



# The East Providence Historical Society

# Gazette

September 2022

Volume XXXV No. 1

## September

Sunday, September 11

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Hunt House Museum open

### Art Sale!

"Spaces and Places  
in RI"

The Work of  
Len Iannacone

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts  
Meet at the Gazebo

2:30 pm

Rumford Junction Band  
Playing at Gazebo

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Family Games

Sunday, September 18

8:30 - 9:30 am

Audubon Bird Walk

## October

Sunday, October 9

8:30 - 9:30 am

Audubon Bird Walk

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

### CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI  
02916-4774

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Email: [info@ephist.org](mailto:info@ephist.org)

Web Site: [ephist.org](http://ephist.org)

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

## President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

We've had a busy Summer and are now looking forward to the Fall. Here are some of the highlights.

### John Hunt House Museum

We continued our monthly Open Houses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. They continue to be well attended and many people came to visit the Museum, walk the property, look at the Fish Ladder, and work in the Community Gardens. On July 26, we installed a flag on the newly painted flag pole, the Rumford Junction Band playing in the Gazebo.

Our next Open House will be on Sunday, September 11. During the Open House we will have tours of the museum, guided by our knowledgeable docents and the library in the Education Center will be open for research and looking at East Providence High School yearbooks and historical area maps. We will also have the monthly 1:30pm 'Hikes at Hunt's Mills', led by Ernie Germani and Alex Kemp and children's colonial games on the lawn in front of the Museum.



Continued on page 3

**The Gazette**

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P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI  
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**OFFICERS**

- Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria  
*Co-Presidents*
- Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
- Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
- Dorothy Thornley/Meredith Walsh  
*Treasurer*
- Pat Henry/Sandi Barber  
*Corresponding Secretary*

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- Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
- Open *Education*
- Leslie Tente *Events*
- Cheryl Faria *Finance*
- Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
- Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
- Miriam Kenney/Carole DiFabio  
*Membership*
- Nancy Allen *Museum*
- Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
- Nancy Moore *Preservation*
- Nancy Moore *Programs*
- Nancy Moore *Publicity*
- Deborah Ormerod *Website Manager*

**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  
family or business, or a Life  
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**

# MEMBERSHIP

C  
O  
R  
N  
E  
R

## Welcome to Our New Member!



- Daniel Penzer

## Thank You to the following Members Who Upgraded to Become LIFE MEMBERS

- Sandra Barber
- Stephen Dickinson
- Peregrine Group LLC

## DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES?

Bills were sent out in early July to those members affected. Please use  
the form on this page OR go to our website (ephist.org) and use PayPal.  
Any questions may be directed to [miriamkenney@aol.com](mailto:miriamkenney@aol.com) or  
401-434-9462.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Miriam Kenney*, Membership Co-Chair

### 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

## Community Gardens

The raised bed community gardens are flourishing and we have 26 gardening families and groups growing their own food. 23 of the 26 garden groups from the 2021 season returned for another year of growing. Three new garden groups joined us from the 'Wait List' and we are once again completely sold out!



## Ken Rix Dedication

On Saturday, June 12, we dedicated a bench in the honor of Ken Rix. Ken was a wonderful volunteer who helped bring the Community Gardens to life. Mayor Bob DaSilva spoke and Ken's wife, Barbara, along with their family, was there to bring greetings to the crowd in attendance.



## Heritage Gardens

We will be meeting on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm for our monthly 'Wine & Weeding' gardening session. We garden from 4-6pm and then adjourn to the Gazebo for a potluck dinner. Anyone is welcome to join us!



# ONCE IN A LIFETIME ART SALE

## "Spaces and Places in RI"

### The Work of Len Iannacone and the Rhode Island He Loved

Once upon a time, there really was a little boy who grew up near Pierce Field in East Providence and whose mom took him to off to kindergarten in the fall of 1947. "Lenny," she said, "when the teacher calls Leonard Yannacone you have to answer "Here" and raise your hand." "But Mom, that's not my name. I'm Leonard Iannacone." (He stressed each syllable with the I sounding like an EE.) His mom replied, "When dad goes to work, he's Mr. Yannacone and when I go shopping I'm Mrs. Yannacone. That's just the way our name gets said here in America."

"There were lots of times I didn't raise my hand before I got used to being Len Yannacone," Lenny told me as we chatted over at Hunt's Mills in the early 1990's where volunteers were uncovering the history beneath the layers of linoleum, paneling, and paint in the Hunt House. Ginny Berwick and Edna Anness were two of his favorites. Len had traveled EP from top to bottom sketching and recording the places he loved. Then he branched out to the surrounding areas doing mostly pencil sketches. There are still some of those precious originals among this collection of his works for sale

Len grew up with art, music, basketball, golf and a little tennis. He had a flair, as they say, wearing raccoon coats in the winter, owning muscle cars, and framing his work in lavish colors. He tended to paint his oils as he saw them in his mind's eye. (Those tug boats are really red, not green, right?) After a stay in Las Vegas, Len returned home to his parents' house and bought himself a gallery on Warren Avenue. He spent the last years of his life among his "babies," the works he'd done as far back as the 70's. With a degree from RISD, his life's work was as an interior designer and draftsman, but

for pleasure, he drew the historic places that he knew from growing up here: Pomham Light, the Indoor Court, Hunt House, the Horton Homestead in Seekonk, Down City scenes in the RISD area and much more. Anyone who knows RI will recognize scenes in Bristol, Newport and Narragansett.

So how did the Historical Society come to own this wonderful collection? Just life and one of it's quirky turns, perhaps. When Len returned to EP, he met David O'Connell who serves on the EP Arts Council. They hit it off and Len asked David to be his executor. David agreed, and after Len's death in Jan of 2020, when we had somewhat come out of hiding from Covid, David appeared at a summer Open House to let us know that Len had left the group \$5,000. We were thrilled! David warned us that there were many things to divest/sell so it would be a while before the check was "in the mail." One September day, David called to say that he had a buyer for the Gallery but it would need to be cleared by the following Wednesday. Would the HS accept Len's entire body of works to be sold at our discretion/profit? If so, could we get it all out of the gallery by that next Wednesday? We checked with Joyce May at the Weaver and asked if the library would like to split the profits on a sale at the library the next March. She totally agreed to come in on that project IF the library could be open. We packed the Caravan and took the load off to a Board member's basement, telling her that she would be rid of everything come spring. You know the story from there!

So, over two years later, with things just getting back to normal for us, we have decided to use Hunt's Mills for the opening sale of Len's work and a final sale at the Weaver Library. We think he would be pleased. Whenever we have found a picture which needed to hang at it's original location, i.e. Pomham Light, the Indoor Tennis Court, the John Hunt House, we have donated those works in his memory. But we knew that the community should have a chance to own these pictures also. This is the perfect time to furnish an office/business with local art at reasonable prices. The Weaver Library and the Arts Council are still our partners in getting these works onto your walls. We've had lots of help and advice from Luke MacInnis at "Frames of Mind" in Seekonk and the catalog will give you a great idea of what's available. But you need to see these pictures in person at Hunt's or at the Weaver Library (there are more than 130 pieces in all.) Perhaps you'll get a hefty coupon or a special deal! There will be a retrospective of Len's life showing at both sales and we hope you will help celebrate his generosity of spirit and talent with the Historical Society, the Libraries, and the Arts Council.

# ART SALE!

## Spaces and Places in Rhode Island

The RI Collection of Len Iannacone  
Artist, Interior Designer  
Life-long EP Resident

Original Drawings  
Prints  
Oils



### Sale #1

Sunday, September 11, 1 - 4 PM  
Hunt's Mills, 65 Hunt's Mills Rd 02916

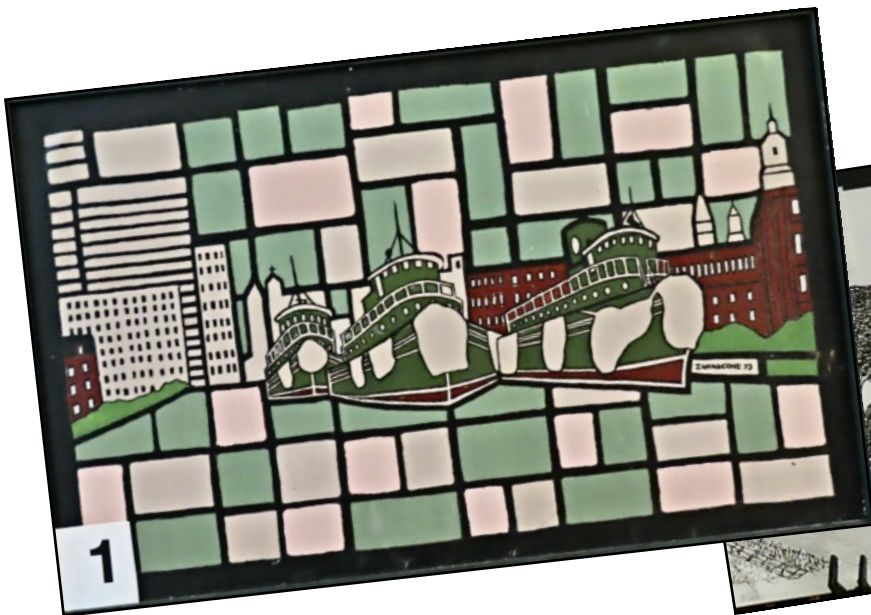


### Sale #2

Saturday, October 1, 12 - 4 PM  
Weaver Library, Grove Avenue 02914

### FLASH SPECIALS & COUPONS

View Catalogue of over 65 Pictures at [ephist.org](http://ephist.org) or use the QR code



**SALE**

# ART SALE!

To View the Catalog: Scan the **Qr Code** on the Flyer (See Previous Page)

or Visit [Ephist.org](http://Ephist.org)

**There Are No Prices in the Catalog:**

**Suggested Prices at the Sale**

**All Pictures Will Be Available at the September Sale**

## Preservation News since June

### A Call for Your Memories and Photos!

#### The Rexall Drugstore: Corner of Centre and N. Broadway

If you've driven north through the intersection of Centre Street/ N. Broadway you may have noticed newly painted windows and gaily colored clothing hanging in them. The Rexall has a new life! Jaclyn Trudel has opened a vintage shop in the space, taking full advantage of that full interior wall of stunning cabinetry. She's been looking for photos of the Rexall which anchored the corner from the 1920s.

If you have memories/photos to share, drop by to see her or contact us at [info@ephist.org](mailto:info@ephist.org).



No longer a drug store, but the beautiful woodwork has been well preserved to fit right in with the vintage items you will find at Jackie on Broadway.

Photo courtesy of Jaclyn Trudel

Preservation News continued...

### Squantum Association Tour

Two groups of HS members had the incredible pleasure of a guided tour of the Squantum grounds and buildings on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul Williams, a member of both groups, was a welcoming host and an excellent tour guide with loads of extra tidbits of information to share. Our great thanks to the



Association for hosting us in their very busy summer season- we all agreed it was a TEN!

### Pomham Lighthouse

August 7<sup>th</sup> was National Lighthouse Day! Our own Pomham Light is 150 this year. Happy Birthday! We hope she gained many Friends this year: [member@pomhamrockslighthouse.com](mailto:member@pomhamrockslighthouse.com)

### Looff Art Fest

It was a perfect day to be at Rose Larisa Park to advertise the Art Sale and we met some old friends of Lenny's who were amazed to learn that he had left such a large body of work. We could have sold the Providence River Tugboats painting 6 times over! People were enthusiastic about

having a chance to own one of the pictures and that bodes well for the Sept 11<sup>th</sup> sale.

Thanks to Dot Thornley, Becky Ellis, Deb Ormerod and Dan Moore for their support during the day.



Dan Moore Photo

### Friends of Newman Cemetery

Sandra Turgeon, our Board member who heads up the "Friends", reports that a donation of \$200 was received from the Salem Witch Museum for the prop sign used in filming the movie "Hocus Pocus" at Newman Cemetery this spring. The sign will be featured in their "Pop Culture" exhibit.



Becky Ellis Photo

Behind every good Alien is the EPHS Art Sale booth!

## Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- With the huge drought during July and August, many trees and perennials have suffered. Drought stress is serious. When allowed, water trees and perennials before late fall to help root growth and reduce winter burn.
- A water saving tip we have adopted this year, is to leave a 1/2 gallon jug handy by the kitchen sink. We collect the cool water that comes from the faucet as you wait for it to get hot. We use that jug to hand water heat stressed plants, somewhere on the deck or property.
- Harvest herbs early in the day and use them fresh or dry them. Many herbs, like parsley, freeze well for use later in the year!
- Excess tomatoes and peppers freeze well for homegrown freshness in winter dishes and recipes. Whether you grow them yourself or get them from a local farmers' market, now is the time to freeze them!
- Save seeds from flowers and vegetables in a dark, cool, dry space which is rodent proof!
- Once the water bans are lifted, be sure to monitor rainfall. We will need one to 2 inches per week into the fall to save trees and perennials. Observe the stress level of your plants and act accordingly. This has been an extreme season of hot weather with little rain.
- Reevaluate your lawn this fall and your reseed if watering is allowed!! Seeding a lawn is best done in early fall as most weeds will not compete with grass seed at this time. In the spring, weeds will win out and be a challenge for your grass seed.

## Bird Walk at Hunts Mill Park

Two Dates Offered

Join an Audubon naturalist for an early morning bird walk at the historic Hunts Mill property in East Providence. Located along the Ten Mile River, this lovely park has big trees, gardens and a nature trail. We will look for resident and migrating songbirds, as well as water birds in the river. Bring binoculars and wear sturdy walking shoes. Extra binoculars will be available. Advance registration required. Walks are weather dependent.



This is a collaborative effort between Audubon, the East Providence Historical Society and the Blackstone River Tourism Council.

**Hunts Mill Park, 65 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford, RI.  
September 18, October 9, 2022; 8:30 am-9:30 am;  
Fee: \$5/member, \$7/non-member. Ages: 12 and up.**

East Providence Historical Society members are \$5 as well.

## The Pleasant St Bridge May Be OUT but We Are IN





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

P.T. Barnum and Patricia A. Anthony	Barbara Rix
Cheryl and Jeff Faria	Dotty Thornley
Pat Paulson McGrail	James N. Viara
Laurie and Bill McWeeney	Lois Williams

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

Nancy Allen	Nancy and Dan Moore
Roy and Claire Anderson	Woods Heating Service
Jacqueline and Lee Ashcraft	

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

Richard R. Bushnell and Paula Perkins	Darryl Hardern
David Czerwonka	Elizabeth Ingraham
Carole DiFabio and William Litchman	Colin P. Kane
Margaret Dooley	Julie Lundgren
Virginia Neves Gonsalves	Pat Paulson McGrail
	Jack and Kathy Richer
	Washington Trust

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

Leroy and Karen Anderson	Michele Kazarian
Peter G. and Sandra M. Barilla	Dave and Eleanor Kelleher
Barbara Barnes and Beverly Pettine	Miriam Kenney
Patricia C. Birkes	Valarie J. Lawson
James Boyd	Ann Linde
K. Eric Crook and Joanne Perella-Crook	Tracy Moline
Romeo DaSilva	John and Elaine Puhacz
Bill Fazioli	Michael and Norma Reynolds
Wendy Edwards and Gerald Mischak	Ken and Barbara Rix
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	Charlene Underhill
	David Weed
	Margaret Wieboldt
	Kevin Zona

**Friends: \$25-\$99**

American Ring Company	Thomas J. Lavin III
Helen Archibald	Ruth McCarthy
Sandra Barber	K.A. McGovern
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council	DeDe Moubayed
James Robert Boyd, Jr.	Jayne Poland
Ivan and Malinda Colon	Alicia and Tom Ramian
Jane Dennison	Mark Saunders
Helen Dooley	Jack & Kathi Savage
Christine Ellis	Ed & Paula Serowik
Gil Fletcher	Bonney B. Sevellon
Pam and Paul Goulet	Barbara Simon
Pat Henry	Betty Stoner
Ngina Johnson	Meredith Swan
	Jean and Gary Zunda

**The Historian's Circle**

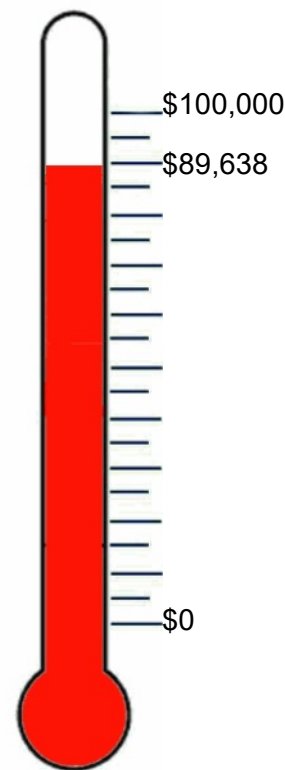
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2022 calendar year.

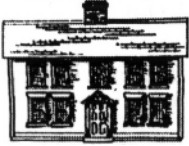
**Thank You!!**

*If there are any errors or omissions in this list, 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 East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$89,638 towards that goal.





John Hunt House

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

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