



Gazette

May 2021

Volume XXXIII No. 7

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

Presidents' Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

Well, life is certainly beginning to feel a bit more “normal”. How wonderful to have springtime coming into full bloom! And some of us are even beginning to brave some traveling!

May

Sunday, May 9
1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hunt House Museum
open
1:30 pm
Hikes at Hunts
Meet at the Gazebo
65 Hunts Mills Road,
Rumford, RI

John Hunt House Museum

We had our second Open House on Sunday, April 11. It was a bit cool, but we had a lot of people come for a tour of the museum and/or to take the Hike at Hunt's Mills.



The Rumford Junction Band, an all acoustic group made up of guitars, percussion, accordion and fiddle, added a nice touch with their performance in the Gazebo. We again had seeds and plant kits to give away and on the lawn in front of the museum, Nancy Moore showed children how to play some colonial games.



After some quick “training” by Nancy Moore children got right into the colonial way of having fun

CONTACT US AT:

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The Gazette

Is published by the
East Providence
Historical Society
eight times a year

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI
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**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 \$25 individual, \$35
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Membership for \$250.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

“2nd Sunday” Spring Open House: May 9

1:00 - 3:30 pm

HIKES at HUNTS : 1:30 pm at the Gazebo

Thank you all for your continued support of EPHS and the Hunt’s Mills Local Historic District. It is such fun to watch families exploring and learning. May Open House is our Mother’s Day event with flowers for moms and plants for all. Fish should still be moving through the ladder and Mr. Hike’s beard has reached new proportions. This is the last month for the popular school exhibit. June brings the Len Iannacone art retrospective. We continue to encourage families to decorate the trails - the locust tree “wee folk” spot is a charmer. We will also have Bruce Remick’s new book on Riverside available. Stop by!

Please visit ephist.org for further information.

**Welcome to Our
Newest Members!**

- Peter and Sandra Barilla
- Danny Bass

Come and enjoy the fun,
fellowship, and educational
opportunities the Historical
Society offers.

Don’t forget to check for
electronic news and
photos about EPHIST at
ephist.org and on Facebook.



Membership Form

New
 Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

Our next Open House will be on Sunday, May 9 from 1-3:30. We will once again have the Hike at Hunt's Mills, seeds and plant kits to give away and colonial games on the front lawn. In addition, we will have interactive colonial activities for children in the Children's Room, the Walker Room and the Keeping Room. This will be the last month of the special exhibit about area schools. Beginning in June, we will feature Len Iannacone's artwork.

Hunt's Mills Community Gardens Grand Opening!

On Saturday, April 11, we held the Grand Opening of the Hunt's Mills Community Gardens, the first community gardens in East Providence! It was a wonderfully warm day and 24 gardeners came to meet their raised garden beds, many for the first time. We had a brief speaking program in the circle of stones (Huntshenge!) behind the Museum which featured Cheryl Faria welcoming the group and Jeff Faria recognizing all the volunteers, people from the City and the sponsors who helped bring the gardens to life. Laura McNamara, Executive Director of the East Providence Area Chamber of Commerce congratulated the gardeners and Mayor Bob DaSilva welcomed and expressed how enthusiastic he is about the gardeners and the gardens. Thank you to David Weed who made an excellent video that really captured the essence of the day. It can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l96z52sJEOQ>



Some examples of Len Iannacone's art



What would an important day like this be without speeches!

But they didn't last forever and finally the ribbon was cut and the new 'land owners' were shown their gardening property. Unlike in medieval days, our count does not demand a percentage of the produce grown from his tenant farmers



Three Garden row leaders Angel Cabral, Ivan Colon and Kerrie Sullivan

Raymond R. Medeiros Seaman First Class, WWII, U. S. Navy

by Valerie Medeiros in August 2020

My father, Raymond Roland Medeiros, was born on June 14, 1925. He lived with his parents, Rose Florence and Joseph Raymond Medeiros on Narragansett Ave. in Riverside, RI. On August 5, 1942, Ray enlisted into the United States Navy by parental permission. He was 17 years old. He was assigned Seaman First Class.

Here is a list of his WWII assignments and awards, as recorded in his military records obtained from the National Archives:

- RI Naval Training Station (NTS) in Newport, RI
- Assigned - USS Miantonomah 1942-1943
- Assigned - USS Baltimore April 15, 1943 - Jan. 18, 1946
- April 21-24, 1944 Bombing of New Guinea
- April 29-30, 1944 Raid on Truk Atoll
- April 30, 1944 Bombardment of Satawan Island
- May 19-20, 1944 Bombing raid on Marcus Island
- May 23, 1944 Bombing raid on Wake Island
- June 11-14, 1944 Bombing of Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan
- June 15-16, 1944 Raids on Iwo Jima, Chichijima and Hahajima
- June 19-21, 1944 Fleet air action on Japanese West of Mariana Islands
- June 23-25, 1944 Raid on Iwo Jima
- Dec. 14-16, 1944 Luzon, Philippine Islands raid prior to US troops landing
- Jan. 3,4-6,7, 1945 Formosa and Luzon raids of Philippine Islands prior to US troops landing
- Jan. 9-12,15,16,23, 1945 Formosa, raids against enemy shipping and installations in the South China Sea, French Indo China, Cam Ranh Bay, Canton, Hainan, Hong Kong as cover for landing of US troops
- Jan. 20, 1945 Under enemy air attack in the Balintang Channel Luzon
- Jan. 22, 1945 Raid on Okinawa-Jima
- Feb. 16-17, 1945 Raid on Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan as cover for US troops landing in Iwo Jima
- Feb. 20- March 5, 1945 Carrier strikes on Iwo Jima to support US occupation
- March 18-31, 1945 Strikes on Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Kyushu Island and Kure Naval Base, Hiroshima prior to invasion
- April 1-28, 1945 Strikes on Okinawa shipping and enemy installations as support for US occupation
- May 13- June 10, 1945 Strikes against enemy shipping and installations at Okinawa, Kyushu Island and Okino-Daito-Shima
- Assigned - USS LSM 212 (Landing Ship Medium 212) in 1946



Ray before his deployment in 1942



Taken the year before Ray left for Vietnam

For his actions that helped end the Second World War, Seaman First Class Raymond Medeiros was awarded the US Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal (6 stars), Philippine Liberation Medal (1 star), and European-African Middle Eastern Theater Medal (1 star).

While on leave in California, in October of 1945, he met and married Rosanna De Agüero and sent her home to family in Rhode Island to wait for his discharge from the Navy. Raymond was honorably discharged on June 15, 1946. He returned to his childhood home in Riverside, RI and they raised nine children together: Melody Anne Minardi, Ramona (Pinky) Waters, Lavenia Martha Medeiros, Diana Rose LaCerde, John Joseph Medeiros, Roland Raymond Medeiros, Mary Margaret Means, Valerie Anne Medeiros, and Lillian Caroline Medeiros.

After WWII, Raymond obtained classification as an Able Bodied Seaman and worked as a Merchant Marine on various assignments in Asia over the years. He also worked on the Block Island Ferry, but decided he needed to be at sea again. As a civilian, Raymond worked on the USS Ruth Lykes supplying oil to the troops during the Vietnam War. On June 12, 1973, he unexpectedly passed away on board ship, at the age of 47 in Saigon, Vietnam two days before his 48th birthday.

His body was returned to the United States and buried on June 29, 1973 in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, in East Providence, R.I.



Raymond enjoyed the art of Sailor's Knots. He made this knot board (left photo) in 1968 for a friend in Texas. He used to make us bracelets and he made crosses (right photo) for my older sisters before he left for sea the last time.



Editors' Note: The format of Val Medeiros' submission to the Gazette is a bit unusual for us, but we were struck by the simplicity of listing the dates of action. This young man was in harm's way time after time and survived. The Society thanks all of you who have responded to Susan Cady's request with information, photos and stories.

The East Providence Military Service Honor Roll

East Providence Military Service Honor Roll Form

In Honor Of / In Memory Of: Circle one please.

- 1) Last Name/ Rank: _____
- 2) First Name/ Middle Name: _____
- 3) War/Conflict/Peacetime or Active Duty/ KIA/POW/MIA: _____
- 4) Service Branch / Dates of Service: _____
- 5) Awards/ Medals: _____
- 6) EP Graduate: Y / N / Don't know - Circle one please

The information on this form must be submitted by Sept 1, directly to Susan Cady at epvme@hotmail.com, or by mailing to:

EPHS - Honor Roll, PO Box 4774 - East Providence, RI 02916.

You can also drop it at any 2nd Sunday Open House from 1-3:30. Come visit!

There are two projects underway which honor our service men and women: one is the reinstatement of the commemorative signs on the EP Veterans Highway bridges and the other is a complete and ongoing honor roll to commemorate all veterans, easily accessed on the Historical Society's website. Susan Cady, member of EPHS, heads up both projects. Articles have appeared in the news about these projects and more will be written as the Nov. 6th celebration draws closer. We include an honor roll form in this issue as we traditionally honor our veterans in this month. If you have need of more information, please call/ write the Society (401-473-0677) or info@ephist.org.

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- If you are starting seeds at home, you can still start most seeds, like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and basil. Many other seeds that say to directly sew in the garden after danger of frost can be started indoors. There are a few hard and fast rules. Experiment!
- April is Earth month. Plant a tree, but plant it correctly!! Dig the hole as deep as the plant is in its container and at least three times as wide, especially if they're are competing established plants. Be sure it will have room to grow to its full potential. Mulch, but do not allow the mulch to touch the bark. No volcano or mound mulching! Keep newly transplanted trees watered, especially during drought.
- On Mother's Day, the Hunt House Museum will be open, and we will have flowers and plants for Moms and all! Come see us at the museum on Sunday May 9th from 1:00 to 3:30 pm!
- Wait to transplant tomatoes, eggplant and peppers until the soil temperature is 60°; usually by June 1.
- Watch for bright red lily leaf beetles on your lilies as they emerge. They are not ladybugs!!

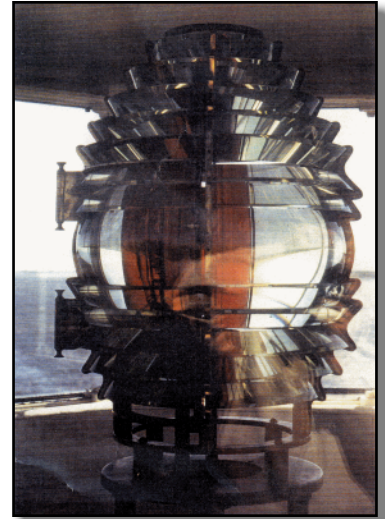


Catch them early in the day before the temperatures rise. Check the under sides of leaves for bright orange eggs in a row. Carefully scrape off and squish the eggs or put the whole leaf in soapy water.

Some Points of Interest..

By Nancy Moore

The Friends of Pomham Light have just learned that the #4 Fresnel (Fray-nel) lens which was original to the light in 1926 will be returned to the lighthouse. The Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, MA has announced plans to gift the lens as a 150th birthday present. The museum has cared for the lens for over 40 years since Pomham was decommissioned in 1971 and the intricate process of disassembly/reassembly will be done by a certified Coast Guard "lampist." Congratulations to the Friends for retrieving this crown jewel.



We have received the news that **Paul Bettencourt**, the man who started lifting herring over Omega Dam over 40 years ago, has passed. His death on April 10 coincides with the yearly return of the herring through the fish ladder at Omega that bears his name and the ladder at Hunt's Mills. How fitting, Paul! Full Obit at Tripp Funeral Home.

Metacomet Update: At the April 21 Council meeting, Marshall Co. presented yet another scenario for the property: a 49 acre, 9 hole public golf course to be run by Marshall, with the EP Golf team having access. 10 acres would be deeded to the city as buffer zones on Fort St and Lyon Ave. Marshall would develop 60 acres as a residential village setting but weave 2.2 miles of walking paths throughout the acreage. The City is still exploring taking the land by eminent domain and says it will see that process through even if ED is not used ultimately. Stay tuned!



Can one ever have too many ice cream shops?! We note that **Monroe Dairy**, a longtime supporter of EPHS events, has opened **The Sacred Cow** at its property on N Brow Street. Stop in and check them out.



The Historian's Circle

Thank you to those who donated to our Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2021 calendar year.

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

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

Ken and Barbara Rix
Ed Serowick
Rickard Smith, LLC
Marianne Walsh
Margaret Wieboldt

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Roy and Claire Anderson
Rod Annis
BayCoast Bank
Nancy and Dan Moore
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Nancy Stevens
Woods Heating Service

Friends - \$25-\$99

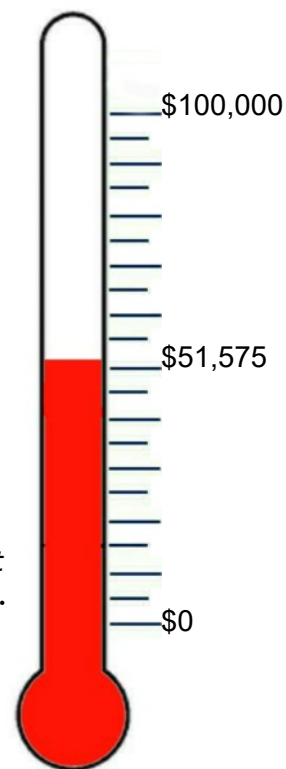
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Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

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John and Elaine Puhacz
Mike and Norma Reynolds
Jack and Kathy Richer



Thank You!!!

If there are any errors or omissions in this list, we ask you to please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of The Gazette. 401-419-8682 cherylafaria@verizon.net

EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$51,575 towards that goal.



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

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