Summer 2002

Point Picnic by Dorothy Sanschegrin
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, Martha Marie Grogan (849-4443)
Recording Secretary, Carole Clark (849-5245)
Corresponding Secretary, Isabel Griffith (849-6444)
Treasurer, Hillar Sarepera (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.

Greetings from the Editor

As you read this summer issue, we on the Green Light staff hope that you will enjoy the articles, columns, reports, and photos that have been compiled just for you. Especially satisfying for all of us are your letters, and so we include excerpts from three this time around. Many of our readers see the Green Light as the life blood of the Point Association. As such, we need an occasional transfusion, and the very best donor is a reader with a story. Do you have a story to share? Perhaps a special memory of your childhood, living or visiting on the Point, or even a treasured anecdote told to you by a parent about some long-ago event here (if you send a picture, remember that a photo prints out more clearly than a photocopy). Are you a newcomer to the Point who thinks it might be fun to work on the Green Light, either in a regular staff position gathering stories of others or on a single assignment to write your own story about the Point? If the answer to any one of these questions is yes, we want the donation of your time and talent. I'm available at 841-5220 or through the Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. Let's talk!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Green Light Summer 2002
Dear Neighbors,

Recently our Membership Committee reported that the Point Association gained over 50 new members since March of last year, and we are very pleased that several of them are residents of Harbor House.

Patricia and I enjoyed hosting the New Members Cocktail Party again this Year, and we had a chance to meet many people there, at the Pot Luck Supper, and the Harbor House Reception. Our new members represent a wonderful diversity of backgrounds, interests, and expectations that is consistent with our membership in general and promises to add to the strength of our neighborhood, as well as our Association.

Often our new members join our Association after talking with their friends and neighbors about its philosophy, goals, organization, position on issues (past and present), and leadership, as well as the benefits of membership, etc. So it is particularly satisfying to me that so many of our neighbors and friends have made the decision to join our Association as new members over the past year.

In some of my previous Green Light letters to you, I've touched on several topics that relate to the health of our neighborhood. In my opinion, these are worth repeating here for our new members: the welcome we give our new neighbors, the efforts we make to understand and share information relating to the many issues affecting the Point, our participation in the many Association events held to promote being a good neighbor, and the level of our volunteerism to give something back to our community, to name a few.

Therefore, on behalf of the entire Point Association membership, I would like, again, to say "Welcome" to our new members. We value your opinions, and we will continue to work on your behalf to improve the Point neighborhood. What we ask, in return, is for you to get involved and make your presence known by your volunteer work with your Association.

Sincerely,
Report on the City . . .
Well, not exactly

This report will be brief. Not for lack of issues, but information. I have been out of Newport on business for about six weeks now, so I apologize for being unprepared to keep you abreast of issues affecting our neighborhood.

My new assignment has become long term, so I will be living primarily in Puerto Rico with occasional weekends in Newport for a while. Near the end of summer, the whole family will be packing up to try a year of living in the tropics. We are all distressed at the thought of being away from the rich array of friends, neighbors, and other characters that make up the life we've lived here for the last sixteen years. These cherished relationships are what made and will always maintain Newport as our home. But, happily, everyone is looking forward to our Aventura Puerto Riqueno.

The Point is a beautiful and unique place to live. The best indication of this is the number of folk who retire here from the Navy. At Uncle Sam's behest they travel and make homes around the world; and, once freed to choose any place to live, they come here. There's gotta be a reason for that. Whenever the local political weather gets heavy, I prescribe this idea as just the tonic.

I will regret being separated from the Point Association and particularly from the Executive Committee, some of the finer and more giving individuals with whom I've had the pleasure to keep company. Organizing all the events each year takes hundreds of hours but, believe it or not, most of the work they do looking after our collective interests is transparent and goes unacknowledged which is fine by them. But I'll take the license to spoil that a bit and also encourage any of you to take a shot at volunteering in whatever way you can.

I hear they're looking for a City Liaison.

So . . . well, not Adios, but Nos Vemos, See You Later."

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Report from City Hall

Best wishes to John and Jill Spohn in their impending move to Puerto Rico. John has worked tirelessly to make the Point and Newport a better place, serving most recently on the Charter Review Commission and providing valuable recommendations. Thanks, John.

Additionally, the Noise and Nuisance Task Force has provided outstanding suggestions to combat what continues to impact our quality of life. Rich Carrubba, as a member of that commission, is certainly representing the views of the Point residents and the city. We hope to make great strides this summer in significantly reducing the excessive noise and nuisance that consumes our community.

The Department of Transportation has been hard at work doing upgrades to our sidewalks, roads, and traffic signals and coordinating with city staff on general transportation concerns. The development of the North End is an open and ongoing project that welcomes your participation as we plan together to make our community even better. Other ongoing projects are the Potter School plans, Gateway Center facility, Long Wharf area and State Pier enhancement, widening Farewell/ America's Cup, and waterfront access issues. The list goes on and on.

This year the city and the state will be redrawing voting districts based on the new census data. Specifically, some residents in the upper Thames area will now vote in the Third Ward. All residents will be notified of their voting district by the canvassing board.

Finally, you may contact me at 847-9122 or e-mail rickfirstward@aol.com.

Rick O'Neill
Representative, First Ward

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John Spohn
City Liaison 1999-2002
Report from the Waterfront

The Waterfront Commission sponsored a boat ride for the City Council recently, with only Mayor Sardella availing himself of the opportunity to learn about current concerns. When I learned that it was open to members of the public, too, I went along! Several topics were discussed.

Van Zandt Pier. There was a discussion about the costly repairs needed at the Pier to ensure its survival and to guarantee public safety. Harbormaster Tim Mills talked about new materials under consideration, which might reduce repair costs, and said that creative solutions are being solicited from experts on pier reconstruction. Also mentioned was the good fortune when Dave Wixted buttonholed Senator Jack Reed at a lower Thames Street meeting and brought the Senator to view the sad state of the deteriorating pier. As a result of this spur-of-themoment foresight, the Senator is now seeking ways to fund the restoration of this historic pier.

Battery Park. The northwest facade of the historic fort at the Park was viewed. Vandalized five years ago, it has been the subject of several campaign promises that have never materialized. A washout that occurred two years ago during heavy rain continues to deteriorate further with every rainfall. It would be a tragedy if this historic fort were allowed to disintegrate, taking a part of the park with it.

Elm Street Pier. The CRMC eelgrass study has slowed down the implementation of a dinghy dock here. The best placement of the floats, to ensure safety of the swimmers, was discussed.

City Marina. Two sites are being considered: Storer Park area and the stone pier at the former ferry landing.

Liz Mathinos
Green Light
Waterfront Reporter

Report on Underground Wires

The expansion of the Newport Harbor Hotel will have numerous consequences. In addition to the obvious ones—setting a precedent which would allow other hotels to request similar expansion—it might well have ramifications that are not immediately obvious, such as requiring more infrastructure to supply these expanded hotels with more electricity. After all, electricity doesn't just fall out of the sky; it comes in on transmission wires, which currently run down Third Street. I wrote to Councilpersons O'Neill, Napolitano, and Mayor Sardella about this matter last month. Here is a quote from my letter.

"New hotel rooms will, sooner or later, mean more electricity is needed, more sewage will be created, etc. This creates problems and expenses. Where will the wires to supply this electricity, for instance, be located? The 23,000 volt wires running down Third Street within 10 feet of people's homes are already illegal in most states. The residents would, justifiably, be up in arms about an attempt to increase the number of wires or voltage carried along that street."

Rick O'Neill responded to this e-mail with his usual gracious message of support. This need for new infrastructure is something to keep in mind when you think about this request for more rooms and something you may want to discuss with your representatives on City Council.

On another issue, Mary Riggs has noted that the city is replacing white street lights with orange sodium street lights. She feels strongly that the white lights should be retained. While there are varying opinions on the subject, if you agree with Mary, she hopes you will drop off a brief note of support in her mailbox at 57 Farewell St. or mine at 67 Bridge St.

Al Lowe, Chair

The Green Light Summer 2002
Saturday April 27 brought out about 25 members of the Point Association, the Adventure Club, Hyatt Hotel employees, and our friends from Katzman Place for a successful Spring Cleanup. We were able to spruce up Storer and Battery parks and pick up bags and bags of litter from the nearby beaches and driftways. The daffodils we planted in the fall were rewarding us with many blooms and—with our sprinkling of fertilizer—will look even better next spring. It was a lovely day to talk with our neighbors and get the area in good shape for the summer.

Marcia and Coles Mallory, Co-Chairs

Louisa Boatwright and her able assistant Victoria do some serious raking.

Andrew Malinoff (left) displays his grab bag reward for a morning’s work.
Letters to the Point Association

Dear Suzanne,
On Sunday, April 7, the Point Association graciously came to Harbor House with all kinds of goodies and punch. We met such lovely people from the Point and enjoyed showing our apartments and beautiful chapel and library to all. It seems that a lot of people renewed acquaintances, as we heard, “Oh, I know you! We went to Ireland together,” or “I know your children,” or “I came to the chapel years ago to get spiritual bouquets and took lessons from the Sisters.” We sincerely thank you for the warm welcome and look forward to seeing you again.

Jane Doherty
for the residents of Harbor House

Dear Isabel,
My certificate honoring me as a “Born on the Pointer” arrived the other day and soon will occupy a position of honor in our apartment. All my formative years were as a Point Hummer, attending Callender School, Potter School, and Mumford Junior High School before going on to Rogers High School when it was on Broadway. I played baseball at Gardines Field (the Basin) and learned tennis and football at Hunter playground. I was a member of the Newport Juniors Drum and Bugle Corps, many of whose members were also from the Point. And, of course, my Dad ran a grocery store at the corner of Bridge and Washington streets. Many thanks for the Certificate.

Sincerely,
Stanley Slom

Hello,
I was born in Newport (on Elm Street across from Potter School) and my mom was too. I was raised there and on Bayside Avenue. My mother wrote many stories about growing up in Newport on the Point and many have been in the Green Light. In fact, we are considering publishing her stories. The Third and Elm Press is just a few houses down from my grandmother’s house on Third Street.

Thank you,
Ruth Cahoon Freeman
Spring Membership Meeting

At this year’s gathering in St. John’s Guild Hall, attendees enjoyed a brief but informative formal business meeting, at which officers and committee representatives reported on the status of their respective activities. Upon adjournment, our guest speaker, Chamber of Commerce President Keith Stokes, spoke about the North End Development Project, a topic of interest to all. Following a period of questions from the audience, refreshments were served.

Point Association member Jim Hagen chats with the evening’s guest speaker, Chamber of Commerce President Keith Stokes.

History and Archives Report

Since January, the History and Archives Committee has been working to consolidate in one place its large collection of materials from scattered locales. Through the generosity of Harbor House, a comfortable and secure space has been provided for us. Ongoing committee work will result in an organized and workable body of materials, which will be a valuable source for historical research.

Bill Hall and Liz Mathinos

THE NINA LYNETTE HOME

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.

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848-7603 or 846-9276
That Was Then . . .

by Erik Dahl

It's a local landmark that has been the backdrop for a major motion picture—but it probably isn't one you would think of. It's helped save lives in shipping disasters—but it isn't one of our area's many lighthouses. And the first family to live on the Point once settled there—but you might not know that anyone lives there today.

The location that has seen all this history, and much more, is the area now occupied by the Navy Hospital along Third Street. Today, the Naval Ambulatory Care Center serves the medical needs of Navy and other military personnel from Newport and the surrounding area. The large complex contains numerous buildings, including several homes for senior officers and a chapel built at Davisville, Rhode Island, and floated to the site by barge in 1947. The modern main clinic building faces the water and can easily be seen from the Newport Bridge.

The area where the Navy hospital is today was first settled by William and Mary Dyre, the first family to live on the Point. Dyre was one of four men selected in 1638 to apportion the land and lay out the town of Newport, and his holdings reached from the Blue Rocks north to what is now the rotary.

Dyre built his home where the hospital grounds are today. Although much of the property was fenced in, access could be gained through a gate, which has given its name today to Dyer's Gate. The property was eventually sold by Dyre's descendents to Godfrey Malbone, and in 1853 Robert Maitland built an elegant, three-story mansion on it. Beautiful lawns, gardens, and fruit orchards stretched down to Battery Street, and a graceful drive circled from Third Street to the home's entrance.

The mansion was eventually sold to Daniel Swinburne, whose son served in the Navy in both the Civil War and World War I, rising to the rank of Admiral. In 1909 Swinburne's heirs sold the land north of Cypress Street to the United States government for the sum of $21,700.60. The Maitland mansion—moved to the corner of Bayside and Sy camore—became known as the Wissahickon, described in an earlier Green Light as a "glorified boarding house" that served as temporary home to actors and actresses performing in Newport theatres.

At that time the property was a popular place for Point residents to picnic and walk along the shore. Mrs. Ruth Kiker, a born-on-the-Pointer, remembers hearing stories about how her Grandfather, Elmer F. Sweet, used to keep a cow at Dyer's Farm. He would insist that his daughters—Ruth's mother and aunt—walk up from their home at 39 Second Street to milk the cow and bring the milk back for his only son, Ruth's uncle.
"My mother and my aunt said they hated that job," Ruth recalls. But she adds that the regular excursions and the fresh milk appear to have done some good for her uncle, Michael Bowen, who is still alive today in Providence at age 88. "It must have been that cow!" she exclaims.

The Navy Hospital was opened on the Third Street site on 15 April 1913. (The original three-story building, now unoccupied, can still be seen from the water side, but the wings that are visible from the street were added by 1940.) By 1917 the facility had been enlarged to handle the expected demands of World War I. In addition to providing medical care to Naval personnel, the hospital also assisted in treating local residents when a diphtheria epidemic hit Newport in 1917. In 1918 the flu epidemic struck, and the hospital treated about 1,200 patients.

The Navy hospital returned to peacetime operations after the war, but in 1925 the routine was shattered by a disaster just off Coddington Point: a boiler explosion aboard the excursion steamer the SS Mackinac. On April 18 the Mackinac, carrying 700 tourists from Pawtucket, was only a few miles up the bay when a tremendous explosion tore apart the engine spaces, killing two crewmen instantly and spreading a cloud of deadly steam out into the passenger compartments and passageways.

Fortunately, the ships of the U.S. Scouting Fleet were anchored nearby in the Bay, and motor boats immediately began ferrying the survivors to the Navy Hospital. No space was available at civilian hospitals, but the Navy called in all off duty staff. With the help of volunteers from throughout the Newport area, it began the difficult task of treating the wounded and dying.

The hospital faced an even more deadly disaster in May 1954, when a fire and explosion aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off the New England coast killed 91 crewmen instantly. Some 82 wounded were brought to the hospital by helicopter from the Bennington, and, with the assistance of medical authorities from throughout the Newport area, the hospital staff activated its emergency plans and was able to save the lives of many badly burned victims.

Happily, not all of the stories about the Navy hospital involve death and disaster—at least not the real thing. During the summer of 1915, residents of the Point and the recently
established hospital were given a treat when a film entitled *A Nation's Peril* was made on the hospital grounds and surrounding area.

Made during the early days of the World War in Europe, the film involved realistic depictions of battle against an invading enemy. Much of the action was set along “Lubin Street,” a fictitious row of wood and canvas houses built along the waterfront. Young women from Newport portrayed damsels in distress, and as they fled before the advancing enemy—portrayed by apprentice seamen from the naval station—companies of stalwart young soldiers and sailors (also from the naval station) valiantly fought back through the smoke and flame.

As Suzanne Varisco described in *The Green Light* several years ago, what may have been the most interesting battle of the filming actually involved a crowd of unruly locals. Unhappy because a 25 cent admission fee was being charged to view the filming—at the inspiration of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the money was to support the Ambulance Fund for France—a crowd of spectators stormed the barricades. Shouting “fisherman’s rights!” even though witnesses glimpsed no fishing poles or pails, the mob threatened to destroy the entire set.

To the rescue came a quick-thinking officer from the Naval Training Station, Lieutenant Commander Frank T. Evans, who mobilized several companies of sailors to push back the onrushing crowd. Lubin Street was saved from the mob and order was restored—just in time to allow the fictitious mobs of battling troops to destroy the street while cameras rolled.

Since then, the attention of movie makers has turned away from the hospital and toward our area’s many other attractions. But the Navy Hospital and its site have been an important part of our community for over three hundred years, and they are likely to remain so for generations to come.

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**Pest Island**

Hospitals of one sort or another have existed on the grounds of the current Newport Naval Station for centuries, and the current hospital complex on Third Street appears to be the fifth or sixth generation. According to Naval War College Museum Director Anthony S. Niccolosi, the town built a hospital for contagious diseases on Coaster’s Harbor Island—where the War College is now—as early as 1719. Some maps from the Revolutionary period identify it as “Hospital Island” and “Pest Island.”

A hospital on the island burned down in 1860—reportedly after an inmate started the blaze—and another was built a few years later. But Point residents complained about having infectious diseases treated so near their homes, and the hospital was dismantled in 1872. At least two additional hospitals were eventually located on the island, until 1913 when the new hospital building on Third Street, still under construction, was opened for business.

Not surprisingly, the City by the Sea has a history of providing medical care for sailors of all nationalities, both military and civilian. An article in the *Newport Mercury* on July 10, 1775 (courtesy of Liz Mathinos), recorded one such episode:

Newport, July 10. Last Monday (July 3) the two men of war on this station sail’d to convey two sloops bound to Boston; one of which sloops, Capt. (William) Dennis, was loaded with flour, &c from Philadelphia, the other a whaling sloops, which arrived here a few days before, her oil having been taken out, and we hear a load of rum, sugar and molasses taken out of a number of small craft, going up the river, was put in. The men of war accompanied the sloops as far as they thought proper, and returned into this harbor on Tuesday night.

Wednesday morning the King-Fisher sloop of war, Capt. (James) Montague, was tow’d into this harbour, and immediately after coming to anchor, she was thrown upon a very rank careern, by which 'twas supposed she had met with some misfortune the night before, as she was seen up the sound, and many cannon were heard in the night, and we are assured a certain Doctor in this town, went on board said ship several times from her arrival till Friday, to take care of some wounded men.

Friday in the afternoon the Rose, Swan, and King-Fisher went round the north end of Conanicut, that night anchored near Dutch Island, and next morning went without the Light-House; the King-Fisher, 'tis supposed, is gone to Boston; the other two returned to this harbour in the afternoon.

*Erik Dahl*
Standards for Rehabilitation

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation originally were developed to determine the appropriateness of work on historic properties registered by the National Park Service. According to the Service's website (www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/rhb/), "the intent of the Standards is to assist the long-term preservation of a property's significance through the preservation of historic materials and features." Use of the term rehabilitation "assumes that at least some repair or alteration of the historic building will be needed in order to provide for an efficient contemporary use; however, these repairs and alterations must not damage or destroy materials, features, or finishes that are important in defining the building's historic character."

These standards, listed below, have been adopted by preservation agencies throughout the country, including Newport's Historic District Commission. James Garman, Chair of the Commission, says, "These are the only criteria the commission uses. We never frame arguments based on aesthetics; the question is whether the projects conform to the standards."

For more information on these Standards, contact the Historic District Commission through the Planning Office at Newport City Hall (401-846-9600), or the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (401-222-2678).

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.
2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.
3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.
4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.
The Old Lady of Offshore Racing: The 2002 Newport Bermuda Race Starts June 14

The first Newport-to-Bermuda Race was held in 1906 and has been run every two years almost continuously, except brief interruptions during World Wars I and II. The 1906 edition was a discrete affair with only three participants, but since the mid fifties the race has attracted over 150 boats on average and is considered the premium offshore event of the season.

The course is straightforward in theory, from the starting line of Castle Hill to the finish at Saint David's head on the eastern side of Bermuda. The distance is 635 nautical miles on a compass course of 158 degrees magnetic.

The weather in this race can be anything from extremely light to stormy. The biggest difficulty for the navigator is the successful crossing of the Gulf Stream. A vast river of warm water that flows northward about 180 miles from Newport, the Gulf Stream has a huge impact on the local weather and is often affected by squalls, violent thunderstorms, and very steep seas. After the Gulf Stream the environment changes drastically, the color of the water is now deep blue, flying fish are everywhere, and the feeling is that the worst is over.

In the old days finding Bermuda was a challenge, and many navigators had to turn back after sailing past the island. Even as recently as twenty years ago, arrival on the treacherous shores of Bermuda was still considered a navigational nightmare, but today satellite positioning makes the task of landing on the island quite simple. Still, for the tired crew, after four days of bashing, coming into beautiful Hamilton harbor is always a magical moment, and the taste of a "Dark and Stormy" at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club makes the misery fade very quickly.

The 1:00 pm start of the Bermuda Race—always spectacular—is best seen from the lawn at Castle Hill.

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Moving On

Moving on, to be sure, is part of life. And moving on to new adventures is one of the best parts. Staying behind—missing those adventurers—is one of the hard parts.

Christa and Erik Dahl are concluding their Newport stay, as Erik replaces the title of “Commander” with “Mr.” and Christa completes her studies in library science at URI. The Dahls are moving on to Medford, Massachusetts, where Erik will enroll in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. As Point newcomers just three years ago, the Dahls added their talents and enthusiasm to the Green Light. Thanks to Christa’s hours at the computer, our archives are now computerized—a behind-the-scenes accomplishment that makes everyone’s job easier. And all our readers will miss Erik’s beautiful columns—so full of history and human interest.

Jill and John Spohn and family are moving on to the sunnier climes of Puerto Rico, where John’s engineering skills have been enlisted for a two-year stint. Jill’s long hours on behalf of the Adventurers Club resulted in many treasured memories for Point youngsters. And how to say thank you to John for stepping forward countless times, helping the rest of us to be better informed and more responsible neighbors to one another? Impossible. The bright note in this farewell is that it’s temporary. We wish the Spohns well in this adventure, and we’ll count the days until their return.

Ann Wiley, who served the Point Association and Point neighbors in need so unselfishly for so many years, has moved on to a new life, home, and career in State College, Pennsylvania. Ann’s beautifully restored Second Street B & B, where she provided guests with gourmet breakfasts and high teas, as well as personally guided excursions, is now in the able hands of Sarah and Tony Gill. We know that Ann’s talents will be welcome to her family and new colleagues in Pennsylvania, but her many friends and neighbors on the Point will miss her thoughtful gestures and her warmth.

We bid our neighbors godspeed as they move on. We count ourselves fortunate for knowing them, we wish them well in their new endeavors, and we hope to hear from them now and then.

Harbor House Reception

On Sunday afternoon, April 11, members of the Green Light staff and the History and Archives Committee hosted a get-acquainted reception for our new neighbors in Harbor House. Lois Dickison supplied a lovely recipe for Harvard Punch, and many people provided assorted sweets. As the pictures demonstrate, everyone enjoyed this opportunity to tour the newly restored buildings and get acquainted with one another.
Strawberry Shortcake with Grand Marnier Sauce

A different strawberry shortcake just in time for the season!

**Pastry Rounds:** 1/4 lb. cream cheese, 1/4 lb. butter, 1 c. flour, 2 tbsp. sugar

Make pastry at least 2 hrs. in advance or the night before. Put all ingredients in food processor and blend thoroughly. Scrape mixture onto a lightly floured board and pat gently all over with a little flour. Shape into ball and flatten slightly. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Roll the dough to 1/8 inch thickness and, using a biscuit cutter (about 3 1/2 in. in diameter), cut out rounds. There should be about 12 to 16 rounds. Arrange on a baking sheet and bake 10 minutes, watching carefully so that they do not burn. Remove from sheet and cool.

**Sauce:** 5 egg yolks, 1/2 c. sugar, 2 tbsp. sugar, 1/2 c. Grand Marnier, 1 c. heavy cream

Using a double boiler, add about 2 inches of water to the bottom pan and bring to boil. Put the yolks and half a cup of sugar in the bowl and beat with a wire whisk. Then place the bowl over the water and continue beating. Beat 10 minutes or so until the yolks are quite thick and pale yellow. Remove bowl from the saucepan and stir in half the Grand Marnier. Let the sauce cool and then refrigerate until quite cold. Beat the cream with the remaining 2 tbsp. of sugar, almost—but not quite—stiff. Fold the cream into the sauce. Stir in the remaining Grand Marnier.

**Berries:** Trim off the stem ends of one quart of strawberries, sprinkle with sugar, and refrigerate—stirring occasionally.

**To serve:** Place one pastry round on each dessert plate and arrange half the strawberries, stemmed side down, on the rounds. Cover with a second pastry round and arrange the remaining berries on the top. Pour sauce over each and serve.

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**Illegal Buses on the Point**

Laura Marshall has kindly agreed to monitor buses that drive through the Point.

In particular, some drivers are using Second Street as a "cut-through," even though they are not supposed to. The buses authorized to use Second Street are number's 62 and 64. If you see a bus with a different number on the back or one with "Out of Service" on the front, please call Laura (847-9979) or drop her a note (59 Second Street) with the bus number, day, and time.

Also, if you see an empty bus, please report this to Laura. RIPTA is interested in knowing which buses are not used.
Two Weeks in Paradise

For the past five years the Peterses have visited our son and his wife on Oahu. This year, we could absolutely “smell the flowers” as we deplaned at Honolulu Airport, which is well landscaped and includes a Japanese garden within its semi-circle. There is something in bloom at most times of the year, and in late April it was Stephanotis and Plumeria. Ugly chain link fences near the car rental building were massed with Stephanotis in full bloom (a flower used here mostly in bridal bouquets, heavily scented). Plumeria trees (whose flowers are often used for lei, also heavily scented) were in bloom—red, white, orange, and yellow—all along Nimitz Highway to Waikiki. This is what I smelled.

The public gardens, Lyon Arboretum, The Foster Garden, Ho'omaluhia Park, Waihiawa, the Moana Loa Hyatt, the Halekulani Hotel, and the grounds of the grand old lady, The Royal Hawaiian, are always on my list to visit. This year I also visited a number of orchid nurseries. With tissue culture, the variety and quantity of orchids is amazing. Soil on Oahu is lava based and full of iron. With the iron and frequent rains, everything on the islands grows lush and large. Everyone seems to have yard help and a watering system. I haven’t puzzled that out yet.

The trees on Oahu—Ironwood, Koa, Monkey Pod, Mango, and Cooke’s Pine—are all so different from our own. Many are beautiful hardwoods used in the furniture and building trades. Our son took us to an island hardwoods mill, where we saw one of Hawaii’s foremost bowl turners. His bowls, available only at Noh Hea Galleries, are no more than 1/4” thick, and some are 24” in diameter!!!

It was late afternoon when we flew in over southern Massachusetts and it was GREEN from the air and all the ponds looked FULL. We were home.
Pointers in the News by Liz Mathinos

In a *Daily News* article, the Reverend John Cranston reflected on his years as a traditional Episcopalian priest, serving in many churches throughout the Northeast and Canada. Most notable of these is St. John's Episcopal Church where his family and friends will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary.

Adé Bethune's Harbor House, a senior community housing development in a series of 19th and 20th century buildings, received a Project Award from the State Historic Preservation Awards on April 6th from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

The *Newport Daily News* recently reported that the Hyatt Regency Newport on Goat Island is one of two Newport hotels to receive the American Automobile Association's prestigious Four Diamond Award, based on quality of service and customer satisfaction. This award is given to less than three percent of the 29,000 AAA-rated hotels in the U.S.

The State Pier, located on the Point, may soon have a new name, the Louis Jagschitz State Pier. Representative Paul Crowley has introduced this proposal to honor "Louie the Lobsterman," a Fifth Ward commercial fisherman, who "was the embodiment of the commercial, independent fisherman, which for a while was a dying breed in Newport."

Donna Mayum was honored recently, receiving the Newport *Daily News* Community Service Award. Donna has been an active member of the Rotary Club and Rogers High Parent Teacher Organization, has served as a Child and Family Services volunteer, and helped establish Taste of Newport. Donna was quoted as saying, "This honor is not really about me; it is for each of you who made Newport a richer community."

Green Light columnist and former Point resident Ron Potvin reported for work at his new post on May 28. While we will miss his presence at the Newport Historical Society, we wish him well as he assumes the responsibilities of Historic Site Administrator at the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization in Providence.

Paul and Nancy Quattrucci's Bed and Breakfast, the Corner House, was featured in the *Providence Journal*. The article cited the "eclectic beauty" of this "House of the Week," which was built in 1751.

Walking on the Point by Kay O'Brien

Spring Has Arrived!

As fresh air beckons us outdoors, excitement builds with each blossom that appears on its seasonal schedule, from the smallest scilla to the spectacular flowering fruit trees. Spotting these bursts of color is like greeting old friends but always with the reminder to slow down and enjoy or wait for their return next year. Even with their similarities, seasonal patterns are subject to many changes. With our New England weather, we take what comes.

After a record-setting warm winter, we're into an early spring. Now we'll see what a dry summer might signal to our gardens. Although water tables may fall, our ocean tides continue their highs and lows, and water temperatures rise. Daylight hours are longer and activities on all fronts are gearing up.

Soon boats and boaters will be everywhere. The Providence ferry is back at Long Wharf for its popular no-traffic-hassle ride. Sights change daily at the yacht club, shipyard, and marinas in readiness for a busy season. Driftways and piers take on new life. Storer and Battery parks have that fresh spring-green look—the flowers have been lovely, and fishermen are back on the causeway. Soon the park benches will be popular again for prime viewing and local chit chat.

We welcome residents of Harbor House and hope they enjoy the neighborhood as much as we delight in the splendid restoration of their home. Here on the Point "For Sale" signs appear and often disappear rapidly, so keep your eyes out for new neighbors. Thanks to all of you who keep our special spot neat and attractive, so continue the good work.
Marie Adelaide Anne Caroline de Bethune
1914 – 2002

Because I could not stop for Death—
He kindly stopped for me—
The Carriage held but just Ourselves—
And Immortality.

Emily Dickinson, 1863

A
de Bethune went home on May 1, 2002. With her Harbor House completed at last—a job well done, she had prepared herself for this final journey by gathering old friends and family to her bedside to share reminiscences and farewells. Three days later, on the morning of May 4, a large company gathered in the chapel at Portsmouth Abbey to celebrate Adé's long and joyous life of service to her god, her family, her community, and her art. As reported in the Boston Globe (and as Adé herself had planned), she was “buried in the Abbey Cemetery, in a casket she built herself with second-hand wood and decorated with images of the homes she lived in and her vision of the doors to heaven, which she left slightly ajar.”

Artist, teacher, and entrepreneur, Adé Bethune was also a visionary pioneer and community activ-

ist, who leaves behind a rich legacy. In a career spanning more than seven decades, she worked with Dorothy Day and her Catholic Worker in New York, created church products for the Terra Sancta Guild of Pennsylvania, established a school and workshop together with John Howard Benson, co-founded Church Community Housing Corporation in Newport, and founded Star of the Sea on the Point. Details of her earlier years, richly illustrated by photographs of Adé and her work, can be found in her biography, The Proud Donkey of Schaerbeek: Adé Bethune and the Catholic Worker, by Judith Stoughton.

All who were privileged to know her will treasure memories of her quiet dignity, her forthright views, her warm laugh, and above all her loving presence.

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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

Summer 2002  The Green Light
Save the Date

June 20
Point Picnic 6:00 pm.
Bring your supper (don’t forget chairs and tablecloth) and join your neighbors on Anne Reynolds’ lovely harborside lawn at 88 Washington Street.

June 27
Tintinnabulation Restoration Festival, 7:00 pm.
Check page 8 for details.

July 6-Aug. 10
Paint the Point.
Saturday mornings. Check the Winter Green Light or call Tony Gill (847-2189) for details.

July 27
St. John’s Summer Fair, Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

August 15-18
Celebration of British Cathedral Music.
Enjoy the music of Conductor Jonathan Gregory and the Leicester Cathedral Men and Boys Choir in performance at St. John’s Church: August 15, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm; August 16, 10:00 am, 6:00 pm, and 10:00 pm; August 17, 7:30 pm; and August 18, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 3:00 pm.

August 20
Paint the Point Art Show and Sale 5:30 – 7:00 pm.
Come to St. John’s Guild Hall, meet the artists and their teachers, and view their work. A portion of each sale (25 percent) will benefit the Point Association.

August 22
Point Association Cocktail Party, 6:00 pm.
Enjoy this annual late summer gathering at the Sanford-Covell Marina at 72 Washington Street.

The Green Light
The Point Association
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