

A Publication of The Preservation Society of Newport County 2014 - 2015



Patricia Fernandez, Robert & Kate Bartlett









Holiday dinner dance at The Breakers

Janet Robinson, Edward Kane



Elizabeth & William Kahane





Newport Music Festival at The Breakers

Kevin Clark, James Berwind



Chairman's Report

By Donald O. Ross

From the Annual Meeting, June 11, 2015

As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, I am proud to tell you that the Preservation Society has never been healthier or more successful in fulfilling our mission to protect, preserve and present Newport's amazing historic legacy.

Our successes would not be possible had it not been for the base that our founders and subsequent leaders have provided, our very involved and dedicated Board of Trustees, and our amazing and hard working staff, ably led by our dynamic and 24/7 CEO and Executive Director, Trudy Coxe.

Our success is measureable in a variety of ways: financial, successful spending levels on our houses, museum activities, scholarly initiatives, visitor levels, and satisfaction ratings.

First of all, we are in excellent financial health. Our Annual Fund topped \$1 million this year for the first time, from the largest number of donors ever.

And we've just completed the fifth year of our comprehensive campaign with a total of \$25 million raised. With one more year yet to go, we've already beaten our original goal, and we hope to hit \$30 million before we're done.

Spending on our houses totaled \$69 million over the last ten years and \$7.9 million alone in fiscal year 2015. Two point one million dollars was spent on The Breakers alone last fiscal year – and that does not include the work done on the underground boiler room or the caretaker's cottage.

We uncovered the historic underground boiler room at The Breakers, to address water infiltration issues that were damaging this unique structure. We plan someday to open it to the public.

As you no doubt noticed on your way in tonight, the caretaker's cottage is undergoing extensive restoration, including cleaning and repointing, roof and chimney repairs, rebuilding of a balcony, restoration of the windows and an interior overhaul.

Also at The Breakers, we restored the floor in the lower loggia, which had been buckling from the rusting of the support beams below; removed asbestos from the sub-basement; cleaned the interior limestone walls; and painted the Children's Cottage.

The visitors to The Breakers – more than 20 million people since it was first opened to the public – provide the most significant source of funding to preserve this historic structure, and our visitors deserve and expect a respectful welcome and basic amenities.

Other restoration and maintenance projects include replacing a section of the fence at The Elms; continuing with the exterior restoration of Kingscote; rebuilding the doors on the Chinese Tea House; repointing the Marble House terrace floor; and repairing the rooftop balustrade at Rosecliff.



Nord Wennerstrom, Laurie Ossman, Charles Birnbaum

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These accomplishments provide testament to our vigilance in keeping our houses and landscapes in the best possible condition, and providing our guests with the best possible visitor experience.

We are among the small minority of museums in the United States accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, proof that we abide by the best museum practices.

We have expanded our scholarly and educational initiatives, with a robust Fellows program in which visiting scholars are contributing new and exciting research into Newport's history. In the past year,

we hosted 23 academic events with 2,200 participants.

to other houses, and some pieces were loaned to The Mount, Edith Wharton's house in Lenox, Massachusetts, where they will be used to interpret that house as it appeared in Wharton's lifetime.

We were able to return the 15th century Gavet-Vanderbilt cassone to its original home in the Gothic Room of Marble House. Sold many years ago from Marble House, this wedding chest is among the earliest Renaissance pieces of furniture brought to America. Thanks to a private donor, we were able to purchase it and bring it back, where it was carefully restored by our Chief Conservator Jeff Moore.

And our educational programs are reaching out to children as well, with summer programs that encourage the learning of architecture, landscape history, decorative arts, and conservation.

Visitor and membership revenues have reached nearly \$10 million annually, providing the resources to ensure that the properties are in the best condition ever.

We are one of the four most visited museums in New England, along with the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science and New England Aquarium, all of which are located within a mile of one another in Boston.



Don Ross addresses the annual meeting at The Breakers

Jeff has recently retired from the Preservation Society after 31 years in which he was either involved in. or in charge of, nearly every conservation or restoration project the organization has undertaken. From the smallest decorative objects, to textiles, to furniture, walls and ceilings, paintings, statuary, and just about anything

and everything in

Our operations and visitors generate more than \$100 million dollars in economic activity for the city of Newport annually.

The Breakers has the highest visitor satisfaction ratings of any house museum in the country, according to research conducted by the Wall Street Journal. Trip Advisor, the world's largest travel site, recently awarded us 8 Certificates of Excellence based on visitor reviews of 4.5 stars or higher out of 5.

The translation of our audio tours into multiple languages, including Chinese, has helped us to serve the needs of the growing foreign audience that visits the mansions each year.

We are completing work on a mobile app that will allow people to take audio tours of our houses on their cell phone or tablet.

We created an exhibition gallery on the second floor of Rosecliff, which will allow us to borrow objects and exhibitions from other accredited museums. Furniture from the second floor has been moved our collections, Jeff has somehow been involved in its care, and he will be sorely missed by all of us.

Our iconic Boldini portrait of Elizabeth Drexel Lehr from The Elms was loaned to a museum in Forli, Italy for a major international exhibition of Boldini paintings with an accompanying scholarly catalogue.

Also we coordinated two exhibitions with Newport sister institutions: *Portraits of Interiors* at the Redwood Library and *The Early Life & Work of Richard Morris Hunt in Newport* at the Newport Art Museum.

On the landscape front, we hired our first Curator of Historic Landscapes and Horticulture. Jim Donahue is developing long-range restoration plans for our landscapes, and will also design improvements to the visitor experience of our outdoor spaces and educational programs on garden design and horticulture.

We have completed the Cultural Landscape Report for The Breakers, which will guide the long-term management of the property. We also completed a successful collaboration with The Cultural Landscape Foundation entitled "What's Out There Weekend" which provided free tours of many of Newport's iconic landscapes.

We have also hired our first-ever IT manager, Jay McDaniel, to help us navigate the complex and rapidly-changing world of technology that has become indispensable to nearly every facet of our operations: scheduling maintenance projects, managing our collections, selling tickets, even live-streaming this meeting to the internet for the first time, so that people who couldn't be here tonight can watch and listen to us at home. begin the next 70 years, and continue the vision laid out by Katherine Warren and her contemporaries.

Through the efforts of our early leaders and subsequent Board members, we have helped save Newport's treasures.

Imagine what The Elms would have looked like as a shopping center had it not been for the Preservation Society. The museum funding model of the 21st century relies very importantly on strong visitation. Further, the support of our 35,000 members, our donors, our staff, our visitors and our community has been an important part of our success

> over the past 70 years, for which we are extremely grateful. And believe me, we will need your continued support into the future.

Before I conclude, I want to address some of the questions which have arisen recently around some aspects of our operations.

The Breakers welcome center plan is the result of an open, robust public two-year approval process. Our plan, a major Board objective, has been approved at every state, local and judicial level at which a decision has been rendered.

The public process has been orderly, objective and fair. The public debate, however, has not

staff worked hard this past year on a much needed update from our last strategic plan. As part of this effort, we sought input from the community as well as museum experts, and identified five strategic priorities:

The Board and the

1) We will enhance our scholarship and interpretation strategies to include new research, new exhibits and new uses of technology;



Susan Ross, Nancy Evans, Elizabeth Leatherman

2) We will elevate our

investment in our historic landscapes, continue to improve our collections management, and enhance our conservation and security activities;

3) We will continue to innovate so that we can grow and diversify our financial stability;

4) We will develop stronger relationships with residents, visitors, members, and local businesses, cultural groups and civic organizations; and

5) We will build and foster the strongest possible leadership and governance efforts for the Preservation Society.

Some aspects of our strategic priorities will be addressed only after funding sources are identified, and above all, we will continue to balance our budget each fiscal year.

Our first 70 years have been a resounding success thanks to the sound decision-making of our founders and those who followed them. Our strategic plan sets priorities to guide our decision-making as we always been as constructive. Passions have been very high, and while we will never shrink from controversy, the unpleasant nature of the debate is counter to all we have stood for over the last 70 years. Our volunteer Board and our employees take great pride in our work. It is unfortunate that this has become at times personal and unpleasant.

People ask what the welcome center will cost. The current budget is \$5.8 million. A special committee of the Board chaired by architect Bill Wilson oversees the welcome center project, and briefed the Board on cost as recently as last month. Unfortunately, the length of the approval process has added to the cost of the project.

The Board settled on this design and location after more than a decade of investigating every option. We welcome public input, but not one idea has been advanced that was not investigated and rejected for preservation, functional, aesthetic or cost reasons.

The Board has been diligent in using best museum practices in managing this and in every financial decision we make, and is responsible for setting the welcome center plan and process. This Board is constituted with 31 talented individuals - all local - with expertise in



The restored cassone is returned to the Gothic Room at Marble House

architecture, the arts, finance, media, the law, philanthropy and business generally. The process for the welcome center has been the result of not just one or two people, but the entire board. And we stand together.

Our leadership team is among the best in the museum world, as attested to by numerous national awards for excellence in virtually every museum and non-profit field. We use best practices in determining compensation for employees, who are all compensated appropriately.

The board takes its governance responsibilities very seriously, and we turn to our more than 25 functioning committees to help us carry out our mission.

Finally, on the question of refreshments, as our plans evolved we believed we had the proper approvals for serving catered refreshments. Recent questions about regulatory approval are now pending before the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Summing up, Board and staff will continue to be sensitive to the needs of our visitors and the city of Newport. Our principal objective is to see that these properties and the collections will be here for the next 70 years for the public to enjoy.



Children admire their plantings at the Newport Flower Show



CEO & Executive Director's Report

By Trudy Coxe

From the Annual Meeting, June 11, 2015

Thank you, everyone, for being here to celebrate our 70th.

As you've heard, we have had a fantastic year and tonight we pay tribute with our Laurel Award to several people who were here during the first twenty-five years of our remarkable history: Mssrs. Kirby, Corcoran, Josephson and Nicholson and Mrs. Sheffield and Panaggio.

By reflecting on our first 25 years, you'll see that indeed history repeats itself. The challenges then are challenges today. And this provides inspiration and hope and the wherewithal to keep moving forward.

So...looking back to the 1940s:

- The war has ended;
- The torpedo station which during the war employed 15,000 now employs 800. Unemployment levels are out of sight;
- *Life* magazine labels Newport as "fading" and even predicts that "the doors of many of [the] villas would never be opened again";
- Only 50 of the 100 grand houses are occupied and the owners are struggling with taxes and upkeep;

• And the dialogue is about what direction Newport should go in to become a sustainable city: bring in a steel mill, become a manufacturing center. All sorts of ideas were being discussed.

Enter Katherine Warren.

Mrs. Warren understood the power of networking and helped foster a community dialogue about Newport's future by inviting Kenneth Chorley, the chair of Colonial Williamsburg, to Newport.

To a crowd of 650 people at Rogers High School, Chorley concluded that the best prospect for Newport's future was in cultural tourism. "Do the job superlatively well," he said. "You are building for the centuries." Good advice that endures today.

Over those first 25 years, the Board minutes show that many of the challenges then confront us today: Where will the money come from? How do we maintain good attendance at The Breakers, because that provides a good portion of the funds to keep us going, and how do we get more people to appreciate the value of preservation?

As Mrs. Warren said : "I sometimes question whether the city as a whole quite realizes the part that we have played, not alone in the cultural life of Newport, but ... in the economic life of the city as well."

Familiar lament?



Alyssa Lozupone has written the first ever biography of Katherine Warren

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Lots of things happened in the '40s but among the most prominent are:

• the care the founders took on how best to structure the Society to make it work;

• acquiring Hunter House for \$10,000 and developing a plan to restore it;

• excavating the Old Stone Tower to understand why the Tower was there;

• And, the huge turning point: opening The Breakers as a museum in 1948.

On June 17, 1948 the Preservation Society signed an agreement to lease The Breakers. We opened up the house to the public less than two weeks later. The Breakers had been closed for eight years, so getting ready to open was an enormous job. Holbart Smales, the assistant principal of Rogers High School, was hired to get the place up and running and he hired the guides, many of whom were teachers looking for some pin money.

By the end of the season (late October) 26,200 people had visited, 97 percent of whom came from outside of Newport. Katherine Warren later reminisced that she had been worried that no one would come! In fact, she said, "If I had ever

wavered for one minute, there would be no Preservation Society today." Since then, 22 million people have walked through the gates of The Breakers. Our success is due to the fact that she didn't waver.

The minutes reflect that opening The Breakers made "a few thousand dollars," generated a lot of press, and established that our founders, rather than being "long haired dreamers," were ready and willing to contribute to the economic health of the town. "It is on that final point," they said, "that our future program is built." So they had in mind playing a major economic role in the life of Newport.

The 1950s were as challenging as the '40s:

• With thanks to the van Beuren family and others, we published The Architectural History of Newport - still the best

book about Newport history ever written - and Ralph Carpenter's Arts & Crafts of Newport, RI.

• We spent inordinate amounts of time and money restoring the Whitehorse Tavern, a gift from our Archie van Beuren's grandfather, and finding a good manager, a good chef, and a liquor license. In fact, Katherine Wareen once quipped that "we couldn't make any dough without the license." Looking back later, she said:

"We are all aware of the years it took to obtain a license for the oldest tavern in the country – a license so that alcoholic beverages could be sold - in a tavern."

I sense a wry irony here, but one filled with determination. We later sold the Tavern - with conservation easements - and these continue

to this day.

Other initiatives included:

• stopping an oil refinery in Jamestown;

• buying houses headed for the auction block and then selling them - with easements - to preservationminded people;

• and working to create historic zoning.

Duncan Chapman, Eaddo Kiernan

The 1960s were years of tremendous expansion. We became landholders and museum operators, and the accomplishments included:

- creating a park with funds donated by John E. Rovensky;
- saving The Elms and Chateau-sur-Mer;
- and acquiring Marble House.

One role that we played in every decade was preservation advocacy, and I think that role has gone long unappreciated. Remember, there was no National Trust for Historic Preservation, no Newport Restoration Foundation or Operation Clapboard. Historic zoning laws had yet to be created. WE were trailblazers. We were IT. And we were IT early on.



In 1953, Katherine Warren invited renowned sculptor Felix de Weldon, then a member of the National Fine Arts Commission, to speak to the Preservation Society's Board about the value of historic district zoning ordinances.

Fast forward 11 years when - at a Board meeting in January, 1964, attorney Bill Corcoran said that "the City Council's open hearing for a Historic Zoning Ordinance was most disappointing." And he told the Trustees that, "with the exception of the Chamber of Commerce and very few other individuals, everyone who spoke at the hearing was strongly against the ordinance."

Well, the Preservation Society did not give up and more than a decade later, after 13 long years, the City Council approved a Historic District Ordinance.

If only I had time to tell you more about our early years: The Metropolitan Opera's performances at The Elms, and the time that Danny Kaye and Jacqueline Kennedy unveiled plans for what became the Kennedy Center.

As I near the end of my remarks, a comment on what makes us unique: the enduring legacy of many families with the Preservation Society.



Angela Moore, Garry & Angela Fischer

Elms Venetian murals and the rose garden at Rosecliff. Today, Ala demonstrates the same kind of vision and philanthropy.

You've heard plenty about the role of the van Beuren family, both the parents and grandparents of current trustee Archie. This year, it's been Archie who has led our strategic planning efforts – no mean feat.

As we stand here in The Breakers, it is most right and fitting to acknowledge current trustee Eugene Roberts, whose grandmother, Countess Széchényi, worked closely with Katherine Warren on opening The Breakers so that the Hunter House could be saved.

Don Ross, Billy Wood Prince, Alice and James Ross, Tim and Amy Berkowitz, their families and many others not mentioned have played

> a role, and it is this connectivity that makes us strong and that embeds in us a reason to keep the mission alive.

> The Preservation Society has reached a milestone. So many along the way have played an important role and all of you are included.

Small, large, glamorous, mundane, everything you do for us is important.

What can we learn from our founders? You see repeated again and again in our minutes astounding amounts of grit, stick-to-it-iveness and vision. Another equally important ingredient is FAITH. Faith in

the belief that keeping our houses relevant and accessible, lively and educational and well preserved is right.

Our efforts have real meaning, to us and to those to whom the baton will one day be passed, and I thank each of you. Our incredible Board has worked harder this year than any group I know. They have been led with courage, intelligence and determination by our chair, Don Ross. Our staff, if only there were words. Fantastic group, and, let me give a tip of the hat to our senior managers too. Our volunteers, invaluable members, supporters, and museum guests, all of you have done tremendous things to make this organization as strong as it can be. It may have taken 70 years, but we're on a roll.

Trustee Ala Isham's mother and grandmother co-chaired The Elms Committee and together sponsored the restoration of The

Angela Brown Fischer is the Vice Chair of our Board. Her mother, Anne, helped save The Elms. Her grandmother, Mrs. John Nicholas

As was the father of Bucky Sherman, who came onto the Board in

Mrs. Guy Cary chaired the Tiffany Ball in 1957. Tickets were only

the summer of 1946 (when the first annual meeting was held) and was

elected treasurer. Today, Bucky's wife, Jocelyn, serves on the Board.

\$25 and granddaughter-in-law, trustee Mary Van Pelt, has chaired

Brown, Sr., was on the first executive committee.

many balls, including this summer's.

Thank you.



Treasurer's Report

By Monty Burnham

Remarks delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 11, 2015

As you have just heard from Don Ross, in fiscal 2015 the Preservation Society experienced another very positive year financially. Percentage changes are smaller than they have been in recent years, but this actually reflects success.

Generating very large percentage improvements in financial performance is difficult as the overall numbers themselves grow larger. It becomes harder to produce large percentages when the number being divided is much smaller than the number doing the dividing. This is called the tyranny of the denominator, and I promise to stop the math lecture before I get in over my own head.

Even while coping with very severe weather, and other headwinds, gross revenues for the period ending March 31, 2015, including endowment draw, totaled \$20.247 million. This represents a modest, but very acceptable 2% improvement over the prior fiscal year. Increases were received in admissions revenue, driven by visitor attendance of 928,000 individual visits (or 2% more than the prior year), retail sales revenue, and, in particular, special events revenue. Special Events recovered from its fiscal 2014 decline by producing a quite spectacular 42% increase. Congratulations to all the wonderful people in Special Events, especially Phil Pelletier and Beverly Ware!

Operating expenses increased a quite moderate 1.6% over the prior year. Operating expenses are heavily dominated by payroll

and related costs. In calendar 2014 we had 218 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents) and issued 423 W-2's. Payroll costs include not only salaries and wages and the employer's share of Social Security and Medicare, but also that portion of various types of insurance provided by the Society (medical, dental, life, and long-term disability) which are not the responsibility of employees, and such legally required items as unemployment and workers compensation insurance. This past year, payroll and related costs amounted to just over 54% of overall operating expenses.

Non-payroll operating costs totaled \$8.6 million, very close to the prior year figure. Of this amount, \$1.76 million was spent on Properties and Grounds, an increase of 4% over the prior year.

We also spent \$725,500 on capital projects. Capital projects in fiscal 2015 included such a wide variety of expenditures that only two of them exceeded the \$100,000 mark for total spending. These were the ongoing renovation of the second floor of Rosecliff as an exhibition area and the conclusion of the removal of asbestos from the sub-basement at The Breakers. After meeting the cost of all operating expenses and capital projects from gross revenues, we were left with the necessary cushion to meet our annual principal payments on debt at year-end.

The reduction of debt on our balance sheet is a very distinct accomplishment. It is a measure of the responsible manner in which the finances of this organization are conducted. At the end of the 2015 fiscal year, our outstanding debt was \$1.3 million less than it was at the same time in 2014. Some of this is due to excellent cash management. Even more importantly, however, we have reduced our term loans over the past five years to a principal balance remaining of less than \$1.5 million. This is exclusive of revolving debt used to manage cash flow on a year-round basis.

On the revenue side, the most exciting news in this report is that the Annual Fund had its most successful year EVER. We are marking the first time that the Annual Fund has reached, indeed exceeded, the \$1 million mark. This represents a 28% increase in Annual Fund receipts, year over year. Sheer numbers of Annual Fund donors increased 17%, and now total more than 1,000 individuals. We owe enormous gratitude to the co-chairs of the Annual Fund, Alice Ross and Mary Van Pelt, for their amazingly productive efforts in raising this glorious sum of money.

There are other lovely statistics to note in the development area. Our Groupon offer brought in \$91,000 and 2,563 memberships from 40 states.

We now have members in every state, except Alaska, and in 11 other countries, for a total of more than 35,000 members (many of these are family memberships).

We also have nearly 1,200 loyalty members who have been on our rolls for ten years or more. These members in particular will be getting special attention in the coming year.

REVENUE **EXPENSES** 5.2% 32.6% 3 2% **Property Rental** Curatorial, Fundraisina 24.2% 41.2% Conservation, 9.5% Contributions Admissions Preservation P.S. Events & Restoration 10.4% Supporting Services 7.1% Endowment Draw 6.9% **Property Rental** 14.9% Newport Mansions 14.9% Stores **Newport Mansions** 24.2% P.S. Events Stores Education

To request a copy of the complete FY2014-2015 audited financial statements for The Preservation Society of Newport County, please contact James M. Burress, Director of Finance, at JBurress@NewportMansions.org

Our new Director of Development, Maureen Sheridan, arrived at the end of January, for the last two months of the fiscal year. Maureen has asked that we thank the Development Office team, and especially Julie Borden, for their diligence in seeking (and finding)

all kinds of opportunities for fundraising during the 2015 fiscal year.

Our other fundraising activities, such as the annual summer gala, the Christmas ball, the Flower Show, the Wine & Food Festival, and the golf outing, resulted in net revenues of \$676,600, a nearly 7% increase over the prior year.

As David Ford is reporting on the Capital Campaign shortly, I will only note that we have already met our original dollar goal and are now working toward securing additional gifts to ensure that all campaign priorities are fully funded. There are opportunities still available to



Monty Burnham receives thanks from Donald O. Ross for her dedicated service and time as treasurer

this particular Cinderella is still awaiting the much desired glass slipper!

And now for a very little bit of memory lane: Since this is my

last Annual Report as Treasurer, I looked back on the events of 2011 to 2015. Thanks to the efforts of everyone associated with The Preservation Society of Newport County, I can proudly report the following: Over the past five years, total revenue and support has increased 17%. The net surplus this year exceeds the net surplus in 2011 by 38%.

Retail sales increased 64.5% over the same period. Those other fundraising events which are often referred to as PSNC activities gained a 34% increase over the five year period, and Special Events showed a 12.4% increase.

These statistics are the result of the

participate in this landmark campaign, particularly with respect to challenge grants relating to The Elms Scholars Center. And there is the endowment fund.

The biggest gap in meeting campaign priorities is, as is so often the case, in the need for additional endowment funds. Sadly, endowment is very often the step-child of capital campaigns, which means

hard work and generosity which supports the maintenance and renewal of our Properties and Grounds, the underwriting of our Academic Programs and the Curatorial and Conservation projects which we undertake, and not least, the heavily discounted tickets and free visits to the mansions by school children and local residents. These efforts are what make us proud to be part of this extraordinary example of historic preservation.

mahiam







David E. P. Lindh July 30, 1932 - April 24, 2015

We shall all miss his wonderful sense of humor, the warmth that he shared with friends, his dedication to the Preservation Society, especially all things Coaching, and his sage advice.

aurel Awards

Presented in recognition of outstanding service, artisanship or leadership



Martha Ginty & Alice Ross

Martha Ginty

In recognition of countless hours of volunteer service to the Newport Flower Show and the Preservation Society's gardens



Peter Damon, William Corcoran, Jerry Kirby, Joseph Nicholson, Gay Sheffield

William Corcoran, Michael Josephson, Jerry Kirby, Joseph Nicholson, Monique Panaggio and Gay Sheffield

In recognition of many years of service which contributed to the early success of the Preservation Society



John Grosvenor

In recognition of numerous contributions to the preservation of Newport and Rhode Island's architectural heritage

William Wood Prince & John Grosvenor



Thousands attended a free driving demonstration at The Elms during Coaching Weekend





David Diefenbach, Elizabeth & Earl McMillen



Installing a restored section of The Elms fence



Alice Ross, David Ford



Restoration of The Elms Carriage House





Newport Symposium lecture at Touro Synagogue

Donors April 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

The Preservation Society of Newport County thanks its many members and friends for your ongoing support. It is your generosity that makes it possible for us to protect, preserve and present Newport's legacy buildings and landscapes.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

\$100,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard Berwind Fund Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham The Coaching Club Mr. and Mrs. Glenn M. Darden Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Edgerley Jonathan and Carol Epstein Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Evans, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Evans, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Isham Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Moore Newport Flower Show Committee Mr. and Mrs. John G. Picerne Mr. and Mrs. John G. Picerne

\$50,000-\$99,999

Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Berkowitz III Mr. James D. Berwind Estate of Helen D. Buchanan Mr. Dayton T. Carr William P. and Jacalyn C. Egan / Duniry Foundation Estate of Kevin Flanagan Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Gewirz Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Gewirz Mr. and Mrs. William M. Kahane Mr. Peter E. Madden and Ms. Maiggi Purru James and Alice Ross Mrs. Susan S. Stautberg Mr. and Mrs. Archbold D. van Beuren Mr. and Mrs. Guy F. C. Van Pelt Mrs. Alfred S. Wilsey

\$25,000-\$49,999

Mrs Thomas W Blake Steven J. and Marilyn E. Casper The Duncan A. Chapman Family Mr. and Mrs. James O. Coleman Ms. Trudy Coxe and Mr. James P. Gaffney Mr. and Mrs. George David Ms. Jane M. Garnett and Mr. David G. Booth Rosemary and Torrence Harder Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jones The Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace Family Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Edmond de La Haye Jousselin Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest Mr.* and Mrs. David E.P. Lindh Mr and Mrs Louis G Piancone Ms. Octavia P. Randolph and Mr. Jonathan D. Gilman Ms. Merrill W. Sherman

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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

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.

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)

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Children are captivated by the trains during Christmas at The Breakers





The International Council enjoys an intimate dinner at Green Animals



Clowning around at the annual Green Animals Children's Party

Claudio & Debra Del Vecchio



Spring time planting at Chateau-sur-Mer



Laurence & Judy Cutler



The Queen Mary 2 brings thousands of visitors to Newport and the mansions



Miss Wetmore's Teahouse



Creating a spectacular floral arrangement outside Rosecliff



A winter to remember





NBC's Willard Scott broadcasting from the lawn of The Breakers



Caroline Picerne, John Picerne



Repairing the details of the Kingscote roof



Historic costume exhibit at Rosecliff



The Breakers Loggia and Terrace was the spectacular setting for the Coaching Dinner Dance

Jocelyn Sherman, Karen Barbera





5 Annual | The Preservation So 7 Report | of Newport County THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Newport Southern Sisters: THREE CENTURIES OF ART AND DESIGN

EXHIBITION AT **ROSECLIFF**

THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2016

Explore the centuries-old bond between Newport and the American South. From never-before seen ballgowns to portraits, silver and furniture, this exhibition sheds new light on Newport as a vibrant cultural crossroad for over 300 years. Visit www.NewportMansions.org for a complete schedule



