

Narragansett Historical Society 2018 Annual Report



**April 28, 2018, 2:00 p.m.
The Towers**

In Memorium

Mary Burgess

Mary joined the Narragansett Historical Society early on and assisted us as a volunteer in several capacities. She was a teacher in the Narragansett School system, an avid reader and intrepid traveler. She valiantly fought her illness for a number of years with grace, humor and courage. She wore a variety of interesting hats to compensate for her loss of hair and always with great style and a wide smile.

Ray Kagels

Ray was on board with the Narragansett Historical Society from Day One in our formative time, and was the primary architect of our incorporation, by-laws, insurance needs, and 501c3 tax-exempt status. He was a board member from the beginning until illness made it impossible for him to continue to serve. His very articulate letters to the editor in local papers praising the beauty of Narragansett and the various accomplishments of the Narragansett Historical Society were a great source of pride to him and us. We gratefully received donations from many of his friends (at Ray's request) after his passing. They are acknowledged again in our listing of donors.

Bob Smith

Bob Smith – a fixture in these parts for many years. He was the proprietor of Fred W. Smith, Inc., for many years before retiring. Bob was a proud “swamp yankee,” antique auto enthusiastic, local historian, events producer, story-teller, and “Chowder Master” for many events. He was an avid antique auto collector and restorer, and he and his wife Diane produced antique auto shows for various local non-profit organizations. Bob also gave a talk for us about the history of the automobile and how its increasing popularity changed life forever in South County.

Diane Smith

When Bob, Diane's husband, could no longer stay at home, Diane moved into the nursing home with him to help with his care and ensure that he knew she was there. Their 67-year marriage was a true partnership. In addition to all of the events they ran, they also owned the Samuel E. Perry Grist Mill in Perryville and made frequent events of grinding the special white flint Rhode Island corn and sold Jonnycake meal. Both Bob and Diane were supportive members of our Society right from the beginning and contributed in many ways. Diane was also a major collector of historical items, many of which she donated to the Narragansett Historical Society. Diane followed Bob six months after Bob's passing.

Cover image: Historic post card from the Narragansett Historical Society's collection.

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

Thanks and Congratulations

We would like to thank Leigh Reposa who served on our Board for several months in 2018 and 2019 and volunteered with talent and gusto at several of our events over the years. Leigh recently married and moved out of state. We will miss Leigh and wish her all the best!

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:

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
Dr. Robert O'Neill, Vice President
Susan H. Bush, Secretary
Donna B. Rodgers, Treasurer
Harold Kemble
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, helping with events, and other various and sundry duties.

Accomplishments and Highlights

In the seven 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 700 history-related inquiries with the assistance of our consulting historians
- Conducted a major 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
- Eight lectures on various historical subjects, from Chief Canonchet to Shipwrecks, during 2018
- Estate and garden tour at Druidsdream, June 2018
- Walking tour of Central Street, September 2018
- Remembrance of the 80th Anniversary of the Great New England Hurricane of 1938 - researched and curated by board member Donna Rodgers – photograph exhibit from September through June 2019 at several venues.
- Video recordings of two segments of Narragansett history – one regarding South Ferry Area history, and another on the importance of the Hazard family to the development of Narragansett and the surrounding area.

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
Rachel Carpenter
Shirley Eastham
Beverly Ericson
Ernie Esposito
David Gates
Harold Kemble
Rev. Vijay Kiran
Maury Klein
Joseph Maggeo
John and Emily Miller
Guy Millick
Vilma Moclair
Melony and Bob Muller

Catherine Murray
Narragansett Town Clerk's Office
Linda O'Neill
Lelia Palmieri
George & Shirley Petrarca
R.I. Secretary of State's Archives
Nancy and Steven Richards
Joseph Rivelli
Theatre-by-the-Sea
Richard Vangermeersch
David Vito
Wakefield Consignment Ltd.
Thomas Ward Family
Whale Rock Estate Services

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
McGrath Judicial Complex
Middlebridge School
Narragansett Chamber of Commerce
Town of Narragansett
Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
Narragansett Parks and Recreation

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
South County Museum
South Kingstown Neighborhood Guild

Members and Donors

Primary Supporter (\$10,000 and above)

Gray Matter Marketing

Major Supporters (\$5,000 and above)

Town of Narragansett
Lelia Palmieri (In loving memory of Vivian "Jerry" Palmieri)

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

Davitt Design Build
Lila Delman Real Estate International
Friends of the Historic Towers, Inc.
Moira & Mark Hints (Midvale Corporation)
R.I. Foundation/Joseph Ott Fund
The Richards' Bed & Breakfast

Patrons (\$250 - \$499)

Coast Guard House
Kristen & Brooke Connell
Paul & Jean Moran
Murray Family Charitable Foundation

Other Esteemed Members and Donors

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

DeWayne Allen & Family	David Gates
Olivia Ayers	Anne German
Ralph Barlow	Jason Govern #
Judy & Bill Babcock	Barbara Hazard
Chris Barrett	Tracy Heffron
Belmont Market	Rudolph & Lorraine Hempe
Mary & Rino Bergonzi	Richard & Carole Higginbotham
Steven & Eliza Beringhouse	Craig Holland #
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Bonnie & Don Cameron	Dr. William Jennings
Paul & Margaret Cashion	Ray* & Joyce Kagels
Catherine & Sal Celeberto	Kathie Kelleher
Cindy Clancy	Harold Kemble & Mary Ellen Sacco
Grace Collies	Roberta Kester
Diana Crane	Judith & Edward Kiley #
Ann Crawford	Rev. Vijay Kiran (Anthony RAJ)
Inez Crowley	Tracy Kubricky
Joanne Daly & Guy Millick	David & Sara Laux
Karen daSilva & Family	Judy & Diane Landry
Rhea dePreaux	Sallie Latimer
Diana Desjardins	Jill Lawler
Ruby Roy Dholakia	Camilla Lee
Vincent DiCola & Maureen Rowe	Ann Lessmann
Kelly Donovan & Debbie Karel	Dan & Shannon McCarthy Leventhal
Roberta Doran	Bob Luke
Wayne & Bernice Durfee	Dennis Lynch
Durkin Cottage Realty	Jerry Lynch
Cheryl & Dannie Dutrumble #	Joan Maloney
Shirley Eastham	Tom Maloney
Ernie Esposito	Sally & Andrew Manesis
Holly & Russell Flagg	Ron Margolin & Lynn McKinney
Margaret Fradette	Bruce Martin

Betty & John McAndrews
Linda & James McArthur
Don & Lynn McCarron
Jane & Gerald McCarthy
Sandy McCaw
Valerie McCormick
Dr. Gene McKee
Elizabeth & Dave McNab
Ray Mello
Sandy & Eric Menke
Emily & John Miller
Grady & Tammy Miller
Vilma Moclair
Susan Montgomery
Melony & Bob Muller
Pamela Murphy
Catherine Murray
Lynn Neville
Rosalind Newton & Hans Krasinsky
Joseph Notorantonio
Audrey Nyblom
Susan Nystrom #
Dr. Robert & Linda O'Neill
Cindy Opaluch
Denise Orton
David & Linda Ousterhout
Lisa Palite #
Bill Panzeri
Richard S. Parker
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Alice & Randle Pomeroy #
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Susan Raesner
John Rainaldi #
Leigh Reposa
Nancy & Steven Richards
Ringler Associates Metairie #
Joseph Rivelli
Joseph & Donna Rodgers
Kristen Rodgers & Scott Raynes
Margaret & Tom Rogers
Mae Beth & Mark Ryan

Mimi Sammis
Dorothy Sampaio
Mary Sands
Debbie, John & Elle Schaffhauser #
Harold & Janet Schofield
Lewis L. Scott
Jeanne Serpa
Johanna Shaghalian
Nancy & Robert Shaw
Carol & Ed Shunney
Anne-Marie & John Silveira
Dave & Rosemary Smith
Bob* & Diane* Smith
Larry & Susan Smith
Anthony Steere & Diane Nobles
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Carol J. Stuart
Corey & Betsy Sullivan
Carol Suran #
Pati Sylvia
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Susan & Carl Valenstein
Susan & Larry Van Leaven
Prof. Richard Vangermeersch
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Thomas Ward & Family
Christine Webb
Stan & Mary Wojciechowski
Barbara Wright
Michael York & Richard Switzler
Richard & Joan Youngken
Marie Younkin-Waldman
Jessica Wilson
Patricia Wynne & Family
Michael and Karen Zeigler

**Deceased*

#Donated in memory of Ray Kagels

Narragansett Historical Society Financial Report

January 1 – December 31, 2018

ASSETS

Checking	\$16,081
Savings	\$10,059
Reserves (CD)	\$50,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$76,140

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Grants	\$6,604
Memberships	\$10,471
Programs	\$10,920
Donations	\$605
Sales	\$291
Interest	\$19*
TOTAL INCOME	\$28,891

*Interest added to Savings

EXPENSES

Administration	\$2,552
Programs	\$2,619
Occupancy	\$7,519
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,690

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 almost 19 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 fundraising 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.

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 President. Kathie also 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.

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.

Dr. Robert O'Neill, Vice President

After retiring from his obstetrics/gynecological practice at South County Hospital, Dr. O'Neill devotes his energies to many facets of our history. He served as the chair of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust for five years. He and his wife Linda lived at and restored the historic Ocean Road home, Dunmere Gatehouse, and placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. After many years in Narragansett, they recently moved to Saundertown, where he serves on the North Kingstown Zoning Board. He is a frequent speaker on the history of the Hazard family in the local area.

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 Narragansett Beach post card, from our collection.

Narragansett Historical Society

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