

The
GREEN

LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SPRING 2017



The GREEN LIGHT

LXI No. 1

SPRING 2017

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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.

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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: *Spring Gardens Up Close* by Jane Hence.

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



For those who hate winter as much as I do and don't manage to escape to Florida along with friends and neighbors, I say never fear, spring will come again. To assure you of this, we have included here a fair amount of pictorial evidence of what it looks like. Flowers, boats... Enjoy!

Aside from that, there is much good news here of other past, present and future successes. The MLK fundraising work on the Point was one of those. Thanks and congratulations to all who contributed to that success. Ongoing projects: the fountain that will soon be added to our park system, the restoration of the Opera House. Again, thanks to all those actively involved in these projects, clearly enhancements to our neighborhood.

*Happy spring . . .
when it does come.*

Alice Clemente

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Greetings!

As we enter into 2017, it is a good time to reflect on the many accomplishments of the Point Association in 2016 -- and look forward to our plans for the coming year.

We were excited to end 2016 with two very significant accomplishments. Our third annual fundraising campaign to benefit the Martin Luther King Community Center was another great success, raising \$9,200 for their programs. Over the last three years, we have raised over \$20,000 from our neighbors, friends and supporters – a generous statement of support from our neighbors for the Center and their programs.

Over the holidays, the Point Association renewed an old tradition of our neighborhood – a holiday celebration with the lighting of a Christmas tree in Storer Park and caroling with the St. John's Church Choir and the Professional Choristers. Over 75 of our neighbors and friends came out on a cold winter night to join in the celebration with the lighting of a Christmas tree in Storer Park, singing carols, and enjoying warm refreshments. Everyone shared the holiday spirit with neighbors and friends. It was a wonderful renewal of an historic tradition – one that we plan to continue next year!

2016 was a year where we continued with our priority of working with community leaders, city officials and other groups across Newport on projects and programs that benefit the entire community. Whether serving as a sponsor of the Newport Restoration Foundation's conference on the impact of Sea Rise on Historic Communities, or our ongoing work on beautification and helping maintain our public spaces, we continued to be a leader in our city by stepping up to make a difference.

As we look forward to the year ahead, the Point Association will once again place an emphasis on working hard to ensure that our neighborhood continues to be a wonderful place to live and work. We plan to put a top priority on our community work and collaboration with others. Beginning this spring, we will continue the traditions of our Spring Cleanup and the Annual Plant Sale, as well as sponsor events and programs for the entire neighborhood.

An exciting year is ahead, so we invite you to become involved in our work and participate in our events. It's a great way to see your neighbors and help to continue the great traditions of the Point. I'm looking forward to seeing you this year – especially at our annual spring meeting!

Best regards,



Tom Hockaday
President

STORES OF THE POINT

SERIES PART 2:

CHASE STREET AND THIRD STREET

By Lisa Stuart

In the last issue of the *Green Light*, we explored stores on Bridge Street. Westall's was held dear in many people's memories. Another candy shop that evoked many happy memories was Langley's on Chase Street near the Rail Road Crossing. It was owned by Roland "Bubba" S. Langley and his wife Gertrude. Bubba Langley was the brother-in-law of Simeon Westall. Brother and sister had a talent for the confectionery business. Langley's sister, the former Annie Langley, continued to run Westall's for many years after Simeon passed away.

School children would stop by Langley's for his long-lasting lollipops on their way home from the Potter School. He made many flavors including anise which was described by people as "out of this world." His candy flavors included spearmint, peppermint, sassafras, clove, wintergreen, chocolate and caramel. His lemon molasses candy covered with unsweetened chocolate was unexcelled according to The Grist Mill Column (the *Daily News*).

In a *Green Light* article in 1974, Philippine Arnold wrote that "Mr. Langley's shop was always well stocked with many flavored stick candy, and his chocolate molasses bars and coconut cakes were a specialty." It is said he used 15 to 20 coconuts to make a batch of his candies. Bill Layman noted that Bubba was "so expert at blending fruits and ice cream for his own fruit flavored ice cream that he was called to Providence weekly to mix flavors for some company there. He had to do it in person because he would not disclose his secrets."

Langley's was opened all year long from 8 am to 9 pm, unlike Westall's which closed for the winter. Langley's other job was as the crossing watchman at Poplar Street for the railroad.

Third Street was filled with grocery stores and variety shops in the 1900s. Stores changed hands over the years and most were eventually restored to private

homes. The previous article about Bridge Street talked about Mello Market on Third and Bridge Street, so we begin with 12 Third Street. It was J.B. Pikes in the early 1900s. In the 1930s it was a tailor shop called Michael Martin's. By the 1960s the storefront was vacant.

Ladyman's, a candy shop, was located at 29 Elm Street where the Elm and Third Street Press is currently located. Ladyman's was popular with the school children from Callendar and Potter Schools. In the spring they would do a brisk business selling marbles, ten for a cent—fancy agates and glassies. He also sold wooden tops, balls, jacks, kites and jump ropes. There was a large glass case filled with a variety of penny candy. Large apothecary bottles were on top of the counter. Candies included licorice whip, marshmallow bananas, hard molasses, peppermints and molasses sponge. One of the family members, Bill, was an active member of the Point Association. Bill and his wife retired to Phoenix, Arizona, but frequently returned to the Point to visit friends and family.

DeFray's, located on the corner of Third and Chestnut, was a grocery store in the early 1900s. It is thought that it may have been a baker before then. Later it became a plumber's shop before it was restored to a beautiful home.

In the early 1900s, Asher's fish market was located at 22 Third. Across the street at 23 Third (the corner of Poplar) was Robert "Bob" Hamilton's grocery shop. It was well stocked with a variety of fresh meats. Delivery was free and the horse-drawn delivery wagon went out several times a day. The *Green Light* published a letter from Art Spooner in the October 1977 issue. Art, who was 86 at the time, recalled "Pickles in the big barrel. Two for a cent and don't fall in....Mr. Hamilton would enter the purchases with pencil and give the book to the customer, who would come in on payday and settle up. Folks were honest away back then."

Bob was active in seeing that the streets of the Point were well kept and in good repair and was Street Commissioner of Newport. He lived at 38 Bridge Street which is now a NRF house.

First National Store, located at 25 Third Street on the corner of Poplar, was the only chain store on the Point. It had a large variety of products. Leonard Panaggio wrote to the *Green Light* on September 12, 1995 saying that “It was managed by Stanley Wrostek for several years.” Leonard had worked there as a clerk in the 1930s.

The Katzman’s—two brothers and a cousin—owned three grocery stores on the Point. Barney Katzman’s store was at 28 Third near Poplar, his brother Philip Katzmann’s store was at 64 Third near Cherry. Hyman Katzman’s store, the Point Market, was on the corner of Walnut and Second.



The store on the corner of Third and Walnut Street (48 Third Street) has a long and interesting history. It was opened by John Horgan in 1909. Max Gillson owned the store from 1918 until it was sold to Edward Martins who ran it until his son John (“Jack”) took it over in 1968. Jack ran the store until his death in 1986. Jack was known throughout the Point for his care and concern for all. Every summer he organized a cleanup of the Point done by the children. The park along the waterfront south of the Van Zandt Pier is named in his honor.

When Jack took over the store, the ordinance that food and liquor could not be sold from the same store had not been instituted so Jack was allowed to do so under the Grandfather Clause. However the next owner, Jack George Buell, had to divide the store. One half became Third Street Liquors and other half became The Walnut Street Market. The Walnut Street Market sold

bread, milk, eggs, canned goods, fresh meats and had a deli counter.



Third Street Liquors became Clipper Wine and Spirits before closing for good in 1999. The Walnut Street Market later became The Walnut Market. It was operated by Marybeth Hunte. She also operated Savoie Faire Catering. Walnut Market closed in 2000. The building then housed apartments.



I always love passing the storefront at 62 1/2 Third which is now a residence. I wondered what type of store was located there. Not only did I discover that it was Matheus Variety, but I had the pleasure of meet-

I Remember.....

My Dad

Joe Matheus

*Matheus Variety Store,
62 1/2 Third Street*

Debbie Matheus Seyster

My Dad was born in Sao Miguel on February 14, 1906. He passed on December 4, 1988. He came to the United States in 1915 when he was 9 years old. The last grade he finished was 4th grade. Dad served in the Army in the European Theatre and was a mechanic.

I believe Dad opened the store in the early 1950's and sold it early 1970's. I remember my Dad letting customers charge at the store. He had all these pieces of paper held by tacks on the back wall. When I was a waitress I met an older couple who lived in the neighborhood when the husband was a merchant marine. They told me how nice my Dad was for doing that for them.

There was an elderly woman who came into the store every afternoon. She'd buy the Daily News and put a can of veggies in her bag. My Dad never said anything. Someone would drop off a list to the store in the morning for a woman who was blind. Dad would deliver the groceries after he closed the store. I remember the Sunday Journal came in sections and we had to put the paper together.

After selling the store we moved to Tiverton. Dad retired and did what he loved to do....he had a big veggie garden.

The History and Archives Committee thanks Deb for sharing her wonderful memories and photo of her father and his store.

Our Flickr Pro site has additional photographs of the stores mentioned in this article.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146411860@N03/albums>

ing, through Facebook, Debbie Matheus Seyster who is the daughter of Joe Matheus (pictured below). Her father's store, also known as "Joe's", sold meats, eggs, and other provisions. In the 1980s it became the Stock Market.



Another favorite store on the Point was Pete's Canteen. While researching this store I discovered an answer to another house mystery on the Point: Why is the house on the corner of Battery and Second Street set back and cater-cornered on the lot? Pete Petritz, the "Pete" of Pete's Canteen, was retired from submarine service

in the Navy. He was determined to bask in as much sunlight as possible, so he built his house diagonally to catch rays from all sides. The canteen was located at the southwest corner of Battery and Third Streets (74 1/2 Third). The building is no longer there. Prior to being Pete's Canteen it was "Dad's" and operated by Archie Sleeper. Syd Williams shared in a *Green Light* that he recalled the owner had a parrot on his shoulder when he went to Pete's as a child.

Fred Sleeper, Archie's son, described Pete's Canteen as a small store with no running water. It had great candy and was known for adding to the spectacular ending to Fourth of July celebration by setting off all their unsold fireworks. Margaret and Joe Davenport owned the store after Pete.

Tripps Market was located at 83 Third Street (La Salle Place) in the early 1900s. In the 1930s and 1940s it was Howard Goodwin's Meat Market.

This brings us to the end of stores on Third Street in the Point neighborhood. We would welcome any additional information or memories. Next issue we will look at stores on Second Street.

Important Note to All Point Association Members

During our fall meeting last October, the membership was advised of a Board-approved revision to our existing by-laws. As indicated at that time, we are reconfirming the Board's desire to amend Article X, Rules of Order and Amendments, as shown below, so that members can review prior to voting on this issue at the upcoming spring meeting on April 6.

Amendment: ARTICLE X – RULES OF ORDER AND AMENDMENTS:

(1) Rules of order: The meetings of the PA and the BOD shall be conducted under generally accepted rules of order as the BOD may prescribe. In the absence of specific direction by the BOD, the President shall conduct the meetings within such rules as he/she may determine, the only requirement being that he/she be consistent and fair.

(2) Amendments: These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the PA by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given 30 days prior to the meeting.

The goal in recommending and requesting your support is simply to streamline your Board's ability to make decisions which require the membership's review and approval. With the advent of The Point Association website and the ability to communicate electronically with each of you using forums such as our "Points of Interest," the Board now has the ability to communicate on a timely and effective basis with all the members on issues of importance requiring your review and approval prior to any future membership meeting.

We ask you to take a moment to review the wording before the meeting on April 6th so you are prepared to vote on this proposed change.



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HISTORY & ARCHIVES – A BRIEF HISTORY by Lisa Brew

The History & Archive committee is alive and well and continues to build, sort, and catalog our collection to share with the Point Association members and homeowners. With that in mind, we thought we'd share a bit of our committee's history to show how it has evolved through the years. We are a few to follow the many before us who have found it a privilege to be part of cataloging our local history. Here is a brief story on where our committee began and where it is heading.



We can trace our Archive history back to the origins of the Point Association. Its creation came about because of a question posed by newcomers to the community, Ned and Janet Brownell. Upon purchasing their home in 1955, the Simon Peter House on Bridge Street, Ned and Janet wondered how much interest existed in protecting, renovating, and saving the houses on the Point. So began the development of the Point Association. Its earliest members were: Joe and Ann Weaver, David and Tama Nemtzow, and the Brownells. Their sights were set on renewing the entire neighborhood and gathering together as many interested parties as possible.

The Point Association monthly publication, known as the *Green Light*, began publishing historical sketches of Point houses and the families who lived in them. The first sketch was written in January 1962 (link to the *Green Light* publications on our website to read the original article). The article was written by Louise Sherman, a "Point hummer" (and Archive historian). Louise invited readers to ask questions regarding our area and published her findings in the *GL*. She continued her research and writings for many years.

The first reference to the History & Archives is in the *Green Light*, December 1993. A request was made to ask for help to sort through 38 years of collected documents, photos, clippings, and correspondence. A committee was created to take on the task, led by Anita Rafael, Rowan Howard, and Kay O'Brien. They began meeting in April 1994 at the Howard residence at 51 Second Street. Requests for assistance continued and in 1995 archival materials were ordered to help maintain the integrity of the collection. Joan Youngken of Newport Historical Society offered her expertise to guide the committee. Word went out for donations of memorabilia through an article in the *Newport Daily*

News called "S.O.S.- Save Our Stuff"

The H&A committee continued to collect and organize items and in 1996 moved their meeting location to the Nina Lynette Home. During the summer months a tape recorder was purchased to continue recording oral histories. Oral histories were collected originally in the early 1980s and their importance was duly noted in an article written about Kay O'Brien, "Ruminations on the Point" (*GL* 2005 Summer issue). Access to these oral histories is readily available on our website. Just grab a cup of coffee and listen to the tales of our past!

In late 1996, it was determined that the H&A needed a permanent home with adequate storage to hold the ever-growing collection. In the winter of 2001, the committee gets a new leader, Bill Hall, who is assisted by the very knowledgeable Kay O'Brien. A permanent archive space was promised by Harbor House and became official by the end of the year.

The last *GL* of 2001 sadly notes the passing of its beloved historian, Louise Sherman. Louise's notebooks, scrap books, and lengthy research writings are left to the caring hands of Kay O'Brien who makes them a permanent part of the Archives.

The winter of 2005 had Kay taking the reins and pushing forward to begin the task of digitizing the Archive collection. The endeavor began with the assistance of Salve students Dan Titus and Diane Patrella.

In 2011 our current group finds the materials left by previous committees and continues the work that was left to us. Our Archive now honors the memory of an indomitable spirit. The Kay O'Brien Archive remembers a leader for her dedication to preserving our past and guiding us to continue her work.

POINT ASSOCIATION HAS SUCCESSFUL THIRD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY CENTER by Tom Hockaday

The Point Association of Newport capped off its active 2016 year of programs with their third annual fundraising effort to benefit the Martin Luther King Community Center (MLK Center) in Newport.

The neighborhood association collected over \$9,200 in donations from its members and supporters to help the MLK Center. Since initiating the MLK Center holiday campaign three years ago, the Point Association has raised more than \$20,000 to help the Center to continue and expand the services offered to Newport neighbors in need.

“The Point Association was proud to once again participate in this wonderful matching program on behalf of the Martin Luther King Community Center,” said John Broughan, Board Member of the Point Association and project director of the fundraising effort. “The generous donations of the members of the Point Association and neighbors on the Point enabled us to significantly increase the amount we raised last year for the MLK Center and their wonderful work.”

“We are profoundly thankful for the Point neighborhood’s generosity,” said Marilyn Warner, Executive Director of the MLK Center. “The Point Association is a mighty force! In this year’s appeal, we talked about what we believe in as a Center. We believe in healthy food, thriving children and families and seniors. We believe in collaboration. We believe we can build a stronger Newport County. I’ll add one: We believe in the Power of the Point!”

Representatives of the Point neighborhood met with Marilyn Warren, Executive Director of the MLK Center, and Alyson Novick, Development Director, in January to present this year’s gift and discuss ways the

neighborhood association can continue to assist the Center.

“Our members and supporters came forth with their enthusiastic support for the MLK Center and this fundraising drive. The MLK Center is a valued friend and

neighbor to the Point, and we were excited to help with this fundraising campaign. We are strong supporters of the Center and the wonderful work they do for our community. We were excited to participate, and look forward to continuing our work and support for the MLK Center and their programs in 2017,” added Tom Hockaday, President of the Point Association.



REMEMBER HUNGER HURTS & YOU CAN HELP!

MAKE IT A HABIT: Please bring a BAG OF GROCERIES to the MLK Community Center

Dr. Marcus Wheatland Blvd

MAKE IT EVERY QUARTER//ONCE A MONTH

APRIL VACATION AND SUMMER VACATION

THE NEED IS EVEN GREATER

WHEN THE KIDS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL

There is no Breakfast or Lunch Program

THINK: Cereal, Tuna, Peanut Butter. . .

ADOPT an ELDER: One bag a wk: Cereal, crackers, Tuna, Spam, Pasta & Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jam, Pudding & a treat

COMING SOON TO A PARK NEAR YOU

by Isabel Griffith

First, there was the drinking fountain in Storer Park. It was fine for joggers and active walkers but not for small children, people in wheelchairs, those who can't easily bend down and most certainly, not for dogs. In the spring of last year, Lisa Stuart spearheaded a campaign to replace the old fountain with a new one. Like the one in Battery Park, it would have three bowls of different heights and work for everyone (and dogs). From a notice in the *Green Light* last spring: "We are looking for people to donate to fund the project. The fountain makes a good long-lasting tribute to a loved one - human or pet."

Then, with Lisa's help a public/private partnership sprang into action. Scott Wheeler, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor in the city's Department of Public Services, teamed up with two donors: Newport Shipyard (the Dana family) and the Point's Nancy and Jim Madson. Together with the City of Newport, they funded the new fountain for Storer Park. This will make three of these special installations – there is a second one on the Point in Battery Park and the third is at Queen Anne Square, funded through the Newport Restoration Foundation improvements to the Square. The Battery Park Fountain was made possible through donations from Lisa Stuart's family and Claire Ernsberger who dedicated it in memory of her husband, Roxy, and their dog, Clyde. The Storer Park fountain will be dedicated to the Madson's beloved Basset Hound, Daisy.

Finally, The Storer Park fountain will be installed this spring in time for the park "season." The *Green Light* expects to have a piece about the ceremony with pictures. Your writer recalls a story from Claire Ernsberger who often visited "her" fountain in Battery Park and enjoyed chatting with the dogs and their people who use the fountain. "How do you like it?" she asked a dog-walker. "Well," he answered, "Where does the water come from?" "It's city water," said Claire. "We don't drink city water" was the gloomy response.

Some people are just never satisfied.

A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOGETHER ON THE POINT

The Newport Shipyard – Lauren Dana has lived on the Point for five years and tells me she spends a lot of time with her children in the parks. "My youngest learned to ride his tricycle on the basketball court in Storer Park." She sees more young people moving into our neighborhood and becoming active in our community. For instance, Lauren worked with Jennifer Huntley to establish a traditional Easter Egg Hunt in Storer Park. The Dana family's Newport Shipyard is a loyal supporter of the Point and a wonderful resource as a donor for the new Storer Park Fountain and for the landscape plantings along Marsh Street.

Jim and Nancy Madson – In a conversation with Jim and Nancy they recalled memories of their Basset Hound, Daisy whose name will be on the Storer Park fountain:

Our daughter, Emily, had always wanted a dog. Her 10th birthday was upon us, and we thought we might finally be ready for a dog. We went to the computers and found a website where you complete a thorough questionnaire and it suggests the type of dog that would be the best match. Both of us completed the questionnaire independently. The only breed that was on both our lists was a Basset Hound. As it was Emily's birthday, we had to find a Basset Hound that day. Back to the internet. At the time we were living in Westborough, MA, and found a litter of Basset Hound puppies nearby. There was one female on the small side that Emily fell in love with. Done deal, Happy Birthday. On the way home down the Mass Pike, we named her Daisy.

Daisy was a well-traveled hound. Her first home was in Westborough. We then moved to South Florida for a couple of years, where it was a little warm for her, and began coming to Newport in the summer. We ultimately moved back to Westborough but continued to rent homes on the Point (beginning in 2006) and fell in love with the area. We searched for places to buy all around Newport, but always came back to the Point. We had rented a couple of different properties and loved the neighborhood, the eccentricity, and diversity. We ultimately bought a "fixer upper" on Poplar Street that had a fenced yard that Daisy really enjoyed.

The Point and Newport are a true dog friendly community. We met so many nice neighbors and visitors while walking with her. She loved frolicking around Storer Park, but we had to keep her from snacking on the mussel shells the gulls would leave on the dock. Walking around town was one of her true joys. She knew every local shop owner that had dog treats and water bowls and they knew her. Plus she felt she was part of the street cleaning crew on Sunday mornings in the summer.



When the kids left for college we thought we were empty nesters. But there was Daisy to fill the void. She was the sweetest dog with an outgoing personality, and everyone wanted to pet her. She lived thirteen and a half years; we still miss her.

Scott Wheeler, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor in the city's Department of Public Services – Through years of practical advice, expert knowledge and faithful service to the Point, Scott Wheeler has helped make our neighborhood more beautiful and welcoming for all of us. We look forward to seeing his team working on the installation of the new Storer Park drinking fountain this spring.

Join us in June for the Secret Garden Tours

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Display at the Armory

Our Cookbook "Holidays and Celebrations on The Point" and our vintage books "Favorite Recipes from Here and There on the Point" and "Now and Then on the Point" are on sale at the Armory for \$10.95 each and make excellent hostess gifts.

*The new cookbook is also on sale at
The Mansion Store on Bannister Wharf
and at The Brick Market Shop.*

LATEST NEWS ON THE RESTORATION OF THE NEWPORT OPERA HOUSE THEATER AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Newport Opera House Theater and Performing Arts Center is excited about the progress of the restoration of Newport's Historic Theater on Washington Square. Daily, full-scale construction is underway for the restoration of our historic theater! Work will continue rapidly on a number of fronts as we plan for opening next year in the 150th Anniversary year of the Opera House Theater.

Receive updates at

"Third Thursday Theater Spotlight" Gatherings

We are proud to announce the new monthly series, "Third Thursday Theater Spotlight", a special monthly program of regular updates on the progress of construction of the Newport Opera House Theater!



Every third Thursday of the month members of our professional team invite you to join them around the big table at the Opera House Offices for some refreshments, presentations, insights and conversations with key people involved in the restoration of the historic Newport Opera House Theater. It's a great opportunity to receive updates on the progress of the restoration, and to learn more about future plans.

Our first "Third Thursday Theater Spotlight" gathering was held on February 16, 2017. These will continue every month on the Third Thursday of the month at the Opera House Theater offices: 11 Touro Street (next door to the Theater in the Horgan Building).

Upcoming gatherings will be March 16th, April 20th, and May 18th. If you are interested in attending one of these gatherings, sign up for our eNewsletter to receive emails with updates on the progress of the theater, reminders of these gatherings, and ways you can become involved. You can sign up at <http://www.operahousetheaternewportri.org/newsletter/>. These will also be promoted in the Point Association's "Points of Interest".

We look forward to seeing our friends on the Point at one of our "Third Thursday Theater Spotlight" gatherings! The restoration and revitalization of the Newport Opera House Theater and Performing Arts Center will bring year-round performing arts to downtown New-

port – dance, music, theater, comedy, speakers, education, children's matinees and much more – and restore an architectural treasure in historic Washington Square. It will bring year-round jobs and renewed vitality to our community's historic downtown.

Most importantly, it will have an enormously positive impact upon Newport and the region by serving as an economic driver, an educational catalyst, and cultural asset to our city and the region.

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT – WELCOMING BACK AN OLD TRADITION! by Joan Rauch

Sleigh bells now silenced, door wreaths safely tucked away, and twinkling lights dimmed are all signs that Christmas 2016 is now in our personal memory books. One such memory is a shared one in the Point neighborhood.

Decades ago, the Point Association annually lit a Christmas tree for the neighborhood, and while our archives did not specifically inform us of why the tradition ended, it was determined that this tradition should be welcomed back. And thus it was!

On a cold but clear December evening, more than 75 neighbors and friends gathered in Storer Park to welcome in the Christmas season with our very own tree lighting! The festive evening began with welcome remarks by the President of our Association, Tom Hockaday, and by Newport Mayor Harry Winthrop and State Representative Lauren Carson, who showed their support for our Association and for our neighborhood. Next, Father Nathan Humphrey, Rector of St. John's Church, and Peter Berton, Music Director and Organist of St. John's, were introduced and welcomed those gathered.



Time for the lighting! As the countdown neared the end, the beautiful 15' evergreen was lit to the delight of all! St. John's Choir, dressed in their red robes and fanciful red Santa hats, harmonized and encouraged neighbors to sing a list of familiar Christmas carols, including a Rhode Island Christmas Carol! The expertise of these Professional Choristers charmed those ages 2 - 92!



As it was a cold night, delicious hot chocolate and tasty cookies were served. Gleeful neighbors shared some holiday spirit, applauded the festivities, and returned to their homes with candy canes in hand!

Many thanks to all who helped make Storer Park look so beautiful with the lit tree during this holiday season! To Richard Abbinanti and the Beautification Committee for all the coordination, to Scott Wheeler of the City of Newport who provided lighting for the tree, to Spruce Acres Tree Farm of Middletown and the Aquidneck Land Trust for donating the perfectly shaped tree, to the Hyatt (now Gurney's Newport) for all the cookies and to Caleb and Broad Restaurant for the hot chocolate, and to St. John's Church Choir for their wonderful voices, we shout out a huge, THANK YOU!

With the Christmas 2017 season now only a mere 10 months away, we already are committed to making this delightful event an annual tradition again.



THE STUMBLE OF THE “WORLD PRODIGY”

by Shelby Coates

In the nineties, having moved my law practice from Manhattan to Oyster Bay, Long Island, I decided to pay a courtesy visit to another recent law firm arrival in Oyster Bay, Chalos & Brown, LLC. Michael Chalos, whom I had previously known through certain maritime litigations in New York, introduced me around his busy new office. “Meet Captain Hazelwood,” he said. “He’s with us as a paralegal and maritime consultant.”

Captain Hazelwood? A bell rang. He had been the skipper, I recalled, of the gigantic crude oil tanker EXXON VALDEZ which ran aground on Bligh Reef, in Alaskan waters, notoriously spilling tons of oil into Prince William Sound resulting in a vast amount of environmental damage. The Chalos firm had defended him, with ample publicity, in proceedings and miscellaneous litigations that ensued. It is my understanding that, although he was fined and made to pay a sum in restitution, some, in the maritime community, contend that Hazelwood (having been in his Captain’s cabin rather than on the bridge at the time of the grounding) had been wrongfully blamed.

Anyway, recently on notice of a need for a topic for my next *Green Light* article, I decided to research shipping mishaps in the history of Narragansett Bay. Up on my computer screen, and later from other sources, came an array of information relating to the WORLD PRODIGY’s grounding on Brenton Reef on June 23, 1989.

That (my research revealed) was a nice early summer day, seas being calm, winds light, and with a visibility of about 10 miles. Having a length of 560 feet and a deadweight of 29,990 tons, the WORLD PRODIGY was a so-called “product carrier”. (“Deadweight” is a measure of cargo carrying capacity and “product carrier” is a type of tanker used to transport refined oil products such as gasoline, jet fuel, or heating oil.) Owned by a Greek company, Ballard Shipping, Ltd, the vessel had loaded 195,000 “barrels” (a term of quantity measurement) in Bulgaria destined for delivery at Providence, Rhode Island. On approach to the entrance to Narragansett Bay it was headed northwards in Rhode Island Sound where it sought a rendezvous

with a Pilot Boat, since pilotage when entering Rhode Island waters is compulsory.

The area south of Brenton Point is known to most Newporters for its numerous rocky ledges and shallow areas such as Seal Rock, Seal Ledge, and Brenton Reef. To avoid those treacherous waters, inbound vessels were supposed to leave the red, conical shaped, Buoy No. 2, which marked the southern edge of Brenton Reef, to starboard. For a variety of reasons and lapses that are beyond the scope of this short article, the WORLD PRODIGY, heading for the easterly and wrong side of the buoy, grounded on Brenton Reef. Approximately 7,000 of the 195,000 “barrels” of oil that had been aboard leaked from the gashed and severely damaged hull.

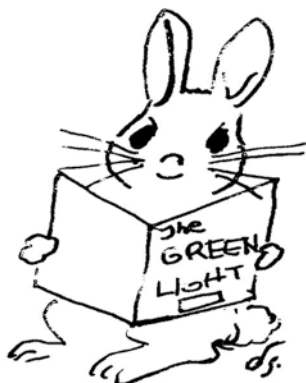
Containing booms were quickly brought out, rigged, and the cleanup began. Beaches were closed and shell-fishing was prohibited for two weeks. Because of the light, non-crude, nature of the type of oil that had been shipped, and the prevailing warm weather, much of the spill benignly evaporated, minimizing damage to the nearby coastlines.

Later, the Captain and Ballard Shipping, Ltd, the vessel’s Greek flag owner, pled guilty in Federal Court to violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. They were fined and agreed to pay huge sums covering the cleanup costs, damage to natural resources, and compensation to certain individuals and entities. There had been approximately 450 claimants.

For 29 of the claimants there was a legal hurdle. These were the persons and entities alleging merely economic loss arising out of the spill including seafood dealers, tackle shop operators, restaurant owners and employees, a scuba equipment and canoe rental shop, and a variety of other shoreline businesses. Chief Judge Ronald R. Lagueux, of the United States District Court in Providence, was persuaded to permit recovery to only those who had suffered physical injury to their persons or property. The First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston overruled this restriction, however,

in the case of *Ballard Shipping Company -v.- Beach Shellfish*, 33 F. 3d 623 (1st Cir. 1994).

A double-hull is a construction design in which a vessel has an inner and outer bottom and sides separated by a protective void space. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990, prompted by the baleful effects of the EXXON VALDEZ spill, provided a schedule for phasing in of double-hulls for all tankships transiting the navigable waters of the United States. The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigated the WORLD PRODIGY accident, concluded that had the vessel been constructed with a double bottom or as a double-hulled vessel, the spillage probably would not have occurred. But “OPA 90”, as the legislation is called in the industry, came too late for our Narragansett Bay of 1989.



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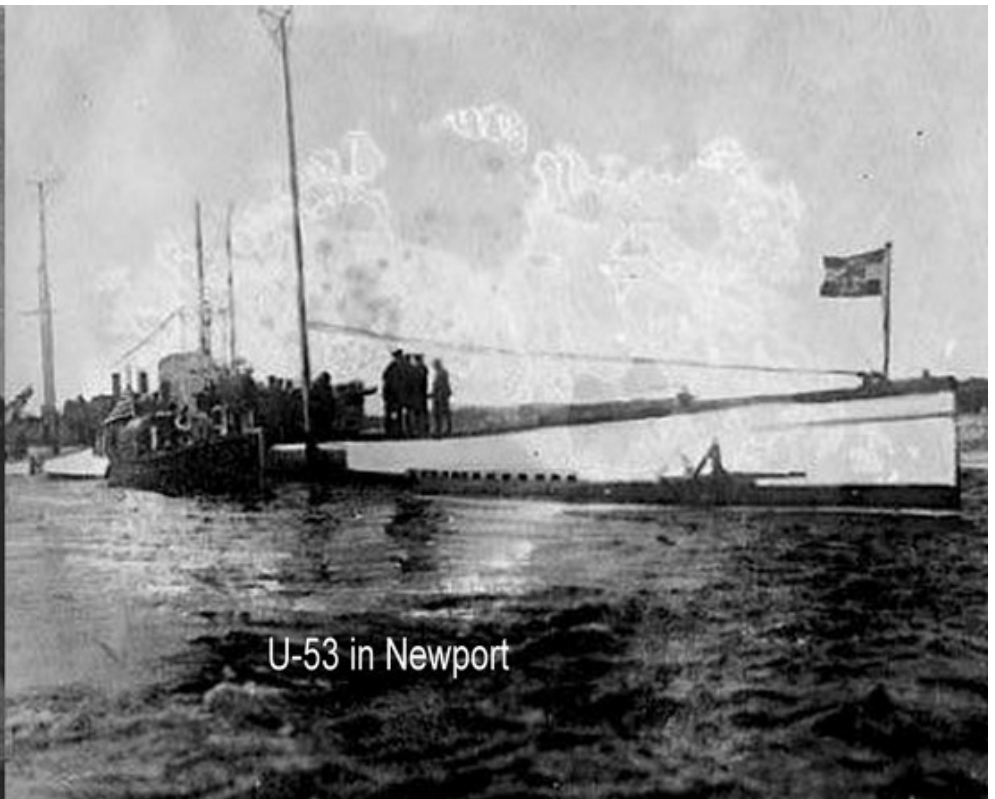
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NEWPORT'S MOST DANGEROUS VISITOR by Dave Moore



On Saturday, October 5, 1916, a German submarine *U-53*, flying the Royal German ensign, arrived in Newport harbor. She anchored near Goat Island and close to Rear Admiral Albert Gleaves flag ship cruiser *Birmingham*. It did raise the eyebrows of some abroad the Newport Destroyer fleet, but it was not the first German sub to arrive in the U.S. that year. Three months earlier the big German merchant submarine *Deutschland* from Bremen arrived in Baltimore with a cargo of dyes.

World War I had been raging for two years, but in all of 1916 the United States had maintained its neutrality. It was a worrisome time as the country had lost some of its citizens traveling aboard foreign ships. The British liner *Lusitania* was sunk by torpedoes and 128 American lives were lost. Also, some of our ships were mistakenly attacked by the Germans. Our tanker *Gulflight* was sunk by them in 1915. The U.S. had sent warning notes to the Germans about the rights of our ships and merchant seamen. The Germans replied that some non-U.S. ships were carrying American flags to avoid destruction and this was not acceptable.

After the *U-53* anchored, Kapitanlieutenant Han Rose brought his crew on deck in full parade uniform with medals. He next made a courtesy call to the commander of the Atlantic Destroyer Flotilla, Gleaves, aboard his cruiser. He also called on the commander of the Newport Naval Base, Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight and the president of the Naval War College. Rose, unflappable, cordially invited them and other high ranking officers to come aboard his boat for a tour and drinks. Admiral Gleaves brought his aide, wife, daughter, and Commander H. B. Price of the *USS Melville*. This group was given a tour of the boat from stem to stern.

He told them how he eluded the Allied North Sea Fleet and avoided enemy cruisers off the American coast. This was his first patrol and his original mission was to protect the German merchant submarine *Bremen's* arrival to the U.S. However, when he found out that she had been sunk, he decided to enter Newport Harbor. When the harbor master told him about the quarantine regulations, Rose hurriedly got ready for returning to sea to avoid being interned. Before departing from Newport, he sent a message to the German Ambas-

sador and had time to read the local newspapers. What happened the next day may have been the result of the shipping news reported in the papers.

Early the next morning, the Newport Naval Station started to receive SOS calls and reports of torpedo sinkings near the Nantucket Lightship. Admiral Gleaves ordered seventeen U.S. destroyers to get ready and render assistance and rescue. It wasn't until that afternoon that the ships were able to depart, most of them leaving half-manned.

They arrived at about 1700 and found three ships had been sunk. Rose was seen inspecting ships to see if they were carrying contraband detrimental to the German war effort. Two ships were not attacked and released. On the other ships, Rose ordered the crew and passengers to disembark into lifeboats before their ships were fired upon. A total of six ships were sunk—four British, one Dutch, and one Scandinavian. All were enemies of the Germans. All the crew and passengers were picked up by the destroyers. There were no casualties because of calm seas and good weather.

Germany continued to ignore American warnings about sinking of American merchant ships and the loss of American lives at sea. Submarine warfare finally went nonrestrictive and any vessel that was not German became a U-boat target. On April 6, 1917, the U. S. declared war and joined the Allies. Britain's supplies were desperately low because of the U-Boat triumphs. She needed our destroyers for convoy duty.

Rose continued on his destructive warfare and was credited with sinking 88 ships and damaging ten more. Now heavily decorated, he became the fifth most successful submarine ace during the war. Of all the ships he sank, only one was a warship and it was the first American destroyer (*Jacob Jones DD-61*) lost in the war. The ship sank off the Scilly Islands on December 6, 1917. She was hit by the war's longest range torpedo (3000) yards away and sank in 8 minutes. Rose towed the survivors in the lifeboats closer to shore and radioed their location to the American base in Queenstown, Ireland.

Although Rose had been compassionate for helping the survivors of ships he had sunk, giving help to the

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wounded and sometimes giving them food, he was still our enemy. Sixty-four American crew members died in the *Jacob Jones* sinking.

Our Newport naval officers made a mistake in court-martining him and his crew. We should have used the same ruse on *U-53* in Newport that we did for the German *Graf Spree* in WWII. She was detained in Montevideo for twenty-four hours that caused her eventual sinking. The same Hague document of 1907 should have kept Rose in Newport for 24 hours after any one of the six ships he sank the next day had left neutral U.S. ports. This would have allowed time for the British or their Allies to arrive and capture or sink *U-53*.

References:

Art. 16 Convention (XIII) concerning the Rights and Duties of Neutral Powers in Naval War. The Hague, 18 October 1907. "A belligerent war-ship may not leave a neutral port or roadstead until twenty-four hours after the departure of a merchant ship flying the flag of its adversary."

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Congratulations to Nick Dana! Nick was bowman for Perpetual LOYAL as it won line-honors and completed the 2016 Rolex Sydney to Hobart yacht race in record-breaking time. Anthony Bell brought the super-maxi across the line at 2.31 a.m. local time, having completed the 628-nautical-mile race in one day, 13 hours, 31 minutes and 20 seconds. It beat Wild Oats' 2012 record by four hours, 51 minutes and 52 seconds.

Perpetual LOYAL arriving at the finish

Photo Credit ROLEX-Kurt Arrigo



Perpetual LOYAL's crew celebrating.

Photo credit Rolex- Kurt Arrigo

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