The GREEN LIGHT
Bulletin of The Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

FALL 2004
The Green Light

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Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Jack for time, date, and location.

Copies of the Green Light may be purchased for $1.00 at Bucci’s Convenience Store, Poplar at Thames.

Cover Image: “Cover Image: The J class sloop RAINBOW is launched at the Herreshoff Yard, in nearby Bristol, RI, on May 14, 1934. RAINBOW was the last America's Cup defender launched by the Herreshoff yard, and measured 126 feet in length overall. Photo courtesy of the Rosenfeld Collection at Mystic Seaport, http://training.mysticseaport.org/research/ro-rosenfeld.htm.”

From the Editor
As this issue goes to print, I have to wonder what became of the summer. I’m sure that same thought is on everyone’s mind to some extent. It seems like just yesterday that I was writing a similar letter for the Summer issue of The Green Light! And yet as I look out my window, I see the tomatoes are turning red on those plants that I would swear I just planted, I recall last night’s excellent Point Association members’ cocktail party that I would swear was still a month away on the calendar, and my wife reminds me that our daughter just had her 4-month birthday. Time flies. It happens every summer! I hope yours was as enjoyable as mine.

Given the Tall Ships and the America’s Cup racers this summer, this issue was originally intended to have a maritime theme. Inevitably, however, too much was going on to restrict ourselves to just that area. So you will find another sampler of items that will, I hope, touch on something of interest to you. In addition to the summer’s happenings, we also look ahead to the coming Fall. Though The Green Light generally remains apolitical, we thought it might be helpful to introduce to you the three candidates running for the First Ward City Council seat in the November election.

Finally, don’t forget that The Green Light—as well as The Point Association—welcomes your active participation. Whether it’s story ideas or the stories themselves, photos, or other contributions, we welcome your input and assistance. (And I thank those who have contributed.) Finally, don’t forget the Membership meeting in October!

Alan
PRESIDENT’S LETTER

The summer of ’04 is rapidly closing and most of The Point Association’s official, and very successful, summer-time events such as the plant sale, picnic, and cocktail party have all come and gone. Now it’s time to gear up for the fall season and prepare for our annual meeting on October 21st and a very important election on November 2nd.

It’s been relatively quiet in our neighborhood this summer. Except for the Tall Ships’ weekend, few members have bothered to phone or otherwise complain about increased noise, traffic, construction activity, vandalism or other seasonal maladies. There seems to be a notable decrease in “party house” incidents. Whether this is due to economics, demographics, improved police vigilance or other cause is unknown, but we’re thankful anyway.

The Tall Ships’ festivities highlight the dilemma posed by Newport’s position as both a tourist mecca with a beautiful deep-water harbor suitable for berthing large numbers of ships and also as a quaint New England colonial city with compact neighborhoods and narrow streets. The city administration planned well in advance to facilitate the movement of large crowds. The Rhode Island National Guard was mobilized to provide traffic direction and a fleet of busses shuttled visitors from satellite parking lots to the ships on Goat Island. City Manager Jim Smith briefed me on his plans for reducing car traffic and tourist parking on the Point. Jim is a Bridge Street resident and is well aware of our allergy to the congestion that large summer events can bring to our neighborhood.

While the prior planning and consultation was admirable, we all know some procedures could be improved. For example, the busses were too large, too noisy, and too frequent. Smaller trolley-type vehicles would be better suited to Third Street. A suggestion by a Point resident led the city manager to temporarily cover the stop signs on Washington Street to reduce the brake and acceleration noise of the busses. The same technique should be used on Third Street in the future. National Guard troops weren’t in position early enough to prevent many visitors from occupying parking spaces on the Point. However, I have no doubt that the buses and other control measures implemented by the city were very effective in mitigating the impact of such a large swarm of tourists and their automobiles to our neighborhood. We need to admit that the beauty of our community and its nautical heritage is what brought many of us to Newport in the first place. We should do our best to accommodate those who want to enjoy that same heritage, if only for a day.

JACK

Fall Membership Meeting

Harbor House ~ Use Chapel Entrance on Battery Street
Thursday ~ October 21st ~ 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to attend, for THREE important reasons!

#1 — Our special guest speaker — John “Fud” Benson will give a presentation on the stone carving work of The John Stevens Shop, which was founded in 1705, and has been located at 29 Thames Street since 1781.

#2 — There will be a presentation on a proposal to repair and enhance the Storer Park quay. This effort could require use of Point Association funds, augmented by funding from other sources. The Executive Committee is hoping for member comment and discussion on the proposal.

#3 — New Officers! The Point Association’s Nominating Committee has been seeking eligible, willing candidates to fill the following Point Association Executive Committee positions — President, 2nd Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary. The new officers will be appointed at the Fall meeting.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
by Patricia and Rich Carrubba
Welcome, New Members!
Marsha Francis
David Garvey & Julienne Stewart
Catherine Koulouvardis

New Membership Program
We have a new Membership Program to enlist more Point residents into our organization and we’re seeking the assistance of all our neighbors. Effective immediately, a temporary complimentary membership will be available to all residents old and new who are not presently members. So, if you know of someone who has just moved into the neighborhood, or someone you think would enjoy a trial membership, please contact Patricia Carrubba, Membership Committee Chair, at 847-5815 so that we can contact him or her, and offer a limited complimentary membership.

We’ll report the results of this new program in a future edition of *The Green Light*.

BORN ON THE POINT
by Bill Hall, History and Archives

The *Born on the Point* program recognizes newborns and others who were Point residents at the time of their births.

Certificates were distributed at the April membership meeting for three newborns – Bryan Ty Babcock, Jake Harrison Sweeney (pictured above, born November 26, 2002), and Cora Kathleen Wall. Bernard Mazza, currently a resident at Harbor House, also received his certificate.

The next round of *Born on the Point* certificates will be readied for the October 21, 2004, membership meeting. Anyone interested in information or an application may contact Kay O’Brien at 847-7311.

Applications must be returned by October 8, 2004.

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POINTERS IN THE NEWS
by Kay O'Brien

A few years ago, Brian Comfort was contributing articles to *The Green Light*. Now he's the editor of *Newport This Week*, writing informative and interesting articles in depth. A recent example—“The Battle for Access” in the July 22 issue, discusses Newport's original charter, which guarantees public access to the water. Today, Newport is a far different place, but we can thank Friends of the Waterfront and others for working to preserve these rights of ways.

The Fall 1998 issue of *The Green Light* told the story of converting a two-story concrete block building on Bridge Street from an auto repair business to a handsome home for shops and offices. At 9 Bridge Street, Cottage and Garden, with many one-of-a-kind items, is celebrating a fifth anniversary. Congratulations, Eleanor Gobis.

Almost forty years ago, Ilse Buchert Nesbitt and her late husband, Alexander, opened the Third and Elm Press, a Point treasure. Last September, Ilse visited the deserts of Utah/Arizona and has recently had a showing of monoprints called Desert Junipers at her gallery upstairs. Different from her woodblock prints, a monoprint is a single image. Using a broad brush and thinned printing ink, Ilse brushed each image directly on a plexiglass sheet. Next, the plexiglas is covered with a sheet of dampened etching paper and placed on the handpress, which pulled the print under heavy pressure. Between each printing, the Plexiglas sheet is cleaned, and the process repeated. You are welcome to stop in at Ilse's shop and gallery, always educational and fascinating.

Many Pointers know that Peter Martin has been a long-time volunteer for the Old Colony & Newport Railway. In June, Peter spearheaded the organization of a trash cleanup along the tracks. Volunteers from the OC&NR joined with volunteers from the Rhode Island City Year program and a crew from the City of Newport Clean City Program to collect a total of 14 shopping carts, a couple of mattresses, an extremely large tire, and nearly two dozen garbage bags of trash.

Though not a Pointer in terms of his residence, stone carver Nick Benson, owner of The John Stevens Shop at 29 Thames Street—lower Thames is part of The Point—was highlighted in *Newport This Week* in late May for his work on the new National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Benson spent 11 months commuting to Washington, DC, from his Newport home to carve 3,875 individual letters ranging in size from an inch to over 19 inches.

Finally, who can beat this record? Claire Maytum, Jack and Donna's daughter, has graduated from Drexel University with a 4.0 average. Congratulations!
NEW TO THE POINT
by Jane Hence

Charles and Patty Shumway live at 14 Poplar Street, having been lured to Newport by several of the traditional and irresistible charms of our delightful city - sailing, grass tennis courts, and the remarkable collection of architecture. The Shumways live here during the summer half of the year and in Naples, Florida, in the winter.

Charlie knows Newport and Rhode Island well, as he went to Brown and has always been a sailor. He is now involved with the New York Yacht Club's team racing program and does quite a bit of racing on bigger boats both here and in Europe. Charlie is involved in computer forensics, real estate and movie theatres in Florida. Patty was born and grew up in Litchfield, Kentucky, eventually went to Chicago where she was a Playboy Bunny for many years, and then fell in love with Newport at first glimpse. She is currently writing a book.

The Shumways have restored the exterior of their classic Newport cottage and are about to begin on the garden. They enjoy every aspect of living in Newport and feel fortunate to be living on the Point, which is full of “so many wonderful old houses”, a wonderful complement to Florida.

NO LONGER NEW TO THE POINT...
but new to The Green Light

On a recent beautiful summer afternoon, I met with Kathy and Jim Smith in Storer Park, which is less than a minute from their house on Bridge Street, where they moved over a year ago and are now in the midst of alterations and a small addition.

Newport is the ninth city of which Jim has been the manager. He has been a city manager for thirty-five years, beginning in Draper, Utah, near Salt Lake City. Midway through this career, he found himself managing Berlin, New Hampshire, where he met Kathy, who was born and grew up in that state.

Jim is from Sandusky, Ohio, and while studying pre-law in college, found a summer job with the city attorney. Circumstances changed before summer began and he was asked to work for the city manager instead. This is a perfect example of fortuitous luck, as Jim found irresistible the possibilities of having an immediate impact as a result of one's work and decisions. He moved his focus away from the law and attended the Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania) to study public administration.

Jim and Kathy's older children are grown and living in New Hampshire, New York, and Montana, with the youngest child here in Newport. The entire family is happy to be in Rhode Island and on Bridge Street. Jim has always loved to sail and spends his spare time, when he has it, crewing on mid-size boats and involved with Sail Newport programs.

It is clear that the Smiths care about their city. Jim mentioned concerns about the condition of our infrastructure and funding for the two most highly impacted areas: police and fire. For a city of this size, the number of firemen and policemen is somewhere around double the average figure, because of the demands of our tourism industry. I found the caring and knowledge the Smiths bring to Newport to be a comfort and their appreciation for and enjoyment of our unique and charming city to be a very nice bonus.
THE POINT PICNIC

A sizeable crowd gathered for this year’s Point Picnic held on a gorgeous June 30. This year’s gracious hosts were Lyn and Peggy Comfort, who opened up their beautiful waterfront lawn to over 50 guests. Some Pointers may recall that the Comfort’s home at 62 Washington St. was, through 1988, the site of many previous annual picnics, when the home belonged to Esther Fisher Benson (who passed away in early 1999).

PLANT SALE REPORT

by Isabel Griffith

Many thanks to all who attended the Plant Sale on Saturday, May 22. No one seemed to be in a hurry, so there was plenty of time to visit and catch up. Many conversations were about plants and shrubs that did not survive the hard winter. Perhaps, because of that, sales were up; many satisfied customers went home with local perennials to fill in the bare spots.

Once again, Anita McAndrews and her son, Sean, graciously lent us their driveway and beautiful garden on Washington Street where we had plenty of space for display. So many people were part of making this a smoothly running, successful event! I apologize if I have left out some names — Marcia Mallory, Mike & Joan Simmons, Eleanor Flowers, Laurie Shaw & Herb Rommel, Jack & Donna Maytum, Ralph Padulla, Bruce Howe, Don & Loretta Roy, Bill Hall, Gusina Powell, Jane Walsh, Gail Gunning, Sarah Gill, Rich Curruba, Merry Preston, Marty Williams, Deborah Kelsey, Trish O’Connell, Bill Souza, Connie Heird, Nancy Quatrucci, Sally MacKay, Elaine Cacio, Jennifer Hall, Ilse Nesbitt, Lisa Elliot, John Lingley, Ruth Shore, and Sarah Kessler.

And to all the “elves” who mysteriously deposited plants without being seen, we thank you as well.

NEXT YEAR: We plan to hold the sale on Saturday, May 21. Marcia Mallory has volunteered to handle publicity. NOTE: We need someone to take over solicitation. Donations from local merchants are important to the success of the sale. We can have the sale without them, but it won’t be the same. If you are interested in hearing more about this job, please contact Isabel Griffith – 849-6444.

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20 Years in Business 1984-2004 On the Point
WATERFRONT NOTES
By Liz Mathinos

With all the many wonderful activities on the waterfront this summer, it has been "all quiet on the waterfront" as far as concerns about future developments. Some ongoing items to watch:

VAN ZANDT PIER
Because of its significance as a fishing pier, Van Zandt Pier is included in a study for repairs as part of a federal grant to provide alternative fishing sites caused by the demolition of the Jamestown Bridge. Please call and write your congressional delegation to support Van Zandt Pier repairs.

NEWPORT SHIPYARD
Thanks to Charlie Dana for the wonderful public access provided during the mini-America’s Cup. This first rate event showed how this last shipyard in Newport is so important to retain for our working waterfront. Possible development at this site is an office space and yacht storage building.

WASHINGTON STREET EXTENSION / CYPRESS STREET RIGHT OF WAY
The city’s Washington Street Extension (WSE) lease agreement with abutters is still a cause of concern and under scrutiny by concerned citizens. Watch for new developments.

CENTRAL NEWPORT URBAN DESIGN / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
At a June workshop held by the Redevelopment Agency on the Central Newport Urban Design, Ken Taylor mentioned planned unit development. This planning tool, much like flexible zoning, will be the next "battle" on the waterfront because the first item will be to revise parking requirements. When planned unit development reared its ugly head in the late 1980s, it was soundly defeated, and once again the pros and cons must be carefully considered. If planned unit development or flexible zoning makes it far too easy to lessen or eliminate parking requirements, it will set the precedent for making it far too easy for future large developments like expansion of the Newport Harbor Hotel, Waites Wharf, etc.

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SCENES FROM STORER PARK

Storer Park was the scene of much activity over the summer. Some of it was routine and to be expected—basketball players, dog walkers, and sun worshipers, for example—but there was the occasional special event or surprising vignette that would catch the lucky observer’s eye. Here is just a sampling of those special moments.

THE FOUR HEADED SCULPTURE GETS A HAIRCUT

Eugene Platt of the Newport Preservation Society is the creator of what he has recently dubbed “The Four Headed Sculpture.” He was caught giving the topiary a much-needed trim late on a Friday afternoon in early August, and stopped to chat for a few minutes. Eugene covers a wide territory for the Preservation Society. Besides Storer Park, his work can be seen on the Cliff Walk and at the Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth. Eugene started the Four Heads project over four years ago and has been maintaining it—and subtly changing it—ever since. He also admitted to just this summer starting a small—but eventually highly visible—topiary at a well known Point home. We leave it to the astute observer to identify the latest changes to the Four Heads—as well as the location and identification of his newest project on The Point!

PLANTER BOX RELOCATION

Thanks to Scott Wheeler of the City’s Department of Parks for responding to a suggestion to relocate two of the heavy concrete planters out of the shade of a tree and into the sun where plants can thrive.

UBS TROPHY REGATTA BETWEEN TEAM ALINGHI AND ORACLE/BMW

During the America’s Cup Class sailboat races in June, crews from the boats could be seen stretching out the huge sails to allow them to dry at the end of the day. Some Pointers expressed concern that trees in the park were being harmed by having sails tied off to them. In any case, the sight was not one normally seen in the park!

The Four Heads project over four years ago and has been maintaining it—and subtly changing it—ever since. He also admitted to just this summer starting a small—but eventually highly visible—topiary at a well known Point home. We leave it to the astute observer to identify the latest changes to the Four Heads—as well as the location and identification of his newest project on The Point!
ST. JOHN’S CHURCH
SUMMER EVENTS
by Mary O’Neill-Barrett

Bristol Cathedral Choir
The Choir of Bristol Cathedral, Bristol, England, was the centerpiece in this year’s “Celebration X” at The Church of St. John the Evangelist, on Washington St. The Choir’s four-day repertoire of sacred music was especially dedicated to the late Bruce J. Shaw, longtime Parish Clerk at St. John’s, who also served as chairman of many previous English choir musical festivals. The first service was a Sung Mass on Thursday evening, July 22, the day of their arrival. Their gifted choral efforts continued during Friday and Saturday services, and were highlighted by their choral work on Sunday’s Feast of St. James the Apostle in a beautiful Sung Mass.

Official Hosts for “Celebration X” were the Rev. Canon Jonathan Ostman, Rector, and Jonathan F. Babbitt, Organist/Choirmaster. A number of parishioners also opened their homes, acting as home-hosts for choir members during their Newport stay. An old fashioned ice cream party on the lawn of St. John’s on Sunday afternoon hosted by Fr. and Mrs. Ostman marked the final event, which mingled parishioners, guests, and members of the choir for a final gathering before their return to England on July 26.

The Choir consists of 16 choristers, all of whom are being educated at Bristol Cathedral School, and six lay clerks. The choir was supplemented by nine wonderfully rich adult-male voices plus a combination of Supernumerary lay clerks and deputies. Leading the group to Newport was the Rev. Canon Brendan Clover, Precentor, who is responsible for the music and liturgy at the cathedral. The choir enjoys a wide range of activities outside their church music, including radio, TV, and concert work throughout the United Kingdom.

The Bristol group brought to Newport a rich choral history, as there has been a choir at their cathedral since the reign of Henry VIII. A tradition of sacred music dates back to 1180 when the Augustinians founded an abbey on the site of the present-day cathedral. Bristol Cathedral has an illustrious musical heritage and was the site of the first performance of Handel’s Messiah in an English church in 1758. The cathedral is also known for its magnificent organ and wonderful acoustics—all set in a gem of majestic architectural beauty.

Summer Family Fair
The 12th annual Summer Family Fair was held Saturday, July 31, on the church lawn. Fair Chairperson was the friendly and able Mrs. Mary Ostman, wife of the Rev. Ostman. Mrs. Ostman once again forged a creative team of parishioners and friends to make the fair one of the most successful projects staged by the parish.

The fair’s lasting appeal has always been that it is geared for young and old alike—truly a family affair. Children’s games and special crafts kept youngsters of all ages busy and happy while adults wandered among a variety of specialized booths. Always a popular showcase were the homemade baked goods, which this year showed off the creativeness of every baker in the parish. Items ranged from simple but tasty sugar cookies to very fancy tarts and cakes fit for any elegant dinner party table. Next was the booth that displayed a variety of handmade gourmet foodstuffs that quickly sold out. Other popular booths included handcrafted items for the home and family, plants for indoor decoration and outside use, a traditional White Elephant shop in the Guild Hall, and used books and CDs plus used summer clothing for adults and children.

Newport merchants, parishioners, and friends of Mrs. Ostman allowed her to grow fair bidders a great array of items upon which to bid at the silent auction. The silent auction boasted, among other things, specially selected pieces of clothing, a ship’s model, dining-out certificates, hats, silver bracelets, pearls, and even hardware store tools. The popular luncheon tent—held under the trees on the front lawn—had a tasty menu that was created especially by members of St John’s Men’s Club, who also staffed the luncheon booth.
What is a Tall Ship?
The Tall Ship is the largest hand-operated machine ever built. The Tall Ships races are a product of the Cold War. An English lawyer, Bernard Morgan, a man with no connection to the sea, came up with the idea in the 1950s. He was concerned that the political climate had reached such a level that it was having a deleterious effect on the youth of the world. Morgan conceived the idea along the same principle that Baden-Powell conceived the idea of training Boy Scouts after World War I. Morgan’s plan called for each nation to come together in good will and vie in an international sailing competition.

With the help of yacht designer and ocean racer Captain John Illingworth, and the support of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Morgan went on to draw up the rules and arrange the first race from Devon, England, to Lisbon, Portugal. The most important rule was that half the crew must be youth under training between the ages of 16 and 21. By 1964, the biennial races sponsored by the British Sail Training Association were well established.

In 1972, Captain Barclay Warburton III of Newport took his 74-foot hermaphrodite brig Black Pearl to England to participate in a race from Cowes, England, to Malmo, Sweden. He was so inspired by what he saw at this international gathering that he decided to create a similar organization in the United States. In the spring of 1973, the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) was formed.

The goals of the sail training program are 1) to help people gain sailing experience, 2) to increase understanding of their relationship with others, and 3) to preserve the maritime heritage and marine environment. Warburton summed it up when he said, “the final step in the process obviously is the undertaking of the need for self-discipline...It is at this point in life, wisdom begins.” This process was to take place by learning aboard ship, competing in tasks and games that lead to shipboard safety, and by racing. The general public has lost sight of this purpose because of the commercialism of the spectacle.

On June 26, 1976, the Argentine ship Libertad entered Newport Harbor and fired a 21-gun salute to kick off our grand bicentennial celebration of 85 ships with over 4,000 crew members. This was the first Tall Ship race that ended in the U.S., and Newport specifically. It was the greatest gathering of sailing ships that the world had seen in the 20th-century. The US Coast Guard ship Eagle and the Romanian ship Mircea, both of which participated this year, were also here in 1976.

The original Tall Ships races had two divisions. This year, there were three divisions: Class A - All square-rigged vessels over 120 feet and fore and aft rigged vessels of 160 feet and over, Class B - fore and aft rigged vessels 100 to 160 feet, and Class C - fore and aft rigged vessels 30 to 100 feet. Of the 20 Tall Ships in Newport in
2004, six were Class A, eight were Class B, and six were Class C ships. Finally, for those looking to the future, ASTA Newport will again host a sailing/training/racing international gathering in 2007 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the US Naval Command College.

CDR Weiss served as the liaison officer for the 370 ft Spanish tall ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano in 1976 and the 376ft Russian Kruzenshtern in 2000; two of the world's largest Tall Ships.

This poem was written by Edith Ballinger Price, the first editor of The Green Light, and originally appeared in the July 1976 issue of the same.

THE TALL SHIPS
Back to the welcoming harbor of the past
They come at last!
Square rig and towering mast
Again shall print their pattern on the sky;
The sea gulls, wheeling high,
Shall greet them with a shrill, remembering cry.

Perhaps, when in the watches of the night
Only a riding-light
Shows them in shadowy sight,
Warehouse and wharf long gone will ghostly wake,
And for their sake
Into old business silently will break.

Turn back the centuries and bid them come!
Relive the hum
Of ancient commerce – and the drum
That sounded Freedom far across the main.
“Tis not in vain
The Ships to Newport Harbor come again!

Edith Ballinger Price
REMEMBERING THE ELSTERS
by Susanne Whitley

In the Spring of 1967, Naval officer Bob Elster, and his wife, Dede, bought the Pont Claggett House c.1753 at 59 Second Street. The sellers were Eleanor and George Weaver, who had partially restored the house. Dede and Bob, with the aid of college son Bobby and an electrician, did all the rest of the work.

Dede and Bob were immediately involved in the activities of the Association. Dede ran the pot-luck suppers and the “Holly Teas” at Christmas time. I can see her now officiating in her lovely pastel colonial costume at the teas. She also ran for several years a tea for the benefit of “The Secret Garden Tour” in what was then the lovely garden of Nat Norris’ at Second and Bridge Street. To help with these events she had a large collection of tea cups and saucers.

In addition, Dede ran the house tours for “Christmas in Newport.” In all of these events Bob was her willing helper. He was a member of The Newport Artillery, members of which have for many years served as hosts in this Christmas event.

It is hard to reduce to a few paragraphs two people who were a vital part of this neighborhood for over 30 years. But everyone I know knew Dede and Bob, and their recent deaths remind us how important it is to remember those who contribute to the community.

This poem was written by Elizabeth Covell Ramsey, age 95 on May 27, now a resident of the Nina Lynette Home on Washington Street. It was inspired by the view of Narragansett Bay from her second floor window. Betty grew up in her family’s Sanford Covell House (“Villa Marina”) at 72 Washington Street (now owned by her daughter Anne Ramsey Currell), and we’re happy that she has come home to Newport and The Point after many years of living in the Washington, D.C. area. (Note: “Aquidneck” means Isle of Peace.)

NARRAGANSETT BAY
King Philip’s found out, to his grief
Aquidneck is the isle of peace
When Pequots shook the tomahawk
From WAM-PAN-O-AGS, not a squawk.

Now Harbor Master sets the slots,
As brawny men pull lobster pots,
The cruise ships anchor, white and tall,
And tourists visit Marble Hall.

The low-slung oilers, night and day,
Move sluggishly their northbound way,
Returning high, they seem to say,
Farewell, all anchors are aweigh.
WALKING ON THE POINT
by Kay O'Brien

After a long wait, summer seems a fleeting season, but also the busiest of all. Here on the Point, the scene is ever changing, especially on the waterfront. With or without a camera, images will linger. When meeting neighbors or visitors, just mention the Fourth of July, Queen Mary II, and gridlock, or the four-day visit of the Tall Ships, and hear their stories.

With summer activities everywhere, there's no better place to catch the action than the shipyard. Their public access promises excitement either outside or inside the fence. It was almost like former America Cup races in Newport having Alinghi, the champion boat from Switzerland, here in the shipyard with Oracle from San Francisco. Watching weeks of preparation and then a week of racing here in the bay in our front yard was unforgettable. Photographs of these racing machines in action were spectacular. Also at the marina were beautiful yachts readying for a quick sail to Bermuda.

Following the National Guard Air Show at Quonset, the Air Force Thunderbirds stayed over extra days for photo ops, roaring overhead to show off our great location.

On the Fourth of July, the huge, newly-built Queen Mary II came into the bay and moored off Goat Island so that passengers could view the fireworks. (Tight security kept them out of New York harbor.) Of the thousands who came to the Point and nearby to watch, each will remember how long it took to get home. And what would Battery Park look like the morning after this crushing crowd? Thanks to a new neighbor, it was spotless with extra trash bags filled and ready for pickup.

Then came the Tall Ships. With only a small window of opportunity to arrange the July 16-19 visit, plans were hurriedly set in motion. Basically, the plan provided mooring spots for most ships at Goat Island. Visitors were encouraged to leave their cars in designated parking areas near the Pell Bridge, with school buses providing further transportation to the Connector/Long Wharf area where cars were not permitted. Inbound buses traveled Washington Street and exited on Third Street. All activities were on Goat Island where a $5.00 fee was required for a walk across the causeway with a security check before entrance to Goat Island. Extra trash containers were plentiful as were portable toilets, and streets were swept each night. Police, National Guard, and volunteers were everywhere. Lines were very long to get across the causeway and to go onboard the ships, but spirits were high. Now there will be studies and much discussion on the pros/cons of handling such a popular event.

At the same time as the Tall Ships, the “normal” yearly events, such as the Black Ships Festival, the Greek Festival, the Music Festival, and many more, were “things to do.” How popular Newport is!

One of the perks of walking is the leisure to check changes along the way — a house getting a new paint color, where the squirrels have found acorns, new gardens or spots of color, or just watching the boats or the sky. Thanks must go to all those who help keep our parks so inviting. They look great and are appreciated by both residents and visitors — two-legged and four-legged!

Always intriguing are additions, renovations, and works in progress. The real “double-take” is now the restoration of the Fairchild stable on Second/Pine Streets. This carriage house was built in 1876 by Charles McKim and has a historic past and, before long, a new future. And at the busy corner of Washington/Connector Road stands the handsome colonial Simeon Potter House with its restoration complete. The house received the Newport Historical Society's Historical Preservation Award for a private residence in late May.

Continues on page 18
CITY COUNCIL
FIRST WARD CANDIDATES

Editor's Note: There are three candidates running in the upcoming November election for the First Ward's City Council seat. To help Pointers get to know the candidates better, we asked each candidate to provide a short study the issues and act with confidence.”

Charles Y. Duncan
An Introduction to Charles Y. Duncan, Candidate, Councilman 1st Ward, Newport.


Community Participation: Parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church Community, Past Scoutmaster Troop 79 (Tonomy Hill), 13 years member Newport Zoning Board of Review and 2 years as Chairman, Past President Point Association, past member Newport Charter Review Commission.

My promise to you: When elected Councilman, I will actively represent the 1st Ward, being available for you at my shop, 65 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd. or my home 25 Third St, or by phone at 846-0294 and 846-0796. I promise to actively advocate for and respond to the needs of the residents of the First Ward.

Peter F. Lanouette
My message is simple. The past couple of terms the 1st Ward hasn’t been properly represented. The desires and needs of the diverse people in our ward weren’t being heard.

The Van Zandt Bridge should be rebuilt. The increased traffic from the re-routing of early morning traffic has added to the distress. School buses don’t use it but tourists in the same buses can.

The route of traffic during Tall Ships was ill planned. Proper contact and communication could have resolved the problem. Sending buses east on Admiral Kalbfus Road (Rte 138) to the top of Broadway and into the

Marvin Abney
A retired Army Officer, he holds Masters degrees in Business Administration and Management, and a Bachelors in Public Administration. His wife Cheryl is the granddaughter of the late Leo Amado, once owner of Leo’s First & Last Stop, an early establishment on the Point. He attends St. John’s Church on Washington Street.

Active in the community, he is 1st Alternate, Newport Zoning & Review Board, and serves on the Boards of the Martin Luther King Center, the List Academy of Arts and Music, the Newport County YMCA, Newport Community Schools, Newport Public Education Foundation, and the Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. He is a member of the Newport Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee and Co-Chair of the School Improvement Committee, Coggeshall Elementary.

“I believe communities are best served when members step forward to actively participate in the decision-making processes that benefit the common good. Through voting, citizens place their trust and resources in individuals who promise to honestly and fairly stand for their interests in public matters. In my view, governments and elected officials at all levels should be responsive to the people to whom they’ve been entrusted to represent. Ward I is large and diverse. My goal is to work hard to earn your confidence and vote. As I talk with Ward members, many of you have the same concerns as I. I will work toward bringing quality leadership to City government. The continued improvement of our schools depends in part on a solid relationship between our School Board and City Hall. I want to ensure that the history and character of our neighborhoods is always a major factor in decisions made by the Council. I want to begin a process that allows for substantive dialogue by citizens that addresses the tough issues that effect not only Ward I, but also our whole city. Newport is a leading city that deserves leaders willing to listen,
city via that broad and open main thoroughfare. Commercial traffic is commonplace on Broadway.

We need a stop sign southbound on Third St. and Sycamore St. Kids from Bayside Village, Rolling Green and Tonomay Hill walk there to get to the piers to swim and fish. Too often disaster has been narrowly missed there. Drivers heedless of the kids rush through that intersection. It’s a simple problem. What will it take?

Marvin Abney and Charles Duncan are great candidates for Councilman. I like their ideas, their dedication and attentiveness—something sorely missing for too long in the First Ward. I can’t decide which to vote for [however] so I’m voting for me. It’s a matter of principle.

We must be heard! Democracy has fallen victim of cronyism. The call for residents only in city jobs is xenophobia at its worst. The ineptitude this introduces to our essential services will be paid for dearly in civil suits against mistakes committed by the second rate choices this referendum will doom us to. Thank you.

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

Visitors from all over converged on the Point for three days in late June, searching for the white flags marking the secret gardens hidden in our neighborhood.
THAT WAS THEN...
USS Constellation in Newport

NOTE: Many thanks to Herbert F. Rommel, CAPT (Retired), USN, for providing the source materials and photographs for this story. Portions of the article were taken, with permission obtained as a result of his efforts, from the July 2004 issue of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society Log.

The Postal Service released a new stamp on 30 June picturing the venerable Navy sail sloop USS CONSTITUTION, today a tourist attraction in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. The stamp, reports the Postal Service, celebrates the 150th anniversary of her construction. There has long been debate as to the ship’s actual construction date, with some arguing that she was originally launched in 1797, the same year as the USS CONSTITUTION. While this issue is worth exploring, our main interest here is on the ship’s history relative to Newport.

USS Constellation dressed for Queen Elizabeth’s birthday during visit of HMS York, Newport, RI in 1937.

In the decades after the Civil War, the CONSTITUTION was one of America’s most impressive ships, showing the flag at various ports around the globe. She was retired in 1894 and laid up as a barracks and training ship at the Navy boot camp at Newport. She was there in 1908 when she became one of the first ships in the Navy to get a post office. A common location to see her early postmarks is on picture postcards of Newport sent home by recruits.

Over the next several decades, the CONSTITUTION continued to serve as a training ship. It also participated in the 1914 Star Spangled Banner Centennial Tour. Its last appearance as a commissioned ship occurred during the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 5, 1926. Decommissioned by the Navy in 1933, the CONSTITUTION was recommissioned in 1940 and for a time during World War II held the honorary title of Flagship of the Atlantic Fleet. She again had a post office throughout the war, although postmarks from this period are not common. In 1955, having been decommissioned once again, the ship was brought to Baltimore and donated by the Navy to a local non-profit foundation.

Real estate signs continue to come and go as do seller, buyers, owners, and renters. Have you greeted any new neighbors? The long and short of our busy summer included highs and lows. Yes, it was noisy and crowded at times, we shared our space with thousands, but there were happy times, and summer comes but once a year!

The Green Light FALL 2004
The Newport waterfront during the 1976 Tall Ships visit is alive with activity. This black & white image is courtesy of Ralph Weiss, and was derived from a large framed color print produced by T.D. Lawes, Buffalo, NY, and C. Fremont-Smith, Newport.

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 $40

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Phone:_________________________________ Fax:________________________ Email:__________________________________________

Mailing Address: _________________________________________________

Second Address (if applicable): _______________________________________

Committees and Activities

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

☐ Beautification  ☐ Harbor Watch  ☐ Green Light  ☐ Plant Sale  ☐ Membership
☐ Program/Event Planning  ☐ History and Archives  ☐ Children's Activities
☐ Publications/Communications/Web  ☐ Neighborhood Watch  ☐ Underground Wires
Save the Date

**Fall Membership Meeting**  Thursday  October 21  7 p.m.
Meet in Harbor House – Use the chapel entrance on Battery Street. See the announcement on Page 3 for additional information about this important meeting.

**Fall Cleanup & Bulb Planting**  Saturday  October 23  9 a.m.
Join your friends and neighbors to clean up Storer and Battery Parks and to plants bulbs that will bloom next spring. For more information, please call Marcia or Coles Mallory, 849-5659.

**Get out and VOTE**  Tuesday  November 2

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