Annual Report



A Publication of The Preservation Society of Newport County 2013 - 2014

An American Story

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Protect Preserve & Present

The Campaign for The Preservation Society Of Newport County

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Chairman's Report

By Donald O. Ross

Remarks delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 19, 2014

This has been an extremely rewarding year - the Preservation Society has enjoyed some tremendous successes, and we have made great progress on some of our top priorities. In addition to keeping the doors open and roofs intact at our houses, we have cemented our reputation as an important history museum, as a source of serious scholarship, as an active advocate for preservation, as an important contributor to the community's economic vitality, and as a partner with like-minded institutions and organizations, working collaboratively on a variety of programs and issues.

None of this would have been possible had it not been for the incomparable thinking by our Board of Trustees and extremely talented staff. I think we have the brightest Board ever, and the most engaged. Every trustee I speak with has commented on the excellent working relationships we have, and the thoroughness with which we vet our initiatives. As you have heard me say in past meetings, this Board is a strategic and policy-focused Board. I'd like to share with you some of our successes and activities, so that you too can appreciate how much we have accomplished.

First of all, we are very proud of our partnerships with local, state and national organizations on a variety of fronts.

For example, we are currently collaborating on exhibitions with three of our sister institutions here in Newport. Our curator, Paul Miller, has been the guest curator for two of them.

At the Redwood Library, the exhibition "Portraits of Interiors – Interior Illustrators in Newport Collections" will run through next January. It includes loans from the Preservation Society's collections, among others. Over at the Newport Art Museum, an exhibit on the "Early Life and Work of Richard Morris Hunt in Newport" includes material on loan from the Preservation Society as well as the Library of Congress and other institutions.

At the Isaac Bell House, an exhibition about architect Charles Follen McKim was curated by our Research and Interpretation Coordinator, Caitlin Emery, in partnership with the Newport Historical Society.

And, we are actively involved with the New England Museum Association (NEMA) and the American Association of Museums (AAM) to promote the value of museums regionally and nationally.

As a matter of fact, last November, the Preservation Society was one of the host institutions for the annual meeting of NEMA, which brought nearly 1,000 museum professionals to Newport for three days. We hosted them at a reception at The Breakers, and many members of our staff and the Board led special tours and workshops for our colleagues in the museum field on issues such as conservation, philanthropy, marketing and collections management, to name a few.

This spring we participated in NEMA's First Annual Museums Day, which brought legislators and museum professionals together at the State House to promote museums and culture in Rhode Island. Advocacy and policy have always been an important part of the Preservation Society's work, but recently we have added more effort in this area. After all, this is how the Preservation Society got its start. We hired one of our former Fellows, Kaity Ryan, as our first Manager of Preservation Policy, to lead the way on our advocacy efforts. In addition to crafting a policy plan for review and approval by the Board of Trustees, Kaity has been involved in a host of issues and projects:

- We have joined with a number of statewide partners, including Preserve Rhode Island and Grow Smart Rhode Island, to call for reinstatement of the State Preservation Grant Program.
- We addressed the effects of climate change on historic properties as a part of Brown University's Student Climate Coalition press conference.
- We hosted the American Society of Landscape Architects for a conference field session on the landscape design and restoration of The Elms Sunken Garden.

We are also active participants in efforts to improve our local communities:

- Along with 12 partner organizations, we have proposed to improve the Second and Third Beach landscape, primarily by burying the overhead utility lines.
- We have also participated in a group focused on improving and protecting Newport's other historic streetscapes.
- We are supporting Newport's Energy and Environment Commission in an initiative to increase recycling in the city.
- We have provided feedback and recommendations to Newport's Finance Review Committee.
- We have overseen a survey of Newport's historic gates and fences with the state Preservation Office.
- We have provided support for Bike Newport, which recently acknowledged our efforts by naming the Preservation Society as the Bike Friendly Business of the Year.
- We've negotiated an agreement with Lucy's Hearth to provide fresh produce from the Green Animals vegetable garden to shelter residents in exchange for volunteer labor. Once a week clients from Lucy's Hearth go to Green Animals to plant, weed and water the vegetable garden there, and return home with armfuls of fresh produce.
- At Christmas, we created a new Children's Holiday Evening at The Breakers, in which we provided free admission and special programming for Newport school children and their parents.
- And we partner with the Island Moving Company, Newport Music Festival, Bridgefest, NewportFilm and other cultural organizations locally.

We've also had great success building the Preservation Society's reputation as a source of research and scholarship with the growth of our Fellows program. This year we are bringing three new scholars into the Fellows program, who will bring their academic curiosity to bear on new research projects. While we're on the subject of scholarship, I am pleased to report that we have in hand a draft of a Cultural Landscape Report for The Breakers property. The Preservation Society is working with Judith Robinson Associates of Washington, DC; Doug Reed, John Grove and Leslie Carter of Reed Hilderbrand LLC of Watertown, Massachusetts; and The Breakers Landscape subcommittee to finalize the report.

A Cultural Landscape Report serves as a tool to guide the treatment and long-term management of an historic or "cultural" landscape. It identifies characteristics, features, values and associations that make a landscape significant and establishes preservation goals. It contains information about historical development, character, and significance valuable for interpretation, and provides the basis for planning and decision-making about management, treatment and use of the landscape. This report will be an essential tool in our efforts to preserve and reinvigorate the 13 acres that encompass The Breakers property.

I want to give special recognition and thanks to the members of the landscape subcommittee who are working in tandem with Reed Hilderbrand: Bettie Pardee, who is chairing this effort, Britty Bardes, Monty Burnham, Kate Gubelmann, Eaddo Hayes Kiernan, and John Tschirch.

Our educational offerings continued to grow over the past year. Attendance at lectures was up 27%. Attendance at our Newport Symposium in late April was up as well.

We have also expanded our offerings to children, piloting five programs which included partnering with local architects to teach young people about architectural design and landscape history. This summer we will build on that, offering three week-long summer workshops that will each focus on a specific field of Museum Studies – Conservation, Landscape & Garden Design, and Architecture.

And we have more successes to celebrate:

Our Newport Mansions Stores had a banner year. They recorded their highest sales ever at nearly \$3.4 million, and I must say, they have never looked better. Thanks to Cynthia O'Malley and her team and our very professional Educational Sales Committee, which is led by trustee Angela Moore.

And NewportStyle.net, our online store, was named one of the three best museum store websites in the country by the Museum Store Association. Of course, our events are important contributors to our financial success. From the Newport Flower Show, to last summer's Venetian Ball, to the Wine & Food Festival and so many other events in between – we are fortunate to have a dedicated cadre of volunteers and an exceptional Special Events staff, led by the indomitable Phil Pelletier, who ensure that the Preservation Society's events are at the top of everyone's "must attend" list.

On the visitation front, the past year was great. Even as many museums around the country report that they are struggling, the Preservation Society tied its second best year on record for admissions at just over 909,000 for this past fiscal year ended March 31.

That kind of success is predicated on making sure that we continue giving our guests something new to keep them coming back.

Visitors to Hunter House will experience a new interpretation of the house and its collections based on new research.

Also coming up is an update of the Marble House audio tour. We'll also be adding a Mandarin translation of the audio



The roof of the underground boiler room at The Breakers is visible for the first time in a century, in preparation for waterproofing. Photo: Andrea Carneiro

tours at The Breakers and The Elms, joining Spanish, French and German among the options we offer to our foreign visitors.

We've also begun planning for 2015 with an exciting new program at Rosecliff, led by Director of Museum Affairs Dr. Laurie Ossman, in which we will expand our already-popular themed costume exhibits, which currently are shown in cramped vitrines.

We will dedicate entire rooms on the second floor to exhibit space, which will allow us to partner with international institutions for the first time. This will further raise our profile among our museum peers as an exhibitor of innovative programs. Re-purposing the space will allow us to create both winter and summer programs of very high quality and visitor appeal. The effect will be to position Newport as a year-round destination for the cultural traveler. At the very root of everything we do at the Preservation Society is our primary mission to protect, preserve and present our houses, collections, and landscapes according to the best known practices and standards.

In June we embarked on our latest project, the restoration of the historic underground boiler room at The Breakers. Rust and corrosion caused by water infiltration have taken their toll. We are excavating the underground structure in order to make repairs and seal the roof.

Elsewhere at The Breakers, last winter we made extensive repairs to the first floor loggia, where water infiltration had caused upheavals of the underlying structural steel.

> In the library, water damage on the extensively decorated plaster ceiling was repaired and the ceiling decoration restored.

And an ongoing project to clean decades of grime and stains from the interior limestone walls and the grand staircase produced amazing results.

Speaking of grime, some of the bronze statuary at The Elms received a good cleaning for the first time by a crew of conservation interns and consultants.

Also at The Elms, our staff dismantled and rebuilt using the original stones much of the property wall along Bellevue Court, because it had been leaning outward.

We also began what will be a multi-year project to restore the wrought-iron fence that runs along Bellevue Avenue in front of The Elms. This work was done by a local company, Aardvark Antiques & Restoration, which removed the rust and recreated and replaced damaged and missing decorative elements.

The exterior restoration of Kingscote is continuing, and our talented construction staff completed the remodeling and restoration of the caretaker's cottage at Green Animals. My thanks to Curt Genga's team for the amazing work being done on the properties and to Jeff Curtis who leads the way on our grounds and gardens. Each has a staff that is equivalent in size to what just one of these houses had at the turn of the century.

Another of our priorities has been to invest in conservation and our collections, and to that end we have made several important acquisitions.

The Preservation Society is now the proud owner of two marble busts which have been on display (as loans) in The Breakers since 1927 –



The Venetian Ball at The Elms was one of many successful fundraising events. corbettphotography.net

one of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, and one of his grandson Cornelius II, builder of The Breakers.

We also acquired the Philip de László portrait of Countess László Széchényi, which had been on loan in the Morning Room of The Breakers.

We also purchased this year a rare, 15th century cassone original to the Vanderbilt art collection at Marble House. This cassone, which is in need of extensive conservation work, was part of the Medieval and Renaissance art collection that Alva and William Vanderbilt purchased in 1889 in Paris and displayed in the Gothic Room, until Mrs. Vanderbilt sold the collection in 1926.

I'd like to take note too of the great conservation work done by our team on two Louis XV-style cabinets in the entrance foyer of Marble House. They are beautiful pieces, and the work is just another example of the incredible talent of our staff. We are one of the most well-respected historic preservation organizations in the country, renowned for the guality of the work that we do.

We are a center for scholarly research that benefits not just our work but the entire museum field.

We are recognized as a vital economic engine for Newport and the state of Rhode Island.

And we continue to protect, preserve and present – in accordance with the best practices in the museum field – an extraordinary collection of historic houses and the American Story that they represent.

I am also proud of all of you – our members, donors and supporters – for your interest and your dedication to helping us achieve our mission. You are an integral part of the work that we do, and we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support.

To assist us in properly caring for our collections, we also invested in a new collections database. When fully implemented late this year, it will house a comprehensive inventory of all our properties and approximately 55,000 objects.

I appreciate your indulgence as I have taken this time to talk about our accomplishments. I have been a trustee of the Preservation Society for 24 years, and never have I been so proud of our organization, of our Board and of our staff, as I am tonight.



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CEO & Executive Director's Report

By Trudy Coxe

Remarks delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 19, 2014

I don't know if this happens to any of you, but I am often asked if life in Newport is boring. For some reason non-Newporters believe that Newport is a backwater, which wakes up in July and goes back to sleep in September.

For the Preservation Society this past year has been anything but boring. Rather, it's been *inspiring*, *thought provoking*, and *transformative*.

There have been several revelatory experiences this non-boring year that have helped keep me focused on doing what needs to be done.

Inspiring: I've been inspired by Don and my Board, all of whom are leaders who provide hope, intelligence, huge doses of wise counsel, and inspiration.

The same can be said for the staff, all heroes of mine, and a huge number of community supporters – noted

architects, historic preservationists, business leaders, restaurant owners, tourism advocates, International Council members, members of Congress – who have helped financially and as cheerleaders, advisors, and partners.

What I find inspiring is this: Not that many years ago the Preservation Society was a struggling \$9 million organization. This year, our budget hit an unprecedented \$20.4 million, allowing us to do things that good museums do.

We were once an organization with a mile-long list of deferred maintenance, and all the headaches that go with it. We've conquered most of our preservation challenges, spending close to \$43 million to achieve that goal.

We once had the reputation of being an organization that stuck pretty close to Bellevue Avenue. We now interact and/or partner with so many organizations and institutions that sometimes it's hard to keep our activities straight.

We used to be known for our parties. We still are!

We're now seen as an honest-to-goodness museum – accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and loved and respected around the globe.

Because of manpower, scholarship was never our strong suit, an essential within the museum field; now, with our Fellows program in action, we are conducting research like nobody's business.

One example: University of Pennsylvania Masters grad Alyssa Lozupone has compiled a detailed analysis of the economic impact of the Preservation Society on Newport. The report is now available online at our website.

And we have converted this study into an easy-to-read human version which shows that the Preservation Society generates \$109.4 million annually in economic activity for Newport.

For example, 44% of our employees are Newport residents. We hire local businesses and vendors – Newport caterers, Newport electricians, Newport plumbers, Newport florists. And our visitors spend their dollars at Newport restaurants, Newport shops, and Newport museums and attractions. Overall, this activity supports 1,250 Newport jobs.

Alyssa's research reaffirms an important point that Katherine Warren made in 1954: "Newport has oil in its backyard and its oil is its old buildings." Rich Sardella, former Mayor of Newport and owner of Sardella's, says: "Without tourism, I wouldn't be in the restaurant business."

Bill Corcoran tells the story of how his business got started during the filming of "The Great Gatsby" here. After the film, everyone wanted a party under a "Great Gatsby" tent and today Newport Tent Company works with customers from New Haven to San Diego to the Bahamas, hiring 70 Newporters during the season – 70 of the nearly

1300 Newporters employed in jobs supported by the daily operations of this organization.

In a state with the highest unemployment rate in the country, what we do is vitally important and it's what keeps Newport rolling forward.

Alyssa's research shows beyond all doubt that museums play a huge role in keeping a community revitalized, culturally and financially – that museums are an asset to a community, our community, not a liability.

Thought-provoking: I hope my two examples will explain why.

Studies show that when children have been asked to identify two things that Abraham Lincoln is known for, very few can answer the question. Many don't

know who George Washington is. In this environment, museums have become important classrooms for learning.

When school children visit our properties, for many of them, it is their first taste of American history. We take the responsibility of how to teach our young people about our nation's history seriously. So, the burden on us is greater today than ever before.

A second thought provoker: Recently, AAM came out with some startling news. Instead of 19,000 museums in America, there are 30,000. Most of them operate on shoestring budgets, are run by volunteers, and are faced with huge deferred maintenance bills. To add insult to injury, visitation has been on a long, slow decline. If you have the same reaction I do, this is not just thought provoking, it's terrifying, because important sites that many of you cherish may actually cease to exist over the next 20 to 25 years.

Now this phenomenon is happening right here in Newport – at the Preservation Society.

Using a 2010 study of what it costs to operate each house as a museum, and looking at revenue from visitation,

Gardee

Newport restaurateur Richard Sardella, former Mayor of Newport, says "Without tourism, I wouldn't be in the restaurant business." Photo courtesy of Sardella's

the only "profitable" museums we operate are the big four: The Breakers, Marble House, The Elms, and Rosecliff. The other seven collectively cost \$1.9 million a year more to operate than they earn. Hunter House, for example, costs about \$234,000 a year to operate. But last year, it brought in around \$12,000. Without the financial support of the big four, Hunter House and the other six small museums simply could not survive.

And it helps explain why we are so intent in providing to our visitors the best amenities and the best education we can. Because Newport and the Preservation Society really, really need each and every visitor. That is our survival.

Transformative: Alyssa Lozupone worked on a second project this year, to finally tell the story about our founder, Katherine Warren.

One of the things you learn about Mrs. Warren is that change was as complicated in her era as it is now. For example, 45 years ago when people objected to the mansions being used by the Newport Music Festival as concert spaces, Mrs. Warren convinced them that for Newport to be recognized as a center of music, it was important to allow our houses to be used.

Today, with the Music Festival, the Jazz Festival, the Folk Festival, and Bridgefest, Newport is regarded as a true music center.



Many school children are getting their first real exposure to American history when they visit the Newport Mansions. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Katherine Warren was one of the founders of Monumenta, an outdoor sculpture exhibition that drew some of the world's leading sculptors to Newport. Yet the exhibition was heavily criticized. But, still to this day, I will never forget the sheer awe of seeing Christo's sculpture over one of the coves along Ocean Drive.

Another example: Katherine Warren spearheaded the creation of a historic district in Newport. She started her campaign in 1952 and it took her 14 years to win. But win she did, and the Newport Historic District was created.

I tell these stories because ours is an organization that – unlike so many other historic house museums – is surviving. Almost by irony. Preservationists – who by nature want things to stay the same, must – if they care about preservation – be innovative and experimental in order to stay relevant, contemporary and self-sufficient. That's where historic house museums are today.

Like many of you, I love each and every property at the Preservation Society. There's not a day that my breath isn't taken away by Rosecliff shimmering down in the hollow it occupies or by the imposing, impressive columns of Marble House. I love the new research that our Museum Affairs staff is unveiling and the preservation and gardening expertise that is on display each day.

Next year we will celebrate our 70th anniversary. I want us to be seen as one museum that has not only held its own, but is thriving. If struggle is part of the equation, so be it, but reflecting on our organization's history, we know that that is not unusual.

I want us to be seen as the best preservationists, our programs second to none, and our community in unison about what we do for Newport and those who visit us. Having dedicated members like each of you supporting our mission and our vision is so very important. I thank each of you for your support.



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Treasurer's Report

By Monty Burnham

Remarks delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 19, 2014

I am pleased to report that the Preservation Society enjoyed another successful year financially in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014. That said, it was not a blockbuster year like fiscal 2013. The numbers are healthy but modestly so. Revenues were up only slightly and expenses were more up than down.

Operating revenues totaled \$19.84 million, a 2.4% increase from the \$19.38 million achieved in fiscal 2013. By way of contrast, FY2013 revenue results showed an increase of nearly 12% over those of the immediately preceding fiscal year. In short, in 2013 we were spoiled.

Operating expenses, not including major projects, increased 4.7% year over year, from \$17.83 million in FY2013 to \$18.66 million in FY2014. As a result, the amount available to pay down debt fell by nearly 50% from FY2013 to FY2014. We made our goal, but it wasn't easy.

Total visits by ticketed guests and members increased by 2.5% over the preceding year, for a total of nearly 909,500 individual visits. Membership numbers stayed stable, at just under 26,000 members.

Almost two-thirds of operating revenues in FY2014 came from visitors. \$12.4 million of the \$19.84 million in operating revenues represents a combination of admissions revenue (\$8.76 million), membership purchases by visitors, and refreshment and retail sales at the houses.

Heavy dependence on visitor attendance is always a risk for non-profit organizations. This risk is mitigated by endowment but our endowment, though well managed, is relatively small. Thanks to strong fundraising and good financial oversight by our investment committee, the value of the endowment did increase \$4.5 million over the past year, from \$32.4 million to \$36.9 million.

At the same time, we remain notably undercapitalized for an organization our size. Other museums in our region with comparable payrolls have endowments several times larger than ours, ranging from Mystic Seaport, with an endowment of \$54 million (1.46x) to Historic New England with \$111 million (3x). The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston has \$142 million (3.84x), and Winterthur, in Delaware, has \$328 million (8.9x). Would that we had such a cushion!

Looking at specific areas, admissions revenue grew by just over \$460,000. In retail sales, revenues increased approximately \$149,000.

An area of concern is Special Events. Although I am very happy to report that FY2015 bookings are off to a good start, we saw a significant decline in revenues last year. Rental revenue fell nearly \$383,000 from FY2013 to FY2014. We have engaged a consultant to help us understand this decline and what we can do to reverse it.

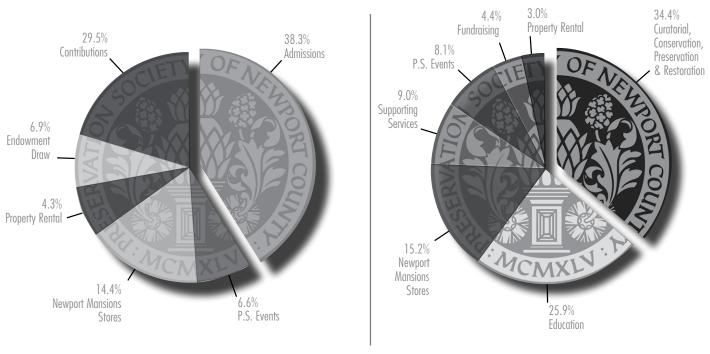
On the expense side, we had 217 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents) in calendar 2013, and our direct payroll totaled \$8.164 million, nearly \$230,000 higher than last year. This increase reflected a well-deserved across-the-board pay raise for all employees. All other payroll costs, including the employer contribution to employee retirement accounts of \$366,000 and employee benefits such as Social Security and all types of insurance, totaled just under \$1.87 million.

Non-payroll operating costs totaled \$8.6 million, an increase of \$544,000 over the previous year. Of this amount, more than \$1.7 million was spent on Properties and Grounds. This is nearly 20 percent of total non-payroll operating costs.

Capital spending on Properties and Grounds totaled nearly \$750,000. Particularly significant projects included \$187,000 for tree work, \$107,000 for fire code-mandated improvements, \$117,000 to rehabilitate the Green Animals caretaker's cottage, and \$70,000 to prepare for work on the boiler room project, currently in progress.

Revenue

Expenses



To request a copy of the complete FY2014 audited financial statements for The Preservation Society of Newport County, please contact James M. Burress, Director of Finance, at JBurress@NewportMansions.org

We spent \$50,000 for asbestos removal in the sub-basement of The Breakers. This remediation effort has continued into this year and is nearly complete, for a total expenditure of \$185,000.

To bring ourselves more up to date, we also invested \$63,000 to join the fiber-optic internet system being set up now in Newport.

The kind of repairs and maintenance required by historic houses imposes a heavy burden on our operating budget. Our properties require "ordinary care and maintenance" which is well beyond ordinary. It is invariably much more complex, more time-consuming, and thus considerably more expensive than it would be in the average home.

Which brings us to fundraising. The news from the Capital Campaign is splendid. Mary Kozik, our Chief of Institutional Advancement, has reported that more than \$6 million was raised in FY2014. Some of the campaign priorities have not yet been fully funded, however, so you can still make a difference!

This year's Annual Fund had the largest number of donors (876) and resulted in the second highest fund total ever raised (\$788,550).

In addition, our other fundraising activities, such as the annual summer gala, the Christmas ball, the Flower Show, the Wine & Food Festival, and the golf outing, taken together, raised \$634,000. We thank all of our generous donors for their support of these activities.

To date we have raised just short of \$2 million for the Fund for Fellows, which is very exciting. The results of the program are also already apparent. We know from the impressive work done by last year's and this year's Fellows that the new Fellows coming to us later this year will bring us exciting discoveries and broaden our horizons, as will their successors, in perpetuity. Brock Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts at Winterthur Museum, said we would be "amazed and inspired by the results," and indeed we are.

A final heartfelt entreaty: The Preservation Society needs an endowment of at least \$100 million dollars to be financially secure and live up to our mission to protect, preserve and present these nationally recognized historic properties for all; to maintain the buildings, collections and grounds at the highest possible level; and to care for our visitors.

Most important of all, we need your support and recognition that our mission represents something enormously valuable to the City of Newport and Rhode Island.

ANTIQUARIAN AWARD

Awarded Posthumously To John "Archie" van Beuren

for

His Distinguished Contributions to Newport's Architectural Heritage and Service to the Community

The late John "Archie" van Beuren led by example – in service to the Preservation Society of Newport County; in passion for architecture; in service to the community and philanthropy; and in commitment to preservation.

Archie's legacy is the continuing story of four generations of his family to provide vision and direction to The Preservation Society of Newport County.

In 1951, Mr. van Beuren's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. van Beuren, provided the funds to publish Antoinette Downing and Vincent Scully's The Architectural History of Newport, Rhode Island, which remains the acknowledged resource on this subject over 60 years later. In 1957, his father, Archbold van Beuren, saved the White Horse Tavern and donated it to the Preservation Society for safekeeping, an act for which he received the inaugural Antiquarian Award the same year.

Elected in June 1977, Archie served on the Preservation Society's Board of Trustees for many years, guiding its Architectural, Executive and Nominating Committees, leading with humility, generosity and expertise. More recently, his daughter Barbara van Beuren served and son Archbold D. van Beuren currently serves on the Preservation Society's Board of Trustees.

After graduating from Yale University, completing military service and earning a Masters from Columbia University, he pursued a successful career in private equity and investment management. In 1972, inspired by a lifelong love for architecture, Archie enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania and received his Masters in Architecture. Mr. van Beuren's passion for architecture was demonstrated by his support – in thought, word and deed – of historic buildings, sites and landscapes across Aquidneck Island. For his Masters project at Penn, he designed the Nathaniel P. Hill Library at St. George's School. As an initial investor of the Aquidneck Land Trust, Mr. van Beuren and his family celebrated the conservation of more than 2,400 acres across the island, including the easement to permanently conserve Rovensky Park. At the Preservation Society, he took particular interest in the restorations of the Chinese Tea House, Miss Wetmore's tea house and garden at Chateau-sur-Mer and the Isaac Bell House.

He is remembered notably for his extraordinary philanthropic vision, humble spirit, and charitable gestures for which he sought no accolades. His enduring contributions and community leadership are best described by his dedication to the public and private institutions of Rhode Island. In 1986, with his wife Happy, he established the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. Through the Foundation he put forward his vision of public service. The Foundation became the driving force behind the creation of the Trinity Landmark Preservation Fund; a founding investor in the Aquidneck Land Trust; and an enthusiastic champion of The Preservation Society of Newport County.

The Board of Trustees of The Preservation Society of Newport County is humbled and pleased to award the late John "Archie" van Beuren the Antiquarian Award, our highest organizational honor.

Given at Rosecliff in Newport, Rhode Island This 19th day of June 2014

Donald O. Ross Chairman, Board of Trustees

Angela Brown Fischer Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

laurel Awards

Presented in recognition of outstanding service, artisanship or leadership



J. Timothy O'Reilly and Donald O. Ross

J. Timothy O'Reilly

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to strengthening Newport's position as the tourism leader of Rhode Island.



Donald O. Ross, Karen Barbera and Angela Moore

Karen Barbera

In recognition of her creative expertise in planning the Rosecliff horticultural showcases for the Newport Flower Show.



Curt Genga, Rose & Carl Rothbart and William Wilson

Carl & Rose Rothbart

In recognition of years of superb effort in architectural planning and project management for numerous Preservation Society projects





Donors April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

The Preservation Society of Newport County is grateful to its many members and friends for your ongoing annual support. Your generosity makes it possible for us to preserve Newport's architectural and cultural heritage.



INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Richard Morris Hunt Circle

\$100,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Ballard Mr. James D. Berwind Mr. Dayton T. Carr Steven J. and Marilyn E. Casper William P. and Jacalyn C. Egan – Duniry Foundation Mr. David B. Ford Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas S. Schorsch Mr. David R. Stevens

McKim, Mead & White Circle

\$50,000-\$99,999

The Duncan A. Chapman Family Mr. and Mrs. William M. Kahane The Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace Family Foundation Mr. Peter E. Madden Mr. and Mrs. A. Theodore Stautberg, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Guy F. C. Van Pelt Anonymous

Horace Trumbauer Circle

\$25,000-\$49,999

Ms. Janine Atamian Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bilden Mrs. Helen D. Buchanan and Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham Mr. and Mrs. Glenn M. Darden Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Galkin Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Gewirz The Honorable Esmond V. Harmsworth Belinda Buck Kielland Mr. and Mrs. William L. Leatherman Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Prince Linda and John Purdy Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Roberts, Jr. Ms. Janet L. Robinson Mr. and Mrs. Donald O. Ross Mrs. Alfred S. Wilsey

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The Preservation Society of Newport County 424 Bellevue Avenue Newport, RI 02840 (401) 847-1000

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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.

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Front Cover: Oil on canvas portrait of Countess László Széchényi (1886-1965) by Philip Alexius de László (1869-1937), 1921



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Holiday Evening Duet The Elms & Marble House December 20 – 6 pm - 9 pm

Marble House Photo by: Roskelly.com