

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Summer and Fall 2022



Cardine's Field and the Fire Station from the roof of the Brenton Hotel
Photo by Barbara Bessette

The GREEN LIGHT

The GREEN LIGHT LXVI No. 2 Summer/Fall 2022

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Front Cover: *Cardines's Field from the Brenton Roof*

Back Cover: *Adalind on the Blue Rocks*

Photos 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

The Green Light has been published continuously since 1957, beginning shortly after the formation of our neighborhood organization. At 65, it is old enough to be called "venerable" and, if I may say so, *important*. It started out with neighbors writing up news, recipes and word of upcoming events to residents. Typed pages were cut and pasted together. It grew quickly to begin communicating information about issues that possibly needed the "preservation and protection" of our Point Association.

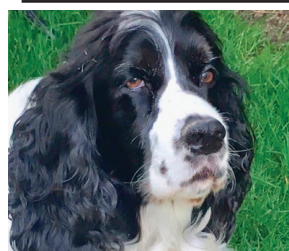
It earned its reputation as *important* as it became the main voice in educating neighbors about a variety of subjects that might very well have changed life in our close community. Varying opinions for and against were expressed in its pages. It is used by scholars to research specific events, the details of which would have been lost otherwise. Issues are archived and held in esteem by the Newport Historical Society, the Redwood Library and the Newport Public Library. Researchers use our own archives of the *Green Light* and other documents preserved by our History and Archives group on our Point Association website.

In the last four years as editor, I sometimes envied the "old days" with neighbors gathered around the kitchen table typing and xeroxing *the Green Light*. Publishing is more technical these days requiring specific skills in word processing, layout and circulation using electronic and social media.

I would hope that readers who agree that *the Green Light* is *important* to our community would join the communication team and write, submit photos or otherwise use their skills to further the influence of this journal. I can guarantee that, like all those who have worked on it before us, you will be very proud of your part in publishing *the Green Light*. I certainly am.

See you 'round the 'Hood.

Ann McMahon, greenlight@thepointassociation.org



Breeze, Merry Preston's beautiful Springer Spaniel, left us last spring. She was sweet natured and loved her walks around the Point with Merry. She was also fond of tennis balls and sticks. R.I.P sweet girl.

President's Letter

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful 2022 summer season here on the Point. This past summer may have been a hot and dry one, but I'm happy to say it was also full of terrific well-attended in person (hurrah!) neighborhood events. All thanks to your participation in our neighborhood association.

First off was our Spring Meeting, the first in-person one since COVID began. Attendees were introduced to our 2022 Board Members and heard a wonderful presentation from Save The Bay on their plans for the relocation of the aquarium from First Beach to the Transportation Center. Thanks to an extremely generous \$1.5M donation from the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, they are now 2/3rds of the way towards their move fundraising goal. We look forward to having them as neighbors and you can learn more at savebay.org.

We also heard from our neighborhood historian Lisa Stuart on how we can all research the history of our homes, something of great interest to many given the age and history of our neighborhood. And of course there was plenty of pizza and wine to finish out the evening.

The Spring Plant Sale, despite some weather related worry, was a resounding success thanks to our hard working Beautification Committee Chair Rich Abbinanti and his many dedicated committee volunteers and sponsors. The sale exceeded our ambitious goal and I'm excited to say raised over \$3,000! That income helps support our many events throughout the year. And stay tuned for news on a special Beautification project we are working on for late 2022 or Spring 2023.

Next was the Willow Street block party featuring yours truly grilling up our beloved *Saugy* hot dogs along with the delicious contributions of snacks and desserts by many of our members. It was a great chance for neighbors to meet and socialize once again. A few weeks later our new members met and enjoyed a lovely morning of coffee and baked goods in Vice President Mary Beth Jenkins' beautiful back yard at our New Members Coffee.

August happily meant 4 weeks of Music On The Lawn at St. John's, a neighborhood favorite! Your membership dollars allowed us to once again be a sponsor of this very special series of concerts that so many of us enjoy year after year.

The Summer Cocktail Party, this year at Hunter House thanks to the hospitality of the Preservation Society, wrapped up our busy summer schedule. But not to worry, the Fall will be busy as well! Read on in *the Green Light* and check our website for our fall calendar of events

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,



Coles Mallory

by Ann McMahon

Newport and the Point neighborhood in particular lost a dear friend and neighbor when former Newport City Manager (1968 to 1975) and Point Association President (1996 to 1999) Coles Mallory died on June 6, 2022. You might have seen Coles and his wife Marcia, taking their usual afternoon stroll on the Point. It must have given them pleasure to contrast what they saw with what existed in 1968 when they first settled in their Washington Street home. It no doubt gave them satisfaction to ponder the positive effect of Coles' leadership as they surveyed the state of the Point today.

For example, those on Washington Street can appreciate the absence of traffic that used it to "cut through" when heading north coming from Goat Island and the waterfront because Coles negotiated with the City to make one block of Washington one way south. Also, we are relieved that we are not being quacked at by amphibious Duck Tour passengers. That ride was banned from the Point during his tenure. Harbor House, a huge architectural and structural project that connected existing large buildings for housing was completed during his time as Point Association administrator.

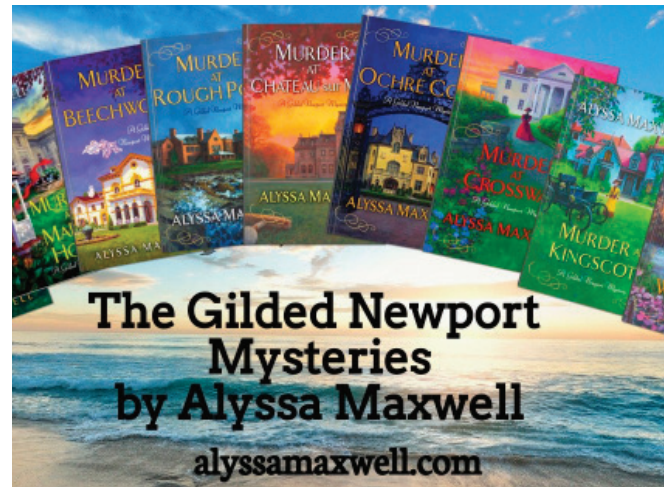
In the President's message in *the Green Light* in winter of 1998, Mallory outlined the issues the Point section faced: the proposed use of the recently sold Potter School (America's Cup and Elm); rapid and possible over development of Goat Island; a proposed cruise ship terminal; noise; party houses; the dredging of the Harbor near the Newport Shipyard, and repair of a deteriorating Van Zandt Pier.

Current residents can judge for themselves the results of the vigilance of President Mallory, his fellow Board members and the men and women volunteering on PA committees by the appearance of our contemporary



Point and also, very importantly, by what is *not* infringing upon us now.

Coles Mallory led a life that is a model for us to continue our goal to "preserve, protect and enhance" as well as to enjoy and appreciate, this beautiful place.



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Ramps: New Shared Use Path

by Ann McMahon

All Point residents living on the “Courts” or any block ending east of Third Street have been annoyed all summer by the sound of gravel and sand trucks, by steam shovels, by the annoying beep beep beep of vehicles backing up and other maddening construction noise. We are hopeful that the result will be worth the aggravation.

The “shared use” path, as it is called by RIDOT, will connect with the other new bike paths coming from Connell and Admiral Kalbfus Highways just north of the Van Zandt Bridge. The start of the section that goes along the Point can be seen by looking to the right while driving on the “Scenic Newport” exit ramp to Farewell Street.

The path along the “secondary road”, as it is referred to, begins just under the Van Zandt Bridge. If you look down from the bridge, you can easily see where the trail splits and one part is a raised bed (at least eight feet high is my guess) on the eastern (cemetery) side. It is held in place by a pre-formed wall that looks convincingly like stone.

The other half of the path is at ground level. Some kind of a fence will keep the upper level users from falling onto the lower level where tracks for a “people mover” of some sort will eventually be put in. Bicyclists and walkers will proceed along the raised path to Walnut Street where they will be diverted to a newly built protected lane on America’s Cup which runs alongside the rail tracks down to the little depot building across from the Gateway Center.

There is a very informative write up with excellent graphics on what the overall ramp project will look like when it is finished in *Newport This Week* for Thursday, August 18, 2022.



Every kind of construction vehicle imaginable was used building the shared use path.

Beautification Committee

These hard workers pitch in to the Spring Clean-up, the Plant Sale, the planting and maintenance of the Washington Street Planters and so many other tasks that keep our beautiful neighborhood looking so cared for. *Hint: This is a good committee to join for volunteer work as they are also known for having a good after-party.*

Richard Abbinanti and all your team: Thank you for all your hard work.

Nancy Abbinanti
Richard Abbinanti
Scott Beattie
Kitty Beard Beattie
Barbara Bessette
Ray Bliss
Karen Capraro
Beth Castiglia
Michael Conroy
Trudy Conroy
Larry Farley
Casey Farley

Tina Lewis
Ann McMahon
Beth O’Shea
Susan Bower Powers
Pam Quinn
Joan Rauch
Bill Rauch
Ann Rittenbusch
Nancy Scott
Mary Shean
John Ward
Kathy Ward



The shared use path southward from the Van Zandt Bridge.

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Gala at the Belmont Chapel in Island Cemetery

by Pam Kelley

The first Belmont Stakes, the longest and oldest race of the Triple Crown Thoroughbred Series, was first held in New York in 1867 by stock market speculator Leonard Jerome and financed by August Belmont Sr. (1816-1890) for whom the race was named. Belmont, a New York financier, diplomat, and sportsman was well known in horse racing circles as well as in Newport society. He had the Belmont Chapel in the Island Cemetery built in 1886 as a memorial to his daughter Jane who died at a young age and is buried there himself.

The Chapel was used for funeral services for many years but fell into disrepair beginning in the 1930's, eventually becoming completely hidden by ivy and trees. In 2014, a foundation specifically for the Chapel was set up with the object of seeking funding for its restoration, which began in 2021 with an initial grant from the Alletta Morris McBean Foundation to restore the roof and begin work on the beautiful stained glass windows. The Capital Campaign Committee, which was set up at that time, began the work of seeking additional financing to complete the total restoration, estimated to be \$2.6 million.

The work this year is on the interior, repointing the interior tile and brick, restoring the windows and installing electricity and security systems. It has been generously underwritten by the van Beuren Foundation and many generous individuals. We anticipate the Chapel will be substantially completed by the fall of 2023 and hope to have it available to the community for concerts and lectures, in addition to funeral services for the cemetery.

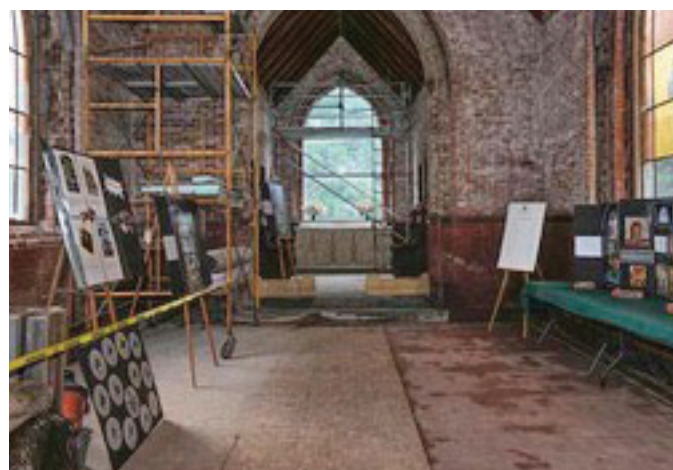
The Belmont Stakes event held on June 11 was an entertaining way to introduce new people to the Chapel and Island Cemetery, while raising funds to support the Chapel. The actual race was simulcast under a tent set up and hats were encouraged! Thanks to our volunteers and attendees, we cleared \$22,000, which was added to the chapel Endowment Fund for maintenance of the Belmont Chapel in the future.



Tent for festivities and the Perry Family Gravesites in front of Chapel.



At the entrance to Belmont Chapel is Harry Eudenbach, President of the Belmont Chapel Foundation and Abby Campbell-King, ALA, who is on the Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee. Abby also won the Best Hat Award!



The interior of the Belmont Chapel during restoration.



Dazzling in their hats are Point Association members (L to R) Maggie Thomas and Tonya Grootendorst

All photos by Eileen McCarney Muldoon

Newport Cemeteries Explained

by Pam Kelley

There are actually 6 separate cemeteries that are contiguous and 4 of them border on the aptly named Farewell Street.

The privately owned Island Cemetery (1) was incorporated in 1848..

The Island Cemetery Annex (2) on Van Zandt Street was added in the 1930's as a private burial space. Many of the families who developed and were known in Newport during the Gilded Age are buried In the Island Cemetery and Annex. .

The oldest public cemetery is (3), the Common Burying Ground which was given to the city in 1640 by Reverend John Clarke. Containing modest headstones, many of which date to the seventeenth century, the cemetery was divided into two sections, one to the south for the burial of freemen, the other to the north for the enslaved, now called "God's Little Acre".

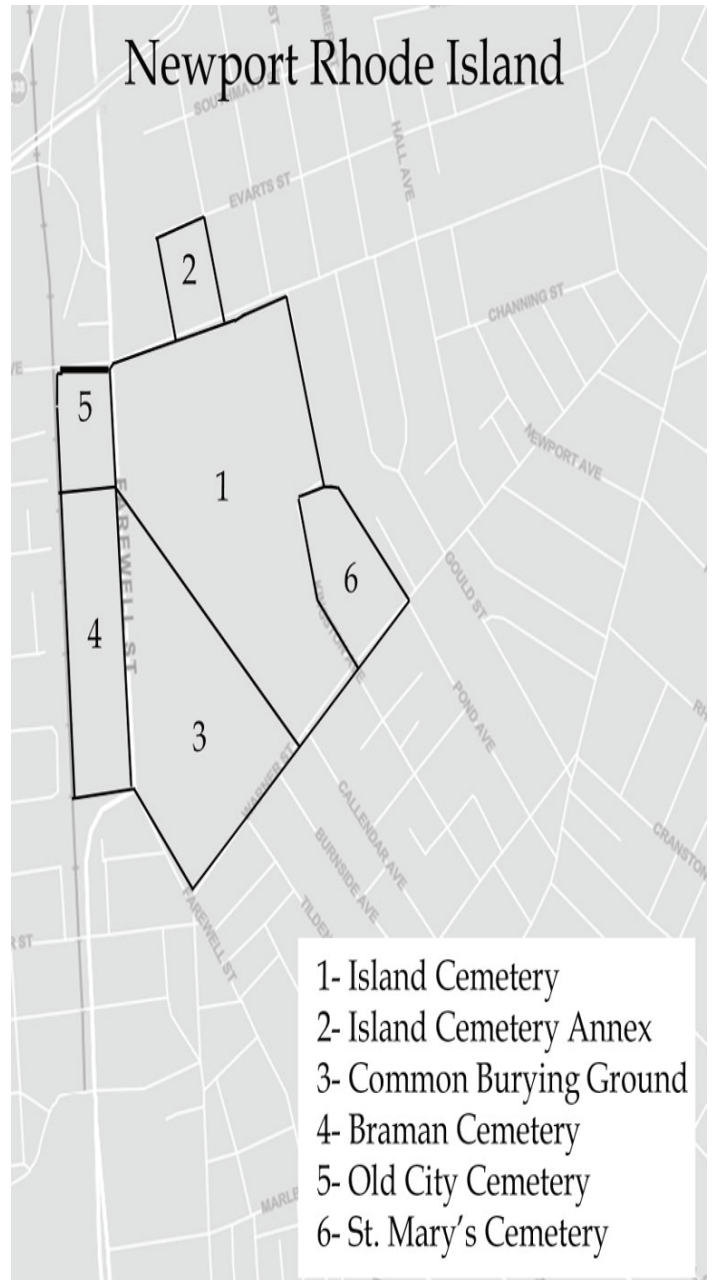
The Braman Cemetery (4) was established in 1898 from part of a family farm. It was eventually bequeathed to the City of Newport.

North of Braman is the Old City Cemetery (5), also known as the North Burial Ground.

The private St. Mary's Cemetery (6), east of the Island Cemetery on Vicksburg Place, was established by St Mary's Catholic Church in 1850 for its parishioners.

A wealth of information is available on each cemetery on the web at Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries. There is also a searchable database of people buried in RI cemeteries and maps of the cemeteries.

rihistoriccemeteries.org



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Fiona and the Baby Squirrels

by Barbara Bessette

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

Fiona awoke in her tiny fairy bed inside the belly of the giant Chinese Elm in Battery Park to the sound of loud crashing and thrashing outside. Her three little gnome cousins came running from the guest room. Auntie, Uncle and Grandpa gnome appeared with fear in their eyes, hushing the little ones.

They crept over to the window and peeked out in horror as three baby squirrels ran in circles chasing each other. They were whooping and hollering, throwing toys in the air, ripping up flowers and completely destroying the fairy garden in the apron of the tree! To the rescue came Dennis, a frequent park visitor, and his two Yorkshire Terriers, Peanut and Cashew. The dogs charged the tree, jumping and barking ferociously. The squirrels raced back up the tree to their nest.

Peace and quiet returned. Birds chirped, seagulls squawked, sailboat halyards clanged, and normal morning noises resumed in the serene little park overlooking the Newport Harbor and Bridge.

Fiona opened the broken fairy door and was dismayed when she saw that the flowers were trampled and toys, treasures, and shells were strewn all over the park. "Oh dear! Oh no!" cried her cousins and Grandpa. Early morning walkers gathered to survey the damage. The lady with the cane came walking over and told everyone what had happened. "Oh dear!" said the lady with the white fluffy dog. "What a shame!" said the man who frequently sits on the nearby bench. The woman with the pony tail who paints the pretty shells was appalled.

A father arrived with his baby in a stroller and his four-year-old daughter Emma. She ran over, saw the mess and said "Let's fix it!" And they did! The tall man with the white hat took the broken door home and glued it back together. The lady with the fluffy dog and the woman with the pony tail got busy retrieving toys. The plant lady left to get new plants. Two little boys came running over with toy cars and shark fins they found. Everyone pitched in to bring the fairy garden back to its charming self. The garden was looking magical again!

Soon Fiona's friend Mrs. Squirrel came down from her nest higher up in the Elm tree with the three baby squirrels in tow. The young culprits had come to apologize. They said they were only playing and got carried away as children often do. Forgiven, they all danced around the garden enjoying another beautiful evening with a glorious sunset. Fiona sighed with relief. Her home was safe once more.

Fiona's fairy garden is a magical place in the very special Battery Park in our friendly neighborhood. People of all ages stop by for a quick visit, sometimes re-arranging the toys, even putting them in crevices of the "Fairy Tree" as it has come to be called. Some people leave little gifts, and sometimes children take home a favorite, creating a vibrant and interactive mini museum. Be sure to have a look when you are in the Park.



Photos by Barbara Bessette

Summertime, and the Living is Easy

by Ann McMahon

What a summer! Hardly a drop of rain, yet the bunnies found lots of flowers to eat in our gardens and clover in our dried up lawns. Watching sunsets from Battery and Storer Parks became a ritual along with having houseguests in what seemed like every week-end this summer. One and all seemed to be determined to make up for lost Covid time and so squeezed every bit of fun they could into this very sunny summer.



Bill and Barbara Hogan - Volunteers Extraordinaire! Thank you!

The Point Association activities didn't happen by themselves. Lots of people were behind the scenes lugging furniture, setting up, ordering food and a plethora of other tasks so that we could all participate in events we have come to love.

Barbara and Bill Hogan were everywhere this summer – you will most likely remember Bill from serving you your beverages at the neighborhood soirees. Barbara has greeted you at the membership table at every event.

They arrive early and stay late. They personify the hospitableness of living on the Point. Say hello when you see them and also, don't let them have all the fun. Volunteer to help with an event. It really will make it more enjoyable.

Get in touch with Point Association committee heads (see page 13) and sign up to help.

Point Association activities were in full swing. May's **Spring Meeting** with new President Ken Snyder and a slate of new officers featured a presentation by *Save the Bay* telling us about their salt water Aquarium. They will be our new neighbors in the former Gateway Center. Hooray! We are the *Ocean State* after all.



The **Block Party**, a favorite gathering, took place in June at the east end of Willow Street. Ken Snyder was the *Saugy Hot Dog* grilling king. Bill Hogan was bartender and Barbara Hogan met and greeted new and old members. Nancy Scott helped with the set up.



(L) Gladys Barbosa, Vinny Fraioli, Dick Derocher and Sheila Derocher



Ken and Beth Castiglia from Willow Street

The **Secret Garden Tour** took place before the drought really kicked in. This year the sponsors, *Benefactors of the Arts*, limited the number of tickets and also sold the tickets for specific time slots.

Ken and Beth Castiglia's home on Willow Steet was part of the *Secret Garden Tour* and also won second place in *Newport In Bloom's* city wide garden contest.

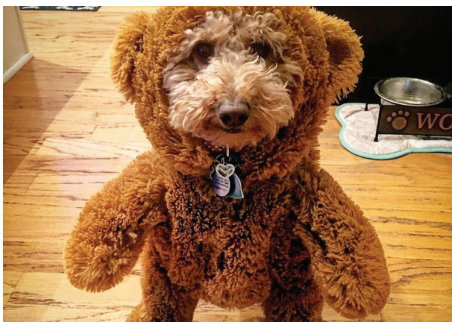


Although not a Point Association event per se, the Association shares the overall sponsorship of **Music on the Lawn**, five concerts on St John's lawn between Poplar and Willow with *Edge Realty*. The concerts are run by St John's Parish and individual donors provide funding for individual bands. Even more people attended the music this year than in earlier years.

At left: Trumpet player Doug Woolverton and his jazz fusion band entertain a packed lawn in August.

A wonderful end to the summer season was the PA Cocktail Party in August. It was held this year in the gardens at the historic Hunter House. The house is on the Registry of Historic Houses and played a role in the American Revolution. You might have seen it recently playing a more visible role in the HBO drama, *The Gilded Age*.

At right, enjoying the party are (L) Bill Farrell, Bill Bagwell, Mary-Beth Jenkins and Peter Jenkins.



Take it from this suspicious looking Teddy bear, good times are not over yet. In addition to the Fall Meeting of the Point Association, the residents and their dogs will have an opportunity to parade from Park to Park, barking all the way, at the Point Association Halloween Costume Parade.

We will end the year gazing at the namesake Green Light Lighthouse on Goat Island in Newport Harbor while we sing carols for our tree lighting and proceed to St John's Church Hall for refreshments and good cheer. We start all over again in January with the After New Year's Party.

(ALN) Rebrands into Involve Newport (InNewport)

by Ann McMahon

While researching the many contributions of the late Coles Mallory (Point Association President from 1996 to 1999), I learned that he had also formed a coalition of 11 Neighborhood Associations called “Newport Neighborhoods”. This group was the forerunner of the Alliance for a Livable Newport (ALN). For years, this group acted mainly as a neutral ombudsman for issues facing the City. The ALN has now evolved into Involve Newport. The core operational plan of the new organization is to focus sub-committees around topics of issue rather than geographical neighborhoods.

This will enable those who are engaged in a specific issue to maintain an active voice in the conversation with other concerned citizens across all neighborhoods, providing diversity of thought and participation.

Topics include but are not limited to – infrastructure, development, housing, transportation, education, climate change, energy, preservation, public health & safety, and equity & inclusion.



Flower lovers have been asking the name of the beautiful row of *David Austin* roses on the Second Street side of 9 Chestnut Street. They are called *Pope John Paul II*. Now you know.

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A Short history of the Point

Lisa Stuart shared a quick overview of our neighborhood's history at the New Members Welcome Meeting. She is currently working on a comprehensive history of the Point. In the meantime, one can absorb the overview below and read more about the Point from the archives of the Green Light available at the PA website. Specific names of people, homes, and much more are available from there. (From thepointassociation.org website, choose Our Neighborhood from the main menu.) The Newport Historical Society is also a treasure of our history.

In the mid 1600's, the *then* named Easton's Point section was founded and settled by the Quakers. In addition to a symmetric grid of streets, famous craftspeople such as the Goddards and Townsends had workshops and shipyards along *the Cove* which existed here before being filled in - think Marsh Street, Bridge Street and Long Wharf.

The Point, particularly Hunter House, played a part in the Revolutionary War. Some Point homes were "occupied" by the French when they came to our assistance in that War.

Great Victorian mansions were built on Washington Street in the mid to late 1800's and it resulted in many of the Colonial homes being moved to make way.

Newport relied mainly upon ships until the railroad filled in the Cove where Cardine's Field now stands.

Luxury ferries from the Fall River Line took people on an over-night ride to NYC. Ships were repaired at what is now Storer Park and the Ferries picked up passengers at Long Wharf.

The US Navy has been a major presence in Newport since the Naval Station was founded in 1883. During World War II, there was a torpedo factory on Goat Island that employed many Newporters, many of them women as the men were in the armed forces.

The Depression of the 1930s caused a change in the Point with many of the houses becoming boarding houses. A group of businessmen purchased the Hunter House from demolition in the 1940s leading to the formation of the The Preservation Society of Newport County. This organization went on to purchase and maintain the Newport Mansions and other buildings that make Newport a major tourist destination.

Homes in the Point neighborhood declined during the 1950s and 1960s leading to the formation of the Point Association in 1955. The Green Light was established in 1957.

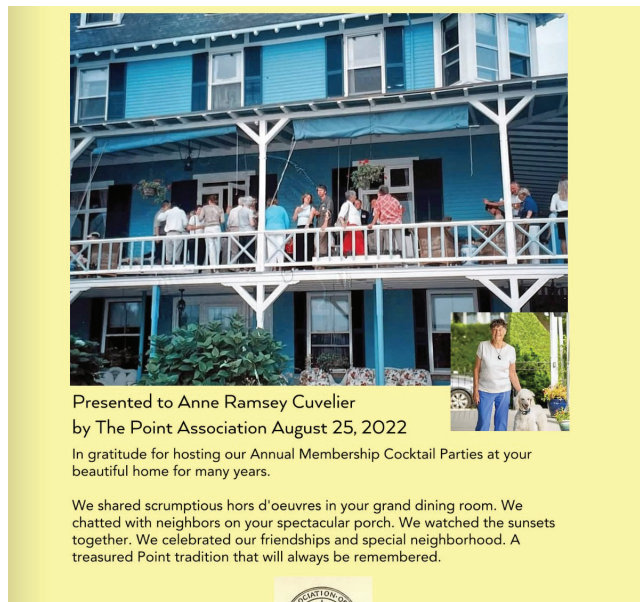
The restoration and preservation of Colonial homes started here on the Point with a grassroots effort called Operation Clapboard. It inspired Doris Duke to fund the effort and to the formation of the Newport Restoration Foundation in 1968. Many of the restored NRF homes are located in the Point section.

The building of the Newport Pell Bridge in the 1960's cut through the Point cutting off the northern ends of Washington and Second Streets. The new America's Cup Ave split the Point in two.



Newcomer's Welcome Coffee hostess Mary Beth Jenkins greets Calvin, Peter Nelson's dog. Lisa Stuart looks on.

Thank you Anne Ramsey Cuvelier



A photo book of memories created by the History and Archives Committee was presented to Anne Ramsey Cuvelier on August 15 in gratitude for having countless Point events at her beautiful home, the former Sanford-Covell Villa Marina on Washington Street. The inscription reads:

"Presented to Anne Ramsey Cuvelier by the Point Association August 15: We shared scrumptious hors d'oeuvres in your grand dining room. We chatted with neighbors on your spectacular porch. We watched the sunsets together. We celebrated our friendships and special neighborhood. A treasured Point tradition that will always be remembered."

Welcome to New Members

Alicia Anthony & Xay (Sigh) Rexford Khamsyvoravong	16 Walnut St 16 Walnut St
Deanna & Chris Carter	41 Elm St
Carolyn Garth	98 Second St
Christine & Craig Grayson	35 Elm St
Elizabeth Hughes	48 Third St
Stephanie Jurgenson	8 Guerny Ct
Meagan Landry	31 Bayside Ave
Kerry McGarty	6 Gladding Ct
Lauren Nelson	10 Cherry St
Stephanie & Don Osterborg	7 Second St
Jennifer Flynn Pugliese & Michael Pugliese	33 Van Zandt Ave
Camille & Tom Reiser	41 Third St
Jason & Brandi Tavares	27 Poplar St
Karen Weber	74 Bridge St



Craig and Christine Grayson enjoyed the gathering for new members.

New Member's Coffee.

Mary Beth and Peter Jenkins hosted a new members coffee in the back yard of their lovely home at 36 Third Street on July 16th. Many an existing member also looks forward to these Welcome Parties as a way to meet the new folks and to catch up with other neighbors. Lisa Stuart from Washington Street gave a short tutorial of how to look up the history of one's house and other good searches in both the Green Light Archives and those of the Newport Historic Society.

How To Have Even More Fun on the Point

Take advantage of our neighborhood's community spirit and friendliness by volunteering to help on one of the committees or to take over as lead in some important roles.

A good place to start is the **Event** committee where you have lots of opportunities to meet and greet your neighbors. Get in touch with Mary Beth Jenkins at vicepresident@thepointassociation.org

Contact Barbara Hogan, **Membership** greenlight@thepointassociation.org and help her round up all the people new to the Point so they can join in..

E-mail Debbie Arnold for all things **Financial** including charitable donations, dues, and advertising, at treasurer@thepointassociation.org

Beautification opportunities abound and our lovely neighborhood is testimony to the pride residents take in their homes and gardens. An easy and fun activity is the spring clean up or lend a hand at the plant sale in May. You can also volunteer to maintain one of cement planters at Storer, Battery and John Martin Parks as well as those at the Van Zandt Pier. Get in touch with Richard Abbinanti as well as Nancy Abbinanti at recordingsecretary@thepointassociation.org as she is knowledgeable in all aspects of things related to the Point Association.

If you have a penchant for Point and Newport history or just want to learn more about it, get your kicks hanging out with the **History and Archives** crowd by contacting Lisa Brew at greenlight@thepointassociation.org

If you enjoy writing or have expertise in computer technology, publishing or social media, please join the **Communications** team by contacting Alison Minaglia at greenlight@thepointassociation.org. Writers are needed for both *Points of Interest*, currently written by Pam Kelley and *the Green Light*. An editor is also needed for the Green Light currently edited by Ann McMahon. greenlight@thepointassociation.org

Point Gardens Shine at Newport in Bloom Awards

If you love the baskets of flowers hanging from lamp posts all around Newport and are thrilled at the welcome sign of spring when the *Daffodillion* Daffodils are blooming, you have the organization *Newport in Bloom* to thank. This group of enthusiastic and energetic gardeners from all over the city also sponsors garden competitions. The awards ceremony was held at the Tennis Hall of Fame on August 24th and the winners from the Point section (part of Area I) are listed below. As you know, there is stiff competition as the Point is known for unique and beautiful gardens.



Lisa Elliott's garden at 5 Sycamore Street won 1st prize

Winners: Area 1 - Gardens on the Point

1st Prize: In Ground Garden

Lisa Elliott 5 Sycamore Street

2nd Prize: In Ground Garden

Beth Castiglia 25 Willow Street

3rd Prize: In Ground Garden

Beth Piskorowski 51 Farewell Street

Third Prize: Containers - **Carol Nagle**, 63 Third

Newcomer Award: **Stephanie Osterborg** 7 Second

Honorable Mention: In Ground Gardens

Yvonne Ferreira 21 Third Street

Karen Capraro 31 Poplar Street

Ann McMahon 7 Guernsey Court

Claire Taylor-Quarry 5 LaSalle Place

Debra Hunt 33 Third Street

Honorable Mention: Container Gardens

Jim Marinar 47 Third Street

Scott Rivkees 67 Third Street

Kim Tutcher 100 Washington Street

Alison Cohen 42 Second Street

Susan & Bill Farrell 5-7 Poplar Street

Nancy & Jim Madson 32 Poplar Street



Recent Home Sales on the Point

(March 1, 2022 - August 28, 2022)

Single Family Homes

72 Washington Str Villa Martin (3 bedrooms/4.5 baths) \$7,380,000

21 Bridge Street (4 bedrooms/2.5 baths) \$1,938,000

10 Mulford Court (3 bedrooms/2.5 baths) \$1,900,000

33 Farewell Street (4 bedrooms/2.5 baths) \$1,200,000

44 Thomas Street (3 bedrooms/2.5 baths) \$1,100,000

78 Third Street (3 bedrooms/1.5 baths) \$835,000

12 LaSalle Place (3 bedrooms/1.5 baths) \$638,000

49 1/2 Third Street (1 bedroom/1 bath) \$600,000

Multi Family Homes

131/133 Washington Street (2 units/4 bedrooms/4 baths) \$1,700,000

33/35 Marsh Street (1 unit/3 bedrooms/3 baths) \$1,100,000

31 Poplar Street (3 units/7 bedrooms/5 baths) \$630,000

Condos

33 Elm Street, Unit 1 (1 bedroom/1 bath) \$621,580

33 Van Zandt Avenue, Unit 3 (3 bedrooms/2.5 baths) \$740,000

33 Elm Street, Unit 3 (2 bedrooms/1 bath) \$335,000

34/36 Farewell Street, Unit 4 (1 bedroom/1 bath) \$153,000

The Point is STILL on fire!!!

Homes are continuing to sell in record time and for record prices.

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Pineapple Icon Endures

by David Sharp

The Pineapple House at the corner of Walnut and Second Streets has a new pineapple sculpture atop its hitching post!

A carving of that symbol of hospitality has adorned that post for at least 90 years, according to Dave Guertin, the home's current owner, but the most recent wooden pineapple finally surrendered to the elements about six months ago. Dave commissioned a replacement – after all, what would the *Pineapple House* be without its name-sake totem?

Shadrack (Moe) Wilson of Contoocook, NH designed and fabricated the replacement sculpture. It is surprising how many subtly different shapes there are to choose from when designing a sculpture for a pineapple. A serious discussion was had whether to include leaves around the base of the pineapple to replicate the previous version. The final choice was made to make the clean pineapple shape be its dominant feature. Moe made the basic shape from solid African mahogany and used templates to engrave the crisscross surface pattern. Each leaf was individually shaped and arranged on the top of the fruit.

The new sculpture was attached to the top of the hitching post and commissioned during a spur-of-the-moment “formal ceremony” that included toasting with several Pineapple Margaritas during the 4th of July weekend.



Dave Guertin, homeowner, and “Moe” Wilson, sculptor, at 36 Walnut Street, known formally the Joseph Belcher House, home of a Colonial pewterer, but known locally as “The Pineapple House”.

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Pineapple Lore

by Anita McAndrews

We've all seen the ubiquitous Newport symbol of hospitality but do you know how this fruit acquired its symbolic value? This (abridged) article by Anita McAndrews, reprinted from the June 1989 issue of the Green Light explains:

In the 15th century, that fruit we now call “pineapple” was known as the Annanus or pine cone, and later pine apple. The pineapple was, at first, the emblem of confectioners. A painted or carved replica of the fruit hung above sweet shops throughout Europe.

Pineapples came originally from the West Indies. The fruit's tough outer rind protected it during sea voyages. A pineapple picked when it is green can be kept a long time. A cool storage area slows the fruit's ripening.

This fruit has always been considered a delicacy. In Europe in the 17th century, there was a pineapple “craze”; the fruit was idealized by the elite in the same manner in which Greek temples or Pompeian ruins were esteemed. One poet called it “Jove's Feast”. Pineapples were the costly and complimentary gifts given to kings and queens. The graceful shape of the pineapple was embroidered on velvets, carved in ivory and wood, cut from marble and alabaster. Painters and poets immortalized the fruit.

The pineapple was the “in” gift. It became the crowning ornament for revolving willow platforms, or silver epergnes, on the banquet tables of Europe. Windsor Castle, in England, has an intricate sterling epergne topped with a magnificent silver pineapple. The fruit symbolized wealth and perfection. In the English play, *The Rivals*, Mrs. Malaprop speaks of someone as the “pineapple of politeness”.

The “pineapple passion” accelerated. In America, the fruit was carved on furniture, stenciled on glass, painted on pottery, and stitched on quilts. When they could afford it, lovers exchanged pineapples because a gift of the fruit meant, “You are perfect!”

Sea captains brought pineapples home to New England. A West Indian pineapple weighing 21 pounds was displayed in Boston in 1841. Throughout America, the pineapple became a food kept for special guests. Preservation of the fruit was tedious work: “Much boiling, and changing of syrup....it will keep for years and will not shrink.”

New Englanders set carved pineapples on hitching posts, bed posts, and gate posts. Hunter House, the Colony House, and St. John's Rectory are just a few of the landmarks in Newport that have pineapples over the doorways. Newport's Preservation Society incorporated the pineapple in its seal designed by the John Stevens Shop.

New Englanders and southerners proudly displayed their pineapples, keeping them for many months as centerpieces on dining tables.

The pineapple was set on the Barbados penny and on New England jelly and butter molds. By the nineteenth century, the image of the fruit in or on the house symbolized shelter and a warm welcome. Today the carved and painted pineapple is an adornment, a reminder of exotic places, sugary confections, sea voyages, homecomings, and hospitality.



*Over door of St John's
Rectory*



*Preservation Society Seal
designed by John Stevens Shop*



*Over front door of
Hunter House*

Quakers on The Point (Part 2) (Continued from the Spring 2022 Green Light)

by Lisa Stuart

In addition to bringing their sense of community to the Point, the Quakers brought a plain and simple style of architecture, decorative arts and early landscape. Among the most prominent Quakers on the Point were the Robinson, Goddard, Townsend and Wanton Families.

Thomas Robinson, called by his contemporaries, “Quaker Tom” bought the house at 64 Washington Street, and was the first of the family to live there. Robinson and his brother-in-law, Thomas Hazard of Narragansett, were two of the earliest as well as the most active advocates for abolition of the slave trade in the Colonies. The wronged or oppressed, whether black or white, were certain to find a friend in Robinson. Many spoke of his deeds as being truly heroic.

Thomas Goddard noted that when the weather was cold and stormy Robinson would come to his house early in the morning and hand to him thirty dollars or more at one time with directions to spend it all in furnishing wood to such poor families as he might find in need. Robinson continued this generosity even though his income was quite limited.

Thomas and Sarah Robinson spent all their married life, with the exception of a few years at the beginning, in this house. Benjamin R. Smith, a grandson, said of them: “they were faithful in their attachment to the principles of Friends and their hospitable board was well known and appreciated by numerous Friends from the various Meetings, both here and abroad.” It would seem, indeed, that they were seldom without visitors.

During the British Occupation, Robinson housed British soldiers in his home. Revolutionary War British soldiers lived with the Robinsons for three years. His daughter Molly (Mary) fell in love with one so Robinson sent her away to live with relatives in Narragansett. Despite being opposed to the war on religious grounds as did his fellow Quakers, after the war there was a suspicion he was a loyalist so he was confined to his house while being investigated. He was further informed that he would give quarters to the Viscount de Naoille. The Viscount lived there for nearly a year.

Much of the furniture in the Robinson house was made by Thomas Goddard, who lived just north of the Robinsons and was a cabinet maker. The relations between him and the Robinson family were very pleasant, “neighbor Goddard,” they called him. Tom Goddard was also a Friend. His house was moved to 81 Second Street when land was cleared to build Villa Edna (now named Villa Marina) in 1870.

The Goddard and Townsend families, both Quakers, were part of a large cabinetmaking community centered on the Point. The founders of this cabinetmaking dynasty immigrated to Newport from other New England towns. The furniture makers had homes and shops along the cove (on Bridge Street then known as Shipwright Street), where finished product would be loaded onto ships for export. The cove has since been filled by Colony Railroad.

The second generation of Newport cabinetmakers from these families are perhaps the best known. John Townsend was the son of Christopher Townsend and Patience (Easton) Townsend. He would marry a Philadelphia Feke, daughter of famed portrait painter Robert Feke. John Goddard was the son of Daniel Goddard and apprentice of Job Townsend. He married Job’s daughter Hannah Townsend.

Twenty-one members of successive generations of these two intermarried families worked as cabinetmakers over a period of 120 years.



Quakers On the Point, Part 2 (Continued)

The furniture associated with the Goddard and Townsend families is identified by a number of unique features. The block-and-shell motif, a block-front topped by a carved shell in alternating concave and convex pattern, is one of the key features. It has been suggested that Job, Sr. was the innovator of this design and that Goddard was the perfecter of it.

Another prominent Quaker family were the Wantons. Many served in the Rhode Island government. Joseph Wanton Sr. was a merchant and governor in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations from 1769 to 1775. Not wanting to go to war with Britain, he has been branded as a Loyalist, but he remained neutral during the war, and he and his property were not disturbed.” Lippincott, Bertram III (1985) “The Wanton Farm of Jamestown, R.I.,” *Newport History*: Vol. 58 : Iss. 199 , Article 1.

Joseph Wanton Jr. was born in Newport in 1732. A Harvard graduate and veteran of the French and Indian War, Wanton made his fortune as an overseas trader. As a loyalist, Wanton sought to escape Newport, where tensions were rising, and bought his farm on Conanicut Island. However, much of his fortune would be lost as the war with England proceeded, and many officials investigated Wanton for his loyalty to the English.

There were many other Quaker families who lived on the Point - too many to detail in this article. Let me leave you with Mrs. William P. Buffum’s charming recollection of attending the meeting house as a child. (The Story of the Old Friends’ Meeting House by Mrs. William P. Buffum, The Newport Historical Society, Number 40, April, 1922)

“In the seats in the body of the house were many to interest. Henry Morris, who lived on Washington Street, was always there. He wore white gloves, and during a Prayer would pull the end of the seat cushion to the floor and kneel himself. He drove to meeting with a two-horse vehicle whose body hung low between the wheels and which went by the name of “The Octopus.” Old George Carr was there, who unfailingly arrived at meeting with a rose in his mouth.

On the women’s side, one that made an impression was dear old Deborah Wharton, for in Newport Orthodox and Hicksite Friends worshipped together. At the end of a seat sat the sisters, Anna and Eliza Hazard, one so dark and the other so fair and gray. John Farnum and his wife, the aged Miss Longstreths who kept the school of renown (sic), and others from Philadelphia staying at Mary Williams’ delightful house on Washington Street, were always to be seen at meeting when in Newport.

The Friends from the cities wore black clothes – the men, broadcloth, and the women taffeta silk with white shawls. The country Friends still clung to the more ancient form of grey for both men and women. To our childish minds the rustling of silk was always connected with a Friends’ meeting. It used to seem unusually hot on a summer meeting morning in Newport, and palm leaf fans were freely used by the elderly Friends, both men and women, as they listened to the long sermons.”

The author thanks John Ward for his review of this article.

Save the Dates

Please check with Points of Interest email for last minute changes.

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 Park

December 1, 2022. 4:30: Point Association Tree Lighting and Holiday Party

January, 2023. Time and date TBD After New Year's Party.



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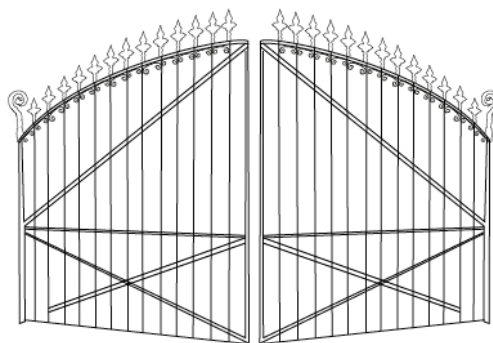
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Like generations before her, Adalind plays on the Blue Rocks at the end of Battery Street. The UVA/UVB clothing and Crocs are modern additions.

Photo by Barbara Bessette.

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

The Green Light