



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 2nd 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 3rd and 4th 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 2nd 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

Helen Archibald
 Delores C. August
 Sandra Barber
 Meredith A. Bowden
 Angel Cabral
 William J. Conley, Jr.
 Jane Dennison
 George Donovan
 Peter H. Gross
 Pat Henry
 Elizabeth H. Ingraham
 Nancy Isabel
 Michele Kazarian
 Julia Lundgren
 Ruth McCarthy
 Jenette Moravee
 Mark Saunders
 Rose Marie Sirenski
 Meredith Swan
 Anthony Valerio
 Tom and Missy Warzeka
 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.

