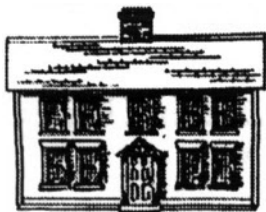


# THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXII No. 7

May 2010

## President's letter

Nancy Moore, President



Hello Everyone,

On Friday, April 30th, we postmarked a grant request to the Champlin Foundation asking

that they consider matching the \$25,000 we have remaining in the bequest we received last fall. Edna Anness, Margaret Dooley and I worked on this grant over the week and we hope it will interest Champlin with whom we have a twenty year history. (In 1989, they gave us \$91,000 to begin restoration of the Hunt House.) The Hunt House (now museum) has need of many of those things that any house needs after twenty years. Edna has a little wish list of her own. We will go ahead with exterior work as the Building Committee determines the priorities as to how our present monies can best be used. Come November, we hope that we will have some good news from Champlin.

Those who attended the April 26th members meeting where Park Ranger John McNiff was a "no show" will be relieved to hear that he is well but that his

father died unexpectedly that Monday morning. He left town without giving any thought to that day's appointments. He returned this week full of apology for standing us up and hoping that we will engage him for next fall. We will, of course.

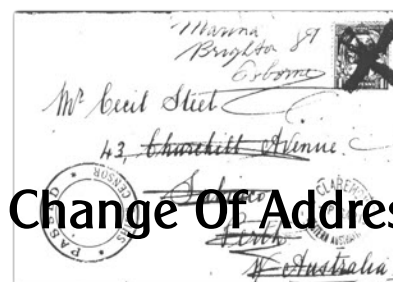
For those of us working on having a field trip meeting at the Star Diner, Newport Avenue, there is sad news that the diner is closed due to family health reasons with no mention of a reopening date. The community has embraced the recently opened, restored diner and we hope the closing will be short and the family restored to health also.

The photos in this issue (back page) show the Newman Church spire octagonal base which now resides in the Pump House at Hunts Mills. It is massive in design and did its job well for 200 years. Powder post beetles did it in, however, and a steel framing has taken its place. With treatment for infestation (already done) it will remain an amazing reminder of sturdy post and beam framing. We're very pleased that the issues

surrounding the tower use as a satellite space and the old framing were resolved through meetings with the East Providence Historical Society, the East Providence Historic District Commission, Newman Church and the cell company.

At our April 26th members meeting, some members expressed concern about the parking situation at East Bay Manor, Wampanoag Trail, site of our May 24th members meeting. This week, I met with Sue Spiro who makes all group arrangements. She assures me that there are about 10 spaces at the entrance of the main building and at least 12 spaces in an adjacent parking lot. I would strongly encourage you all to buddy up for the trip. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE MEET AT 7:15 THIS MONTH.**

See you at East Bay Manor.



## Change Of Address

If you have an address change, please notify the Membership Chairman, Mona Breault, 431-2945.

**The Gazette**

Is published monthly by the  
East Providence  
Historical Society

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Web Site: ephist.org

**OFFICERS**

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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*

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Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*  
Kris Rose *Markers*  
Mona Breault *Membership*  
Virginia Berwick *Museum*  
Edna Anness *Acting Curator*  
Florence Adams –  
Reinhard Wohlgenuth *Newsletter*  
Nancy Moore *Preservation*  
Nancy Moore *Program*  
Florence Adams *Publicity*  
Reinhard Wohlgenuth *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:

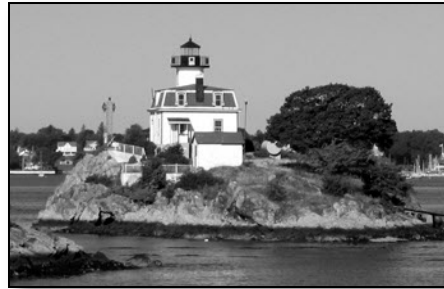
**East Providence Historical Society**

and mail membership form to

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

**Restoration of  
Pomham Rocks  
Lighthouse**

The program will show the gradual changes to the exterior of the lighthouse as the restoration took place beginning with pictures of the lighthouse in 1975 when it was owned and maintained by the United States Coast Guard. The slides will depict the step by step process of returning the building to its original 1871 beauty. The difference between the 1975 building and the 2006 edition will be dramatic thanks to all the maintenance and restoration done to the building over the years by the Coast Guard, Exxon/Mobile, the Allen Family and The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, a Chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. Presenter: Dave Kelleher, Society Member



Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

**Calendar Of Events**

**MAY**

Monday, May 24, 7:15 p.m.  
Members Meeting – *Public Invited*  
East Bay Manor,  
1440 Wampanoag Trail

Program:  
*Restoration  
of Pomham  
Rocks  
Lighthouse*  
Speaker:  
Dave  
Kelleher

**JUNE**

Wednesday, June 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting – *Members Welcome*  
Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, June 13, 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Hunt House Museum Open  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Monday, June 28, 6:00 p.m.  
Annual Meeting/Elections  
Picnic  
Hunts Mills Recreation area  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford



**Membership Form**

New

Renewal/Change

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

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

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

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

\$15 Individual

\$25 Family/Business

\$150 Life

## Candidates for Office

Any eligible member wishing to seek office for the June 2010-11 year should contact the society, 438-1750.

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in June.

## Museum News

Edna Anness, Curator

Margaret Dooley and Deborah Ormerod have begun their training in accessioning and learning the ropes at the museum. They were also joined on May 1st by Donna Sousa, the librarian at East Providence High School, who needed similar training for certification.

The 'Red Hat Ladies' from Cumberland will be touring the museum on Tuesday, May 18th.

We have also had inquiries about the Walker House, the Union School, the Old Red Bridge and "Robert the Hermit" who lived in a cave below Fort Hill between 1800 and 1820. By the way, we have in storage the sign from the Old Red Bridge. We also now have the interior support piece from the original steeple at Newman Church. It is very special. Post and beam constructed.

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener



Set your lawn mower on the highest setting to prevent crabgrass and other weeds from germinating. Most homeowners have their mower setting too low and cause grass stress. Taller grass will give you a greener thicker lawn without chemicals and deeper roots to weather droughts during the summer.

Create a perennial (plants living more than 2 years) bed to reduce the lawn area in your yard. Perennials offer more diversity, habitat and ease of yard maintenance. Choose lillies, Perovskia (Russian sage), coreopsis or echinacea (cone flowers), which make a great tea!

Weeding is the most important task this month. Pulling the weeds before they set their seeds will reduce the number of weeds in the future.

Cover planting beds with 2 - 3" of mulch to prevent weeds from germinating. This will also retain water and nutrients for the plant.

Stake perennials like delphinium and peonies before they grow too tall. Hoops, half circles and individual stakes work best. Plant most tender vegetable crops by month's end.

## Tip Of The Baker's Hat . . .

. . . to the following members who baked for the April members meeting:

- Andy Valerio
- Ruth Peirce
- Pat Henry
- Edna Anness
- Florence Adams.



## Gifts To The Museum

Ruth Peirce - Twenty assorted Rumford Chemical Works and Horsford (E.N. Horsford, Chemist) bottles suggesting that they be used as a fund raiser and sold at the Hunt House Museum.

## Recognition Department

- Karen Panzarella, for taking over the Museum Chairmanship while Ginny Berwick is recuperating. Ginny is doing well but still gets tired after her bout with pneumonia.
- Pat Henry and Miriam Kenny, who are helping Membership Chairman, Mona Breault, with her duties as she recuperates from hip surgery. Mona is home and doing well.
- Florence Adams, who kept the Gazette coming even without Mona's labels.
- 'The Angel', who left bags of paper goods at the Hunt House Museum for our use. MUCH APPRECIATED. Hopefully, we'll find out who you are by the next Gazette printing.



*John Hunt House*

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Providence, RI  
Permit #2712

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Newman Church  
Spire Octagonal  
Base**

The framing timbers are assembled in the parking lot of Newman Church after they were removed from the tower.

Thanks to Ray Frackelton all the timbers were marked and we were provided with a 'road map' and detailed instructions to re-assemble the parts when needed.

