

The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 2012



The GREEN LIGHT

LVI No. 4

SUMMER 2012

CONTENTS

President's letter.....	3
Devoted Guardians of Storer Park Bruce and Leslie Long.....	4
Three 100-Year Birthdays.....	5
News From the Past (1968 and 1976).....	6
The Circle of Scholars Revisited.....	7
Tall Ships Festival Coming to Newport.....	8
Making the Point More Ready: Introducing NewportReady.....	9
Hunt for the Pirate Sloops Ranger and Fortune.....	10
New Decade, New Survey.....	13
Point Readers.....	16
Spring Members' Meeting.....	17
Harbor House News.....	18

STAFF

Editor	Alice Clemente
Advertising	Jack Maytum
Business	Tom Goldrick
Circulation	Marcia Mallory
Layout	Donna Maytum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Beth Cullen, 848-2945, bethcullen@cox.net

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Hence, 847-3767, rockbound@earthlink.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Shelley Kraman, 849-0787, shelley.kraman@gmail.com

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tom Kennedy, 849-8893, TKennedy@Portsmouthabbey.org

TREASURER

Tom Goldrick, 849-9425, elliottboss@cox.net

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

Copies of *The Green Light* may be purchased for \$1.00 at
Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar at Thames.



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.

Cover:

View from Washington Street at Van Zandt Pier
photo by Jane Hence



These are busy, busy days on the Point, some of the activity and planning in anticipation of the major events soon to descend on us, some of it with a longer-range import for the community. NewportReady is surely at the head of the list in the latter context. We hope that most will take advantage of this potentially lifesaving service.

Another project with a potentially long-range impact is the survey of the Point community that will take place in the next few months. Will it bring surprises? Will it bring new ideas for the enrichment of life on the Point? Stay tuned – or better still, get involved with the committee putting it together. Or with any other Point Association project for that matter...

Happy summer!

Alice

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is summer in Newport, and the world is watching. We on the Point are positioned to witness internationally recognized events. America's Cup, Tall Ships, and renowned music festivals will all take place on and beside the bay, right in our front yard. After an active spring of meetings, a clean-up, and plant sale, the Point is prepared for all the fun.

For close to 60 years, Pointers have shared their time and talent, resulting in a special sense of community. That tradition continued this spring as we had several successful neighborhood gatherings. Special thanks to Donna Maytum for bringing us together at the potluck supper. This year, we returned to St. John's Guild Hall where the room was filled with good cheer and delicious food. In April, under the guidance of Sue Beckers, over 30 industrious souls turned out, rakes in gloved hands, to spruce up our parks and driftways. This was followed days later by an informative spring membership meeting. Point resident, Lisa Lewis, briefed us on all The Newport Tree Society's ambitious initiatives – planting, tagging, and stewarding the city's amazing urban forest. Also, at the spring meeting, we heard from Newport's city manager, Jane Howington, about her plans for making Newport a more connected and efficient city. In May, another Point tradition, the plant sale, has resurfaced, thanks to the hard work of Laurice Shaw and many other volunteers. Thanks to one and all!

As I write, this first week of May has been cool and cloudy; it's odd weather following an unusually sunny and warm early spring. Who knows what's to come. Will the summer be too hot, too cool, will we have rain or endless sun? Is there another Hurricane Irene ahead? Thankfully, we now have NewportReady, a group of watchful citizens to keep us abreast of any emergencies that may arise. Read about it in this issue, and sign-up, so you, too, will be ready for what's in store.

Also, if you haven't already visited it, please log-on to our updated website, www.thepointassociation.org. There you will find Point event dates and details, online membership renewal, photographs, and neighborhood news updates in between issues of the *Green Light*.

How have Point neighbors remained so connected and proactive for so many years? It's been due to concerned and engaged people like you, of course! With that in mind, we will be asking you to take part in an upcoming neighborhood survey. Your input is necessary to continue our mission of coming together to preserve and strengthen this exceptional place called The Point.

So, pull up a chair, watch as the world goes by, and enjoy the Point summer...right from your front row seats! See you at the picnic!

Beth Cullen

DEVOTED GUARDIANS OF STORER PARK—

BRUCE & LESLIE LONG

by Isabel Griffith

For over a dozen years Bruce and Leslie Long of 43 Washington Street have been the devoted friends of Storer Park. "It's like our front garden," they said.

I first met Leslie at a Point cleanup where I found her separating wild onions from the daylilies in the flowerbed next to Hunter House. Her dogged persistence as chief "weeder" of Storer Park pitted her against the dreaded goutweed as well as the ever-present wild onions. She beat the onions and planted some nice perennials in the Park from her own garden.

Bruce could be found in the spring and fall cleaning up the park and spreading woodchips provided every year by the parks department. He was always on hand to praise Eugene Platt's careful attention to the hedge sculptures and it was Bruce who took on the responsibility for moving the park trash containers out to Washington Street every week where they were picked up by the city. His frequent "neighborly conversations" with careless park visitors let them know about acceptable park behavior.

Until a faucet was installed on the drinking fountain, Bruce and Leslie invited me to fetch water from their garden hose to tend the flowers in Storer Park containers. Now their house has been sold. The Longs plan to live on their sailboat in the harbor during the summer months, so they will be visiting the park to check on the two benches they dedicated to their parents. And don't

be surprised to see them at the Rhumblin!

The park has been beautiful this spring, with several new or repaired benches and more daffodils than ever, thanks to the ongoing work of the Point beautification crew. We know Storer Park will continue to flourish but somehow it won't be the same without Bruce and Leslie Long. Thank you both and bon voyage!



Photo by Jane Henc



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

www.thirdandelms.com



Prudential Prime Properties

HERB ARMSTRONG
Salesperson

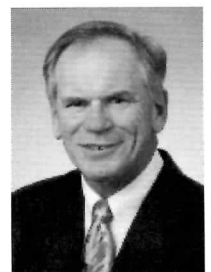
PRIME PROPERTIES

136 West Main Rd, Middletown, RI

Office: 401-849-2800 X 240

Direct Line: 401-367-0840

Cell: 401-841-0169 herb@prudentialprime.com



THREE 100-YEAR BIRTHDAYS

by Ed Madden

What are the odds of three separate, distinct entities comingling a century after their birthdays?

1. The Newport Art Museum – founded and perpetuated by artists for artists and the rest of mankind
2. The Titanic – the largest and most expensive passenger ship ever built and reputed to be unsinkable
3. Fenway Park – the absolute jewel of all baseball Fields-of-Dreams and New England's own.

In 1912 all three entities were founded and in 2012 they all celebrated their 100th birthdays.

TV, Hollywood and the media have all had their share of the Titanic and Fenway Park. The Newport Art Museum has been somewhat under the radar, so I thought a review of its birth and adolescence might be in order.

In June 1912, a union of local artists and community intellectuals led by Maude Howe Elliott, a Pulitzer prize winning author, banded together to inaugurate Newport's first art museum. Within one month of its creation, the first art exhibition was held, boasting a star-studded array of artistic heavyweights, including Childe Hassam, J. Alden Weir, Frank W. Benson, Ernest Lawson, and Arthur B. Davies.

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, a renowned sculptress, exhibited in 1915 and was instrumental in bringing many influential artists as future exhibitors. She became a member of the Newport Art association Council in 1918.

In 1916, the John Griswold House, designed by Richard Morris Hunt in 1862, now a National Historic Landmark, became the permanent home port for the museum. It is one of the best examples of American Stick Style architecture in the U.S. and was lovingly restored in the early 2000s.

The Cushing Memorial Gallery was added to the complex in 1920, thereby expanding the surrounding park and sculpture gardens. The structure was enlarged in 1991, with additional public galleries and storage area.

In 1998, the Gilbert Kahn Building and Jimmy and Minnie Coleman Center for creative studies completed the

real estate acquisitions. Art classes and workshops for all ages and all interests have flourished since. A ceramic studio with electric kilns and potters wheels, printmaking and digital studios are available for student learning.

Helene Sturtevant, one of the museum's early organizers, was instrumental in initiating art classes for the public. She developed a first rate art school and was its longest serving director.

The Museum's collections have grown over the years, embracing works by FitzHenry Lane, George Innes, William Trost Richards, John Kensett, John LaFarge, Helene Sturtevant and Gilbert Stuart, to name some of the most popular. All of them painted frequently in the Newport area.

The Museum organizes special exhibitions throughout the year, showcasing local and regional artists. It also hosts the Newport Annual, a very popular juried competition for one and all to test their creative skills. This author has even tested the waters, submitting stone sculptures annually for the past four years – only to have 2 out of 4 rejected. But heck – that's a .500 batting average, which is better than Ted Williams ever did!

Q.E.D.

"Own the water, not the boat!"



Rhode Island
Newport – Portsmouth – Warwick
(With Access to 57+ Clubs Nationwide)
401-682-2244
freedomboatclub.com
rhodeisland@freedomboatclub.com

NEWS FROM THE PAST (1968 and 1976)

by Jane Hence

In the attic of the house where Dick and Sara Weiss lived from 1956 through 2011 (see Winter 2011-12 *Green Light*), there have been found two vintage newspapers. The earliest is the March 17th, 1968 issue of the *New York Times*; the other is the *Providence Sunday Journal* of May 16th, 1976.

As one can imagine, these are gems and vividly of their moment, as the papers report the thinking of the day and year and facts about specific Newport houses and addresses. In many ways, they are more satisfying and exciting than the usual historical architectural texts or lists from long ago tax assessment records, although the latter are fascinating, too. For instance, Miss Muriel Case, a fifth grade teacher, lived in the eight-room house at 34 Thames, built by a stonemason in 1745. In 1964, the house (excluding land) was valued at \$6,400 and after restoration, during 1968, the assessment rose to \$12,900. Taxes during these four years increased from \$107 to \$407. The 12-room Georgian at 43 Elm, built in 1719, was purchased in 1964 for \$8,000. Similarly after restoration, the taxes doubled. The White Horse Tavern, 1673, the oldest tavern in the country, was the home of William Mayes, the pirate. It was purchased for \$25,000 and restored by the Preservation Society for \$75,000, doubtless accompanied by increased assessment and taxes.

The headline from the *NY Times* reads: "Newport 'Point' Rescued From the Sands of Time" and the piece goes on to say that "time is running out for many historic parts of this colonial seaside town. But for at least one small section, just around the corner from urban-renewal bulldozers, the clock is being turned back." This was happening because the Jamestown - Newport Bridge was about to be built and accompanying changes were already beginning. The Point was fortunate in its being able to be preserved, because "...it is somewhat set off geographically from the center of Newport and is out of the heavy traffic pattern." "The less fortunate areas are under the wrecker's ball and facing urban renewal." We are now unpleasantly aware of just what this urban

renewal did to our city, especially with its division of the Point west to east.

Local historians at the time considered their present moment (1968) to be "THE EVE OF POSITIVE RAVAGE." Antoinette F. Downing noted, in 1967, "Disintegration of the 18th-century, closely knit town has... unfortunately clearly begun, and the state and Federal governments, to whom Historic Newport should be able to turn for positive support, are now financing road and renewal programs requiring further destruction." The Preservation Society, Operation Clapboard, and the Oldport Association provided the means and impetus toward "...preserving at least part of the heritage that made Newport the center of colonial trade as well as a vacation spot for West Indian traders and a key port during the Revolution."

The 1976 newspaper piece, an interview with Richard S. Weiss is entitled "The Point now is THE place" and describes Mrs. John H. Benson and Dick, very long time dwellers in their Point neighborhood, in a conversation

(Continued on page 15)

*Carroll Michael & Co.,
Surveyors*



Bronnley - Caswell Massey
Taylor of London

Books - Gianna Rose - Linens - Pillows
Perfumes & Colognes

Mason Pearson - Roger & Gallet
Natural Brushes - Kent Combs

Shaving Brushes - Cheesesticks - Ginger - Condiments
Scented Candles - Hair Ornaments - Decorative Items

32 Franklin Street • Newport, Rhode Island
401.849.4488

THE CIRCLE OF SCHOLARS REVISITED

by Ed Madden

In the Winter 2007-08 edition of the *Green Light*, I wrote an article about the Circle of Scholars, explaining what a wonderful resource this is for the forty-somethings on and off Aquidneck Island. The Circle will counteract the effects of a slowly creeping cerebral calamity induced by sitting in front of the Boob Tube 25 hours a day, washing down chips and crumpets with your favorite beverages!

Spring and Fall Semester courses of two hours per week over a 4 to 8 week session, taught by a wonderful stable of thoroughbred profs, bring enlightenment to your plate and all you have to do is digest it. The tab for all this knowledge is literally pennies on the dollar.

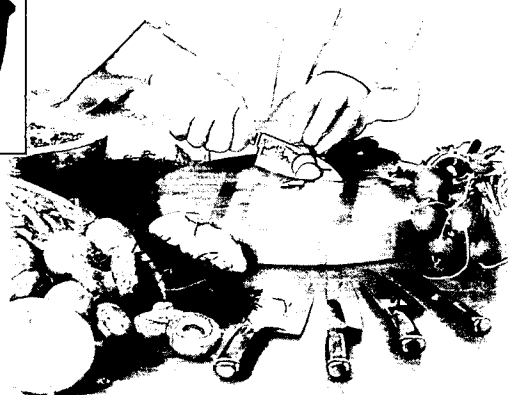
My wife and I recently completed the spring semester, taking 5 elective classes out of a smorgasbord of 20 classes offered, embracing everything from Russian literature, to U.S. and world history, theater, art, Newport architecture, photography, documentaries, writing, and poetry, to name a few.

A class on Walt Whitman and his poetry was given by Dr. Karen Dobson, who had served as a tenured professor in the Department of Religion at Salve Regina University for 24 years. I had some reservations about this topic, never having studied this discipline, but I was coerced by my good wife to sign up. Dr. Dobson encouraged the class to bring in a favorite love poem to read to the other students at our next session. Alas – I didn't have one! However, it was suggested that a favorite song might provide inspiration. I had many of these rolling around in my head. I went to one of my favorites: "That Old Black Magic" by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer, long-considered one of America's greatest lyricists. It dawned on me that these wonderful lyrics constituted a marvelous love poem and I wrote them down. My homework was done!

Ever since then, I have been accumulating an anthology of musical love poems in my head. The lyrics of the Tin Pan Alley composers, i.e., Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan, Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer, plus the

(continued on p. 13)

PAN HANDLER'S COOKWARE & CUTLERY



PAN HANDLER'S
OFFERING THE BEST
COOKWARE AND CUTLERY

KNIFE SHARPENING NOW AVAILABLE

35 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
LOCATED
NEXT TO
CITY HALL

Call or visit
Hours: Mon-Sat 10 - 6
Sundays 12:30 - 5
401-619-3780
www.panhandlersnewport.com



Rich & Patricia
Carrubba

REAL ESTATE

On the Point
and throughout
Newport County

Call us at
401 • 480 • 9624

Visit us at
NewportCountyHomes.com



Prudential

Prime
Properties

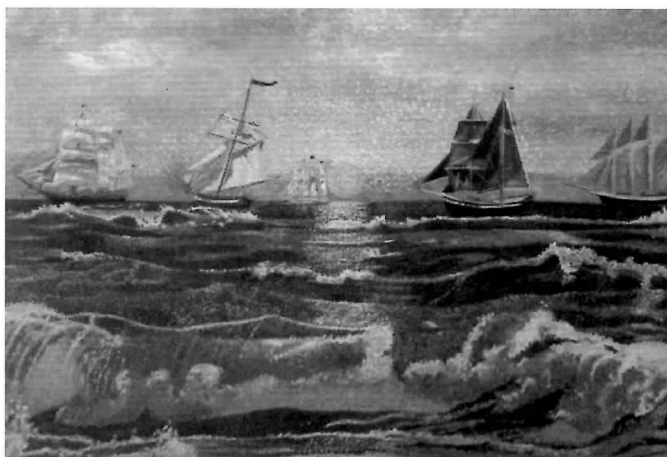
TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL COMING TO NEWPORT

by Eric Donovan

As you know, the Ocean State Tall Ships Festival is coming to Newport in July. The event is now run by a new non-profit organization with a mission to promote Rhode Island and provide an economic boost to Newport's shops, restaurants, inns and other local establishments. If successful, the Festival will reoccur every three years.

This year, up to 15 ships are expected. They will be docked on the following piers: Newport Shipyard, the State Pier, Newport Yacht Club, Bowen's Wharf, the Yachting Center and Waite's Wharf.

In addition, there will be three Vendor Marketplaces and three stages of all-day entertainment. The Marketplaces will be located on Washington Street between



Newport Shipyard and the State Pier, on the State Pier, Bowen's Wharf and at Waite's Wharf. On Washington Street, there will be 25 Vendors selling jewelry, crafts and food. Vendors will be able to set up starting at 6:00 am on Friday, July 6th and required to break down by 7:00 pm on Sunday, July 8th. The entertainment stages are on the State Pier, Bowen's Wharf and Waite's Wharf and will feature music and educational programming for the public boarding hours of 10:00 am-5:00 pm. In

addition, Naval Station Newport will be mounting placards commemorating the War of 1812 through the route and uniformed Navy personnel will be on hand to chat with guests and answer questions. On Sunday evening, July 8th, from 6:00 to 7:00, the Navy Band will perform at Eisenhower Park in Washington Square.

For the first time, a Boarding Pass (\$12.50 for adults, \$7.50 for children 4-18 per day for all vessels) will be required to enter onto the ships. All other events are free and open to the public. Visitors will also be encouraged to park at satellite parking areas in Newport and Middletown for a \$10 fee, and to take shuttle busses that will stop at the Visitor's Center and the Red Parrot restaurant. The Festival will run from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a Parade of Sails on Monday, July 9th, beginning at noon.

Festival organizers are working closely with the City of Newport and Go Green to handle all trash collection and recycling issues, as well as the placement of temporary toilets. The Volunteer Coordinator has recruited hundreds of volunteers to work at the Festival and many will be dedicated to keeping the areas clean and tidy.

The Festival organizers want residents and business owners alike to feel that this is an important, historic and educational event that showcases the City-by-the-Sea and benefits us all. We also hope you'll come out and have some fun with us!

Painting *Tall Ships* by "The Lady Who Paints" 9A Bridge St.

	START YOUR OWN SUCCESS STORY...	
	TRY TWO WEEKS FREE AT NAC WITH THIS AD!	
		66 VALLEY ROAD, MIDDLETOWN 846-7723 newportathleticclub.com

DUNCAN
DESIGNS
19 CALEB EARL STREET
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
401-846-0294
02840
**SIGNS
NEON
STAIN GLASS**
AKA DUNCAN SIGNS SINCE 1980

MAKING THE POINT MORE READY: INTRODUCING NEWPORTREADY

by George Herchenroether and Mike Cullen

A long-term focus for the Point Association has been to improve the livability of the Point. Within the last year, our city councilors laid out a strategic goal of becoming New England's most livable city. Of course, one important factor in the livability equation is how public safety and unforeseen events are managed. Severe weather, a missing person, traffic gridlock, or a shooting incident require that all available communication resources be used quickly and effectively to link responding authorities and the general public.

You may have read, via *Newport Daily News* or Newport Patch, about a new, neighbor-powered organization called *NewportReady* whose aim is to improve public safety during local emergencies that include storms, missing persons, and



other serious events. *NewportReady*, leveraging strong support from the Point Association's board, seeks to build a stronger private-public partnership with the city's public safety community. One can quickly subscribe via www.NewportReady.org.

NewportReady wants to see the city integrate into its response plans and procedures the full spectrum of contemporary communication tools such as Facebook, Twitter, phone, text messaging, email, and even walkie-talkies. With camera and GPS-equipped smartphones becoming ubiquitous, social media tools are now being used by municipalities interested in breaking down communication barriers and creating a more seamless two-way flow of information to help both the community and city leaders.

The mission of *NewportReady* is to engage Newport's citizens, along with their personal technology, as potentially powerful "eyes and ears" in situations such as shootings, missing persons, hurricanes, winter storms, power outages, water contamination and city-wide events that attract heavy traffic and large numbers of tourists. During the recent deadly shooting at an office on Memorial Boulevard, Newport Police Department's public information officer tapped *NewportReady* to alert residents that the situation was "contained" and that no gunman was loose.

How does *NewportReady* get the word out? Each person who signs up through NewportReady.org gets added to a powerful database containing phone numbers, email addresses, and neighborhood data. City public safety officials, collaborating with the *NewportReady* team, decide if/when a broadcast message should be sent to the list. For example, when faced with a case of a missing person with dementia or Alzheimer's, this alert could be done in the critical first few hours after taking the initial report. The alert could be localized to the missing person's neighborhood and could precede or be used simultaneously with the use of the city's CodeRED alert system. *NewportReady* provides the city with a broad set of no-cost, no paperwork needed, communication tools to get the word out quickly. (Please note that CodeRED

(Continued on page 12)

Nina Lynette

A Boarding House for elderly
Ladies and Gentlemen
since 1905

- Private rooms, meals, and housekeeping services
- A staff of friendly professionals
- Situated on the Point in Newport overlooking Narragansett Bay



Please call for additional information. Your inquiries regarding rates and availability are always welcome.

401-847-2674

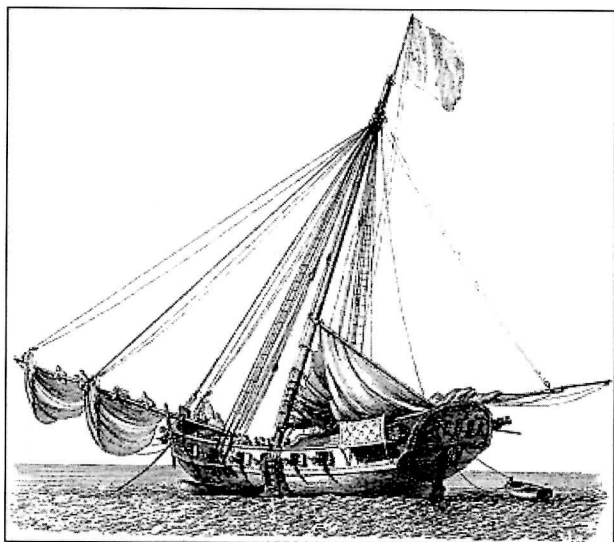
HUNT FOR THE PIRATE SLOOPS *RANGER* AND *FORTUNE*

by Dave Moore

June 7, 1723: Captain Peter Solgard, Commander of His Majesty's ship *Greyhound*, a 20-gun man-of-war frigate, has been on patrol for days searching for a band of pirates that has caused havoc and death from South Carolina to New England. A ship off the coast of Maryland informs him that the day before two pirate sloops had looted his ship. He believes they were headed northward toward Block Island. Solgard sets sail to pursue them.

On the 10th of June, the *Greyhound* is about fourteen leagues south of Montauk, Long Island, when a lookout spies two sloops in the distance. As the sloops approach, they hoist black flags and fire a shot. The *Greyhound* responds by hoisting His Majesty's colors and opening the gun ports. The pirates drop the black flags and replace them with red flags – meaning "No Quarter." The beating of drums is also heard.

The two pirate sloops are the *Ranger*, captained by Charles Harris, and the *Fortune*, commanded by Ned Low. The *Ranger* is a fast new Rhode Island built sloop with a rapier-like bowsprit that is almost as long as her hull. The crew of 43 has mounted eight carriage and ten swivel guns on her. Low's captured sloop is of similar design and carries a slightly larger crew.



Both pirate captains are ruthless and cruel. They have captured almost one hundred vessels, and have murdered over 85 of the crew members in the past year and a half. Both Harris and Low had been in Rhode Island waters a year earlier on a captured brigantine. Off Block Island they captured a Newport based sloop. They wounded the master, and threw overboard the sails and water supply, but the vandalized vessel did manage to reach Block Island. A whaleboat was sent to Newport to spread the alarm. Two of the best sloops in Newport Harbor were dispatched with 140 volunteers to give chase. It was futile as the pirates had disappeared among the Elizabeth Islands.

* * *

The *Fortune* and *Ranger* captains agree on how to attack the man-of-war. They plan to fire their great guns first, followed by a volley of small arms, and when close enough, heave in their powder flasks. Both vessels are to board her from the same side.

The *Greyhound* now slowly advances and comes abreast of the two pirates. The firing begins and lasts for one hour. The two pirate vessels are receiving the worst of the engagement, and they decide to break it off. They sail under the *Greyhound*'s stern on a broad reach to the north, hoping to escape in the light breeze.

The breeze soon dies and all three vessels start drifting with the current. The pirate crews put out the long oars, begin rowing, and start to move away. The *Greyhound*, falling astern, also lowers her boats. At two o'clock, the sea breeze starts to fill in and the sails are reset. At 3:30 PM, the *Fortune* is now a league and a half to weather of the *Ranger*. The *Greyhound* takes advantage of the separation and moves into firing range between the two. She sends broadsides of grape shot from both her sides. Low, with a cutlass in his hand, encourages his men, but his ship is still taking the worst beating. She soon changes course and quits the battle, leaving the *Ranger* to fend for herself.

At four o'clock, Captain Harris knows that to continue fighting is futile. Ten or more of his men are dead and eight are wounded. Pirate Thomas Powell begs Harris to blow the *Ranger* up. He pleads "It is better than being captured and hanged," but Harris pleads for quarter. At five PM the *Greyhound*, with the prisoners on board, sets sail to follow the *Fortune*, seen disappearing in the

distance to the east. In the darkness, it becomes clear it is useless to follow, so the *Greyhound* changes course and heads for Newport.

Newport now becomes the center of excitement. Church bells chime, drums beat, and noisemakers fill the air. The citizens talk of mass hangings and believe it is good for business. Newspapers also fuel the drama. More excitement is added when three of the prisoners free themselves from their irons and overpower the jailer to make an escape. Their escape does not last long as they are soon found.

On July 11, the trial begins in Newport's largest town house (now known as the White Horse Tavern). The Advocate General orders the prisoners to stand: "You are all accused of piracy on the high seas. This is a capital offense...About the tenth day of June last (you) used force and arms upon the high seas, (and) in a hostile manner did feloniously and piratical attack His Majesty's Ship *Greyhound*, Capt. Solgard Commander, and wounded seven of his men."

One of the accused, John Akin, gives a typical defense testimony: "I was forced by the pirates to join them after our ship (*Amsterdam Merchant*) was captured by captains Low and Harris off the coast of South Carolina. Low told me that they are carrying 150,000 pounds worth of loot."

The Advocate General continues: "Their pleas of not guilty because of being forced are the same of every pirate and can be of no avail to them.... The Court having duly and maturely weighed and considered the evidence against the prisoners unanimously agrees and votes that Charles Harris and the other prisoners are guilty of the piracies, robberies, and felonies exhibited (by) them. His Majesty's Council finds you guilty of piracy and sentences you to be hanged by the neck until each of you are dead."

The carpenters become busy constructing gibbets at Gravelly Point (now called the Town Pier). In a last minute request, the prisoners ask if they could die with their flag flying over them. "That flag is our Old Roger and we either live under it or die under it." By one o'clock on Friday July 19th, all twenty-eight are hanged. A barge carries the dead to the north end of Goat Island where

they bury thirteen "between the ebb and flow of tide." The remaining are buried on Fort Island (Rose Island) without markers.

Low's escape on the *Fortune* leads to more captures and killings, but his insanity and barbarism become even too much for his own crew. The crew set him adrift in an open boat without provisions. Two days later a French ship rescues him, but upon discovering who he is, turns him over to the authorities where he is given a short trial. He is hanged in Boston's outer harbor at Nick's Mate Island on July 12, 1726. The fate of the *Fortune* is unknown.

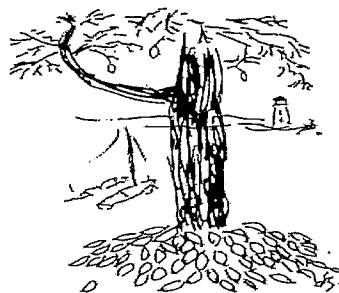
* * *

Has the *Ranger's* hull been found? It is probable that the *Greyhound's* crew scuttled the damaged *Ranger* at the battle site. Parts of a hull of an old wooden vessel were recently uncovered in the dunes in Jerusalem, just east of Matunuck. A fisherman said that, 23 years ago, he was on a dragger scouring the ocean floor 80 miles off shore (approximately the location of the *Ranger's* battle) when its net snagged something substantial. It was part of a hull that was roughly the size of the relic now sticking out of the dunes. Because nets are expensive, the skipper decided against cutting it free and to return to port and drop it in shallow water so that a diver could free the net. The hulk was then abandoned on the bottom, directly opposite the point where she lies today. Storms and currents pushed the wreckage ashore and buried it.

REFERENCES

Dow, George Francis and Edwards, John Henry, *The Pirates of the New England Coast 1630-1730*, Dover Maritime Books.

Readex Digital Collections – The Series 1: Evans, 1636-1800, "Tryals of Thirty-Six Persons for Piracy."




(Continued from page 9)


is the city's official system and that you should sign up via the city's web site.)

While urgent messages would normally be conveyed using phone or text messages, Twitter could also be used by city department heads for disseminating information about road maintenance, meeting announcements, and reports of sewer or water problems. Public "followers" could also report first-hand "in the field" information via Twitter. Last year during Tropical Storm Irene when Internet and phone service was spotty, National Grid effectively used Twitter's very short messages to keep their "followers" informed about the restoration of power. Users were also able to send short messages reporting downed lines directly to the Twitter desk at National Grid. In a range of recent disasters around the world, Twitter has proven very helpful.

Should the power grid or the Internet fail, *NewportReady* also has a significant base of city/regional radio transmission capabilities in place. In the next few months we expect to see neighborhood associations enlisting individuals who will be provided small portable VHF radios and training. Initially we expect that urgent information will be able to flow via radio within and between Newport's neighborhoods. Over time, the goal is to enhance city processes so key radio information can seamlessly flow directly to the city's public safety community. You can learn more about *NewportReady.org* by visiting the web site. It only takes two minutes to subscribe to the alerting system and we invite your questions and comments via Help@NewportReady.org.




All About Home Care^{LLC}



"From Companionship to specialized Home Health Care, our services are designed to make your choice easier ... to remain independent at home"

**Winner of the 2011
RI Small Business of the Year Award**



We can help you stay at home.


- ♥ Caring Companions
- ♥ Registered Nurses
- ♥ Certified Nurse Assistants
- ♥ Geriatric Care Management
- ♥ Certified Homemakers

Trained, Insured & Bonded
Schedules arranged to meet your needs

401-846-0727

www.allabouthomecareinri.com

- Serving Aquidneck Island & Surrounding Communities



In all the beauty
 One thing does not stay hidden:
 Please scoop the dog poop!

Laundry • Dry Cleaning • Shirt Service
Linen Supply • Tailoring • Suedes & Leathers



Bill Del Nero

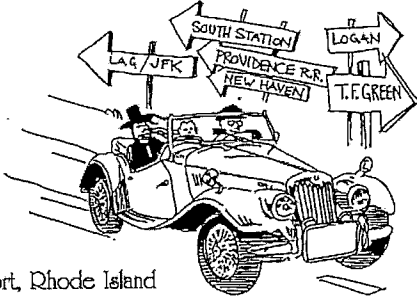
Cleaners & Laundry, Inc.

11 Arewell St
Newport
847-6800

3001 East Main Rd
Portsmouth
682-2220

17 Narragansett Ave
Jamestown
423-1142

WILLIAM L. CARTER



Newport, Rhode Island
401-662-9467
Email: billcarter@nclzero.com

"You'll love our service"

NEW DECADE, NEW SURVEY

by Jane Hence

About ten years ago, Louisa Boatwright moved to the Point and was delighted to discover that individuals and neighborhoods truly had a voice in the city and often effected needed change. This had not been her experience in previous places where she and her family had lived, and she became interested and curious about the people who were the voices. As is very typical of Louisa, she very shortly put together a one page survey requesting the thoughts of her neighbors and distributed it to the 943 houses on the Point.

As a decade has passed since then, a decision has been made to assemble a new survey. It should shed some interesting light on what we think now, who we are, and what interests we share (or do not).

Plans are for the new survey to reach every house this summer and be tallied and published in the *Green Light* or on our new website in the fall. We would be very glad to have any volunteers who might like to participate in any way – assembling the questions, distributing the surveys, summing up the results, or in any other way.

Please email or telephone either Beth Cullen or myself (Jane Hence) sometime within the next month or so. You will find our contact information on the inside front cover of the *Green Light*. We are looking forward to working with whomever is interested, for we would like to have varied interests and points of view represented in making this process fun to participate in and the results fun to read.

Colonial Travel
Incorporated

colonial_travel@hotmail.com

T: 401.849.6433 ~ F: 401.849.7503

(continued from p. 7)

greats of the Broadway musical stage such as Rodgers & Hammerstein – all composed lyrics to complement their melodies and these lyrics can stand on their own as poetry as well as being a part of the Great American Songbook. They are a far cry from what we hear on AM radio today or at my dysfunctional Health Spa, if you can even understand the “lyrics”!

But back to the Circle of Scholars... For those of you who would like to join, you can call the Circle of Scholars office at Salve Regina University (401) 341-2120 to request an application. The Circle is very popular so don't delay if you are interested. He/she who hesitates is lost!



KITTY CORNER CAT CLINIC
COMPLETE VETERINARY CARE EXCLUSIVELY FOR CATS

401-845-VETS (8387)
42 Spring Street

Dr. Deb Harris, DVM
www.kittycornerclinic.com

Open Monday 8-8, Tu-Fr 8-5

Since 1854, our mission has been
the collection, preservation and interpretation
of Newport County history.



Image: Newport Historical Society Collections

THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

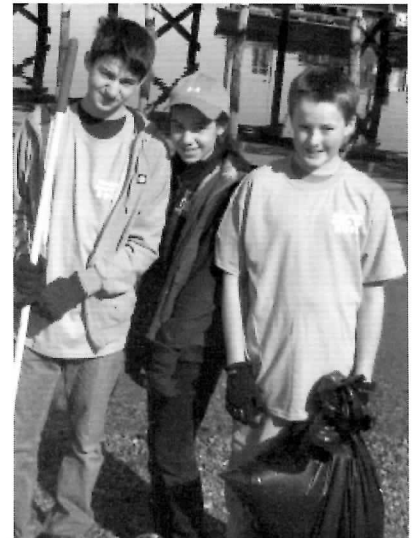
82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 401-846-0813

www.NewportHistory.org



ON THE BEACH:

with help from
John Ward, Beth O'Shea, someone in
the shadows --
Peter Dunbar, Michael and Julia
Ludwig:



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday ~ April 28

Photos by Jane Hence and Beth Cullen



IN THE PARK:

with help from
Beth Cullen. Zu-
leika Ludwig, Lisa
Lewis, Ilse Nesbitt,
Mac Cullen and
Louisa Boatwright



Patrick's

RESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Professional Property management services
specializing in rental turnover, maintenance and
repair, cleaning, and sub-contractor manage-
ment. PATRICKS is a one-stop source for all
service providers including trusted and licensed
Electricians, Plumbers, Media services,
Caterers, Landscape Design and Maintenance,
and other specialties.

Just Call PATRICKS!

Point References available

Patrick W. McGrath, Owner
16 Mann Avenue, Newport, RI

Email: Patrick@patricksr.com
Office: 401-849-8020

www.patricksr.com
RI License #17329

(Continued from page 6)

about it as it was in the 1970s and before that time and mentioning that these lovely old houses in poor condition had been cut up into apartments for sailors from the nearby navy base. "Many were in wretched condition... slums really," in Mrs. Benson's words. The Newport Restoration Foundation, founded in 1968, over the next eight years "transformed the face of the Point and the city's other architecturally-rich area, Historic Hill" and at the date of this Providence paper's piece, owned and rented out fifty restored colonial houses. In 1976, the foundation estimates their worth at \$9.2 million, which places it "second only to the local electric company in taxes paid, about \$89,000 last year."

Dick Weiss, Newport's tax assessor at the time he was interviewed, said that the foundation had offered property owners of this now more comfortable and certainly far less derelict area, an implicit guarantee that investment in their homes was a safe one (in retrospect, certainly an understatement.) Those living in these restored homes refer to themselves as DDT's (Doris Duke's Tenants). Dick goes on to say that people from out of town "refer to Doris Duke more than to the [NRF]. There is a glamour aspect to it."

Further notes on Miss Duke from the *Sunday Journal*: "...her generosity seems endless. Though the foundation keeps most of its records closed, the latest annual report shows she donated about \$764,500 in 1975 alone." Miss Duke's contribution of funds and great interest in Newport and its historical districts greatly increased purchases and restoration by NRF and by many private buyers and owners. Her wisdom, foresight, perseverance and generosity are still felt today, perhaps in even larger measure.

Dick Weiss, after selling his house on Walnut Street after Sara's death, moved west to be with his son and grandchildren and one great grandchild this spring. I am greatly saddened to report that Dick died in his sleep in his 92nd year. He was a delightful, vitally alive and interested person and contributed to the vitality and closeness of those of us who lived across the street and on "his corner." We will remember both Sara and Dick for many reasons. Not least, because this piece is based upon the old newspapers he found when packing up to move and gave to me and because these newspaper pages will remain in the Point Association archives.



The Rhumblin
Sixty-two Bridge Street
"Live Jazz Piano Friday & Saturday Nights"
401-849-3999

CHM SERVICE
Concierge and
Household Management

*Organize your home and
lifestyle and give yourself
the freedom and peace
of mind you desire. . .*

Carmen Rivera Smith 401-714-2429
crs@chmservice.com CHMSERVICE.COM



The Newport Butler Did It
Detailed House Cleaning
Since 1996



Satisfaction Guaranteed
One Time or Full Time

Ask About My Other Services

Ask for Robert Sevey ~ 847-5940

Chuck DiTucci
Landscape Gardener
Middletown, RI
401-846-6576



Healthy & Organic Gardening

POINT READERS

by Suzanne Varisco

As in past years, the *Green Light* is offering a varied list of titles for summer reading, with no specific choices or discussion dates during those lazy, hazy days ahead. As a new feature, however, we are scheduling a very informal get-together at 35 Washington St., on Wednesday, August 1, at 2:00 p.m., to share recent books we've enjoyed, with one another.

NONFICTION:

Nicholas Carr, *The Shallows*: A history of communication concluding with the digital age

Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

John Maxtone-Graham, *Titanic Tragedy: A New Look at the Lost Liner*

David McCullough, *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*
Ahmed Rashid, *In Pakistan on the Brink: The future of America, Pakistan and Afghanistan*

Hester Rumberg, *Ten Degrees of Reckoning: A True Story of Survival*

Anna Sebba, *"That Woman": The Life of Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor*

Jeff Shesol, *Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. The Supreme Court*

FICTION:

Alan Bennett, *The Uncommon Reader*, Queen Elizabeth II discovers literature, with subversive results.

Geraldine Brooks, *Caleb's Crossing*, based on 17th-C. Harvard College's first native American student

Anthony Doerr, *About Grace*. A father's search for his only daughter comes to a less-than-perfect ending.

Emma Donoghue, *Room*. Five-year-old Jack tells of his release from captivity, together with his mother.

Donna Leon, *Aqua Alta*, Fifth in the series about America's favorite Italian detective, Guido Brunetti

Toni Morrison, *A Mercy*, about 17th-C. slavery in America
Christopher Peachment, *Caravaggio*, the controversial Baroque artist's confession, told in brutal prose

Vikram Seth, *An Equal Music*: Two musicians (former lovers) reconnect, only to face a daunting truth.

Abraham Verghese, *Cutting for Stone*. Orphaned twin brothers come of age in Revolutionary Ethiopia.

Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*. A young girl learns to love books in book-burning Nazi Germany

RSVP Suzanne Varisco, 841-5220 and srvarisco@gmail.com

Rep. Peter Martin
District 75
Newport



Serving the residents of the Point
for many years.

Phone: [401] 924-2402

Email: Rep75@StacyHouse.com



...Your private chefs...

SOPHIA PENDERGAST
401-846-8513

MILES CHANDLER
401-474-0302

SAUCERY@COX.NET

Intimate dinners
Cocktail receptions
Yacht charters
Wine pairing dinners
Picnics and box lunches
In home or on location
Interactive dinner parties
Full range concierge services
Cooking classes and demonstrations
Extended chefs services for vacation rentals

www.Saucerychefs.com

Willow's Edge

Custom Garden Containers
& Window Boxes

Sue Brandon ~ 401.644-8892

SPRING MEMBERS' MEETING

by Joan Rauch

St. John's Guild Hall was the setting for the Point Association Spring Membership meeting which was held on April 19. President Beth Cullen welcomed the approximate 50 members in attendance.

A representative from St. John's Church announced that the congregation, by way of a committee, is in the process of interviewing and selecting a new pastor. Also newsworthy is that money continues to be collected for the repair of the church bells which are soon to ring again both on the hour and the half hour.

Committee Chairs updated the members with timely information. Jack Maytum announced that there are currently 329 Point Association members. Announcements are being sent out by way of email, and if you are not receiving emails, please look in your spam folder and instruct your computer system to allow emails from the Point Association. If you are concerned that you are not receiving current information, you may sign up on the association's website, ThePointAssociation.org.

Laurie Shaw announced that the annual plant sale will be held on May 26 in St. John's parking lot. She asked that if you have any plants to share, please do so. If you would like, Laurie will even come to dig up the plants after you identify which ones. Also, plants remaining after the Newport in Bloom sale will be brought over to St. John's. This year, too, the sale will offer house plants as well as outdoor plants, and for the first time, there will be a white elephant sale focusing on garden things. All monies collected for the sale will go to the general beautification fund, specifically, to the Mary Fazzoli Park. If you would like to assist in any facet of the sale, please contact Laurie at lauriceshaw@msn.com.

Jane Hence spoke about the upcoming survey that is currently in consideration. There are 950 households that will be asked what the association could do better and what kind of information is needed or wanted about the neighborhood. Anyone interested in serving on the committee to compile the questions, deliver the survey, tally the results and or write those results for the *Green Light* is asked to contact Jane or Beth.

Mike Cullen strongly encouraged every household to sign up for CodeRed on the CityofNewport.com website. This is a vehicle to give you up to date information on storms, crimes, etc. It is important to give your cellphone number. A second preparedness avenue is newly introduced, NewportReady, which facilitates communications and is a resource coordinator. Sign up on the Newportready.org website.

Newport Tree Society representative, Lisa Lewis, spoke about the importance of this organization in preserving, protecting and regenerating Newport's urban forest, including its renowned specimen trees. Some of the programs facilitated by the Newport Tree Society are the commemorative tree program, tree walks by neighborhood, and naming and tagging trees. Lisa reminded members of Newport Arboretum Week which was held during the week of April 23. For those with an iPhone, iPod Touch or Android, there is a free app called Newport Tree Walk that identifies trail walks in area neighborhoods.

City Manager, Jane Howington, was introduced and spoke about several city issues and events. Jane announced that Newport recently received the Rhode Island Insurance Trust Award for the efforts in reducing tripping accidents on town sidewalks. Newport is gearing up for a very busy summer. Some improvements being considered in the very near future are to put in a restroom at 40 Steps on the Cliff Walk, phone apps for parking, and developing bike awareness for the major city events. The America's Cup World Series will take place at the end of June, but the negative impact felt by residents will happen in early June when trucking will bring in containers holding everything that is need for the World Series. Parking issues are being discussed as well as ferry service from Perroti Park to Ft. Adams for the race.

A little of this and a little of that: Jane mentioned the July 4th celebration and announced that the Tall Ship Festival begins on July 5. Currently there are 9 – 11 ships expected. She reported that Lower Thames paving would take three weeks and would begin on April 24. The Broadway Project is currently going out to bid. There will be an advisory committee named for

(Continued on page 18)

HARBOR HOUSE NEWS

by Liz Mathinos

THE GOOD NEWS!



Barbara Peters, Pierre Merle and Chayan Medina

Harbor House residents and neighbors enjoyed a delicious lamb dinner on Easter Sunday. The lamb roasts, prepared by Chayan Medina and Pierre Merle, neighbors on Battery Street, were served in the dining room, elegantly decorated with spring flowers on every table. Residents and neighbors enjoyed the day of camaraderie and community spirit, which Ade Bethune envisioned for Harbor House. All the guests of this kind neighborly effort gave a resounding round of thank-you applause to Chayan and Pierre and their helpers. Chayan is studying at Johnson and Wales for a "Chefs" degree and is planning to open his own restaurant after graduation.



LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP

Last Fall, new Harbor House resident Jane Barrows started a Lyme Disease Support Group, which meets the third Thursday of each month from 6-7:30 PM, in the dining room, to discuss the latest treatments for Lyme Disease and to share personal stories of success with finding doctors, medications, etc. that have helped in recovery. Jane has invited speakers, knowledgeable in all aspects of Lyme Disease, to speak and to discuss their areas of expertise. If you are interested, email address is lymenewport@gmail.com, and your name shall be added to the group list for notices of meetings and information.

THE BAD NEWS!

On Thursday, April 19th, Harbor House residents were awakened by the fire alarm at 5:30 AM, with flames

reaching the second floor from the railing of the front porch. An alert Navy jogger had seen a flower planter spontaneously combust (after smoldering all night) and called 911. Within a few minutes, the Fire Department responded and with residents standing on the lawn, the firemen quickly put out the flames and determined how smoke was pouring from the corner of the third floor. Residents were allowed back into the dining room, while the hours passed to make sure the fire was out. An inconsiderate smoker had stubbed out a cigarette the afternoon before in a flower planter on the porch of the former Auchincloss House. After it smoldered all night and ignited dramatically just as the jogger passed by on Washington Street, everyone was thankful for a very efficient and quickly responding Fire Department. Extensive restoration work began immediately with three residents relocated until June.

A NEW BOOK-CHAT VENUE

by Mary Barrett

Harbor House will be the location for a new "Book-Chats" format book discussion beginning May 16th from 11:00 to 12:00 noon. No registration, no sign-in – just come and talk about current books you are reading or about old favorites. The discussion will be lead by Mary O'Neill-Barrett of the Newport Public Library staff.

For more information, please call Mary Barrett at 847-8720 Ext. 115 or contact her online at mary-books@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

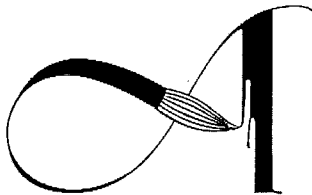
(Continued from page 17)

the North End beautification project. Communication will be handled differently in the city now; each department will become responsible for its own communications, and a Facebook page will open soon. In late summer, residents will be asked for input on transportation, parking, and economic plans for the city. A variety of non-related issues were brought up in a question and answer period, and the City Manager encouraged any resident with a specific question or concern to email her via the city website.

Finally, President Beth Cullen reminded members of the plant sale and adjourned the meeting.

Trusted by
Aquidneck Islanders
for Quality & Service
since 1870!

Now Offering Engraving



arnoldart.com

ARNOLD ART GALLERY

210 THAMES STREET
NEWPORT, RI 02840
800-352-2234

ARNOLD ART CENTRE

700 AQUIDNECK AVENUE
MIDDLETOWN, RI 02842
401-846-3349

WINDOW SAVERS

Restoration & Repair

Laurice Shaw
401-846-3945

phone/fax

77 Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd.
Newport, RI 02840
newportwindowssavers@aol.com
www.newportwindowssavers.com

**AD
RATES:**
4 issues
1/8 page
\$75/yr

1/4 page
\$125/yr

Call Jack
439-7443

VOLUNTEER

SIT IN A
SECRET
GARDEN
& get a free ticket

JUNE 29
JUNE 30
JULY 1

Call:
401-439-7253

or
info@secretgardentours.org

THE POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Checks should be made payable to The Point Association and mailed with this form to
PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. A subscription to The Green Light is included.*

NOTE: PATRONS and SUBSCRIBERS names are printed annually in *The Green Light*.

If you prefer NOT to have your name printed, please check here ____.

____ Individual \$10

____ Family \$15

____ Subscriber \$25

____ Patron \$40

Please check membership status: renewal ☐ new ☐

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES

Your participation is welcome. Please check the categories for volunteering.

☐ Beautification

☐ Waterfront

☐ The Green Light

☐ Plant Sale

☐ Membership

☐ Event Planning

☐ History and Archives

SAVE THE DATES
invite a neighbor and participate

Point Picnic, June 28, 6:00 p.m., 62 Washington Street

Point Association Cocktail Party, August 16, 6:00, Villa Marina, 72 Washington Street

It's on the Point
LONG WHARF FARMERS' MARKET
July 10—October 26, 2012
Hours: Friday 2-6

>>>>>>> **Make it a Point**
to visit www.thepointassociation.org...

There you will be able to renew your membership,
and learn about Point events between issues of *The Green Light!*

THE GREEN LIGHT

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

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport, RI
Permit No. 36

OR CURRENT RESIDENT