point Association's Adopt-a-Tree Program. His extensive knowledge of how various trees react to city conditions will ensure the best selection for Point streets. Watch for tree plantings at the intersection of Elm and Second streets, and

along Chestnut Street from Washington to the end of Katzman Place. Planting of several varieties will be undertaken this fall and resume next spring. The cost of the trees is being shared by individual Point residents and the Point Association, with residents paying two thirds and the association contributing one third of the total. The process of selection, delivery and planting will be done by city departments with no additional cost to residents.

Hopefully, in the next few weeks, you will notice additional benches installed in Battery Park. The purchase of the benches is made possible by the generosity of Point neighbors Beverly Adler and John Barton, who are giving them in memory of deceased family members.

Hunter Park was the scene of much activity this past spring and summer. In addition to construction of the infield area by the city, a mix of 5 red maple and ash trees were purchased with Point Association funds and planted with the help of Scott and his crew. Additional tree plantings will be done over the next few years along the fence bordering the east side of the park. In time, these Atlantic white cedar trees will provide an effective screen to block out noise and an unattractive view.

The looks of tiny Arnold Park will be improved with the planned addition of a variety of spring flowering bulbs. And for those who wish to sit in the park and enjoy the flowers, there will be a choice of not 1, but 2 benches. Until this past summer sitting was limited to one bench, as the stone seat for the other bench was nowhere in sight. Nick Benson, of the John Stevens Shop, was asked if he would assist in the resetting of one of the bench's

supports and the replacement of the seat. Despite a demanding workload, he agreed to help and the bench was restored.

In summary, a good many projects were completed, some are in progress and a few are planned as ongoing commitments. The Beautification Committee thanks everyone who contributes whether by helping with clean-ups, planting flowers and bulbs, or donating money toward the purchase of items for the our streets and parks. Collectively it makes the neighborhood look better and better.

**Paul & Nancy Quattrucci**

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# TRAFFIC CALMING COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR INPUT

The Point Association Traffic Calming Committee continues to develop the plan for discouraging cut-through traffic. We need your help to ensure minimum disruption to residents or visitors while addressing this important neighborhood issue.

Last summer Mark Williams asked me to help the committee with a traffic problem in the Point. Their program to collect data, consult a traffic expert to check their perception, and craft a concrete proposal to frame the discussions was a refreshing departure from the usual. Whatever the result, I felt compelled to support this proactive, positive approach and signed on for the duration. Not surprisingly, some perceived problems were shown to not truly exist while others were starkly revealed.

Consider Third Street, a mostly narrow, one-way residential street where hundreds of families live and park their cars.

Houses lie hard against sidewalks on each side. Most intersections have very small sight distances and only one is controlled by a signal. Along this stretch, there are at least a dozen school and transit bus stops active at the time of peak traffic flow, 340 cars/hour.

Now contrast that with the corresponding peak traffic of 400 cars/hour on the America's Cup - Farewell route. Throughout its length a wide, two-lane state highway, bounded by cemeteries, commercial properties, and one residence. Sidewalks bound less than half its length with no parking or bus stops of any kind. The rotary is the 6th intersection you encounter, of which all enjoy good sight distances and four are controlled by signals.

Bill Schwartz, a respected traffic consultant oft hired by the city in other matters, studied the turning counts and says they clearly indicate a problem with inappropriate use of neighborhood streets. We asked him to suggest appropriate tools the committee could use to effect a solution reducing cut-through traffic, at minimal cost in terms of tax dollars, convenience of other drivers, and impact on adjacent areas of the city.

The current working plan is a product of a yearlong effort by 40 Point volunteers counting, canvassing, and planning. It continues to evolve in response to feedback from residents at the September meeting in the St. John's Guild Hall and the

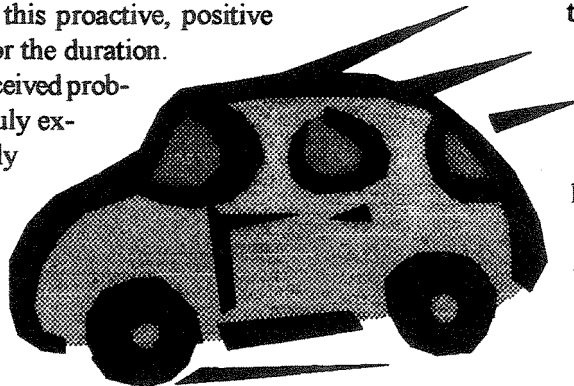
Monday, November 10th was a big day in the ongoing effort to improve the safety of pedestrians and quality of life in front of our homes. Representatives of the committee went on the radio and met with city staff to accept input and comment on the working plan. That evening, the city council held a workshop meeting to receive our petition and hear presentations by the committee, Mr. Schwartz, and Bruce Bartlett, who presented the city staff's position.

The city not only concurred with the finding that the traffic patterns constitute a problem worthy of action, but many of the measures in the working plan as well. Some proposals discussed in September have been deferred for city-wide review. Those remaining have the most support from Point citizens and are recommended by city staff. They essentially cleave into three groups:

- 1) At the December 10th, city council meeting, the following will be requested: Establish stop signs on Washington at the Goat Island Connector (GIC), and on Bridge at Second (where accidents have occurred). Relocate the "No Trucks" signs to more effective locations.
- 2) On January 20th, at 7 p.m., a public meeting will be held at S. John's Guild Hall to discuss: Establishing a stop signs on Washington at Poplar, and on Washington (north-bound) at Van Zandt. Making Washington from Bridge to the GIC one way south. Reshaping the Washington/GIC intersection.
- 3) On February 10th, at 7 p.m., another meeting will be held at the Guild Hall to discuss: Institute left turn restrictions entering Elm and Poplar from America's Cup on weekday mornings. Establish a stop sign on Third at Elm.

These meetings are for you to help shape measures needed to cope with the existing problems, and the burgeoning impacts of development on Long Wharf and Goat Island. Please participate by lending your support to the final proposals as they go before the city council.

**John Spohn**



# THE HOUSE ON TRAINING STATION ROAD

**A**rthur Leslie Green, mentioned in the last *Green Light* in his connection with the Cloyne School, was a man of many interests. Two of his main passions were antiquity and old houses. He did indeed own the Pineapple House, but he was also the owner of another house with a rather interesting history.

**T**his house, which now stands on Training Station Road, was originally built on the lot across Walnut Street from the Pineapple House on Second Street where another house now stands (at 52 Second Street). The original house was built, as far as records can tell us, in either 1730 or 1805 depending on the source. It was purchased by Mr. Green in 1903 and moved by the Jamestown moving firm of Thomas Preece to land owned

by Green across the street from Cloyne School and bordering on the Naval Training Station.

**A** modest and smaller house than it is now, Mr. Green added, as far as we can determine, a part of another house onto the back and also a gambrel roof. He then began to gather moldings, doors, windows, a perfectly beautiful staircase, mantles and other appointments from houses going derelict in town. Restoration was not in vogue at that time and some of the gleanings came from houses that later burned or were otherwise destroyed. All these bits and pieces were melded into one. It was then furnished with antiques and opened as a museum. Figures clothed in period costume were added and, as the brochure said, "...shown in life-like occupations – some reading the bible, others primping in regrettable worldliness..." The new museum was called the Old Curiosity Shop and the admission charge was an exorbitant 75 cents! Remember that this was the early 1900's!

**T**he Old Curiosity Shop was just one of the many names this house has boasted. At first Mr. Green called it the

"Weaver-Franklin House." It was listed as such in a brochure, of no known date, entitled "Newport, RI, Colonial Buildings of Historic Interest," along with the Old State House, Trinity Church, Whitehall, Touro Synagogue, Vernon House, Wanton Lyman Hazard House and the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pretty powerful company for a relatively unimportant building.

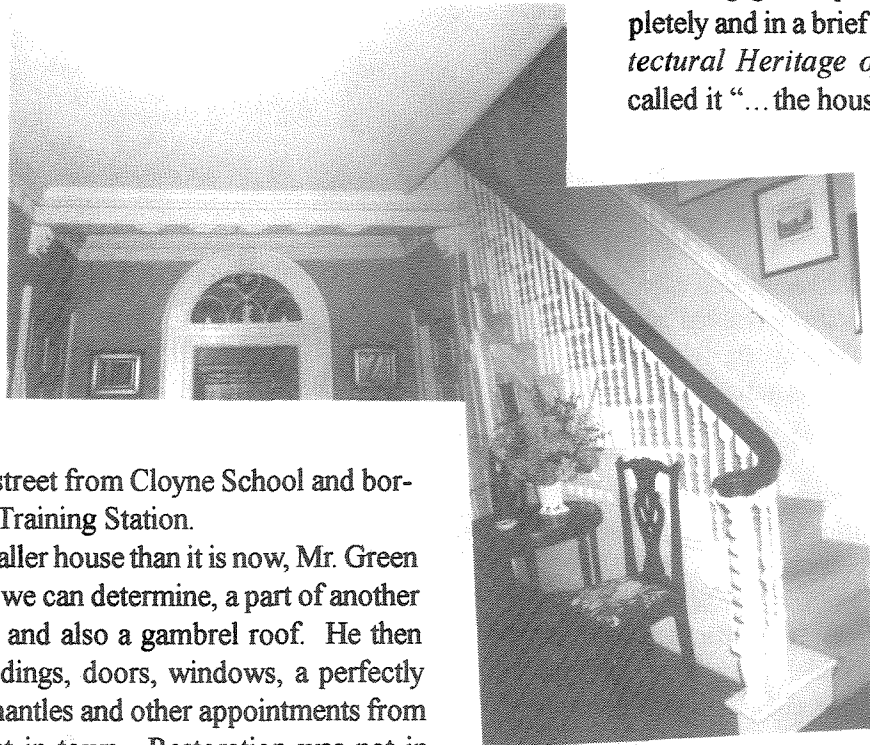
**W**hen the house was researched for Operation Clapboard by Jane Walsh she renamed it the Moulton-Weaver House. She felt that it should be named for the original and most prominent owners. Antoinette Downing gave up on naming the house completely and in a brief reference in her *The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island* called it "... the house on Training Station Rd."

**T**here was a fire in the house in 1910. The write-up in the *Newport Daily News* is delightful to read albeit very difficult due to age and poor copying procedures. I particularly love the bits about "...the delay in securing central..." and "...Chemical 1 rolled out of her station as the alarm box 163, Third & Sycamore St. was pulled..." This article

calls the house the Clarke

Weaver House, yet another name!

**T**here is one other interesting architectural addition which, according to the history, is made from parts of an old sailing ship. In fact it is a captain's cabin. It is tacked onto the east side of the house at the back. It has ship's knees in each corner and ship's beams in the ceiling which I have been assured are indeed from a wooden vessel. Bulls-eye windows and an iron fireplace are also incorporated into this little room that was made into a tiny library at some time by the addition of bookshelves all around. It has been



called by the last sets of owners, appropriately, the Captain's Cabin.

After Mr. Green's death in 1949 the house underwent various changes including being converted into apartments. Miss Ann Hardy and her mother bought it in 1965, and restored it to a one-family dwelling. The *Providence Journal* Sunday magazine section published an article in 1970 on the house with pictures. They referred to it as a



mystery house. In 1970 Miss Hardy sold the house to Captain and Mrs. Thomas Sherman. And I still live here. The house has been open to the public several times for Christmas in Newport and other charities. It is a lovely and interesting house and a very comfort-

able home. Of course, in the years we've inhabited the house we have created our own history of sorts, and opened the door to new mysteries. We had made up our minds before moving into the house that there must be ghosts. The weekend prior to our Monday move, friends helped us bring small things and the kitchen stuff, etc. I was surprised when my son arrived with a load including the TV and his bed. My 16-year-old announced that he was going to spend the night in the house. The family agreed to let him stay. After his exhausted family and friends left to return to the Middletown house for the night, he settled down in front of the television.

Within a few minutes a strange noise filled the empty house and all the lights went out! Scared? He said he was out of the house in 30 seconds trying to flag down a car on the street! No one stopped so, pulling himself together, he realized that the house next door was also dark. He knocked and a nice new neighbor took him in and called us. A water pipe loose from its moorings and a power outage created, in one determined to find a haunt, real terror. His wife, today, is sure there is a haunt. Why else would the

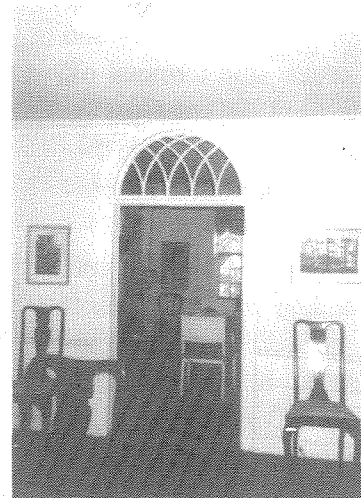
bread oven sometimes rattle in the wind?

All the fireplaces except the dining room one were closed and sealed with either wood, or in two cases, with brick and cinder blocks. We called in the highly recommended Mario Pimental who suggested that for "us" to remove the solid and heavy stuff from the openings would save a great deal of money. My husband and son got to work on this and the fireplaces were opened in several rooms. Again, disappointment. We had hoped to find, well not a body, but a few gold doubloons or a treasure map or something! All we came up with was the skeleton of a small bird.

We were told upon moving in that, pre-revolution, all boards 27 inches or wider had, by law, to be sent to King George. Again, young son measured every single floorboard in the house looking for an illegal one. Alas, there were none. Our daughter, though she was away at college most of the time, went through the house with a drawing pad and pen and sketched every different latch and hinge — some 32 different ones.

Sometime later we had to paint downstairs. The painters, upon scraping the arch over the buffet niche in the dining room, discovered that it was almost pure charcoal — result of the 1910 fire. We also discovered floorboards badly burned when we took up the hall carpet.

Bored one Sunday, I decided to rip off the covering of a fireplace in one of the two front rooms. I found a brick wall rather than a hole. I called Richard Long, an expert in old houses. He investigated by going back and forth between the dining room that backed up to this fireplace and the front room where the bricked fireplace was located. He found that there was NO fireplace. It didn't hook up with that chimney in the dining room. The brick was actually the back of the bread oven in what was obviously, at one time, the keeping room. Beside the brick bit was a hidden closet about 4 feet high (again no body or treasure), but it was wallpapered! Now here is a mystery! What could it have been for? Hopefully some time in the near future John M. Carpenter's article on Arthur Leslie Green will be published, shedding more light on the history and the mysteries of the house.



Patricia Collins Sherman

# Marine Terminal

**L**ong Wharf Landing and Fort Adams have been identified by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation as the sites for water taxi hubs in Newport harbor, a move designed to ease traffic congestion on the City's streets during peak tourist seasons.

The Point Association had lobbied for the Long Wharf Landing site at Perrotti Park as the water taxi hub, which would have the least detrimental impact on our adjacent neighborhood. Other Point locations considered included a hub at American Shipyard, adjacent to the Goat Island causeway, and a cruise ship terminal off the west side of Goat Island. No cruise ship terminal has been recommended by RIDOT.

The Long Wharf Landing and Fort Adams plans were unveiled October 30<sup>th</sup> at a press conference at Fort Adams. Long Wharf Landing will be designed as a water taxi hub to provide access to various sites around the harbor.

Perrotti Park will be reconfigured to open up the

view of the water from all parts of the Park and from America's Cup Avenue. Landscaping, lighting, and other amenities will be added.

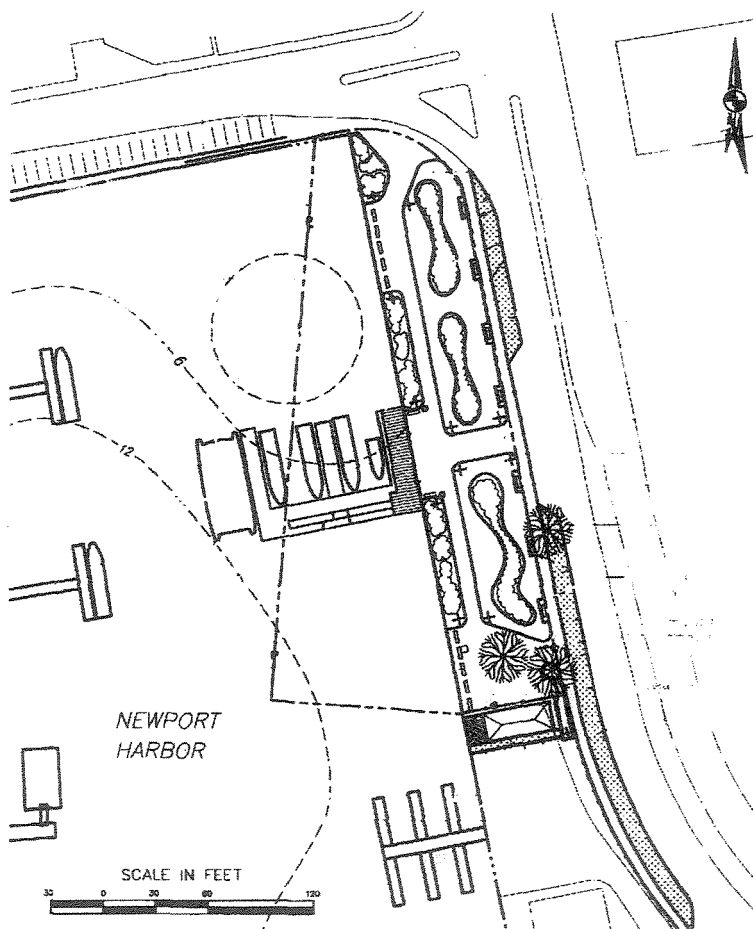
A terminal building, erected south of the Park, will feature ticketing and scheduling information, restrooms, a harbormaster office and an observation deck. A bus pull-off will be sited along America's Cup Avenue. A fixed timber pier, floating docks and handicap-accessible ramps will be constructed to dock water taxis, a commuter ferry and the harbormaster's launch. Cruise ship tenders will also dock at this pier.

The Long Wharf Landing project will cost \$1.9 million. Funds for both the Long Wharf and Fort Adams projects were secured by Sen. John Chafee under the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA). Ground breaking is anticipated for Fall 1998.

RIDOT Director William D. Anker specifically

thanked the Point Association, as well as other Newport civic groups, for assistance in developing the Marine Facilities plan.

Donald Dery



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# Goat Island "Clambake" Gets Indoor Entertainment License

Following a lengthy November 12 city council meeting that included testimony from a sound expert retained by the Point Association, the Newport City Council granted IDC Clambakes Inc. an indoor entertainment license for a future clambake/wedding reception/corporate event facility slated for the middle of Goat Island. The most recent plans call for a two story building with 6,200 square feet, located close to the present gazebo. The council directed that all windows on the building had to be closed if music was played and it reserved the right to impose additional restrictions when the building was completed.



cost-effective ways in using commonly available construction materials to attenuate sound coming from the proposed structure.

In preparation for the license hearing, we also identified shortcomings in the city's noise ordinances — many of which were drafted 20 years ago — and put the city in touch with the Rutgers University (NJ) Noise Technical Center which has indicated its interest in working with the city to improve the strength of its ordinances by drawing on the latest scientific research. The Rutgers department has successfully worked with other cities in-

IDC needed the indoor license as a requisite to obtaining an outdoor license. Recently, a Superior Court directed the City of Newport to grant the outdoor license that the city had previously denied.

Recognizing the inevitability of the situation, the Point Association — with the assistance of attorney Brian Bardorf — has been working with city staff and IDC to ensure that our concerns about noise, traffic, and parking were being adequately addressed. The day of the council hearing, we brought our local sound consultant to a two hour meeting with the city's solicitors, IDC's attorney, and the developer. Our sound consultant described numerous

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cluding Seattle and St. Augustine, Florida.

Members of the Point Association should be proud in knowing that their Association is taking active steps in asking the tough questions and is willing to bring

in experts as necessary to provide the facts necessary to assist our city officials with the tough decisions they face. We look forward in working with other neighborhood associations since the type of issues facing the Point are not unique to our neighborhood.

If you have concerns or ideas on noise/nuisance issues, please phone Mike Cullen at 848-2945.

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# The Black Duck Incident

by Donal O'Brien

*This is Part II of a story, first published in the June 1983 Green Light (Part I was printed in the Fall 1997 issue). Since some time in early 1998, a movie entitled "Rum Runner" will be filmed at Fort Wetherill in Jamestown and the surrounding waters, we thought our readers would enjoy this factual description of the Black Duck tale, so skillfully written by the late Donal O'Brien.*

It might be well, at this point, to describe the vessels involved in the event. "Black Duck", registry #C-5677, was a 50-foot motor vessel with low profile, having only a pilot house, a low engine trunk, and powered by two 300 hp Detroit Aero Marine engines muffled with Maxim silencers and equipped with a device to produce a smoke screen. When unloaded later, "Black Duck" was found to be unarmed and carried 383 sacks of liquor. The vessel would probably make 35 knots, and could outrun any Coast Guard patrol boat. She carried a crew of 4 men.

The Coast Guard cutter, CG290, was a small boat, probably 75 feet long, and carried a crew of seven men. Compared to "Black Duck", she was slow, but was fully equipped for her mission, and carried small arms including a Lewis machine gun. The cutter was under the command of Boatswain Alexander C. Cornell, an experienced seaman who had been an officer in the U.S. Navy and held a Chief Officer's license in the Merchant Marine.

At approximately 0210 hours, CG 290 turned on her searchlight and a motor vessel was observed approaching from seaward showing no running lights, and with the #C-5677 clearly visible, as were the sacks of liquor. Mr. Cornell immediately recognized "Black Duck" and flashed his light on the Coast Guard ensign at the yardarm, sounded the horn, and signaled "Black Duck" to heave-to. The motor vessel did not obey, but crossed the bow of CG 290 and proceeded down her starboard side at a speed of at least 25 knots.

Nineteen seconds after the original signal, it was obvious the rumrunner was not going to stop and would soon disappear in the fog. Mr. Cornell ordered the gunner to fire across her stern in accordance with the standard Coast Guard procedure. The seaman at the Lewis gun fired one short burst of 21 bullets before his gun jammed.

At this point, the evidence of witnesses becomes confusing. All agreed that either just before or right after the machine gun fire, "Black Duck" altered course sharply to port. Also, the passage of a fast vessel close

aboard the cutter may have made a wash that threw the gunner off his aiming point. In any case, the machine gun bullets struck the pilothouse killing three men and wounding the fourth. The motor vessel then turned to starboard and disappeared into the fog. She immediately reappeared alongside CG 290 and asked for assistance. The entire action took about 5 minutes. The Coast Guard vessel took "Black Duck" in tow and proceeded to Fort Adams where medical help was available at the Army hospital. The captured smuggling vessel was taken to New London for detailed examination.

This shooting in Narragansett Bay caused countrywide repercussions. Anti-prohibition politicians came out with windy rhetoric making completely false allegations against the Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard. The press gave wide coverage. The Seattle Daily Times stated, "...the Coast Guard has come upon evil days...", and the Los Angeles Times observed, "...the Coast Guard talked the only language smugglers and pirates have ever understood..." The Washington Post stated, "...for 100 years the law has provided that boats shall stop when hailed by a revenue boat and that the law officers may fire upon those who refuse to halt." Threats were made to Coast Guard personnel, and the family of Boatswain Cornell was molested in New London.

The Treasury Dept. stood squarely behind the Coast Guard, and a Board of Officers was convened to examine every possible aspect of the "Black Duck" affair. The very detailed records of this investigation are open to the historian and no attempt is made here to cover them.

In summary, the Board found that CG 290 had been carrying out Federal policy in accordance with standing orders and the incident was basically caused by the effort of "Black Duck" to escape from lawful examination. The Board recommended that no further action be taken. A Rhode Island Grand Jury met on the case, interviewed 17 witnesses and returned no bill against any Coast Guard personnel. In Newport, there was a great deal of interest in the case, especially among the seafaring folk.

It is interesting to note that "Black duck" was such a fine vessel that after legal seizure, it was taken over by the Coast Guard and gave good service as CG 808. With the repeal of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1933, the rum war at sea ended.



## In Remembrance

**E**dith Ballinger Price passed away September 29<sup>th</sup> in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the age of 100. She was among the founders of the Point Association and the first editor of the *Green Light*. Monthly bulletins were written, mimeographed and distributed by Miss Price from her home at 16 Battery Street.

ber 29<sup>th</sup> in Virginia Beach, among the first editors of the *Green Light*, illustrated, at 16 Battery Street.

The history of the Point lives on thanks to Miss Price, an artist and author intensely interested in Newport's history and preservation of its colonial heritage.

The December 1961 issue of the *Green Light* carried her final farewell to the Point as she moved to Virginia Beach.

### *Ye Nostalgic Editor's Farewell*

*Where I go, camellias bloom, and the sun shines;  
Like jewels, azaleas gleam under the stately pines,  
And jasmine streams in gold from cascading vines.*



1915

*But faintly, beyond the song of the mocking-bird,  
Like the beat of my heart - dimly felt, dimly heard -  
Comes the sound of the bell in the fog on Newport Light,  
And the whistle of boats in the bay on a moonless night.*



1945

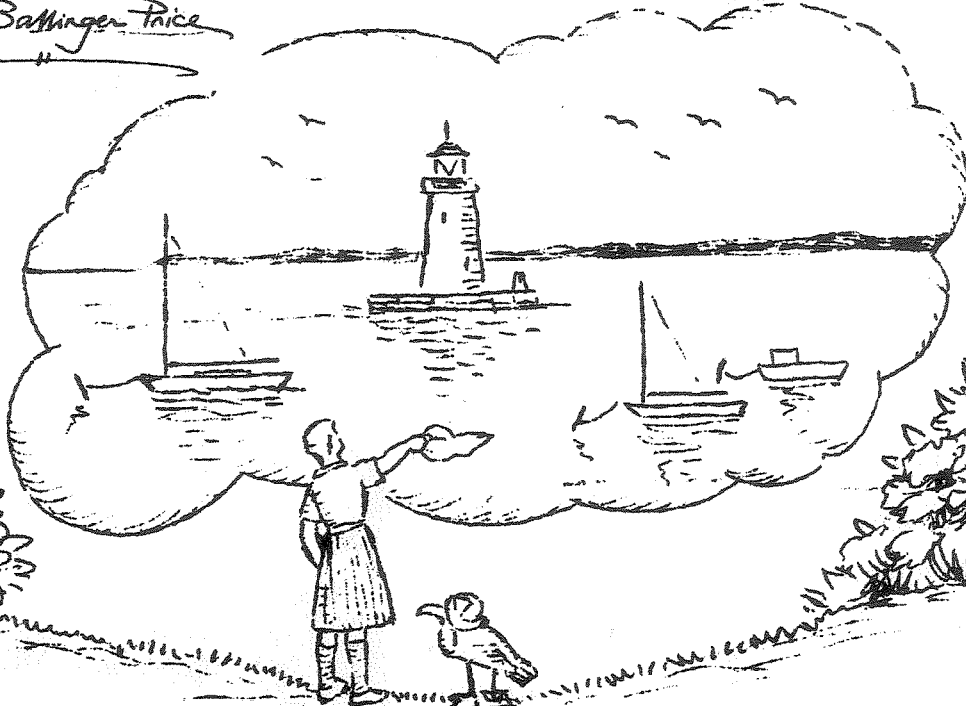
*Snow lies in the narrow streets, and the boats are hauled on the brow.  
Christmas candles shine in the old gray houses now.  
... No, I shall not forget the sound of the bell in the night,  
Nor the emerald gleam of the steadfast harbor light,  
Shining on down the years ... far, far from sight.*



1975

*Edith Ballinger Price*

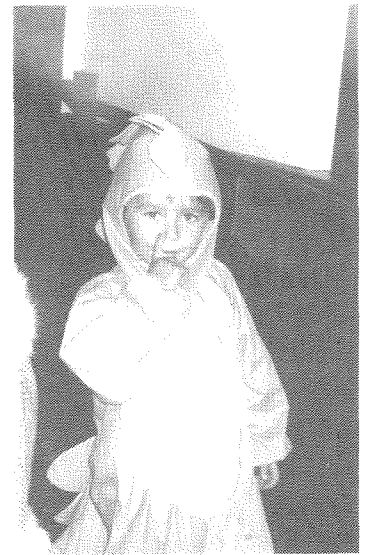
NEWPORT  
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# Adventure Club

## Halloween Parade Held on Sunday, October 26

Dogs, cats, dragons, tigers and mice roamed around Battery Park on a bright sunny October Sunday. No, these animals did not escape from the zoo-mobile. These were neighborhood children and friends gathering for the fourth annual Halloween parade. There were joined by goblins, witches, princesses, pirates, super heroes and sports figures. The children enjoyed playing pumpkin toss and jumping games as the adults watched the fun and games. The parade wandered down Washington Street to the tunes of "Ghostbusters" and "The Blob." Third Street residents



**Right** Princesses, mice, super heros and other characters parade down Washington Street. **Above** Brain Spohn takes part in the parade of costumes at St. John's Guild Hall, "dragon" his tail behind him.



Amanda Preston, Clara Spohn and Taylor Maguire try out spooky poses!

heard the commotion as the parade turned down that street and finally ended at St. John's Guild Hall. Refreshments were waiting for the hungry creatures when they arrived. The children danced and showed off their costumes as they paraded across the stage. It was nice to see all ages and many new faces join in this charming event.

## Thank you!

A special thank you goes to St. John's for providing the Guild Hall for our "after the parade party." It is a wonderful setting for the families to gather after the Halloween parade to wind down and enjoy each other's company. St. John's has been most generous in sharing this space with the community.

## Take a look at Hunter's Park

The Adventure Club will be planting spring bulbs at Hunter's Park as part of the November Point Beautification Day. It will be nice to see these daffodils and hyacinths pop up in April. Have you checked out the changes at this neighborhood park? The tennis courts have been resurfaced, trees have been planted and a new playground will be built there soon. It is a great place to meet for family sporting events. If you walked by on November 11, you would have seen young and old (at least we felt old after the game!) engaged in a neighborhood soccer game. Over forty children and parents kicked the ball around in a game that was fun for all (and more tiring for some!)

## Upcoming Events

The Adventure Club hibernates this time of year. Please be aware of other Point activities going on that children and families might enjoy. On December 15, there is a cookie swap and sing along that is always a good time!

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What's New at *Savoir Fare*

Many of you have noticed changes at the Walnut Market. We are pleased to announce a newly formed partnership between Marybeth Hunte and Christine Reed, former sous chef at The Salvation Café.

The pair share a short commute to the market as Marybeth and her family have moved back to the neighborhood and Christine with her husband John own a home on Third Street.

*Savoir Fare*, the catering service Marybeth started over three years ago, will continue to be the main focus at the Walnut Market. However, in addition to morning papers, our muffins and other bakery items, we are now serving Newport's own Ocean Coffee Roasters coffee. Lunches are increasingly popular with homemade soups, salads, pasta, and pizza. We also have a permanent list of eight gourmet sandwiches in addition to our specials, which include vegetarian fare. "We proudly shop at our local growers' organic farms."

During the upcoming winter months Marybeth, Christine and Stacey plan to host special evenings at the Walnut Market including wine and cheese tastings, guest chef cooking demonstrations, evening poetry readings and more.

Please stop in and meet Christine, check out the deli and bakery, stay for lunch or take dinner to go! We've revised our catering menu and offer innovative hors d'oeuvres, elegant dinners, vegetarian specials, fusion food, Mediterranean fare and fabulous homemade desserts for pickup, delivery or a full scale occasion with friendly and professional service.

## Sarah Plumb's Favorite Christmas Cookies

### GINGERBREAD BOYS AND GIRLS

1	teaspoon salt	1	cup shortening
1/4	teaspoon nutmeg	1	1/4 cups sugar
1/2	teaspoon cloves	1	slightly beaten egg
3	teaspoons cinnamon	1	cup molasses
1	teaspoon ginger	1/3	cup hot water
5	cups flour	1	1/8 teaspoon baking soda

- Sift all spices and 1 cup flour.
- Cream shortening and sugar.
- Stir in egg and molasses (do not beat).
- Dissolve soda in hot water and stir in.
- Stir in flour/spice mixture.
- Add remaining flour. About 5 cups is just right. Press your finger against the dough. It should not be sticky. If it is sticky, add just a little more flour.
- Chill overnight or three or four days.
- Break off small amounts and roll thin, then cut out.
- Place on cookie sheet.
- Bake in 350 oven for 8 to 10 minutes.
- Decorate as you wish when cool.
- Store in covered tins, or they may be frozen.
- Yield: 75-100 cookies depending on size of cutter.

*This recipe is from Sarah Plumb's December 1986 Cook's Corner. We recently checked with Sarah and she said she still makes them each year in August and freezes them so she can give them to visitors during holiday time. Sarah suggests poking a hole at the top before freezing so you can later adorn them with a red bow!*

*Why not bake some for the Point Association's December 15th Cookie Swap?*



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## 1997 Holiday Events

The *Christmas in Newport* brochure is once again filled with happenings for the holidays. Watch the newspapers for updated times and details for all these fun and festive events. Many of them are here or nearby the Point, where white lights will be sparkling in windows and doorways decorated. Perhaps a Pointer will win a prize in the doorway contest.

The Candlelight House Tours the three days after Christmas is always a special highlight of the season. Call Vance Gatchell at 848-7017 if you would like to be a hostess. Your assignment will be at one house but the rest are yours to visit and enjoy.

## Winter Reading

Our former *Green Light* editor, Florence Archambault, has published a new book *Historical and Social Newport: From the Revolution to the Turn of the Century*.

A reminder – The Bookmobile visits the Point every Wednesday afternoon 4-4:30 and parks in the St. John's lot on Willow Street. A warm welcome awaits you and special requests appear as soon as available.

## Letter from A Pointer

It happened again – it happens every time my copy of the *Green Light* arrives. It takes me by surprise and yet deep down I know it's about to happen. It's that beautiful emotion of nostalgia. Each time I read the *Green Light* I am transported back some 60 plus years to my childhood growing up on the Point at 51 Third Street. It was a beautiful childhood of school at Callender, Potter and later Mumford School. There were endless summer days of swimming at Van Zandt Ave. Pier where I learned to swim like a fish. Long pleasant summer evenings doing such special things

as a picnic supper at the Blue Rocks with my two sisters, my brother and our parents. This was sometimes followed by a band concert at Battery Park. Another big event was an evening stroll down Washington Street to watch the New York boat leave for New York City, and then ice cream at Westall's ice cream parlor on Bridge Street. Another favorite jaunt was a trip to Langley's on Chase Street where you could buy lollipops for two cents each or three for a nickel. Now wasn't that the best buy?

It was a sure sign of spring when Mr. DuFrey, who lived at the corner of Third and Chestnut, hitched up his horse and plow and turned over the ground in the lot next to our house for his annual garden. That field is now Katzman Place, but then it was a tremendous garden that went down Third Street south to Miss Case's house, back as far as the railroad tracks, and over to the Walnut Street Bridge. He tended that garden with such loving care.

My husband and I left the Newport area in 1979 and now live in Williamsburg, Virginia, but the wonderful memories of my childhood on the Point are as real as if they were yesterday and your interesting bulletin brings back those memories with each edition. Thanks and God Bless.

Eleanor Popple Gillen  
Williamsburg, Virginia

## You are Welcome...

As always, we welcome comments from our readers. There are so many ways to participate in the *Green Light*. At our annual meeting, many in attendance signed up to write histories of their homes to be published in future issues. If you have a story idea, or you would like to explore one, do we have an opportunity for you!

Sometime during the months of January and February, we are planning to have a series of meetings to pull together feature stories from our History & Archives collection (safely stored in St. John's Guild Hall). The goal is stockpile historical articles so that we can get a head start on future issues.

If you are interested in joining in the fun and digging through the archives, please contact Beverly Adler at 846-1132, she will keep you posted as to when this "dig" will begin!

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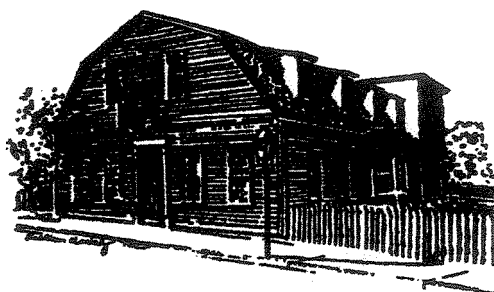
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			WINE TASTING

*Please circle the categories that you would like to learn more about.*

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A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE *GREEN LIGHT* IS INCLUDED WITH ALL MEMBERSHIPS.

CLIP & MAIL: THE POINT ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 491, NEWPORT, RI 02840



# WINTER EVENTS DECEMBER

Monday - 15th

Holiday Sing-a-Long and Cookie Swap

S. John's Guild Hall

5 p.m.

Wednesday - 24th

Celebrate Christmas Eve at

S. John's Church

Carols at 10:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass at 11:00 p.m.



## JANUARY

Tuesday 29th

Traffic Planning Meeting

St. John's Guild Hall

7pm.

History & Archives/ *Green Light*

Story Meetings

Contact Beverly Adler 846-1142,

for dates and times



ST. JOHNS ON THE POINT, NEWPORT  
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## FEBRUARY

Tuesday 10th

Traffic Meeting

St. John's Guild Hall

7pm.

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## THE GREEN LIGHT

The Point Association

Editor: P.O. Box 491

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10/1/98

Joy and Ian Scott

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Newport RI 02840

