Splendor at Sea: The Golden Age of Steam Yachting in America

Rosecliff Exhibition Through January 1, 2017
This painting from Hunter House is on loan to the Yale University Art Gallery for its exhibition *Art and Industry in Early America: Rhode Island Furniture, 1650-1830.* "Dr. William Hunter’s Spaniels," (ca. 1769) is an oil on canvas work by Gilbert Stuart, showing Dr. Hunter’s dogs sleeping beneath a Rhode Island card table. The PS has also loaned three side chairs and a graphic map of Newport created by Charles Blaskowitz during the American Revolution.

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**Our Mission**

Great Houses connect people to a nation’s heritage and open windows to another age. The Preservation Society of Newport County is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and present an exceptional collection of house museums and landscapes in one of the most historically intact cities in America. We hold in public trust the Newport Mansions® which are an integral part of the living fabric of Newport, Rhode Island. These sites exemplify three centuries of the finest achievements in American architecture, decorative arts, and landscape design spanning the Colonial era to the Gilded Age. Through our historic properties, educational programs, and related activities we engage the public in the story of America’s vibrant cultural heritage. We seek to inspire and promote an appreciation of the value of preservation to enrich the lives of people everywhere.
When Alyssa Lozupone handed me the first copy of her book, *A Passion for Preservation: Katherine Warren and the Shaping of Modern Newport*, I knew - with relief - that our Fellows Program was a success. The aspiration, established several years before, to create a high level scholarship complement to the Preservation Society’s preservation, conservation and interpretation activities, was real.

However, at times we wondered whether this $4 million initiative was too ambitious. Some said there wasn’t enough content in Newport to research (I said “baloney”); others said raising the money would be beyond our means. Fortunately, many believed, like me, that the Fellows Program would be “transformational” for the PS and would elevate our profile to a new level, putting us on a plane with some of America’s leading historic research institutions.

It’s been a long haul. We spent several years working with experts around the country to develop the “academic philosophy” for the program (easier said than done). When we circulated notices of the program the first year, we were thrilled to choose two outstanding candidates: Kaity Ryan with a Masters from Columbia and Alice Dickinson with two Masters, one from Tulane and the other from the Winterthur program. They were stuffed into the third floor of the Isaac Bell House and, thankfully, they rarely complained about their living conditions.

We worked with preservation architects on adaptively restoring The Elms Carriage House to provide living space for future scholars. When we learned how high the cost of restoration would be, we sharpened our pencils and made a decision to get the job done using our own staff. After all, our Properties Department is made up of superior artisans who are as good, if not better, than any construction contractors.

All the while, we focused on fundraising. The PS’ $4 million investment in scholarship includes $1.7 million to renovate The Elms Carriage House where the Fellows will live and study, and $2.3 million to build an endowment to generate annual stipends for the Fellows and defray program expenses. A highly competitive challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities gave us the boost we needed to raise the first $2 million for the endowed Fund for Fellows. Challenges from The Berwind Fund, Margaret Berwind Schiffer and Dayton T. Carr were terrific incentives to help us reach our goal. Thank you.
Others who made generous gifts to the Fellows endowment include:
(as of August 17):

Audrain Automobile Museum  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard N. Bohan  
David G. Booth & Jane M. Garnett  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Brooks, Jr.  
Captain & Mrs. Nicholas Brown/Hope Foundation  
The Carnegie Corporation of New York  
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The Gerry Charitable Trust  
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Janet L. Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley DeForest Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert K. Sherman  
van Beuren Charitable Foundation  
Richard C. Wallace

Additional major gifts for the restoration of The Elms Carriage House came from:

Mrs. Russell B. Aitken  
James D. Berwind  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Brickley, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Brooks, Jr.  
The Champlin Foundations  
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan A. Chapman  
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Edward W. Kane & Martha J. Wallace Family Foundation  
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Denise LeClair-Robbins  
Pamela Lenehan & Lawrence Geuss  
The Hon. & Mrs. Ronald K. Machlery  
Peter E. Madden & Maigi Puru  
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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth F. Scigulinsky  
The Benjamin Scott Family  
Merrill W. Sherman  
Susan S. Stautberg  
van Beuren Charitable Foundation  
Edwin S. Webster Foundation  
Ms. Alfred S. Wilsey.

On August 11, 2016 we dedicated The Berwind-Stautberg Center at The Elms Carriage House to recognize the incredible generosity of the Berwind family for this project and many others at The Elms.

Four outstanding scholars have accepted our offer to join us for the next year and will be the first to move in after Labor Day. Their research will explore a variety of Gilded Age topics. We have had 9 previous Fellows, whose work has ranged from leading the charge to bury the power lines along Second Beach to restore the historic landscape view, to an archaeological dig at Hunter House to better understand Newport’s colonial roots. I have a vision that when I’m rocking away in a retirement home, I’ll be reading about all of the Preservation Society Fellows leading museums around the world.

Cheers, and a sincere thank you, to all who share our expanded vision of the scope of the Preservation Society’s mission.
Splendor at Sea  Examines the Golden Age of Steam Yachting
Exhibition at Rosecliff through January 1, 2017

by Ashley Householder
Associate Curator for Exhibitions

Unlimited wealth, unrivaled power, unmatched luxury: these characteristics are synonymous with Newport in the Gilded Age. The same qualities that gave rise to the city's fabled mansions also brought that same grandeur to the high seas. The Preservation Society's 2016 exhibition at Rosecliff shares an insider's look at some of the private steam yachts of the Gilded Age: technologically state-of-the-art, magnificently appointed floating palaces, which were as richly furnished as their owners' legendary mansions.

*Splendor at Sea: The Golden Age of Steam Yachting in America* focuses on eight men and the extraordinary vessels they owned between 1853 and 1938. The owners were “Commodore” Cornelius...
Captain Nicholas Brown, USN (Ret.) chats with Associate Curator for Exhibitions Ashley Householder about the Edwardian-era New York Yacht Club Mess Dress uniform that belonged to his father, John Nicholas Brown.


Their yachts combined the reliability of steam-powered railroad travel with the freedom of the open seas. Most of these vessels measured over 200 feet long; their interiors were adorned with mahogany paneling, brass finishes, marble fireplaces, bathtubs, silk-draped four poster beds and large services of custom china and silver emblazoned with one’s own private signal flag.

The exhibition features approximately 150 objects, including Tiffany and Cartier silver, yachting apparel, family albums, navigational instruments, cabin furniture, trophies, and paintings. In addition to the Preservation Society’s own collections, the exhibition includes objects on loan from the Herreshoff Marine Museum/America’s Cup Hall of Fame, John Hay Library of Brown University, Mystic Seaport Museum, New York Yacht Club and The Morgan Library & Museum. Additional objects have been loaned from the private collections of Mrs. Edwin G. Fischer, Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Earl McMillen III, and Captain Nicholas Brown, USN (Ret.)
The Archives: A New Age for Our “Hidden” Collections

by Paul Caserta, Processing Archivist

The collections distributed through each of the Preservation Society’s properties are displayed with the goal of enhancing visitors’ experience of the mansions as they originally were, filled with unique and rare items from around the world. The Preservation Society’s archives—its “hidden” collections—are where the work begins to document, research, organize, protect, and create access to paper, audio and video materials. In addition to these historic materials, the records of the institution are stored here as well, to safeguard the identity and history of the Preservation Society. The special collections pertain to the Newport Mansions and the prominent families that lived in and among them. Other special collection topics represent artists, photographers and architects involved with the properties, and historic materials on the city of Newport. In addition to providing valuable information to the staff and administration, we also serve students, researchers and the public, and by preserving these often-unseen objects, we ensure these primary sources will be available for years to come. Information from these documents aids in restoring properties, researching genealogy and photographs of past residents, and more. Ultimately, collections such as ours help us to understand and preserve the memory not just of objects, but also of the culture and society that once thrived here.

In the past year, funded by a gift from the Isham Family Foundation, we have been creating new policies, procedures and techniques to ensure the Preservation Society’s archives fulfill many roles and meet professional standards in the age of online accessibility. New guidelines have been enacted for the organization of the collections, including creating new finding aids (collection guides) and for the preservation of archival materials. This has included improvements to temperature and humidity control, the replacement of battered containers and updating plans and security protocols. These practices and others ultimately help us to provide easier access to materials for our existing users, along with creating new outreach opportunities. One of these new connections to our community and the public is through digitization of our collections for online access. Digital preservation and records management policies have been initiated, to make documents easily retrievable, and to maintain their accessibility for the future. With these guidelines in place the Preservation Society is participating in a multi-year collaborative project known as Newportal. (See article next page)

This highly visible project is just one aspect of the work of an archivist, and with continuous development and increased outreach the Museum Affairs department is moving one giant step forward towards its strategic goal of engaging new audiences with our collections.
Newportal: A Collaborative Cultural Heritage Website is Launched

Newportal, a free on-line collaborative database that brings together the art, objects, and manuscript collections of participating cultural heritage institutions in Newport, is now available at www.newportalri.org. Made possible through the support of the Rhode Island Foundation, the database allows the public to access collections across institutional boundaries.

The database was developed as a joint project by the Newport Art Museum, the Newport Historical Society, the Newport Restoration Foundation, the Preservation Society, and the Redwood Library and Athenaeum. By uniting access to collections across institutions, Newportal is a unique resource that encourages scholarship and presents a holistic story of Newport County’s cultural and social history. The website will be useful to scholars and students of Rhode Island history and material culture, as well as to visitors to the city.

By bringing together rich and diverse collections of paintings, Newport-made furniture, textiles, decorative objects, and documents, Newportal will facilitate ongoing collaboration and showcase Newport’s diverse cultural heritage through digital presentations. For the launch of the database, three online exhibits—Women of Newport, Made in Newport, and Social Life of Newport—demonstrate how connections made across institutional collections help make more comprehensive narratives of Newport’s history.

Newportal was first conceived in January 2012 when a group of archivists and museum professionals met to discuss the creation of an online collections database where member institutions could share information. The Rhode Island Foundation awarded the project a planning grant in 2013 and a $60,000 implementation grant in 2014. These funds supported the design and development of the database to bring Newportal to fruition. Daniel Kertzner, the Foundation’s grantmaker in the Arts sector, wrote “Our support promotes the reputations of the participating organizations as community resources and makes their collections much more accessible. Newportal is a wonderful example of how technology can be used to drive how people engage with arts and culture.”

Paul M. Caserta joined the Preservation Society as Processing Archivist in August 2015. He was previously an archivist with Digital Ark Corporation of Providence. He is an active member of the Society of American Archivists, New England Archivists, and the American Library Association, and has presented at professional conferences on topics such as 19th century photography and provenance in archives. Paul received his B.A. in English from Rhode Island College, and an M.S. in Library Information Science, Archival Management from Simmons College in Boston.
Engaging Students and Families

by Abigail Stewart
Research & Interpretation Coordinator

Visit any of the Newport Mansions and you are bound to see youngsters touring along with their parents or schoolmates. When families and students are engaged in our properties, we have the opportunity to inspire a deeper understanding of our cultural heritage and its relevance to today. As Research and Interpretation Coordinator, part of my job is to develop and to enhance youth programming, which means figuring out how to tell the important and varied stories of our properties in the most engaging way to all of our visitors, kids included. With this in mind, the Preservation Society is launching new programs to engage our school-aged visitors.

With Jim Donahue, Curator of Historic Landscapes and Horticulture, and the hard-working team at Green Animals, we are planning to join the national movement linking outdoor, garden-based learning to public school classrooms. To do this, we are working with educators throughout Aquidneck Island to establish an Edible Schoolyard Program, modeled on the program founded by Chef Alice Waters of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, CA. Members of the Museum Affairs Department, along with Dan Christina and Tricia Bailey of Green Animals, will write a comprehensive curriculum for grades 1 – 12 that utilizes Green Animals’ gardens as outdoor classrooms. Hands-on gardening will be related to lessons in the humanities, sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition via the produce grown on-site. This project has been made possible by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. Classes will start in the Spring of 2017. (See article next page)

In the meantime, the Preservation Society has expanded its educational opportunities for Newport public school students. For instance, for the Newport Flower Show, students from Rogers High School and the Pell Elementary School worked together to mount a display of plants grown in containers created from recycled materials. Along the way, the students were treated to tours of The Breakers greenhouses and lessons by our staff in seed starting, planting and decorative gilding. Additionally, our annual Trim-A-Tree competition during the holiday season for Newport 4th graders now integrates art with different subjects. In 2015, classes focused their artwork on environmental habitats, creating ornaments representing different biomes that they researched.

On a larger scale, we are working to make our properties more accessible through the integration of technology, which is the primary mode of learning and communication for youth today. Through our app development process and our social media outreach, we are focused on generating a renewed excitement for our properties and will continue to develop programming that will engage a new generation of preservationists.

Abigail Stewart joined the Preservation Society in June 2014 as a tour guide, moving up to Assistant Coordinator of Museum Affairs before taking on her current role as Research & Interpretation Coordinator. Prior to joining the PS she was an English and History teacher in Newton, MA. She received her B.A. in English Literature and History from St. Michael’s College in Colchester, VT, and a Master of Architectural History degree with a certificate of Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia.
Planning Underway for "Edible Schoolyard" at Green Animals

by Jim Donahue
Curator of Historic Landscapes

With the help of a planning grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the Preservation Society is working with educators from Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth to develop a curriculum for an Edible Schoolyard (ESY) Project at Green Animals Topiary Garden in Portsmouth. ESY is a national program founded by Berkeley, California chef Alice Waters, to educate children about healthier food choices and respect for one another and the land.

A classroom space has been created in the former barn at Green Animals, where students in grades K-12 will participate in hands-on classes to learn about sustainable gardening practices, proper nutrition, and the role food plays in our social and cultural lives. Topics to be explored will include how land use has changed on Aquidneck Island over time, the changes in traditional New England horticultural practices introduced by later immigrants, and the role of "gentlemen’s farms" in the late 19th century.

"We want to promote good health and also engage young people in learning the importance of preservation, sustainability, and our connections to the earth and to each other," said Preservation Society CEO & Executive Director Trudy Coxe. "We're very thankful for the support that RICH has provided to get us started."

The planning team includes Research & Interpretation Coordinator Abigail Stewart and Outreach Horticulturist Patricia Bailey, along with representatives from all three Aquidneck Island school districts. The goal is to pilot the program in spring 2017.

In July, Bailey traveled to Berkeley and Occidental, CA for a week-long study and training in Edible Education.

"It was an inspiring journey," says Bailey. "Our goal is to bring youth into a positive relationship with food by connecting it with nature, culture, community and stewardship of the land."

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities is an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders.
21st Newport Flower Show Celebrated the Elegance of the Gilded Age

Gilded-Artful Living was the theme of the 2016 Newport Flower Show, and it lived up to its promise with beautiful garden displays, floral arrangements and spectacular elegance.

Photos by Nick Mele
The Opening Night Party was a festive occasion

Admiring the floral exhibits in the ballroom

Michael Devine & Thomas Burak

Jonathan Soroff, Susanne Day, Andrea McHugh and Sam Mazzarelli
Keeping the experience fresh is the key to maintaining visitor interest and engagement, and so each year the Preservation Society strives to create new opportunities for the people who come from around the world to see its houses. This summer, visitors are enjoying a new exhibition, new tours, and a new way to experience those tours.

The Preservation Society has become one of the few house museums anywhere to offer a free mobile app, which allows visitors to use their own smart devices to download and listen to the audio tours at The Breakers, Marble House, Rosecliff, and The Elms. Visitors can now download the tours to their cell phone or tablet before they arrive, or simply take a moment before starting their tour to do so. The mobile app provides images, wayfinding, and printed text to augment the tour.

The visitor experience at Rosecliff this summer includes both a new audio tour, and the exciting new exhibition Splendor at Sea: The Golden Age of Steam Yachting in America. The exhibition is included in the admission ticket, and visitors can listen to highlights of the exhibition within the audio tour, or simply walk through it on their own without narration. New tablet-style tour players are also in use at Rosecliff, providing visitors with a more intuitive interface that includes photos, maps and other information.

An updated audio tour is also now in place at The Elms, with new details and stories about the lives of the people who lived and worked in the house.

Work is underway to add to the Preservation Society's tour offerings, including an exciting new Building of The Breakers Tour, expected to debut this winter, which will take visitors to the basement and underground boiler room of The Breakers.
Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival Expands, Adds New Events

by Andrea Carneiro, Communications Manager

Several new events, including a Vintner Dinner, a Bordeaux Dinner and a Jazz Brunch have been added to the Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival weekend, taking place September 22-25, 2016. As always, the weekend also features a two-day Grand Tasting at Marble House with hundreds of wines, cooking demonstrations from national and regional chefs, a gala celebration at Rosecliff, plus seminars, auctions, and more.

Renowned French chef Jacques Pépin and his daughter, Claudine Pépin, will return to the Festival for a cooking demonstration and book signing on Saturday, September 24. The Pépins will also be the honored guests at the Saturday night Vintner Dinner, which will feature classic recipes from the late Julia Child prepared by award-winning women chefs, paired with exquisite wines.

Fifteen renowned chefs, from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and Puerto Rico, will prepare dishes for the popular Wine & Rosecliff Gala on Friday evening, which will feature wines from France, Argentina, Italy, New Zealand, Germany and the United States.

Once again, the Marble House lawn will be the setting for the two-day Grand Tastings, which offer guests an afternoon of entertainment, as well as the opportunity to sample hundreds of wines from around the world and cuisine from local, regional and national restaurants and purveyors. This lively event includes the Nobilo Oyster SeasideBar, and non-stop chef entertainment in the Rosé Grill Garden presented by Château D’Esclans and Lynx Grills.

The Presenting Sponsor of the 2016 Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival is FOOD & WINE Magazine. Additional sponsors include National Trust Insurance Services, Kitchen Aid, Champagne Taittinger, Lynx Grills, Vantage Deluxe World Travel, Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Robert Mondavi Winery, Nobilo Wines, Alta Vista Estate Vineyards, Sequoia Grove, Atria Senior Living, José Cuervo, Hennessy Cognac, Coca Cola Bottling Company of Southeastern New England, United Airlines, Forty 1˚ North, Dole & Bailey, Nestle Waters North America, Estrella Damm, William Grant & Sons and Calvisius Caviar.

For information on all of the weekend’s festivities, and to purchase tickets, visit www.NewportMansionsWineAndFood.org
Katherine Garrett-Cox has joined the Preservation Society as Collections Manager, with primary responsibility for the museum's collection of more than 55,000 objects. For the past 13 years, she was the Manager of Historical Collections at Maymont, a Gilded Age estate in Richmond, Virginia. Kathy received her B.A. in art history from Salem College, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and holds a Master’s degree, also in art history, from Richmond, The American International University in London, where she interned under the curator of 19th century textiles and costumes at the Victoria and Albert Museum. She has lectured widely on both historical subjects and professional practice issues, focusing especially on disaster planning and recovery; and she has coordinated numerous exhibitions on topics ranging from Gilded Age entertaining to Japanese influence in Gilded Age decorative arts.

Archeological Dig at Hunter House

Research Fellow Sarah Salem conducted a fascinating archeological excavation of the grounds of Hunter House this summer. Sarah has been searching for evidence of the Colonial-era wharf that was used by Jonathan Nichols, Jr. and Joseph Wanton, Jr. The excavation turned up many artifacts ranging from the Colonial-era to the present day; highlights include two musket or pistol balls, some clay gaming marbles, a Liberty Large Cent from 1803, several buttons, and countless pieces of ceramic, glass, brass, and iron.

Sarah says it's too early to draw many conclusions about the wharf at this point. "Some of these artifacts were found over five feet deep in the soil. It’s interesting to think about how the various layers of fill had to come from somewhere nearby that was inhabited, likely from elsewhere in the Point."

Sarah has created a panel display that will be erected on the back fence of Hunter House to explain her research. Some of the artifacts may also be displayed inside the house.
Rosecliff Fountain Flows Again

For the first time in about 30 years, the fountain in the center of the courtyard at Rosecliff (also known as the Cour d'Amour) is running again. The original bronze fountain-head (a cupid astride a dolphin) was removed and put into storage by the Monroe family when they owned the house. Some years ago a replica was made, but the fountain’s piping and other works had deteriorated to the point that they no longer worked. In June, just in time for the Newport Flower Show, Chief Conservator Patty Miller was able to get the water running again. The original cupid is on display on a pedestal in the library.

2016 Calendar of Events & Operating Schedule

Visit www.NewportMansions.org for details, ticket information, and additional events, or call (401) 847-1000.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Multi-Media Concert: Johann Sebastian Bach: From Tragedy to Transcendence

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18
The Breakers, Chateau-sur-Mer, The Elms, Marble House & Rosecliff open daily

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Newport Mansions Stores Fall Members’ Sale

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2017
Christmas at the Newport Mansions
The Breakers, The Elms & Marble House open daily

SATURDAYS, NOVEMBER 26, DECEMBER 3 & 10
Holiday Evening at The Breakers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Holiday Evening Duet: The Elms & Marble House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Holiday Dinner Dance

JANUARY – MARCH 2017
The Breakers, The Elms, Marble House & Rosecliff open daily

Schedule subject to change
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PRESERVATION SOCIETY
PROPERTIES
Arnold Burying Ground (1675)
Hunter House (circa 1748)
Kingscote (1839-1841)
Chateau-sur-Mer (1851-1852)
Green Animals Topiary Garden (circa 1860)
Chepstow (1860-1861)
Isaac Bell House (1881-1883)
Osgood-Pell House (1887-1888)
Marble House (1888-1892)
The Breakers (1893-1895)
The Breakers Stable & Carriage House (1895)
The Elms (1899-1901)
Rosecliff (1899-1902)
Rovensky Park (1959)

Collection Highlight
These silver "King Pattern" tablespoons by London retailer Asprey & Co. were commissioned in the early 20th century specifically for use aboard William K. Vanderbilt II’s diesel yacht Alva. Each handle is decorated with scrolling leaf and shell motifs forming a cartouche surrounding the name of the yacht. The spoons are featured in our exhibition, Splendor at Sea, at Rosecliff, but they are regularly on view with other Vanderbilt china, silver and glassware in the kitchen areas at Marble House.
Gift of John M. Peixinho
Win a Romantic Newport Getaway for Two

Sweepstakes entries, rules and additional details can be obtained by visiting any of the Preservation Society's properties, online at www.LiveTheGildedLife.org or call 401-847-1000 ext. 137

One lucky donor will get to experience the romance of a Newport Luxury Getaway for 2.

Donate $5 for preservation.

LIVE THE GILDED LIFE PRIZE PACKAGE

- Round-trip airfare for two within continental U.S. with all transfers;
- Three nights of luxury accommodations in Newport;
- In-room flower arrangement from our greenhouse;
- Five-course dinner & wine pairings in the Marble House Gold Room;
- Breakfast in The Elms Conservatory;
- Personal tours of all the Newport Mansions;
- “White Glove,” up-close viewing of treasures from our archives;
- Croquet lesson on the lawn and afternoon tea at Chateau-sur-Mer;
- Photo portrait taken in or on the Newport Mansions grounds.

Your donation to the sweepstakes directly supports the mission of The Preservation Society of Newport County