



Annual Report

07/08



Aerial view of Chateau-sur-Mer, showing croquet court (top), caretaker's cottage (center), and the sod maze (bottom left) created for the 1974 city-wide outdoor sculpture exhibition, "Monumenta." Photo by Roskelly Inc.

The Chairman's Report

By Pierre duPont Irving

Delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 12, 2008

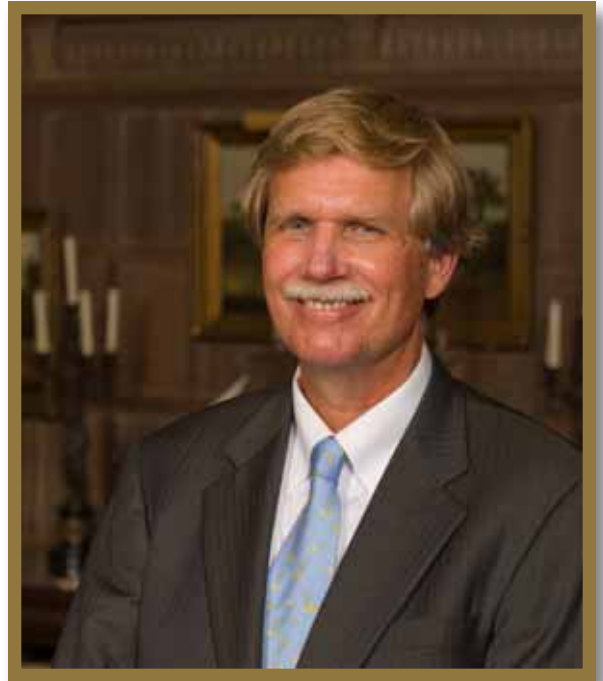


Photo by corbettphotography.net

When The Preservation Society of Newport County was incorporated in 1945 with the original purpose of saving the endangered Hunter House, the Gilded Age houses, such an integral part of its collection today, were barely fifty years old and still in private hands. With the passage of time, the Preservation Society has created its own history, and it has been fascinating for me to look back upon how its mission has evolved over the years, from its roots in promoting historic preservation to its more recent achievement of accreditation from the American Association of Museums. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that evolution and to examine its role today in both arenas.

The Preservation Society began as a small group of dedicated and civic minded individuals who were interested in historic preservation in the city of Newport. In the period immediately following WWII when it was founded, Newport, along with many other cities and towns, was in danger of losing much of the architectural historic fabric which made it unique.

The original Articles of Association filed with the State of Rhode Island state that The Preservation Society of Newport County was being organized:

“for the purpose of preserving for posterity buildings, places, and objects of historical, artistic, architectural, and other interest, and for the purpose of the acquisition, collection, development and preservation of houses, places, and objects of historical, artistic, architectural and other interest”

Like many other similar groups, it started life with no assets and a great idea. I don't think that the founders of the Preservation Society were concerned with economic development per se, but I do think that their desire to preserve the architectural heritage of Newport in the late 1940s, when the town was struggling economically, did reflect a nascent view that historic preservation would do much to improve the quality of life of the community, which would ultimately create an economic benefit.

Katherine Warren, a founding member and President of the Preservation Society until 1975, described their early preservation efforts in an interview at her home in 1970:

“We tried to get zoning laws. We sat on zoning commissions. We tried to interest the city in helping us to protect them. We tried to give prizes for the people who improved their front doors in the 18th Century part. We gave a cash prize. We had three contestants. We said, what, why weren't there more? Because their taxes would go up. And then when the urban renewal thing started, we wanted to help with that, we just wanted

to dig into every part of this town and make it more attractive and make it nicer, wanted to save Ocean Drive, wanted to stop signs. There wasn't anything in the cause of the city that we weren't ready to do and ready to help with.”

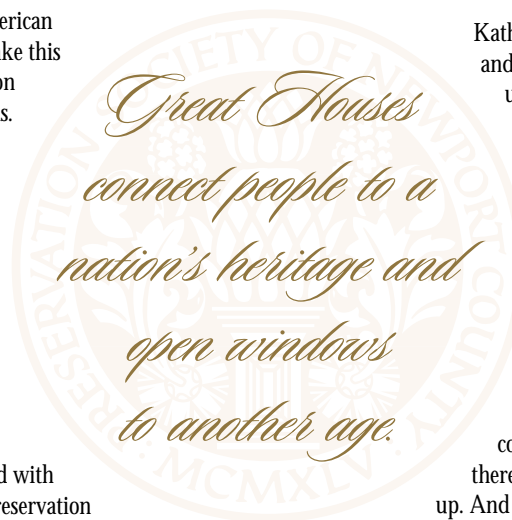




Photo by contetphotography.net

Mrs. John G. Winslow with Governor Donald Carcieri at the Tall Ships Ball.

In 1952 the Preservation Society commissioned and published *The Architectural Heritage of Newport Rhode Island* by Antoinette Downing and Vincent Scully. Two of its early headquarters were bought, restored and then sold back into private hands. The Preservation Society holds easements on several houses which were granted many years ago. It bought The White Horse Tavern, which it managed for a short time and then sold back into private hands with easements. As is still the case today, volunteer efforts, special events, lectures and educational activities were all employed to promote the cause.

In looking back over the record, one element that stands out over time was that the primary means used by the Preservation Society for saving significant endangered properties was by their acquisition and collection. The majority of the funds raised by the Preservation Society over the years have been to acquire houses which it then opened to the public, to search out objects original to those houses, and to assure their upkeep and preservation. The Preservation Society collected houses and their contents. And they were extraordinarily successful. Today, more than half a million people visit those houses every year.

Since those early years and in large measure due to the efforts of the Preservation Society and other like-minded organizations and individuals, the environment of the city has changed dramatically. In 1965 an Historic District was created and later expanded. Municipal government has become more involved in historic preservation. City-owned buildings have been sold and restored for adaptive reuse. An historic planner is on the city payroll. The City of Newport now has more preserved Colonial and Gilded Age buildings than any other city of its size in America. Colonial houses are now considered to be highly desirable as homes and are being bought and lovingly restored by private citizens. A colonial building which is in danger of being lost today is the exception rather than the rule, far different than had been the case in the 1940s.

A legacy that stands out among its successful efforts to promote historic preservation has been the amassing of an extraordinary collection of architecturally iconic properties and their contents. As it has become the steward of more and more assets, there has been of necessity an ongoing strategic discussion about the role of the Preservation Society in regard to its role in historic preservation, vis-a-vis its vastly expanded role as a major national cultural attraction and museum.

Over the course of more than 60 years, the Preservation Society has evolved into an organization which has the following attributes today:

It has become a collection of house museums. It has stewardship over an enormous number of objects which it holds for the public trust and about which it educates and informs the public.

It is in some respects like Williamsburg, Mystic Seaport, and the Henry Ford Museum, but it is unique in that all of its houses, instead of being moved into one central location, have evolved and remain as a part of the fabric of the community which surrounds them. It is a "museum" in situ whose collection is the houses themselves and their contents.

It has some of the attributes of an art museum, but it is not an art museum. Items in the Preservation Society's houses could be in major art museums and objects original to the houses are in their collections. It faces many of the same challenges that art museums face: conservation, curatorial oversight of its enormous collection, collections management issues, climate control challenges, etc. However, the Preservation Society does not have its collection housed in a central location, and the quality of its collections is eclectic. The Preservation Society collects its objects in the cultural context of the families and the homes in which they lived.

It uses the majority of its revenue and financial and staff resources to directly or indirectly support the maintenance of the properties and their collections and to engage the visiting public in the story of the houses, their families, and their place on America's cultural landscape.



Photo by corbettphotography.net

Newport Flower Show Chair Bettie Pardee with Bartlett Tree Experts President Greg Daniels (left) and Chairman Robert Bartlett, Jr.

The Preservation Society of Newport County is unique. It is among the four most visited cultural institutions in New England, which include the MFA in Boston, the Museum of Science in Boston, and the Boston Aquarium. There is no other organization quite like it.

The museum role that the Preservation Society has undertaken in the execution of its mission has provided a powerful platform to expand upon its message of historic preservation. The Newport Mansions themselves serve as advocates for that message. The houses tell a compelling story about America's cultural heritage through the lives of the families, craftsmen, and staff that built and maintained them. The story of their preservation and conservation engages and educates the visitor. That the houses can be experienced in their local neighborhoods as a part of the fabric of the community promotes the value of historic preservation in enhancing community quality of life visually, contextually and economically. The Preservation Society and the Newport Mansions have evolved over time into a museum and cultural attraction with a mission that harkens back to its early roots.

It is a message today which carries far beyond the local community to the many visitors from all over the world who visit the Newport Mansions every year. Through its lectures, symposia, educational programs, research, and outreach, the Preservation Society is able to engage and inform the public, and its message serves to act as a catalyst for preservation.

Looking back at its history, the Preservation Society was unable to devote an enormous amount of financial and staff resources to politically champion the cause of historic preservation, and yet it was ultimately quite successful. Much of the financial resources they were able to raise were required to maintain the houses and collections, and they promoted the cause by example. That remains the case today. The Preservation Society continues to encourage historic preservation locally, regionally, and nationally and to work collaboratively with other

organizations. Staff and volunteers of the Preservation Society weigh in at the State House and at City Hall when matters relating to historic preservation are under consideration.

This past winter the trustees and staff looked closely at the mission and history of the Preservation Society to craft a mission statement which would articulate the most important elements that define our organization: what we do, why we do it, and for whom. I would like to share it with you now:

Great Houses connect people to a nation's heritage and open windows to another age.

The Preservation Society of Newport County is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, preserve, and present an exceptional collection of house museums and landscapes in one of the most historically intact cities in America.

We hold in public trust the Newport Mansions which are an integral part of the living fabric of Newport, Rhode Island. These sites exemplify three centuries of the finest achievements in American architecture, decorative arts, and landscape design spanning the Colonial era to the Gilded Age.

Through our historic properties, educational programs, and related activities we engage the public in the story of America's vibrant cultural heritage.

We seek to inspire and promote an appreciation of the value of preservation to enrich the lives of people everywhere.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Preservation Society, I want to thank you all for your support of this wonderful organization. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for their guidance and governance, our many volunteers who have given of their time and talent over the past year, and I especially want to thank Trudy Coxe and the extraordinary professional staff and employees of the Preservation Society for making it all work so well.



CEO & Executive Director's Report

By Trudy Coxé

Delivered as a slide show at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 12, 2008

I feel blessed because I have the opportunity every day of the week to witness the thoughtfulness you have just heard from Pierre Irving. He cares very much about this organization. I know that his hand is steady at the helm. And I am very proud to have him as the leader of our organization.

Like Pierre, I want to thank the entire Board of Trustees. Our Board is very committed and supportive and they help in many, many ways. I also share with Pierre the view that our employees are probably the best anywhere in the country. They are the hardest working people, some of the nicest people that anyone could ever know. And our volunteers and members - you just make this organization work. People who weed the gardens at Rosecliff, organize the balls and give us your financial support—we could not do all the things we've done and we would not have had a great year if it were not for the support of all of you.

My job tonight is to give you the year in review. I had a question I sent out to the staff in getting ready for tonight. I asked every one of our senior staff members what was their best memory of the year, what did they think was the most memorable event, what was the one decision made, what was the one action taken, that really stood out in their minds. I have to tell you I got some unbelievable answers, ones that I did not expect. For example, I expected that



Wine expert Kevin Zraly orchestrated a lively and successful auction at the Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Jeff Moore, our conservator, would tell me that the collapse of the ceiling at Chateau-sur-Mer was the memorable event of the year for him. But you know when I got his e-mail response, I called him and said: "Are you sure this is your answer? I don't understand." The thing that was most memorable in his mind, was working on the Mission Statement. And when I called him and asked, "Are you sure that's your answer?" he told me: "Oh yeah. I'm used to calamity. I mean this is what I do all the time. It was a joy to work with words. That was fun. That was memorable."

So, administrative victories. We grew our admissions by 2%, plus we grew our membership by 30% - we're now one of the largest membership organizations in Rhode Island, which I think is incredible: 20,000 people. We grew our corporate sponsorship program, we surpassed our Annual Fund, we created a new retirement program for our employees. These may not seem to be the most exciting accomplishments, but they're very important, and we had fun doing them.

Most important in my mind was that we changed our health care plan radically. Anyone who is in business knows that health care is the hot-button issue. A few years ago we were told that our health care costs would increase by about 20% a year, and that by the year 2008 we'd be spending about a million dollars a year on health care, up from the \$500,000 that we were spending several years ago. That's a lot of money. And it's money that is taken away from caring for the buildings and the collections. So we went in a new direction; we created a new high-deductible health savings account program, and brought our health care plan cost down to \$557,000—and this year there was no increase. Whenever I hear Senators Obama and McCain talking about how to get health care prices under control I shout at the TV: "Come to the Preservation Society! We've done it! We have solved the problem!"

We had a fantastic year of fundraising events. The Flower Show was a great success last year. One week later, we celebrated the Tall Ships Ball. It brought people from around the world... people who care about the maritime history of this country and the maritime history of Newport. It's one of the reasons Admiral Weschler is receiving a Laurel Award tonight, because he is so adamant about making sure that Tall Ships is a part of the Newport community.



Chief Conservator Jeff Moore hangs a Della Robbia plaque, part of the original Berwind collection, in the library of The Elms. Photo by Andrea Carneiro

Thanks to the work of people like Peter Kiernan and Drew Reilly, who is joining our Board this year, the Concours d'Elegance brought thousands of people to Newport who care about antique cars. We also had some of the world's best race car drivers, including Sir Stirling Moss, the greatest living race car driver, and Dan Gurney – one of the greatest drivers in America. And then my favorite – and I think Alva Vanderbilt would agree – Janet Guthrie, who was the first woman to ever drive the Indianapolis 500.

The Wine and Food Festival continued to be a great success. I have to interject a little look into the future: we recently reached an agreement with the Italian Trade Commission, which is giving a hundred thousand dollars to underwrite this year's Festival. They'll set up an Italian wine and food pavilion, so that's going to be a great event. But we laid the groundwork last year, with people like Kevin Zraly, the former sommelier of Windows on the World, which was the restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center, and chef Jacques Pepin – the most wonderful Frenchman I've ever met in my life.

At the Green Animals Children's Party, now in its 26th year, children and adults keep jumping for joy, thanks very much to Carol and Les Ballard.

I can't mention all of our educational programs and lectures, but we brought a whole array of tremendous speakers through the Newport Symposium, through the weekly and monthly lectures. You should all be proud of the work our education department does.

Now the administrative side and the special events side are all geared up to help pay for and support the restoration of our houses, one of the centerpieces of our mission. We were certainly busy this year continuing to restore Chateau-sur-Mer. One of the examples of restoration work done last summer was the restoration of the cornices. They were in pretty bad shape. The cornices were taken off, the underpinnings completely replaced and the old cornices restored. We didn't throw the old ones away, we used the old ones again. This is a beautiful restoration job, so I think Richard Morris Hunt would be very pleased with us.

Mother Nature and Narragansett Bay continue to perplex us, eating away at the seawall at Hunter House and, in fact, taking some of the yard away from us. So this year we began to create a new seawall. This was a job done by our own staff, and you cannot imagine how hard it is to build a seawall because you have to do it between tides. So our men would leave for 4 hours and then come



Pierre Irving, Sir Stirling Moss, Trudy Coxie and Dan Gurney enjoyed the festivities at the William K. Vanderbilt, Jr. Concours d'Elegance. Photo by corbettphotography.net

back, and they created a beautiful piece of work. I commend them all because I know it was not a job that they enjoyed doing.

We also did some in-house work. The dining room chairs at Marble House, bought by Alva Vanderbilt in the late 1880s, have deteriorated badly over the last hundred plus years, and are now being conserved. We have a fantastic textile conservator on staff, Jessica Urick, who is literally sewing them by hand with gold thread. Her artisanship is unbelievable.

We were very fortunate to get a grant from the Getty Foundation to examine the Asian lacquer panels at The Elms, which are disintegrating. These are panels which were made from 1680 to 1720 and are very unique in the U.S. They're not in good shape and it is very much a mission of ours to preserve them, so with that Getty grant we're examining what the problem is and what we can do to correct it.

We're also reviving our collections and I think that Paul Miller and the whole curatorial staff deserve a tremendous amount of credit for bringing things back to the houses--things that were once part of the Berwind family or the Vanderbilt family or any of the families--so that the stories about these families can be better told. For example, the Boulle clock which was in The Breakers up until the auction in 1970 came back this year. It's about 7 feet tall. There was another Boulle clock at The Breakers as well that is now owned by the Getty so it's unlikely that we'll get two back but at least we have one. That was a very major acquisition for us.

The dining room table at The Elms had been lost at auction in the early 1960s. It was found at Brown University, where it was being used in the faculty house. Thanks to Dayton Carr, who is a Brown alum, for using his great negotiating skills to talk President Simmons into working out a deal out with us, so now the table is back.

Another great acquisition for The Elms is an original Della Robbia. Mr. Berwind was a great collector of Della Robbias. When the auction was held at The Elms in the early 1960s, all of the Della Robbias were bought by Doris Duke and put on exhibit at Rough Point. This year one came up for auction and even though we bid furiously and frantically, we lost. But several months later Paul Miller got a call from the auction house saying

that this Della Robbia had been damaged in transport to the new buyer and the buyer did not want it any longer. Were we interested? And what do you think he said? So, it is now being conserved and it will go back on the wall just where it hung through the early 1900s.

These Chinese blue and white jars were in Hunter House in the early 1800s, part of Senator Hunter's collection. They're now back at Hunter House, a tremendous addition to our collection. I could go on, but suffice it to say one of the things that we rely upon is you all, watching auction catalogues and seeing if there are opportunities for the Preservation Society to be involved in an acquisition. So if you ever see something that looks like it might come from one of the houses in Newport please get in touch with us. You often times are the best detectives.

And then finally fighting for preservation. As Pierre pointed out, we started out as a group fighting to save Hunter House and then we fought to save The Elms and then we fought to save many other houses. It is part of our tradition, so this year we have continued that. Two of the more important battles I'll share with you tonight.

First is to save the trolleys. I know these are not historic but they are historic-looking and do add to the quality of Newport. Trolleys are a lot smaller than buses, they are a lot prettier than buses and – what's most important – when these trolleys were introduced onto the streets of Newport and Providence about ten years ago, thanks primarily to the leadership of Frank Ray, ridership on public transportation increased by about 25 to 30 percent. So they're working. They're getting people out of cars and into public transportation. We were very unhappy to learn that the life of these trolleys has come to an end and to replace them the state is proposing a bus that looks like a trolley. So we are fighting this battle and we have secured support of 85 leading tourism and hospitality advocates who have all joined and signed a petition. That's part of the job of preservation.

Finally, many organizations in Rhode Island helped six or seven years ago to get a state historic tax credit in place. It was one of the most outstanding laws for preservation ever created. More historic preservation has taken place in the last five years than in the previous 25. Two hundred seventy seven mills, abandoned properties, down-trodden buildings have been saved—25 in Newport alone. This law has generated jobs, it's generated economic growth, it's generated revenue and it has saved important parts of our history. So, we spent a lot of time on it, trying to convince the legislature not to abandon it. We had many allies, from Grow Smart Rhode Island to the State Preservation Office. We were not successful, but a group of us are planning to go back and make the case to the state that this indeed was one of the best bills ever passed, particularly important for historic preservation.

I want to conclude by laying out a few of the ideas for the year ahead. We are laying the foundation for a capital campaign. We are growing our educational outreach, redoing the audio tours at The Elms and Marble House and creating a new one for The

Breakers. We are continuing to grow our membership base, and that's important because the more members we have, the stronger our voice can be on historic preservation issues. We want to continue to preserve Chateau and Kingscote – our next project. We are going to publish *Lost Houses* – the exhibit that many people have loved and have wanted to see in book form. We are going to advocate with many of our friends throughout the state that a state-wide preservation ethic is absolutely mandatory – we should all care about old buildings. And we're going to collect, collect, collect.

I think that historic preservation has an emotional side to it that takes us back to our own pasts. I remember being piled into the family car on the first day of August every year to take the long trip from Pennsylvania to our summer house in Jamestown where we would spend the most blissful month imaginable. We knew we were almost there when we saw the masts of the Charles W. Morgan and the Joseph Conrad at Mystic Seaport. We knew we were even closer when we drove through the beautiful farmland along 138. It was the custom to beep at the cows! When we arrived at the top of the Jamestown Bridge – that most horrifying, spine-tingling, excruciatingly-frightening roller-coaster ride of a bridge – we knew we had arrived. I can still remember the rumble at the top; I thought I was going to die.

We were Jamestowners but we came to Newport frequently. We'd take the ferry, unload at the end of Mill Street, and wind our way up Mill, past the Corne House where Mr. Corne, the man who brought the tomato to North America, lived. Bellevue Avenue was the destination: The Breakers, tennis at the casino, or a trip to the Newport Creamery to try to drink three Awful Awfuls in order to get one free. (Never made it!)

I tell these stories because I think everything in our lives is influenced by our memories – who we are and where we come from. I still feel the same anticipation and enthusiasm and expectation approaching Newport today as I did fifty years ago. It's surprising how little has changed. So, to me, the Preservation Society and Newport, as a community, represent continuity. They represent places to come back to that are, to a large degree, very much like they were. I for one value that very much. It adds to my own sense of place and security, and I suspect it's the same for you.

That's why I think preservation is important and why what we do really counts. We are in the business of saving great houses and saving great objects. But our mission, I think, is also that of saving memories. And if we don't take the mission of saving memories seriously, I don't know who will. It's one of the reasons I support the Preservation Society and I believe that's why you support us as well.

Your backing is very, very important to us, so thank you all for helping make the last year such a great year. We cannot be successful without the marvelous support of all of our members, staff, and Board. And thank you for believing that it is the job of the Preservation Society to protect this place, so that people in the future can enjoy it just as much as we do right now. Thank you all!



This Birdcage Maserati, which Sir Stirling Moss and Dan Gurney raced to victory together as teammates in 1960, was one of the highlights of a collection of legendary race cars displayed at The Breakers during the William K. Vanderbilt, Jr. Concours d'Elegance in July 2007.

Photo by corbettphotography.net



Photo by corbettphotography.net

Treasurer's Report

By Donald O. Ross

Delivered at the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting, June 12, 2008

Visits up 2.3%
Membership revenue up 21%
Special Events revenues up 15%
Museum Stores revenues up 5%
Total Revenue up 2%

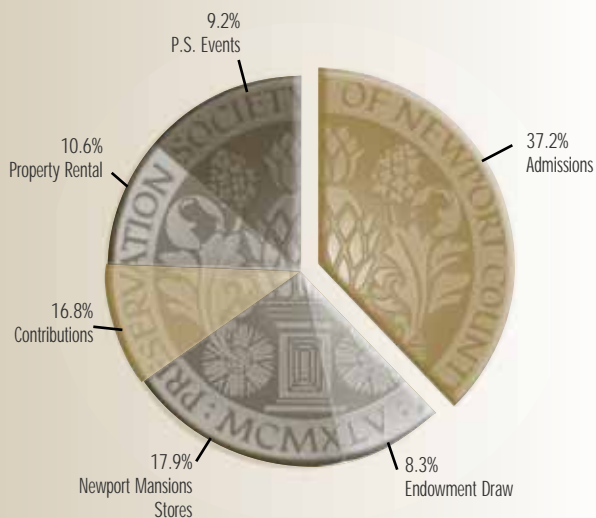
I am delighted to report that this past fiscal year, our total visits were actually up 2.3% over the prior year and our admission revenue exceeded budget expectations by almost 4%—quite a change from prior years. Further, our total revenue of about \$17 million beat our budgeted figure by 2%. On a cash basis, the Preservation Society generated a small surplus of \$118,000, net of capital expenditures, slightly better than planned.

One of our major financial strategies is to enhance our revenue from non-admissions areas. As a result of strong leadership by Caroline Considine, head of the Development Department, the efforts in this area are showing good results. For the year, we exceeded our goals with regard to new members, and membership revenue contributed \$774,000, up 21% over last year. In addition, including the Annual Fund which raised almost \$600,000, total gifts contributed \$1.4 million to the revenue line, which was slightly better than last year. I want to offer a special thank you to all of those generous and loyal donors who over the years have helped make the Preservation Society the organization it is and helped us keep on track with our maintenance goals.

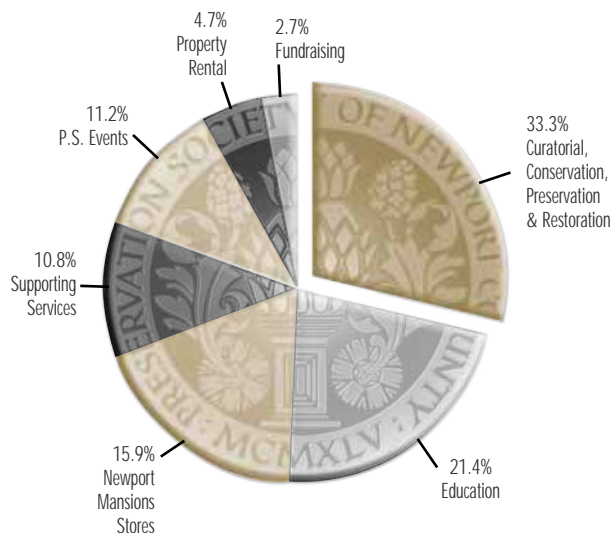
The Special Events Department continues to excel. Their gross revenues were \$1.7 million, up 15% from last year. A special thanks to Phil Pelletier, Ivan Colon and their teams.

Also, as a result of strong leadership by Cynthia O'Malley, efforts in our Educational Sales Department (our Museum Stores) are also beginning to pay off. Importantly, our store revenue was up 5% over last year. If you haven't seen the changes at the store down at Bannister's Wharf, I urge you to stop in.

SUPPORT & REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



On the expense front, we were only off budget by less than 1%, principally as a result of additional expenses related to our museum store efforts. As we look at the longer term expense picture, and because of the legislative changes related to defined benefit retirement plans, we, like a number of corporations around the country and other not-for-profit institutions, reached a decision to change our structure to a defined contribution plan. In the long run we feel the plan makes sense for everyone involved; it will initially mean a significant additional contribution being made to employee retirement accounts by the Preservation Society at the time of conversion, which we expect in this fiscal year.

Two and a half years ago we went through major angst with regard to insurance coverage. Since then we have built a wonderful relationship with Fireman's Fund, breathed a little easier, and continue to get the coverage that we need.

Capital expenditures last year amounted to slightly over \$500,000, about 60% of which was for the Chateau-sur-Mer roof restoration. This was about 40% more than last year, but in line with prior years' spending. Generally speaking, our capital expenditures have to be funded by external sources, as operating cash flow is insufficient.

Looking at our balance sheet, we were able to reduce our total borrowings by almost \$1.2 million as a result of the slightly better than expected net cash flow and the sale of the Smith property earlier this year. This reduction gives us a bit more financial flexibility for unforeseen events.

Our endowment did not escape the lousy equity markets that we have been experiencing and stood a bit over \$33.5 million, down about 5.5% over the prior year, including the \$1.5 million we took as an annual draw. We do have a well-diversified endowment, with investments in traditional and alternative asset classes.

As we created the financial plan for 2009, with rising oil and gas prices and continued declining museum attendance nationwide, we concluded that a budget decline of 4% in admission revenue was prudent. So far though, in April and May we have seen good attendance, but in spite of the last few heat wave days, the main attendance period, the summer season, has not yet started.

Looking farther out to the next few years, we have some hefty challenges in front of us financially. While we do keep the houses looking superb, the maintenance costs are only going up, the unforeseen will only get more expensive, and there is only so much improvement we can make to our stores and our special events. Clearly, we need to see our endowment quite a bit larger so that we can keep our houses looking the way we expect.

In closing, I want to thank the tremendous efforts of the Finance Committee, which meets monthly and then some. Also, and particularly to Jim Burrell and his Finance Department staff, who prepare phenomenal reports for the committee and the Board. While I believe we are well positioned going into this year and next, we will have to be more creative than ever in the years to come when looking at our overall financial picture.

Recognition of Outstanding

Laurel Awards 2007 2008



Photo by conbelphtography.net

Pierre Irving, Guillaume Verzier and Paul Szápary

Prelle & Cie, Guillaume Verzier

In recognition of Prelle's role in supplying much of Newport's rich textile heritage and in gratitude to the Verzier family for their preservation of this *savoir faire*.



Draperies and furniture upholstery in the ballroom of Marble House were replicated by Prelle et Cie.
Photo by Andrea Carneiro

The Laurel Award is given annually by the Preservation Society in recognition of outstanding service, artisanship or leadership in support of its mission. This year, three Laurel Awards were bestowed at the Annual Meeting in June.

Laurel

Service, Artisanship or Leadership in Support of its Mission.



Photo by corbettphotography.net

Norey Dotterer Cullen and Myra Duvally



Photo by corbettphotography.net

Vice Admiral Thomas Weschler with Angela Fischer

Myra Horgan Duvally

In recognition of her crucial role in fostering a national recognition of Newport's horticultural treasures and in the creation of the Hunter House garden.

Vice Admiral Thomas R. Weschler (USN, Ret.)

In recognition of his leadership and volunteer work on behalf of Tall Ships and the promotion of Newport's rich nautical heritage to the world at large.



Myra Duvally in the garden at Hunter House.
Photo courtesy of the Newport Daily News



Admiral Weschler takes a bow at the Tall Ships Ball.
Photo by corbettphotography.net

Awards



Elizabeth Prince de Ramel, John Brooks, Jr. and Elizabeth Brooks



Dayton Carr and Dede Wilsey

Donors

April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008

The Preservation Society is grateful for the support of its many members and friends during fiscal year 2007. Your ongoing generosity is critical to accomplishing our mission of preserving Newport's architectural and cultural heritage.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Champions of Preservation \$100,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Ballard
Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Kiernan III

\$50,000-\$99,999

Mr. Dayton T. Carr
Mr. Solomon Grossman
Mrs. Alfred S. Wilsey

\$25,000-\$49,999

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn M. Darden
Mr. David B. Ford
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Gewirz
Mr. David E. P. Lindh
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.

Chairman's Circle \$10,000-\$24,999

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Auersperg
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Bernard
Mrs. Thomas W. Blake
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Brooks, Jr.
Mrs. Helen D. Buchanan and Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham
Mr. and Mrs. Wiley T. Buchanan III
Mr. Charles J. Burns and Mr. Paul F. Miller
Mrs. Brittain B. Cudlip
Mr. and Mrs. Edmond de La Haye Jouselin
Oliver S. & Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Pierre duPont Irving
Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Fafard
Mr. Ronald Lee Fleming of the Fleming Charitable Trust II
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Flores
Mrs. George E. Ford
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Galkin
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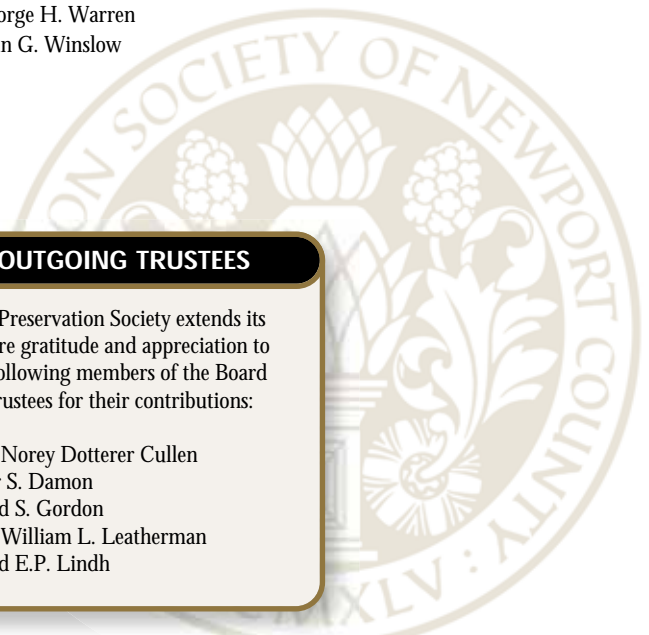
Not Pictured: Carol Ballard, Joseph Hammer, Arthur Murphy, Pat Stensrud, William Wilson

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The Preservation Society of Newport County, Rhode Island, founded in 1945, is a non-profit educational organization accredited by the American Association of Museums and dedicated to preserving and interpreting the area's historic architecture, landscapes and decorative arts. Its 14 historic properties—seven of them National Historic Landmarks—span more than 250 years of American architectural and social development.

PRESERVATION SOCIETY PROPERTIES

- Arnold Burying Ground (1675)
- Hunter House (circa 1748)
- Kingscote (1839-1841)
- Chateau-sur-Mer (1851-1852)
- Green Animals Topiary Garden (circa 1860)
- Chepstow (1860-1861)
- Isaac Bell House (1881-1883)
- 424 Bellevue Avenue (1887-1888)
- Marble House (1888-1892)
- The Breakers (1893-1895)
- The Breakers Stable & Carriage House (1895)
- The Elms (1899-1901)
- Rosecliff (1899-1902)
- Rovensky Park (1959)

Front Cover: Aerial of Marble House and the Chinese Tea House
Photo by Roskelly Inc.

Inside Back Cover: 2007 Newport Flower Show at Rosecliff
Photo by www.corbettphotography.net

Back Cover: The Tall Ships Ball at The Breakers, July 2007
Photo by www.corbettphotography.net



CEO Trudy Coxe, security guard Joseph Ponte, assistant caretaker Betsy Vivieros and Properties Director Curt Genga
Photo by Andrea Carneiro



Tommy and Danie Pickens of the Properties Department, and Peter Duval of Special Events
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Membership associate Karl Van Buren and Development Director Caroline Considine
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THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY

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