

# Narragansett Historical Society 2016 Annual Report



**June 5, 2017**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**The Towers**



## **In Memorium**

### **John Hickey**

John Hickey served the Narragansett Historical Society as one of our esteemed Consulting Historians for the past five years, helping to answer the many and varied questions that are posed to us. John passed away peacefully this past August. His long record of service to the town of Narragansett includes 36 years of elected and appointed positions, including six terms on the Narragansett Town Council and three terms as state representative, as well as serving on numerous civic panels and committees. In his professional life, he was a solar physicist, working in that field for 55 years, and he received the Charles Greeley Abbott award in 1994 for his significant contributions to the field of solar energy

### **Sandra J. Panzeri**

Sandy Panzeri brightened the day for anyone who encountered her with her bright smile and warm, welcoming ways. She passed away unexpectedly this past summer, and we are so saddened by her leaving us. She was a member of the Narragansett Historical Society, the Narragansett Historic District Commission, active in South County Museum and the Pier Residents Association Boards of Directors, as well as operating the 1900 House Bed and Breakfast upon her retirement from the Narragansett School Department as a guidance counselor. She was recognized by the Narragansett Chamber of Commerce's James M. Kelso award for her service provided to our community.

## **Statement of Purpose**

*The Narragansett Historical Society (NHS) was formed to collect and preserve historical information, artifacts and the like relating to the Town of Narragansett, and to memorialize the history of the town for the enrichment of current and future generations. In addition, the NHS seeks to create public awareness of the Town's history and to beautify the Town in a manner consistent with its historical traditions.*

## **Strategic Goals and Priorities**

- Find an appropriate permanent location in Narragansett
- Continue to develop outstanding programs and events
- Engage in historical research, collecting and archiving
- Continue to develop partnerships, affiliations and associations with like organizations
- Increase membership and funding sources

*Cover Image: From a 1909 promotional brochure kindly donated to us by a former Narragansett resident currently residing in Florida.*

## Consulting Historians

This group was formed in early 2012 with six Consulting Historians, and has been added to since its inception. Collectively, we have responded to over 500 inquiries. Increasing enthusiasm about Narragansett's history has resulted in a steady growth in inquiries. Some Consulting Historians have also given lectures on specific historical topics. The Narragansett Historical Society would like to thank the Consulting Historians for their time and effort. Consulting Historians include:

Cindy Clancy  
Jim Crothers, South County Museum  
Jimmy Duncan  
Wayne and Bernice Durfee  
Sallie Latimer  
Erica Luke, South County History Center  
(formerly the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society)  
John Miller  
Dr. Robert O'Neill  
Richard Parker  
Richard Vangermeersch  
Douglas M. Vogel



## Board of Directors

Shirley A. Eastham, President  
Kathleen M. Kelleher, Vice President  
Susan H. Bush, Secretary  
Donna B. Rodgers, Treasurer  
Harold Kemble  
Judy Landry  
Shannon McCarthy Leventhal  
Vilma Moclair  
Richard Vangermeersch

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### ***Thank you to our wonderful volunteers!***

*We heartfully thank our many volunteers for contributing their time and talents: serving as docents, assisting at our road race, researching, filing historical documents, moving furniture, and other various and sundry duties.*

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## **Accomplishments and Highlights**

In the five years since our re-incorporation, we have:

- Launched (and redesigned) the Society's web site, 2012
- Developed a Facebook page, 2012
- Developed an Instagram page, 2017
- Played an instrumental role in recovering Narragansett's "Boston Post Oldest Resident Gold Cane," 2013
- Played a major role in Narragansett's 125th anniversary celebration, 2013
- Established first home for the Society – office and collections/archives area, 2014
- Hosted eight historical properties tours:
  - "Central Street Stroll," 2012
  - "Inside the Garden Gates," 2013
  - "The Castle, The Dream, The Gardens," 2015, 2016
  - Great Gale of 1815 – 200th Anniversary bus tour to impacted coastal locations, 2015
  - Historic B&B to historic B&B walking tour – Earles Court & Gibson Avenue area, 2015
  - Tour of Camp Varnum, 2016
  - Ghost Hotels of Ocean Road – walking tour with 4 informational stops, 2016
- Provided volunteer support for Ocean Road 10-K Road Race, annually since 2013
- Advocated for preservation when appropriate
- Played an instrumental role in obtaining an 1895 Edmund Darch Lewis painting of the Point Judith County Club for the Club, 2015
- Started the fund to digitize the 350-page Joseph Peace Hazard ledger, now available to the public, 2015 (Much thanks to Professor Richard Vangersmeerch for his leadership and contributions)
- Nearly doubled membership, through 2016
- Increased the number of corporate sponsorships, through 2016
- Responded to over approximately 500 history-related inquiries

## **Ongoing Efforts**

- Actively working to develop collaborative ventures with other cultural, historical and community organizations
- Continuing a series of regular programs – tours, lecture series, and community activities and events
- Inventorying, digitizing and cataloging the Winifred J.W. Kissouth Collection of photographs and historical archives at the town library
- Inventorying, digitizing and cataloging the Society's own historic collections
- Developed, published, and made available electronically a research database of Narragansett history (1800's and 1900's). Currently expanding to expand timeframe to the present.

## Contributions and In-Kind Donations

Belmont Market  
Shirley Eastham  
David Gates  
Harold Kemble  
Middlebridge School  
John and Emily Miller

Dr. Robert O'Neill  
Pier Liquors  
Dorothy Sampaio  
Diane and Bob Smith  
Richard Vangermeersh  
Douglas M. Vogel

## Historic Properties Tours

Most of the buildings listed below are on the National Register of Historic Places. We are most grateful to the owners for allowing us to conduct tours and for their excellent stewardship of these priceless Narragansett gems. Also, we are thankful for the many volunteers who staff our tours, inform the public, and serve as docents.

**Angel's Wing**, Joyce G. Perschy and Dennis Lynch  
**Booth Round House** (Ganymede Cottage), Maeve and Jimmy Duncan  
**Druidsdream** (The Richards Bed & Breakfast), Steven and Nancy Richards  
**Gillian Lodge**, Ande and Peter Frost  
**Lasata**, Lelia Palmieri  
**Let's Pretend**, Sally and Andrew Manesis  
**Middlebridge School** (at Hazard's Castle), Head of School John Kaufman  
**St. Peter's-by the-Sea**, Father Craig Swan  
**St. Thomas More Church**, Father Marcel Taillon  
**Stone Lea**, Dr. Guy and Stephanie Lancellotti  
**Sunnymead**, Kristin and Brooke Connell

## Partnerships, Affiliations and Associations

Friends of Canonchet Farm  
Friends of the Historic Narragansett  
Tower and the Towers Committee  
Gray Matter Marketing  
Kinney Bungalow  
Maury Loontjens Memorial Library  
Middlebridge School  
Narragansett Chamber of Commerce  
Town of Narragansett  
Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust  
Peace Dale Library

Preserve Rhode Island  
Rhode Island College  
RI Historical Preservation and  
Heritage Commission  
Rhode Island Historical Society  
Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Church  
Saint Thomas More Church  
South County History Center  
(formerly the Pettaquamscutt  
Historical Society)  
South County Museum

## **Members and Donors**

### ***Major Supporters (\$5,000 and above)***

Town of Narragansett  
Gray Matter Marketing  
Middlebridge School at Hazard Castle

### ***Sponsors (\$1,000 to \$4,999)***

David Gates  
Joyce G. Perschy  
Jay and Billie Wilbur

### ***Corporate Sponsors, Grantors and Benefactors (\$500 - \$999)***

Davitt Design Build  
Lila Delman Real Estate International  
Moirra & Mark Hintsra (Midvale Foundation)  
Rhode Island Foundation (Joseph O'Neill Ott Fund)  
Women's Club of South County (General Federation of Women's Clubs)

### ***Patrons (\$250 - \$499)***

AAA (American Automobile Club)  
Paul & Jean Moran  
The Murray Family Charitable Trust  
Tom & Cathy Ryan

### ***Other Esteemed Members and Donors***

We very gratefully acknowledge the support of continuing members and the addition of 75 new members this year. Please see the following listing.

Judith Anderson  
Rev. Vijay Kiran Anthony RAJ  
Esta Avedesian  
Col. William & Judith Babcock  
Ralph Barlow  
Chris Barrett  
Belmont Market  
Peggy Benz  
Mary & Rino Bergonzi  
Eliza & Steve Beringhause  
Jeff & Cindy Berry  
Nancy & Bill Bivona  
Ellen Borden  
Kristine Bovy

Mary & Robert Burgess  
Susan T. Burke  
Barbara Bush  
Sue & Mike Bush  
Matthew & Judy Callaghan  
Don & Bonnie Cameron  
Sal & Catherine Celeberto  
Priscilla Chappell  
Gaia A. Charren  
Dr. Gail Chorney  
Cindy Clancy  
Susan & Robert Clendenen  
Grace Collies  
Diana Crane (Life)

Ann Crawford  
Inez Crowley  
Sandra Cutting  
Joanne Daly & Guy Millick  
Karen daSilva & Family  
Ed DeFalco  
Ruby Roy Dholakia  
Jerri DiCamillo  
Vincent DiCola & Maureen Rowe  
Frances M. Dolan  
Kelly Donovan & Debbie Karel  
Roberta Doran  
Wayne & Bernice Durfee  
Lee Dursin  
Shirley Eastham  
Ernest Esposito  
Paul Farley  
Holly & Russell Flagg  
Peg Fradette  
Gary & Ophelia Frazier  
Geoffrey Gaunt  
Judi Hay  
Barbara Hazard  
Tracy Heffron  
Hope Hickey  
Richard & Carole Higginbotham  
Thomas Hoagland & Family  
Lucy Hodgson  
Linda Hurst  
IBM Corporation  
Lise Iwon  
Dorothy Jacobs & Family  
Dr. William Jennings  
Capers & Eileen Jones  
Ray & Joyce Kagels  
Kathie Kelleher  
Laurie Kelly  
Harold Kemble & Mary Ellen Sacco  
Roberta Kester  
Tracy Kubricky  
David & Sara Laux  
Judy & Diane Landry

Sallie Latimer (Life)  
Camilla Lee  
Ann Lessman  
Dan & Shannon McCarthy  
Leventhal  
Dennis Lynch  
Joan Maloney  
Tom Maloney  
Sally & Andrew Manesis  
Ron Margolin & Lynn McKinney  
Bruce H. Martin  
Don & Lynn McCarron  
Linda & James McArthur  
Sandy McCaw  
Valerie McCormick  
Dr. Gene McKee  
Elizabeth & Dave McNab  
Walter Mecham  
Sandy & Eric Menke  
Emily & John Miller (Life)  
Grady & Tammy Miller  
John & Mary Miner  
Wilma Moclair  
Pamela Murphy  
Catherine Murray  
Rosalind Newton & Hans Krasinsky  
Audrey Nyblom  
Dr. Robert & Linda O'Neill  
Cindy Opaluch  
David & Linda Ousterhout  
Lelia Palmieri  
Bill Panzeri  
Richard S. Parker  
Louise R. Pearson  
Mary Ellen Phillips  
Carol & Ed Prest  
Susan Raesner  
Leigh Reposa  
Nancy & Steven Richards  
Joseph & Donna Rodgers  
Met and Tom Rogers  
Madelyn Rumowicz



Mae Beth Ryan  
Hilary Salk  
Donna Salter  
Dorothy Sampaio  
Mary Sands  
Harold & Janet Schofield  
Sandra Schussler  
Jeanne Serpa  
Johanna Shaghalian  
Nancy & Robert Shaw  
Gail & Bob Shields  
Carol & Ed Shunney  
Anne-Marie & John Silveira  
Dave & Rosemary Smith  
Bob & Diane Smith  
Anthony Steere & Diane Nobles  
James F. Stone  
Carol J. Stuart  
Arthur & Marie Strauss  
Sweenor Builders, Inc.  
Pati & Steven Sylvia  
John & Patty Thompson

Steve & Katey Tillinghast  
Jim Transue  
Marie Truppa  
Jeanne Tsakeres  
Steve & Dawna Lee Ursillo  
Susan & Carl Valenstein  
Susan & Larry Van Leaven  
Richard Vangermeersch  
Kate Vivian  
Douglas M. Vogel (Life) & Nina Zannieri  
Elizabeth & Larry Vranka  
Tim & Rita Webb  
Stan & Mary Wojciechowski  
Barbara Wright  
Nancy Sanderson Wright  
Michael York & Richard Switzler  
Marie Younkin-Waldman & Myron Waldman  
Natalie Zaman

*A note to our valued members and donors: When information is compiled, errors and omissions may occur. Please accept our apology for any unintended misrepresentations, and please assist us in correcting any mistakes. Thank you!*

### ***Upcoming Events by Narragansett Historical Society***

We look forward to bringing you many more interesting programs and events in 2017. Future events include the following:

- July/August – Lecture and tour of South Ferry area
- August or September – Ghost Hotels of Ocean Road – Presentation
- September – Ghost Hotels off Ocean Road – Walking tour (Gansett Days event)
- October – Ocean Road 10K – Volunteers needed!
- November – “The Life and Art of Florence Breevort Kane” – presentation by Mimi Sammis
- November – Salt Pond Preserve Update, with Friends of Canonchet Farm

**Narragansett Historical Society Financial Report**

**January 1 – December 31, 2016**

**ASSETS**

CASH

Checking \$20,213

Savings (Reserve) \$30,025

**TOTAL ASSETS \$50,238**

**SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**

**INCOME**

Grants \$6,154

Memberships \$8,375

Programs \$10,171

Donations \$105

Sales \$327

Interest \$7

**TOTAL INCOME \$25,139**

**EXPENSES**

Administration \$2,416

Programs \$3,830

Occupancy \$7,253

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$13,499**

# **Narragansett Historical Society**

## **Board of Directors**

### **Sue Bush, Secretary and Social Media**

Sue Bush fell in love with Narragansett while in graduate school at URI, and feels fortunate to have eventually settled in Narragansett, where she and her family have resided for 16 years. Sue has an interest in preserving the history and charm of Narragansett. She works as an environmental consultant, enjoys running and cycling, and also serves on the Board of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust.

### **Shirley A. Eastham, President and Special Events**

Shirley had a 25-year career with IBM in Boston, most of which were in administrative management. She served as Past President of the IBM Quarter Century Club. After taking an early retirement from IBM, she spent four years fund raising as a Loaned Executive to United Way. She relocated to Narragansett in 1986. Her primary interests are land conservation, historic preservation, town history, and town beautification. She loves living in Narragansett and particularly enjoys reading, writing, gardening, tennis, traveling, and socializing.

### **Kathleen M. Kelleher, Vice President**

Kathie is a native Rhode Islander. After living in Connecticut and Europe, she returned to RI in 2000. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology with a minor in Archaeology. Kathie studied the history and culture of Narragansett before joining Friends of Canonchet Farm, where she serves as a Board Member & Officer. Kathie served as President of the Narragansett Historical Society from 2012 until July, 2015.

### **Harold Kemble, Archivist**

Harold and his wife Mary Ellen moved to Narragansett in 1976, and were involved in earlier "version" of the NHS. Harold has had an extensive career as an archivist and manuscripts curator. He began his career at The Nebraska Historical Society and completed an internship at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He also worked at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, and the National Archives' Office of Presidential Libraries. After a brief hiatus Harold has also worked for the Rhode Island Historical Society, and he has volunteered for The Narragansett Town Clerk's Office, The South County Museum, and the Kingston Railroad Museum.

### **Judy Landry, Researcher, Special Events**

Judy is a Rhode Island native. She and her spouse have owned a home in Narragansett since 2000 and became year-round residents in 2012. Her profession is nurse anesthesia, and she was the assistant program director of a nurse anesthesia graduate program. She began actively pursuing her love of historical research after retiring in 2015. She is also a member of St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church and has done extensive research of the memorials and stained glass windows of the 1873 church.

### **Shannon McCarthy Leventhal, Special Events**

Shannon is the Director of Admissions and a founding staff member of Middlebridge School, a high school for students with learning differences, housed at historic Hazard Castle in Narragansett. Shannon holds a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies, and has a passion for local history, education and community engagement.

### **Vilma Moclair, Special Events**

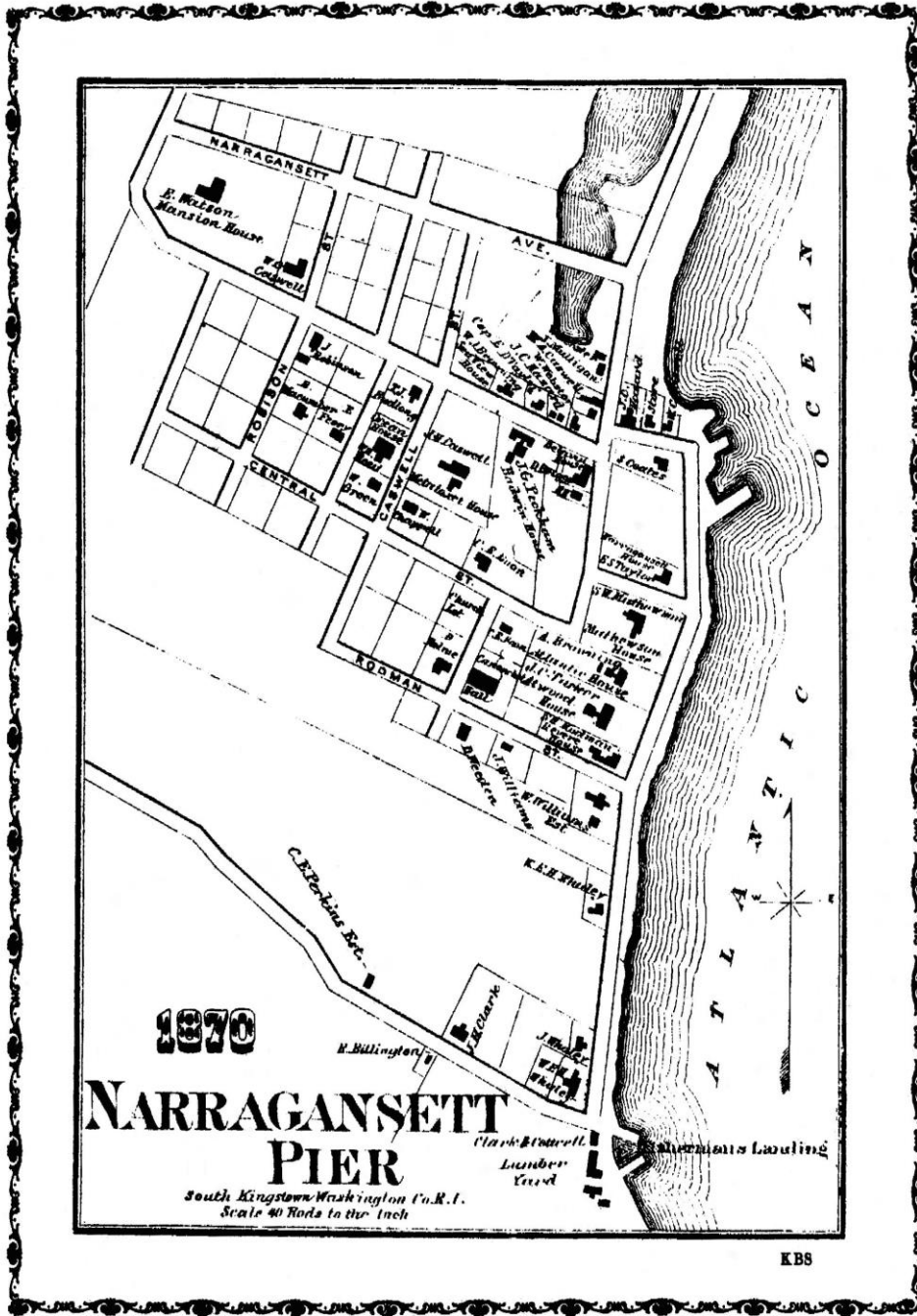
A native Rhode Islander who returned in 1982 after many years bringing up her large family in New York and Connecticut. She has long had a love of this area's history and beauty, and her 28 years as a professional full-time Realtor has given her an intimate knowledge of the area's structures. Vilma also has an interest in historic preservation and education.

### **Donna B. Rodgers, Treasurer and Special Events**

Donna is a native Rhode Islander, married to a native Rhode Islander and her three adult children also live in work here in Rhode Island. She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Rhode Island College and retired after nearly thirty years. Her nursing career was mainly in management and research. A lifelong armchair historian, she looks forward to contributing to the NHS and helping to preserve our history for generations to come.

### **Richard Vangermeersch, Historian and Special Events**

Professor Emeritus, URI, Accounting. Richard moved to Narragansett in 1971, is a recognized historian, author, playwright, and a librettist for an opera, all involving Narragansett history.



Narragansett Historical Society

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Find us on Instagram – [narragansetthistoricalsociety](https://www.instagram.com/narragansetthistoricalsociety)

