The GREEN LIGHT

Bulletin of the Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

Fall 2002
The Green Light

XLVII No. 3 Fall 2002

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STAFF
Editor .................................................. Suzanne Varisco
Advertising ............................................ Loretta Goldrick
Archives ............................................... Vacant
Business ............................................... Tom Goldrick
Circulation ............................................ Marcia Mallory
Layout .................................................. Patty MacLeish
Photography .......................................... Helen Byrne, Sarah Gill
Production ............................................. Rowan Howard, Suzy Sturmak
Bay Sailor ............................................ J. P. Mouligné
Favorite Recipes ..................................... Lois Dickison
Pointers in the News ................................. Kay O'Brien
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Sketches .............................................. Dorothy Sanschagrin
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Waterfront Reporter ................................ Liz Mathinos

Copies of the Green Light may be purchased for $1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar & Thames, and Aidinoff's Liquor & Gourmet Shop, Warner Street.

Greetings Readers,

Your September issue of the Green Light is pleased to re-introduce readers to Kristina Baer, whose most recent contribution to our pages, a capsule bio of Point printer Ilse Nesbitt, was enjoyed by all. As Erik Dahl departs for graduate school in Boston, Kristina has accepted our invitation to take on "That Was Then...". This historic column always appears on our center pages, a fitting location in an historic publication sponsored by an historic association in an historic neighborhood.

Also, thanks to the generosity of the Newport Daily News, our readers who are Jim Gillis fans—a large and discriminating group—will be happy to see his article on page 4 about the young man who tends to the bushes in Storer Park.

Finally, please take a look at our "Help Wanted" box on page 17 and consider joining us in this adventure of newsletter production. If you think your friend or neighbor might enjoy this opportunity, please to pass that name along to me or any one of the friendly faces whose names appear on this page.

Suzanne

The Point Association
The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point's residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods.

Executive Committee Officers
President, Richard Carrubba (847-5815)
First Vice President, Al Lowe (847-5853)
Second Vice President, Jack Maytum (849-4395)
Recording Secretary, Carole Clark (849-5245)
Corresponding Secretary, Isabel Griffith (849-6444)
Treasurer, Hillar Sareperr (848-9906)
Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Rich for time, date, and location.

Cover: Miss Round's Fourth Grade Class, Mumford School, 1921, Robert Covell, front left
Dear Neighbors:

On October 17th a new president will be elected to lead the Point Association. It is appropriate, therefore, to reflect on my term as president and to report to you my impressions regarding our neighborhood and our Association.

The Point continues to flourish in many ways. Over the past two years, the properties in our neighborhood have become more attractive, with fewer and fewer remaining on the list of those in need of renovation. And, as evidence of the desirability of our neighborhood, we need look no further than the significant increases in our tax assessments—an important reflection of the market value of our homes.

Of equal importance, our neighborhood continues to attract a wonderfully diverse group of residents to add to our population of long-established inhabitants. Our new neighbors bring with them different backgrounds, talents, and interests that are bound to enhance the quality of life for all of us on the Point. Most importantly, they bring an immediate appreciation for how special it is to live on the Point in Newport.

The Point Association, itself, has been working diligently to represent your interests in many important issues relating to our neighborhood. As I indicated in one of my earlier letters to you, our neighborhood is frequently the object of various development proposals within the Point, but more often, on our periphery. Some of these proposals present serious challenges to the historical and residential character of the Point, one of our most cherished neighborhood attributes.

As you know, one of the Point Association’s most important objectives is to facilitate communications between our residents. To that end we have organized and conducted many events to bring our neighbors together. Most recently we participated in welcoming the many new residents of Harbor House to our community. Although some of our events are intended to provide information about our neighborhood, city, or state, most are held to provide enjoyable opportunities for us to meet our neighbors, such as the Plant Sale, Point Picnic, and Cocktail Party.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Point Association Executive Committee members for their unending help; the Point Association volunteers who have contributed immeasurably to our neighborhood and to our Association; and, most importantly, to you, our membership for your gracious support throughout the past two years.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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A Little Off the Top

by James J. Gillis

H is artwork is among the best known in town. But who is the mystery man who creates art pieces with hedge clippers, not paint brushes? "I do this because I like to have fun and see people's reactions," Eugene Platt explained. "As far as calling myself an artist, I don't know about that."

Artist or no artist, Platt has cut designs through large hedges in Storer Park on Washington Street and on the Cliff Walk, Edward Scissorhands-ish, since 1998. It's an offshoot of his job as a groundskeeper for the Preservation Society of Newport County, and his carvings draw notice, particularly in Storer Park. "I wasn't sure how people would react on the Point when I first started," Platt said recently. "But they love it. I was talking to a guy who told me that the first place he brings his friends is down to Storer Park."

The four eight-foot high hedges in Storer Park — owned by the city but maintained by the Preservation Society — are the ones that grab the most attention. He started with one, giving it a haircut with the hair sticking out on each side, a tribute to a co-worker named Mike Logan. Then he sliced another hedge ball into a head with a Mohawk. And the other two pieces are a bit harder to figure. One looks a bit like a tomato, though Platt had a top hat on a head in mind. Platt usually keeps things open-ended, open to interpretation. "People like to know exactly what they're seeing," he said. "Sometimes they get frustrated. A lot of people see whatever they see."

One day last week, Platt stood atop a ladder on a sweltering day on the Cliff Walk, directly behind the Breakers. The stench of early morning seaweed from Easton's Beach lingered in the air and a limp breeze barely budged the fauna. Platt kept a Gatorade bottle full of water nearby and trimmed one of the hedges, a rectangular piece that stopped tourists in their tracks. Some halted in mid-walk and snapped photos. A woman named Mary Alice Thompson from Hockessin, Delaware, halted, camera in hand: "I don't know what I think of it. I'm not sure what it is. I really don't know what to think." And that suits Platt, 44, just fine. "Sometimes I like to just stand off to the side and see their reactions," he said. "It's a lot of fun. I like to hear their comments. Kids really get into it, too."

Platt was born in Newport and, with his father in the Navy, the family moved around a bit. He went to school in Middletown and Newport, graduating from Rogers High School in 1975. He bounced around in jobs a bit, working as a bartender at clubs like One Pelham East and the Blue Pelican. He joined the Preservation Society in 1986, having taken some horticulture classes in school. It's a job he loves, working five days a week from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. He helps maintain the society's vast amount of plant life and shrubbery, as well as setting up Christmas trees in the Bellevue Avenue mansions. "The only time it's tough is when it's really hot in the summer or really cold in the winter," he said. "But the rest of the time it's good. There's plenty for us to do. There are some things we can't do in the summer, but there's always a lot of work."

A divorced father of two, he rides his bike to work from his house off Broadway, and he likes the convenience of living and working in town. He enjoys sailing with friends, particularly on Tuesday nights as part of a local program. Platt said he doesn't consider himself a topiary master like...
George Mendonca, the legendary retired groundskeeper at the Green Animals garden in Portsmouth, though he often wonders what it would be like to work there.

His craft came as a fun thing to do on the job one day. And now he spends his spare time maintaining the hedges. "I started out with the first two, my babies, because I wanted to see how people reacted," he said. "You don't know how people will react. Then I started to do more. It kind of kept going from there. I tell you, it's kind of addicting. It's living art and some of it's a work in progress." Platt does most of the sculpting with electric clippers. And in the tight spots he goes "unplugged" with a hand set of clippers. "It's really hard to do curves on hedges," he said.

Several hedges have gotten the Platt treatment on the Cliff Walk. One takes on the look of Pac-Man. And another has taken on a heart shape, with a gaping space in the middle and a little pathway on the side. "Here's the beauty of it," Platt said. He entered the little path space and stuck his face through the heart. "People can stop and take pictures."

Most of Platt's admirers are anonymous, tourists who traverse the Cliff Walk, surprised to see his handiwork. On the Point, he's better known, though he's not the type to bang his own drum. So neighbors like Anne Ramsey Cuvelier, who operates the Sanford Covell House on Washington Street, will bang the drum for him. Platt has carved a niche while shaping hedges, she said, and it's enlivened the neighborhood.

"I walk my dog (Amadeus) early in the morning and walk to Storer Park, as I'm getting the sleep out of my eyes" she said. "And it's like seeing four friends there greeting me. To me, they make me think of Native Americans, maybe because of the haircuts. I think they're wonderful." Ramsey Cuvelier wondered for a while who clipped the bushes into art pieces. Platt, she said, is a bit too modest for his own good. "He does this on his own time, and I think it's wonderful," she said. "I think it's all kind of whimsical. And we all need a little whimsy in our lives."

For Platt, it's a matter of having fun with the local landscape. While on the Cliff Walk, a woman stopped him. "You do a good job," she said. "It's delightful, very fun. It makes me feel good." And that makes Platt feel good in return. It's a small contribution from a working man with a set of hedge clippers in hand. He figures he'll keep going as long as it remains fun, perhaps tinkering when the mood hits. "The best part is, that if something doesn't work, they always grow back," he said.

Reprinted courtesy of the Newport Daily News

Neighborhood Watch Report

Police Officer James (Jimmy) Winters and other members of the Newport Police Department will present a program on the formation and benefits of a Neighborhood Watch for the Point. The program will be held at St. John's Guild Hall on Thursday, September 12, from 7 to 9 P.M. All Point residents are urged to attend.

Nancy Quattrucci
Chair
Nominating Committee

Report

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Association, the following individuals are nominated for election:

Officers, 2002-2004
President                        Jack Maytum
Second Vice President           Louisa Boatwright
Corresponding Secretary        Isabel Griffith

Nominating Committee Members, 2002-2003
Charles Berlinghof
Loretta Goldrick
Richard Poholek

Marybeth Hunte
Chair

Report from City Hall

Congratulations and best wishes to Rich Carrubba for an outstanding job as president of the Point Association. It was indeed my honor and privilege to work closely with him on matters of interest to make Newport a better place. Rich has consistently stepped forward and volunteered to serve the community.

Pell Bridge Ramp. Paige Bronk (Newport Director of Planning), Rich Carrubba, Karen Oakley (Viking Tours), and Frank Ray (Chair of the Newport Foundation) will join me on the newly created Pell Bridge Ramp Citizens Advisory Committee. This committee will work with the Department of Transportation to review the traffic flow in the north end of the city.

The Noise Task Force. This group has recommended several measures the council should pursue, and we will be making the necessary changes to our city ordinances to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. One of the contributing factors that diminish our neighborhoods is “Party Houses.” It is vitally important that we work together to identify and report these locations to the police and zoning officials. Contact COP Officer James Winters at 847-9922 on weekdays and the Zoning Office at 846-9600 X508 evenings and weekends. Leave a message and they will respond.

Beautification Committee

Report

We hope you all noticed the lovely daffodils in Storer Park this spring. During our fall cleanup on Saturday, October 19, we would like to make additional plantings of bulbs in both Battery and Storer Parks. We will also be doing the regular fall cleanup. Bring rakes, trowels, gloves, and bulb planters, if you have them. We will be providing refreshments. This is a great chance to meet with your Point neighbors before we all hibernate for the winter. Please join us at 9 a.m., Saturday, October 19, in Storer Park.

Marcia and Coles Mallory
Co-Chairs

Redistricting. The city recently completed the redrawing of ward lines to comply with the state redistricting of Senate and Representative districts. Each state is required to do this based on the new census data within the community. Effective immediately, some former First Ward streets are now in the Third Ward: those bordering Cardines Field up to and including Farewell Street. All streets between the railroad tracks and the water remain in the First Ward. You should have received a notice from the canvassing board of your current voting location and ward district. Additionally, our new State Representatives will be Maxine Shavers (849-1477) and the winner of the Rep. Paul Crowley-Anthony Spiratos race on November 5 (Election Day). Representative William Murphy will be running for reelection in the new Jamestown-Middletown district. Rep. Murphy has worked hard for the residents of Newport and we thank him for his efforts.

Finally, I will still be the First Ward council representative, and Councilor Steve Waluk (847-0687) will continue representing the Third Ward. Steve is a hard and attentive worker and will be responsive to your concerns. As always, I’m available at 847-9122 and at rickfirstward@aol.com.

Rick O’Neill
Councilor, First Ward

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Underground Wires Report

Councilman Rick O’Neill responded to both the wishes of his constituents and the dictates of his conscience as he cast the decisive vote against permitting the expansion of the Newport Harbor Hotel. As you may recall, it was noted in the last Green Light that emails were sent to Rick and Jean Marie Napolitano pointing out that this expansion would set a precedent which would “allow other hotels to request the right to undertake a similar expansion and could well have ramifications which are not immediately obvious, such as requiring more infrastructure to supply these expanded hotels with more electricity.” In short, this expansion could eventually have required either running more wires to these hotels or increasing the capacity of the 23,000 volt wires which currently run down Third Street.

On a similar note, on July 11, Newport Daily News columnist Leonard Panagigio wrote about the Point Association’s efforts to do something about the high voltage wires on Third Street and to address the situation of what he called “unsightly poles” in general. As he points out, there have been successful efforts in the past to put wires underground in other Newport neighborhoods, including Bellevue Avenue and Washington Square. Mr. Panagigio concludes that, if more of our neighborhoods looked like these areas, it would help give Newport “the appearance of a first class resort.” It unquestionably would. In particular it would make the historic Point more appealing to historical tourists—the kind of affluent, non-destructive visitors our political leaders say the city should try to attract. Let’s hope our politicians read Mr. Panagigio’s column and respond with the same concern and thoughtfulness to addressing this situation as Rick O’Neill did when he cast his vote on the Newport Harbor Hotel.

Al Lowe
Chair

Membership Report

Please welcome our new members:
Edward Anderson
Helen Byrne
Elaine Casco
Lynn and Bill Flynn
Elaine and William Greene
Gerri and Paul Kairis
Denise and Bernard Mansheim
Diane and Bert Quint
Debra and Robert Saunders
Laurice Shaw and John D’Alessio
Patricia and William Sherman
Stanley Slom

Patricia Carrubba
Chair

History and Archives Report

Moving to a new home is not without its surprises. As you know, the records and historical documents of the Point Association have been in their new home at Harbor House over the last few months.

On July 3, the quick thinking and fast actions of the staff at Harbor House, along with members of History and Archives, prevented a small disaster. The staff noticed that a leak from an air conditioning unit on the floor above was bringing a small deluge onto the file cabinets of the Point’s archives. Kay O’Brien and Bill Hall rescued our documents just in the nick of time. They were able to retrieve the file boxes from the cabinets and place them in safe harbor. Slight water damage was sustained on only one scrapbook, which was lying on top of the file cabinet. Kay and Bill set the scrapbook out to dry, and we are pleased to report their efforts were successful. These are the events that make history!

If you are interested in becoming an active participant in archiving the Association’s history and planning-related events, please contact me at 849-4708 to inquire about our fall and winter schedule of committee meetings.

Christine Montanaro
Chair
Waterfront Report

**Fisherman's Pier** Construction continues at South Pier to complete the upgrade to the parking area. Further improvements will include a stone wall and landscaping.

**Newport Shipyard** There is a wonderful addition to Newport Shipyard, and it is Belle’s, the breakfast and lunch grille.

Recently, my daughter, grandchildren, and I enjoyed a fun lunch, sitting at the picnic table and watching all the shipyard hustle and bustle going on around us. Many Point residents have discovered this little “gem” in our neighborhood. Thanks to Mr. Dana and his shipyard team and their friendly “open door” accommodation, a fine example of a waterfront business and neighborhood partnership.

**Pier Closings** Public opposition to the proposed ordinance change restricting access to city piers—including Elm Street and Van Zandt—from 11 pm to 6 am was duly noted, and the change was tabled by the City Council.

**Pocket Park** Friends of the Waterfront’s plans for a Mary Ferrazzoli Memorial Park continue. All hope to share a pocket park at this historic site of Grav-ely Point, integrating with Washington’s Landing and the Fall River Line. Also, the Newport Yacht Club is planning a formal lease with the city to use this triangular area at the end of Washington Street for a ramp and floats for its sailing school. Since the telephone poles have been removed, a beautiful vista of this historically significant corner of Long Wharf and Washington Street can be enjoyed by all.

**Proposed Marina** On further review by the Waterfront Commission, the proposal to evaluate a city-run, low impact marina at Storer Park has been abandoned because of the Class 2 water restrictions at the site.

**Upgrades** So many areas of our working waterfront have been improved in the past year. Interesting to note that the Simeon Potter house at Marsh Street and the Causeway, one of the first Newport schoolhouses, is being refurbished. And at the other end of this roadway is the List School of Music and Arts, now located at Bridge Street and America’s Cup Avenue. Both of these historic houses were once located on the Cove in colonial Newport.

**Liz Mathinos**

Green Light Waterfront Reporter

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The Green Light Fall 2002
Point Plant Sale in the Pouring Rain

The annual Point Plant Sale took place on May 18, in a torrential downpour that lasted all day and left us cold and drenched. Although attendance was lower, sales were higher; we did very well, indeed. Our success was due to sturdy New England persistence and determination. People came to buy, found beautiful plants, and carried away trunk loads of local perennials, annuals, and shrubs. The Plant Sale is THE fundraiser for the Beautification Committee, making possible the purchase of bulbs and trees for our parks.

I am especially grateful to Plant Sale volunteers whose growing numbers make the sale possible. Not all are gardeners, but they are all devoted supporters of the Point Association and its efforts to keep our neighborhood beautiful. David Aguiar, Chuck Bower, Betty Cares, Rich Carrubba, Lisa Elliot, Eleanore Flowers, Sarah Gill, Gail Gunning, Bill Hall, Diana Hepting, Rowan Howard, Al Lowe, Sally MacKay, Marcia Mallory, Ilse Nesbitt, Ralph Padulla, Nancy Quattrucci, Herb Rommel, Mary Lynn Rooke, Bruce Shaw, Patti Sherman, Joan Simmons, Ruth Shor, and Suzanne Varisco. Many others donated plants and posted flyers. Thanks to you all for contributing your work and advice and for listening when I needed a sympathetic and understanding ear.

Special thanks to Anita McAndrews and Sean for once again allowing us to use their garden at Pine and Washington streets as our sale location, AND for use of the garage, which kept the money relatively dry! Thanks also to Becky Vickers, who this year opened her beautiful Portsmouth garden to us for collecting.

We LOVE our merchant donors: Broadway Florist, Carlone’s Florist, Chase Farms, Chase’s Greenhouses, DeCastro and Sons, Domina’s Agway, Hoogendorn Nurseries, Inc., Island Garden Shop, James L. Maher Center, Mello’s Flower Center, Moore Blooms, Portsmouth Nursery, Potting Shed, Rhode Island Nurseries, Victorian Rose, and Water’s Edge Florist.

Isabel Griffith
Chair

Windows 2000 Inc.
Gary Galbraith

The Third & Elm Press
Ilse Buchart-Nesbitt
29 Elm Street, Newport
846-0228

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That Was Then... by Kristina Baer

What's in a Name?

John Callender, Simeon Potter, Caleb Corey Mumford—preacher, privateer, shoemaker. In view of their diverse professions, what could these men have in common? Quite a lot, as it turns out. Each contributed to the development of Newport schools and, in recognition, former Point school buildings bear their names and honor them still.

Born in 1706 in Boston’s North End, John Callender was the son of a shoemaker and a grandson of Ellis Callender, a lay Baptist preacher. After his graduation from Harvard College, and following two years at the First Baptist Church in Swansea, Massachusetts, Rev. Callender came to Newport, to the First Baptist Church, where he was ordained on October 13, 1731. He eventually wrote and delivered a discourse on the history of Rhode Island, in which he eloquently argued for liberty of conscience. An early member of the literary and philosophical society that incorporated in 1747 as the Company of the Redwood Library, he was elected Newport schoolmaster in 1746, two years before his death. Built on the corner of Willow and Third streets and dedicated in 1862, his namesake the Callender School welcomed Point kindergartners and first- through third-graders until 1974, when it closed.

John Callender’s contemporary, Simeon Potter, could not have followed a more different path. Born in Bristol, Rhode Island, in 1720, he spent years as a privateer, plying his trade in the Caribbean and amassing a sizable personal fortune. In 1772, he took part in the burning of the British revenue cutter Gaspee, thus becoming one of the early instigators of the War for Independence. In 1795, he gave land, a store, and a house on the corner of Marsh and Washington streets to the Long Wharf Trustees to aid their efforts to build a school for Newport.

On August 20, 1640, Newport residents voted to allocate the income from 200 acres of woodland to the payment of a schoolmaster and the maintenance of a school. Then, in 1774, the original town school, the only school supported by income from school lands, burned down. In 1774, Newport’s population was approximately 9,000 and a number of private schools—“public” schools on the model of the British public schools—flourished here. These included the town school and a variety of academies (both religious and secular), girls’ schools, schools for Blacks, schools for Native Americans, and even some coeducational schools. Decimated by the War for Independence, the town population dwindled to 5,500 in 1782, and education fell on hard times.

When, in 1795, the Long Wharf Trustees sponsored a $25,000 lottery to raise money to rebuild the town school, they raised only $12,500. Thanks to Simeon Potter’s gift, they were able to open a school on the northeast corner of Marsh and Washington streets in 1814 in the house he had donated. Captain and Mrs. Joseph Finch operated the school for boys until 1832, when it closed. Then, in 1881, on Elm Street, the Long Wharf Trustees erected the Potter School, home to generations of students until its closure in 1963.

Robert Covell’s Third Grade Report Card, Callender School, 1921

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The nineteenth century saw some fundamental changes in school organization and constituencies served throughout the state. In 1821, the Rhode Island General Assembly ordered the preparation of a bill establishing free schools in Rhode Island. The first public school on the current system—supported by taxes levied upon Newport residents—opened in Newport in 1827. Then, in 1842, Article 12, section one, of the Rhode Island State Constitution declared it the General Assembly’s duty “… to promote public schools, and to adopt all means which they may deem necessary and proper to secure to the people the advantages and opportunities of education.” In 1865, Newport public schools were integrated, thereby securing to all Newport residents the advantages and opportunities espoused in the state constitution.

The year 1862 marks the beginning of a century during which Point schools flourished. That year the Callender School was built on the corner of Willow and Third streets. Here Point kindergartners and first- through third-graders learned reading, writing, and arithmetic and “to stand properly, salute the flag, march in step, ...and above all to be an agreeable classmate.” When the Potter School opened in 1887, Point children crossed the train tracks four times a day, avoiding incoming and outgoing passenger and freight trains. At least in the 1940’s, when Ellie Flowers and her sister Midge Flow-
ers Buote attended the Potter School, there was a crossing guard to raise and lower the crossing bar. However, as they now recall, the crossing guard, a Mr. Higgins, would delay raising the bar until just before the school bell rang, causing the group of students waiting for it to stampede across the tracks.

The Mumford School, completed in February of 1909, was built on Farewell Street to ease overcrowding at the Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, and Townsend schools. Pointers in the early part of the twentieth century attended eighth grade in Coggeshall or Townsend and ninth grade in Cranston-Calvert. In its eight rooms, the Mumford School housed both eighth and ninth grades. Here Pointers mingled with students from around the city as they prepared to move on to Rogers High School, which had opened in January 1906.

Like the Callender School, Mumford School was named for a prominent Newport figure. In the 1908 annual Newport school committee report, stating its decision to name the school for him, the committee commends Mr. Caleb Corey Mumford as “a citizen who was a prime mover in securing an appropriation for the old school.” The “old school” was the Edward-Farewell School built on Farewell Street in 1839. Mumford, a shoe-maker, had died in October of 1848.

Today, when Pointers reminisce about their school experiences at the Callender, Potter, and Mumford schools, they recall the individual teachers who made their early education a success. Midge Buote talks about her kindergarten teacher, Miss Gleason, and her first-grade teacher, Miss Jackson. Always an avid reader, Midge brings up her fifth-grade teacher, Miss Pinto. “She taught me to enjoy writing, that writing is another side of reading. That year, I wrote a play that was performed by the students at Easter.”

Ellie Flowers mentions Miss Martin, the principal at Potter School who also taught the sixth grade. “Thanks to her efforts, we had an outstanding music program at the Potter School.”

Thanks as well to the efforts of Reverend Callender, Simeon Potter, and Caleb Corey Mumford, Pointers have reason to remember and to celebrate the dedicated educators and the education they provided over the years to generations of Point children.
The Rebirth of Newport Shipyard

Newport Shipyard, in existence since the mid-nineteenth century, nearly went out of business in 1999. Bought out of bankruptcy by a group of Newport investors, the yard has been rejuvenated and now welcomes some of the most famous yachts in the world.

The view from Washington Street and the causeway is totally different today than it was three years ago. It has gone from an almost deserted place with decrepit buildings to a bustling complex full of boats of all sizes and shapes.

Newport Shipyard employs 75 people and has dock space for about 40 boats with the addition of the long dock—paralleling the causeway—which was completed last year. The yard has two travel lifts for yachts up to 330 tons and a unique railway system that can haul boats up to 300 feet long. In addition to its traditional specialty of metal work, Newport Shipyard also has a very extensive machine shop, as well as electrical, mechanical, and carpentry crews. Although most of the work is now done on private yachts, Newport Shipyard still welcomes commercial boats. At any given time you can see work being done on a multi-million dollar mega-yacht alongside a fishing boat or tug.

A lot of the improvements at the yard have been made to attract the best yachts in the world and their crews. These include a very comfortable skippers’ lounge with a new bar and restaurant and a place to plug in computers or watch movies. Despite the great activity, the future is not secured and Newport Shipyard is still struggling to achieve profitability, according to general manager Joe Loughborough. Since closed waterfront businesses in Newport are frequently replaced by condominiums or timeshares, all of us on the Point have a vested interest in keeping Newport Shipyard alive and well.
Fran and Bryan Babcock’s Sarah Kendall House is featured as an “Editors’ Pick” in Yankee Magazine’s 2002 Travel Guide, announces the magazine’s recent press release. “Sarah Kendall House was included among regional restaurants, lodging, attractions, museums, and shops that, according to the travel experts at Yankee Magazine’s Travel Guide, are not to be missed.”

Alberto Bessin has completed a six-and-a-half ton silicon bronze sculpture of an osprey for the town of Greenport, Long Island. “Morning Call,” which is 40-feet tall and 30-feet wide, sits on a 20-foot pedestal, salvaged from the World Trade Center. It will be dedicated to those who lost their lives in the September 11 disaster.

Louisa Boatwright of Second Street has published a brochure, “Newport for Kids and Families,” a guide to the “family-friendly” fun and educational “happening things” to do in our community. Several of the features are on or near the Point: List Academy of Music & Arts, Thames Science Center, The Gulls, Rose Island Lighthouse, and the Museum of Newport History.

Cardine’s Field was in the news recently. The current facelift of this popular baseball field on the Point was featured in the Newpport Daily News (Sean Reid, “Class Act,” July 18, 2001). It seems that further work is scheduled for next year, if the budget allows.

Erik Dahl’s Summer 2001 column, “That Was Then . . . The Potter School,” was cited by Providence Journal writer Katie Mulvaney in her recent article about the restoration of the Simeon Potter house at 37 Marsh Street (“Restoration,” August 8, 2002).

Peter Diepenbrock has been selected by the state to design a memorial honoring victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The nine-foot-tall memorial, two golden columns suspended in brass and anchored in a black granite base, will be dedicated in September at the Statehouse. A full-scale drawing of the memorial can be seen at Suydam and Diepenbrock’s Gallery on Bridge Street.

Ilse Buchert Nesbitt displayed her woodcuts of trees in the upstairs gallery above the Third and Elm Press at 29 Elm Street.
Careful study of the past is a vital step to understanding and maintaining your historic house, but it is equally important to be versed in current techniques and resources for preservation. The Internet is a valuable tool in this pursuit. There are a few useful sites, many containing helpful links, but you should use your web browser to search for sites specific to the needs of your own property.

A good place to start is the website of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.nationaltrust.org), which contains pages for the "Historic Homeowner," offers assistance through "Help from the National Trust," and even provides information for people planning to travel to America's historic destinations. Membership in the Trust includes access to its online Preservation Forum.

Equally important is the website for the National Park Service (www.nps.gov). A "Links to the Past" page allows users to explore America's cultural resources, including buildings, landscapes, archeological sites, structures, and districts. Another NPS page allows users to research grants, tax credits, and other historic preservation assistance. The site also offers web classes about historic structures and landscapes.

Some sites offer useful products and services. One of my favorites goes by the unlikely name of "Clem Labine's Period Homes, the Internet Portal to 457 Suppliers of Historically Styled Residential Products" (www.period-homes.com). This is a valuable source of information on reproductions of historic building products such as door hardware, period-style items like outdoor lighting, and innovative solutions to problems faced by owners of historic houses. The site includes a searchable product database and online articles. Even hard-to-find items can usually be located on the web. Recently I discovered a site for a company that specializes in used and antique bricks, cobblestones, and pavers. Visit them at www.historicalbricks.com.

Other sites worth checking out: The Preservation Trades Network (www.ptn.org), a non-profit organization that "brings together the building trades in the field of historic preservation"; the Association for Preservation Technology International (www.apti.org), which promotes the "best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings"; Heritage Preservation (www.heritagepreservation.org), which offers information on a wide variety of topics, including care of furniture and outdoor sculpture; the National Preservation Institute (www.npi.org), a non-profit organization, which offers "specialized information, continuing education, and professional training for the management, development, and preservation of historic, cultural, and environmental resources." Sites for local and regional preservation organizations are too numerous to name, but should not be overlooked.

What a grand day to chat with friends and neighbors at the Point Picnic
Point Resident Proposes Bike Path

As one part of a solution to the ever-increasing traffic congestion on East and West Main roads, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has been supporting an ongoing study: the Newport Secondary/Bike Path Project. At the latest in a series of public meetings, held at the Middletown Ramada Inn on June 25, a report and plans were presented. Copies of that report, including maps, can be reviewed at local libraries or town and city halls. RIDOT requested community responses to this plan by July 19.

In response, Point resident Peter Martin has developed a Bike Path and Pedestrian Walkway plan and a survey enabling residents to express their opinions. He presented his plan and survey at the Point Association Executive Committee July meeting. The plan includes a combined rail and bike path: a handicapped-accessible parkway for cyclists, walkers, and roller bladers. The survey has been limited to the area between the depot and Admiral Kalbfus Road.

Mr. Martin envisions his plan as a subset of the larger RIDOT plan: a reminder of the need for improved access between the downtown waterfront area and the business area around the Admiral Kalbfus rotary. As of July 25, 2002, Mr. Martin’s survey showed that 91 percent of 150 respondents would like to see a bike path between the railroad station and Admiral Kalbfus Road. Of those wanting a path, 77 percent want to keep one track for the train.

Printed copies of the survey form may be obtained at the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, the Newport Convention and Visitors Bureau, Vaillancourt’s Market, Rene & Son Carpet, and the Fourth Street Diner. Further information is available at petermartin@stacyjouse.com.

Help Wanted

Archivist. The Green Light needs a computer literate individual, who can continue where former archivist Christa Dahl left off, in updating the record by entering the articles and writers in each issue. Although the record is now in Excel, the new archivist is free to choose a different method.

Coordinator for New Column. So many of our readers enjoyed the Chanukah stories by two young Point writers in our December 2001 Green Light, that we would like to continue this as a regular column in future issues. With this feature, we’re seeking a coordinator—rather than a writer—who will solicit short articles of 150 to 300 words from school-age writers on the Point. Topics may vary.

Layout Assistant. The Green Light production staff is seeking a new layout assistant. All you need is a good sense of design. If you have any of the current computer publishing programs, it will make the job easier, but it isn’t necessary.

Call Suzanne Varisco at 841-5220 if you are interested in any of these jobs.
Oatmeal Cookies

4 cups flour
3 lbs. old-fashioned rolled oats
8 oz. coarsely chopped walnuts
3 large eggs
1 tbsp. vanilla

3 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
8 oz. dark raisins
2 2/3 cups unsalted margarine or butter
1 1/2 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. honey

Preheat oven to 350°.
Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
Cream the margarine and sugar in a large bowl until smooth.
Beat in the eggs, honey, vanilla, and salt until smooth and creamy.
Using a large wooden spoon or your hands, work in the flour and oats until well combined.
Add the raisins and walnuts, and mix.
Shape the dough into 3-inch balls and press into 5- to 6-inch flat cookies on baking sheet.
Bake the cookies 15 minutes or to desired doneness.
Makes about 24 cookies.

Graham Cracker Chewies

Crust: 1 1/3 cups graham cracker crumbs, 1 tsp.
sugar, 1/2 cup unsalted butter at room temp., 2
tbsp. flour.
Topping: 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar, 1/2 cup
chopped pecans, 1/3 cup graham cracker
crumbs, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. baking powder, 1
tsp. vanilla, 2 large beaten eggs.

Heat oven to 350°.
Prepare the crust by mixing crumbs, sugar, butter, and flour in a bowl until moist and crumbly.
Press the mixture firmly and evenly in the bottom of a 9-inch square pan.
Bake until lightly browned, about 20 minutes.
Prepare the topping by stirring all the ingredients together until blended.
Spread the topping over the baked crust and bake for 20 minutes.
Cool completely, and then cut into 16 squares.
Paint the Point
Summer 2002

Jane Hence displays her Paint the Point project for the camera.

J.P. Mouligné and André stop to watch Paint the Point student Carolyn Schmitz at work (at right).

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The Point Association Membership Form

Please make check payable to The Point Association and mail with form to PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. A subscription to the Green Light is included with all memberships.

_____ Individual $10  _____ Family $15  _____ Subscriber $25  _____ Patron $40

Name ____________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________ E-Mail ___________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________

Second Address (if applicable): ___________________________

Committees and Activities

Your participation is needed. Please check the categories of interest to you.

_____ Beautification  _____ Harbor Watch  _____ Green Light  _____ Plant Sale  _____ Membership

_____ Program/Event Planning  _____ History and Archives  _____ Children’s Adventure Club

_____ Neighborhood Crime Watch  _____ Underground Wires  _____ Publications/Communications/Web

Fall 2002  The Green Light
Save the Date

Thursday, September 12
Neighborhood Watch Meeting
St. John's Guild Hall, 7 pm

Thursday, October 17
Annual Meeting
St. John's Guild Hall, 7 pm

Saturday, October 19
Fall Planting
Storer and Battery Parks, 9 am

Sunday, October 27
Halloween Parade
Battery Park, 3 pm

Sunday, December 15
Christmas Cookie Exchange
Harbor House, 3 pm

THE GREEN LIGHT
The Point Association
P.O. Box 491
Newport, RI 02840

Kay O'Brien
12 Battery St
Newport RI 02840