

Newport Gazette

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY



Torcheres
Return To
Chateau-sur-Mer



Newport
Gazette



*A Publication of The Preservation
Society of Newport County*

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Front cover: Chateau-sur-Mer entrance hall, with detail of restored torchere. (See story page 6)
Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Inside Cover: Chandelier and ceiling in the Great Hall of The Breakers. Photo by Stephen Mattos

This page top: Rich Buschgans of Lodi Welding Company removes a decorative iron element from the north Cliff Walk gate at The Breakers. (See story page 11) Photo by Andrea Carneiro

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*The Preservation Society is grateful to
Carol and Les Ballard for their support in
underwriting this issue of the Newport Gazette.*

The Cutting Edge

By Trudy Coxe
CEO and Executive Director



Photo by concetphotography.net

One of the frustrations of being an old-time environmentalist is seeing so clearly the connection between land protection and historic preservation, but not always being able to translate that connection into action as effectively as one would like. That's why the Board of Trustees' recent vote to give the Aquidneck Land Trust a conservation easement on Rovensky Park is so important. This single action will protect Rovensky from development in perpetuity and honors - to the letter - the deed requirements established when the land was given to the PS in 1959. For those who might wonder why the Preservation Society would place an easement on this land, let me explain.

The Preservation Society's Vision Statement states that we seek to become acclaimed locally, nationally, and globally for our support of local preservation efforts and for our leadership in linking historic preservation and the protection of historic landscapes. Over the years that goal has been reflected in a variety of ways, including:

- The daily care we give to our 80 plus acres of gardens and grounds;

- Our consistent and successful support for passage of several open space bonds, including the most recent one which will save land on the Providence waterfront and at Rocky Point in Warwick, and will restore the stone fortifications at historic Fort Adams State Park here in Newport; and,
- Our contribution of \$20,000 to the Friends of the Norman Bird Sanctuary in 2003 to help save Third Beach from development.

Most importantly, we want to do whatever we can to protect the historic viewsheds and landscapes of Aquidneck Island. The best and only way we know how to do this is in partnership with local organizations - like the Aquidneck Land Trust (ALT) - whose mission it is to conserve land. Since its founding twenty years ago, ALT has worked tirelessly to protect more than 2,000 acres of land across Aquidneck Island - viewsheds that all of us cherish - and in recent years has launched its Newport Conservation Initiative focused specifically on conserving strategic parks and large landscapes/estates in the City. Two parks - King and Spencer - have just been added to their list.

Our collaboration with ALT provides a second layer of protection ensuring that one of the last remaining parks on Bellevue Avenue will never be developed, and will continue to be a passive, pastoral space as envisioned by John Rovensky when he gave the Preservation Society a gift of \$175,000 (equivalent to \$1.3 million in today's dollars) for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a park at the corner of Bellevue and Wheatlands Avenues in memory of his wife, Mrs. Mae Cadwell Rovensky.

When the Preservation Society's President, Katherine Warren, announced this gift at the Society's annual meeting in 1959, she remarked that, "This is our first gift of major importance and brings to us the infinitely satisfying thought that we have thereby taken our place as a respected and permanent organization in our community."

When we began to research the idea of granting a conservation easement on Rovensky Park, we learned that, while not an everyday occurrence here in Rhode Island, the granting of conservation easements at historic properties is not uncommon on the national level. James Madison's Montpelier, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and the Olana estate in Hudson, New York, to name only a few, have conservation easements.

So, when the opportunity arose for us to provide added assurance that the important viewshed of Rovensky Park, on one of America's most historic streets, would be permanently protected, we would have been remiss to pass it up. We could have no better partner in that mission than the Aquidneck Land Trust and we hope that the Preservation Society's action will motivate other large landowners in Newport to consider doing the same.



Conservation Easement Granted on Rovensky Park

By Andrea Carneiro, Communications Manager

The Preservation Society's Board of Trustees has approved the granting of a conservation easement on Rovensky Park to the Aquidneck Land Trust, ensuring that the park will continue to be maintained as a passive, pastoral park into perpetuity.

The Preservation Society retains sole ownership and management of the property, which was deeded to the Society in 1959 by John E. Rovensky in memory of his wife, subject to the condition that it "be kept and maintained...as a park, and for no other purpose."

"This action will provide an extra level of protection, over and above the wording of the deed, legally protecting the character of Rovensky Park as a passive park forever," said Preservation Society CEO & Executive Director Trudy Coxe. "By granting this easement we are ensuring the public will always be able to enjoy this beautiful property, and also demonstrating our support for the protection of Newport's historic landscapes as part of our overall mission of historic preservation."

The conservation easement will maintain the park as a non-commercial, passive, pastoral park, legally prohibiting any subdivision, siting of recreational buildings, permanent billboards or parking lots, unnecessary planting or cutting of trees and plants, dumping and general use of motorized vehicles.

The Aquidneck Land Trust was founded in 1990; its mission is to "save the natural character, environmental health, and economic value of Aquidneck Island....by helping to protect Aquidneck Island's water resources, local agriculture, wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation areas and its scenic vistas that directly contribute to the quality of life on Aquidneck Island."



Chateau-sur-Mer Torcheres Returned After Restoration

By Charles Jeffers Moore
Chief Conservator

Two patinated bronze torcheres in the form of half life-size female figures in Japanese dress, holding 3-branch candelabra, were re-installed on the central staircase at Chateau-sur-Mer this past fall, after a three year absence. The kimono-clad ladies are dissimilar, with unique costume designs, accessories, and attributes – one holds a flowering cherry branch and the other a fan. Made in the late 19th century and original to the house, they are signed by the French sculptor, Emile Guillemin, and the foundry, F. Barbedienne.

Their removal was initiated by the need to upgrade the electrical service and wiring in the house, and therefore the wiring in the formerly gas-lit fixtures. The bronzes themselves were grimy where decades of touching by visitors had left their mark, and the patinated surface with bright highlights was dull. Assessment of the surface suggested seasonal coatings of oil in the past, which resulted in buildup, embedment of dirt and dust, and caused corrosion products to form. A decision was made to keep the effect of the oil (but not the corrosion) on the two dark patinas – the skin and clothing – but to remove it from the bright highlights where it was dulling the surface and causing unacceptable base-metal corrosion.

Grime from visitors' hands was broken down and removed using applications of solvents followed by enzymatic treatments. Dusty, greenish

corrosion products on the surface were removed with aqueous solutions containing chelating agents. The bright areas – kimono highlights, hair, etc. – were cleaned individually with custom-made acidic cleaning gels. The gelled form, which would stay where it was put, was necessary so that the treatment could be confined strictly to the bright parts. During cleaning, a reddish material was found in textured surfaces and out-of-the-way places.

This material was thought to be a colored wax surface treatment intended to warm the color of the brightwork and add definition to the sculptural surface. The subsequent applications of oil would have dissolved it from the surface, leaving it to be found by the conservator.

The removal of grime and corrosion products from the unpatinated areas resulted in quite bright highlights. Following touch-ups to compromised patina using colored varnishes, a shop-made reddish-brown wax, similar to the residual material that was found, was applied selectively to the surface, with a notable toning down of the brightness and more clearly defined details.



The torcheres in the conservation shop prior to being re-installed at Chateau-sur-Mer. Photo by Jeff Moore

Bright areas on a candelabrum similar to the bright highlights on the figure were analyzed using an X-ray fluorescence machine at Williamstown Art Conservation Center. The surface in those areas is gold, so the figures may be fairly said to be parcel-gilt. The process of combining on a sculpture two colored patinas with the addition of gold highlights is no doubt an interesting one and will be the subject of future research.

Once conservation treatment was completed, the fixtures were rewired, new lamp holders were added, and the ladies were returned to their posts, ready to greet all visitors when Chateau-sur-Mer reopens in April.

Highlights of the Collection



The 16th century chimneypiece in The Breakers library is one of the highlights of the Preservation Society's collection. Photo by Stephen Mattos

By Charles J. Burns, Associate Curator for Research

The Preservation Society is creating a catalogue featuring 'highlights' from its extensive collection of fine and decorative arts within its 10 historic houses to be published on its website and possibly at a later date as a book. This ongoing project will explore each of these important selected objects, placing them in their historical context. The object surveys will be read by specialists in the field, who have generously volunteered their time, to provide further in-depth analysis. These experts include Rosalind Savill, the Director of the Wallace Collection in London, Charissa Bremer-David, Curator and expert on tapestries at The J. P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles, Gerald W. R. Ward, Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Nicholas Vincent, a Research Associate at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

This is the first in a series of articles that will examine some of the highlights of the Preservation Society's collection of fine and decorative arts.

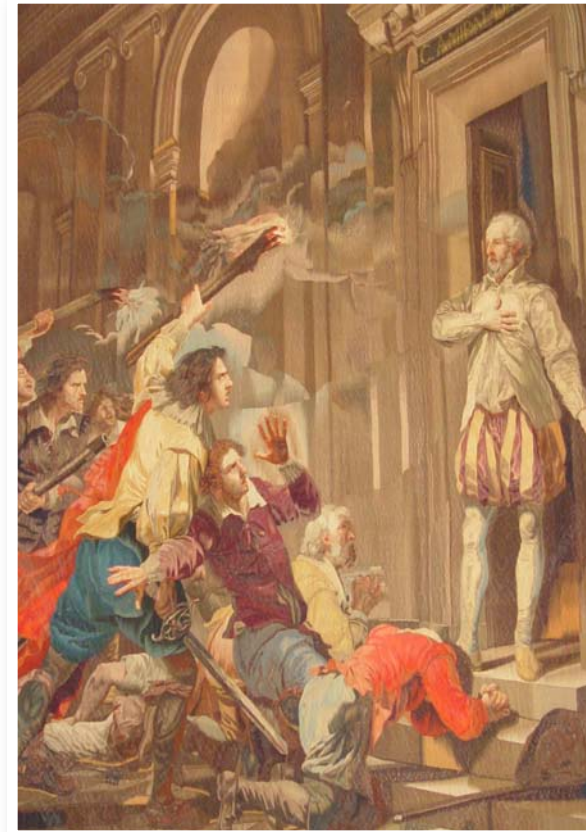
Highlights Continued >>>



Detail of the chimney piece in The Breakers library. Photo by Stephen Mattos

Known in late nineteenth century America and Europe for their vast wealth, the third generation of the Vanderbilt family of New York and Newport are best known today for the legacy of their palatial houses, including Marble House (1892) for Mr. & Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt and The Breakers (1895) for Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt II. The Vanderbilts were also important collectors of fine and decorative arts. This article looks at two of the antique pieces provided for the Vanderbilts' Newport houses; both pieces have royal provenance, a very important matter to collectors during the Gilded Age. The first is a French Renaissance limestone chimney piece (circa 1535) in the Library at The Breakers and the second, at Marble House, consists of a pair of Gobelins tapestries (dated 1790/91) woven for Louis XVI.

The Breakers chimney piece was originally created for the Merlan de Beaumont family in the early 16th century. It decorated a second floor chamber in the family's château at Arnay-le-Duc in Burgundy. The chimney piece remained in situ until 1865 when the château was converted to industrial use and key architectural elements were sold. It eventually made its way into the collection of Baron Frédéric Spitzer, who installed the chimney piece in the library of his Paris residence. Baron Spitzer died in 1890, and three years later the contents of his Parisian townhouse were sold at auction. The chimney piece was purchased for 14,100 francs by Raoul Heilbronner, who in 1894 offered the piece for sale to Cornelius Vanderbilt II for The Breakers, then under construction, either through the intermediary of the Paris decorator Jules Allard or the architect Richard Morris Hunt. The chimney piece was installed in The Breakers library, following redesign work to accommodate it, between September 1894 and January 1895.



Tapestry: *The Death of Coligny*

In 1888 Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt acquired two monumental Gobelins tapestries from the ex-collection of the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, England probably through her preferred London dealer Asher Wertheimer. By 1892 the tapestries were inserted into giltwood frames designed by Allard and Sons to hold them in place facing each other on the north and south walls of the entrance hall of Marble House, giving the entrance a feeling of Versailles-era grandeur.

The hangings were originally part of a group begun on the Gobelins looms in 1786 for Louis XVI known as the *Histoire de France* series. These weavings were based on historical paintings. One of the works to serve as a model, *The Death of Coligny* by Joseph-Benoît Suvée, was displayed at the Paris Salon at the Louvre in 1787. The second tapestry is after a painting by Jean-Simon Berthélemy entitled the *Battle of Marcel and Maillard* and was created for the Paris Salon of 1783. Both of these



Tapestry: *The Battle of Marcel and Maillard* Photos by Andrea Carneiro

paintings were then selected for the *Histoire* series and woven as tapestries by Pierre-François Cozette in 1790/91. Cozette was one of the most famous of the eighteenth century master-weavers at the Gobelins workshops in Paris. During the French Revolution a jury des arts was appointed to examine tapestries then on the production looms at Gobelins and decide on their fate. Of the 288 tapestries at the Gobelins workshops, only 20 were spared destruction, including the present Vanderbilt tapestries, which were sold abroad and are now on display at Marble House.

Although these works are monumental in scale and directly integrated into the interior architecture of their respective houses, our catalogue will also include such minute and portable works of art as a gold snuffbox and statuettes; all are integral to the decorative context of the Preservation Society's historic houses.



Ronald Lee Fleming and Preservation Society Chairman Donald O. Ross with one of the new markers outside the Isaac Bell House.

Bellevue Avenue History Trail Completed

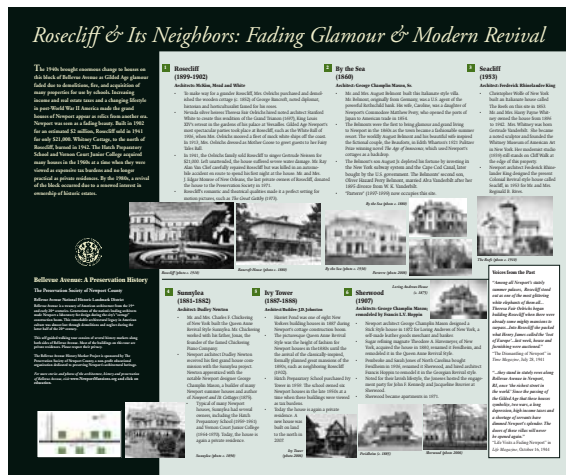
By Andrea Carneiro, Communications Manager

Visitors to Newport strolling along Bellevue Avenue can now enjoy a self-guided “walking tour” of one of America’s most legendary streets, by reading the comprehensive information contained on a series of 11 framed markers stretching from Memorial Boulevard to Rough Point.

The Bellevue Avenue History Trail was dedicated last November, with the installation of the last few markers that contain photographs and text describing the history of existing buildings as well as buildings that have been lost. By following the markers, visitors get a complete overview of the architectural history and remarkable preservation of Bellevue Avenue.

The project was overseen by Preservation Society Architectural Historian and Director of Museum Affairs John Tschirch. “The goal was to give visitors a complete experience, to help them understand the breadth and diversity of the entire streetscape and the urban plan,” said Tschirch.

It took approximately four years to complete the trail, with funding provided by a generous donation from Newport resident Ronald Lee Fleming. Most of the markers are located on the Preservation Society’s properties, at the Isaac Bell House, The Elms, 424 Bellevue Avenue, Chateau-sur-Mer, Rosecliff, Marble House and Rovensky Park. The others are located at Rough Point, Salve Regina University Pell Center for International Relations, Bellevue Plaza and Bellevue Gardens Shopping Center.



Each marker includes information about the history of the buildings on the block, as well as historic commentary. Photos by Andrea Carneiro



Conservation technician John Bartosh helps to carry the restored painting of Louis XIV through the foyer of Marble House. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Louis XIV Returns to Marble House

A late 17th century portrait of Louis XIV by the School of Henri Testelin was re-installed last October over the fireplace in the Dining Room at Marble House. It had been undergoing conservation work at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center for the last two years. The frame was conserved in-house by our own conservation technician, John Bartosh.

The portrait is one of several versions of a 1668 likeness of the King as Protector of the Arts commissioned by the French Royal Academy for its assembly hall. This version is believed to have been presented by the King to the city hall of Ypres, Belgium (then French Flanders). During the French Revolution, the portrait was cut from its frame and sold, subsequently entering the English market where it was purchased by Mrs. W.K. Vanderbilt..



Award-Winning Restoration of The Breakers Gates Continues

Our restoration of the main gates of The Breakers was honored with a Rhody Award from Preserve Rhode Island and the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. The Rhody Awards honor individuals, organizations and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island’s historic resources. In presenting the award, the organizations noted that the Preservation Society “recognized that restoring the gates to their former glory was an important investment in one of their signature properties and a critical step in preserving the historic character of the streetscape.”

Work is now underway on the restoration of the north side gates, and those on the Cliff Walk, by Lodi Welding of New Jersey. Continued funding is being provided by the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust and the Loeb Family Foundation.



One of the Cliff Walk gates at The Breakers is removed. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Focus on Hunter House

By Andrea Carneiro, Communications Manager

The Preservation Society has received a grant of \$100,000 from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation of Newport to study the condition of Hunter House (c.1748), a landmark Georgian Colonial house located on Washington Street along Newport's historic waterfront.

Preservation architects Wank Adams Slavin Associates will prepare a detailed Conditions Assessment Report and Construction Documents, an important first step in the development of an Historic Structure Report for the property. An Historic Structure Report is a critical part of preservation planning, providing documentary, graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing condition, and serving as a guide for future preservation and restoration work on the property.

The Preservation Society will also host a number of special programs in and about Hunter House this year. During July and August, special weekly tours will focus on its landmark furniture; clock case doors, chests of drawers, desks and cabinets will be opened and visitors will learn about 18th century furniture construction methods and design features, and legendary Newport craftsmen such as the Townsends and Goddards. An 18th century furniture Study Day will



Hunter House Parlor. Photo by Stephen Mattos

feature experts from Yale University and Winterthur Museum discussing Rhode Island's remarkable contributions to the furniture trade. Details of these and other programs will be announced soon.

Prized for its carved interior paneling, Hunter House was saved from the wrecking ball in 1945 by a group of concerned citizens who formed The Preservation Society of Newport County to restore and preserve it. After several years of painstaking research and restoration, the house was opened to the public. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968.



Some of the toys and ornaments donated by Margaret Schiffer on display in the library of The Elms. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Berwind Descendant Makes Gift of Antique Ornaments

Visitors to The Elms this past holiday season were enthralled with a collection of vintage Christmas ornaments and toys on display in the library and the dining room, thanks to a generous donation from a Berwind family descendant. Mrs. Margaret Berwind Schiffer, grand niece of Edward J. Berwind, who built The Elms, presented the Preservation Society with a selection of pieces from her sizeable collection.

A noted collector and author in the field, Mrs. Schiffer donated a selection of German and American pieces ranging in date from 1870 to 1940. It is the first collection of antique ornaments ever received by the Preservation Society, and includes glass, wood, papier maché, cardboard, celluloid, tin, chalkware and fabric ornaments and toys. A highlight of the collection are the mid to late 19th century multi-scaled German blown glass kugels, large format forerunners of today's simple glass ball tree ornaments.

Spring Fashion Exhibit to Feature Wedding Dresses

By Charles J. Burns, Associate Curator for Research

In every community, weddings mark a major ritualistic turning point and alliance between families. This year the Preservation Society's annual costume exhibit will feature a selection of wedding dresses spanning the years 1895 – 1966. The exhibit will include several generations of fashion, from the opulence of the Gilded Age to the modernity of the 1960s.

Several different themes will resonate with the selected fashions. One will be the presentation of "three generations" of the Havemeyer/Winslow/Noel family of Newport, beginning with a dress worn by Theodora Havemeyer to her wedding with Cameron McRae Winslow in Newport at the height of the Gilded Age on September 18, 1899. Other themes will include "sisters," featuring the 1930s wedding dresses of Newport debutantes and later preservationists Mrs. Alletta Morris McBean and her sister Mrs. Elizabeth Morris Smith, and a "mother and daughter" theme featuring the wedding dresses of Mrs. John R. Drexel III and her daughter, Mrs. Pamela Drexel Walker. Other ensembles will include chronological highlights from the Preservation Society's wedding dress collection.



Elizabeth Morris Smith, 1937

Local Schools Benefit From Tree Decorating Contest

The fourth grade students at Newport's St. Michael's Country Day School won the \$2,500 first prize in our annual "Trimmed for Santa" Christmas tree decorating contest. Students from six Newport schools decorated tabletop Christmas trees that were on display at The Elms, where visitors were invited to vote for their favorite tree. A total of more than 4,000 votes were cast.

Each of the other schools – Underwood, Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, Sullivan and Cluny – will receive an award of \$500 for participating. The prize money, underwritten by a donor who prefers to remain anonymous, will support the schools' visual arts programs. The annual tree contest is coordinated by Preservation Society Associate Curator Charles Burns and staff member Elizabeth Casella.

Enhancing Washington Square

As part of its ongoing efforts to support public initiatives both great and small in Newport, the Preservation Society regularly contributes staff time, labor and materials to enhancing the Washington Square area. The Preservation Society has assisted with repairs to the historic iron fence that surrounds the park, donates and maintains seasonal plantings such as geraniums and evergreens, and helps brighten the city's holiday celebrations by erecting the enormous public Christmas tree in the Square. That tree is sponsored by a committee of downtown merchants and businesses, chaired by Preservation Society Vice President David Leys, working with Kathy Bass of Beach Party and Barbara Palumbo of Bank Newport.

This past December, Portsmouth residents Mr. and Mrs. John LeComte donated the 30 foot Norway Spruce tree, which was cut down and erected in the square by a Preservation Society crew assisted by volunteers from the Newport Fire Department, Newport Tent Company and Regan Crane Service



Sylvia Weinstock

Entertaining Newport Style at the Newport Flower Show

The Newport Flower Show will celebrate its 16th year as America's premier summer flower show from June 24-26, 2011, on the historic grounds of Rosecliff. With the theme *Entertaining Newport Style*, the show will reflect the grace and sophistication that define Newport, where entertaining has been elevated to an art form.

This year's show also pays homage to the great estate gardeners of Newport, who came together in 1890 to form a horticultural society and offered prizes in the city's first organized flower show. Today's estate gardeners have been invited to enter a special class designed especially for them at the Newport Flower Show.

Two very special guests will headline the show over the weekend. Designers will have the opportunity to learn the latest trends in floral design from Kevin Ylvisaker, international lecturer and cutting-edge Design Director for Oasis. And, what is a party without cake? Sylvia Weinstock, the legendary cake artist world-renowned for her pastiche flowers, will share with guests how she integrates flowers into her work and her love of stylish entertaining.

And true to our theme, the Opening Night Party on Friday, June 24, the traditional kick-off to Newport's summer season, will feature a cocktail buffet, live music and surprises.

The presenting sponsor of the Newport Flower Show is Bartlett Tree Experts. For detailed show information, visit us online at www.NewportFlowerShow.org.



Kevin Ylvisaker

Profiles in Preservation: Elizabeth "Betty" Burton

By James Roehm, Leadership Gifts Officer

This is the first in a series of periodic articles that will profile exceptionally generous donors to the Preservation Society of Newport County and the story behind their giving.

Elizabeth "Betty" Burton, of Washington, D.C., loved Newport and spent her retirement summers here, becoming involved in the Preservation Society and its programs. Beginning in 1997, she enthusiastically joined the Society, provided scholarships for the Newport Symposium and consistently gave to the Annual Fund. In 2001, she informed the Society that she had made a future bequest provision in her Will, and in so doing became the fifth member of the Conservators Circle donor recognition group.

Betty, as she preferred to be called, was a close friend of Letitia Baldrige, a chronicler of social protocol and White House appointments secretary under President Kennedy. "Miss Burton never married and as she would say there simply wasn't enough time," said Miss Baldrige. "Betty was considered avant-garde because she worked outside the home." She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1940 with a degree in statistics and joined a group of consulting engineers that included Buckminster Fuller. After the war, she spent a decade in Paris working on behalf of various United States interests, including the Marshall Plan and the U.S. delegation to NATO. She returned to the U.S. in 1956 as the corporate secretary for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, retiring in 1986.

Miss Burton was known for her "quick wit, intelligence, good food, and the high quality of conversation and humor at her black-tie dinners in Newport and in Washington," according to Miss Baldrige.

Miss Burton died in 2008 and her Will provided for five charitable bequests from the remainder of her estate. She left her antique colonial furniture to the United States Department of State for use in diplomatic houses and reception rooms. Her bequest to the Preservation Society will be added to the endowment fund, thus assuring that the consistent financial support she provided during her life will continue, uninterrupted, and in her name, for historic preservation.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

Development Director Earns CFRE Accreditation

The Preservation Society's Director of Development, Caroline Considine, has earned the accreditation CFRE (Certified Fund Raising Executive). CFRE candidates are required to have a minimum of five years of full-time fund raising employment, must document a minimum of 80 hours of continuing education in the field, and pass a rigorous 5-hour exam. By also demonstrating excellent professional performance, ethical practices, and voluntary service, Caroline joins the distinguished cadre of 4500 CFREs across the United States.

Caroline earned her BA in American Civilization from Brown University and her MBA from Boston College. Prior to joining the Preservation Society in 2005, she spent five years as a non-profit management and fundraising consultant. Previously, she was a Vice President at Simmons College in Boston, MA, and held senior management and marketing positions at Bose Corporation and Polaroid Corporation.



Caroline Considine

Grant Administrator Joins Staff

Katherine Long has joined the Preservation Society's Development Office as Grant Administrator, bringing with her over 10 years of proven experience. She holds an MA from Brown University in Medieval Manuscript Illustration, and was continuing work toward a Ph.D. in American Architecture when she left to raise a family. She has served on the board of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society in Kingston, where she developed educational programming, managed special events, and raised grant money for a complete exterior restoration of the Society's mid-19th-century headquarters. She returned to work as a copy editor at *The South County Independent* before deciding to apply her writing and research skills to grant writing. As an independent consultant, she has raised over \$2 million for a variety of sectors, including education, domestic violence, animal rescue, and cultural heritage and preservation.



Katherine Long



THE NEWPORT SYMPOSIUM GREAT PLACES



Slaves Tower, (Tor degli Schiavi) - David Maitland Armstrong, 1871
On display at Kingscote (1841), Newport RI.

What makes a great place? An enlightened or eccentric patron, a setting of outstanding beauty, a brilliant designer, and a significant collection displayed with exquisite care. A truly great place combines all of these aspects and elevates them to an exceptional level of artistic excellence and cultural importance.

The 19th annual Newport Symposium will examine the great places of the world, and their creators.

May 2-4, 2011 Newport, RI

Featured Speakers Include:

Lady Lucinda Shaw Stewart, Ardgowan, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Giles Waterfield, Director of Royal Collection Studies, Associate Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, England

Dr. Sarah E. Lawrence, Director of the Masters Program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York

David Adshead, Head Curator & Architectural Historian, National Trust, England

John P. Stern, President, Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, New York

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THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
OF NEWPORT COUNTY

Information & Registration • 401-847-1000, ext. 154
www.PSNC.org

2011 Calendar of Events

Visit www.NewportMansions.org for more information, tickets and reservations, or call (401) 847-1000.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

The Breakers, The Elms, Marble House, Rosecliff & Chateau-sur-Mer open daily

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch at Rosecliff

MONDAY, MAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

The Newport Symposium: Great Places

SATURDAY, MAY 7

*Green Animals and Kingscote open daily
Green Animals Plant Sale*

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Chinese Tea House at Marble House opens for lunch daily

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Drexel Lecture: "The Future of the Past," by Steven W. Semes, University of Notre Dame

SATURDAY, MAY 28

*The Elms Carriage House Café opens for lunch daily
Hunter House, Isaac Bell House and Chepstow open weekends*

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Annual Meeting at Rosecliff

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Rosecliff closed to prepare for Newport Flower Show

FRIDAY, JUNE 24 – SUNDAY, JUNE 26

The Newport Flower Show: Entertaining Newport Style at Rosecliff

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Hunter House, Isaac Bell House and Chepstow open daily.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Children's Party at Green Animals Topiary Garden

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

Winslow Lecture: "An Evening with Noel Coward," by historian David Garrard Lowe

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Dinner Dance at The Elms

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Annual Golf Outing at Newport National Golf Club

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

*Last day of lunch at The Elms Carriage House Café
Last day of season for Chepstow
Hunter House, Isaac Bell House revert to weekend only opening*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival at Rosecliff and Marble House

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

*Last day of lunch at the Chinese Tea House at Marble House
Last day of season for Hunter House, Isaac Bell House, Green Animals and Kingscote*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Last day of season for Chateau-sur-Mer and Rosecliff

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19— SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

Christmas at the Newport Mansions The Breakers, The Elms and Marble House

SATURDAYS, NOVEMBER 26, DECEMBER 3 & DECEMBER 10

Holiday Evenings at The Breakers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

*Dinner Dance at The Breakers
Holiday Evening Duet at The Elms & Marble House*



Winter Escape to Boston

Museum of Fine Arts, Art of the Americas Wing

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Visit the MFA's much anticipated and highly celebrated Art of the Americas Wing, which displays over 5,000 objects. Among the highlights are the unparalleled collection of paintings by John Singleton Copley, Newport furniture by the Townsends and Goddards, masterpieces by John Singer Sargent, and a Tiffany window.

Preservation Society members \$45, general admission \$50.

Space limited and reservations required. For more information and to register call

401-847-1000 ext. 154 or e-mail ppeterson@NewportMansions.org

Schedule is subject to change





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.

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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)

424 Bellevue Avenue (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)



Entrance foyer at Kingscote.
Photo by Stephen Mattos



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