

Narragansett Historical Society 2017 Annual Report



g 973 Beach looking North, Narragansett Pier, R. I.

*I think this is different from the others
it shows the Merry-go-round Buildings Perry*



g, NARRAGANSETT PIER, R. I.

1514

*eday night. We have all been down there to
and had a fine time. A. E. B.*

**April 15, 2018, 2:00 p.m.
The Towers**

In Memorium

Hope Hickey

Hope passed suddenly from this life in August 2017, soon following her best friend and husband John, who died in 2016. Both were members of the Narragansett Historical Society and made many contributions. In addition, Hope was a proud resident of Narragansett and was involved in many community organizations through which she gave of herself to improve our town and the lives of local residents.

Kate Vivian

Kate died in October 2017 after a short illness. Her story abounds with music and special moments. For many people, most central to her legacy is her work at The Towers, where she served as Events Coordinator for two decades. “Kate IS The Towers,” said Towers Committee Chairman David Ousterhout. “She was the biggest spokesperson, biggest cheerleader for everything related to The Towers. Kate was the face of The Towers, and she did the job in a way that I don’t know if any of us could have done.” Her friend Johnny Rodriguez said she “was an amazing producer, promoter, marketer for the arts.” “Ten thousand kinds of awesome” is how Kate’s niece, Kate Pennell, remembers her. “She had an enormous personality, and I would say 98 percent of it was just sheer joy and generosity.” Kate was a member of the Narragansett Historical Society, and as the Events Coordinator of the most well-known historic building in Narragansett, she connected with us in very many ways.

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 to share with public
- Continue to develop partnerships, affiliations and associations with like organizations
- Increase membership and funding sources

Cover Images: Historic post cards from 1900 (top) and 1906 (bottom from the Winnie Kissouth Collection, courtesy of Maury Loontjens Memorial Library)

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 600 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:

Helen Farrell Allen
Cindy Clancy
Jim Crothers, South County Museum
Jimmy Duncan
Wayne and Bernice Durfee
Sallie Latimer
Erica Luke, South County History Center
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
Vilma Moclair
Richard Vangermeersch

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.

Accomplishments and Highlights

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

- Established and maintain a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and the Narragansett Historical Society website
- Responded to over 600 history-related inquiries with the assistance of our consulting historians
- Conducted a historic house and church tour, 2013
- 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
- Provided volunteer support for Ocean Road 10-K Road Race, annually since 2013
- Established first home for the Society – office and collections/archives area, 2014
- Played an instrumental role in obtaining an 1895 Edmund Darch Lewis painting of the Point Judith County Club for the Club, 2015
- Board Member Donna Rodgers researched and presented a program on Edmund Darch Lewis and his paintings, 2015
- Board member Judy Landry researched and presented "The Life and Art of Florence Breevort Kane" with sculpting demonstration by Mimi Sammis, 2017
- Lecture and display by Geoffrey Gaunt of "Old Maps and Old Things," 2017
- Worked with the South County Trolley County and Friends of the Historic Narragansett Towers to resume the historic trolley tours of Narragansett, 2017
- Providing research and images to historian Tim Cranston for "Then and Now" series in the South County Independent, 2017 and ongoing
- John Miller provides articles with personal insights about Narragansett history to South County Life magazine, 2017 and ongoing
- Received significant donation of Green Inn artifacts and memorabilia, 2018

Ongoing Efforts

- Continue to develop and conduct approximately a dozen programs annually – including tours, lectures and community activities and events
- Actively work to develop and strengthen collaborative relationships with other cultural, historical and community organizations
- Advocate for preservation when appropriate
- Collect, digitize and catalogue the Society's own historic collections
- Continue to update the research database of Narragansett history

Contributions and In-Kind Donations

Olivia Ayers
Belmont Market
Shirley Eastham
David Gates
Harold Kemble
John and Emily Miller
Vilma Moclair
Catherine Murray

Nancy and Steven Richards
Diane and Bob Smith
South County Trolley Company
Richard Vangermeersh
Douglas M. Vogel
Wakefield Consignments, Ltd.
Thomas Ward Family
Whale Rock Estates

Partnerships, Affiliations and Associations

Friends of Canonchet Farm	Peace Dale Library
Friends of the Historic Narragansett Tower and the Towers Committee	Preserve Rhode Island
Gray Matter Marketing	Rhode Island College
Kinney Bungalow	RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
Maury Loontjens Memorial Library	Rhode Island Historical Society
Middlebridge School	Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Church
Narragansett Chamber of Commerce	Saint Thomas More Church
Town of Narragansett	South County History Center
Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust	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)

Friends of the Historic Narragansett Towers
David Gates
Jay & Billie Wilbur

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

Davitt Design Build
Moira & Mark Hints (Midvale Corporation)

Patrons (\$250 - \$499)

Cabot Cheese	Murray Family Charitable Foundation
Coast Guard House	Lelia Palmieri
Paul & Jean Moran	

Other Esteemed Members and Donors

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

DeWayne Allen & Family	Steven & Eliza Beringhouse
Helen Farrell Allen	Jeff & Cindy Berry
Olivia Ayers	Mary & Robert Burgess
Ralph Barlow	Sue & Mike Bush
Judy & Bill Babcock	Matthew & Judy Callaghan
Chris Barrett	Paul & Margaret Cashion
Belmont Market	Cindy Clancy
Mary & Rino Bergonzi	Grace Collies

Kristen & Brooke Connell
Diana Crane
Ann Crawford
Inez Crowley
Joanne Daly & Guy Millick
Karen daSilva & Family
Ruby Roy Dholakia
Vincent DiCola & Maureen Rowe
Roberta Doran
Wayne & Bernice Durfee
Durkin Cottage Realty
Shirley Eastham
Holly & Russell Flagg
Geoffrey Gaunt
Barbara Hazard
Tracy Heffron
Rudolph Hempe
*Hope Hickey
Richard & Carole Higginbotham
Thomas Hoagland & Deborah Koberch
Lucy Hodgson
IBM Corporation
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Lise Iwon
Dr. William Jennings
Capers & Eileen Jones
Ray & Joyce Kagels
Kathie Kelleher
Harold Kemble & Mary Ellen Sacco
Roberta Kester
Rev. Vijay Kiran (Anthony RAJ)
Tracy Kubricky
David & Sara Laux
Judy & Diane Landry
Sallie Latimer
Camilla Lee
Ann Lessmann
Dan & Shannon McCarthy Leventhal
Bob Luke
Dennis Lynch
Jerry Lynch
Joan Maloney
Tom Maloney
Sally & Andrew Manesis
Ron Margolin & Lynn McKinney
Betty & John McAndrews
Linda & James McArthur
Jane & Gerald McCarthy

Sandy McCaw
Valerie McCormick
Dr. Gene McKee
Elizabeth & Dave McNab
Ray Mello
Sandy & Eric Menke
Emily & John Miller
Grady & Tammy Miller
Wilma Moclair
Pamela Murphy
Catherine Murray
Rosalind Newton & Hans Krasinsky
Dr. Robert & Linda O'Neill
Cindy Opaluch
Denise Orton
David & Linda Ousterhout
Bill Panzeri
Richard S. Parker
Pier Liquors
Carol Prest
Providence Art Club
Providence Picture Frame & Dryden
Gallery
Susan Raesner
Leigh Reposa
Nancy & Steven Richards
Joseph & Donna Rodgers
Margaret & Tom Rogers
Mimi Sammis
Dorothy Sampaio
Harold & Janet Schofield
Jeanne Serpa
Johanna Shaghalian
Nancy & Robert Shaw
Carol & Ed Shunney
Anne-Marie & John Silveira
Dave & Rosemary Smith
Bob & Diane Smith
Larry & Susan Smith
South County Trolley Co.
Anthony Steere & Diane Nobles
Carol J. Stuart
Pati & Steven Sylvia
John & Patty Thompson
Pauline Tudino
Steve & Dawna Lee Ursillo
Susan & Carl Valenstein
Susan & Larry Van Leaven
Prof. Richard Vangermeersch

*Kate Vivian
Douglas M. Vogel & Nina Zannieri
Elizabeth & Larry Vranka
Wakefield Consignments Ltd.
Thomas Ward & Family
Christine Webb
Whale Rock Estates
Stan & Mary Wojciechowski

Barbara Wright
Michael York & Richard Switzler
Richard & Joan Youngken
Marie Younkin-Waldman
Michael and Karen Zeigler

*Deceased

Narragansett Historical Society Financial Report

January 1 – December 31, 2017

ASSETS

Checking	\$29,880
Savings (Reserve)	\$30,040
TOTAL ASSETS	\$59,920

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Grants	\$5,050
Memberships	\$8,166
Programs	\$8,500
Donations	\$300
Sales	\$407
Interest	\$8
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,431

EXPENSES

Administration	\$2,265
Programs	\$2,324
Occupancy	\$7,923
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,512

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 17 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.

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 29 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.



Image of the New Casino ballroom courtesy of consulting historian John Miller

Narragansett Historical Society

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Find us on Instagram – narragansethistoricalsociety

