The
GREEN LIGHT
XLVII No. 1 Spring 2002

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at Bucci’s Convenience Store, Poplar & Thames, and Aidinoff’s
Liquor & Gourmet Shop, Warner Street.

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)
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Recording Secretary, Carole Clark (849-5245)
Corresponding Secretary, Isabel Griffith (849-6444)
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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.

Greetings from the Editor

With spring on the horizon, our Spring 2002 Green Light typically reviews early winter happenings and looks ahead to coming warm weather events. In addition to these regular features, the staff hopes that you will enjoy our special presentation of Harbor House then and now. Thanks to Christa and Erik Dahl’s research, Kay O’Brien’s archives, Liz Mathinos’s leg work, and the efforts of many others—including the folks at Star of the Sea, Church Community Housing, and Harbor House, we are pleased to present a special section devoted to this landmark event. Enjoy reading, and be sure to join us at our Welcome party for our new neighbors on April 7.
Dear Neighbors:

Recently the Point Association Executive Committee completed its annual planning meeting and, not surprisingly, identified 27 different issues that were considered worthy of additional evaluation before assigning priorities to this year's objectives.

Although nearly 40 percent of the issues were related to the Association's work with our city and state governments, several of the topics on our list addressed the subject of Point Association sponsored events—past, present, and future.

At present we sponsor a dozen events on the Point: New Members Party, Pot Luck Supper, Annual Spring Membership Meeting, May Day Flowers, Plant Sale, Paint the Point, Point Picnic, Summer Cocktail Party, Annual Autumn Membership Meeting, Fall Planting, Halloween Parade, and Christmas Cookie Exchange.

Periodically, we evaluate our list of events to determine whether we need to add, change, or delete one or more of them based on our members' suggestions and—most importantly—participation and support.

In the coming weeks the Point Association is going to survey members to determine your level of satisfaction relating to our present offering of events and your preferences regarding new ones.

We hope you'll take the time to help us—not only with planning, but also with organizing and implementing—by participating in the events of particular interest to you.

And, regardless of your ability to help with the work it takes to make an event successful, we hope you will attend as many of our events as you can.

Sincerely,
**Report on the City**

As the Point Association's City Liaison, I've spent time communicating with many elected and professional members of government, from City Hall to the State House, and occasionally even Washington. Few convey the grasp, vision, and professionalism of our neighbor and City Manager Mike Mallinoff. By the time you read this, he will at least still be our neighbor.

As City Manager, Mike was responsive to issues we brought before him and dealt with them in a forthright manner, even when the answer was not what we wanted to hear. Last year, on Mike's initiative, the entire City government came to our spring meeting, and each department made a presentation. Stop and consider for a moment how extraordinary that was.

All City Managers are perpetually on the hot seat, working in a no-man's-land between elective politics and, well, reality. Someone else makes the promises, and they must navigate the jungle of regulations, labor unions, state and federal government, activist groups (who, us?), and the press to make the promises come true without any new revenues. Not that life as an elected official is easy, but things always seem to succeed through the vision of part-time officials or fail through the incompetence of the professional manager. And in Newport, managers often have to carry extra "carpet" baggage.

I am puzzled and concerned that no plan to fill the twin gaps of Finance Director and City Manager has been articulated beyond sliding the City Solicitor over as a temporary manager, but it's early in the process. I'd love to examine how this tragic loss to our city developed, but this is not the place and the work of City Liaison is really about what's going to happen rather than what already has. And I'd be open to charges of bias, because I am proud to count Mike among my friends.

So long, Mr. Manager. Hello, neighbor.

John Spohn, City Liaison

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**Report from City Hall**

In the blink of an eye, time passes by so quickly. It doesn't seem possible that my first term on the Newport City Council is complete and my second is beginning. I feel honored to represent you in these challenging times, working on a number of issues that are critical for Newport.

I will continue to be an advocate for the citizens of Newport, working with city, state, and federal officials to improve the quality of life in our community. There are many opportunities and challenges, which will take commitment and courage. I believe that together we need not follow where the path leads. Rather, we can create our own path and leave a trail. Moving forward, we have many tasks to accomplish together:

**Potter School:** meetings ongoing with city staff and community involvement, RFP being developed  
**DOT projects:** Van Zandt Bridge repairs, Pell Bridge ramps, Connell Highway improvements, land swaps still under review with no final plans set  
**Gateway Center:** proposals will be examined by the council, may re-bid project  
**Harbor Management Plan:** near completion and approval  
**Infrastructure:** review ongoing  
**Harbor House:** welcome to our new neighbor on Washington Street

As always, I am available to discuss any issues with you involving our community. Call me at 847-9122 or e-mail rickfirstward@aol.com

Rick O'Neill, Representative, First Ward

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**Harbor House Reception**

Please join us in welcoming our new Harbor House neighbors.

The History & Archives Committee and the *Green Light* staff are hosting a reception which will include an opportunity to get acquainted, tours of the facility, and—of course—refreshments.

**Sunday, April 7,**  
**two to four**

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*The Green Light*  
March 2002
Report on the Harbor and Waterfront

There are two areas of particular interest, as this issue goes to press.

Floats at the Elm Street Pier
The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has granted $37,000 to fund five additional floating docks at the Elm Street Pier for short-term usage by boaters. Part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant of $156,000 awarded to the DEM last year, this money will improve this site and thus help our boating community.

Washington Street Extension Request
The City Council has received a letter from several Washington Street residents (Shannon Reagan, William Walaska, and Terrance and Margaret Moy) with a request that the city abandon the northern extension of Washington Street, which became a dead end when the bridge was built.

Friends of the Waterfront President Darryl Paquette has written to the City Council requesting that—if the city does go forward with abandonment—the Coastal Resources Management Council’s (CRMC) declared right of way to the water on Cypress Street be delineated by a “line along the southern edge of Cypress Street, thus leaving the full width of Cypress Street running to the water.” The letter also requests that the public easement represented by the present sidewalks be retained, “thus preserving the public’s 100+ year right to unobstructed passage along the shore in this area.”

Ms. Reagan has also requested a CRMC permit to build a pier in front of this property.

In Council Letter No. 3344, the city has recommended the following:
1. The pier shall not interfere in any way with the public right of way immediately adjacent, to the North, of the proposed pier;
2. The use of the pier shall be restricted to residential use only; future commercial use shall be prohibited;
3. The presence of eelgrass in the area shall be reviewed by CRMC.

Liz Mathinos,
Green Light Waterfront Reporter

The Green Light wishes to thank Liz for stepping in to help with this important component of our newsletter at the last minute. Readers who are interested in these and other issues related to the precious resource of our waterfront are encouraged to attend City Council and Waterfront Council meetings and to follow reports of their deliberations in the Daily News. SRV.

The Nina Lynette Home, founded in 1905, is a private non-profit boarding home for elders.

Room, Board and Housekeeping are provided in this stately Victorian home in Newport’s historic “Point” neighborhood.

For information about rates and availability please call:
848-7603 or 846-9276

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March 2002 The Green Light
Third Annual Paint The Point
July 6 - August 10

For six consecutive Saturday mornings from nine to noon, you are invited to participate in the third annual Point Association summer painting and drawing program. Each session will be devoted to one particular setting on the Point.

Beginners and young adults (12 and up) are especially welcome. You can choose any medium: oil, watercolor, colored pencils, pastels, whatever. Regardless of what you may think your talents are, here’s an opportunity to find out why so many painters at the turn of the century favored the Point as an inspiration for their art.

After the last session, an art exhibition and sale will be held at St. John’s Guild Hall. Each artist will donate 25% of all sales to the Point Association and pocket the balance.

The cost for six sessions: $150 for adults and $75 for junior artists. For more information, registration, help in selecting materials, questions, reassurance you can do it, call Tony Gill at 847-2189. Following last year’s tremendous success, be sure to confirm your place early to avoid disappointment.

Tony Gill, who studied at the Royal Academy of Art, is a full-time painter. His gallery, Art on the Wharf, is located at 7 Bowen’s Wharf, 845-6858.

Beautification Committee Report

Have you noticed the new tree (the one with the pretty red berries) in Storer Park at the corner of Washington Street and the Causeway? This tree has been planted to honor Kay O’Brien for her many years’ service to the Point. “Kay’s Tree” is a King Crimson Washington Hawthorne. Look for some spring bulbs, which should soon be blooming around its base. We also purchased two elm trees, which were planted in Storer and Battery Parks.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday morning, April 27, the date for our Annual Spring Cleanup. We will be meeting at nine in Storer Park. Please bring garden tools, gloves, and enthusiasm. The rain date is May 4.

Marcia and Coles Mallory, Committee Co-Chairs

Membership Report

New Members Since December 1, 2001
Jeanette Beach
Marcia Byrnes
Deborah and Eric Dehmel
Marliese and Dr. Bruno Franek
Libby and John Gilpatrick
Jane Henci
Linda Larson
Virginia and Robert Maar
Linda Quimby
Corinne Replogle
Patricia O’Connell and John Wilson

Patricia Carrubba, Committee Chair

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Herb Rommel recommends
his upholsterer,
Mr. Donald La Flamme
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and has placed this ad in appreciation for a fine job.
New Neighbors

The Pineapple House is now home to artist and architect Jane Hence, who comes to the Point from Westerly, Rhode Island.

New neighbors from Michigan, Genevieve and Scot Gibson with Dorian (4) and Gage (2).

Born On The Point Certificates

What: A beautiful printed document, created by Ilse Nesbitt at the Third and Elm Press, with your name inscribed by the hand of the artist

Who: Anyone who is a native Pointer

How: Send your name—printed exactly as you want it to appear, your date of birth, your phone number, and your address if this is to be mailed. Non-members, be sure to include a check made out to Ilse Nesbitt. Address the envelope to the Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840.

Cost: No charge for Point Association members and $7.50 for non-members

When: Requests accepted year-round (this year’s deadline: Sept 1). Certificates are presented once a year at the annual meeting in October and mailed to those unable to attend.

Questions? Contact Isabel Griffith, (401) 849-6444 or ig riffith@edu-directions.com.

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Report on Underground Wires

Recent activity has included an effort to find out how and why Bellevue Avenue has wires underground. It was discovered that the undergrounding of wires along Bellevue was originally funded by a federal grant to restore the area. Recently, the Bellevue Avenue Association has also made a consistent effort to tie in requests for variances for construction projects in the area with an agreement to put wires underground as part of the Association’s consent. These are approaches it probably makes sense for us to pursue—perhaps with regard to the anticipated development of the Gateway Center.

If you agree with this effort, please sign the following statement and send it or drop it off: Al Lowe, 67 Bridge St. Newport RI 02840. If there are lawyers or others who know about federal and/or state grants and have an interest in helping, please call me at 847-5853.

Al Lowe, Committee Chair

If you agree with this effort, please sign the following statement and send it or drop it off: Al Lowe, 67 Bridge St. Newport RI 02840. If there are lawyers or others who know about federal and/or state grants and have an interest in helping, please call me at 847-5853.

Al Lowe, Committee Chair
Many long-time residents of the Point have fond memories of “The Cenacle,” as the convent complex was often known. The Cenacle Sisters, and later the Carmelite Sisters, offered daily mass and Monday afternoon instruction for children, along with a variety of lessons and services.

Helen Cavanagh Caffrey, a former Point resident, described her memories of the Cenacle in the August 1984 Green Light. She attended mass and remembered that, although many of the nuns spoke only French, they were delightfully enthusiastic and hospitable. “I took voice lessons from Mother Delebecque whom I loved and admired,” she said. “She gave me a thorough musical training, but she was fearful that I might be tempted to go on the stage—thought to be a direct path to perdition in those days! I'm sure it was her prayers that led me into less exciting avenues for my musical talent.”

The Convent was a source of part-time jobs for quite a few local youngsters, including Joan Calcutt, a born-on-the-Pointer who worked as a waitress there in the early 1950s. She and two other girls worked on the weekends, when the convent was at its busiest hosting retreats for Catholic women from all over Rhode Island and neighboring states.

As Joan described in an April 1993 Green Light article and in a recent interview, the nuns cooked the food in the kitchen in the basement, making everything from scratch, even bread and mayonnaise. Meals were brought up to the pantry from the basement using a dumbwaiter, and Joan and her friends served the retreaters, who were seated in the dining room at eight big round tables. Silence was observed at mealtimes, while the Mother Superior read from the prayer book.

The meals were very good, Joan remembers, although the menu was mostly the same each weekend. Friday night was salmon loaf, Saturday was hot dog and beans night, and the highlight of the weekend was Sunday’s dessert of Baked Alaska. The priest, who lived nearby in the Chaplain’s House, had his own dining room, and only the nuns served him. “We weren’t allowed in his din-
the eating room,” Joan says. “The retreaters would be eating salmon pie and he’d be eating lobster and beer!”

The nuns were very friendly, Joan says, including the Mother Superior, who went to Rome for a retreat once and came back with religious medals for everyone. The Sisters even had a sense of humor. They loved to tell jokes, such as, “What is honeymoon salad? Lettuce alone!”

Joan attended mass at the convent sometimes, but she recalls occasionally finding a way to get out of attending church: “This is telling a secret, but I’d tell my father I went to mass there, and I’d tell them I went to mass at Saint Joseph’s.” She fondly remembers the annual fairs the nuns would hold on the grounds of the convent in July, and one of her strongest memories is of attending the wedding ceremonies in which the young novitiates would become married to the church. They were married in the chapel in white dresses, received a wedding band, and then went into a side room to change into their habits.

The pay for food servers was about fifty cents per meal, which doesn’t sound like much today, but Joan says that was pretty good money back then. “You could go downtown, and if there was a sale, you could get a blouse for fifty cents.” Working at the Cenacle was evidently considered good work, as Joan’s younger sister Judy followed in her footsteps and became a waitress at the retreat house after Joan had left.

Although the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters remain in Newport, in their current house on Broadway, members of the order move frequently and few of the nuns remain from the Washington Street group. Sister Jane Frances, however, is one of those few who served at what is now Harbor House, and she recently shared some of her memories.

Sister Jane Frances first came to the convent in 1955. While she was transferred several times, she returned to Newport frequently and was living in the convent during the last years before the 1990 move. “It was wonderful—we had a good time,” she says. “It was a sad day when we had to close the doors.”

The retreat center was much like running a hotel, she remembers. When they moved into the house in 1955, they essentially inherited the same mission as the Cenacle nuns before them. “We just took right over where they left off,” she says. “The night we moved in, we started the retreats. We had one of their groups from Providence—it was a group of fifty, I remember, and it was our first retreat.”

The Chaplain’s House, adjacent to the Chapel, was usually occupied by a Navy Chaplain, who offered Mass and served as an important link between the Sisters and Newport and the Navy community. “We had lots of Navy functions there—dinners, Christmas parties.”

The convent continued to host retreats and other functions right up until they were forced to leave in 1990. “It was a lot of work—that’s why we had to give it up at the end, we didn’t have enough Sisters,” she said. But she added that she and the other Sisters are very happy to see the facility reborn to once again serve the community.
History of the Harbor House Property

by Erik Dabi

The land on which Harbor House now stands was once the estate of John Auchincloss, a successful New York merchant who built a summer home on the property in about 1840. His descendents include Hugh Auchincloss of Newport, and the well-known author Louis Auchincloss. The Auchincloss House remains today the centerpiece of the Harbor House complex.

In 1905, one of John Auchincloss’s heirs deeded the property to Miss Agnes Storer (for whom Storer Park is named) and Miss Marie Cisneros. The next year, the two women deeded the property to the St. Regis Society of New York, an organization of French nuns known as the Cenacle order.

In 1907, a second structure, the Saint Francis House, was built to lodge guests who came for retreats. The Newport Journal of January 19, 1907, reported on the progress of the new building: “It is evident from the beginning of work on the convent that the experiment of the Sisters in the little temporary convent on the estate has proved satisfactory and calls for a larger building fitted especially for the work which the Sisters propose to do. The chaplain of the convent, Rev. Frederick Orosz, is a Hungarian whose father fought with Kossuth, and he has made friends with all who have met him during his short stay in Newport."

In 1914, three additional buildings were constructed, all of which remain today. The Chapel, designed by McGinnis and Walsh, is a neighborhood landmark. Accommodating only 100 people, it gives the impression of a miniature Gothic church, with a high marble altar, mural paintings of Our Lady of the Cenacle, and a beautiful set of stained glass windows that were installed in the 1920s. A Convent building was added behind the Auchincloss House as home for the nuns, and the Chaplain’s House,

Harbor House Timeline
a two-story cottage, was built on Second Street. A cloister and patio were also constructed at this time.

In addition to conducting retreats, the Sisters of the Cenacle were very involved with the Point and Newport community, offering daily mass, maintaining a circulating library, and giving lessons in French, music, and catechism. Many Newport children attended Monday afternoon instructions at the convent—a sort of addition to Sunday school, after which each student was rewarded with a large cookie.

The Cenacle nuns gave up their Newport house in 1955 and sold the property to the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters. The Carmelites continued to manage the property much as the Cenacle Sisters had, with visitors from throughout the area for religious retreats.

In 1964, another building was added to the complex. The Rice House, a two-and-a-half-story frame house, had been built in the 1870s in the "stick style," just north of the convent property; at what was then the end of Washington Street. It was moved across the lot to Battery Street and connected to the Saint Francis House. Named St. Joseph’s House at first, over the years it had several other names. A plat map dated 1876 shows the house marked with the name Clarance Rathbone, while a 1907 map shows the names Agnes L. Rice and Bay Bank. The Newport Daily News of June 10, 1964, reporting on the move, stated that it had once belonged to Captain William B. Fletcher, USN, and had been called Bayside.

Finally, in 1990, the Carmelite Sisters found that their declining number made it impossible for them to continue hosting retreats. They moved to their current home, at 516 Broadway in Newport, where they remain active as a religious order. The Star of the Sea Corporation was founded in 1991 to restore the property and convert it into a community for elderly people. It is now reborn as Harbor House.

I remember...
...not long ago, the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters staged a very festive outdoor Fair on its magnificent grounds every July. Memories of this event by the Bay will always be treasured.

The food and fun booths, games of chance, and plant sales brought together many old and young Newporters to meet and play in the noonday sun. The fete was one to savor every year. A fundraiser, it usually went over the top to help defray costs of operating the religious institution.

Other events were also staged on the lawn, such as May Day processions and Feast of the Corpus Christi parades to the mini marble-floored Gothic chapel. The place of worship was an uplifting place, especially at Christmas Eve Mass, after which all would be invited to partake of supper in the nearby dining room.

Bill Reardon, son of a "Pointer"
The Birth of Harbor House

by Liz Mathinos

As I look over at Harbor House, with the early morning sun bathing the stucco in glowing light and reflecting bright colors from the chapel's restored stained glass windows, I notice that there is light in the former Chaplain's house. Adé Bethune is there, and knowing that gives a very satisfying feeling. The successful completion of Harbor House is a glowing testimony to how one person's dream can be achieved.

Adé's dream started over a decade ago, in April 1991, with the establishment of the Star of the Sea Non-Profit Corporation, "to establish and maintain a center for elders who seek to focus on personal growth and mutual help in a lifestyle of simplicity." During the initial years, the project had several name changes, but the intent was always the same: to restore the buildings of the former Corpus Christi Carmelite Retreat House—vacant for many years—to their former glory and to bring older citizens together in a retirement community. During the difficult economic times of the early 1990s, funds were slow to be realized for the concept. Adé persevered and kept her faith in the integrity of the project alive, while she made countless presentations to potential funding sources and even mortgaged her own home.

Zoning Board of Review hearings approved 34 housing units (25 percent low income) in 1997. Then in December 1999 came a petition to increase the units to 37 plus one for the resident manager. With this change came a request for mixed income to qualify for funding through the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (RIHMFC). Opposition was overcome in 2000, and Harbor House was on its way. With great excitement, on April 3, 2000, Congressman Patrick Kennedy announced a $4.5 million grant to underwrite the project. Construction began in March, with a completion date of December 2001.

Our highest praise goes to Adé Bethune. She saw what the beauty of restoration would do for a neighborhood landmark, and she had a dream to create a beautiful place for elderly people to live in simplicity. Thank you, Adé.

Our highest praise goes to Adé Bethune. She saw what the beauty of restoration would do for a neighborhood landmark, and she had a dream to create a beautiful place for elderly people to live in simplicity. Thank you, Adé.
Beyond my highest expectations," exclaimed Shelley Graham, as she prepared coffee in the community kitchen for her visitor. And this Harbor House regular's expectations are based on lots of experience. A native of Syracuse, Shelley spent summers in Newport during World War II. As a secretary in the foreign service, she lived in Sweden and then Botswana, where she established a court stenography school after her retirement. To accomplish this, she simply taught herself how to use a computer. Returning to the states, Shelley visited friends in Newport and knew that this was it. When asked why she chose Harbor House, she cited Adé's leadership—a "wonderful person," plus diversity of interests and income, community of lively intellects, and friendly neighbors. "I haven't met a grouch, yet!"

While the coffee was brewing, Shelley's neighbor David Riley stopped by and paused briefly to chat. A Providence native, he summered in Narragansett as a youngster and has "always loved Newport." After a long career on the professional staff of the Massachusetts General Assembly, where his last post was Director of Resources for the Joint Committee on Election Laws, returning to Newport just seemed right. Having read copies of the Green Light in the Redwood Library, David plans to join the Point Association. When asked what drew him to Harbor House, he said, "Adé and her creation of a community where fairness, goodness, and basic values permeate the spirit of this place."

Down the hall from Shelley and around the corner from David lives Newport native Bea Shanahan, who grew up in Middletown and attended Rogers High School, "the only one on the island in those days."

Bea still remembers the popular rhyme, "Uptown Gentlemen, Downtown Brats, Over the Point Boys, and Long Wharf Rats." She also remembers when the Point was a truly "derelict neighborhood" in the 50's, and she has enjoyed watching its careful restoration over the intervening half century. What does Bea like about Harbor House? Well, Adé, of course, and it's friendly. As an example, after dinner last Friday, everyone gathered round the piano in the parlor and sang all the old songs. "The piano is terribly out of tune, and we forgot half the words, but it was such fun."

To establish and maintain a center for elders who seek to focus on personal growth and mutual help in a lifestyle of simplicity.
In Love with Hydrangeas

When I found my favorite harbinger of spring—the Sylvan Nursery catalogue—in my mailbox this week, I turned immediately to the hydrangeas. While most of us know and grow the New England standard of this breed, Hydrangea Macrophylla or Nikko Blue, Sylvan also lists over thirty-two others from which to choose. Surely, I must have room for a few more . . .

There are pink hydrangeas: Acumintata Preciosa, All Summer, Alpengluhen, Ayesha, Cardinal, Domati, Glowing Embers, Merrit Supreme, Mother Teresa, Pink Diamond, and Tokyo Delight. (These varieties are bred to pink, red, and purple, so there is no need for iron chelate.) The blue hydrangeas include Blue Billows, Coearalea Lace, Mariesi, Nikko Blue, and Variegata. The white category features Annabelle, Paniculata Kyusu, and Sister Theresa.

Hydrangeas prefer slight shade, lots of water, and well-drained soil, but they will also thrive in full sun. Spent stalks should be pulled out each spring. It’s easy; they are dead with no leaves showing. Annabelle blooms on new wood and should be cut to 10” every spring. Most other hydrangeas bloom on last year’s wood.

Most varieties start their bloom in mid-summer and continue through the fall, except Quercifolia or Oak-leaf Hydrangea. This one starts its show of leaves in spring, blooms white in early June, and continues through the fall, when the flowers turn a copper pink and the leaves a spectacular burgundy red. Definitely worth a spot in your garden! Other late white bloomers include the paniculata grandifloras and tardivas, which also turn a coppery pink in the fall. Be on the lookout for dwarf varieties of these last two.

Companion plants for hydrangeas include rhododendron, perennial anemone, fern, clematis, Japanese yew, leucothoeo, daphne, and skimmia japonica. Treat your shrubs to a light mulch, water well if rain is sparse, and you will have a lovely trouble-free border.

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Crystal Spring Water Co., Middletown, RI
Roberto Bessin was featured in a Daily News article about his commission for a sculpture for the town of Greenport, Long Island. Incorporating some recovered steel from the World Trade Center in his sculpture of a giant osprey, Mr. Bessin said that “Morning Call” symbolizes the nation’s resiliency, renewal, and rebirth.

Mike Mallinoff recently tendered his resignation as Newport’s city manager. We wish to congratulate Mike on the fine job he has done in this post, thank him for his labors on our behalf, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

This year’s annual costume ball at the Newport Art Museum will be hosted by none other than Sarah and Tony Gill. In addition to the ball itself, a circus event for children is planned for the following day.

The photography of Kate Mouligné was featured at Art on the Wharf (and congratulations, by the way, on the January birth of Zoe).

Alexander “Sandy” Nesbitt won “Best in Show” at the recent Juried Members’ Show at the Newport Art Museum. Also, Sandy’s blue, black, and white photographs were on display in his recent “Blue and Black” exhibit at his Thames Street gallery.

Rita Rogers’ paintings were part of the Third Annual Holiday Exhibition at Premier Etage Galleries, Ltd.

Listeners of daytime radio have been hearing John Spohn sit in as an occasional guest host of the Open Forum on WADK Newport, 1540 on your AM dial.

Point Association Annual Pot Luck Supper
St. John’s Guild Hall Sunday, March 24, 6 pm

Again this year, a True Pot Luck
Beverages (Coffee, Tea, and Milk) will be provided. You may bring your own wine, beer, cider, etc. Everything should arrive piping hot and wrapped. Every container and server should be marked.

In order to assure variety, we ask the following:
If your last name begins with A-G, please bring a DESSERT for 10-12.
If your last name begins with H-P, please bring a MAIN COURSE for 8-10.
If your last name begins with Q-Z, please bring VEGETABLES or SALAD for 10-12.
If you are coming, call and leave a message for Donna Maytum (849-4395), telling her what food and how many people you are bringing.
How Old Is My House?

How old is it? Who built it? These are important questions to answer when identifying proper architectural details for your historic house, or when choosing a name and date for the plaque on your newly restored property. Be aware, as you begin your research, that an exact year of construction is often impossible to determine, especially for the oldest houses, and you may need to be satisfied with narrowing the date to a period of a few decades.

The first step is to visit the Newport Historical Society. In the 1970s and 80s, the two National Historic Landmark districts in Newport—the Hill and the Point—were surveyed by the Society. For each lot, volunteers recorded information from known sources, which included physical description, architectural features, possible date of construction, history of ownership, and notable events. Little original research was conducted, however, and volunteers did not confirm the information. This data, available at the Newport Historical Society and on an interactive computer display at the Museum of Newport History, should be considered a starting point only. Serious researchers will need to turn over a few more stones in their quest to date their property.

Land evidence records (deeds, mortgages, and rental agreements) are the foundation of this type of research. Begin with the current owner of a property and work backward, starting with the Tax Assessor’s office at Newport City Hall. There you will find a history of property ownership, assessed values, and dates of transfer going back as far as 100 years. These records will not give descriptions of the property’s lot lines, structures, or appurtenances. The appearance of this information on a deed can help narrow the date of construction. For these records, venture to the Recorder of Deeds office in the basement of City Hall. There, on microfilm, you will find grantor-grantee indexes that will direct you to the proper volumes. You might think your quest has ended, but the British Navy had something to say about that.

In October 1779, when the British withdrew from Newport, they absconded with the town’s official records, hoping to disrupt the government and uncover information valuable to the war effort. The ship carrying the records sank near Hell Gate, and the records remained underwater for several days, were salvaged by order of General Washington, stored in New York City for three years, and returned to Newport in 1782. In 1894, the City of Newport entrusted the care of these records to the Newport Historical Society. Though many documents were saved, an untold number were damaged or destroyed. The Society indexed the remaining records and paid the Emery Record Preserving Co. to encapsulate them in silk. Therefore, any deeds recorded after October 1779 are at City Hall; those recorded prior to that date are at the Newport Historical Society, though in fragmentary condition.

Other sources at the Society should also be considered in your search for your house’s date of construction. Maps and atlases from 1758 to 1921 show streets; footprints of existing properties; number of stories (sometimes); purpose as a shop, warehouse, or residence; and construction materials. Archival photographs may contain unique information not found in other types of records, often scrawled on the back by the photographer or a person connected with the property. There are also tax and census records, city directories, and obituary files. Staff at the Society is ready and willing to direct you in your search.

POINT OF FACT

Experts can sometimes confirm dates of construction by careful examination of tool marks, nail shapes, and surviving original architectural features.
“HMS” Rose, Past and Present.

Last December, the Rose departed Newport for a long journey that will take her through the Panama Canal on her way to Los Angeles. When she arrives, this distinctive craft will be featured in the upcoming Hollywood movie, “Master and Commander.” This will not be her film debut, however, as the Rose has been featured in several movies before. I even spotted her distinctive look in the French film “La Veuve de St Pierre,” when it played at the Jane Pickens Theatre last year.

Many of us are sad to see this beautiful vessel leave Rhode Island waters, but our love for the Rose was not shared by our ancestors. The original Rose was built in Hull, England, in 1757. She participated in the Seven Years War against France and in 1774 was sent to the American Colonies to pacify an increasingly independently minded population. The HMS Rose, as she was known then, was under the command of a ruthless British captain by the name of John Wallace. In Narragansett Bay, Captain Wallace’s mission was to curb the flow of illegally imported goods from the West Indies. Her presence ruined the trade in a very short time and decimated the Newport population. To fight the Rose, Newport merchants armed the much smaller vessel Providence under the command of Captain John Paul Jones, and shortly thereafter Rhode Island declared its independence in May 1776, two months before the rest of the nation.

The Rose kept fighting an increasingly difficult war. She participated in the invasion of New York and was purposely scuttled in the waters off Savanna, Georgia, to prevent the French fleet from approaching the British-occupied city.

The new Rose is an American ship, so the appellation “HMS” (His Majesty’s Ship) is used in quotes as a reference to its British ancestry. Newport Historian John Fitzhugh Millar built this ship in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in 1970, using original plans. Because the project was under funded, she spent most of the seventies tied up at Sayers Warf, slowly decaying. In 1985 the Rose was purchased by a non-profit organization and—after an extensive refit—put back in good sailing condition.

The “HMS” Rose is now under the command of a much gentler skipper, Newport’s Captain Richard Bailey, and we can await her return to Rhode Island waters without any fear that her presence will ruin the local economy.
Carrot and Orange Soup

Nothing like a hot bowl of soup on a chilly spring day!

Chop 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of carrots
Chop about four medium onions and the white part of one large leek.
Gently heat 2 oz. butter (or oil, if you prefer to serve soup cold) in a heavy bottomed pan.
Add the vegetables and gently “sweat” them for 10 minutes in the covered pan. Do not brown.
Add 1 tsp. curry powder (or to taste), 1 clove of crushed garlic, the grated rind of one large orange, 4 cups chicken stock and 1 cup orange juice.
Season lightly and continue to cook until the carrots are tender.
Pour the soup through a strainer and transfer solids to a food processor.
Add 1 cup of the stock and process until smooth. (You may put it through a food mill at this time if you would prefer to have it smoother.)
Return puree to the pot and add back the stock till it is the consistency you want.
Reheat.
Add 1 tsp. of brown sugar if you prefer a touch of sweetness.
Enjoy!
It’s Not Too Soon....
The Annual Point Plant Sale
May 18 from 8:30-11:30
location to be announced

It’s not too soon to begin thinking about what plants you would like to contribute.
This year we would like to offer more top quality plants from local gardens.
People love these plants, especially if they have been carefully dug up and put in pots to get a good start on new root growth.
April is a good time to do this. We can help!
Do you need pots? Do you need help digging and re-potting items for the sale?
Please let us know.

Would you like to help with the Plant Sale? We have all kinds of jobs—big and small: planning, soliciting and picking up donations, digging and potting, and pricing and selling at the sale. We would love to welcome you to our crew!

Please contact Isabel Griffith: 849/6444 or igriffith@edu-directions.com. If you are on our list, we will notify you about the first organizational meeting in April.

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  _____ Underground Wires  _____ Children’s Adventure Club
_____ Neighborhood Crime Watch  _____ Publications/Communications/Web
Save the Date

March 24  Pot Luck Supper, St. John’s Guild Hall, 6:00 p.m.
April 7    Harbor House Reception. See announcement, p. 4, for details
April 11   Spring Membership Meeting,
            St. John’s Guild Hall, 7:30 pm
April 27   Spring Cleanup, Storer Park, 9-12
            (Rain Date, May 4)
May 5      May Day Flowers
May 18     Point Plant Sale. See announcement, p. 19, for details)

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