



The East Providence Historical Society

# Gazette

January 2021

Special Edition

Volume XXXIII No. 4

Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the History of Our City

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



## March

Sunday, March 14  
1:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hunt House Museum  
open  
Hunts Mills Road,  
Rumford

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## President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Welcome to 2021! The next full issue of the Gazette will be coming out in March, but in the meantime, we wanted to reflect a bit on 2020.

January and February opened with a bang. We had just completed the first year of our three-year Strategic Plan and were invigorated with new initiatives, new committees and new committee members. We had a 2<sup>nd</sup> successful year with our Annual Fund campaign and had grown the Endowment to \$27,245 against our \$100,000 goal. In the Fall, 2019, under the leadership of Beverly Pettine, we piloted an educational program for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders called 'A Day in the Life of a Child in 1751' and we planned to roll it out in Spring, 2020. In 2019, under the leadership of Leslie Tente, we held the first annual Great Rumford Bake Off, had a 2<sup>nd</sup> one scheduled for June, 2020 and looked forward to it being an annual event. We had lined up our monthly member meeting programs, held our monthly open house on March 8 and had plans for new exhibits in the Museum.

On March 16, due to COVID-19, everything abruptly stopped. We canceled our monthly Open Houses, Member Meetings and Board Meetings, canceled the educational programs, canceled the June Picnic, rescheduled the Bake Off to September and then canceled that as well. It was a grim time, but we adjusted and there were some bright spots. Here are some of the highlights.

## John Hunt House Museum

For most of 2020, we moved our Open Houses outside. We had a table of information set out in front of the museum, gave out complimentary masks and





continued the monthly Hikes at Hunt's Mills, led by Ernie Germani. For a few months in the summer, when we were able to open on a limited basis, we wore masks, established a one-way flow in the Museum and limited the number of people inside at a time.

In December, the Open House was entirely outside and many people enjoyed walking the festively decorated trails.



Decorations were not limited to the museum but included the pump house and even the surrounding woods.



The Presidential Ornament tree by Ann Linde



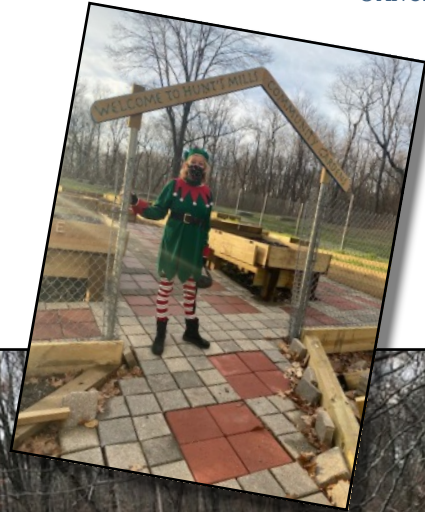
The beginning of the Teddy Bear Trail near the museum.

The 10 Mile River Group added their touch to the decorations: a Fishing Line Tree and the Giant's Chair. Thank you for your creativity. The chair was promptly taken over by a couple of elves (our own co-presidents Jeff and Cheryl Faria) taking some of the burden off Santa.



## Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

In June, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to establish East Providence's first Community Gardens. A group of dedicated volunteers met on Tuesday mornings throughout the Summer and Fall to transform the basement of the Education Center into a Garden Center, and to establish the raised bed gardens. The project was originally envisioned as 8 raised beds, directly behind the Museum. However the interest and enthusiasm for the project was so strong that we have since grown the gardens to 26 raised beds within a 50' x 50' fence, of which four are handicap accessible. We started accepting applications in October from family groups from the community who want to grow their own food and are now completely sold out!



What a beautiful transformation took place behind the Hunt House within a few months and a lot of volunteer labor

## Looff on Tour

The East Providence Arts Council held its annual celebration in August. Traditionally it is held at the Looff Carousel, but this year artists were at different locations throughout the City. Our grounds were one of the locations and we were proud to host a variety of artists including painters, novel and poetry writers, an accapella singing group and belly dancers!





## Touchless a Truck Day

The East Providence Chamber of Commerce held its annual Touch a Truck event in September. This year, instead of having all the trucks at one location, the trucks were located at different sites around the City and it was called 'Touchless a Truck' Day. We were honored to be invited to be one of the sites. Chamber members had exhibits and provided photo opportunities on the grounds and Nancy Moore had many children playing games with colonial toys.



## Len Iannacone

We featured paintings by Len Iannacone at our outdoor Open Houses. Len was an East Providence artist who loved to do realistic pen and ink drawings and paintings of local landscapes and buildings. One of his favorite subjects were the buildings and landscapes at Hunts Mills. We are grateful for the bequest that Len left to the East Providence Historical Society in his will. The \$5,000 has been used as a 1:1 match for those donating to the Endowment.

## Gazette and Website

While we had limited in-person contact, we made good use of our communication tools. Reinhard Wohlgemuth, our Gazette Newsletter Chair, along with Nancy Moore, did an amazing job of amassing the stories and photos of our work and creating newsletters that were both informative and attractive. And Miriam Kenney does the huge job of getting the Gazette out to our membership. Deb Ormerod, our Website Manager, did a great job maintaining and updating our social media sites and our website at ephist.org. She kept it full of photos and information while making it easy to navigate. Thank you Reinhard, Nancy, Deb and Miriam!!

## Annual Fund and Endowment

We had another successful Annual Fund campaign this Fall and are grateful to our many members who generously donated to the campaign. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue our work and have now raised the Endowment Fund to \$49,925 against our \$100,000 goal. Please see the list of donors listed in the Historian Circle page. Thank you everyone for your wonderful support!

# The Historian's Circle 2020

## Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

Nancy Allen  
 Cheryl and Jeff Faria  
 Laurie and Bill McWeeney  
 Dotty Thornley

## Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Nancy and Dan Moore  
 Navigant Credit Union  
 Woods Heating Service

## Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Carole DiFabio and William Litchman  
 Maggie Dooley  
 Darryl Hardern  
 Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins  
 Munroe Dairy  
 Washington Trust

## Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Roy and Claire Anderson  
 Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine  
 Twyler Boyce  
 K. Eric Crook  
 Romeo DaSilva  
 Sharon H. Dubois  
 Will Francis  
 Ronald Gomes  
 Virginia Neves Gonsalves  
 Paul and Pam Goulet  
 The Indoor Tennis Club  
 Dave and Eleanor Kelleher  
 Gordon and Wendy Hubbard  
 Miriam Kenney  
 Valerie Lawson  
 Ann Linde  
 Pat Paulson McGrail  
 John and Elaine Puhacz  
 Mike and Norma Reynolds  
 Jack and Kathy Richer  
 Ken and Barbara Rix  
 Ed Serowick  
 Rickard Smith, LLC  
 Marianne Walsh  
 Margaret Wieboldt

## Friends - \$25-\$99

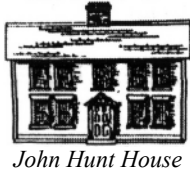
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 David Weed  
 Jean and Gary Zunda

### Thank You!!!

Thank you to those who donated to our 2019 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you helped the Historical Society meet our goals for the 2020 calendar year. Gifts given in 2020 will go towards our 2021 annual, strategic and endowment goals. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

*If there are any errors or omissions in this list, we apologize and ask you to please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette.*

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## Endowment Fund Progress

### EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. Once established, we plan to use the annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee. So far we have raised \$49,925 towards that goal.

