

Narragansett Historical Society 2014 Annual Report



**June 29, 2015
6:30 p.m., The Towers**

In Memorium

The 2014 Annual Report

of the Narragansett Historical Society is dedicated to the memory of the following individuals who contributed greatly to the Narragansett Historical Society:

Jim Lawrence – Charter member, original webmaster, Consulting Historian, and member of the Board of Directors of the Narragansett Historical Society.

Janice Causey – Member, artist, teacher, and exuberant spirit.

Jerry Palmieri – Member and historic homeowner who graciously allowed the use of his home for two NHS tours.

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

- 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
- Find an appropriate permanent location in Narragansett

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Consulting Historians

This group was formed in early 2012 with six Consulting Historians, and has been added to over the past three years. Collectively, we have responded to approximately 150 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
John Hickey
Sallie Latimer
Erica Luke, Pettaquamscutt Historical Society
John Miller
Richard Parker
Richard Vangermeersch
Douglas M. Vogel
Ted Wright



Board of Directors

Kathleen M. Kelleher, President
Raymond S. Kagels, Vice President
Shirley Eastham, Secretary and Events
Douglas M. Vogel, Treasurer and Collections
Sue Bush, Social Media
Harold Kemble, Archivist
Shannon McCarthy Leventhal
Vilma Moclair
Richard Vangermeersch, Historian
Elizabeth Vranka

Accomplishments and Highlights

- Reincorporated Society, building on work of original (1978 – 1993), 2012
- Launched (and redesigned) the Society’s web site, 2012
- Played instrumental role in recovering Narragansett’s “Boston Post Oldest Resident Gold Cane,” 2013
- Played major role in Narragansett’s 125th anniversary celebration, 2013
 - Two-day kick-off celebration at The Towers
 - 125th Stamp and First Day Cover with U.S. Postal Service
 - Point Judith Lighthouse stamp event with U.S. Postal Service
 - Opera “Governor Sprague and his Women” with URI
 - “Music of the Decades” at the Towers
- Established first home for the Society – office and collections/archives area, 2014
- Conducted Board strategic planning session to establish goals and priorities, 2014
- Hosted three historical properties tours
 - “Central Street Stroll,” 2012
 - “Inside the Garden Gates,” 2013
 - “The Castle, The Dream, The Gardens,” 2015
- Provided volunteer support for Ocean Road 10-K Road Race, 2013 and 2014
- Advocated for preservation of RI 110 Site and Kentara Green, 2013 and 2014

Ongoing Efforts

- Actively working to develop collaborative ventures with other cultural, historical and community organizations
- Continuing a series of regular programs – tours, monthly 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
- Building a research database of Narragansett history (1800’s and 1900’s)

Contributions and In-Kind Donations

Astro New England Trucking	John and Emily Miller
Chris Barrett	Joyce G. Perschy
Belmont Market	Diane and Bob Smith
Crazy Burger	Pati Sylvia
David Gates	Richard Vangermeersh
Gray Matter Marketing	Douglas M. Vogel
iCopy	Myron Waldman and Marie Younkin-
Eileen and Capers Jones	Waldman
Kim Jones	Weedweavers
Hans Krasinsky & Rosalind Newton	Charles "Ted" Wright, South County
Middlebridge School	Trolley Co.

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, Reverend Casey Shobe and Reverend Bill Lodge
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	Preserve Rhode Island
Gray Matter Marketing	Rhode Island College
Kinney Bungalow	RI Historical Preservation and
Maury Loontjens Memorial Library	Heritage Commission
Middlebridge School	Rhode Island Historical Society
Narragansett Chamber of Commerce	Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Church
Town of Narragansett	Saint Thomas More Church
Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust	South County Museum
Peace Dale Library	The Towers
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society	

Members and Donors

Mary and Rino Bergonzi
Bernard V. Buonanno, Jr.
Mary and Robert Burgess
Sue and Mike Bush
Don and Bonnie Cameron
Cindy Clancy
Grace Collies
Diana Crane (Life)
Ann Crawford
Karen DaSilva and Family
Lila Delman Real Estate
Roberta Doran
Wayne and Bernice Durfee
Peg Fradette
Shirley Eastham and Family
David Gates
Judi Hay
Tracy Heffron
Hope and John Hickey
Moirra and Mark Hints (Midvale
Foundation)
Linda Hurst
Dorothy Jacobs and Family
Dr. William Jennings
Capers and Eileen Jones
Ray and Joyce Kagels
Kathie Kelleher
Laurie Kelly
Harold Kemble and Mary Ellen Sacco
Judy and Diane Landry
Sallie Latimer (Life)
Dennis Lynch
Sally and Andrew Manesis
Priscilla Marchand
Ron Margolin and Lynn McKinney
Betty and John McAndrews
Linda McArthur and Family
Sandy McCaw
Valerie McCormick

Dr. Gene McKee
Elizabeth and Dave McNab
Walter Mecham
Emily and John Miller (Life)
Grady and Tammy Miller
Vilma Moclair
Catherine Murray
Terrence and Suzanne Murray
The Murray Family Charitable
Foundation
Audrey Nyblom
Dr. Robert and Linda O'Neill
Lelia Palmieri
Bill and Sandy Panzeri
Joyce G. Perschy
Tom and Meg Rogers
Hilary Salk
(Mimi) Anne Sammis
Sandra Schussler
Jeanne Serpa
Johanna Shaghalian
John and Christine Sheil
Gail and Bob Shields
Dave and Rosemary Smith
Bob and Diane Smith
Anthony Steere
Arthur and Marie Strauss
John and Patty Thompson
Jim Transue
Pauline Tudino
Professor Richard Vangermeersch
Kate Vivian
Douglas M. Vogel (Life) and Nina
Zannieri
Elizabeth and Larry Vranka
Jay and Billie Wilbur
Stan and Mary Wojciechowski
Michael York and Richard Switzler
Marie Younkin-Waldman

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!

Narragansett Historical Society Financial Report

January 1 – December 31, 2014

ASSETS

CASH

Checking	\$19,031.25
Savings	<u>\$10,002.74</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$29,033.99**

SUMMARY OF 2014 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Grants	\$5,000.00
Membership	\$6,190.00
Programs	\$3,125.00
Donations	\$2,518.77
Sales	\$355.50
Interest	<u>\$2.74</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$17,192.01**

EXPENSES

Administration	\$1,720.27
Program	\$2,135.91
Occupancy	<u>\$4,641.37</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$8,497.55**

Grants

We are grateful for the financial support provided by the following grants:

- Town of Narragansett, 2012/2013/2014 – \$5,000
- Joseph O’Neill Ott Fund at the RI Foundation, 2013 – \$210

Narragansett Historical Society Board of Directors

Sue Bush, Social Media/Special Events

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 14 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, Secretary/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. Locally, she ran two small businesses, including Eastham & Associates, a consulting group. She served as Event Coordinator at Kinney Bungalow from 2004 through 2009. She served as a Board Member of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust from 2010 through 2014. 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.

Raymond S. Kagels, Vice President

Brown University graduate, holds two professional designations in the insurance industry, in which he has a 40 plus years' career, working all over the U.S. and overseas. He has been involved in cleanup of state and federal Superfund sites and Resource Conservation & Recovery Act sites. He is a current Board Member and Officer of Friends of Canonchet Farm.

Kathleen Kelleher, 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.

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.

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.

Richard Vangermeersch, Historian/Special Events

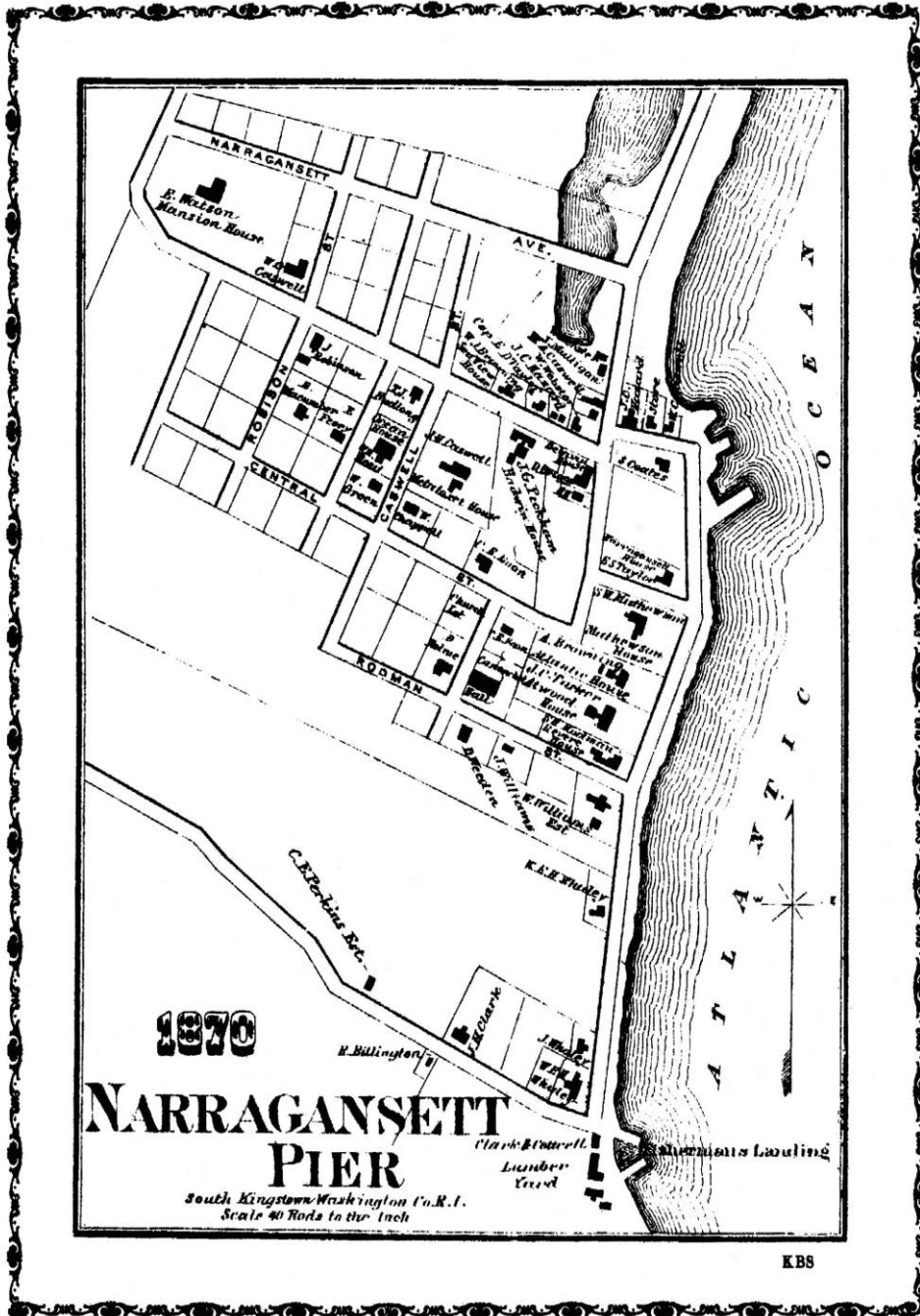
Professor Emeritus, URI, Accounting. Richard moved to Narragansett in 1971, is a recognized historian, author, playwright, and a librettist for an opera, all involving Narragansett history.

Douglas M. Vogel, Treasurer/Collections

One of the Charter Members of the 1978 Narragansett Historical Society; owner of Rhode Island Originals, which markets the art work and legacy of local artist Marjorie J. Vogel. Doug is an avid collector, local historian, and photographer.

Elizabeth Vranka, Special Events

A native Rhode Islander, Elizabeth has resided here for the last 15 years. Her home is in the Pier Historic District, and she and her husband have a keen interest in the preservation and beautification of historic Narragansett. She worked many years as a corporate lawyer in both Manhattan and Hong Kong.



KBS

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