Greetings,

I'm sure you enjoyed, as I did, the creative results of our new layout artist Donna Maytum in the Spring issue. With the Summer issue, I am pleased to welcome three additional newcomers to our staff. Kathy Devlin will be maintaining our computerized archives and producing “Favorite Menus”; Kathy Russell will be doing “I Remember,” an old favorite that is returning; and Jane Hence, our new sketch artist, is debuting with several new sketches. When your Fall issue arrives, I hope you will join me and the entire Green Light staff in welcoming our new editor, Captain Eileen MacKrell, USN.

Not all transitions are happy ones. And so it is with great sadness that the editorial board dedicates the Summer 2003 Green Light to our friend and neighbor, Rowan Howard, whose days among us ended too soon.

Suzanne
Mary Rowan Belknap Howard 1917-2003

The Point has lost one of its treasures. Mary Rowan Belknap Howard had such fond memories of growing up on the Point that, many decades later in 1977, she succeeded in luring her husband Jack back to Newport to spend their retirement years here, happily for us. She was loved and admired by all, not only for her passion and dedication to Point causes, but also for her great sense of humor, her generous hospitality, and her indomitable spirit.

Our families were neighbors and friends for three generations. The Belknaps and my mother's family, the Boyzans, each had five children, so there were apparently lots of warm and jolly times shared on Washington Street, when they were very young, and again when the Belknaps returned with the Navy in the late 1920's.

By this time, my mother had married her next-door neighbor William MacLeod, and my older brother Billy and Mary Rowan became best pals. She was also my mother's favorite pupil at Miss Wilks' School.

Mother said it always melted her heart to see that bright little impish face looking up at her in the classroom.

In our later years, Rowan delighted in reminiscing about those happy days. The last time I went to see her, I brought along an old photograph I'd found of Billy, age ten, climbing a rope ladder in the old linden tree in our back yard. She put on her glasses, studied it for a moment, and then gleefully exclaimed, "I remember that rope ladder!"

Graceful and gracious to the end, Mary Rowan and her wonderful spirit were an inspiration to all who knew her and will shine brightly in our memories for years to come.

Jane MacLeod Walsh

Returning to Newport

I am sitting with my feet dangling over the edge of Elm Street Pier. 
I like to come here, to come back for the fullness in high tide, 
for my toes to touch, reach the tops of blue movement. 
I like to face the harbor, hear signal flags flap, watch hulls rock. 
I like dusk, when the sun glows lower. Red reflects, 
floats atop the surface, lights darkness below. 
I look behind me and see mansard roofs, the King Covell House, 
a wraparound porch, church steeples, history behind lace curtains.
I like the smell of seaweed, of low tide approaching, of the fog horn at six o'clock. 
I lick my lips and taste salt. 
I don't mind the seagulls and their cawing above, begging for dinner. 
I, too, have been hungry. 
I don't mind if they swoop too close; feeling the wind of their wings. 
I like to look down at pier posts, find starfish and their orange eyes. 
I like to run my fingers through my hair, straighten, untangle my salted mat. 
I like to know the ocean has been inside me.

Meghan Adler
Letter from the President

After almost one year, the effort to develop Storer Park into a commercial marina has been stopped. Last spring Mayor Sardella took a harbor cruise with members of the Waterfront Commission to investigate the status of Newport's prime asset. As they motored past Storer Park, the group must have resembled early explorers in the new world who saw deep water access to a verdant, but empty, shore. And so, abhorring a vacuum, the mayor introduced a resolution to "study the possibility of establishing a 'low impact' residential marina at Storer Park." This seemingly innocuous proposal sparked a firestorm on the Point that was doused on April 23, 2003, when the City Council voted 6-1 to keep Storer Park in its current condition. Much can be learned from this.

Without knowing Storer Park's history, the mayor's proposal might seem logical. Newport promotes itself as the sailing capitol of the world, and yet here was a deep-water shelter lacking boating activity. Given the pressure from boat owners, as seasonal moorings and dock space became prohibitive (even the Museum of Yachting has lost its 12-meter and classic yacht moorings off Fort Adams), it's little wonder that the Waterfront Commission attempted to establish a marina, despite Point opposition.

Most Pointers take a very different attitude toward Storer Park development. A large portion of the park was purchased by the Point Association and given to the city in 1972 to function as a buffer between commercial facilities on Long Wharf and the residential neighborhood to the north. Twice a year, we clean, prune, and plant in the park; and we also purchase trees and benches for the city to install. Residents and visitors marvel at the foresight of our predecessors, who bequeathed us this open space in the midst of continued urban development.

Storer Park is actually composed of three land parcels. The Point Association's portion, located in the center, is the largest. The Preservation Society donated a strip adjacent to Hunter House, and the city contributed a parcel along the Goat Island connector. Deed restrictions limit construction and commercial activities on the Point Association's portion, but the Association left no doubt that the land should be used for active recreation when we placed a basketball court there. Because the city's parcel is not subject to the same restrictions, the Waterfront Commission probably felt that land-based structures would be permitted on that section. What restrictions apply to water-borne construction, such as docks and floating sheds, remains unsettled.

These questions might have been settled by following through on the mayor's proposal to explore the feasibility of expanding Sail Newport's program at Storer Park. The Point Association Executive Committee believed that potential problems—traffic, noise, lighting, sanitary requirements, and vandalism—should be solved before any agreement about boating activities at the park could be reached. These questions have been put aside, however, by the vote to keep the park in its current condition. I have no doubt that another proposal for increased maritime activities at Storer Park will surface in the near future. Meanwhile, let's put this alert to good use and plan ahead.
Beautification Report

Point neighbors and Hyatt employees filled 26 yard-bags with weeds and trash during the May 3rd Storer Park cleanup. Our special thanks to Leslie Lampe Long, who has adopted the north flowerbed and has worked for months eliminating the invasive goutweed and planting astilbe and lilies.

Thanks to a cooperative effort between the Point Association and the city, seven new trees are being planted this spring: three elms in Storer Park by the Causeway; three spruce in Hunter Park by the railroad tracks; and an elm in John Martin’s Park to replace two trees that have died. In addition, a private donation has funded the planting of a pin oak in Battery Park in memory of Rowan Howard.

Marcia and Coles Mallory
Co-Chairs

Hyatt’s Yvette Eichner is assisted by daughter Sierra

New Washington Street residents Mary Preston and Steve Barker rake up last year’s leaves

Bruce Long finds gems on the beach

Victoria Boatwright models her new gardening gloves.

Hyatt crew is ready to plant: L-R, Andrea Garland, Susan Sondheim, Kathleen Campbell, and Geoffrey Campbell
June signals the end of the current fiscal year and the start of a new one. At this writing, we are in the midst of planning our city budget. This marks the first year the council will have a completed audit to assist us in this work.

Our unreserved surplus is $10 million with at least 7 percent reserved for unforeseen expenses. We will be recommending sufficient funds for infrastructure and pension obligations. With the bulk of the city and schools budgets going to contracted salaries and benefits, there is less available for reduction. However, we will be reviewing how the city pays for healthcare costs.

City Manager Jim Smith is reviewing city staffing needs and will hire a new administrative services director to oversee purchasing, fleet operations, geographic information services, the city web site, and maintenance of all city buildings, facilities, and parking. A new financial systems officer will manage the MIS division, evaluate city and school financial systems, and develop a long-range citywide master plan for information technology. These changes will allow for a more effective delivery of city services. I have also asked the city manager to install an external dropbox for residents to leave city payments when city hall is closed.

Locally, the proposed development of a Storer Park marina is dead. Storer Park will remain as it is, and there are no plans for any other development.

Finally, now that the summer silly season is fast approaching, please contact police/zoning officials when problems occur in the neighborhood. The COP officer for the Point is Jim Winters, 847-9922 or jwinters@cityofnewport.com. For evenings and weekend noise/nuisance, contact Dennis Sullivan, 846-9600 x508 or dsullivan@cityofnewport.com. Dennis checks his messages and will respond, especially to party house complaints. As always, I can be reached at 847-9122 or rickfirstward@aol.com.

Rick O’Neill, Councilor
First Ward

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The Green Light Summer 2003
Report on the Waterfront

Seemingly under siege every ten to twenty years, tranquil Storer Park was targeted again this year as a site for commercial expansion north of the causeway by both for-profits and not-for-profits.

And once again, in a sudden, surprise 6-1 vote on April 23rd, the City Council decided to leave Storer Park alone. For now, the park will continue to serve as the buffer between the commercial working waterfront and the historic, residential Point neighborhood. Thank you, Councilors, for respecting the wishes of the many people who so dearly love this city park, and thank you for preserving a beautiful scenic vista to enjoy spectacular sunsets.

Also of interest, a new catamaran ferry will carry passengers between Newport and Providence this summer. RIPTA awarded a two-year contract in January to Bay State Cruise Co. of Boston, which will receive $450,000 per year to operate daily ferry service between the two cities. Designed by Crowther Design of Australia, the 65-foot long, 34-foot wide aluminum ferry can travel at a top speed of 34 knots and accommodate 149 passengers.

Another development in the bay is a new charter service based on Goat Island. Classic 12-Meter Charters is an America’s Cup company that will provide services for corporate events, weddings, photo shoots, and sunset cruises. The company is owned by two sailors: Newport’s Kevin Hegarty and James Marshall of Barnstable, Massachusetts. The fleet will include such famous craft as Columbia, Easterner, and Heritage.

Finally, we hope you enjoyed the Around Alone festivities, when that race concluded here in Newport recently; and we recommend that you keep your eyes peeled for the Black Ships, when they arrive this summer.

Liz Mathinos
Green Light Waterfront Reporter

Membership Report

Please welcome our most recent new members:

John Bayer
Kip Bergstrom and Marilyn Piurek
Child and Family Services of Newport County
Charles Duncan
Leslie Henry and Charles Hripak
Constance Metcalf
Susan and Charles Sofia

Patricia and Rich Carrubba
Co-Chairs

Dropped in Mailboxes in May.....
The Point Association Survey with Information

The Point Association Executive Committee recently distributed a one-page Survey, which also contains information about the Association. The goal is to better understand the demographics of our neighborhood; the number of homes that are owner-occupied, rented, or occupied part-time; and the number of families, singles, and retirees. Further, we hope to inform the entire neighborhood—some 982 homes—of what we do in hopes of increasing neighborhood interaction through membership activities. Please return your survey to designated locations or mail it to our Post Office Box. If you did not receive the survey, please call Louisa Boatwright at 845-6608.
Neighborhood Watch Report

In March, there was an informative and enthusiastic presentation by Newport police officers Jimmy Winters and Marc Santiserri for Point residents. It included these interesting tips and tidbits.

1. July is the most active month for robberies.
2. Keep your jewelry somewhere other than the bedroom.
3. Lights and dogs discourage thieves.
4. Use your alarm even when you’re home.

You can arrange for a free home security assessment by calling Officer Winters at 847-9922 or 847-1212. You can also get a Neighborhood Watch decal to put on your window or a Suspicious Persons Form to report a suspicious character or trouble spot by contacting Don or Mary Mang at 619-0175 (email: mary@necoxmail.com) or Al Lowe at 847-5853 (email: alowe7@cox.net).

In regard to trouble spots, a request was made to Officer Winters to have officers stop by the Elm Street Pier on a regular basis during the summer. This has been a focal point for problems: in the middle of March two kids were caught by the police tearing the railings off, boats have been stolen, pit bulls are allowed to roam without leashes, and stones have been thrown at boaters trying to launch their boats. Now that docks have been installed and people will be leaving their boats there, it’s more important than ever that the kids who use the dock behave themselves.

In May, a burglary on Washington Street was reported.

This underscores the importance of prevention: lock your doors, use your alarm, put your valuables where they can’t be easily found, and above all immediately report any suspicious persons or activity to the police.

Last, there’s been a changing of the guard in Neighborhood Watch. After getting things off to a fine start, Nancy Quatrucci has elected to turn over the reins to Mary, Don, and Al. We’d like to thank Nancy for her hard work, and we look forward to seeing the art she will produce thanks to her newly acquired spare time.

Al Lowe
Co-Chair

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Al Lowe
Co-Chair
Report on Underground Wires

Two items of note:

1. An article in the Newport Daily News noted that Councilman Rick O'Neill proposed a resolution supporting a bill by state Rep. Paul Crowly that would create an Urban Infrastructure Commission. Its purpose is development of an urban renaissance fund to “leverage private investment to improve streetscapes, transportation-related projects, and other infrastructure.” This might result in some funding to put wires underground along Third Street. Councilman O'Neill was contacted.

2. On April 29th, the following article appeared online and was sent along to Councilman O'Neill.

Lawmakers Want Power Lines Buried
(Providence, RI) — A group of area lawmakers want the electric power lines along the Providence and East Prov-
dence waterfront buried. East Providence Senator Daniel DaPonte, Providence Senator Rhode Perry, Providence City Councilor David Segal, and others will be joined by Attorney General Patrick Lynch this morning at India Point Park for the kickoff of an effort to get the lines put underground.

Councilman O'Neill found that the request is related to the 195 road relocation and promised to raise the issue with Representative Kennedy. Anyone who would like to support the issue of undergrounding wires on the Point can reach Representative Kennedy through www.congress.org.

Finally, changes in my life have meant I’m currently unable to effectively fight the underground wire battle. If anyone is interested in taking over this effort, please contact me (847-5853 or alowe7@cox.net) or Jack Maytum (849-4395).

Al Lowe
Chair

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Summer 2003 The Green Light
On September 5, 1973, Point Association president, Dr. Clyde Sargent, and RADM Eccles presented Storer Park to the City. In order that “...the park not be a burden to City taxpayers” (The Green Light, 1973), the Point Association committed itself to take care of all but routine park maintenance, conducting an annual spring clean-up, maintaining and refurbishing plantings, and ensuring that the area remain debris-free.

Nearly a quarter-century later, at a garage sale, Newport Zoning Inspector Frank Lefebvre discovered and purchased the bronze plaque Agnes Storer had commissioned in memory of her father, which had originally hung at 91 Washington Street, a convalescent home for women at the time. Realizing the plaque’s importance and commemorative value, Mr. Lefebvre worked with city officials and Point Association members to find an appropriate place for it. So it was that, in honor of Agnes Storer, the plaque and a granite marker were installed on the southeast corner of Storer Park in the fall of 1997.

Thanks to Point Association founders’ determination to raise the funds for improving and preserving a piece of Newport’s waterfront, Storer Park stands today as a testimony to Point residents’ generosity and vision and to community cooperation. Storer Park, the “jewel in the Point,” reminds us that we are the beneficiaries of their foresight. As they did, we have a responsibility to counter the commercial pressures that continue to bear upon the entire Newport waterfront and to do what we can to preserve the park. Just as Boston’s Emerald Necklace would suffer from the loss or deterioration of any one of its constituent parks, so too would Newport’s Emerald Bracelet suffer should Storer Park’s purpose or character be altered in any way.

The editorial in the April 1972 Green Light called upon present and future Point residents to join together in a common goal: “We not only must work to create and improve [Storer Park], but over the years we must work to keep it clean and free from disorder and vandalism so that all the people, young and old, black and white, rich and poor, may together enjoy human decencies and the full beauty of Newport and the Narragansett Bay.” To preserve Storer Park now and in the future honors its founders’ legacy and the community spirit driving its creation. As well, it upholds our responsibility as “keepers of the Jewel.”

This article is based on Ron Potvin’s account of Storer Park history, which appeared in The Green Light, Summer 1998.
Thomas Benson was somebody who made a difference. Listing all the things he did to help others would take more than an afternoon. What he did for me was comparatively small. Thanks, Thomas.

Dad and I considered ourselves Rhode Islanders, but the need to earn our daily bread took us to New York. When we visited Newport, Dad would say, “There’s a house for Posey.” But Mother, the daughter of a real estate operator, sent me off with Thomas Benson. “But Mother, I have no money!” “There’s no harm in looking,” she replied.

What enchanting houses we saw. The Clagget House up the stairs; one on Warner; one on Bridge. Thomas thought it was alright to look at them from the outside, but unless I was serious, we should not bother the occupants. He turned to me and said, “Posey, since you cannot do the restoration yourself, what about a mortgage?” I shook my head and replied, “I have a horror of debt.”

Suddenly, Thomas took a turn and then another, and there it was . . . my house! People interested in camouflage should study it. You cannot see all of it from anywhere. It appears small—doll size. I still laugh when I see it. Thomas knew the owner, Mr. Hiram Cook, and we were able to go right in and talk. We were joined by another man restoring an old house. They talked learnedly of chamfered beams, storey-and-a-half; blind stairs. Inside, I was a fury of indignation. This was my house, and I didn’t understand a word!

Everybody was so good to me. Mr. Cook named a price even I could pay. Alas, after that I learned I had to wait when he decided he would live and die in his old house, because one of his sons, a veteran, needed his father. From time to time, Thomas Benson telephoned me in New York. “The little old houses go higher and higher in price. There are fewer left,” he would say. But I would not settle for any other house. Four years passed, and then one night the telephone rang again. A happy voice shouted, “Posey, you’ve got your house!”

I cannot tell you much about 6 Coddington Street. Even now you may know more about its construction than I. The Reverend Wightman built the house himself for his daughter, when she was married to Captain William Hooker, and it had always belonged to good and reliant people. If I ever felt sorry for myself, a dish would fall on me. Sometimes, I fancied that a sweet little old lady stood behind me in the kitchen. She was ever so pleasant, but she did wonder what I was doing in her kitchen. Upstairs, there was sometimes the scent of rich and rare tobacco and fine Moroccan leather. I have never scented leather and tobacco like that except on sailors of long ago.

The house was bigger than it appeared. One wonderful day, there was a performance of “David’s Rock” at the Newport Congregational Church, written, directed, and choreographed by Claude Boyd. After the performance, my house held the whole cast and congregation—over 75 people. Everyone helped, the coffee and cookies disappeared, and I have never been kissed by so many people in my life. I think the old house was as happy as I. It was a wonderful day.

Even now I stammer over restorations. Go and see my house. You will know more. I hope that all who live there will be as happy as I.

Posey can be reached at Aquidneck Place, Quaker Hall Lane, Portsmouth 02871. Pieter Roos will return with the Fall 2003 issue.

The Green Light
Summer 2003
Eight Around Alone Sailors Return to Newport

First to finish was Bernard Stamm on board Bob Armor Lux, arriving on April 15 after an incredibly fast passage from Salvador de Bahia in Brazil of 4015 miles in 17 days and 19 hours. The native Swiss, who spends most of his time in France, dominated class one of the Around Alone, winning every leg despite a stop in the Falkland Islands for repair. Bernard is an amazing sailor, who races with fierce intensity. With this victory, he is now one of the favorites to win the next Vendee Globe race.

Brad Van Liew finished early on May 4 to take top honors in class two and complete a perfect record: five legs and five first places. For Brad it was a great victory and the achievement of a lifetime. Brad started his quest to win the Around Alone in 1990, when he was 20 years old and got the bug working for the late Mike Plant. In 1999 Brad finished third in the Around Alone after dismasting off the coast of Uruguay. This time, with the support of sponsor Tommy Hilfiger, he set up a meticulously organized campaign with no other goal but to win.

I talked to Brad about his plans for the future shortly after the finish, and he seems sure that his single-handed career is over. The southern ocean takes its toll on the body and soul and, with a beautiful young daughter, Brad does not feel like chancing it one more time. Having been there before, this is a feeling that I can understand. Surfing huge waves by yourself thousand of miles from land is an amazing experience, but hugging your kids and seeing them smile is worth more.

Sadly this is my last column, as Kate, Antoine, Zoé, and I are moving to Bristol. We will miss this beautiful neighborhood and the great friendship of so many people, and we wish the Point Association the very best.
My Storer Park

When we moved to 39 Washington Street from Washington D.C. in 1978, Storer Park was our front yard. Soon thereafter, we purchased and renovated 53 Washington Street, but I have always felt the park was a personal responsibility and pleasure. My sons and their friends rode bikes and skateboards, flew kites, threw horseshoes, and played basketball in Storer Park.

Mr. Cook, a steward with Admiral Dewey in Manila, taught my older son to catch bluefish, sitting on old wooden benches built by a Point Boy Scout. In the evening our walks with two consecutive Labradors, Nugget and then Annie, always started in the Park. We would say, “Good Evening” to all the memorial trees whose names we knew: the Camperdown elms, Mrs. Storer; the cherry trees over by the big rock, Captain and Mrs. Hawes; the oak on the Hunter House side, Alexander Nesbitt; the evergreen by the fountain, planted by Mary Rommell; the copper beech, Admiral Eccles; the plum tree, the Derys’ companion Jib; the maples on the causeway, Lois Dickison’s aunt and uncle.

In a neighborhood where homes are very closely sited, the open space of Storer Park is a well-loved, well-used, non-commercial TREASURE. I have always enjoyed seeing it filled with family picnickers on sunny weekends or watching children’s faces as Fourth of July fireworks burst in a clear evening sky.

The Point Association has long had a Beautification Committee. In the spring and fall—and not often on nice days—volunteers from all over the Point meet at Storer Park for the bi-annual clean-up of the parks on the Point. The city now donates mulch, but all that you see in daffodils, shrubs, trees, and no trash are here because of your volunteering neighbors.

I will be planting the concrete containers this year in honor of Rowan Howard. She liked RED. See you in the park.
**Fourth of July Fruit Roll**

Bring out the red, white, and blue for the Fourth of July!

- 3 eggs (1/2 to 2/3 cup)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup whipping cream
- Confectioners’ sugar

Heat oven to 375°. Line jelly roll pan, 15 1/2 x 10 1/2 x 1”, with aluminum foil. Grease.

In small mixer bowl, beat eggs about 5 minutes or until very thick and lemon colored. Pour eggs into large mixer bowl. Gradually beat in granulated sugar. On low speed, blend in water and vanilla. Gradually add flour, baking powder, and salt, beating just until batter is smooth. Pour into pan, spreading batter to corners.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Loosen cake from edges of pan; invert on dishtowel that has been sprinkled all over with confectioners’ sugar, and carefully remove foil. While hot, roll cake and towel from narrow end. Place on wire rack to cool. About 1 hour before serving, beat 1 cup chilled whipping cream and 3 tablespoons confectioners’ sugar in chilled bowl until stiff. Unroll cake and remove towel. Spread a layer of whipped cream on unrolled cake. Mix strawberries and blueberries together. Arrange the fruit in a single layer on top of the whipped cream. Carefully roll the cake and filling from the narrow end again. Sprinkle with confectioners’ sugar. Garnish plate and berry roll sides and top with any remaining whipped cream and fruit. Chill. 10 to 12 servings. Sure to fetch many ooohs and ahhhs!

**The Pot Luck Supper**

*The junior set samples dessert on the stairs: L-R, Nathaniel Dunbar, Maggie Dunbar, Victoria Bootwright, and Peter Dunbar*

*Potluck Supper draws a crowd in its first year at Harbor House*

Summer 2003  *The Green Light*
O h, the joys of being a child and living in what seemed to be a “fairytale land.” Visits with my grandparents in Newport are some of my fondest childhood memories. Although my father was a Newporter born and raised, and my mother had lived here since the age of eight, I was an “Army brat.” Whenever my dad had a short R and R before our next duty station, I remember our family approaching the ferry landing in Jamestown (before the bridge was there), in what seemed to be the wee hours of the night. Sleepy-eyed and full of anticipation, I knew that in a short time we would be boarding the ferry and sailing across Narragansett Bay.

My brother and I would spend endless hours playing up in the woods, among very large boulders, behind my grandparents’ home. At the bottom of the hill was a pasture where a few horses lived. Katie, my grandfather’s housekeeper, would call for my brother and me to come to the house for our evening bath before supper. Sometimes after a day at the beach, we would be plopped into the giant tub in the garage, where my grandfather kept his collection of cars—my favorite, the ’55 pink T-Bird.

My grandfather would have lobster boils in the garage on rainy days. It never mattered what the weather was doing; if there was something that Grandpa wanted to do, we did it! He would round up my brother and me in front of the house for our daily ritual of raising and lowering the American flag on the strategically positioned pole in the center of the yard. My other grandparents would take us to Third beach, where we spent many hours playing before going back to their house on Park Street.

Our visits to Newport would always fly right by, and we would have to leave for another duty station. How easy it can be to take such a beautiful place for granted, but when it’s time to leave, one realizes what an extraordinary place this is. Luckily, I had my memories and I remember.
Newport Shipyard managing director Charlie Dana has announced that Oklahoma businessman Francis Rooney will join him in partnership. Although Charlie is not a Point resident, the Shipyard is a close and important neighbor.

Kathleen Devlin announces a new business on the Point. All About Home Care, LLC, provides non-medical, in-home care, enabling older adults to stay in their own homes. For more information, visit www.allabouthomecare.com.

Our Spring 2003 issue inadvertently omitted the name of Point artist Mary Hudson, whose work appeared in the Newport Art Museum’s Juried Show. Our apologies to Ms. Hudson.

Newport Is for Kids and Families!

The second edition of the Newport for Kids and Families Guide has just started hitting the streets. Its timing couldn’t be better for families making summer plans.

The new Guide lists more than 30 attractions and another 30-plus businesses in and around Newport that are fun for families. Louisa Boatwright, president of Newport for Kids and Families, says the 2003 Guide outlines year-round and seasonal attractions in a calendar of fun family events, as well as several great family-friendly restaurants and stores. Once again, it outlines the free parks around the city and a few new venues.

Pick-up the 2003 Newport for Kids and Families Guide at any of the 60-plus participating establishments that are also listed on our web-site, including Newport County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Bowen’s Wharf Information booth, and the Newport County Chamber of Commerce. Check out the web-site, newportforkidsandfamilies.com, for new calendar additions throughout the year.

Summer 2003 The Green Light
The Point Houses
by Suzanne Varisco

When Kathy Ryan reminisced about her ten years as head of Newport Library Children's Services, she remembered one particular favorite. From time to time, a castoff appliance carton would arrive in the children's room, where it would be quickly converted into imaginative play space by the children—sometimes a treeless tree house, sometimes a play kitchen, sometimes a parking garage. The best one of all was a puppet theater decorated to look like a lighthouse.

What fun, if a more permanent version of this perennial childhood favorite could be incorporated into the children's area in the library's new wing. And how fortunate that Kathy shared this idea with Newport Collaborative architect Jay Litman. Remembering the creative uses to which his own children had put one or two discarded cartons in the Litman back yard, he decided to build a playhouse, but with a historic emphasis.

After touring the Point with his camera, Jay chose several houses as his models, selecting components from each one to create a composite structure. When he presented his plans to the library staff, property manager Jim Mass became enthusiastic about the challenge presented by this complicated venture. As a professional painter, he made sure that authentic historic colors were used. In addition, says librarian Regina Slezak, Point resident Lynn Comfort stepped forward, offering to chair the fund-raising effort that would underwrite the cost.

The result is the Point Houses: a structure standing nine feet tall and comprising two reading rooms and one puppet theater. The houses, which opened in April, can be seen every day in the children's section, where young Newport readers with lots of imagination are putting them to very good use.
Nostalgic Moment from Our Scrapbook

Herb Rommel dines with Jack and Anne Toomey at the Point Picnic, August 1983

The Point Association Membership Form

Please make check payable to The Point Association and mail with form to PO Box 451 Newport, RI 02840. A subscription to the Green Light is included with all memberships.

___ Individual $10   ___Family $15   ___Subscriber $25   ___Patron $45

Name: ____________________________________________________________

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Summer 2003 The Green Light
Save the Date

Secret Garden Tour
June 20 - 22
Call 847-0514 to volunteer or for event details.

Point Picnic
Wednesday, June 25, 6 pm
Bring your supper, chairs, and tablecloth; and join your neighbors on Anne Reynold’s lovely harborside lawn at 88 Washington Street.

St. John’s Fair
Saturday, July 19

Northampton Choir at St. John’s
July 21 – 28
Call the church office for details.

Paint the Point Exhibition and Sale
Monday, August 11, 5 – 7:30 pm
Come to St. John’s Guild Hall for an opportunity to view and purchase paintings of Point houses, streets, and harbor by Newport artists.

Members’ Cocktail Party
Thursday, August 21, 6 pm
Enjoy this annual late-summer gathering at The Sanford-Covell Villa Marina, 72 Washington St.