

# *The* GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

WINTER 2015-16



# The GREEN LIGHT

LIX No. 4

WINTER 2015-16

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*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.*

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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: *Hunter House "Dressed for the Holidays"*  
by Tom Kennedy

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



With this issue, the the new President of Tom Hockaday. Tom is He has resided in

and on the Point since 2010. He has been First Vice President of the Point Association since 2013. A public relations and communications specialist by profession, Tom also has a long history in community service and as a supporter of the arts. That experience and dedication will surely find unexpected challenges in this new assignment. May it be a rewarding chapter in his life and in the life of the Point.

*Green Light* welcomes the Point Association, not new to the Point. Newport since 2007

The *Green Light* also congratulates two notable Point couples for their award-winning work: David and Laura Pedrick, winners of the 2015 NRF Doris Duke Preservation Award for their restoration of the little barn at 67 Second Street, and Ron Barr and Nancy Scott, winners of the Newport in Bloom "The Best Garden in Newport 2015" award for their garden at 82 Bridge Street. Fulfilling projects for their creators, they have also enhanced the beauty of our community.

There is more to the Point and to Newport than beauty, however. The Point Association and the *Green Light* are mindful of the homeless and needy among us who could use a helping hand not only during this "season of giving" but throughout the year.

All good wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to you all.

*Alice Clemente*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all!

As I begin my term as President of the Point Association, I would like to thank you for your support. I look forward to serving as President, and am excited about working with you in our efforts to ensure our neighborhood is a vibrant and wonderful place to live and work.

A special thanks to Beth Cullen for her tireless work and commitment as the outgoing President of our Association. Beth has worked very hard the last five years on our behalf, and has time and time again shown her dedication to the Association, our neighborhood and our city. She has stood up for us and led the efforts to ensure that our neighborhood association worked hard for a better quality of life. We couldn't have been as successful as we have been without her countless efforts. Thank you, Beth!

As we close out 2015, we can all reflect on the wonderful work that the Point Association has done. Once again, we have shown our neighborhood and our city that we are an important and integral part of Newport.

We have much to be proud of: from starting the year with wonderful results from our participation in a fundraising campaign for the Martin Luther King Community Center that raised the center \$9,400 ... speaking out on issues important to our neighborhood and our city ... starting the spring by seeing the 2,000 daffodils that we planted across the Point come to life ... having our most successful plant sale to date ... our ongoing efforts with beautification and helping keep our neighborhood clean ... hosting events to foster a sense of community ... and beginning a Newcomers Group to welcome people to the neighborhood – just to name a few of our accomplishments. Once again, the Point Association has continued to lead the efforts to ensure that our neighborhood and city is a wonderful place to live and work!

With 2016 approaching, I look forward to working with the great leadership team of the Point Association – and all of you – in our projects and efforts to keep this a special place to live. Thanks to you and the leaders of our association, the Point Association has been invaluable to our neighborhood and our city.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season!

Warm regards,

Tom Hockaday

*P.S. Please consider helping with our 2nd Annual Campaign for our neighbor, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Last year residents on the Point donated a total of \$4,700. Since our donation was matched dollar-for-dollar, our fundraising meant \$9,400 to the MLK Center.*

*It takes only a moment to contribute, and it will mean so much to recipients of the Center's services. Either donate with a credit card on the Point website, [www.thepointassociation.org](http://www.thepointassociation.org), following the link on the homepage – or write a check made out to The Point Association (add MLKCC to the memo line on your check), and mail it to: The Point Association, P. O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. Thank You!*

# THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT SERIES

## THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ELM STREET PRESS

by Madeleine Ward O'Shea

As part of the 60th anniversary celebration of the Point Association, a collection of oral histories is being recorded with longtime Point residents to learn about their experiences in the neighborhood. On September 8, 2015, John Ward spoke with Ilse Buchert Nesbitt at her Third & Elm Street Press about what it has been like to live and work on the Point for the last fifty years.

Born in Germany, Ilse spent most of her childhood in Japan. Her exposure to Japanese culture shows in an Asian influence in her work that is still evident today. Her path to the printing press could hardly be considered a rhumb line, but rather a journey with many detours along the way.

Ilse started out studying archeology in Frankfort but soon realized that her interests lay in the creative arts. This prompted her to enroll in an art school in Hamburg where she took, over the course of a year, classes on the basics of painting and color. In order to earn a living she shifted her focus to graphic design, where she developed a passion for typography. Most art students only take typography to fulfill a required course, but Ilse became captivated by the technological aspects of the craft and soon recognized this to be her calling. In 1995, after taking a series of classes in Berlin, she felt she had exhausted the offerings there, but did not feel she yet possessed the skills to enter the workforce.

While in Berlin she came upon a magazine article about a professor of typography at the Hamburg art school she had previously attended. The very next day, she bid the Berlin school farewell and returned to Hamburg to ask that professor to take her on as a student. Ilse explained to him her interest in illustration, but also revealed that she needed more knowledge in typography to design books. He agreed to take her on as a student and Mrs. Nesbitt remained in Hamburg for two years where she worked in a graduate program. The professor subsequently assisted her in securing a job at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence where she worked as a typography assistant from 1960 to 1965. During her tenure at RISD, Mrs. Nesbitt met her future husband, a fellow RISD faculty member, Alexander Nesbitt.

Following the couple's departure from the Providence school, Ilse and Alexander relocated to the Point neighborhood of Newport. At the time, Newport was a far cry from the city-by-the-sea we know today. Back then Newport was a shady Navy town with an abundance of bars along Thames Street and the Point found itself on the wrong side of the tracks. Ilse recalled that houses were all painted gray and there were far less trees. Their house at 29 Elm Street didn't even have central heating when Ilse and her husband purchased it in 1965. Today we know this house as The Third & Elm Press. The business has been successfully operating at this location for the last fifty years and she and her husband raised two children here.



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Ilse has seen many changes in the neighborhood since arriving on the Point. The streets are no longer filled with children playing games such as kick-the-can. Perhaps this is due to children playing computer games indoors, she mused. Or perhaps there are less children living here. Ilse shared the story of a man who grew up at 14 Third Street stopping by the Elm Street Press. He recounted growing up on the first floor in a family of eight children, while the second floor housed a family with nine children, and a widow with one child lived on the third floor.

Where does the inspiration for her work come from? Ilse admits that she does not work solely from her imagination, but needs tangible inspiration for her work. She credits Newport with providing a boundless supply of ideas through her walks around the neighborhood, visits to The Breakers and other mansions, as well as various special events.

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Third & Elm Press, the Redwood Library is mounting an exhibition of her work. The show opens on November 13 and runs through February 21, with a reception on December 2.



Ilse's oral history conversation can be found on the Point Association's website  
<https://thepointassociation.wildapricot.org/history>.

## NEWPORT IN BLOOM AWARD

by Lisa Stuart

Newport in Bloom has declared Nancy Scott and Ron Barr's garden at 82 Bridge Street "The Best Garden in Newport 2015" in their annual garden competition. Since 1982 Newport in Bloom has sought to beautify the city and create community by encouraging residents to get outside, meet their neighbors and beautify their homes through the planting and display of flowers.

Nancy and Ron commented that "It's a happy garden that gives us a great deal of pleasure, the more so because we can share it with everyone passing by."

*See more pictures of Nancy & Ron's Garden on page 13*



# TO BE OR NOT TO BE: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HAMLET

by Ed Madden

In my youth, I was a diehard fan of the great British detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his faithful partner, Dr. Watson. The wonderful story-teller Sir Arthur Conan Doyle weaved tale after exciting tale for these two super sleuths to unravel and the motion picture industry memorialized their exploits in classic detective stories featuring the talents of Basil Rathbone (Sherlock) and Nigel Bruce (Dr. Watson) in the starring roles.

When Father Time called Basil Rathbone to his just rewards, the detective's role was successfully filled by Jeremy Brett. I initially had some difficulty adapting to this newcomer but I soon appreciated his talent and grew to accept this "look-alike actor" in the starring role.

There was smooth sailing and calm seas until recently when I was accosted by the Shakespearean actor Benedict Cumberbatch stumbling all over the footprints of my favorite detective in a butchered interpretation of how a detective should perform. The movie was eminently forgettable, from his performance to the story, plot and screen writing. The irony of this story is that just recently I attended the British Royal Theater production of Shakespeare's Hamlet at the Jane Pickens Theater, starring Benedict Cumberbatch in the leading role. The movie was superb and Benedict Cumberbatch as Hamlet was outstanding!

There has to be a lesson to be learned here: somewhere. Basil Rathbone could certainly have passed as a Shakespearean actor and I believe he did on occasion. Yet he had no difficulty switching roles to reveal the nuances and mystique of the great detective. Benedict Cumberbatch, on the other hand, never lost his Shakespearean touch, and Hamlet moved right in to partner with Dr. Watson in their adventurous escapades.

As a moderator for these pseudo Academy Award events, I believe that I would award two thumbs up to Benedict Cumberbatch for his performance of Hamlet and two thumbs down for his performance as Sherlock Holmes.

# A NEW BOOK ABOUT GOAT ISLAND

by Alice Clemente

Early in 2015, long-time Point resident Ralph Weiss wrote and published *The Fort on Goat Island*, culminating a long study of that mysterious Newport space. He explains in the preface: "Early in the 1990s, in a discussion with friends the comment was made that the Fort on Goat Island was destroyed in the 1960s when the City of Newport received the island back from the United States government. At that time almost all the buildings were razed and subsequently the City of Newport sold the island to private investors. When did the Fort no longer exist and what did the Fort look like? Thus began the search for the Fort on Goat Island. Today there is only a bronze plaque to remember that there was once an important fort in Newport Harbor.

In order to find the Fort, it was necessary to find the original site. Although the obvious site can be obtained from looking at maps, paintings, and photographs, finding the actual configuration of the Fort turned out to be a harder task. Over time many myths developed and the secrecy that surrounded the Naval Torpedo Station on Goat Island made the task more difficult. In order to discover the location it was necessary to study the island from the beginning of the settlement of Rhode Island in the 1600s."

The reader will find here a journey through what turns out to be several Goat Island forts: Fort Anne, Fort George, Fort Liberty and Fort Wolcott. The book includes 51 pictures, photos and maps. It is available at local libraries and can be purchased for \$12 plus shipping and handling from Ralph Weiss, 120 Carriage Trail, Middletown, RI 02842.



# ANNUAL FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

by Tom Kennedy

The Annual Fall Membership Meeting took place on Thursday, October 22nd, at 7 p.m., in St. John's Guild Hall. Beth Cullen, outgoing president, presided, and began the meeting by welcoming members and guests and introducing Fr. Humphrey, pastor of St. John's, who repeated the welcome and reported on a successful campaign to raise funds for making needed physical plant improvements and other church activities. Fr. Humphrey also announced some upcoming events and made his audience aware of the church's new website. Lauren Carson, our state representative, then took the floor and made some observations concerning plans for improvements at the Gateway Center and developments concerning drainage issues. She invited those in attendance to speak to her concerning these and any other issues of concern.

Ronald Barr then brought listeners up to date concerning future plans for the Rhumblin restaurant. Bill Rauch reported on the success of the plant sale and the solid financial condition of the Point Association. Isabel Griffith made remarks about the latest ALN forum, which dealt with Gateway developments and water issues. Joan Simmons, outgoing Beautification Committee chairperson, reminded all of the upcoming Saturday cleanup, and received thanks and a gift book for her many years of leadership of that committee. Lisa Stuart, History and Archives Committee chairperson, spoke about several initiatives, including the digitizing of old photographs, improvements in the website, an oral history project, a new edition of the P.A. cookbook, and support for a new fountain in Storer Park. John Broughan reported on the charitable work being done at the Martin Luther King center and the P.A.'s role in supporting this work. The Events Committee made a plea for volunteers to help run some planned events. Membership is a robust 424. The "Newcomers Club" met for lunch at Belle's Café, and welcomed 22 newcomers to the Point with great success.

The business meeting ended with the election of Tom Hockaday as the new Point Association president. Ron Barr read a letter from Tom, who was unable to attend

the meeting. Tom thanked the Point Association for placing its trust in him, and expressed his admiration and praise for the exceptional work of Beth Cullen during her almost five years of tenure. Beth was presented with a framed photograph of Narragansett Bay and received the sincere applause of all in attendance.

Helen Johnson, Newport's preservation planner, and Ashley Brauquet, a consultant with the Newport Restoration Foundation, then made separate slide presentations focused on Newport's historic legacy, and entitled: "Planning for the Future to Preserve the Past." Helen recounted some of the history of preservation in Newport, including the establishment of the historic district in 1965. She then explained the certification process incumbent upon those planning major repairs and alterations on properties in the district. She presented some practical advice on how to fill out forms and present documentation. Her future plans for her office include the publication of guidelines and the better education of the public regarding this issue.

Ashley directed most of her attention to water issues and to a conference in Newport planned for April of 2016, entitled "Keeping History above Water." She explained the need for action by presenting some dramatic case studies regarding properties on the Point. She pointed out that a six or seven foot rise in the local sea level is expected by 2100! She also stressed the importance of topography, impervious surfaces, and drainage patterns and their effects on the flood zone. Finally, some ongoing initiatives, including a hydrological study, were mentioned. Questions were then accepted by both presenters.

Refreshments, including a special 60th Anniversary cake, were enjoyed after the presentations.



# THE NEWPORT ART MUSEUM “WET PAINT” EXHIBIT AND THE BLOCK ISLAND BUOY

by Dave Moore

In mid-August the Newport Museum held their annual two day Wet Paint event. This is the museum’s largest fund raiser of the year and it receives most of the proceeds to help support itself and inspire artists of all levels and ages. Basically, artists set up their easels before the event and try to sell their finished canvases at a silent auction. A jury selects a few of the best ones that typify the wet paint idea for a live auction. Some of the work this year was not all wet and contributions were allowed for various art forms and disciplines. Only two pieces of art are allowed for each contributor as there is not enough space to mount all the many exhibits on the museum gallery walls.

I have heard that if you paint and never had lessons, you are creating folk art. This is the category I fall into, but my sister has had countless lessons – so to me she is an artist. One of my favorite paintings of hers is one she painted from a photograph I made during a sailboat race at Block Island Race Week. It displayed a large buoy in the foreground and three sailboats in the distance. I did not want to part with the original for the auction so I took another photograph of her painting to enter a replica. On the Internet I found several companies who would transfer a photo onto canvas, frame it for you, and ship it back to you. The transfer process is called Giclee (French for squirt or spray) where an ink-jet printer is used instead of paints. Her sailboat painting was reproduced on a 26 x 18 canvas.

The picture is important to me because it brings back memories of the good times I had sailing in the event. One of the favorite courses during race week is called “Around the Island Race”. The turning mark for this race is the famous buoy off the north end of the island designated 1BI for buoy number one, Block Island. This bell buoy has a green, four second, flashing light, and it is located about one thousand yards off the North Reef. The reef extends a mile and three-quarters to the NNE and starts at Sandy Point at the north end of the island. The water depth drops rapidly

from 113 feet at the buoy to 8 feet or less at the reef. Racers revere the buoy, not only for warning of the shoals and the history of the area, but because the boat that rounds it first usually wins.

The buoy marks a very treacherous area where there have been many ship wrecks. The most famous was the *Palatine*, a legend immortalized in 1867 by the poet John Greenleaf Whittier. The ship was German and was carrying immigrants to Philadelphia. It went up on the reef ninety-one years before the first North Island lighthouse was built and a buoy put in place. According to him the islanders ignited false signal lights to draw the ship aground. They then plundered the ship.

I thought my reproduction for the auction needed some spicing up. It seemed to yell out to me to make the light in the buoy actually flash. With the help of Radio Shack’s Red Blinking LED Module, I inserted the small led bulb in a drilled hole near the top of the buoy. I didn’t care if the real buoy has a green light and flashed every four seconds while mine flashed red every other second. It still looked mesmerizing.

Early Saturday morning, with the reproduction under my arm, I went to the Newport Art Museum to have it registered for the auction. My wife said she would not accompany me because she was too embarrassed to present such a clownish print at the prestigious art museum. I do admit there was some concern whether they would accept a Giclee. It was far from being wet paint and certainly was not the original. On the way in, a *Providence Journal* reporter came up to me, after seeing the flashing red light, and interviewed me for several minutes. He said he liked the buoy picture so much he might make a bid on it. This gave me confidence, so I proceeded with the registration. After some discussion, it was approved. I dropped the canvas off, sat down and enjoyed the free coffee and doughnuts.

The silent auction started at 6 pm on Saturday. I arrived a little after six and found there was no place to park, so I gave up. The auction continued again at noon on Sunday. I arrived a half hour early and easily found a parking place. All the exhibits were hung on the gallery walls, salon style. For some reason, mine was hung at the lowest level – about the level of an eight year old.



As expected, my print did not make the cut for the live auction on Sunday evening, where only the best artists' originals would be sold.

The live auction was started at 6 pm on Sunday under a large tent on the museum grounds, with Marie Keep of Skinner Inc. as the auctioneer. This year's event honored Richard Grosvenor, a Newport artist and art historian. He was the founder of Wet Paint and donated a three-canvas mural of St. George's School in Middletown. This won the highest bid and sold for nine thousand, nine hundred dollars. The silent and live auctions featured 534 art pieces and set a record by raising \$125,000. I called the museum on Monday to see if my painting had sold. I was shocked and excited to find the 1BI buoy painting sold for twelve times my cost of having it canvas mounted and framed. Next year I will try again with a larger copy and it will have a green flasher.

Ref.  
Whittier, John Greenleaf, "The Palatine" from *The Atlantic Monthly*. 1867.



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# THE BACK TO BACK HURRICANES OF 1954

by Shelby Coates

In spite of the lead article in a July, 2015, issue of the *Newport Daily News* that quoted a meteorology expert who opined that “We’re overdue”, we can in retrospect still say that the last time a category 3 hurricane hit southern New England was Carol in 1954. My recollections of that one include, as Carol approached our area, being compulsorily waved out of the surf at First Beach by State Police who informed us that Governor Dennis J. Roberts had issued a proclamation ordering the closure of all Rhode Island beaches. Edna, although a lesser category 2 hurricane, which followed Carol by about eleven days, is more easily resurrected from my episodic memory as I still possess some memorabilia documenting the experience.

My destroyer, the 376-foot, twin screw, Fletcher-class, 2100 ton, USS PRESTON, was part of DESLANT (Destroyer Force Atlantic Fleet) then headquartered at Newport. The switch to Norfolk wasn’t made until 1973. Often we were moored out in Narragansett Bay in nests of four to a single buoy for each nest.

As Edna streaked north along our Atlantic Coast, its track being just a bit east of what had been Carol’s, Fleet Weather Central in Miami issued a series of warning messages to “all USN ships”. As the C.I.C. (Combat Information Center) watch officer, I plotted on a chart – a maritime map – the longitude and latitude of Edna’s center as each message came in. On September 9th SOPA (Senior Officer Present Afloat) directed that we be prepared to shift berthing as it was his intention to “break up nests...in case Hurricane Edna continues northward”. On September 10th we were directed to proceed to berth “M-14”, one of many such moorings on the Bay.

The next day a Quonset Point advisory placed Edna’s center 100-105 miles due south with the expectation that it would pass 65-75 miles to the east of us. With winds starting to gust as high as 58 knots, and to take strain off our connection to mooring “M-14”, our captain ordered that the ship’s engines be put “All Ahead One-Third” which, if the Bay had been calm

with no headwind, would have generated a forward speed of 5 knots. The headwind blow was putting us at zero knots.

Next, USS BRAINE, another Fletcher-class destroyer, radioed that the Midway Pier was “breaking up” and SOPA ADMIN reported “wind at Quonset 72 knots about 1500” (3:00 p.m.). Aboard our ship some drama soon arose, reflected by our radio message to SOPA NARR BAY:

YTB 175 AGAINST STAR BOW WITH LOSS  
POWER X WE ARE SECURING IT ALONG SIDE  
NOW X YTB IS SINKING AND WE ARE TRY-  
ING TO GET THE PERSONNEL ON BOARD

The problem, in addition to the wind, was that one of the hawsers our deck force had cast toward the 102-foot harbor tugboat CHEKILLI (YTB-175) had not been caught, trailed aft, and became wound up tautly on our revolving starboard propeller and its shaft. Div-



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ing overboard, with flippers and masks, fellow officer Peter Wood and I made efforts to unsnarl the mess. They were completely unavailing. Too much vigorous chop on the Bay which had become churned and murky underwater – and the hawser would not yield to the puny knives that were our only other equipment. A day or two later, professional Navy divers did the necessary.

Although Peter's and my endeavors came to naught, the ship received an accolade from SOPA before the day was out: "Excellent work rescuing personnel. ATF on the way to attempt salvage YTB-175." Best of all, our Captain later received a Hurricane Commendation, the following excerpts from which tell the story succinctly.

"On Saturday, 11 September 1954, during hurricane Edna, the YRB-175, while trying to assist the USS BRAINE at Midway Pier, lost steering control and was placed in the perilous position of being swamped by high waves generated from the eighty-three (83) knots wind prevailing at the time. The wind and waves carried the YTB-175 towards the PRESTON. With excellent judgement and thorough superb seamanship, the members of the crew of the PRESTON were able to secure the YTB-175 to the PRESTON and thus prevented the YTB from grounding with the possibility of high personnel casualties...Well-Done."

And how did those ashore fare? Storm surge on the Bay only came to 4 feet, a lot less than the 13 feet generated by Carol. I have read, nevertheless, that Point resident King Covell's motorboat ETHELYN, which had survived Carol, was torn from its mooring by Edna and wrecked on the Point's rocky shore.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hail to the Pacific's presently-persisting El Niño! Some attribute our eased 2015 hurricane season to that distant oceanic phenomenon's pushback against what can typically come off the west coast of Africa in August/September. Here's hoping for an equally quiescent 2016 with mainly "fair winds and following seas".

## A NEW FOUNTAIN FOR STORER PARK

by Lisa Stuart

The Point Association is working with Scott Wheeler, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor/Tree Warden, City of Newport, to replace the drinking fountain in Storer Park with a new one like the one in Battery Park. We are looking for two people to donate \$2,375 to fund the project. (The City is contributing \$2,000 towards this project.) The fountain makes a good long-lasting tribute to a loved one, human or pet. A brass plaque with your dedication will be placed in the bluestone. If you are interested in learning more, please email Lisa Stuart at [historyandarchives@thepointassociation.org](mailto:historyandarchives@thepointassociation.org).



# OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS

By Suzanne Varisco

Pointers living near Storer Park were surprised, and at first a bit discomfited, by the summer arrival of several new neighbors, intent on making this green space their temporary home. Some were noisy and occasionally used objectionable language, while others were quiet and orderly, most of the time.

According to the city's directory, Newport contains no fewer than 47 parks, 5 of which are located on the Point, 3 of these on Washington Street. The largest Park, Storer, is a busy place in the summer, with families picnicking, teenagers playing basketball, dog walkers galore--you name it.

But our newest park visitors were different. They were homeless.

Perhaps you've seen the quotation, "If you're lucky enough to live near the water, you're lucky enough."

I'm more than just lucky enough, though, because I also live beside beautiful Storer Park. I live here by

choice, and I expect to share my park with others. Because, you see, it's not really "my" park. But, rather, it's a city park that belongs to everyone--city residents, as well as visitors from near and far. And this includes those without a home.

Newport Police officer Jimmy Winters, who directs Housing Hotline, as a volunteer, is well acquainted with the homeless among us. This organization, which he founded, provides vouchers for temporary housing, food, clothing, and much more. The H.H. website can be found on the city's website ([www.newportri.com](http://www.newportri.com)). Volunteers are welcome.

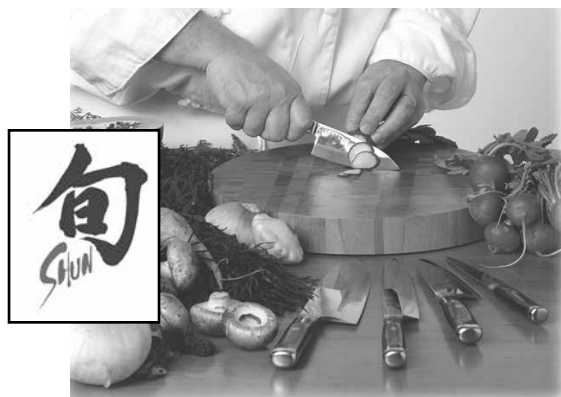
In a recent conversation with Officer Winters, I learned that Newport's homeless population, year round, is fairly small--fewer than 100 men, women, and children. Families tend to stay with friends or relatives, some adults stay in one of the city's 9 shelters, others prefer to be on their own. It is some of these folk who settled in at Storer Park, during the summer of 2015.

Sergeant Corey Huck, who coordinates Newport's Community Policing Program, and his team, including Officer Bob Spellman, who is responsible for several neighborhoods, including the Point, view our city's parks as important natural resources, available to everyone. But, they tell me, there are definite boundaries.

Officer Spellman welcomes calls, when problems occur, so that he can work through them with all concerned before those problems get bigger. Most can be solved through talking to someone who may be a little rowdy, or reminding noisy youngsters who have stayed past closing time that it's time to go home. This daily and nightly interaction requires tact and patience, as most of the people he sees are posing little or no threat to their neighbors. When necessary, however, he doesn't hesitate to enforce the city's strict guidelines.

Like others in our neighborhood, I was initially alarmed by the arrival of these unfortunate visitors. Who are they? What are they doing? Am I in danger? Eventually these questions, and others, were laid to rest for me by one couple living in their car. As the summer progressed, we exchanged occasional greetings, waved now and then. We became neighbors.

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With the coming of colder weather, our temporary "neighbors" have moved on. For those who are concerned for their welfare, it's encouraging to know of the newly formed group, Newport County Citizens To End Homelessness (<http://www.ncceh.net>), which held a recent forum at the Newport Public Library. Volunteers are welcome here, also.

Of course, summer will return, as perhaps will at least some of these folk. Only time will tell. If you'd like to help them, I suggest the above resources, as starters. There are others available online via Google and other search engines. And, as the holidays approach, I hope you'll join me in wishing a safe and peaceful winter season to our homeless neighbors, wherever they may be.



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## MARTIN'S PARK WALL GETS A FACE LIFT



## PUMPKINS PEEKING OUT ALL AROUND THE POINT



# WINTER SUNSETS UNDER THE PELL BRIDGE

by Dave Moore

I have taken dozens of sunset and sunrise photos over the years, in so many different places, that I have a hard time trying to pick the best ones. I have even chased the elusive “green flash” in Florida as the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico. Some say it doesn’t exist after tracking it for years. Four times I have witnessed it, but I have never captured it on camera. They say it is best observed with a clear view of the horizon and in an area that is free of pollution. You are also more likely to see the green flash when there is visibility of several miles, almost to the point of the curvature of the earth, and when the sky is cloudless.

Newport sunsets, however, are some of the prettiest I have photographed. Each one is unique due to the cloud patterns, the wind on the water, the boat traffic, and even the time of year it was taken. There are some professional photographers who would say I am wrong to take so many sunset photos. One of these professionals is Italian born Stefano Unterthiner. He has worked for *National Geographic* and is widely published in magazines worldwide. He is the author of six photography books and a regular prizewinner in the international Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

Unterthiner says: “On the beach with my wife with a beer in my hand, I’m a lover of sunsets, (but) sunsets are boring because everyone is taking photos of the sky getting red when the sun approaches the horizon. A very classic sunset is very far from photography; it’s very close to our memories and our pictures on holiday. It belongs more to your daily life than real photography. As a photographer I always try to have a new view. I’m looking for something which is not just about color. Color can be part of the composition but

not the most important part. I’m not taking a picture of the sky just because it’s red.” He adds: “One last piece of advice to share with people interested in photographing sunsets. Look at the sunsets you’ve shot before, and try to make a different one next time. It can be a nice memory to shoot the sunset in a different way. Don’t make the same picture all the time. If you take a picture that looks similar to the last picture of a sunset you took, it’s better that you watch the sunset and put your camera in your bag.”




Two pictures I have made are about as similar as you can get, but I am not putting my “camera in the bag”. Instead, I have used his idea of “a new view” and “shoot the sunset in a different way”. These two photos of the sunset under the Pell Bridge were taken exactly one year apart – right to the exact minute. It was 6:42 pm on September 18, 2014 at the Officers’ Club at the Newport Naval War College. My son, our wives, and I had just finished dinner when many of the diners stood up and remarked how beautiful the sky looked. Fortunately, I had my I-phone camera and clicked the photo. There was another beautiful evening at the Officers’ Club a year later, when again I captured the bottom photo at 6:42 on September 18, 2015. This time I had planned it. However, I was extremely lucky, as you have only two quick chances a year (September and March) to capture the sun under the bridge – and the weather has to cooperate.

As an aside, these sunsets only occur five days before the fall equinox when the day and night hours are about



the same. It is also the day the sun sets exactly due west and comes up exactly due east. I put two sticks in the ground on that day to get the precise due east and west orientation. Before and after this day, the sunsets/sunrises move a little from day to day except at the solstices where they stop for a while before heading in the opposite direction. It is somewhat like the swing of a pendulum making an arc of about 62.6 degrees between the solstices. The ancients discovered this by marking the points with sticks, as I did, and a recent discovery at Stonehenge uncovered a pit where sticks were once put in place.

Ref: Interview of Stefano Unterthiner by *National Geographic Magazine* writer, Becky Harlan, on Facebook March 9, 2015 1:20 pm.



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# “UNGRAFFTTED”

## HUNTER PARK MURAL

### One Year Later

By Jane Hence

15

## NRF 2015 DORIS DUKE PRESERVATION AWARD: PEDRICK BARN RESTORATION

*On September 11, 2015, Beth Cullen had the pleasure of presenting this award to Laura and David Pedrick. What follows is an excerpted version of her talk on that occasion.*

About a month ago, when Jeanine invited me to present tonight, I was a little reticent, since I didn't know much about the project. What I did know of it came directly from my dear friend, the late Beverly Adler, whom some of you may know as the Queen of Battery Park. You see, Beverly lived so close to the old barn that she could open her west facing window and touch it! Thankfully, Beverly lived long enough to see the project completed and I'm sure enjoyed the added sunlight and air flow that the repositioning of the building offered.

The Point neighborhood is fortunate to have so many historic structures nestled in a small pocket of town. This is due in great measure to Doris Duke's extraordinary vision and her determination to rescue Newport's early architectural heritage. Thanks to her, we boast an authentic inventory that is beyond compare...

To properly introduce this project, I needed to find out a little more about it. David kindly gave Jeanine and me a personal tour. We spent a good hour talking about the project's history, the triumphs and the stumbling blocks in the process.

It was great to learn about all the things that came together to transform and save this wonderful structure...that had been sitting quietly, tucked away, doing its job for over 150 years. Sheltering tools and horses and later cars, watching the world change without much fuss or bother. What impressed me most after hearing the full story was not just the beauty of the restoration or the heartfelt care David took in every aspect of the job. It was how this one project bundled all David's yacht design talents, his technical skills, his

creativity and innovative approaches – tied together with Laura's love of history and their combined sense of place... It is the perfect marriage of art and science! David's mastery of wood-joining was obvious. We saw how precisely the rotted boards were refitted with new planks, making sure to preserve as much of the original material as possible. They salvaged hardware, the gates, trim, and some of the siding. All the tools in David's kit came in handy. The barn now has a substantial sill tied deep into the ground. The place is stable. This little antique outbuilding is a classic illustration of all that the Point represents. The joining of the OLD with the NEW.

The Pedricks live what the Point Association founders and Miss Duke had in mind – they are Improving, Protecting, and Preserving our special place. So this recognition is well-deserved, not only for their outstanding restoration work, but also for their 30 plus years of sharing their time and talents throughout our city. Laura's work as president of the Board during the restoration of Touro Synagogue some ten years ago, and David's hands-on involvement with the founding and success of IYRS show that Newport is a better place thanks to their efforts. Thanks and congratulations on a job well done.





## GIMME SHELTER \* REPAIRS TO THE GATEWAY VISITOR'S CENTER

by Isabel Griffith

Opened in 1988, the Gateway Center was already suffering from wear and tear when Hurricane Sandy hit it in October 2012. During the hurricane, the canopy “sails” were ripped by high winds and floodwaters forced the temporary closure of the facility. Although the Gateway reopened it is in poor condition. The winter of 2015 made things worse. The City of Newport and RIPTA are taking advantage of Federal funds to apply for a grant to repair the part of the facility that shelters public transportation passengers.

<http://www.ripta.com/newport-gateway-center>  
will give you the details of the project including goals, financing and progress to date.

On October 15, Alliance for a Livable Newport hosted a forum about the Gateway Center to provide information to the public, obtain feedback, and move us towards a conceptual design that the City supports. What happened at that forum was an interesting contrast to past responses from the public to proposed changes in familiar Newport landscapes: There were no significant protests to the design elements of the proposal.

Most of the discussion concentrated on structural elements such as the need for drainage improvements and “green infrastructure” at the site. Solar panels, rain garden water retention areas and issues of flooding that plague that area of the Point were important concerns. Given our particular location and the certainty of present and future sea rise, perhaps Pointers and other Newporters are finally beginning to give serious thought to the future. “Does it work” may be equally important with “how it looks.”

To see pictures of the various designs for the shelter and hear what your neighbors had to say about the Gateway Center Repairs proposal, go to this link. You may have to paste or type it into your browser:

<http://vimeo.com/newportalliance>

The *Green Light* will have an update in the spring edition.

\* is a song by The Rolling Stones. It first appeared as the opening track on the band's 1969 album *Let It Bleed*.

On NPR in 2012 this quote from Mick Jagger:

“It was a very moody piece about the world closing in on you a bit...When it was recorded, early '69 or something, it was a time of war and tension, so that's reflected in this tune. It's still wheeled out when big storms happen, as they did the other week [during Hurricane Sandy]. It's been used a lot to evoke natural disaster.”

“Oh, a storm is threat'ning  
My very life today  
If I don't get some shelter  
Oh yeah, I'm gonna fade away.....”

“Own the water, not the boat!”



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# POINTERS IN PICTURES



*The Leadership  
at The Annual Meeting*



*The Outdoors Types  
at the Fall Clean-Up*



*The Indoors Types  
organizing the  
Archives*

*Note: some do BOTH!!!*

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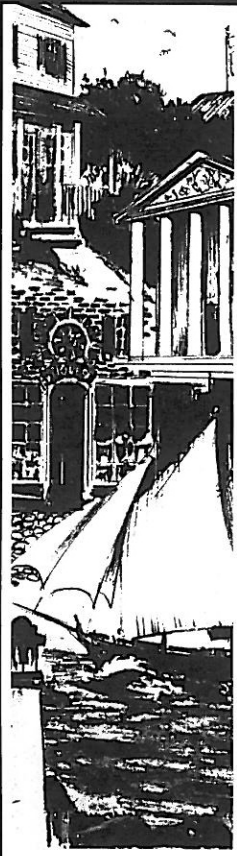
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\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_ Event Planning \_\_\_ History & Archives \_\_\_ Public Services

*Thank You !*



# SAVE THE DATES

Newport County Orchestra Holiday Concert, Sunday, December 13, 3 p.m.,  
Casino Theater, 9 Freebody Street

Christmas on the Point, Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m., St. John the Evangelist,  
61 Washington Street at Willow Street.  
A merry concert of organ music, caroling, and traditional reading of the Christmas Story.

45th Annual Newport Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes, December 26-28, 4 to 7 p.m.

For a full list of Newport Christmas activities, go to Christmas in Newport

<http://www.christmasinnewport.org/>



WINTER ~ NEWPORT HARBOR by Jane Hence