

2009

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY



John Hunt House

# Gazette

Vol. XXI No. 5

March 2009

## President's Letter

*Kris Rose, President*

Dear members,

March certainly came in like a lion. Let's hope it leaves like a lamb!

Despite the weather, the board did meet in January and February to take care of business. It has been a rather quiet winter, but I am sure things will pick up as spring nears.

Things to keep in mind in the coming weeks:

Members meeting Monday, March 23, 6 p.m. at Newman Church. Program: Pot-Luck Supper followed by a Yankee Swap. Rules of the swap: You must bring a wrapped item to participate. The item can be a "white elephant", a re-gifted item or a new item that costs no more than \$10. Each participant will draw a number and we will start with #1. That person chooses an item and opens it. #2 either chooses a different wrapped item or #1's item as his/her own. If #1's item is chosen that person chooses again from the pile. This will continue till everyone has an item. And last, the #1 person gets to choose from everyone else's items. It will pay to be #1 that night!! I hope this makes sense to all of you. If not, we will go over it again!

Jeff Faria will demonstrate soil sampling in preparation for April's meeting.

April Members Meeting: Master Gardeners Jeff and Cheryl Faria will demonstrate seed starting, and conduct soil testing.

May Members Meeting: Presentation by society member Reinhardt Wohlgenuth on the convict ship that was docked in Providence Harbor many years ago.

Saturday, May 9, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Hunt House Museum will be open as part of a state wide "Step Inside History" program.

June Meeting: Annual Meeting and picnic on Hunts Mill grounds. Annual election.

With the election coming up, if anyone is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee please let me know.

We will be planning what will become an annual Hunt House Museum cleaning once the weather gets warmer. It will be done on a Saturday morning in April. If you would like to help or have children, grandchildren or know young people who want/need community service hours, contact me, Kris Rose, 434-5581.

One last but very important tidbit...March is the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Hunt House as a museum. Congratulations to Edna Anness, Museum Curator and Virginia Berwick, Museum Chairman, who do the bulk of the museum work. Thank you to all who have served as docents at the monthly openings and any other time help is needed. This organization is truly a volunteer effort and without all of you, the East Providence Historical Society would not be the success it is. Thank you and congratulations to all of us!

### **POT LUCK SUPPER/ YANKEE SWAP/MEMBERS MEETING**

**Monday, March 23 (4th Monday) 6 p.m.  
Newman Church, Rumford**

The Telephone Committee will call the membership requesting their presence and pot luck choice for the Supper/Swap/Meeting. Check the President's Letter for details regarding the SWAP.

A business meeting will follow.

*The Gazette*

Is published monthly by the

**EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY**  
 P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
 Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: ephist.org

**OFFICERS**

<b>Kris Rose</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>
<b>Edna Anness</b>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>
<b>Cheryl Faria</b>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
<b>Pat Henry</b>	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
<b>Peter Allen</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	<i>Immediate Past President</i>

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

<b>Bob Tewksbury</b>	<i>Buildings</i>
<b>Jeffrey Faria</b>	<i>Grounds</i>
<b>Kris Rose</b>	<i>Markers</i>
<b>Mona Breault</b>	<i>Membership</i>
<b>Virginia Berwick</b>	<i>Museum</i>
<b>Edna Anness</b>	<i>Acting Curator</i>
<b>Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams</b>	<i>Newsletter</i>
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	<i>Preservation</i>
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	<i>Program</i>
<b>Florence Adams</b>	<i>Publicity</i>
<b>Reinhard Wohlgemuth</b>	<i>Webmaster</i>

**East ● Providence ● Historical ● Society  
 Historical Marker Program**

Your home may be eligible for a **Marker**. Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a **Historical Marker**.

*Request information by sending your name, address and phone number to the*

**Marker Program**  
**East Providence Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 4774**  
**East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

**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 \$15 individual, \$25 family or business, or a Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

**East Providence Historical Society**  
 and mail with form below to:  
**Mona Breault, 23 Case Street,**  
**Rumford, RI 02916**



The Society's *Memorial Fund* was established in 1993, in memory of past members, for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose".

The *Memorial Fund* is a qualified endowment administered by the Executive Committee.

**Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society And mail to the Society at Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

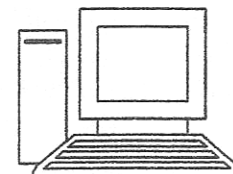
**Membership Form**     New     Renewal /Change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**  

\$15 Individual	\$25 Family/Business	\$150 Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Visit our website at*  
**ephist.org**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

Monday, March 23 (4th Monday) 6 p.m.  
*Pot Luck..Yankee Swap..Members Meeting*  
 Newman Church, Rumford

### APRIL

Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m. (Hmm!!)  
 Board Meeting *Members Welcome*  
 Hunt House Museum  
 Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Saturday Morning in April  
*Hunt House Museum Cleaning*  
 Date to be Announced

Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.  
 Members Meeting *Public Invited*  
 Program: *Seed Starting/Soil Testing*  
 Master Gardeners, Jeff and Cheryl Faria

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Gloria Cady - Rumford Home Management  
 cookbook

Kate Mercurio - 1930 Rumford Cookbook with very  
 rare book covering provided by the Old First  
 National Stores

*Thank you for your generosity*

**The Hunt House Museum, Hunts Mills  
 Road, Rumford, will be open on Sunday,  
 April 12, 1 to 4 p.m.**

**Admission \$3. \$1 East Providence  
 Residents. Free, Society Members.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** There are available right  
 now in the Hunt House Museum three DVDs  
 entitled: **Early Historic Homes of East  
 Providence:1679-1840.** They may be borrowed  
 by members of the historical society. For non  
 members, they may be borrowed for a  
 refundable deposit of \$4.00.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

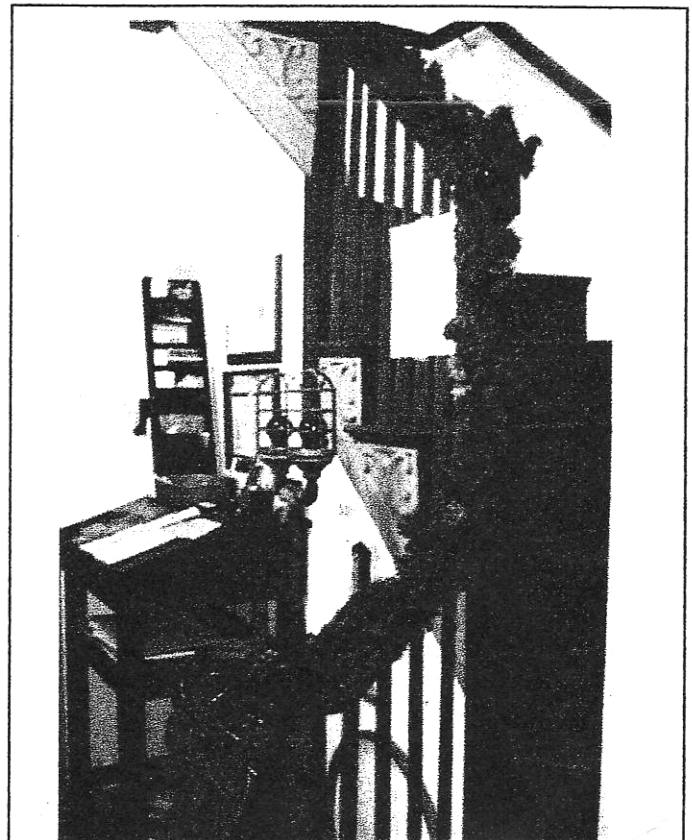
"A notice requesting qualified candidates to  
 come forth will be placed in the March issue of  
 the newsletter." Duties of Ad-Hoc Committees,  
 Bylaws.

The current president shall "serve no more than  
 two (2) consecutive terms." Duties of Officers,  
 Bylaws.

A member choosing to seek office should  
 contact the society, 438-1750. As we go to  
 press, a Nominating Committee has not been  
 selected.

Kris Rose, current president, has served two  
 consecutive terms and, therefore, cannot run  
 for president at this time.

**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE  
 ACCEPTED AT\* THE MAY MEETING ONLY.**  
 Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting,  
 June 22.



The stairway of the Hunt House at  
 Christmas

## ***TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM***

In March 1989, a museum committee was formed to establish a museum at the Hunt House and to create a Museum Collections Policy to govern how the museum would operate. The initial members were **Kris Rose, Rose Marie Sirenski, Nancy Stevens, Ellen O'Hare, Virginia Berwick and Edna Anness**. (If I have omitted anyone, call me) Over the years, **Bob Tewksbury, Jesse Albright, Arline Butterworth and Cheryl Faria** have joined the group. In an October 1989 meeting, after publishing each portion of the policy in our newsletter, the policy was approved by the membership. Our last student volunteer, **Anne Souza**, added up the total number of gifts to the museum. Over the years some **3,893 gifts** have been made to the museum. All the gifts have been numbered and catalogued with their history and donors recorded. A filing system has been set up to trace artifacts by their donor, their catalog number, their original geographic location in the city, a local person with whom the artifact can be identified, by nomenclature, schools and churches. Many have been photographed for insurance purposes. Our front door recently has acquired a new deadbolt lock and the alarm system has been updated to send a radio message to the alarm company in case someone cuts the phone lines.

**Many thanks to all the donors** who have made our collections so impressive. And thanks to the **committee** for the Collection Policy which works very well. They are always available when a possible problem comes up.

And of course we have to thank the **docents** who show up on Open House days to interpret the collections to the public. And thanks to the original band of restorers headed by **Walter Vincent** and then by **Earl Berwick** for making the house such a handsome backdrop for the collections.

And finally thanks to all the **East Providence High School students** who show up to help us when we need them. We can always use the hours that students at the high school need for their twenty hours of community service.

As the saying goes, "*We've come a long way!*"



### **GARDENING TIPS** **Jeff Faria, Master Gardener**

Inspect firewood that has been brought indoors and not burned. Insects wintering in the wood may emerge as adults if left at room temperature too long. They may fly to the nearest window as a few to as many as **HUNDREDS!**

Wood ashes should be used sparingly on your garden and lawn. Wood ash "sweetens" the acidic soil, but raising the ph level too high can have the opposite effect on plant nutrient uptake. Have us test your soil at a monthly meeting!! Come to March or April meeting to learn how!

Late winter/early spring is the general time to prune fruit trees and flowering ornamentals that flower after June. These plants set flowers on new or current years growth and include rose of sharon, climbing roses and peegee hydrangeas. Pruning will encourage fuller plants. Early spring bloomers such as forsythia, lilac, azaleas and rhododendrons set their buds last season and pruning now will ruin their show. Wait 'til after flowers die back.

The April members meeting will feature garden tips, composting and seed starting. Start your own annuals of flowers and vegetables compliments of URI. More details next month.



More Holiday pictures from the Hunt House





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East Providence, RI 02916

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An old-fashioned Hunt House Holiday scene.



3 PD OUT  
APP - ON  
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142 X5  
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272

142  
x35  
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