

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Winter 2021 and Spring 2022



74-76 Bridge Street as it appears today after extensive renovation to prepare for sea level rise. The house was built c.1725 by Quaker Christopher Townsend, part of a large cabinet making community centered on the Point. Read more about the Quakers on the Point inside.

The Green Light

The GREEN LIGHT

The GREEN LIGHT LXVI No. 1 Winter/Summer 2022

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Front Cover: Photo: *Current 74 -76 Bridge Street*
by Ann McMahon

Back Cover: Photo: *Polar Bear Swimmer Van Zandt Pier*
by Barbara Bessette



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.

FROM THE EDITOR

I am particularly happy to present Barbara Bessette's story about the Fairy Garden at Battery Park. It is a true story as Barbara's whimsical original garden became a truly magical secret garden as members of the community, many young, brought tiny artifacts and gifts to the welcoming little pouch of a tree at Battery Park. You may know that volunteers from our community maintain the planters along Washington Street, but this was a new spontaneous level of what I will call "stealth contributions".

Be sure to read the story to your children and grandchildren as this was told to Barbara by Fiona, the resident of Battery Park's Fairy Garden.

Lisa Stuart's article on the *Quakers in Newport* and *Quakers On the Point* will give the reader a new appreciation of our much loved neighborhood and its neatly laid out streets. As this preceded the American Revolution, our Washington Street was originally known as Water Street to those always sensible individuals. Lisa has included a walking tour of important homes. Part 2 of this article will appear in the next edition of the Green Light.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Anything you'd like to see in *the Green Light*? See you 'round the Hood.

Ann McMahon, greenlight@thepointassociation.org



74-76 Bridge Street in 1904. Christopher Townsend House.

President's Letter

Dear Neighbor:

As your new Point Association President, I am delighted to write my first President's Letter for this issue of the Green Light. I have big shoes to fill given the long and outstanding tenure of my friend Tom Hockaday and I look forward to getting out and meeting many of you this Spring and Summer at the exciting events we have planned for 2022.

Before I get ahead of myself though, I would be remiss not to mention some of our end of 2021 successes. Despite renewed Covid related challenges we had a well attended annual holiday tree lighting ceremony including treats for the little ones (and not so little ones!) Festive wreaths were hung on gaslights throughout the neighborhood again this year. And I am thrilled to report our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center fundraising drive exceeded our ambitious goal and raised a remarkable \$23,040 in donations! A huge thank you to all of you who participated this year.

Your Point Association Board is already hard at work planning our annual summer events including the ever popular plant sale, block party, cocktail party, Music on the Lawn, and a new fun fall event - details coming soon! And we look forward to meeting many of you in person at our Spring Meeting on May 17th at St. John's. As always keep a look out for ongoing updates and neighborhood news via the *Points of Interest* emails. And be sure to follow the Point Association on Facebook as well as Instagram via our relaunched Instagram account under its new name - @thepointnpt!

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy Spring. And if you have any thoughts or suggestions you'd like to share with me about the Point Association, I'd love to hear them. Please feel free to email me at president@thepointassociation.org

Sincerely,



Ken Snyder
President



You Did It! Neighbors

MLK Holiday Fund Drive a Resounding Success

The Neighborhood Association collected a record shattering \$23,040 in donations from members and neighbors on the Point to help the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. This was an increase of nearly \$6,000 from last year's donation which was itself a record. Since initiating the holiday campaign seven years ago, this drive has raised more than \$97,000 to help the Center to continue and expand the services offered to Newport neighbors in need. This is an astounding gift from individual donors in one neighborhood. This says a lot about the "generosity of spirit" of people living in our little pocket here on the Point.

Credit goes to John Broughan and Bill Rauch who have led this fundraising effort for the last eight years. "Every year our members and neighbors have shown remarkable generosity and support for the MLK Center" said Ken Snyder, President of the Point Association. "And this year, when the need was greater than ever, so was our commitment. We are honored to do our part to feed the hungry, provide high quality educational programs for children, engage seniors, and much more".

Heather Hole Strout, Executive Director MLK Community Center, said, "We're incredibly honored to once again be on the receiving end of great generosity from the Point Association. This year's record-breaking donation by their team will go an incredibly long way in our efforts to nourish, educate and support those in need around Newport County. In 2019 the Point Association was named our Keeper of the Dream: Community Partner. We are forever grateful for our strong friendship with them." The MLK Center will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. We on the Point are looking forward to sustaining our support.



A record breaking donation was presented to the MLK Community Center. left to right: Betsy Blair, PA Membership, Heather Hole Strout, MLK Director, Ken Snyder, PA President, John Broughan, PA Fundraising Chairman, Alyson Novick, MLK Director of Development

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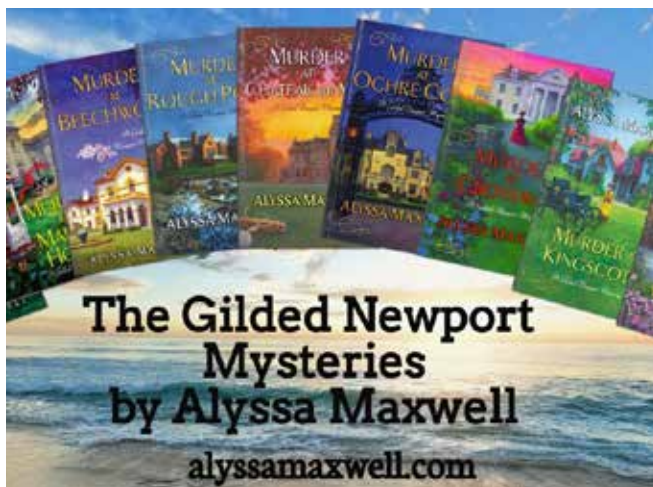
There are a total of 92 new members in the last year, a record for our Association. Our neighborhood has an abundance of natural beauty and well kept houses but it is the sense of community among neighbors that makes our home so special.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Tim Lawlor, Erin Abernathy | 66 1/2 3rd St |
| William & Lauren Allen | 9 Cross St |
| John Hayes, Jan Amadeo | 58 Washington St |
| Frank Amaral | 1 Katzman Place |
| Mary Arnold | 44 Poplar St |
| Lisa Arrowood | Lincoln, MA |
| Harry & Mary Ann Barkerding | 6 Pine St |
| Mark & Kathleen Beaudouin | 79 Third St |
| Kevin & Erin Beesley | 59 Washington St |
| Don & Melissa Black | 24 Elm St |
| Noah & Jennifer Broestl | 114 2nd St |
| Tricia & John Butler | 1 Maitland Ct |
| Ed & Barbara Carnes | 30 Wintergreen Dr |
| Howard Christian | 16 Battery St |
| Tom Donhauser & Sue Scanlon | 7 Gladding Ct |
| Michelle & Robert Drum | 25 School St |
| Jenay Evans | 78 Washington St |
| Yvonne & Dennis Ferreira | 21 Third St |
| Dana & David Filippelli | 17 3rd St |
| Enid Flaherty | 111 Washington St |
| Nancy & Edward Flynn | 59 Bridge St |
| Joan Johnson Freese | 47 Second St |
| Mona Barbera | 10 Dyers Gate |
| Heather Geary | Boston, MA |
| Matt & Monique Graham | 126 2nd St |
| Hugh & Susan Hall | 29 Congdon Ave |
| Mary Ellen Hallam | 1 Commercial Whrf |
| Hilary & Michael Hanley | 77 3rd St |
| Karen & Perry Harris | 19 Chestnut st |
| John Hartman | 8 Third St |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Eoin & Tristan Howlett | 16 Poplar St |
| Scott Humphreys | 3 Third St |
| Andrew Julia | 7 LaSalle Place |
| Ryan Patrick Kelley | 60 Poplar St |
| Jerry Kirby | 20 Chartier Circle |
| Justin Kushner | 25 1/2 Willow St |
| Eileen LaBella | 13 Maitland Ct |
| Isabel Marsh | 31 Marsh St |
| Rebecca McSweeney | 33 Farewell St |
| Peter & Diane Nelson | 43 Elm St |
| James Prusko | 74 2nd St |
| Liz Rayer | 4 Willow St |
| William Ruh | 88 Washington St |
| Bekki Schenker | 30 Third St |
| Michael E. Shea | 29.5 Marsh St. |
| Jan Slee | 142 Mill St |
| David Smith | 22 Elm St |
| Laurene Sorensen | Third St |
| Monie & Tom Stadler | 24 Walnut St |
| Robert & Maureen Sullivan | 2 Willow St |
| Sarah Bartlett & Rohit Thapliyal | 17 Cherry St |
| Lynne & Edward Turnbull | 68 Third st |
| Liz Tylki | 18 Cross St |
| Barbara Underwood | 111 Washington St |
| E. Benjamin & Sharon Viveiros | Manchester, CT |
| Jean Wagley | 9 Chestnut St |
| Kurt Weaver | 88 Third St |
| Tiffany Beaumont Worthen | 16 Dresser St |
| Jennifer Zuerner | 50 2nd St |

Join in to Meet and Re-connect With Your Neighbors

The **Spring Clean-up** of parks and driftways is on April 23rd. Watch *Points of Interest* E-mail for details. The **Annual Plant Sale** is at St. John's Churchyard on May 28th, always a Point highlight. Start thinking of plants you can donate as you plan your spring gardens.



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SIDEWALKS ON THE POINT

by Dave Sharp

With its eclectic mixture of types of sidewalk paving, the Point is an unofficial museum of sidewalk history. During a short stroll in our neighborhood one could be walking on nearly every sidewalk surfacing material used in New England dating from the colonial era to today, including: slate, cobblestone, crushed stone, gravel, granite pavers, flagstone, asphalt, poured concrete, Portland cement, grass or even some dirt paths – only wooden boardwalks are missing.

The variety of walkway materials on the Point resulted from sidewalk technology changing as the neighborhood developed; repairs being made to older, deteriorating pavement, excavations for utilities, disruptions from tree growth, changes in sidewalk regulations, and homeowners obtaining permits from the City to install historically appropriate sidewalk materials, usually brick or slate, in front of their property.

The Works Projects Administration built some sidewalks and a few WPA plaques can still be found on Point sidewalks dating from 1932 to 1942 when The New Deal was active. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 affected sidewalk design, requiring ramps at intersections and other access points.

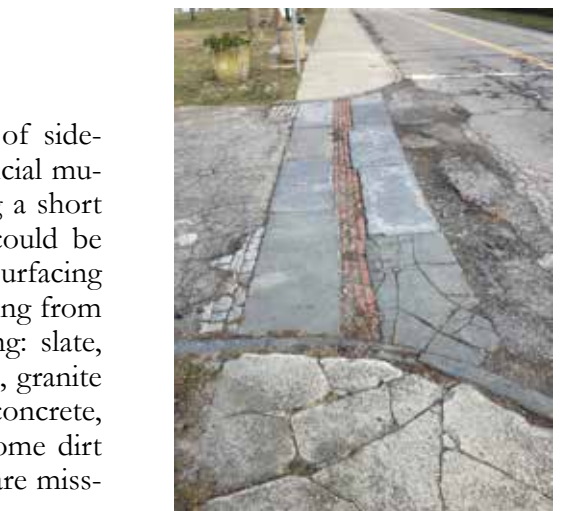
Do you recognize these sidewalks and where they are?



Cartway. Cobblestone and slate



Slate and grass



*Cartway. Cobblestone brick and slate
Cement*



Slate



Brick



Brick and slate



WPA Medallion in cement

Alyssa Maxwell. The Gilded Age Newport Mysteries

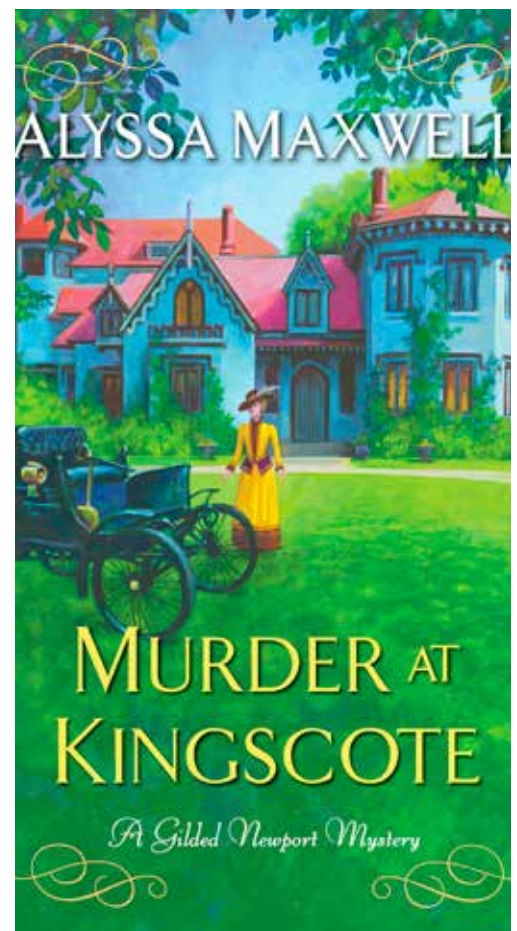
My introduction to Newport years ago was what you might call immersive. I'd gone to visit a friend who had moved there with her family and were renting one of the Newport Restoration Foundation properties on the Point. So rather than seeing Newport as a tourist, I saw it as a guest of year-round residents. A few years later, I met my husband, who had been born and raised in Newport—on the Point—as had generations of his family before him. Now, I began to see Newport on an even deeper level.

When I first entertained the idea of writing a mystery series, only one setting came to mind: Newport. It was a place I knew intimately and loved, and what I didn't know, my husband did. As a lover of history, I also knew I wanted to set the series during a significant period in Newport's history, one that not only Newporters would relate to, but people from all over the country. I realized the most visible and immediately recognizable aspect of Newport were the Gilded Age mansions, and my concept came to life. Although, that didn't mean I would ignore the rest of Newport, those parts of the city that form the heart and the core of what Newport is. With that in mind, I developed a sleuth who fit into both worlds. As a distant Vanderbilt cousin, she can move among the wealthy and privileged, but as a native Newporter, she understands the place and the people, and in turn Newport has shaped her character.

About the time I began the series, my husband became active in a Facebook group, If You Grew up in Newport, Share Some Memories. Through his interactions there he became acquainted with Lisa Stuart and the Point Association. His father had been quite a good amateur photographer all his life, and with his abundant collection, my husband has been able to help fill in blanks in the historical records lovingly compiled by the Point Association. We both believe strongly in the work they do, and feel a debt of gratitude to be able to be a small part of that work.

I began The Gilded Newport Mysteries with the larger, more famous mansions, but it wasn't long before several readers asked me if I would consider the smaller ones, particularly Kingscote, with its fairy tale setting, lush interiors, and rich family history. I admit to having known little about the King family at first, but through my research, especially in taking advantage of documents I found on the Preservation Society of Newport County website, I soon had the makings of a twisty, in-depth mystery that later won a Best Historical Mystery of 2020 by Suspense Magazine. By now, Lisa Stuart had become much more than a fellow Newport history lover, but a friend who has invited us to her beautiful home on several occasions during our visits to town. She has also assisted me in my research during the pandemic, when we've been unable to travel, and she can be sure I'll be calling on her again! It was for these reasons that I happily dedicated *Murder at Kingscote* to Lisa and her fellow members of the Point Association.

Murder at Kingscote came out in August 2020. The series has continued with *Murder at Wakehurst*, which came out in August 2021, and *Murder at Beacon Rock*, which will be out at the end of this August 2022. After that . . . yes, I'm delighted to say there are more planned. If readers would like to learn more about the Gilded Newport Mysteries, and my other series, *A Lady and Lady's Maid Mysteries*, please visit my website at www.alyssamaxwell.com. From there, readers can find my social media links, or contact me with questions and comments.



Holidays on the Point

Even a windy night with forecast of rain did not stop the 60 or so neighbors from coming out and lingering at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting in Storer Park on December 2.

People enjoyed the traditional hot chocolate donated by Richard Willis, owner of Point Liquors and Caleb and Broad Restaurant. The traditional goat shaped sugar cookies from Gurney's Resort on Goat Island were prettily wrapped by Lauren Dana and were scooped up and enjoyed.

In his pre-lighting remarks, the new Point Association president, Ken Snyder, gave credit to the volunteers, especially Joy Scott, organizer of the event. Marybeth Jenkins supplied the candy canes and three little elves were very busy taping the tablecloths down and collecting rocks from the beach to place on napkins so they wouldn't blow away! Earlier in the day, Nancy and Richard Abbinanti had hung wreaths on ten lamp posts around Storer Park. Christmas lights were strung on the tree by Kathy and John Ward, Beth O'Shea and the Abbinantis..

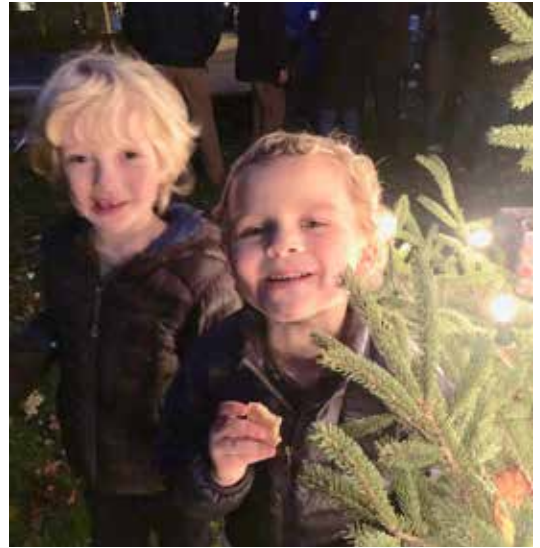
Snyder also gave credit to Leigh Gallagher and her husband who donated the wreaths that are adorning the old-fashioned street lamps throughout the Point. He acknowledged the efforts of Richard and Nancy Abbinanti in stepping in and organizing the purchase and the mounting of this very festive greenery. Ken also thanked those who brought a toy to be delivered to the MLK Center.

He referred to how unfortunate it was that we were not inside enjoying refreshments in St John's as originally planned due to the new outbreak of Covid and that we were missing the sweet sounds of the children's voices singing carols.

Laura Pedrick gave a short story of the celebration of Channukah. Conicidently, that tradition was celebrated during this week also. Father Kevin from St John's gave a very short but rousing eumenical sermon.

Ken spoke further at the Point's celebration: "Now at this time of year we have various holiday traditions and they all feature the celebration of light as a common theme, something I think us New Englanders can relate to since it seems like the sun sets at noon this time of year! For Christmas, of course, that celebration of light is reflected by the lights on the trees and in people's homes. For Hannukah, light is represented by the Menorah and its 8 candles for the eight nights of Channukah. That spirit also inspires our program to Light The Point by having our friends and neighbors place lights in their windows during this seasons

Speaking of light -! OK everybody count down: 10-9-8...." And , just like that, there was light at Storer Park.



*Enjoying the tree
are Jack Zuerner from Second Street (L) and
Jeremy Wintersteen from Third Street.*



Lighting Up the Point



Laurie Moore (L) and Anne Ritterbush hang Holiday wreaths on lamps on Second Street.



Santa makes a visit on his sleigh escorted by fire engines and the Newport Police



A live tree on the porch was a favorite decoration.



Neighbors from the Point filled their own version of a sleigh with gifts for the children at the Martin Luther King Community Center.

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A photograph of a woman wearing a black beret and a light-colored jacket, holding a small white dog. They are standing on a beach with the ocean in the background.A logo consisting of a stylized letter 'A' inside a square frame.

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The Fairy Garden of Battery Park.

by Barbara Bessette

Editor's note: This is a true story as told to Barbara by the fairy Fiona herself.

Upon awakening, the first thing Fiona saw was blue water sparkling like diamonds and the Newport Bridge, stately in the distance. Fiona had flown into Battery Park during a fierce tempest that blew the rain sideways. She tried to find cover under maple leaves, but the wind kept blowing her refuge away. She spied a Chinese Elm tree with a large pouch. She flew against the howling storm to the inside of the tree's almost hidden pocket, exhausted and spent. Fiona slept long and soundly; dreaming about her farewell party from fairyland. At age 121 she was finally old enough to go out on her own. Newport had long held an allure because of the stories her grandmother had told her of distant relatives living there in grandeur and beauty in the midst of exotic trees. Fiona intended to get to know them. From her hiding place, she heard the laughter of children running and throwing a ball in the park. She saw walkers, most with a dog in tow, always cleaning up with little green bags.

Fiona was smitten with the beauty of Battery Park and hoped she had found her new home. She was fixing a little door leading to her new home in the tree when she heard quite a racket. A lady was digging in the apron of the pouch! Fiona hid behind the fairy door and watched as fresh soil was added and beautiful red flowers were planted. How enchanting, she thought. The foliage mostly hid her entrance, providing shade and security.

Over the next weeks, sweet faces of young and old visited her, peering into the garden in the tree. Children squealed with delight when they saw her miniature door. They left her presents which included a tiny grandfather clock, and teeny toys ~ Micky Mouse, a duck, and super heroes. They also brought rocks and seashells painted with bright colors.

Older folks came by every day, and their smiles made her heart feel warm and full. Fiona realized this was indeed a safe haven for her as this community of people were thoughtful, kind, and generous. They kept the flowers watered and cared for and gave her frequent gifts. They kept the park clean and natural. Children often stopped by to peek in and say hello, and checked for any newly added furnishings.

She saw weddings, memorials, and other gatherings. The benches nearby offered moments of rest and peaceful vistas. Friends picnicked nightly to toast the magnificent sunsets. Others came by early in the morning to pick up trash or fallen branches. As the seasons changed, the pouch was filled with different beautiful bouquets. This past December, her Uncle Gnome came to stay for a while. They woke one morning to find a magnificent Christmas tree, complete with garland and decorations and secured from the wind with gorgeous white rocks! People came to see it and added their own little ornaments such as mussel shells and angels. Fiona invited all her Newport relatives to a celebration at the tree, dancing and singing with harps and fiddles, delicious food, and a special fairy nog. She had found her forever home in Battery Park.



Hi Neighbor

This is an abridged reprint from the Newport Daily News.

Brian R. Arnold grew up in the Point neighborhood, where his family has deep roots. "My children are the fifth generation in our home on Poplar Street," said Arnold, who owns B.R. Arnold Construction Co. and Cappy's Hillside Cafe. "The neighbors are still trying to get rid of us, but there are not many left."

He has a calm demeanor, an easy wit, and people who know him say the same thing about him again and again -- "a great guy."

Arnold is not restrained when he talks about his feelings for his hometown. "We live in the greatest place on Earth," he said. "For me, it was a wonderful place to grow up as a kid. It was a Huckleberry Finn adventure." He recalled trains chugging into Long Wharf when the Newport (now Pell) Bridge was under construction in the 1960s and the staging ground was where the Louis Jagschitz State Pier and Newport Shipyard are now, off Washington Street.

"Every part of that bridge came in on the rail cars," he said. "We used to jump the trains. It was just terrific. We'd run along the sides of the rail cars, grab a ladder, and hang on. We'd stay on to Middletown, when the cars slowed down to enter the base." It was a long walk back to the Point, but every step was worth it, he said.

"The building of the bridge was an epic time to be a kid," he said. He does have some guilt and retroactive empathy for the train engineers. "We terrorized those guys," he said.

He recalls with longing many other adventures of his youth. "We all had rowboats back then," he said. "We'd row down to Mack's Clam Shack on lower Thames, when it was almost all a working waterfront. We thought nothing of doing that." He recalled delivering The Newport Daily News in downtown Newport, and all the things he witnessed at his delivery stops. Leo Amato, owner of Leo's First and Last Stop, a bar on Long Wharf, would wait every afternoon for the paper. The bar was the first stop for sailors heading into the city on liberty from the local Navy base and their last stop before boarding ferry shuttles back to the base.

Arnold remembers some late Friday afternoons in the bar, when Amato had a lot of cash on hand for the bridge workers who came in after quitting time to cash their paychecks. "It was a wild place on Fridays," he said with a laugh.

Arnold has a large machine shop at his Tews Court construction company to lathe and finish his wood, including all the intricate moldings. He is proud of all the custom-built homes he and his employees have built in the city. This week he showed off a House Beautiful magazine from March 1992 that featured a home they built on Carroll Avenue for a Boston interior designer. The photo spread shows all the details of fine woodworking his company is known for. Other notable homes he has built include the headmaster's house on the campus of St. George's School. He also restored the historic Wildacre estate on Ocean Drive for Dorrance Hamilton and continues working on it for the current owner, William Kahane. "There is an incredible history to a lot of these homes," he said. "The city is a treasure trove of great homes."

He started his construction company in 1973, the same year he joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He is a past president of the order and has been co-chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He has ties to other institutions such as St. Joseph's Church, and the Norman Bird Sanctuary, where he has served on the board. He was once named "Citizen of the Year" by the Elks Club. The Arnold family has been Point Association members for generations. Arnold Park at Cross and Thames streets is named for his parents.

(continued on next page)



Brian Arnold (continued)

Arnold is also well known in the city as owner of the popular Cappy's on Memorial Boulevard West. "I bought Cappy's 30 years ago," he said. "I didn't change it. We have to keep something original in Newport. It's a great institution. I'm just the keeper of it. Besides, the construction business will drive you to drink, so I may as well have my own place to get the discount."


Arnold is married to Debbie (Ulrich) Arnold and they have two daughters. His late father, Harold Arnold, was a carpenter and taught him his woodworking skills. Arnold's mother came to America from Ireland at the age of 17. Arnold first went to Ireland at the age of 18 to meet the uncles and aunts he had only known from his mother's stories. "After I met them, it was like I had known them my whole life." He has returned to Ireland half dozen times over the years. "We had wonderful times," he said. "I have so many wonderful memories from my life, my family, my friends." That brings Arnold back to his mother and some of her words of wisdom. "She always told me, 'Live while you can and die when you can't help it.'"



Jumping for Joy

Jumping from one of the public piers on the Point have long been a "rite of passage" for young people, most likely starting the day after the first pier was built. Lately, they have become a destination for those with a liking for a winter swim.


Polar Bear jumper Kevin Danfelder and his brother Matthew and Ashlin Redford came to the Van Zandt Pier to celebrate the New Year, 2022.




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Ever thought about sharing your Secret Garden?

by Donna Maytum

Since 1984, the organizers and supporters of the Tour have been dedicated to enhancing art education and cultural events in Aquidneck Island's Public Schools, funding dozens of programs in music, theater and fine arts for local schoolchildren.

Two of the original gardens still participate in the tours. Ilse Nesbitt of Third and Elm Press continues to tend her own garden and it has been included in the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens as of April 2021. Mary Riggs, whose red double colonial home, at the corner of Farewell and Warner Streets, has a truly Secret Garden behind those tall hedges.

Some gardens are large, some small, but that's why people love it. As the organizers say, "they are mostly owner designed and maintained."

To date, The Secret Garden Tour has given more than \$1 million to Aquidneck Island students in public schools.

This year's tour will be held June 24-26. The tours run daily from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and tickets are limited with only 300 to be sold for each day.

In Spring 2014, Conde Nast Traveler Magazine named Newport, Rhode Island "one of the best walking cities in the U.S." and specifically mentioned the June Secret Garden Tour through the city's historic Point section as one of the highlights.

SO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION: If you are willing to share your garden, send an email, preferably with a photo, to our garden coordinator, Vicki Morro. Vicki has recently renovated a home on the Point but is no stranger to the Tour, having served on the team and sat in gardens over the years.

Send the email to Gardens@SecretGardenTours.org. If you prefer, you may call Vicki at 508-965-1935.

Vicki and her team will contact you to discuss details. They are looking for up to five new gardens for this year. Be sure to check the Facebook page www.facebook.com/SecretGardenTours for updates, events, beautiful garden photos and more.

For general information, visit the website:

www.secretgardentours.org

(continued on next page)



Recent Home Sales on the Point

(September 1, 2021 - March 1, 2022)

Single Family Homes

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 Cypress Street (4 bedrooms/4.5 baths) | \$2,450,000 |
| 41 Elm Street (3 bedrooms/2.5 baths) | \$1,750,001 |
| 17 Third Street (3 bedrooms/2.5 baths) | \$1,635,000 |
| 41 Third Street (6 bedrooms/3.5 baths) | \$1,495,000 |
| 6 Pine Street (3 bedrooms/3 baths) | \$1,364,000 |
| 37 Elm Street (4 bedrooms/3.5 baths) | \$1,350,000 |
| 99 Second Street (3 bedrooms/1.5 baths) | \$930,000 |
| 66 Third Street (3 bedrooms/2 baths) | \$925,000 |
| 10 Cherry Street (2 bedrooms/1.5 baths) | \$775,000 |
| 6 Guerney Court (2 bedrooms/1 bath) | \$745,000 |
| 27 Poplar Street (2 bedrooms/1 bath) | \$699,000 |
| 8 Guerney Court (2 bedrooms/2 baths) | \$685,000 |

Multi Family Homes

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 52 Thames Street (3 units/5 bedrooms/3 baths) | \$1,495,000 |
| 43 Farewell Street (2 units/8 bedrooms/4 baths) | \$1,255,000 |
| 6 Gladding Court (2 units/4 bedrooms/4 baths) | \$1,100,000 |
| 45 Elm Street (2 units/5 bedrooms/3 baths) | \$1,062,500 |
| 44 Charles Street (2 units/6 bedrooms/3 baths) | \$865,000 |
| 10 Cross Street (2 units/5 bedrooms/2 baths) | \$580,000 |

Condos

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 35 Elm Street, Unit 1 (2 bedrooms/1 bath) | \$610,000 |
| 15 Coddington Street, Unit B (3 bedrooms/2 baths) | \$501,000 |

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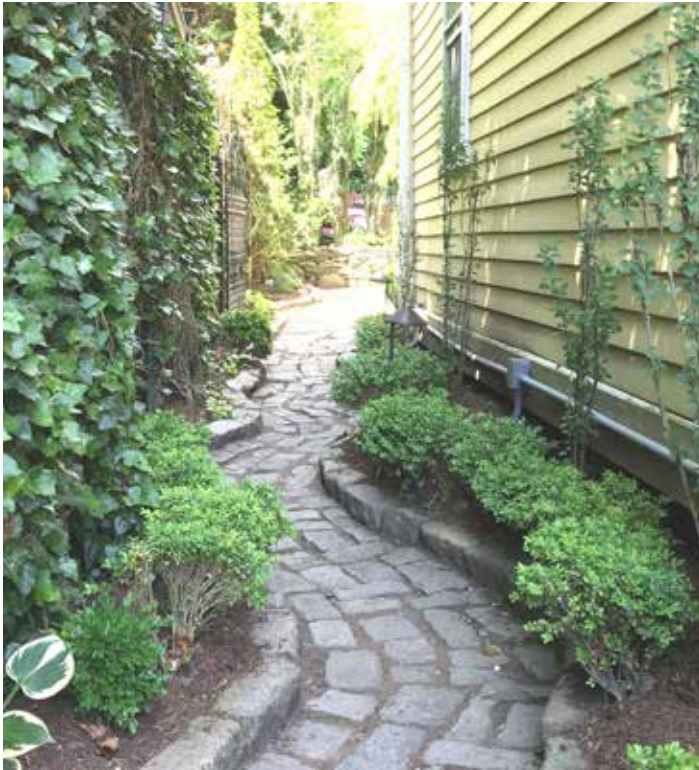
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Quakers in Newport

by Lisa Stuart

I have always been taken by the congenial nature of our neighborhood where people stop and chat on the streets, lend a hand in times of need and celebrate happy times together. Even our streets are neat and organized. Our simple grid layout embraces nature. A walk through the Point finds one enjoying gardens, trees and vistas of the harbor.

Over the years many people and events have contributed to our unique neighborhood. The Quakers were the first. They came fleeing persecution and brought with them a determined mindset, a sensibility of simplicity and a calling for hospitality to others. Many of the Quakers who lived here on the Point were craftspeople whose work became famous. But here on the Point they were simply known as “neighbors.”

Even before the officially formed Society of Friends, commonly called “Quakers”, came to America, this type of religion took root in the American Colonies. Expelled from Massachusetts in the dead of winter in 1636, former Puritan leader Roger Williams went on to found Rhode Island on the principle of religious freedom. He welcomed people of every shade of religious belief.

Anne Hutchinson, having been driven out of Boston for her beliefs, followed Roger Williams and settled on Aquidneck Island. Her group settled Pocasset (now Portsmouth). Differences in religious belief soon arose between supporters of Anne Hutchinson and William Coddington, and in 1639 Coddington and a small group of townspeople moved from Portsmouth to the southern part of Aquidneck Island.

In 1641 the persons who composed the Newport settlement arranged themselves into two religious groups. One party, with Coddington, Coggeshall, and Nicholas Easton as leaders, formulated views which seem extraordinarily akin to those later held by the Society of Friends. The other group, led by John Clarke, formed a Baptist Church.

Unlike in England, where Quakers were unable to hold office, Newport's Quakers were influential in the governing of Rhode Island from their earliest establishment there. William Coddington, John Coggeshall, Nicholas Easton, William Brenton, John Clarke, Jeremy Clarke, Henry Bull, Thomas Hazard, and William Dyer were the founders of Newport.

William Dyer's wife Mary was a Quaker martyr. William and Mary were Puritans who left England to find religious freedom in the Colonies. They became members of the Boston Church. During the Antinomian Controversy in the Church, Mary supported religious dissenter Anne Hutchinson resulting in her and William being banished from Massachusetts. The Dyers joined Hutchinson and the other religious dissenters on Aquidneck Island. It is thought that the Dyer Farm was located around Bayside and Sycamore Streets. Dyer's Gate was one of the roads leading into the farm. Mary left her husband and children to return to England. It was there that she became a Quaker.

After five years in England she boarded a ship to Boston. By now Quakerism had been outlawed in Massachusetts and she was arrested for her beliefs. She was freed but told never to return to Massachusetts. She returned home to Newport. She subsequently traveled to Massachusetts three times where she was arrested each time as a heretic. After the third arrest she was told if she returned again she would be hung. Feeling that if the laws in Massachusetts were not changed she would die a martyr, Mary returned to Massachusetts a fourth time. She was arrested and hung on June 1, 1660.

The Society of Friends was formed in England in the 1640s when religious dissident George Fox began to preach the concept of “inner light.” This was later developed into “The Principal” which is the core of Quaker belief. The core testimonies are integrity, equality, simplicity, community. A group of Quakers sailed to the Colonies in the *Woodhouse* to spread Quakerism. Many in the Colonies converted to Quakerism which shared many of the beliefs they already had embraced.

(continued on next page)

Quakers on The Point

After splitting from Anne Hutchinson's group, Coddington purchased land from the Narragansetts where he established the settlement of Newport. Despite this split, the following year, the two island communities of Portsmouth and Newport united and elected Coddington as governor of the new federation.

Coddington set up a committee to divide the land he purchased into farms and houses and sold it to his friends. Nickolas Easton purchased land from Coddington. He and his two sons were builders and built their first house at 64 Farewell Street. It was here that the Friends's Meeting took place. In 1641 Easton's house was burnt down, but he rebuilt it.



Walnut Street is the southern boundary at bottom of map. Dyre, (Dyer) later called VanZandt, is on north. Farewell Street is to the east and, of course, the water is west.

Upon his death in 1676 Eastern bequeathed his house to The Friends. This was likely The Friends' first permanent place of worship. A new meeting house was built in 1699. It was expanded in 1705 and 1729. It continued being used for the annual meetings in the 1800s and expanded in 1807, 1857 and 1867. By the mid-1700s over 5,000 people from around the region would attend the annual meeting. "Advices," a compilation of guidelines covering every aspect of Quaker life, was developed during these annual meetings and the guidelines were periodically issued. One of the most significant of these "advices" was the direction to not have slaves—a direction that many a Newport Quaker embraced. Another being "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever."



*Friends Meeting House
Farewell Street Newport, RI*

Many of those attending the Annual Meeting of Friends stayed with fellow Quakers on the Point. In addition, attendees also stayed at the many boarding houses on the Point such as the Fasineau and The Lantern.

(continued on next page)

| CARS LEAVE | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Middleboro' | at 7:30 A.M. | \$1.50 |
| Lakeville, | " 7:34 " | 1.50 |
| Myricks, | " 7:55 " | 1.25 |
| Azonest, | " 8:03 " | 1.25 |
| Steep Brook, | " 8:18 " | 1.25 |
| Bowenville, | " 8:24 " | 1.00 |
| Fall River, Ferry St. | " 8:30 " | 1.00 |
| RETURNING, | | |
| WILL LEAVE NEWPORT AT 6:45 P.M. | | |

Old Colony Train schedule for the Friends Meeting

By 1905 The Friends no longer met at the Meeting House. The building then became an important meeting place for the African-American Community and eventually became the Martin Luther King Center. When the Martin Luther King Center moved in the 1970s, Mrs. Sydney Wright purchased the meeting house, restored it and donated it to the Newport Historical Society. It is open to the public on an ad hoc basis.

The Society of Friends Lays Out the Point

After Nicholas Easton's death, his land went to his wife Ann Easton. When Ann married Henry Bull the land was passed to him as was the custom then. Upon Bull's passing it once again became Ann's.

A very detailed review of the RI Land Evidence records and Friends maps detailing the land sale and dates of sale (and re-sale) is provided in the February 1986 Issue of the *Green Light*. Joseph Blaine notes:

“On July 16, 1698, Ann sold the 65 acres to the Quakers. Apparently something didn't sit well so on September 23, 1706 the Quakers sold the Point back to Ann and it was re-conveyed back to them on October 9, 1706. According to Blaine, the Quakers were great procrastinators. Although they started talking about laying out the house lots on the Point in 1711, it was only in mid-1715 that the lots were conveyed.”

The trustees laid out the grid for our neighborhood and rented the lots. It was not until after the Revolution that the Proprietors gave up the rent and sold lots to lot purchasers.

The Author wishes to thank John Ward for his assistance in reviewing the information in this article.

Editor's note: The *History of Quakers on the Point* will be continued in the next edition of *the Green Light*



74.17.2a, Collection of the Newport Historical Society.

To view the original, go to: <https://collections.newporthistory.org/Detail/objects/10850>

A Walking Tour of Quaker Homes on the Point

- Bayside and Sycamore - approximate location of William and Mary Dyer's Farm (a foundation that is thought to have been the Dyer's house was found there while building of the Maitland Mansion "Bayside" in 1860)
- 25 Walnut Street - William Wanton and Joseph Wanton
- 25 Bridge Street - Captain Peter Simon and Quaker Sarah Robinson
- 53 Bridge Street - Thomas Townsend
- 59 Bridge Street - Job Townsend and Job Townsend Jr., once stood on northwest corner of Third and Bridge Streets. The house existed until the 1950's. NRF House moved to this property.
- 70 Bridge Street - John Townsend
- Bridge and Second Northeast Corner —John Goddard, the grandson, had a shop and warehouse at the north-east corner.
- 74 and 76 Bridge Street - Christopher Townsend
- 19 Second Street - John Townsend
- 51 Second Street - Solomon Townsend
- 14 Third Street - Thomas Townsend
- 11 Cross St. — Gov Gideon Wanton This house was moved to Cross Street in the 1960s.
- Washington Street - Johnathan Eastern House moved to Cherry and Guernsey
- 53 Washington — Potter-Minturn house
- 54 Washington Street— William Hunter (not a Quaker) and Quaker Mary Robinson
- 64 Washington Street Thomas Robinson/Smith House
- 72 Washington Street was the location of the John Goddard House - moved to 81 Second Street in 1870
- 86 Washington Street-Henry Morris



1863 Houses on Washington Street are: left to right, the Goddard House, workshop behind Goddard House, Robinson House, Captain Warren House and Hunter House.

The Goddard House was in it's original location on Washington Street before it was moved to 81 Second Street in 1870

Photo credit: "Washington Street Shore ", VM013_GF4543, Rhode Island Photograph Collection , Providence Public Library, Providence, RI.

Special lecture - Don't miss it!

On Thursday March 31st, 2022 at 5:30pm, the Newport Historical Society will continue its **virtual interview series with bestselling author Alyssa Maxwell**. NHS Executive Director Ruth Taylor will ask Alyssa about her research process and how she translates historical facts into historical fiction. For more info and to register: <https://newporthistory.org/event/virtual-interview-with-author-alyssa-maxwell/>

Save the Dates

April 23, 2022. 8 AM Rain date April 2: Earth Day and Point Clean-up. Storer Park.
May 17, 2022. 6 to 7:30 PM: PA Spring Meeting. St. John's Guild Hall. Refreshments.
May 28, 2022. Rain date May 29. Time TBD: Plant Sale. St. John's Church lawn.
June 18, 2022. Rain date June 19. 5 to 7 PM: Block Party. Willow St – east end.
June 24, 25, 26, 2022. 10 AM to 4 PM: Secret Garden Tour
July 4 week. Patriotic Point: Show the Flag. Decorate your home. Let Freedom Ring!
July 16, 2022. 9 to 11AM. Rain date July 16: New member Coffee. Location TBA.
Every Thursday in August. 6 PM to 8:30 PM: Music On the Lawn. St John's Church Lawn.
August 18, 2022. 6 to 8 PM: Point Association Annual Cocktail Party. Location TBA.
September 20, 2022. 6 to 7:30 PM: Fall Membership Meeting. St. John's Guild Hall.
October 30, 2022. 2 PM: Halloween Parade (including pups). Van Zandt Pier to Storer
December 1, 2022. 4:30: Point Association Tree Lighting and Holiday Party

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By Mail: The Point Association. P.O. Box 491 Newport, RI 02840

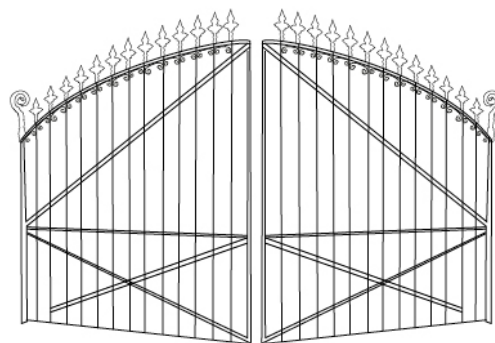
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New Year's Day

Kevin Danfelter takes a “Polar Bear” plunge from the Van Zandt Pier.

Visiting relatives in Newport, Kevin lives in Maine. He claims that the water temperature in winter here in Newport is warmer than a plunge in Booth Bay Harbor in mid-summer.

The Green Light has been published continuously since 1957. To read this issue or all issues online or to Google references to your house or street, people or events, Go to: <https://thepointassociation.org/the-green-light/>

The Green Light