

The
GREEN

LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2015



The GREEN LIGHT

LIX No. 3

FALL 2015

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*Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday
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Please call Beth for time, date, and location.*

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



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 photo

*The Green Light and Super Planter:
Two Special Sights on The Point* by Lisa Stuart.

The Green Light is published four times each year: the
first week of March, June, September, and December.



With this edition of the *Green Light*, we wrap up a summer exceptional for its gardens and planters, music, out of the ordinary sailing events, and look forward to the unknown of seasons to come. Much the same can be said of the Point Association itself at this 60 year juncture in its history. These last few weeks of summer mark the end of Beth Cullen's term-limited tenure as president of the Point Association. Beth's leadership has been characterized by an exceptional energy, openness, and inclusive vision of the Point, not only as a historical and geographical entity but as a community within a community, where the interests of both clearly touch all. Her letter to us this time around says it all.

Again, we do not know what will come next. It will be a tough act to follow, as the saying goes. Thank you, Beth, for all you have done in the service of both Newport and the Point. All good wishes for a new venture as satisfying as we hope this one has been

Alice Clemente

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"The view is mesmerizing," in the haze of a classic August twilight I overheard someone say, as the party drew to a close on the veranda of Anne Cuvelier's lovely Villa Marina. Another coming together, another memory made in a predictable cadence of events, which through the years have kept the association vibrant. Good conversation, wonderful food, and gracious hospitality all set in a one of a kind historically preserved neighborhood, called The Point.

As my term-limited tenure as president winds down, I want to say that it has been an honor to serve a neighborhood that I love. Sailing this ship in the right direction takes much effort. So, to all who have taken time out of their busy lives to support the association's mission, I say "Thank You!" With far too many people to list, and far too many accomplishments to note, please all take a bow for your amazing contributions which keep our traditions alive.

Beautification, preservation, and socializing, three of the main tenets that buoy our "ye olde" neighborhood association have been well honed over the years. We prevail with an influx of new volunteer energy, mixed with the guidance of those who have been involved for years. What needs urgent attention is perhaps the aim most difficult to achieve, "to promote public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods." Here is where you can really help by actively coming together, sharing experiences, and working with city officials.

The Point sits betwixt two stark realities as a virtual fulcrum where we have an opportunity to create balance. If one overtakes the other, all are at risk. An incongruent juxtaposition. To our north, we have underdeveloped lands and families struggling to achieve the basics. To our south, we have a harbor teeming with yachts and a wharf district replete with upscale restaurants, hotels, and shops. These stark contrasts are right off the pages of Dickens, Fitzgerald, and Wilder.

Please step into the arena and find ways to improve our community. Ask tough questions of our elected leaders. Challenge unfulfilled promises. Sit on a commission, or better yet run for office. No matter if you are here year round, or for a season or two, your experience and voice matters.

Clearly our founders saw the Point's promise. They knew that those who cherished it had a responsibility to care for it. Six decades later, we carry on their work. Over these 60 years, many Newport neighborhood groups have come and gone. The Point Association has endured, I believe, because of the regular rhythm of monthly meetings that keep the conversation going, and time-honored events that bind neighbors together.

Keep it up. Bring fresh ideas and energy forward. Don't depend on others to take care of things. Get involved. Your direct participation is key to the resiliency and constancy of our special place. We are an enduring example of what great things can be accomplished through the spirit of giving back to the community.

I will see you at Annual Meeting, Thursday, 22 October, 7pm, in the St. John's Guild Hall. Until then, enjoy the beauty of the fall season here on the Point!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Beth Cullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

“THE FRENCH ARE COMING – THE FRENCH ARE COMING”

by Ed Madden

Sounds like a takeoff on that 1960s Cold War Hollywood movie, “The Russians are Coming – the Russians are Coming”, doesn’t it, however, the French have “come” in their very impressive 3 masted frigate, the 216 foot Replica Tall Ship, *L’Hermione*, and have taken Newport by storm!

L’Hermione is an exact replica of the original warship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to these shores in the 1780s to assist General George Washington and his beleaguered troops in their battle for independence from the British. The much needed and appreciated French troops, supplies and naval support of *L’Hermione* with 26 cannons and other French warships plus the emotional high of having a courageous French ally boosted the spirits of the American troops in their fight for independence. Additional leadership from the Comte de Rochambeau, a French general, and his 6000 troops, further aided the American cause. The Marquis de Lafayette acted as a liaison between generals Washington and Rochambeau.

In recent years, the French decided to recreate the original *L’Hermione* which initially took 11 months to build in the French port of Rochefort. The French wished to pay homage to their native son, the Marquis de Lafayette, and selected the same port and building techniques that had been employed for the original frigate. 2000 oak trees were selected for the hull with numerous French artisans handcrafting some 400,000 separate pieces of oak. 26 cannons were cast in the foundry and more than 15 miles of hemp rope were utilized for the rigging. 19 linen sails encompassing more than 2200 square yards were hand stitched for the sails on the 3 masts. It is estimated that *L’Hermione* took almost 20 years to fully complete and 30 million dollars to set sail! As a concession to the modern era, 2 engines and numerous bathrooms (i.e. heads) were added.

Newport and particularly Fort Adams hosted *L’Hermione* during its 2 day visit on July 9 and 10, 2015. The *Hermione’s* crew of men and women sailors under the command of captain Yana Carion reveled in the pomp and circumstance bestowed upon them. The



U.S. Navy Band Northeast serenaded the visitors and from *L’Hermione’s* deck talented crew members answered with bagpipe and flute, with the French crew performing sailing ditties that were sung with gusto. Colorful nautical attire was worn by the French crew and the host American militia was not to be outdone with uniforms of authentic patriotic style and quality. The Kentish Guard Fife and Drum Corps performed with their usual patriotic elan. Many reenactors were on exhibit, with General Washington towering over his entourage! Many dignitaries were present, speeches were rendered, food and drink were abundant, and multiple toasts were raised to “Liberty – Fraternity – and Vive la France.”

It was with much reluctance that the mooring lines were eventually released to allow *L’Hermione* to continue on her good will voyage up the Northeast Coast and then eventually across the Atlantic Ocean to her new home in France.

Bon Voyage,
Hermione!

Photo
credits:
Top, Tom
Kennedy

Bottom,
Dave Moore



Letter re Manuel Brothers Warehouse

I will start off by telling you how much I enjoyed the article in the *Green Light*. I own the lot on Cherry St. which is directly across the street from Manuel Brothers Warehouse. This building was sold to Mr. Joshua Nemtzwow in 1972 or 1973. He owned J & N furniture store which was located on the corner of Coddington St. and Thames St. He used the warehouse as a storage building for his furniture store. He sold the building in 1983. Mr. Nemtzwow confirmed the dates for me. I sent him a copy of the *Green Light*; it was nice talking to him. I will go on to tell you about my own experience of Manuel Brothers Building. When I was in Junior High School I was good friends with Norma Manuel (Elton Manuel's daughter). The date at that time was probably 1946/47. We used to go into the building, up to the second floor where there was a small room with old trunks in it. In those trunks were old dresses, hats and shoes. Looking back I think they may have been old theatrical trunks left in storage and never picked up. We spent some wonderful hours with these treasures. We would refold them and put them back in the trunk for the next time. Further on in your article you mentioned Elizabeth Chapman and her father Bill Chapman. Liz was the cousin of my longtime friend Amy Keefe Hulslander. That was her mother's brother, "Uncle Bill". Amy grew up on Maitland Ct. The family moved to her grandparents' house on 6 LaSalle St. after the death of her grandmother to take care of her grandfather, John Chapman. I have also mailed a copy of the *Green Light* to Amy. I'm sure she will enjoy reading it. Again I enjoyed the article and look forward to each edition.

Mary Bolhouse Gainey
6 Katzman Pl. Newport

MORE ABOUT THE MANUEL BROTHERS MOVING AND STORAGE

by Lisa Stuart

As you may recall, my article on the Manuel Brothers left readers with a bit of a mystery regarding the cottage located at 6 Pine Street. A *Green Light* article from 1968 written by Elton Manuel stated that the Manuel Brothers started their business in a barn located on Second Street and Pine. When they moved their business, the barn was moved back on the property and converted to a cottage. I was unable to find confirmation of this by the time we went to press.

While working in the Point Association's archives last week, I found a newspaper article dated February 28, 1933 that confirmed that the house was previously a barn. (Unfortunately, the name of the newspaper was not on the clipping.) Much credit for this find goes to John Ward and Beth O'Shea who organized the "houses and buildings" files over the winter.

The article states that "the owner [George Barker] will occupy this fine cottage, converted from a barn, and having six rooms, when it is completed by Hiram Cook and Fred Spooner..." Among the features noted were oak floors, built-in kitchen with combination sink in the pantry, built-in tile bath, copper leaders and open porch. In the photo, the house looks much like it does today. George, who was a cabinet maker, lived in the house with his wife Agnes until he passed away at the age of 85 in 1958. Agnes lived there until she passed in 1966 at age 84.

A visit to the Tax Assessor's Office confirmed this information, showing that the property had a building on it in 1913 which was expanded and increased in value in 1933 from \$500 to \$2000. It also confirmed that the property was owned by George and Agnes Barker and then by Agnes until 1967.

I was also very happy to receive two wonderful emails from Norma Manuel Foltz who provided a correction and additional information about Manuel Brothers Moving and Storage. I share them with you below:

Hello,
I was so interested in the article about the above subject. Paul Manuel is my nephew, Elton Manuel my father, Edwin Manuel my grandfather. Edwin is Elton's father, not Lloyd (a brother) and I'm not sure Lloyd helped Edwin start the business. I do know that Arthur Manuel (a brother), did help get the business started. Elton Manuel ran a used furniture store at 50 Thames Street for years and unfortunately never wanted to work at the trucking business.

When I graduated from Rogers High School in 1951, I went to work in the office at the Third Street location and worked there until I got married and left Newport in 1953.

My brother (Allan Manuel) and I had some great times playing at the warehouse at both Cherry Street and Third Street and watching the men packing furniture for a cross country trip in a moving van. Also we used to come across big barrels full of large sheets of chewing gum and some we could still have.

I'm writing mainly to get the family history correct about Edwin and Elton.

Thanks, Norma Manuel Foltz

After I responded to Norma to thank her for the information, she sent me this second email:

*Dear Lisa,
So good to hear from you, one more correction, my brother Allan (Paul's father) never worked at Manuel Bros. that I can remember. We used to play out there as kids but he and my father just weren't interested in the business which was a shame and I'm sure a disappointment to my grandfather, Edwin. I did work there tho, once I was thru with school and would have stayed much longer if I hadn't gotten married to a very cute sailor and had to move away.*

I have some great memories of living on the Point and enjoyed that everything we needed was within walking distance which has spoiled me living in other places where you need a car or taxi to get anyplace.

*Thanks,
Norma*

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS, OVER LUNCH

by Beth Cullen

Last spring a school volunteer approached me and asked if the Point Board would be able to round up a few volunteers to help with the summer lunch program for a week or two. I thought, why not? It would be a great way to build community and to get to know our neighbors who live right next door in Bayside Village.



Did you know that at least 62% of children in Newport receive Free or Reduced meals during the school year? Rhode Island is one of only a few states to be awarded a grant through the National League of Cities that works to close the gap of food access during the ten weeks that school is out during the summer.

For a couple of weeks in August, a few Board members spent some time at the Bayside “Tot-Lot” visiting with the children and their parents while they had their lunch. The experience was made extra special thanks to Point Association Board member, Joan Simmons. Joan is on the library’s “Friends” board. She knew of cases

of used books that were destined for the trash. Joan sorted and organized boxes of “rescued” books for all ages. They were a BIG hit with everyone! Joan also brought blankets and sheets for the children to sit on while eating and reading. It was wonderful to see, and so rewarding to have a rising second grader share her impressive reading skills with us!

The time spent was so enjoyable that we are already planning to extend it throughout next summer. If you have a couple of hours to spare from time to time, enjoy reading to and with the children, or perhaps like to organize games, music, and crafts, we would love to hear from you. Join us next year as we get to know our neighbors and pass on the love of books, while having some summer fun! Contact Beth Cullen, 848-2945, bethcullen@cox.net to get on the volunteer list for next year’s program.



Photos by Joan Simmons

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MY NEWPORT BASED DESTROYER

by Dave Moore

Recently a friend posted on Facebook a picture of a modern *Arleigh Burke*, ballistic missile destroyer. My comment to her was: “I served on an earlier version sixty years ago.” She needled me back: “Did it have sails?” I can’t say the age of sail is over when I see the tall ships *L’Hermione*, *Oliver Hazard Perry*, and sometimes the Coast Guard *Eagle*, sail in and out of the bay. Actually, the age of steam boilers for destroyers is over. Destroyers had used steam boilers since the end of the 19th century, and my ship had four immense ones driving steam turbines for the two propeller shafts. These gave us about 60,000 horsepower. Today gas turbine propulsion is used and it produces over 100,000 horsepower.

My ship, *USS Brownson*, left Newport in October of 1956 and spent a month of arduous drills and exercises at our naval base in Guantanamo (Gitmo), Cuba. Most involved antisubmarine warfare (ASW) exercises. This meant the submarines would play “hide and seek” war games while planes, blimps, helicopters, Coast Guard ships, or destroyers tried to find them. Sometimes we would work independently and at other times with each other.

Guantanamo was not all work and no play. We spent many evenings at the Officers’ Club where we mingled with some of the pilots, surface, and submarine officers. The drink of choice was Cuba Libre (similar to Rum and Coke) or the popular beer called Hatuey. There was a lot of banter. This is a story I told about what happened a few days earlier.

We were working with a helicopter and it had picked up the sound of our submerged sub. It was hovering over a spot with a microphone under water hanging from a long wire. Our sonar also picked up the sub and we “went in for the attack”. In time of war, she ship would use twenty-four small mortar bombs called hedgehogs. These were fired from a movable rack of spiked, spigot fittings near the bow of the ship. All the hedgehogs would be fired at once. The salvo would fly out a few hundred yards in front of the ship and make an almost perfect ring as bombs only exploded on contact. This achieved a higher sinking rate against submarines than did the depth charges, as sonar signals were not lost in

the noise of the explosions. In practice we used only one unarmed hedgehog. The chance of hitting the sub with only one of these was extremely rare.

During the exercise, our ASW officer sent up information to the bridge as to the suggested course and distance to the contact. As we changed course, I noticed the hedgehog rack was pointing at the hovering helicopter. The captain yelled down to the officer: “Don’t fire! Don’t fire!” Bang! Up flew the hedgehog right over the spinning blades of the helicopter – a near miss. “Ensign Vaughn, report to the bridge immediately”, shouted the captain over the 1MC general announcing system. Every year Gene Vaughn and I exchange cards. I always include a friendly jab.

There were a few other adventures I enjoyed while in Cuba. Our ship was sent to Santiago for a few days of rest and relaxation. There I saw the bullet holes on the front steps of the Palace of Justice where five of Castro’s rebels attacked and started his revolution. I climbed San Juan Hill where Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders fought and enjoyed all the frozen daiquiris you could drink at the Bacardi Rum factory.

When we got back to Gitmo, we were told to load more ammunition as we were to go out to search for a possible Russian submarine spotted off Puerto Rico. The Suez Canal crisis was going on and the Soviet Union, at odds with us, was supporting Egypt. We didn’t find any sign of a rogue submarine, but during the trip, a sailor on board came down with appendicitis. Our crew was elated, as it meant liberty for them in San Juan. But it was Easter Sunday and all the bars, clubs and liquor stores were closed.

We always looked forward to coming back to Newport. It was usually my job, as the Communications Officer, to radio our approach by using our call signs saying: “Dancer Newport, Dancer Newport, this is Grease Grease – request permission to enter port and berthing instructions.” If we were lucky. . . we were told to lay alongside the new destroyer pier. If not, we were told to moor at a buoy off Goat Island where we had to wait for the launches to ferry us in.



It wasn't long before we were assigned to have ASW exercises with the new nuclear powered submarine *Nautilus* located at Groton, Ct. This would be the first time the *Nautilus* would work with a destroyer. Our captain told us we were at the top of our game because of the recent drills in Gitmo and we should show this new sub our abilities.


I remember seeing a different, slicker, and longer submarine when the *Nautilus* powered out on the surface abreast of us. Unlike the Guppy Class subs we were working with in Guantanamo, she had no snorkel to charge her batteries. Because I was the Officer of the Deck during the drills, I made the radio contact with the *Nautilus*. I asked her if she was familiar with the planned exercises we were about to have and she replied "affirmative".

It only took a few minutes before our ASW officer reported "lost contact". We were surprised as she had just submerged. We immediately went into our sweeping hunt to regain contact. Our speed was only about fifteen knots, as any faster, the sonar signals get lost in the noise. I didn't know at the time (and it was classified) that the *Nautilus* was capable of doing over twenty knots under water while the Guppy subs could only do about eight knots.

The starboard lookout yelled out that he saw a torpedo coming directly at us. I ran to the side of the bridge and saw this fast moving wake to right under us amidships. We drew nineteen feet and I assume the dummy

torpedo was set at a depth of about twenty-five feet. When the *Nautilus* surfaced, I radioed them: "Good shooting, you got us right about mid-ships." We held one more exercise and almost the identical thing happened. A second torpedo went right under us.

On our trip back to Newport, we were discouraged at how easy it was for this nuclear sub to "sink us". Yet, we were in awe of the new submarine capabilities. Radar and ASW aircraft which had proved crucial in defeating submarines during the war, also proved ineffective against the *Nautilus* because of her ability to move rapidly out of the area, change depth quickly, and stay submerged for long periods. We also felt our sonar and ASW tactics were now obsolete.




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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

by Lisa Stuart

The Point Association is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. During this time, the Point has seen many changes—the closing of the torpedo station and redevelopment of Goat Island, changes in commerce, the restoration of homes and the building of the bridge. Throughout those changes we have remained a tight-knit community where neighbors all know each other, children swim off the pier in the summer, and we all work together to preserve our historic neighborhood.

Our History and Archives Committee has often talked about the many wonderful stories long-time members of our neighborhood have about major events and their daily lives. But being novice history lovers we did not feel we had the expertise to embark on an oral history project without guidance. Fortunately, Alice Clemente introduced us to her friend Holly Ewald who in turn introduced us to Lindsay French, PhD, Associate Professor, Rhode Island School of Design. Lindsay has generously agreed to help us.

Lindsay is an anthropologist and teaches oral history at RISD. “Life stories tend to be powerful material, and very inspirational,” Lindsay explained. She is helping our committee learn how to listen to these stories and suggest ways of thinking about them. We are also learning to think through various ways of presenting the oral material. Tom Ricci, a recent RISD graduate, is helping us with the technical aspects of recording the conversations and editing them.

We are now in the process of identifying people who would like to share their memories with us. The conversation can take place at Harbor House or in your home. The conversation will last about ½ hour to 1 hour and will be conducted by John Ward, Lisa Brew or Lisa Stuart, with assistance from Beth O’Shea. It is our goal to capture stories about life on the Point and share them with Pointers, researchers and others interested in our unique neighborhood.

If you would like to share your memories with us, please email us at historyandarchives@thepointassociation.org

Ade’s Tree



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PLANT SALE

by Lisa Stuart

The Point Association's annual Plant Sale took place on a beautiful May day on the grounds of St. John's Church. Laurie Shaw who organized the overwhelmingly successful event declared, "What a team! We raised \$3,082 in gross sales."

The plants were beautifully displayed in groups of annuals, perennials, and herbs thanks to the hard work of Tom Hockaday, Beth O'Shea, John Ward, Kathy Ward and Laurie Shaw. Joan Simmons, Mary Sheehan and Barbara Bessette helped customers find the best plants for their gardens based on the sun and soil conditions. Volunteers Elizabeth Stetson, Ron Barr, Pam Kelly, and Lisa Stuart helped with set-up, keeping the tables organized and check-out. The sale also included a beautiful fountain, garden tools, sun umbrellas, an outdoor table and chair set and a number of clever container gardens.

Nancy Scott was the cashier-extraordinaire. She kept lines moving while greeting every customer with a smile. Mike Conroy provided the muscle in carrying the heavy plants and accessories to customers' cars.



Teddi Shaw and her volunteers hosted a refreshment stand that added to the festivities. The money raised from the refreshment stand went to St. John's. The delicious cookies, muffins and beverages were enjoyed by the plant sale customers and volunteers alike.

Many thanks to the Preservation Society, Friends of Truro Park and Chase's Greenhouse for their professional support and donations. Thanks also to the many



Pointers who in the great tradition of our community donated plants from their gardens to the sale. Pointers may recall that it was the much-loved Isabel (Isy) Eccles who began the tradition when she asked the ladies who attended her Apple Blossom Coffee to bring along seedlings and clippings from their gardens. They were sold at the event and proceeds used to beautify the neighborhood.

All the volunteers had a wonderful time at a post-sale party at the lovely home of Mike and Trudy Conroy.

Photos by Lisa Stewart



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SAMUEL COLMAN (1832-1920)

by Tom Kennedy

Samuel Colman has been described as a “versatile, prolific, admired and successful” (1) American artist, and even a brief biography bears out this description. Raised in the atmosphere of his father’s Manhattan shop, where books and fine engravings were sold and where artists and writers frequently gathered, Samuel took an early interest in art and culture. He established a studio in New York City in 1854 and, at the age of 22, became an associate member of the National Academy. His early oils were rendered in the style of the Hudson River School landscape painters, but he would later paint in a less naturalistic and more impressionistic fashion.



Colman was one of the first American artists to take the medium of water colors seriously. He was a founder of the American Society of Painters in Water Colors in 1866, and was elected the Society’s first president. In 1878 he became a member of the New York Etching Club, supporting and advancing another of his artistic interests. He was also a passionate and frequent traveler and produced many depictions of far-flung and exotic locations, especially the American west, Mexico,

Europe, North Africa, and Japan. In the 1870’s Colman’s art commanded top-dollar prices, surpassing the value of works by such contemporaries as Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins. He also became known for his collection of and expertise in oriental art, particularly art from Persia, Japan and China. In addition, he made a name for himself in interior design, working with such luminaries as Louis Tiffany, John La Farge and William Morris Hunt. His artistic interests and talent seemed to know no bounds.

Samuel Colman also summered in Newport, where he built a large, gracious house in 1882. The architects of the house, Messrs. McKim, Meade and White, worked with Colman on a design incorporating a first story of stone, a second of brick, and a timbered upper level. The interior of the home had an oriental cast, with Persian and Chinese rugs and vases, and beautiful objects and scrolls from Japan. The walls also displayed works of Colman and other artists, including Delacroix, Corot, Roybet and Rembrandt. The house is now a multi-family residence at 7 Red Cross Avenue.

Works of Samuel Colman (of which he is said to have produced over 1000) may be found today in many museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. He died in his home at Central Park West in New York City. The *New York Times* referred to him as a





This painting is entitled "Finish -- First International Race for America's Cup -- August 8, 1870" The race took place in Portsmouth, England.

most American landscape painter and a noted etcher.” (2) But he was nonetheless soon forgotten and has only been rediscovered recently as a part of a renewed interest in American art of the 19th century. “The variety within his art, the qualities of his paintings and etchings, the wanderings to far, remote corners of the world, and his prominent role in major artistic activities in his day make him an interesting personality and an artist well worth reviving.” (3)

NOTES

1. Craven, 16.
2. Craven, 37.
3. Craven, 37.

SOURCES

Artistic Houses (being a series of Interior Views of a number of the Most Beautiful and Celebrated Homes in the United States with a Description of the Art Treasures contained therein), Volume Two, Part 1, New York, D. Appleton and Co., 1884, 71-74.

Craven, Wayne. “Samuel Colman (1832-1920): Rediscovered Painters of Far-Away Places,” *American Art Journal*, May 1976, 16-37.

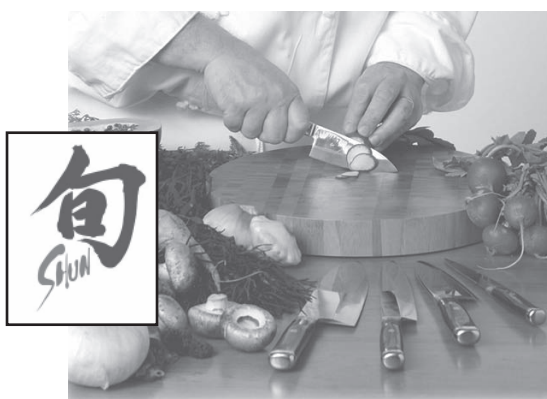
IT'S NEW
IT'S FUN
IT'S TO THE POINT
IT'S ON THE POINT!!!

The newly formed “Newcomers of the Point Neighborhood” is a very vibrant and interesting group. We meet at Belle’s every other week.

Cynthia Lafferty, Organizer



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A concert on the lawn at St. John's Photo by Lisa Brew



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WELL KNOCK ME OUT

by Thayer Donovan

This Christmas my daughter gave me a copy of Louis Walker III's painting of "Battery Park". The painting of the park on Washington Street shows the semicircle of benches overlooking beautiful Newport Harbor. The Newport Bridge is highlighted on the right side of the painting and just to the left of center is "the rock". The dreaded rock is actually a stone monument to the Newporters who fought in the Revolutionary War. It was erected by the Sons of the Revolution Society. The rock was dedicated on July 10th 1950. Even though I was only 11 years old I will never forget that day.

Growing up in the Point section of Newport we played games in any vacant lot or park that was available. Big games with lots of kids were played at Hunter Field, but if we only had four or five of us we would play anywhere. Battery Park was a favorite for touch football. That afternoon in 1950, I, my brother and several other neighborhood kids headed for Battery Park tossing a football to each other as we worked our way up Washington Street. As we reached the entrance to the park I ran out into the park for a long pass. As I caught the ball and turned to run, I ran smack into that cursed rock that wasn't there the day before. Earlier that morning the rock was installed and dedicated. I was knocked out cold and bleeding from the chin quite heavily. Fortunately, a motorist who was there at the park, sight-seeing, saw what happened and came to our rescue and he gave me and my brother a ride home. As he carried me into the house, still unconscious, my mother thought he had hit me with his car and she started screaming at him. My brother quickly explained to mom what had happened. In those days the family only had one car and dad had it at work. The motorist gave us a ride to the Newport Hospital emergency room where I was stitched up. My jaw was not broken, thankfully.

Today some 60 years later, whenever the weather is good, my wife and I pack a lunch or dinner and sit in the park and enjoy the views. Most days we walk the few blocks from Battery Park to Storer Park (another Newport waterfront jewel) and back enjoying the scenic views. But whenever I pass the "rock" my jaw still twitches. So now, thanks to my daughter and Louis Walker III, I can reminisce in my own home.



Blond beauties at the Point Picnic

Photo by Beth Cullen

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CIRCULAR SERENDIPITY (1956-2015)

by Shelby Coates

Like Dave Moore (see “A Few Stories About A New-port Destroyer” in the Fall 2014 issue of the *Green Light*), I spent time in the “BOQ”, living quarters for unmarried officers overlooking the historically re-nowned *USS Constitution*, while my destroyer, the *USS Preston*, was in the Charlestown Navy Yard for maintenance and upgrading. Actually, twice: once in the winter of 1953/1954 following our return around the world from Korea; and again in 1956 when it became time for my discharge from the Navy after three years of service as a deck officer. My Navy pal, Peter Wood, and I took over my aunt’s house at 85 Brattle Street in Cambridge to throw our all-night “coming out” party in March of 1956. (Peter, in later years, lived on Newport’s Bridge Street but then moved offshore with his wife Shirley to own, publish and edit *The Block Island Times*).

Then it became time to crowd in some fun before starting the upcoming “grind” at Virginia Law School in the Fall. Until the snow melted, it was as a “ski bum” in Stowe, Vermont. In May I tagged along with two older sisters and their husbands who chartered the 71-foot Schooner *Mollibawke*, owned by the Antigua-based Nicholson family, the first crewed charter yacht offered for trips in the Lower Caribbean. Flying to Grenada via Port of Spain, Trinidad, we joined the schooner to find that young Rodney Nicholson was to be our Captain; his newly expectant wife, Julie, was to be cook/mate; and there were to be three West Indian deckhands aboard, each one of whom played a musical instrument.

The three-week sail northwards took us gloriously through the Grenadines; to St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Martinique; and with Dominica and Guadeloupe bypassed to our starboard, ultimately to Antigua. In St. Lucia we had purchased a parrot from the owner of a chicken yard up in the hills.

How I got that bird, which cackled like a hen, and potentially carried the dreaded psittacosis disease to the U.S.A. via San Juan and Bermuda - that is another story

Fast forward from 1956 to December of 1991, when my wife and I were attending the Nicholsons’ annual Charter Yacht Show at English Harbour, Antigua. I went up to Julie Nicholson, who was running the show, and announced “I’m Shelby Coates, remember me?” She did, and we reminisced. In our conversation it cropped up that she had named her baby girl, born a few months after our 1956 voyage---you guessed it---“SHELBY” Nicholson!

Now fast forward from 1991 to the annual Newport Charter Yacht Show of June 2015. I attended the show as an independent broker, loosely affiliated with Nicholson Yachts Worldwide, an offshoot and continuation of what had been started in the Caribbean in 1949. Rodney had died, and Julie (with her children) had settled in Blue Hill, Maine. Perusing the 2015 show brochure, I saw that a “Shelby” Nicholson was listed as a Maine broker attendee, and I was eager to meet the now-59-year-old with whom I had shared a Caribbean cruise before she was even born. But Shelby had come down from Maine for just one day of the four-day show and, as we inspected the charter yachts and interviewed the professional crews, we kept missing each other. The best I could do was to chase her with an e-mail message. In her reply from Maine, she said :

I think you were one boat ahead of me all day because I kept hearing about you from the crews. You were telling the funny stories about knowing my mother, Julie Pyle Nicholson, back in the 50s while she was carrying me. I am sure that is why she called me Shelby. It’s a great name.... I have always enjoyed it.... and I am sorry to have missed meeting you in Newport yesterday.

Next year for sure, Shelby, at the 2016 Newport Charter Yacht Show!



Front Gardens on the Point, Summer 2015

Photos by Tom Kennedy





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MEMBERSHIP

by Robin Gardner

As our digital capabilities continue to evolve, it seems that it's always time to update our members on how things work with regard to memberships and renewals. So, I'd like to take this opportunity to mention a few things that you might find useful.

If you haven't yet provided an email address, here are a few reasons why you might wish to do so (remember – we never provide your email to anybody):

- Bi-weekly Points of Interest newsletters keep you in the know about what's going on in the organization and the neighborhood. These go out by email on a regular basis from our fabulous corresponding secretary, Pam Kelly. Don't miss out! Folks who just get the paper copy of the quarterly *Green Light* won't see these great emails.
- You can log into the site and update your address information, your interests, your preferences, change your password, and much more. It's much faster for you to manage your own profile, plus you always know the information will be correct.
- Members who can log in using their emails can manage their own renewal payments using a credit card through PayPal. Remember – you do not have to have a PayPal account to pay using PayPal (but PayPal does its best to encourage you to sign up anyway!).

But there are also reasons why we in the Membership Committee hope you register and use your email address:

- Members who receive the Points of Interest newsletter are more informed, and usually engage more in the activities in the community. We really like to see our members getting the most out of their membership, and to see our neighbors interacting.
- Membership renewal reminders go out by email automatically a month prior to your renewal, helping to ensure that you're never late to renew.
- Members who opt to handle their renewals themselves online, using a credit card, enjoy a renewal that happens immediately. It's easier for the volunteers, and faster for you, if you take advantage of online payment.

If you prefer to send a check, we're still happy to accept your renewal that way, but we ask you to realize that those pesky email reminders go out automatically until your renewal is processed. You might have sent your check, but if we haven't had time to take care of it, you're going to get your nudge by email. Please be patient – we will do it – it just might take a little while. We still love you.

If you haven't yet given us your email address and want to provide it, just send a message to membership@thepointassociation.org and let us know – we'll add your email address to your profile and then you'll be able to set a password and log in yourself!

THE POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail this form to: PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840, with check made payable to: The Point Association

If you prefer, apply and pay online at: www.thepointassociation.org

___ Individual \$10 ___ Family \$15 ___ Subscriber \$25* ___ Patron \$40*

**Subscriber & Patron levels support The Point Association's continued efforts to beautify and protect our special neighborhood.*

Please check membership status: ___ Renewal ___ New Member

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POINT COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES

Many hands make light work. Please check your volunteer interests.

___ Beautification ___ Waterfront ___ The Green Light ___ Plant Sale ___ Communications

___ Membership ___ Event Planning ___ History & Archives ___ Public Services

Thank You !

SAVE THE DATES

Friends of the Waterfront Cruise, Sunday, September 13
For details please go to www.newportwaterfront.org

Point Association Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 22,
7:00 p.m. St. John's Guild Hall

Be sure to read our bi-weekly emails "Points of Interest" for updates and additions!

Not getting Point Association emails?

Keep current on neighborhood events.

Let Robin know, membership@thepointassociation.org



BAYSIDE-NORTH POINT SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

Here's a good one
from Saturday night...August 22

L to R: Mark and Linda Narbey,
Neegen Pegahi, Maeve Sheehan, John Michael

AND LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT TO THE ANNUAL SUMMER COCKTAIL PARTY

