



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2022

Volume XXXV No. 2

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

October

Saturday, October 1

12:00 - 4:00 pm

Weaver Library
41 Grove Avenue
East Prov, RI 02914

Art Sale!

"Spaces and Places
in RI"

The Work of
Len Iannacone

Sunday, October 9

8:30 - 9:30 am

Audubon Bird Walk

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

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

Saturday, October 15

10:00 am and 1:00 pm

"Headstones and
History"

Weaver Library
Cemetery Tours

CONTACT US AT:

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Historical Society
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East Providence, RI
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Web Site: ephist.org

President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

We're now heading into our fall season and continue to have lots of wonderful things going on! Here are some of the highlights.

John Hunt House Museum

We continued our monthly Open Houses on the 2nd Sunday of the month. In September, many people came for the Len Iannacone Art Sale and also to have guided tours of the museum, take the monthly hike led by Ernie Germani, visit the research center in the Education Center, listen to the Rumford Junction Band and work in the Community Gardens.

Our next Open House will be on Sunday, October 9th. In addition to the many monthly activities listed above, Sandra Turgeon and Tom Warzeka will be using Ancestry.com in the Education Center to help our visitors with genealogical research.

Len Iannacone Art Sale

Len was a wonderful artist who loved to paint and do ink drawings of local scenery. Hunt's Mills was one of his favorite subjects. During our September 11 Open House we featured his artwork in galleries in the museum, the Education Center and under tents on the lawn of the museum. People were in awe of the work and many bought his artwork to call their own.

Len gave generous gifts of \$5,000 and then \$100,000 to the East Providence Historical Society. The \$100,000 gift is in an endowment at the RI Foundation where his legacy will live on indefinitely. In this first year, we are using the funds to install a new sign at the entrance to the Hunt's Mills Heritage Park. Thank you Len!!



The Gazette

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- Cheryl Faria *Finance*
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- Nancy Allen *Museum*
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- Nancy Moore *Programs*
- Nancy Moore *Publicity*
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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 or 401-434-9462.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Miriam Kenney

Membership Co-Chair



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



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 Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

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\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

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

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

Sale #2

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

View Catalogue of over 65
 Pictures at ephist.org or use
 the QR code



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Art Sale Update

"Spaces and Places" - the Works of Len Iannacone

It was a festive day at Hunt's on Sept. 11 for the 1st of two Len Iannacone art sales. There was great community support and press leading up to the sale and buyers had obviously shopped the catalog: the large oyster house oil and the colored drawing of the interior of St. Joseph's Church were immediately snapped up. Next went the series of local waterfront scenes with blue/brown tints. And the Providence tugboats went at silent auction for \$200 – thanks to a great friend of EP preservation. The Providence skyline drawings proved very popular also. We priced the collection with the help of Luke McInnis of "Frames of Mind" in Seekonk and the shop is a sponsor for both sales.

At this time, the catalog has been updated with items marked "sold." Many great original drawings/oils are still available, with some pieces not shown in the catalog. The rock bottom prices at the Weaver sale will reflect our wish to have the community own these works. We want to thank David O'Connell, the executor of

the Iannacone estate, for his generosity in donating Len's collection for the benefit of the Historical Society, the EP libraries and the Arts Council. We especially want to acknowledge the gift of \$100,000 which came from the estate to the EPHS as part of Len's gift to the National Park system.

**So mark your calendars for the blowout
 sale at Weaver Library on Sat. Oct 1,
 12-4pm**

Some wonderful bargains can be had –
 check out the sale and support these
 groups!

Presidents' Letter

From page 1

Legislative Grant

In June, we received a grant from the state of Rhode Island. Sponsored by State Representative Katharine Kazarian, the funds are being used for Community Gardening supplies.

RI Rebounds Grant

In July, 2022, we received a grant of \$7,200 from the RI Commerce Corporation. Called RI Rebounds, the grant funds are designed to provide relief from COVID-related expenses and lost income.

URI Garden Foundation Grant

Also in July, we received a grant of \$700 from the URI Garden Foundation for Garden Center supplies.

Bird Walk at Hunts Mill Park

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.
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.

Barrington Parkway Update

At a Sept. 13 DEM team meeting, Director Terry Gray declared that the Barrington Parkway nomination of 1991 should be re-introduced with the East Providence HDC making the request for a grant to refurbish the original nomination and update the photo portion. If the grant request is awarded, a preservation specialist will be hired to complete the work of getting the nomination to the RI review board by next Fall. As of a meeting on Sept. 14, the HDC agreed to take on this grant request.

Some Art Sale Glimpses . . .



Happiness is...

Owning a Len iannacone original!



Presentations Are Back!

We open our season of community meetings with noted Riverside historian and author, Jeffrey Howe. Jeff promises to reveal the answers to a genealogical mystery that took place in Riverside over 135 years ago. (More to come next issue!) He usually speaks on his home turf at the Riverside Library but with group numbers limited for both spaces, we asked Jeff to come up to Weaver. The first 60 people in the door will be the lucky listeners.

**Mark your calendars for Monday, November 7 at 6pm
(note the time)**



“Headstones and History”

Weaver Library Cemetery Tours Are Back!

Saturday, October 15 @ 10am and 1pm

East Providence is home to two of the oldest cemeteries in this area. Newman and Littleneck hold the graves of the earliest settlers and the stones have rich histories and treasured carvings. For the 2nd year, Michelle Perry of the Weaver Library staff is hosting 2 trips which leave from Weaver at 10am and 1pm. These vans travel to Newman for an “up close and personal” look at the early gravestones, on to Hunt House for the 305 year old story of the most famous of those stones and then on to Littleneck with its striking Bay setting. The trips filled quickly last year - go to the library site to save yourself a seat.

<https://www.eastprovidencelibrary.org/event/headstones-and-history-bus-tour/2022-10-15/>



“Finding Your Roots” At the EPHS Education Center

If you’ve been wanting to try your hand at looking up your family background on line but haven’t known how to start, Sandra Turgeon, our super sleuth, invites you to join her at the Ed Center during this October Open House. In Sandra’s words: “Attention amateur genealogists: free research help is now available in the Ed Center at Open Houses. We have access to *Ancestry*, *Family Search* and *Find a Grave*. Let us help you discover your family history.”

Which East Providence Neighborhood Do You Live in?

The new Hunt House exhibit for this Fall takes a look at the places we call home by names other than “East Providence,” like Phillipsdale, Kent Heights, Watchemoket, the Maze. The Jess Welt photo collection will be featured along with the Wohlgemuth RR station photo collection and the Albright aerial maps /1882 map collection. This exhibit will extend to the Education Center which houses our large collection of area historical maps. Come and check out your neighborhood!

Newman, UCC to Dedicate and Bless a Historical Marker To Acknowledge the Land of the Pokanoket Native American Tribe

Since 2015, the EPHS has been working with the Sowams Heritage Group to identify and spotlight 17th century places of importance in East Providence, both to the Pokanoket tribe and to the early colonists. Hunt's Mills with its fishing grounds, Newman Church/Cemetery and Roger Williams' Spring are three places that have been identified as having great significance in what was called "Sowams" by the Native Americans and then "Rehoboth" by Samuel Newman's group. Commemorative markers are being erected at those sites. Please join us, the Newman UCC community and the Native American communities whose ancestors first made their homes here to bless this site and dedicate this marker.

Editor's note by Nancy Moore



A Sowams Heritage Area SITE



SOWAMS MEANS "SOUTHERN AREA" AND WAS THE HOME OF THE POKANOKETS (LATER RENAMED WAMPANOAGS BY COLONIAL RULERS). IT WAS THEIR LEADER, MASSASOIT (GREAT LEADER) OSAMEQUIN WHO FIRST MET THE PILGRIMS IN 1621 AND ENSURED THEIR SURVIVAL.

SOWAMS HERITAGE AREA INCLUDES BARRINGTON, BRISTOL, EAST PROVIDENCE, PROVIDENCE, AND WARREN RI, AND REHOBOTH, SEEKONK AND SWANSEA IN MASSACHUSETTS. LEARN MORE ABOUT POKANOKET LANDMARK SITES AND HISTORY AT SOWAMSHERITAGEAREA.ORG.



Ring of the Green and settlement in the 17th Century

THE AREA OF TODAY'S CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE WAS INHABITED BY THE POKANOKET TRIBE, LATER KNOWN AS THE WAMPANOAG, FOR OVER 10,000 YEARS. IN 1621, THE MASSASOIT OSAMEQUIN entered into a mutual protection agreement with the English settlers in Plymouth. While court records show that the original Rehoboth area had been settled by English colonists as early as 1625, the Plymouth Bay Colony gave John Brown and Edward Winslow permission to purchase sixty-four square miles of land from Ousamequin that was given the name "Rehoboth".



Gathered in 1643

The current Newman Congregational Church is located in the center of the historic "Ring of the Green" on Newman Avenue.



A sketch of how the first meeting house might have looked.

The congregation of Newman Church, organized in 1643 by the Reverend Samuel Newman of Weymouth, Mass., moved into the area and built the first meeting house.

COLONIAL BURIAL GROUND A burial ground was located next to the meeting house, and stones in the cemetery date back to 1658. The oldest one, that of William Carpenter, is simply marked with his initials and the year of his death. A small number of other graves from the 17th century can be found in the cemetery.



A map showing the original properties that were laid out around the church in 1643 forming what became known as the "Ring of the Green" placed over today's streets.

NEWMAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC TODAY The original meeting house was burned in King Phillip's War of 1675-76, and two subsequent buildings were constructed. The present church was built c.1810 using wood from the previous building and then raised onto the current foundation in 1890. When redesigned in 1890, a portico was built over the front door of the church.





LEFT: Rev. Newman's grave is marked with an obelisk.



TOP RIGHT: The oldest gravestone in the cemetery, that of William Carpenter, is simply marked with his initials and the year of his death.



LOWER RIGHT: A number of other graves from the 17th century can be found in the cemetery as searched on the First-A-Grove website.

A TOWN COMMON was located around the meeting hall, with six- eight- and twelve-acre farm lots radiating out so that each could have access to water on either the Ten Mile River or the Seekonk River. Called the "RING OF THE GREEN", the common gave each lot owner access to an area where livestock could be guarded each night. The Ring of the Green of Rehoboth is now the site of the village of Rumford in the city of East Providence.



Reverend Newman's widely-acclaimed Concordance of the Bible, (an alphabetical index of the principal words) was first published in London in 1643.

special thanks to our sponsor




KAREN DIONNE ART DIRECTION + DESIGN / WARREN RI

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On Sunday, October 2, 2022 Newman Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has invited members of the Pokanoket Native American Tribe to join us for our 10 AM service followed immediately by the dedication and blessing of a new historical marker that has been installed at Newman. The marker was installed across Newman Avenue from the church meetinghouse, near the Newman cemetery. In addition to the members of the Pokanoket tribe, other special invited guests include members of the East Providence Historical Society, the East Providence Chamber of Commerce, and the marker sponsor Blount Seafood.

The historical marker "A Sowams Heritage Area Site" documents the Ring of the Green and 17th Century settlement and depicts the church's first meetinghouse at its center. By dedicating this historical marker, we acknowledge that Newman, UCC was the first permanent settlement within the Rehoboth land purchased from the Massasoit Ousamequin in 1643. The people of Newman church look at this special service as the beginning of a relationship with the Pokanoket tribe in which we acknowledge the truth of our history and help them to preserve their culture.

This special dedication and blessing of the historical marker is part of Newman's overall racial justice efforts. Recent actions by Newman on this front include the creation of a Racial Equity Team.

One of the ideas generated by this team was to develop and promote a Community Racial Equity Scholarship program that is open to the Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color (BIPOC) community. Newman's Racial Equity Team recently announced four individuals who were awarded scholarships totaling \$23,500. Newman, UCC and its Racial Equity Team hope that this scholarship program will continue to help level the education playing field for BIPOC individuals pursuing their dreams.

Newman UCC is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ and extends this invitation to one and all, living out the example of Jesus' extravagant welcome.

Newman Congregational Church, United Church of Christ 100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, 02916

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Fall is a great time to order and plant spring flowering bulbs. Daffodils and tulips are special favorites! Cover these bulbs at about 1 to 2 inches below the surface with chicken wire to prevent animals from digging them up!
- Dandelions have made a resurgence with the August rains. The leaves are very nutritious, having more vitamin A than spinach, and more vitamin C than tomatoes!! Add them to salads, use them on sandwiches and enjoy this delicious weed! The leaves are much less bitter before they flower, which they will not do at this time of year! They are sending out their leaves now, to nourish the root, to produce flowers for next year!
- My favorite weed, lambs quarter or goosefoot, is sending out its seeds at this time. It is time consuming, but you can harvest those seeds as a protein for use in many dishes!
- Continue to water and monitor the needs of your perennials and annuals until frost. Be sure to label and mark your tender bulbs. Dahlias, Gladiolas and Cana, should be dug after frost, and stored before the ground freezes.
- Now is a great time to search for hen of the woods and chicken of the woods mushrooms! They usually grow at the base of oak trees. They

will surprise you, both in their size and in their taste! Always verify your mushrooms from two sources, usually books, and always cook mushrooms for nutritional value. Raw mushrooms have the cell structure of crab shells, and only offer us fiber!



A heavy September storm temporarily disrupted work in the Community Gardens
Dot Thornley photo

Historian's Circle Giving Levels

- Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+
- Crescent Park: \$500+
- Vanity Fair Park: \$200+
- Boyden Heights Park: \$100+
- Friends: \$25+

Please apply my gift to:

- Annual Fund
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The East Providence Historical Society is a 501©(3) and all donations are fully tax deductible.

EP Historical Society Annual Fund

General Operating Support

Thank you to those who gave to our 2021 Annual Fund. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2022 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **On the right is a list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2023.**

- Operating expenses of the John Hunt House Museum.
- Maintain and host monthly Open Houses at the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center.
- Provide monthly educational programs for adults and children.

Endowment Goals

- Raise \$100,000
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.

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	Elizabeth H. Ingraham
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Friends: \$25-\$99

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Ngina Johnson	Jean and Gary Zunda

The Historian's Circle

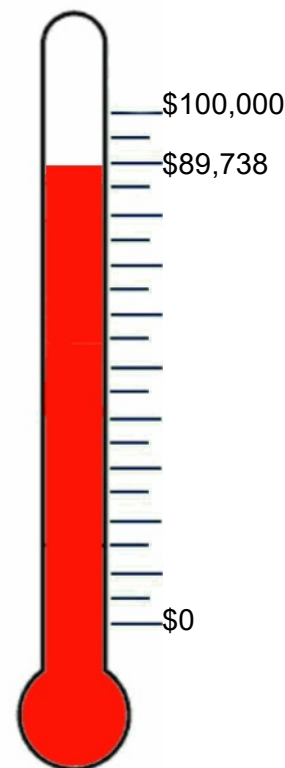
Thank you to those who donated to our Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you are helping the Historical Society meet our annual, strategic and endowment goals for the 2023 calendar year.

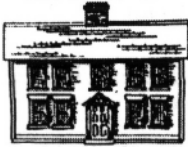
Thank You!!

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 \$89,738 towards that goal.





John Hunt House

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

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