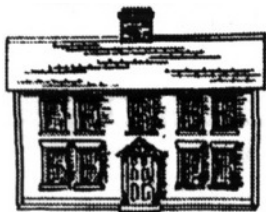


# THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXIII No. 5

April 2011

## President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone,

If you helped yourself to the box of seeds from the URI Master Gardener Program at the Pot Luck

supper last month, are you thinking that Spring can't be far off? (Jeff Faria will have more seeds for us at this April meeting also.) A tasty supper was enjoyed by all. Our great thanks to all the fine cooks in this group and to Peter Allen, Pat Henry, Kris Rose and others who did set-up/clean-up. Many of us would like that recipe for tapioca pudding.

And thanks go to the "in house" group of panel members who took us through the evolution of the proposed Phillipsdale Historic Mill Village District. Dave Kelleher talked about the birth of the concept of a Roger Williams Avenue Historic District in the Historic Properties Commission culminating in the present Historic District Commission decision to concentrate on the high quality and variety of buildings built by companies near Phillipsdale Landing. His

original slides from 2003 complimented Edna Anness's pictorial tour of the amazing variety of mill housing to be found in the proposed District. With Dot Thornley's photos and Reinhard Wohlgemuth's wizardry at power point presentation, we had a very classy, informative walk around the neighborhood. And then, bringing the subject home for us all, Maggie Dooley described her family's years at 40 Ruth Avenue in mill housing which they bought from the American Electrical Works for \$10.00 in 1927. These three, plus member Stephen Greenleaf, an architect who has appeared before Historic District Commissions, answered questions from the group and we heard some great anecdotes from people who know the area well.

While researching the topic of "RI Mill Villages", I was astonished to learn that communities in Alabama, NH and N. Carolina all prefaced their mill village applications with, "our proposed district is in the style of a RI mill village," leading one to believe that we have something quite special here in

RI. Indeed, I found that 22 communities boast of 32 districts. East Providence itself has two, hopefully soon to be three. Please watch for news from City Hall about public discussions to be held at Grace Church (in the District).

We will of course alert you if we can, but our Gazette deadlines mean we sometimes miss posting in time. Please share knowledge about the proposed District with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to support it.

As for the fish ladder: it appears that the rebar is in place for the pouring of the ladder up through the foundation. Progress is being made! I hope to see you all at the April meeting. Please check inside for the details.



### The Gazette

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East Providence  
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#### OFFICERS

Nancy Moore *President*  
Kris Rose *1st Vice President*  
Edna Anness *2nd Vice President*  
Cheryl Faria *Recording Secretary*  
Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*  
Peter Allen *Treasurer*  
Kris Rose *Immediate Past President*

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bob Tewksbury *Buildings*  
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*  
Kris Rose *Markers*  
Mona Breault *Membership*  
Virginia Berwick –  
Karen Panzarella *Museum*  
Edna Anness *Acting Curator*  
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*  
Nancy Moore *Preservation*  
Maggie Dooley *Program*  
Maggie Dooley *Publicity*  
Florence Adams *Telephone*  
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Webmaster*

### The East Providence Historical Society

is dedicated to preserving the heritage  
and enjoying the history of our city.

**If you are not a member we invite  
you to join now.**

Annual dues are \$15 individual, \$25  
family or business, or a Life  
Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

**East Providence Historical Society**

and mail membership form to

**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,  
Rumford, RI 02916**

## Museum News

We now have for sale  
as a fundraiser original  
Rumford Bottles and  
also many original  
postcards of East  
Providence. Sale on  
the second Sunday of  
the month or/and the  
postcards at monthly meetings.



## Museum Donations

Thank you to the following  
donors of historic items to the  
museum:

David Sanderson of Maine –  
his Dad's collection of papers  
from his many years as a  
teacher at Riverside Junior  
High school. Also his air raid  
warden equipment from  
WWII.

Miriam Kenney –  
Rumford Fruit Cookbook and  
a Rumford Common Sense  
booklet plus a five pound  
can of Rumford BAKING  
POWDER with the powder  
still in the can.

Special thanks to President  
Nancy Moore for picking up the  
Sanderson Collection in Maine;  
more than eight cartons.

## Calendar Of Events

### APRIL

Monday, April 25  
Members' Meeting – *Public Invited*  
Newman Church, Rumford  
Experience the Cape Verdean  
Museum

### MAY

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*  
Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, May 8, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Hunt House Museum open  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, May 23, 7:15 p.m.  
Members' Meeting – *Public Invited*  
East Bay Manor  
1440 Wampanoag Trail  
Riverside, RI  
**The Lost Films Recovered!**  
*Historical films of Rumford  
Chemical.*  
*Don't miss this first showing!*



### Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

## One Year By-Law Amendment

At the March meeting, your president erred in being too quick to ask for a vote concerning the motion to set aside for one year the by-law determining the number of terms a president can serve. As presently set, these terms are for one year each and no president can serve more than two consecutive terms. This current president is at the end of her second term so would need to leave the office. However, with the situation at Hunt House and the need for continued meetings with City, State and Federal officials, the Board thought it wise to keep the same person at the helm until the fish ladder work is finished. The by-laws state that a motion concerning a change of a by-law must be made at one meeting, posted in the Gazette, and voted upon at the next meeting.

Therefore, at the members meeting, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Peter Allen made a motion that:

**The present by-law concerning the term limit for the office of president shall be set aside for one year only to allow the serving president to continue as the group's representative in all matters concerning the fish ladder work.**

Seconded by Robert Tewksbury.

NOTE: None of the other present officers would be required to continue their terms unless they wish to do so. At this point, nearly all of the Board has agreed to continue to serve. What a great bunch of people.

## Experience the Cape Verdean Museum



The history and culture of Cape Verde and Cape Verdean Americans is best presented by the Cape Verdean Museum located in East Providence, Rhode Island. Not long ago, the East Providence Historical Society and the Cape Verdean community collaborated

to create a traveling exhibit of the Cape Verdean experiences in America - New England - Rhode Island - East Providence. It was one of the Society's most successful exhibits.

Virginia Gonsalves, a member of the Cape Verdean Museum Board and the East Providence Historical Society, will explore the continuous migration of Cape Verdeans to America and their long, rich history and participation in our community through the Museum's traveling exhibit and collections.

Virginia will also bring highlights of programs and events as a new season begins at the Museum. For more information on the Museum, visit [www.capeverdeanmuseum.org](http://www.capeverdeanmuseum.org).

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

Jeff Faria, Master Gardener and EPHS member, will share secrets of composting and soil testing. Besides the digging going on for the fish ladder, Jeff and a group of gardening volunteers will be doing some of their own digging as they tend the gardens at the Hunt House. Jeff will give us an overview of planting plans and how our gardens are growing.

- Fertilize asparagus beds with a granular fertilizer or aged compost.
- Dig clumps of crocus, snow drops, daffodils and tulips while they are still green, after flowering to replant around the yard.
- Transplant trees and shrubs before they show signs of new growth. Plant trees at the flair of the roots, where it meets the trunk, not too deep for best chance of long life.
- Have your soil tested! I will be testing soil samples at the next member meeting. Bring a sample from your yard, garden or problem area. Collect a tablespoon each from a few spots in a particular area. Collect the sample from an inch or two below the surface. I will test and reveal your ph level, which will help you get better results! See you April 25th!



*John Hunt House*

East Providence Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916

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**Fish Ladder Progress**

Dot Thornley is keeping us up-to-date with her latest photos of the fish ladder progress. These photos were taken on April 8. You can clearly see the base of the ladder in the river bed and the rebar in place to continue the concrete ladder up through the old foundation.

