

# *The* GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2016



# The GREEN LIGHT

LX No. 3

FALL 2016

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## STAFF

Editor .....	Alice Clemente
Advertising.....	Bill Rauch
Business .....	Bill Rauch and Hillar Sarapera
Circulation .....	Marcia Mallory
Layout .....	Donna Maytum

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

President:	Tom Hockaday, 619-3424
	<a href="mailto:president@thepointassociation.org">president@thepointassociation.org</a>
First Vice President:	Tom Tobin 619-4359
	<a href="mailto:vicepresident1@thepointassociation.org">vicepresident1@thepointassociation.org</a>
Second Vice President:	Laurie Shaw, 862-0930
	<a href="mailto:vicepresident2@thepointassociation.org">vicepresident2@thepointassociation.org</a>
Corresponding Secretary:	Pamela Kelley, 849 2857
	<a href="mailto:corrsecretary@thepointassociation.org">corrsecretary@thepointassociation.org</a>
Recording Secretary:	Ron Barr & Nancy Scott,
	619-1505 <a href="mailto:recordingsecretary@thepointassociation.org">recordingsecretary@thepointassociation.org</a>
Treasurer:	Bill Rauch, 619-0110
	<a href="mailto:treasurer@thepointassociation.org">treasurer@thepointassociation.org</a>

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: "Bunnies Two enjoy Autumn on Bridge Street" by Lisa Stuart

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



The pictures in this issue tell it all. Sailboat races fondly remembered but now past speak of a slowly fading summer, the cover picture, of the comforting promise of autumn's beauty before the long haul of winter. Amidst this transience, photos of work speak of the "constant" that transcends seasonal change. The shipyard, archival and archeological discovery and preservation, the transformation of Storer Park... Again an insight into the breadth, depth and diversity of our exceptional community...

Needless to say, there is much work to be done – now and always – to record and preserve the past, enhance the present and ensure a positive future. The Point Association is grateful for all who participate in this endless endeavor and invites all who have not yet found a place in it to join in this labor of love.

Happy autumn!

*Alice Clemente*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings!

As we end another Newport summer season, I want to take a moment to update you on the Point Association's latest efforts in collaborating with others on initiatives to improve our neighborhood and our city. It has been a successful and exciting time!

Last edition, I talked about the many volunteer efforts that are available and will contribute to making our neighborhood a wonderful place to live and work. In this edition I would like to share with you some of the exciting things that are happening through the Point Association's collaboration with city leaders and other organizations across Newport -- and how working together is improving our neighborhood and community.

The Point Association has always been known as a leader in volunteering and working hard for our community. This year we have continued our tradition of leadership by expanding our collaborative efforts on a number of new projects. It's a pleasure to share with you a few highlights of our success this year:

- The Point Association and our Beautification Committee has successfully partnered with the city on enhancements to Storer Park, resulting in a number of improvements to the park. From new lighting for beautification and to help with safety and security....to planting new trees and plants .....to raising funds to install a new water fountain in the park, the Point Association and neighbors have once again stood forth as a model to show the importance and success of collaboration and working together. These improvements in Storer Park are a great first step in working together on long-term improvements that are planned for the park. You can read more about the effort in this edition of the *Green Light*.
- This spring, the Point Association served as one of the sponsors for the Newport Restoration Foundation Conference, "Keeping History above Water". Since the conference, we have been actively working with other neighborhoods, city leaders, civic groups and conservation organizations to help create a grassroots group to continue with efforts to highlight the importance of addressing rising sea levels and flooding. The Point Association is actively collaborating with this grassroots group on their programs, and has agreed to host an upcoming forum for neighbors and interested parties across Newport.
- We will be partnering with Clean Ocean Access (COA) on projects that help to preserve and protect our shorelines, water quality and access to water. Being a waterfront neighborhood, the work of Clean Ocean Access greatly impacts our neighborhood and the community. The Point Association will be teaming up with COA on some of their key projects that impact not only the Point, but also our city and Aquidneck Island.

The Point Association is proud to be a leader in partnering with city officials and other organizations across Newport for the benefit of our community. It's been a long-standing tradition with us, and we look forward to actively embracing more collaborative efforts across Newport!

I want to once again thank all of you for your work on these projects and numerous other Point Association activities. Without your participation, we would not be able to contribute all that we do to our neighborhood and our community.

Best regards,



## EXPERTS HELP THE HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

We were very excited to have Genna Duplisea, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, and Dan Titus, Associate Director of User Support Services, Salve Regina University, visit our archives this month.

Genna has been advising our committee for the past two years on how to properly store and organize materials in our archives. Some of the materials have been particularly challenging. For example, Louise Sherman's scrapbooks are filled with many different types of items—photographs, handwritten documents, and newspaper articles. Staples must be removed, photos put into archival sleeves and archival paper placed between pages—all while keeping the integrity of the “collection” of materials. A further complication is that each page may contain information on many houses and families, so indexes must be created for each page of each book.



This is not Dan's first visit to our archives. Ten years ago, as Salve student, Dan organized our archives. Due to his efforts, all our *Green Lights* from 1955 to 2005 were scanned and an organizational system for the materials developed. More recently Dan has advised us on the purchase of our computer, how best to scan our materials and how to label the digitized photos and documents.

Our committee has worked diligently to file and sort the materials that were collected and created by our predecessors during the past ten years. John Ward and Beth O'Shea completed the identification and filing of ten years of tubs of materials. Kathy Ward scanned the *Green Lights* from 2005 to the present. The entire col-



lection is now available on our Point Association website.

Genna and Dan reviewed our archives and led a discussion on how best to share our materials online. After our

meeting, with the help of Dan Titus and his student Jeffrey Peiczarka, we added oral histories conducted during the 1980s and 1990s and a video of “An Evening of Restoration Stories” that was held in 1996 to our website.

<https://thepointassociation.wildapricot.org/history>

We extend our many thanks to Genna and Dan for their advice and expertise in preserving the history of our unique neighborhood.



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While attending a fascinating lecture on Underground-ing Utility Lines hosted by the Preservation Society, we were fortunate to meet the Preservation Society's Processing Archivist, Paul Caserta, MSLIS. Paul kindly invited us to tour their archives. We were thrilled to view their extensive collection. We saw exquisite apparel with tags showing the names of the great ladies of Newport who once owned it. We also saw a small portion of the ornaments from Marble House's Tea House. How amazing!

Paul also gave us a tutorial on the types of photographs that were taken in the 1800s and the early 1900s, as well as information on the repair and care of them. He also shared his vast knowledge on digitization. As the person overseeing Newportal, his firsthand experience in determining a digitization strategy is invaluable to our committee as we move forward.

Paul has offered to continue to advise us and provide instruction to us. We are grateful for his help and look forward to these informative sessions.

DO YOU KNOW???



Peace  
This is my Christmas wish  
1983  
Love - Mabel

The Archives Team needs your help. If you recognize this item and can help identify it, please contact [historyandarchives@thepointassociation.org](mailto:historyandarchives@thepointassociation.org).



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# EXCITING IMPROVEMENTS TO STORER PARK

by Tom Hockaday

We are excited to share with you information on the continuing improvements to Storer Park, our beautiful neighborhood park that has been a treasure to the Point neighborhood and our city for decades. The Point Association Beautification Committee has been hard at work with neighbors, abutters, and city officials on improvements to Storer Park for its beautification and to improve the safety and security of the park.

Initial projects to date include work on lighting, installation of new trees and plantings, and the planned new water fountain for the park. This is just a first step in the city's long range efforts on behalf of the park, which include major repairs and work on the seawall. Rich Abbinanti, Chairman of the Point Association Beautification Committee, and members of his committee, have worked hard with our neighbors and the city to ensure a great first step in work on the park.

New decorative lighting has been installed to begin the process of carefully lighting the park, which will enhance the beauty of the park and improve safety and security. The city, under the direction of Bill Riccio, Director of Public Services, and Scott Wheeler, Newport's Buildings & Grounds Supervisor / Tree Warden, has installed 3 temporary lights to begin the process of determining the proper lighting for the park at night. These lights are temporary, and will be evaluated next year for final determination of the number and final locations of the first phase of lighting the park. The permanent fixtures will be similar to what is currently being used in Queen Anne's Square.



As part of this initial effort and the work on the enhancement of the plantings in the park, the Point Association funded the purchase and planting of 2 new "Sargent" Cherry Trees along the north fence line of the park adjacent to the Hunter House. Considered one of the most beautiful of the flowering cherry trees, the Sargent cherry offers year-round beauty. Pink blooms adorn the tree in "late spring," the leaves unfurl with a purplish or bronze hue that transitions to a shiny dark green into summer and then red, orange and bronze in the fall; and the winter landscape benefits from its attractive bark.

These additional trees will add to the three cherry trees that are already along the fence and will provide a beautiful canopy on the north border of the park, and view of the bay. The Beautification Committee is also working on plantings along the fence line to complement the new trees, as well as adding additional plantings to the lovely planters and beds already in the park.

The Beautification Committee is working with another

committee of our association to complete the funding for the new water fountain in Storer Park, which will replace the current one in need of replacing. Lisa Stuart, Chairman of the Point Association's History and Archive Committee, has helped raise the initial funds to allow the city to purchase the fountain. The Point Association and neighbors are working with these committees to raise the final funds to begin the installation. The new fountain in Storer Park will replicate the beautiful fountain that was put in Battery Park several years ago. It, too, will have a "pet basin" at the bottom of the fountain.

This work on improving and enhancing Storer Park is the start of the Point Association's collaboration with the City and the Parks Department on developing a long-term plan for the park. We are excited about the city's commitment to our beautiful park and the work they have begun as part of their plans to improve and enhance Storer Park. There is a lot of work to be done – and more planning is needed – but these efforts are a great step forward to ensure the beauty and enjoyment of one of Newport's unique waterfront parks.

Thanks to all of the members of the Beautification and History and Archives Committees for their hard work, and to neighbors who have stepped forward to participate and assist the committees in their work. And a special thanks to our City Officials for their support and dedication to the Park and the Point Association-- Council Members Kate Leonard and Marco Camacho, City Manager Joe Nicholson, Director of Public Services Bill Riccio, and Buildings & Grounds Supervisor / Tree Warden Scott Wheeler.



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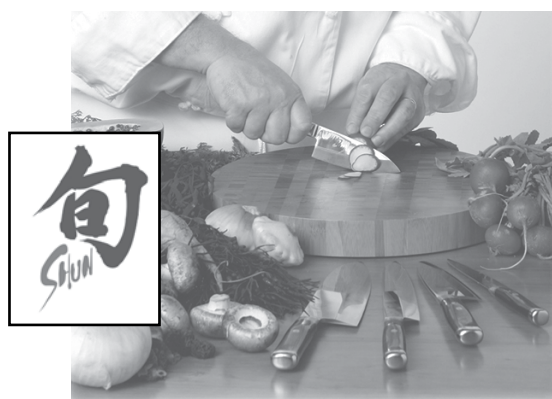


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# THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT SERIES

## ALLAN MANUEL, LONGTIME POINT RESIDENT

by Nancy Abbinanti

The Newport Point Association History and Archives Committee continue to record a collection of oral histories with longtime Point residents to learn about their experiences in the neighborhood. On February 11th, 2016, John Ward spoke with Allan Manuel about growing up on the Point, including the hurricane of 1938, the shops on the Point, his summer job at the Torpedo Factory, and the building of America's Cup and the Claiborne Pell Newport Bridge.

The Manuel family had the privilege of several generations living on the Point along with ownership and management of the Manuel Brother's Moving Company. The warehouse building was located at One Cherry Street. Allan's grandfather founded the moving company and its main office of business included the Gum Factory. The Manuel Brother's Moving Company had an exclusive contract with the Navy and when the Navy presence in Newport was downsized the moving company suffered and eventually went bankrupt. Allan recalls especially during WWII the large number of sailors who would walk past his home on the way to the training station. He recalls that the reduced Navy presence in later years had quite a negative impact on Newport.

Allan Manuel describes a rich childhood experience growing up on the Point. His house was located on Walnut Street and was adjacent to the railroad bridge and the cemetery. His memories of fun times include roller-skating, sledding and swimming, especially having the water so close to home. His grandfather built a one-room house in the yard for him and his sister to play in. It had a porch with windows on the side. Play appliances were made out of cardboard and Allan would sleep out in the house during the summer. He enjoyed walking to the various stores that were available on the Point with shopping lists from his mother. There were several grocery and variety stores located on the Point all in walking distance including Mott Brothers, Katzman's Grocery Store and Pete's Canteen. All eventually disappeared replaced by large supermarkets as the small stores couldn't compete.

Allan also enjoyed being able to walk to school and go home for lunch each day from the local grammar schools he attended, the Callander and Potter Schools. There were lots of children growing up on the Point and both schools were used for early education. The children's age determined which school they attended each year.

He recalls that the train arrived once a day and would slowly roll into the station. The train was originally steam type but a new diesel train was introduced. He and his father rode the new diesel train up to Boston and he remembers that it came to a sudden stop. They discovered that the train had hit and killed a cow. The train eventually made it to the destination. One day he was in the kitchen with his mother and the plates began to rattle. His mother blamed the vibration on the train but Allan knew the trains moved slowly into the station and wouldn't have been the cause. It was later discovered that an earthquake had occurred at a coal mine in Portsmouth.

Allan Manuel also spoke about experiencing the hurricane of 1938 on the Point. He recalled walking down to Battery Park with his mother to see the impact that the storm was having on the neighborhood. The waves were coming up to the gravel sidewalk and eventually the water reached Third Street. A tree crashed onto a gravestone and broke it to pieces. Water covered the Walnut Street train tracks and the JT Lumber Yard was seen floating by the Walnut Street Bridge. His family had no damage to their house but the house on the north side of Battery Park wound up with a big yacht in their yard.

Allan Manuel spoke about a summer job he held at the Torpedo Factory. He took over for a woman who turned out to be his future wife's aunt. His job included bringing food around to the different sections of the factory where the body of the torpedoes were being built. He enjoyed delivering sandwiches, soup and soda to the workers but he knew they missed having a young woman doing the deliveries. The torpedo factory took up most of the north side of Goat Island. He would travel there by ferry either from Mott Street

or Governor's Pier.

In the 1960s the building of The Claiborne Pell Bridge and America's Cup Avenue had quite an impact on the neighborhood. Besides the loud banging and building disruption, both projects split blocks in half and several houses were removed and lost. On a positive note, Allan's father was instrumental in saving the Pitts Tavern now located on Bridge Street. The tavern was slotted to be torn down and he was able to have it moved. His father was offered the house for a dollar if he could move it. The tavern continues to be a valued landmark on the Point.



Allan's father enjoyed photography and also collecting books and military items and uniforms. He maintained a museum book store in their basement and had many regular customers despite the fact that he couldn't advertise in a residential neighborhood. His father's pho-

tography was studio based and he had his own dark-room. Allan, influenced by his father, also developed a love of photography and had the advantage of a portable camera. He took pictures of Newport events, boats visible off Battery Park and points of interest in the neighborhood. He accumulated quite a collection that is being shared with the Point Association History and Archives Committee by his son Paul. The photography collection is giving a rich visual history of the unique neighborhood of the Point and Newport as a whole. The History and Archive Committee greatly appreciates the Manual Family for sharing the photograph collections.

The Newport Point Association History and Archive Committee are thankful to Allan Manuel for participating in this oral history interview. We appreciate Allan sharing memories of time spent living on the Point for many years. We encourage readers to listen to the complete interview that is available on the Point Association Website.



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## THE DIG AT HUNTER HOUSE

by Lisa Brew

Have you noticed the activity at Hunter House this summer? A part of the garden area had been taped off to allow for sifting equipment, various hand tools, and buckets. Upon closer inspection (our inquisitive nature



got the best of us) we witnessed digging in an area of the garden facing the harbor. Come to find out, the garden was not part of the original open space and that Hunter House was very much part of our working Colonial seaport. After spending some time with the visiting archaeologist, Sarah Salem, we decided to share some questions and answers with you to pique your interest in what is currently happening in our neighborhood. It was amazing to learn what we walk upon in our daily lives. Here Sarah shares some of her knowledge and findings with us.

*Where did you attend school and how did you develop your interest in archaeology?*

I attended the University of St Andrews in Scotland,

originally to study Medieval History. During my second year, I began to find the study of history at the collegiate level a bit too abstract for my understanding of the world, so joined the archaeology club and began volunteering with a rescue archaeology research trust to try and focus on something a little more three-dimensional. I eventually switched my major to Medieval History and Archaeology. I attended a field school on a medieval abbey in North Lincolnshire with the University of Sheffield, volunteered with the aforementioned research trust on a 16th century salt pans site in northeastern Scotland, and volunteered at the Iron Age Cairns site in Orkney the following year.

*What was your course of study? Is it specific to studying this kind of historic location?*

I grew to love archaeological sites and became interested in how people relate to them, especially those which have been restored or reconstructed to varying degrees. I went on to get a Masters in Cultural Heritage Management from the University of York in England and wrote my dissertation on that very topic. While Hunter House is not medieval, it has been restored. The garden, however, is not a restoration of the house's original setting, though it is sometimes mistaken as such, and that intrigued me.

*Once you graduated, what led you to The Point?*

My sister attended college in Providence and while I was visiting her two winters ago, I came down to see a grad-school friend in Newport who told me about the Fellowship opportunity. That is also when I saw all of the amazing 18th century (and earlier!) houses around town and fell in love with them. Eventually, I focused my research on Hunter House, which is what drew me to the Point neighborhood. Not a bad spot to spend a little time outside enjoying the history and architecture!

*How is this kind of research funded?*

The Preservation Society has raised funds for a Fellows Endowment that has been matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The fellowships include a stipend and accommodation to enable us to carry out our research in Newport. Next year's fellows will be staying at the new Fellows' Center within the Elms Carriage House.

*What did you find in your excavations? Where will those items be cataloged and stored?*

The excavation turned up many artifacts ranging from the Colonial Period to the present day. Highlights include two musket or pistol balls, some clay gaming marbles, a Liberty Large Cent from 1803, several buttons, and countless pieces of ceramic, glass, brass, and



iron. This cultural material continued to come out of the ground as deep as 160 centimeters (about 5'4") below the ground surface! It is interesting to think about how the various layers of fill had to come from somewhere else that was inhabited because of all this material, likely from elsewhere on the Point. It is, however, a bit soon to be drawing many conclusions about the wharf. These finds are currently being washed and prepared for storage, with special conservator attention being placed on the more delicate and informative finds, such as the coin. They will be stored in our collection, with a mind for a small display inside Hunter House.

*To whom will you be presenting your findings?*

As part of the Fellowship, I will be presenting one of the Kiernan Lectures, which will broadly outline my research and conclusions (details below). The other fellow, Brian Knoth, will also be speaking on his re-

search about Gilded Age Music in Newport. I have also put together a panel display for the back fence of Hunter House. This will also explain much more of the historical research I have been doing, as well as the archaeological. This will be accessible from the public right of way behind the house, and will also be a nice thing for guests to read while they await their tour. It may be in place as early as the fall, but certainly for the opening of the house next year. Additionally, I will be speaking about this project as it relates to the Historic Preservation Act this fall at the Salve Regina Cultural and Historic Preservation Conference.

The information on Hunter house was presented at The Eaddo H. and Peter D. Kiernan III Lecture on August 10th at Rosecliff. This lecture series is free to Preservation Society of Newport County members and \$5 for non-members. You can register to attend at: <https://newportmansions.thankyou4caring.org/pages/event-registration> or call (401) 847-1851.



# MEMORIES OF LIFE IN RHODE ISLAND DURING WWII AND BEFORE

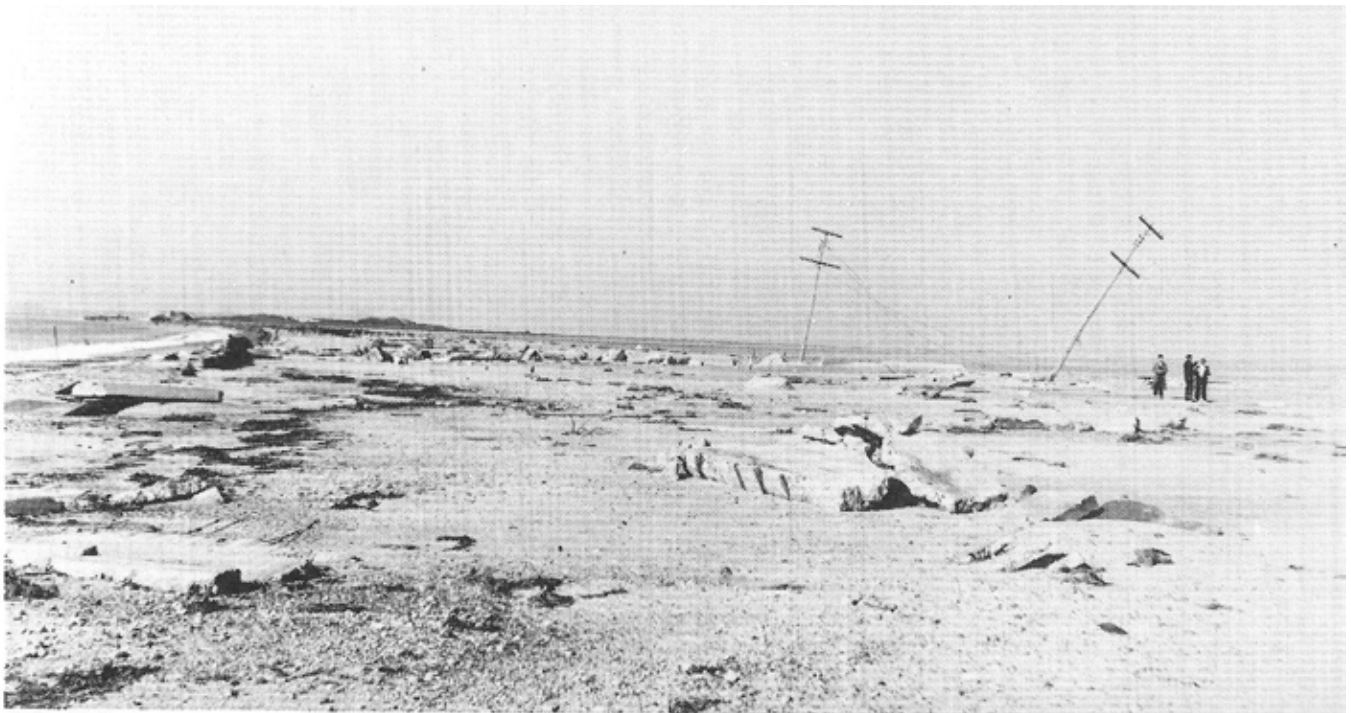
by Dave Moore

I was nine years old when the war started and fourteen when it ended, so these memories are through the eyes and ears of a youngster. It was also only during the summer months I spent in Rhode Island, and it was not in Newport, but the opposite side of the bay – Watch Hill.

My grandfather had bought a cottage in 1918 at Watch Hill on a narrow peninsula of land jutting out a mile and a half between the Atlantic Ocean and Little Narragansett Bay. On maps it is called Napatree Point, but the locals called it Fort Road because Fort Mansfield was at the end of it, built during the Spanish-American War. It was to prevent any naval attack on New York City. There were thirty-nine houses along this spit of land, and his was the sixth from the far end.

pletely destroyed with fifteen fatalities, including my aunt and step-grandmother. Fortunately, the rest of my family and grandfather had left two weeks before the September storm. My father, of course, was devastated, having lost his sister and step-mother. Fourteen of the fifteen bodies had been found except his sister, before he arrived. He spent eleven days searching the Connecticut shore before she was found, and later wrote a book called *The Search* about his experiences.

After the hurricane, it was four years before we returned to Watch Hill. Many summer residents refused to return and the little community still remained in mourning. There were “For Sale” signs everywhere and large houses could be bought for almost nothing. My father bought an abandoned Victorian style house with seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, and furniture for twenty-five hundred dollars. It was a fixer-upper with great potential, and located on high ground above any future storm surges.



**View on Fort Road showing the location of the Moore cottage.**

From the time I was six months old, my family and I spent every summer there until the 1938 hurricane changed our lives. All thirty-nine houses were com-

By 1942, we had changed the window shades facing the ocean to black ones and pulled them down at night. There had been German U-boats off the coast, and

many of our ships had been sunk. A Coast Guardsman was constantly patrolling the beaches day and night. I remember seeing several life jackets, fruit-crates and other ship debris along the shore. Our cars had black tape across the headlights except for a very narrow



vertical strip to allow a little light to get through. Gas was rationed and a stamp with a letter A, B, or C was attached to the windshield. Lucky were the ones having a B or C, as they were given more gas because of their importance in the war effort. Certain foods were rationed. No one could buy a good piece of steak, and almost no sugar or butter was available.

Many of the houses had a service flag hanging in their window. A blue star in the flag's middle signified they had a family member in the military. A gold star meant killed in action. Unfortunately, as the war went on, I saw more and more gold stars. I remember a few who were five or six years older than I who died. Larry Enwright, our milkman's son, enlisted in the USMCR and was killed in action. David Jones, who lived in the house behind ours, was also killed. Tom Walker, who would run up and down the beach with his German Shepherd dog almost every day, volunteered and became a pilot. He died in training. I sadly remember, after he died, any time a plane flew over the beach, his dog would bark and race after it. Billy Ackerknecht, a close friend of my family, died in the Battle of the Bulge. I remember sitting on the beach with his parents when they got the word he was being sent overseas. His mother cried.

Shortly thereafter, my older brother and first cousin enlisted in the navy. My parents gave me a large map of the Pacific that I placed on my bedroom wall. I pinned little American or Japanese flags on the islands or territory occupied by each.

On a hot summer day in 1944, I corralled a group of my friends to go dig some clams. The best place was out at the end of Fort Road, on the bay side just before the forts. The Peninsula made a sharp bend at the end, called Sandy Point, making a nice little cove for clam digging. Besides my younger sister Jane and myself, our group consisted of: Gracie Ackerknacht, Dick Joy, the grandson of the founder of the Packard Car Company, Jan, my future brother-in-law, and sisters Sallie and Dinny Wemple. The oldest was Sallie at age 13, and the youngest was my sister, age ten. Gracie was the younger sister of Billy who, as I mentioned was later killed in the war. Her father, an obstetrician, had delivered my sister Jane and Dinny - my future wife.

My mother gave us her favorite aluminum pot she used to cook lobsters – only on condition we take very good care of it. Aluminum was scarce during the war. Our small group, in bathing suits, walked the mile and a half of beach out Fort Road where houses once stood. There were only sand dunes, patches of dune grass and an occasional piece of concrete or brick from part of a sea wall, chimney, or foundation left over from the hurricane.

Arriving at the cove about noon, we waded in the water up to our waists and started feeling for the buried clams with our bare feet. If the sand felt hard, or we saw an air hole we reached down and dug with our hands. We kept the pot afloat and dumped our catch into it. On the beach, about fifty feet from us, was a big white sign: "WARNING - KEEP OFF - NAVAL PRACTICE BOMBING AREA." Near the sign were rusting stove-pipe size crumpled "bombs" filled with sand. We were in the water and not on the beach, so we thought we were safe.

This quickly changed when we found, under water, several heavy, cast iron, foot long "bombs," with fins. A center hole in the bomb filled with colored powder would indicate where they hit. I picked up two of them and thought they would make great souvenirs or door stops, but realized we were clamming in the bull's eye of a water target.

In the distance we could hear the sound of a high flying plane and hoped it was a commercial passenger plane, but then terror struck. Looking up towards the sun, I could see just the wing tips of a plane div-

ing towards us. Splashes of water appeared all around us. Couldn't the damn fool see us in the water? We dropped everything and tried to run to shore. It is almost impossible to run in waist deep water. We were moving in slow motion. Next, a second plane dropped its load followed by a third, and then a fourth screaming diving plane. I don't know whether our screams or those of the dive bombers were louder. I could see the gull shape wings as the half dozen planes pulled out of their dives right over our heads.

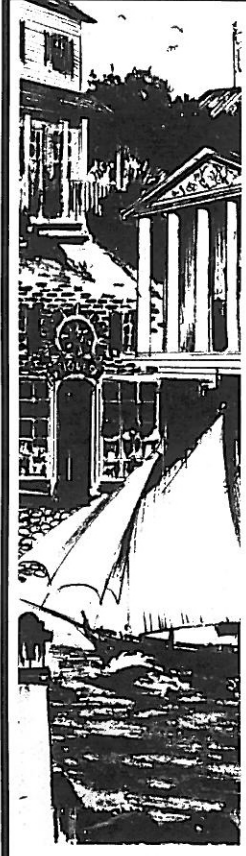
I saw Gracie trip and fall near me and thought she must have been hit, but once the raid was over, we saw no one was hurt. We managed to get back to the beach and ran away from the area as fast as we could. Someone said my mother's prize pot was missing and we should go back and find it. No one volunteered.

We found out later that the pilots had been training at the Naval Base in Charlestown, Rhode Island. They were flying TBM Avengers with night fighting radar. "Night Fighters," as they were called, lived a very dangerous life, training every available hour in all weather. More pilots were killed in training there (forty-four)

than in combat. One of the new pilots was George H.W. Bush, and I often wondered if he was one of those who bombed us. They were flying by instruments and radar, and it is no wonder they did not see us. As far as I know, we were the only Americans bombed during the war in the U.S.

News arrived in early August 1945 about the dropping of the atomic bombs and it was shortly thereafter, on August 15, that the war was over. The celebration began. We youngsters were allowed to ride on the fire trucks through the local towns. The crowd waved and cheered us we drove by with sirens blazing, flags waving and streaming rolls of paper behind. It was a day to remember, and Rhode Island called it V-J (Victory over Japan) Day. It was the only state to declare it a holiday and is now called "Victory Day."

Ref:Moore, Paul J. - "The Search, An Account of the The Fort Road Tragedy." Amazon.com, Kindle edition.




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## SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*An informative and enjoyable evening at the Newport Shipyard*  
by Tom Hockaday

The Point Association was excited to hold its Annual Spring Membership meeting at the Newport Shipyard, a great neighbor and friend of the Point Neighborhood and the Association. Charlie Dana, owner of the Newport Shipyard, and his son Eli, were kind and generous to host the annual spring meeting, showing their commitment and support of our neighborhood.

After refreshments provided by the Shipyard and the conclusion of our business meeting, Charlie and Eli spoke on the history of the Shipyard and the important role it has played in both the Point Neighborhood and Newport's economy since it began business in 1834.

As Charlie shared great stories of the history of the Shipyard and his work in its restoration, several long-time neighbors joined in sharing their stories and memories of the shipyard, too. Over 60 neighbors and members of the Point Association joined for this enlightening and educational event on a beautiful Newport evening!



*Thanks to Charlie and Eli Dana for their generous hospitality in hosting the Spring Membership Meeting.*

*At the Point Association annual spring meeting members got an update on the Association's work and activity from Tom Hockaday, president.*



As Point neighbors know, the shipyard is one of Newport's greatest assets, providing residents and visitors to our city the experience of walking through a working shipyard and allowing them the opportunity to enjoy beautiful boats, interesting people, as well as living history.

Many thanks to Charlie and Eli Dana for their hospitality and for opening the Shipyard for such an informative and enjoyable evening. And, even more important, the Point Association and neighbors send a special thanks to the entire Dana family for their support of the Point neighborhood and our organization.

We look forward to continuing to work with Newport Shipyard and the Dana family on behalf of issues important to the Point neighborhood and our community!



*Charlie Dana, owner of the Newport Shipyard, speaking to the Point Association about the rich history of the Newport Shipyard.*

# BELLE'S

*Located at the Newport Shipyard,  
Belles Cafe offers a great breakfast & lunch menu!  
Freshly prepared soups, salads, sandwiches and entrees  
can be enjoyed at our waterside dining area,  
in the Cafe, or on the go.*

MON - FRI: Breakfast ~ 7:30am-11:00am  
Lunch ~ 11:00am-3:00pm

SAT & SUN: Breakfast ~ 7:30am-Noon  
Lunch ~ Noon-3:00pm



Newport Shipyard  
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NEWPORT

## THE ANGELUS by Fr N. J. A. Humphrey

*Reprinted in an abridged version from St. John's newsletter.*

In the past three years, it has happened to me more often than I can count. At cocktail parties, or walking down the street, or at picnics, or at coffee hour, a neighbor or visitor or newcomer will turn to me and ask, "Why do the bells ring multiple times at 7 a.m., noon, and 6 p.m. every day, rather than striking the hour, as at other times?" I will tell my conversation partners that I'm glad they asked, because until I was eighteen years old, I didn't know the answer either...

Just before I turned nineteen, I went to live with some Roman Catholic Benedictine Monks at Mount Saviour Monastery in Elmira, New York. We gathered for corporate prayer seven times a day, including a short service marking the end of the day, called Compline, at 8 p.m. Most of the year, it was dark at that hour, and the monks only lit two candles. In the summer, we could see fine, but because the service was the same every day, the monks and regular attendees sang it from memory, accompanied by Brother Pierre at the harp. At the end of Compline, we would descend to the crypt of the church and stand in a circle around a beautiful and simple medieval stone statue of the Madonna & Child. We would sing "Salve Regina," either in Latin or in English (yes, the university in Newport is named after a hymn!), after which we would stand in silence as a monk would ring the chapel bell: Three rings. Silence. Three rings. Silence. Three rings. Silence. Nine rings. Silence. Then the Prior would turn, and we would move silently to our cells for a peaceful night's sleep – that is, until the gong woke us at 4:15 a.m. and the next round of prayer and work began!

I came to Mt. Saviour in a roundabout way, not having grown up Roman Catholic. In fact, my father was the pastor of our small fundamentalist church. So these traditions (especially the Mary thing) were all new to me. Thankfully, this mystery of the ringing bells was explained in our group gatherings, where I was told that following the Salve Regina, the monks silently prayed an ancient prayer called the Angelus.

The Monks of Mt. Saviour followed the ancient monastic practice of only praying (and ringing) the Angelus at night, but in many monasteries and churches

nowadays the Angelus is rung traditionally at 6 am, 12 noon and 6 pm. At St. John's, however, it is first rung at 7 am out of consideration for our nearer neighbors. Originally, the Angelus was simply a triple repetition of the Hail Mary, or Ave Maria, as it's known in Latin: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death." In its current form, the three sets of three bells accompany three versicles and responses, each followed by one Hail Mary, and the final set of nine bells accompanies a fourth versicle and response and a concluding prayer, also known as "collect"....When done corporately, the Angelus is traditionally prayed responsively between an Officiant and the People (whether the "People" is one other person or many). It is just as easily prayed straight through individually by one person, however, which is how the Monks of Mt. Saviour did it, in silence. They did it this way because the end of Compline marked the beginning of the "Great Silence," when the monks would not speak to anyone except if it was an emergency, until after the first prayer service the next day....

The most difficult thing I have found about praying the Angelus to automated bells is saying all the words fast enough before the next set of bells begins! But that is not the important thing. The reason the bells ring at all is to remind people within earshot that it is time to pause and to pray, to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, and to remember Mary's special role in bringing that gift into the world. It is also a reminder that we are in need of each other's prayers, as we all, God willing, travel together into that mystery which is God's eternal love....

I know that several years ago, the bells stopped ringing for a time, and our neighbors missed them so much, they raised funds to have them restored. Anne Cuvelier was a prime mover in this initiative, and I am so grateful to her and to all those who contributed to that project. The bells certainly help give this neighborhood its distinct flavor. Whether you are a Catholic of the Anglo-Catholic or Roman Catholic variety or not, every time you hear the Angelus, you can know that you live in a neighborhood of people who care about our community, and enjoy being with each other day in, day out.

## “SPLENDOR AT SEA”

by Shelby Coates

This exhibit, subtitled “The Golden Age of Steam Yachting in America,” will be in place on the second floor of Newport’s Rosecliff mansion until the end of the year. Sponsored by the Preservation Society, with the evident assistance of the New York Yacht Club, it is comprised of a splendid collection of photographs, paintings, models, nautical artifacts, period clothing, and miscellaneous memorabilia from the era. Although numerous tycoons of that pre-World War I period of opulence owned such yachts, the focus is on just eight of the owners: three Vanderbilts plus a Bennett, Morgan, Brown, Berwind, and a Jones.

Representative of the steam yachts on display is a huge photo-reproduction of Cornelius Vanderbilt III’s NORTH STAR on the second floor hallway’s north wall and, in an adjoining room, a little painting (circa 1905) of this 256-foot beauty in the Bay of Naples, Italy, with Mount Vesuvius in the background. NORTH STAR was attending the prestigious Cowes Week Regatta, near southern England’s Isle of Wight, when World War I broke out in 1914. Research (apart from the exhibit) reveals that the yacht was then turned over to the British Navy to serve as a hospital ship.

A lengthy Preservation Society narrative backgrounding the exhibit includes this:

With the onset of World War I (1914-1918) came an end of this singular era.

Most private steam yachts were commissioned or given to the United States

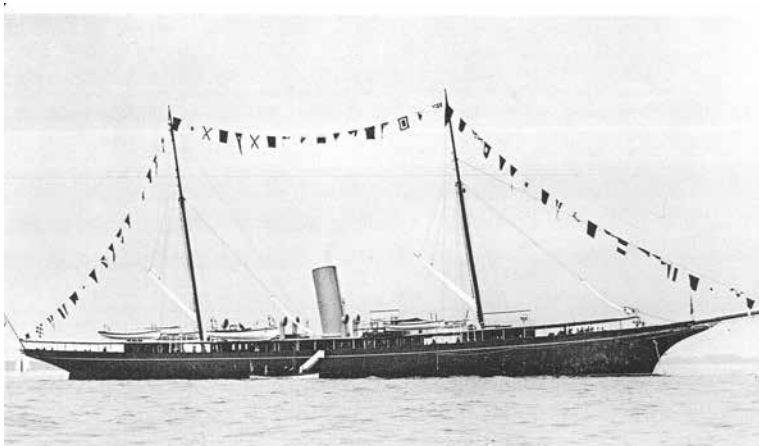
and British Navies for war service. The majority sank and the few that survived

were not taken back into private ownership.

That third sentence is historically incorrect. Of the twenty yachts sent to Brest, France, for antisubmarine convoy duty in the Bay of Biscay, only three were lost. The ALCEDO was torpedoed and sunk, the WAKIVA was sunk in a collision, and the GUINEVERE stranded and was wrecked. Most of the yachts, however, were returned to their owners after the War.

The J. P. Morgan family’s series of CORSAIR yachts got a mere listing (no photographs) in the exhibit. Erik Hoffman, a connoisseur of the steam yachts of the period, writing of Morgan’s third CORSAIR, said: “If one yacht deserves the title of ‘THE’ yacht it is this

beautifully proportioned, handsome, fast, seaworthy vessel.” Included with my review of the exhibit is a pre-War picture from my collection of that CORSAIR.



Refitted after the War as an oil-burning (rather than coal-burning) luxury private yacht, COR-

SAIR steamed through the twenties until turned over by Morgan to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and it was renamed OCEANOGRAPHER. Although the trend after the War was toward diesel power, Morgan’s fourth and last CORSAIR was steam, although now turbo-electric, powered. After another decade of private use, it was turned over to the British Navy for service in World War II, becoming stranded and wrecked, when in other hands, off Acapulco, Mexico, in 1949.

Opulent “mega” motor yachts remain badges of today’s “conspicuous consumption” on the part of those in appropriately fortunate circumstances. Walk over to the Newport Shipyard to view some of these state-of-the-art leviathans that dock and/or get stored there.

## NYYC RACE WEEK



PHOTO ESSAY  
by Lisa Stuart



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## MEMBERSHIP

*Here's a little refresher course on how all the renewal stuff happens. It all depends on whether you have shared your email or not.*

- If you have not shared your email with the PA, then your renewal date is always on the label of your *Green Light*. If it's printed in red, please make your payment as soon as possible!
- If you have shared your email with the PA, then a renewal invoice will be generated and sent via email automatically 30 days before your renewal date, and you will receive a message informing you that your renewal is approaching. You will receive additional emails 2 weeks prior to your renewal date, the day of your renewal, 30 days after, and then, if you still haven't renewed, you will receive a message 180 days after your renewal date informing you that your membership is lapsing, and you will become inactive. Those messages are generated automatically by the system until your membership renewal has been entered into the system.
- If you renew late, but still within that 180 day period, you'll experience no lapse in your Points of Interest emails, and your renewal date will remain the same. If you lapse before you renew, then your renewal date will be changed to the day your dues are processed in the database, and you'll experience a lapse in emails in the meantime – basically, you're re-joining as of the date your dues are processed, and we're thrilled to have you back.

**So, how does that all work?** Again, it depends (I know it sounds wishy-washy, but that's how it is!):

- If you opt to renew through the site using a credit card and paying via PayPal as described in other issues, your membership is updated immediately. No more annoying reminder emails!
- If you opt to pay by cash or check through the mail, it can take a while. We're a volunteer organization, and we do our tasks the best we can. The mail isn't always checked weekly. People go on travel or have other things in their schedule or get sick or whatever. There are times when it might even take a month to get your payment and fully process it. You will continue to receive those annoying emails until that happens so please be patient and just ignore them after your check is mailed.

What can you do as a member to ensure that your renewal is speedily and correctly processed? Log in and update your profile (this issue of the *Green Light* contains a "how-to"). Make certain that your name, address, phone, and email information is correct (have you moved recently?), and while you're at it, update your interests! Sometimes payments have been delayed because the address on the check is not the address on the profile, and we don't always have first names or correct names in the database, so if you double-check your information, that's a great help. And if you're truly impatient, pay via PayPal – it's the fastest way.

**Last but certainly not least, thanks so much for being a member and for your support!**

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP RATES:** Note that membership rates for the current year remain unchanged.  
Rates will be discussed at the next Members' Meeting.

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### 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](http://www.thepointassociation.org)*

☐ Individual \$10      ☐ Family \$15      ☐ Sponsor \$25      ☐ Patron \$40

Please check membership status: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

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

*Thank You !*

# SAVE THE DATES

Secret Garden Tours: *On & Off the Avenue and Historic Hill*  
Friday-Saturday, Sept 9, 10 & 11, 10 am-5 pm

## FALL MEETING

Monday, October 24, St. John's Church Guild Hall.  
Annual Business Meeting,  
followed by a presentation by Gloria Merchant, author of the book, *Pirates of Colonial Newport*.

WATCH FOR &  
Sign up for  
POINTS OF INTEREST!!!

