

The
GREEN

LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2017



The GREEN LIGHT

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FALL 2017

CONTENTS

President's letter.	3
Bucci's Today: New Owner, New Name, Same Family Store Tradition	4
Hosta Alley in Storer Park	5
Newport's WWII Harbor Defense Penetrated? . . .	6
Stores of the Point: Third, Elm, Second, and Battery Park	8
31 Walnut Street – Then, Then, and Now! One Building Several Conversions	10
Successful Plant Sale Yields Beautiful Gardens . .	10
Telling Stories – 500 Years of Living	12
The Charter Yacht as Seen From Inside and Aboard	14

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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 by Jane Hence

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



In this issue, the *Green Light* takes special note of all those who work diligently day in and day out—year in and year out—to make the Point the attractive, nurturing, and responsible community that it is. There are gardeners and city employees, to be sure. Their work is the most visible, but there are also all the others, all our neighbors with a concern for the common good, too numerous to be named but all contributors to the sense of community that characterizes the Point neighborhood.

One of them, Isabel Griffith, former Point Association president, was honored this summer by *Newport Life* as one of 10 “Notable Men and Women Who Make a Difference.” We congratulate her but remind our readers that while Isabel is exceptional, she is not alone on the Point. I know she would agree with that.

Let us hope that there is enough light here to shine through the darkness that has come over our country these last months of this summer of 2017.

Alice Clemente

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

As summer ends, we have a chance to reflect on the wonderful summer season and the many fabulous sunsets our neighborhood has shared. We had great summer weather, and our gardens across the neighborhood showed it! We are so fortunate to have had our spectacular hydrangeas in full bloom this year, which we missed out on last summer.

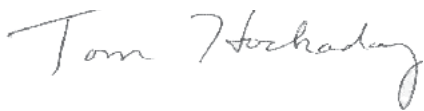
With the good fortune of this summer's weather, we have also shared stress and strain brought on by many simultaneous infrastructure improvement projects this season that are beneficial to our community. Both our city and our state have spent countless hours working to improve our roads, bridges, and public facilities. This has not been without a challenge to us in the Point neighborhood. The noise and ongoing disruptions from the work and improvements at the Visitor's Center, Pell Bridge and roads have taken their toll on the generally tranquil days and evenings we cherish on the Point. These improvements are important, but they have created challenges for our neighborhood.

Just like our neighbors on Broadway who experienced the previous two seasons with the construction and inconveniences of the Broadway Street project, we too look forward to enjoying the fruits of everyone's labors when we have an improved Visitor's Center—including the green infrastructure improvements that are important to us all. We will continue to work with the city and our elected officials to give input and share our neighbor's thoughts and concerns.

And now, as we reflect on our wonderful neighborhood of active, involved, and caring individuals, we want to share our concern for our neighbors at 18 and 20 Second Street who have suffered extensive damage to their homes in a recent fire. We are so grateful for their well-being and we offer, as a neighborhood, to be of help to them as they put their lives and their homes back together. Experiences like these remind us all of how close we live and how special our neighborhood is.

As we enter the fall season followed by the Holidays, my best wishes to all. We look forward to seeing you at our annual Fall Meeting on October 4th and our Storer Park Caroling and Christmas tree Lighting on December 7th!

Warmest regards,



Tom Hockaday
President

BUCCI'S TODAY: NEW OWNER, NEW NAME, SAME FAMILY STORE TRADITION

by Lisa Stuart

Rich Willis, owner of Caleb & Broad, and his business partner Forrest Pattern purchased Bucci's in May. Renamed "Point Wine & Spirits" the store will follow in the tradition of Bucci's and be a family-run business. Bonnie, Rich's sister, is managing the store.



Rich did a quick clean-up and modernization of the store and filled the shelves with a large variety of wines and spirits. In the fall he will do a full update. His plans are to keep with the look of an old-school Point Store. "It's important to me that it fits in with the neighborhood and its history," Rich noted. He has already looked through all the material on stores that we have in the Point Association's Archives.

Rich added that he wants to do right by the neighborhood. His family has strong ties to the Point. Rich's mother Trudy grew up here. Rich shared, "Langley's was my great-grandfather's store and he prided himself on his lollipops. My mom told me that he would spell the flavors wrong on purpose and if the neighborhood children saw that it was spelt wrong they got a treat for free!"

His family also has a history with Bucci's. His grandfa-

ther was a friend of Bucci's and conducted the original survey of the gas station when it was purchased by Bucci and converted into a store.

Rich looks forward to being part of the neighborhood and said he wants the store to be known for its hospitality. If you want an item they don't have, they'll get it. They also deliver to households, businesses and boats for events and parties.

Rich will once again serve up hot chocolate as he did last year at our Christmas Tree Lighting. Stop by and welcome Rich and his family to the neighborhood! Bring your dog—Point Wine & Spirits is dog-friendly and has treats for them.



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HOSTA ALLEY IN STORER PARK by Nancy Abbinanti

The Point Association Beautification Committee has enhanced the beauty of Storer Park by restoring a strip of garden bordering the Hunter House. The committee chose Hosta plants as a perennial favorite due to their lush foliage and easy care. The garden was informally named Hosta Alley.

Prior to planting, the committee volunteers attended a Hosta splitting demonstration given by Michael Conroy and prepared the garden for planting. The Beautification Committee requested and received donations of Hosta plants to keep the cost down. Richard Abbinanti, the chair of the committee, worked in collaboration with Scott Wheeler from the city to assist in preparing the garden in highly overgrown areas and to provide mulch to enhance appearance. The



city also donated the cobblestones that were placed at the perimeter of the garden. The cobblestones and new plantings were also added to the small garden in front of the stone Storer Park sign.

The efforts by the Beautification Committee added to last year's Storer Park project in collaboration with the city. This included new decorative overhead lighting for the path next to the Hosta Garden along with two new Sargent Cherry Trees. Please visit the park and note in addition to the harbor view the beautiful gardens and flower filled planters.



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NEWPORT'S WWII HARBOR DEFENSE PENETRATED?

by Dave Moore

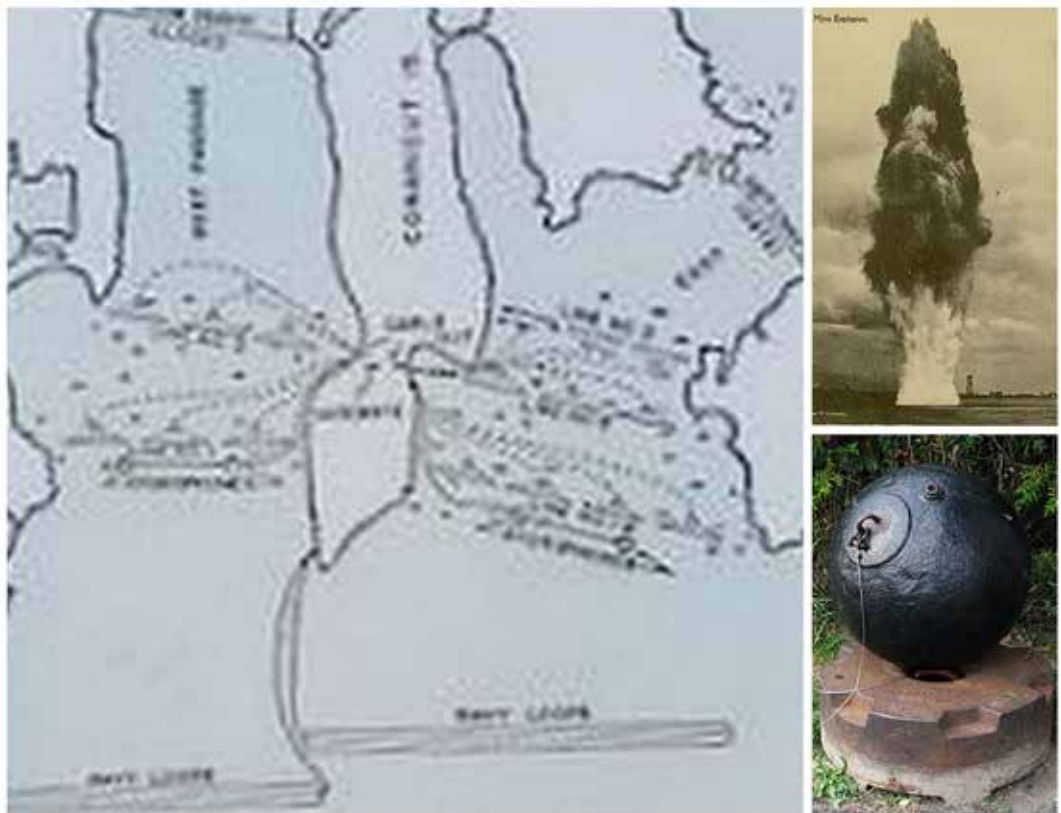
In June of 1956 I was the youngest crew member on a sailboat that was practicing for the Newport to Bermuda Race. We were sailing near Gould Island and were told this is where torpedoes were tested during WW II. On board was a crew member I hadn't met before. He told us that he was a Submarine Captain during the war and that, as a test, without being detected, he brought his sub through the mine fields and submarine net into the bay to about where we were sailing. We asked him if he had hit a mine - or got tangled in a metal net - would it have been the end of him? He told us the mines were not contact mines, but were controlled electrically and activated by an operator who could make it explode or not. It was strange that none of us asked the submariner how he did it, but we may have been more involved in how to make our boat go faster. Years later, every time I drove down the Burma Road in Melville I saw the piles of the 3000 pound steel float balls that had supported the steel nets across the bay. It made me think of the submarine Captain and wondered how it was done. I had no luck in finding him, but it piqued my curiosity.

During the war Newport was the home port for the Cruiser Destroyer fleet and certainly needed protection. At the height of the war there were 3000 troops stationed in Rhode Island for the Harbor Defense. I learned Narragansett Bay had nine forts with many light and heavy cannons and machine guns. One fort, Nathanael Greene in Point Judith, had four 16-inch naval cannons capable of hurling a one ton projectile some 25 miles out to sea. (I sup-

pose much to the consternation of the Block Island residents.) The fortifications were important, but so were the minefields, booms, nets, ships, and airplanes.

The first obstacle an enemy submariner had to overcome was staying submerged and out of sight from the observers at Fort Green at Point Judith and Fort Burnside at Beavertail. Fort Burnside was the location of the Joint Army and Navy Harbor Entrance Control Post. It was installed in a tall Fire Control structure near the lighthouse, and was first used to observe the mine-planting process and fix the location of each mine. Later, it would be used to track any attacking ships, and report when and where specific mines should be detonated (known as "observed fire").

Next to avoid was the magnetic properties of two anti-submarine indicator loops located on the ocean floor $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the south of Beavertail. About 90,000 feet copper wire loops were laid in a rectangular pattern



Map of Narragansett Bay WW II with magnetic loops and minefields

plus hydrophones to protect the mouth of the West and East Bay channels. Both loops were led back to a panel in the Fire Control structure. It relied on the production of an induced current in the stationery wire loops when anything metal (in this case, a submarine) moved overhead. Even if a sub was demagnetized (degaussed) it still had sufficient magnetism to produce a small current in a loop. Because friendly submarines always entered port on the surface, and if a signal was reported, but no surface vessel was sighted, a destroyer would be sent out to drop depth charges.

North of the loops were the mine fields that an enemy vessel would encounter. Each mine carried 700-pounds of TNT. They were anchored to the bottom at the entrance to the bay, either sitting on the bottom itself or floating at depths which could vary widely, from about 20 to 110 feet. About twenty mines, a hundred feet apart, made up a group. There were 15 groups spread out across the bay inlet, and the groups ran to an under water distribution box. From there it ran to a shore cable hut and then to a nearby massive concrete case-ment located near Hull Cove on Conanicut Island. Inside the operating room was the mine control panel. When a vessel hit a mine, an impact-sensitive device in each mine sounded the alarm in the panel. The order from there could be given to either detonate the mine and blow up the vessel or not. The chain of command went from there to the Harbor Defense Commander at Fort Adams. The fort was staffed by nine officers and forty enlisted men. The important devices there were 12” and 24” carbon arc searchlights.

Narragansett Bay maintained a small fleet of tenders that were used to plant the mines in precise patterns, and haul them back up periodically to check their condition. A concrete building by the Conanicut boat basin was the storage shed for these mines and contained the TNT used to fill them, which totaled about 750 lbs. when loaded. They also tested and repaired the electrical cables.

Next, the submarine had to pass through a steel net spread across both East and West Bay passages. In the East Bay it was anchored where the NYCC is located with the other end at Fort Wetherill. On the West Bay side it went between Fort Getty in Jamestown and Fort Kearney where the URI Bay Campus in Narragansett

is located. A boat boom was also located as part of the net that a small tug type boat would open and close to allow a vessel to pass though. The net and the indicating loops were controlled by the Navy while the mines were controlled by the Army.

Although it was a navy exercise and all mines were in the safe mode, how did my new crew mate avoid the alarms of the indicator loops and the minefield? Also, how did he pass through the submarine net? The average depth in the East Passage beyond the wire loops, the mine field, and net is about 120 feet. This is fine for a surface ship, but possibly not for a completely submerged WW II submarine. Could he have been closely following a big ship on the surface or at periscope depth at night? Any mine touched or magnetic field alarm from the loops might have been thought to have been caused by the surface ship.

After the war the Navy was only able to sweep up 13,000 mines out of a total of 25,000 mines laid. They stopped doing it as it was a dangerous undertaking. Five hundred minesweepers were sunk or damaged during the recovery. It makes one wonder how many unexploded mines still lie at the bottom of the bay!

Ref:
U.S.Army, Supplement to the Harbor Defense Project of Narragansett Bay, (HDNARB-AP-45), 1 Feb 1945, CDSG
http://fortwiki.com/Category:Harbor_Defense_of_Narragansett_Bay
Net and Boom Defenses, Ordnance Pamphlet 636A Naval Dept Bureau of Ordnance. 27 June, 1944.

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STORES OF THE POINT: THAMES, ELM, SECOND, AND BATTERY PARK

by Lisa Stuart

We all know Bucci's which is located in the former Shell Gas Station on Thames, but did you know there was a variety store in a building that once stood to the left of it at 9 Thames Street? It was Gamage's Variety Store and then known as Jo and Vi's. From 1938 to 1965 it was owned by Alva Gamage who lived at 82 Van Zandt Ave. Before owning Gamage's, Alva managed The Point Market. The building that housed Gamage's was replaced by a reproduction of the home of William Ellery.

Jo and Vi's had a wonderful candy counter. Pointers recall buying penny candy from money earned returning soda bottles. They would also purchase Nehi, devil dogs and Mad comics and enjoy them in the shade of the Liberty Tree across the street from the store. The older folks would sit on the bench waiting for the delivery of the afternoon paper. Many Pointers fondly remember Margaret Steel who was a clerk at the Gamage's/Jo and Vi's for 35 years until she retired in June 1974. Margaret lived on Third Street.

In 1962, Elizabeth and Anthony Bucci purchased the small building at 3 Thames Street. They had the tanks removed and a new building constructed. There were three elementary schools near Bucci's. School children gathered there after school. Today Bucci's is the only grocery store still operating on the Point. Bucci's combination store sells a variety of wines, beers and liquors along with food, staples, and newspapers.

In the early 1900s, the Boston Fruit Company which sold fruit, produce and nuts wholesale was located at 18 Elm Street. The building was then home to the Point Furniture Exchange and is currently home to Ten Speed Spokes. David & Co. which sold hay, grain and poultry feed was located at 13 Elm Street. As you may recall from the last article, Barney (Barney) Katzman had a grocery store at 29 Elm Street where the Third and Elm Street Press is now located.

A matchbook on eBay for Allen's Grocery at 25 Poplar had remained a mystery until solved by a participant in

a Facebook group whose husband recalled being sent to purchase groceries at a shop on Poplar near the train track. Paul Manuel found a photo in his family's photograph collection that showed a store on the East Side of the train crossing and Poplar. This was confirmed by *Newport Directories* from the 1930s and 1940s showing it was a grocery store owned by Louis Amler's. A 33 article further confirmed this, stating Amler's store was at Poplar and Fourth Street. A July 1954 classified ad in the *Newport Daily News* shows that the store's fixtures were put up for sale "cheap." (Who the "Allen" the store was named after was is still unknown.)

Now on to Second Street. The storefront that inspired me to research the history of stores on the Point is located at 27 Second Street. It was the home to James Jestings' market in the early 1900s. James Jestings came to Newport from Nova Scotia when he was 17. He was one of the first to have a "lunch wagon" that sold lunches in Washington Square. He then purchased the store on Second Street and ran it for 30 years. Jestings died in April 1928. The store continued on as Jestings' in the 1930s. According to *Newport Directories*, it was NW Self Service in the 1950s and McDonald's Market in the 1960s. By the 1970s the store was vacant.

A photo of the John Frye House, 32-35 Second Street, taken in 1948 shows a small store located in what is now the dining room of the house. Directories from the 30s and 40s show it was a grocery store owned by Abraham Nemtzow. In 1951, Nemtzow received permission to convert the store to an apartment. The house was later part of Operation Clapboard. The Brownwells purchased it from Nemtzow. It was then purchased by Mrs. Ernest Danes who restored it. (You may recall Mrs. Danes also restored 70-72 Bridge Street.) Suzanne and Dom Varisco purchased the house in 1995. Suzanne shared that the original house was built in 1760 and the larger house added in the 1800s. (*Green Light*, Winter 2010-11).

An article in the May 22, 1931 *Newport Mercury* tells of The Burt Olney Exhibit of Canned Goods Competition. Jestings' took first place and Hymie Katzman's took second place. Burt Olney Canning Company was incorporated in Oneida, New York, in 1880. Their canned fruit and vegetables were sold regionally.

Spiers Grocery, owned by Celia Spiers, was on the corner of Van Zandt and Second Street (103 Second). Typical of the time period, the Spiers lived above the store. When she passed away in 1935 her daughters Minnie and Sadie inherited the store. Sadie married Isaac Lulkin. In 1951 Isaac took over the ownership of the store. Spiers was soon nicknamed Ike's by the neighborhood. Pointers recall buying coffee milk and scooter pies there. Many recall that soda cost 5 cents and that there was an old cooler that had a bottle opener on the front. They also remember Sadie teaching 4th grade at the Potter School. The house was restored into a private residence by Frank and Betty Murphy in 1997.

In the early 1900s, Battery Park had a small seasonal candy, ice cream and soda stand that was run by Joseph (Jason) B. Child. It was a favorite gathering place for Point Hummers such as Skinner Lawton, Joby Pike and Bill Bauley. The stand was completely destroyed by a fire in December 1916.

This brings us to the end of the "Stores of the Point Series". This series focused on the grocery and variety stores that were the heart of family life on the Point. The Point also had shoe repair shops, antique, barber and other types of shops. And, of course, we are home to the worldrenown John Stevens Shop and our beloved Third & Elm Press. I love that the Point is steeped in history and the houses have so many stories to tell. But mostly I love that it is a neighborhood where we all know each other and share a most congenial life by the sea.

31 Walnut Street
THEN, THEN AND NOW!
ONE BUILDING SEVERAL CONVERSIONS

After reviewing my final article for the "Stores of the Point Series", our editor Alice Clemente and Lay-out/ Art Director Donna Maytum sent me an email about photos I submitted showing the evolution of the Knowles-Perry House, 31 Walnut. The house evolved from a private residence to having a store on the first floor, to the addition of a second storefront, to being restored back to a private residence. Alice and Donna suspected that I had mislabeled the photos—noting that the door placement, roofline and chimney were different in the various photos.



In the first photo the house has a store with awnings. One can see two chimneys, two dormers and a door in the center of the house. In the next photo one can see a second store added. There is now a second door on the corner of the house and a third dormer appears. The photo showing the house after restoration to a private residence shows one central chimney instead

of two. The storefronts and corner door were removed. Having focused on the storefronts, I had completely missed these differences.

I immediately opened my research files and checked that I sent the correct photos. They were indeed as I had them in my research. Two photos were from the Newport Restoration Foundation and the third was from the Point Association's archives. Were all these photos of the same house?

After a bit more research I found the answer on Newport Restoration Foundation's website. "Concreting the ground floor of eighteenth-century buildings into commercial store space was not uncommon in Newport during the later nineteenth and early twentieth century. The process was invasive. In the Knowles-Perry House nearly the entire first floor was removed and the basement filled in to create a street-level floor to ease access. When the second store was added, a few steel I-beams were used to support the second and third floors." The chimneys were also removed and replaced with a central chimney during the restoration by NRF. We do not know if the original house had a central chimney or two chimneys.

Our History and Archives Committee often uses rooflines and chimneys to help identify houses. We have been using this technique extensively as we have been researching houses that have been moved to/around the Point. Many of the houses have had their structures changed over the years making identification challenging. It was not unusual for dormers and porches to be added to the house over time.

Sometimes when a house was moved, its orientation to the street was changed to fit it into an available lot. The house was now "sideways." The owner often moved the door to what was previously the side of the house to provide easy access to the street. An example of this is the Sheffield-Huntington House, 43 Elm Street. When George Whitely purchased the house in the 1960s, it had a porch, a door facing Elm Street and dormers on the roof. During the restoration George discovered a blocked up door on the side of the house. It was discovered that the house had been turned in the 19th Century—details of when and why will be revealed in the upcoming article about "houses on the move." George removed the porch and dormers and returned the door to the original position on the house.

To further add to the challenge of correctly identifying houses is that some houses were originally barns and carriage houses. So

the chimney and roofline may have been added much later and not be "typical" of the time period the structure was built. In some cases the barns were moved from their original location. Examples include the Nina Lynette barn which was moved to Cherry Street and two barns that were moved to Cross and Elm.

There is also the very challenging situation where two or more houses were joined together. Examples include the John Stevens House, 70-72 Bridge Street, which was joined to the Topham house (moved from 10 Marsh Street). Some houses may even be from different centuries such as the John Frye House.

When Operation Clapboard, NRF and private individuals restored homes, they were/are often met with the challenge of having a building with a hodgepodge of additions and changes in the facade. Careful analysis must be done and decisions made on what is not only historically correct, but what is practical for the use of the building. The restoration of the Jableel Brenton Counting House, 39 Washington Street, is an example of this. NRF finally determined that the project would be a "rebuild" rather than a "restoration."

Although we think of the houses in our neighborhood as looking exactly the same as when they were built, they have actually lived dynamic lives impacted by the needs of the owners and the events that occurred in the Point. Photos, newspaper and Green Light articles, oral histories and knowledge of typical building modification methods are all necessary to fully understand the story of the house.

Please do not hesitate to email me corrections or additions to this research. Additional photos of stores have been added to the Point Association's Flickr Pro which can be accessed from our Website's History and Archives Section. www.ThePointAssociation.org.



SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE YIELDS BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

by Joan Rauch

If you treated yourself to a summer walk in the neighborhood, you were sure to be pleased by all the intense colors and varieties of flowers and plants! Many of those floral specimens were purchased at the Annual Plant Sale which was held on Saturday, May 27, at St. John's. The plant sale committee worked tirelessly to provide plants, flowers, pots, and garden bric-a-brac. The result was many choices to fill everyone's garden persuasions. And if you needed just a little sugar pick me up while shopping, yummy homemade baked goods were available.

A successful plant sale could not have happened without the help of so many. Our thanks go to the Point Association Plant Sale Committee, volunteers, contributors, bakers, and neighborhood farms

who provided beautiful annuals for sale. Huge thanks, too, to Father Humphrey and St. John's for providing an appropriate and inviting space for the sale.

Whether you are walking along Washington Street and passing by Storer Park, Battery Park, or the area in front of the water pumping station, you are seeing the results of our hard-working Point neighbors who are committed to making our little neck of the woods ever more beautiful! Thank you for your work and your vision!



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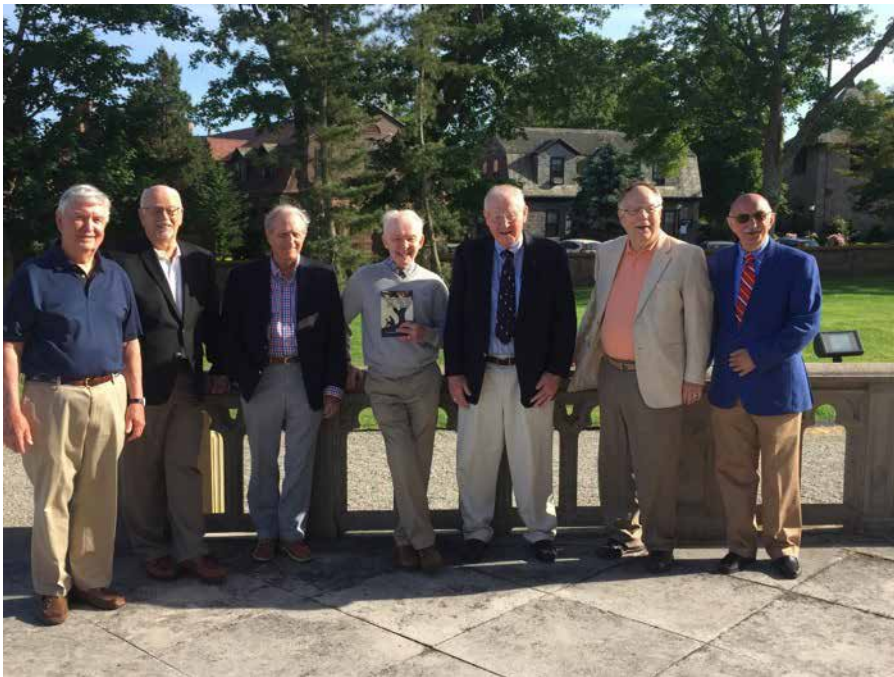
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TELLING STORIES—500 YEARS OF LIVING

by John Broughan

Walking into my first class of Jack Galvin's WriteLife I course and introducing myself to fellow Circle of Scholars classmates, I must admit to a sense of both excitement and some trepidation in returning to the classroom some 50 years after graduating from Georgetown University.



My goal for this class was to jumpstart a long held desire to write a short memoir of my favorite life stories for my family and closest friends. Little did I expect that a few years later a number of these stories would actually be published in a collection that is now available on Amazon! Each week in class, Jack would assign us a topic to explore by relating it to an incident from our own experience. The following week we would return to class with our “works of art,” which would be reviewed by Jack and our fellow critics. The first seven-week course ended far too quickly for most of us, so we returned the following year for WriteLife II. This resulted in each of us having fourteen short stories – an excellent start to a personal memoir of the highlights of one's life.

As a result of the closeness that developed during these class experiences, a number of us became friends, and we now meet monthly for lunch and share new essays

we have recently written while reveling in the enjoyment of retirement and our good fortune to live on Aquidneck Island. A year ago, at one of these luncheons, the idea of compiling and publishing a “best of” selection of our previously written essays quickly became reality. With Jack Galvin as editor and arbitrator, twenty-four stories were selected, all as varied in subject as our lives had been prior to retirement.

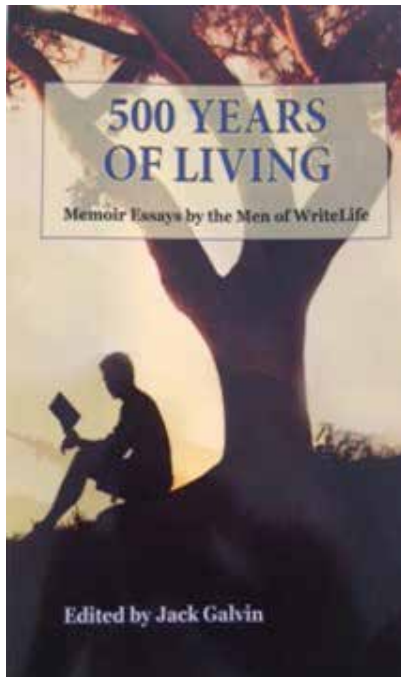
We also wanted to highlight the importance of the Salve Regina University Circle of Scholars program for us and so many of our neighbors by donating our writing as well as the necessary funds to initially publish *500 Years of Living* so all proceeds from the sale of the book would benefit a new Circle of Scholars Scholarship Fund set up at Salve. And why *500 Years of Living* as our title – that was easy. There are seven of us, all in our seventies (you do the math).

To give you an idea of the collection: In “The Early Years” section, Bob Bledsoe tells of a bike ride unimaginable today – a bunch of ten-year olds riding through Napa Valley to swim in a reservoir three hours away. Dick Hunt relives the seventh grade agony of dancing with the beautiful new girl from California. And I win a horse.

In “The Family Years,” Ray Heins recalls the joy of giving his young children their nightly baths while Gordon Stewart tells of developing a new home with his family.

In “The Working Years” we each recall some of the most challenging aspects of our lives. Gordon Stewart writes of his experience as a fighter pilot in the skies over Viet Nam where he witnesses a tragic death. George Kassis describes his last visit to his home in Aleppo, Syria, while I remember a special day on the island of Iwo Jima with 1,200 Navy and Marine veterans returning for a 50th anniversary visit to the site of that famous WWII battle.

Should any of you have a similar desire to write your own memoir, I suggest you watch the Circle of Scholars future schedule and definitely sign up for Jack Galvin's WriteLife. It will be well worth your while, and I can look forward to reading your life stories in a future edition of the book.



(By the way, in addition to Amazon, copies of the book are also available at the Salve Bookstore, Island Books and Primavera on Bowen's Wharf. Also, the writers will be discussing their stories on Saturday, November 18, at the monthly meeting of the Redwood Library Book Club and all are welcome.)

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THE CHARTER YACHT AS SEEN FROM INSIDE AND ABOARD

by Shelby Coates

The upcoming Newport Boat Show (September 14-17, 2017) is open to the public. Not so, the Newport Charter Yacht Show held at the Newport Shipyard last June. The business format of professionally crewed yacht chartering is essentially this: The yacht owner, using his yacht privately for a relatively small portion of the year, turns it over to a management company (also termed “central agent”) for the balance of the year. That company, in turn, promotes the yacht to a network of retail brokers and agents who function to bring chartering customers, lured by the prospect of prime cruising venues, to the managed yachts. The Show last June was the annual opportunity for the managers to display and promote the yachts and crews to the brokers and agents who, thereafter, apart from The Show, market the potential “charters” (leases) to the vacation-seeking public.

Twenty-five superlative sailing and motor yachts attended the Show, ranging from the 53-foot sloop CONTINGENCY (6 guests capacity with 2 crew) to the “mega” 198-foot BLUE MOON (12 guest capacity with 15 crew and even an elevator running between decks.) For the brokers and agents there were four days of yacht inspections, crew interviews, luncheons aboard, a “yacht hop” party one of the evenings, and an in-depth seminar one of the mornings. For the crews, there were competitive evaluations relating to categories such as menus; and for the captains even a drone flying contest.

The twenty-sixth yacht, a few-days-late arrival from the America’s Cup events at Bermuda, I found to be the most interesting, having been invited as a guest for a day sail one Sunday on Narraganset Bay. The 115-foot staysail schooner EROS is cloaked with glamorous lore. Built in England in 1939 and a participant in the evacuation of the beleaguered British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk, France, in 1940, it had been owned after the war by the Greek shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, a rival of Aristotle Onassis in the ocean carriage of petroleum in their fleets of giant tankers. In May of 1962 Niarchos had loaned EROS to Juan Carlos, later to become King of Spain, and

Princess Sofia of Greece, daughter of King Paul, for their Mediterranean honeymoon. On the other hand, I was spooked by one statistic: Niarchos had acquired five wives. Which one, I wondered, had spent the most time on EROS? I concluded that it was probably Eugenie Livanos (1947-1970) who died on Niarchos’ private island, Spetsopoula, under historically murky circumstances.

Did Niarchos ever spend time in Newport? My research turned up a faint “footprint” at page 179 of Carleton Mitchell’s *Summer of the Twelves* (Scribner, 1959). COLUMBIA, victor over SCEPTRE in the 1958 America’s Cup series, had as its “trial horse” a 12-meter sloop, then named NEREUS and owned by Niarchos. NEREUS passed through other ownerships and ended up being a familiar sight to Newport yachtsmen in recent years under its reversion to its first name, NORTHERN LIGHT.

Keep your eyes out, on our local waters, for the handsome EROS with its crew of five and, customarily, eight guests aboard. The yacht, imbued with intriguing tales from its past, gives a new meaning to “ghosting along,” a sailing expression ordinarily connoting making headway in light airs. Still sound and sturdy, after renovation and modernization of certain of its equipment (but with preservation of the genre of its origin), EROS is ready, also, to do well in the stiffer breezes offered by our New England and distant waters.

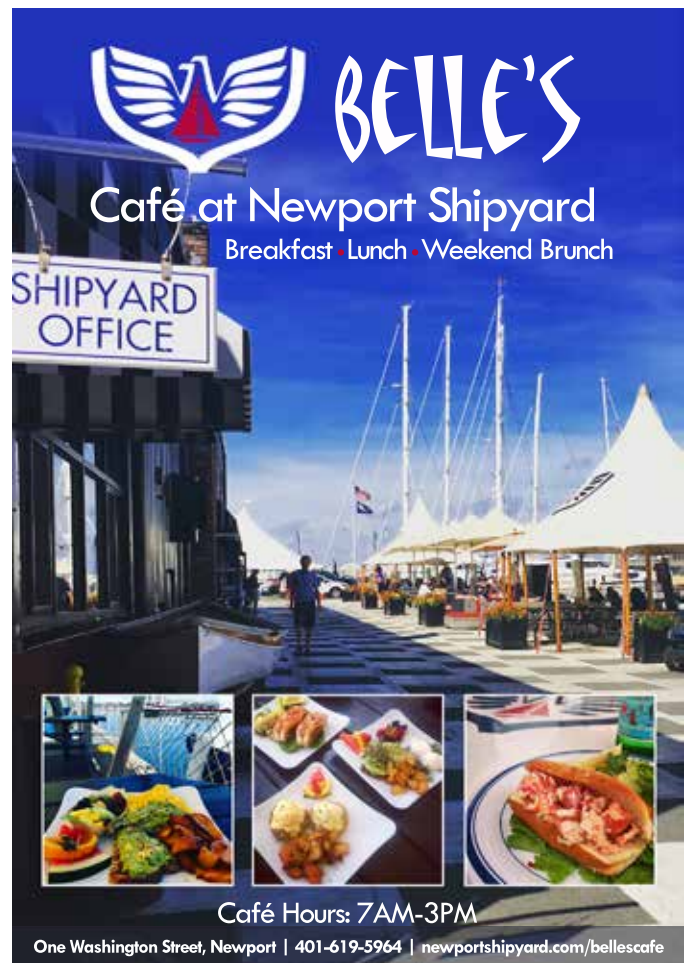
THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT

*Preserving the Past,
Protecting Our Future*

Our Goals ->

- **Protect** – Our streets, our homes, public parks and our special waterfront.
- **Improve and Enhance** – Make our neighborhood a clean, safe place to live and enjoy, while maintaining the unique historical heritage of our community.
- **Enrich** – Educate and inform all residents regarding issues of interest while also enjoying each other’s company at member social events throughout the year.

As you already may know, there are several PA membership levels available: individual, family/ household, subscriber, and patron. For all of those other than individual, there's always one person identified as the primary point of contact - what Wild Apricot calls the "bundle administrator" and what we've often gleefully called the "bundle boss". Other members of the same membership who are also in our database are called "bundle members". Any bundle member whose email address is in our database will receive the fabulous Points of Interest e-newsletters, but Green Light labels will only be addressed to the person who's identified as the bundle administrator. This person, as the primary point of contact for that family, is also the person who gets the email invoices when it's time to renew. We can make the bundle administrator any family member, so if you want to request a change, that's ok. We still love everybody in the family, but please don't be angry about it, and please don't ask us to change it back to both of you - there are good reasons why we need to do this that allow us to use Wild Apricot more effectively.



THE POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

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

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

Please check membership status: ___ Renewal ___ New Member

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Primary Email: _____

POINT COMMITTEES & ACTIVITIES

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

___ Beautification ___ Waterfront ___ The Green Light ___ Plant Sale ___ Communications
___ Membership ___ Event Planning ___ History & Archives ___ Public Services

Thank You !

SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday, Oct. 4th 6:30 pm
Fall Meeting of the Point Association
St. John's Church Guild Hall

It was a good day on the water for Pointers.

Ian Scott's Swan 37 *Coco* took second place in the PHRF -Spinnaker B Division and
Todd Stuart's Cartook 47 *White Rhino* took second place in IRC Division
in the Ida Lewis Distance Race—a race of 150 miles organized by The Ida Lewis Yacht Club.

