

# Annual Report *2021*



A Publication of The Preservation Society Of Newport County

2021 Annual Report  
 Editor: Barbara Shea  
 Contributors: Gary Ruff  
 Bill Tavares  
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 The Preservation Society Of Newport County  
 424 Bellevue Avenue  
 Newport, RI 02840  
 401-847-1000  
 NewportMansions.org

**OUR MISSION**

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.

**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)
- Osgood Pell House (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)

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Cover Image: Morning Room at The Breakers  
 ©Alexander Nesbitt Photography



Research Fellow Sébastien Dutton presents the Jacalyn & William P. Egan Lecture, “Treasures Untold,” about his research into The Breakers Third Floor, August 2021 at Rosecliff.



Employee Picnic at Rosecliff: Lauren Tedeschi, Mike Rutter, Sam Friedman, Raymond Roy, Brian Maher



Ryan Sievers, Trudy Coxe, Marc Sievers, Karen Peverstein, Jennica Ossi, Senior Manager Public Relations, Kobrand, Joie de Vivre Dinner, Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival, 2021



Visitors to The Breakers

# Chairman’s Report

By Monty Burnham  
 From the Annual Meeting  
 June 10, 2021

It is now time for me to give you my life story. But failing that, I will give you an Annual Report.

Before I read it, I want to make note of a number of individuals whom we have lost during these past years. These are people who have given exceptional energy over the years to the Preservation Society, and we shall miss them in a myriad of ways.

- Dayton T. Carr; William W. Corcoran, Esq.;
- Robert J. Coyne; Ted Eayrs; David B. Ford;
- Sarah M. Gewirz; and Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.

Please join me in a moment of silence for these great friends.

Thank you.



Helen, John and Dick Burnham\*



As many of you have heard me say, probably over and over, one of my favorite things to do is say “thank you.” Tonight is no exception. As I end my tenure as Chairman of the Board, I want to thank you, thank you, thank you for the chance I had to serve as Board Chair for the last five years, and as a Trustee since 2001. The latter one does strike me as rather long, but I have loved every minute of it. It has been a great experience and I shall remember it always.

Twenty years ago, the budget of the Preservation Society was \$14.4 million. Before the COVID-19 pandemic closed down activities, we were preparing to approve a \$26 million budget. The scope of this growth made us all feel very confident. But the pandemic put a wrench in our best-laid plans. Things looked perilous until very recently. The good news is, as you will hear from our Treasurer, Bill Lucey, we are currently holding our own and have even managed to comply with the 11th commandment – “Thou Shall Not Spend Thy Principal.” In other words, we were able to avoid drawing on our endowment and the outlook is reasonably positive at this point. There have been a number of wonderful moments in the past 20 years, and I would have great difficulty producing a list of these.

*“Thou Shall Not Spend Thy Principal.”*

\* We remember.



The Scenic Aquidneck Coalition project buried utility lines and removed 77 utility poles along the Paradise Valley area.



**A few follow:**

The development of the Welcome Center is especially meaningful to me with, now, a lovely arrival spot for the many visitors who come to The Breakers. It provides what we sought from the outset: tickets, toilets and tea. As well as air conditioning for weary tourists, limited food service for the hungry ones, and some helpful directions toward other points of interest in Newport. Perhaps the most entertaining aspect of the Welcome Center is a question often heard (I'm not making this up), from our visitors. After all the controversy, visitors frequently ask about the year in which Cornelius Vanderbilt built the Welcome Center. It fits in so beautifully that many of our visitors see it as part of Vanderbilt's original design, not as a small contemporary garden-style building finished only in the last three years.

The pandemic has also given us positive opportunities, as demonstrated by our Halloween party – all ages – at The Breakers, Sparkling Lights at Christmas, virtual lectures from locations in the U.S. and abroad, and collaboration with other non-profits, like Scenic Aquidneck, which emulated similar work done earlier, burying utilities in Paradise Valley. I would say honestly, I think burying utilities in Paradise Valley was such a good thing to have done, it ranks right up there with the Welcome Center. There are really far too many to count.

**Two items to note before closing:**

First, I have had the privilege of serving – and I am not fooling around – with outstanding trustees and the chance to work with a staff that is professional, committed, hardworking and incredibly helpful. I have seen the many members and volunteers who support this organization do remarkable things for us. Among these, especially, have been my immediate predecessors as Board Chairs. Knowing and working with Armin Allen, Pierre Irving and Don Ross was valuable beyond measure. I admire them all, their endurance, stamina and wise advice, and know that you will see this also in my successor, Bill Lucey.

I thank you over and over and want you to know how much I will miss you.

Item two: From my own educational standpoint, I have had the pleasure and excitement of learning an enormous amount. I have learned about zoning – with a little extra help from my son on that one – about adaptive re-use, about value engineering (that means finding something that you want to be less expensive), about geothermal heating and cooling, about fundraising and maintenance (inevitably intertwined events), about gardens, garden design and restoration. Quite honestly, all kinds of things I might never have thought of had I not had this experience.

For this, I also thank you one and all.



Governor Daniel J. McKee addresses the Annual Meeting, The Breakers, June 10, 2021

*“To both past and present leaders of the Preservation Society, you all played a key role in preserving The Breakers and its grounds for generations of visitors to take in the splendor.”*  
 Governor Daniel J. McKee

Bee and Flower Sculpture, David Rogers' Big Bugs Exhibition, Green Animals Topiary Garden





# CEO & Executive Director's Report

By Trudy Cox  
From the Annual Meeting  
June 10, 2021

This is not a meeting; it's a celebration and bravo to all of you for coming out and showing your support for the Preservation Society.

Thank you, Governor McKee and Vice Mayor Ceglie, for being with us tonight.

When your staff is down by 69 percent and you're working long, long hours to make up for the loss, you have to look for a way to find some relief, right?

The way I got a break from work over the last 15 months was to fulfill a dream I've had for a long time, and that was to hike the length of Rhode Island, from the beaches of Charlestown to the border of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Nine weekend days. Seventy-eight miles of beautiful woods and countryside. Crossing into Connecticut along the way. And I learned that western Rhode Island is gorgeous. This trail is called the North-South Trail and, Governor, I think it's one of the secret assets of our state.

You get a lot of time to think out in the woods, and the things I learned on that cross-state trek have helped me enormously on the job.

### Three simple lessons grounded me:

One: When you're going up a steep hill, you've got to lean into it. You can't pull back. So, our approach to beating the pandemic has been to lean in. Take it on. To not be daunted by it.

Two: When you're out in the woods, you've got to be prepared for the unexpected. The boulder field that's not in the trail book; the rushing stream that you have to get over. There is not a day of the week when there hasn't been an unexpected surprise at work. And just like you can't plop down in the middle of a boulder field and say I'm not going to go on, we've had no option but to just keep going.

And the final lesson is to take each moment, step by step. We got from Charlestown to Burrillville, moving forward, sideways, sometimes backwards, one step at a time. It may sound simplistic but there were times – out in the woods – when that mantra, "step by step," got us to our destination. Same for work.

### Despite this pandemic, think about this past year:

- First museum in the state to open. Back on June 3 of last year, we got the go-ahead from the state and we opened on June 4. That's 371 days ago. There are a lot of museums that have still not opened.
- 243,000 visitors. Off by about 75 percent, but I cherish each one of those 243,000 people. They saved our bacon.
- A year that ended in the black.
- A massive roof restored at Marble House.
- A total transformation of the landscape here at The Breakers. Walk the path.
- Records set for fundraising. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
- Virtual everything and thousands and thousands of people from around the world were part of us.



Garden Club of America President Debbie Edwards virtually presents the Preservation Society with the 2021 Historic Preservation Medal, May 12, 2021.



Member Appreciation Night at The Breakers

You cannot imagine how hard the staff at the Preservation Society has worked. They leaned in. Remained calm. Took it step by step. Phenomenal people. Some of them are here tonight and I want to ask them to stand and take a bow and please give them a round of applause.

We're still in a hole. But we've got to get to Burrillville. What's ahead?

Get as many houses open as we can, and this will depend upon the attitude of the traveling public.

Build our budget back to \$26 million.

Grow our staff, because when you're 69 percent down, it's hard on everyone.

Broaden our research and our preservation and our education.

Build our reputation as the nation's foremost center for the Gilded Age because, I believe, Julian Fellowes' "Gilded Age" TV series on HBO is going to make the term "Gilded Age" a household word and we intend to be the beneficiaries.

Monty is one of the coolest women I've ever known and a perfect Board Chairman. She always let me run the business and she always – intuitively – knew when to call to check in.

I am going to repeat one of Monty's signature and heartfelt phrases: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We can do this. Our board is strong. Our members are generous. Our staff is unbelievable.

How do you get out of a pandemic?

Lean in.

Enjoy and delight in the unexpected.

Take it one step at a time.

Having support like yours helps – enormously.

Thank you.

Top Right: Music Room, The Breakers  
Bottom Right: HBO's "The Gilded Age" features a starring role for The Breakers Music Room as the ballroom. Photograph by Alison Cohen Rosa/HBO





# Treasurer's Report

*Presented by William F. Lucey III  
From the Annual Meeting  
June 10, 2021*

Well, this didn't turn out to be the 75th anniversary year we had planned. In many ways, it calls to mind the early years of the Preservation Society, when survival and stability were far from assured.

We had to close our doors in March of 2020. Our guides, ticket sellers, and custodial staff felt the impact first, but we kept everyone at full pay during the first Paycheck Protection Program. When that ended, we were forced to lay off 231 employees, including some who had been with us for over 40 years. Those who remained worked from home, as best they could. Those were dark days indeed.

Then the skies brightened, and we reopened on an extremely limited basis in early June. Museums needed the government's permission to open, and we were the first to apply. Our application was so thorough, it became a state model for other museums to follow.

We opened The Breakers and The Elms in June, and Green Animals in July. We gave 243,000 tours, down from nearly 1,000,000 tours the previous year. Admissions revenue fell over \$7,000,000.

We saw similar revenue declines in membership, sales, special events, food service and our fundraising events, such as the Flower Show and the Summer Dinner Dance. All told, the decline in total operating revenue was over \$15 million.

We were saved from financial disaster by our incredibly generous donors, strict cost control measures and innovative programming. We received \$5.3 million in government grants, which will be vital to our recovery efforts. We experimented with new ideas that worked well, including new outdoor tours, holiday lights at The Breakers, virtual events, and educational programming that reached thousands of people.

Despite the pandemic, and thanks to grant funding from previous years, we were able to accomplish several major initiatives this year. We replaced the air conditioning system at Rosecliff, we put a new roof on Marble House, and we continued our work on rehabilitating the landscape at The Breakers, as you have witnessed here this evening.

But our budget has shrunk from \$26 million to \$13 million, and our mansions aren't getting any younger or less expensive to maintain. Before the pandemic struck, we were wondering how we could afford to put a new roof on Rosecliff which could cost as much as \$5 million, and how we could afford to lose a summer season of weddings and other lucrative rentals while it was being done. Those concerns loom even larger now, on a budget half as big as it was before.

It will doubtless be years before we achieve the lofty heights of the past, but I am certain we can get there. I am convinced that the Preservation Society can and should lead the way to Newport's recovery. Our mission is to preserve, protect and present, not to lay low and wait for clear skies. Businesses and visitors to Newport are looking to the Preservation Society to open our houses. That is why I am proud of the staff who got The Breakers and The Elms up and running prior to many other businesses in Rhode Island. We are helping to lead the way for Rhode Island to get back on its feet.

So, the pandemic continues to challenge us, but we are resilient. We will eventually emerge from this pandemic and when we do, the Preservation Society, along with the rest of our community's businesses, will need all of our support.

I look forward to seeing you at the iconic Newport Mansions again soon.

Madame Chairman, that concludes my report.

To request a copy of the complete FY2021 audited financial statements for The Preservation Society Of Newport County, please contact James M. Burress, Director of Finance, at [JBurress@NewportMansions.org](mailto:JBurress@NewportMansions.org).



Sparkling Lights at The Breakers



Visitors to The Breakers



# Accomplishments



• In February 2021, the Preservation Society took possession of a significant furniture acquisition: a rare carved walnut Savonarola chair by the internationally acclaimed artist Luigi Frullini (Italian, 1839-1897). The chair reportedly was a gift from Frullini to the Wetmores of Chateau-sur-Mer in 1876. It is now placed in the Chateau-sur-Mer library.

• An area of Middletown, R.I., known as Paradise Valley, was beautified by the efforts of Scenic Aquidneck, a coalition of the Preservation Society, Preserve Rhode Island and Aquidneck Land Trust. The project, completed in the summer of 2021, removed 77 unsightly utility poles and buried miles of power and communications lines along Third Beach Road and Indian Avenue. In addition to restoring the natural scenery, the project also promotes resiliency against storms and flooding.



• An extensive project to restore the 128-year-old Marble House roof was finished in the spring. This project – critical to the long-term viability of Marble House – included complete replacement of the 6,500-square-foot rubber roof membrane installed in 1981; replacement of all copper sheet metal on the mansard roof; new copper downspouts and gutters; and reconstruction of the roof drains. Kudos to Mike Taber, the Director of

Properties, and Apollo Roofing for their meticulous work. And many thanks to contributors, including the Save America's Treasures Program administered by the National Park Service, van Beuren Charitable Foundation, The Champlin Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Katie and Steven Gewirz, The Estate of Helen Andrews, The Campbell Family Foundation, Denise LeClair-Robbins, and Elizabeth Hayes.



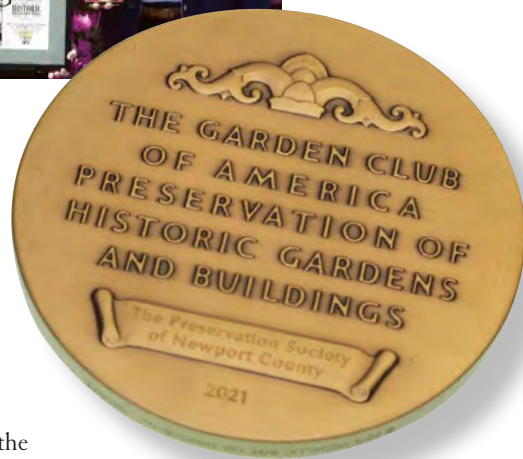
• Throughout 2021, the Preservation Society hosted events for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began, including the Newport Music Festival on The Breakers back lawn; newportFILM screenings outdoors at The Elms, Marble House and Rosecliff; and Island Moving Company's Newport Nutcracker at Rosecliff.



• During the month of April, the Newport Symposium and the Preservation Society presented "Creativity From Crisis: Design in Times of Need," a series of 10 virtual lectures exploring how a public health crisis can lead to inventiveness and innovation.



• The Preservation Society Of Newport County was presented with the prestigious Garden Club of America's Historic Preservation Medal for 2021 during a virtual event on May 12. The Newport Garden Club nominated the Preservation Society for this honor, which recognized the Society's "outstanding achievements in preserving historic homes, gardens, and landscapes of international historical, cultural, and architectural significance."



• On May 28, the first day of Memorial Day weekend, The Garden Café at The Breakers Welcome Center opened for the first time since the pandemic started. On that same day, Marble House reopened for tours, and The Elms gardens and grounds opened for strolling and picnicking.



• In June, a project to remove years of dust and common air pollutants from the limestone walls in the foyer and central hall of The Elms began. A latex-based cleaner from Cathedral Stone Products was applied like thick paint and allowed to cure for two days while absorbing dirt on the wall surface. It became a film that was peeled away with the dirt. The results were amazing!

## BACK IN BLOOM A Ballroom Floral Fantasy

• The Newport Flower Show and presenting sponsor Bartlett Tree Experts returned to Rosecliff June 18-20 after a one-year hiatus because of the pandemic. "Back in Bloom: A Ballroom Floral Fantasy" was an indoor, self-guided tour of floral design exhibits that filled the 2,800-square-foot Rosecliff Ballroom. The Salon was filled with floral creations by talented designers interpreting the theme of "A Garden at Nighttime," while the back Terrace featured a conservatory-like garden space featuring al-fresco exhibition tables created by local event and floral designers.



• In spring and summer, Phases 1 and 2 of the window and door restoration at The Elms were completed. Five large floor-to-ceiling exterior doors on the south elevation, and a total of 22 windows and doors on the first floor of the west elevation, were completely restored and made operable for the first time in years.



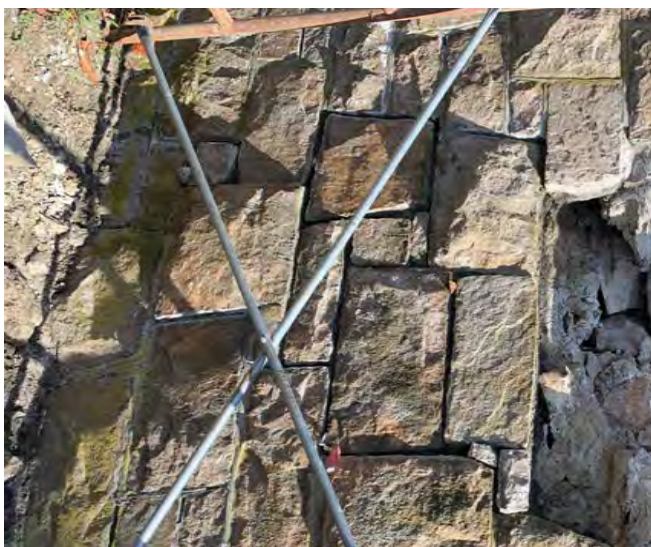
• On July 1, the Preservation Society returned to live lectures at Rosecliff. While continuing to offer a Zoom attendance option with its Summer Lecture Series, "Gilded Age Games," it was the first time since February 2020 an in-person lecture was hosted by the Preservation Society. This continued with the Fall Lecture Series, "Maker and Muse: Sculpting the Gilded Age." By the end of 2021, the Preservation Society had hosted 33 free virtual lectures since April 2020.



• On July 30, Chateau-sur-Mer opened for the first time since the fall of 2019. It was also the first time five Preservation Society properties – The Breakers, Marble House, The Elms, Chateau-sur-Mer and Green Animals – were open to the public since 2019.



• Also in July, The Elms Servant Life Tour was restarted. It had been suspended since the pandemic forced the three-month closing of all Preservation Society properties in March 2020.



• In July, 2021, a project began to repair a 35 foot section of crumbling wall bordering The Elms grounds along Spring Street. Six other spots totaling roughly 60 feet were also repaired. This work was completed in September.

• On August 2, a 3D virtual tour of The Breakers interior was completed by Preservation Society Research Fellow Sébastien Dutton. This was the last interior of the Preservation Society's historic properties to be digitally mapped by Dutton.



• From August 9-16, our 2021 Newport Mansions Exclusive Experiences Summer Auction offered participants the chance to bid on a wide array of remarkable packages. The response was enthusiastic and the auction was a great success.



• On August 21, with a hurricane forecast to arrive the next day, more than 300 guests turned out at Green Animals Topiary Garden for the Preservation Society's "Enchanted Evening" Summer Dinner Dance. It was the first time this major fundraiser was held at Green Animals, and it was a complete success thanks to the hard work of the five co-chairs Kim Darden, Anne Ford, Adrienne Glascock, Kate Lucey and Kim Palmer.



• Beginning September 1, visitors could enjoy the Marble House Family/Kids Tour by downloading it on the Newport Mansions app. Designed for children younger than 13, and entertaining for any age, this tour features a professional voice actor playing the role of Marble House.



• The 2021 Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival, held September 17-19, featured two elegant wine dinners, a Sunday Brunch and Bubbly, and 23 tasting seminars. There were also nine pairing dinners held in local fine restaurants. Many loyal sponsors supported this event. Food & Wine magazine was the presenting sponsor of the festival, and BankNewport was the presenting sponsor of the restaurant program.



• On October 29, the Preservation Society hosted a scavenger hunt and trick-or-treat event at The Breakers for the second year. The event sold out.

• Opening for its second year on November 20, "Sparkling Lights at The Breakers: An Outdoor Magical Wonderland" was significantly expanded to include the southern portion of the property. A 16-foot Christmas tree-shaped light display was set up on the porte-cochère above the main entrance to The Breakers.



• Also in November, the front façade and exterior of Marble House was significantly brightened by a steam-cleaning process that removed decades of grime, pollutant residue and lichen. Also, the Marble House driveway was paved, and the Chinese Tea House painted.



• Our curatorial staff created digital images and documentation of 1,811 objects in our collections and uploaded them to [www.NewportRI.org](http://www.NewportRI.org).



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

• The Preservation Society received a significant National Endowment for the Humanities grant to reestablish our exhibition program. This allowed the rehiring of Museum Affairs staff and engagement of distinguished Visiting Curator Ulysses Grant Dietz.

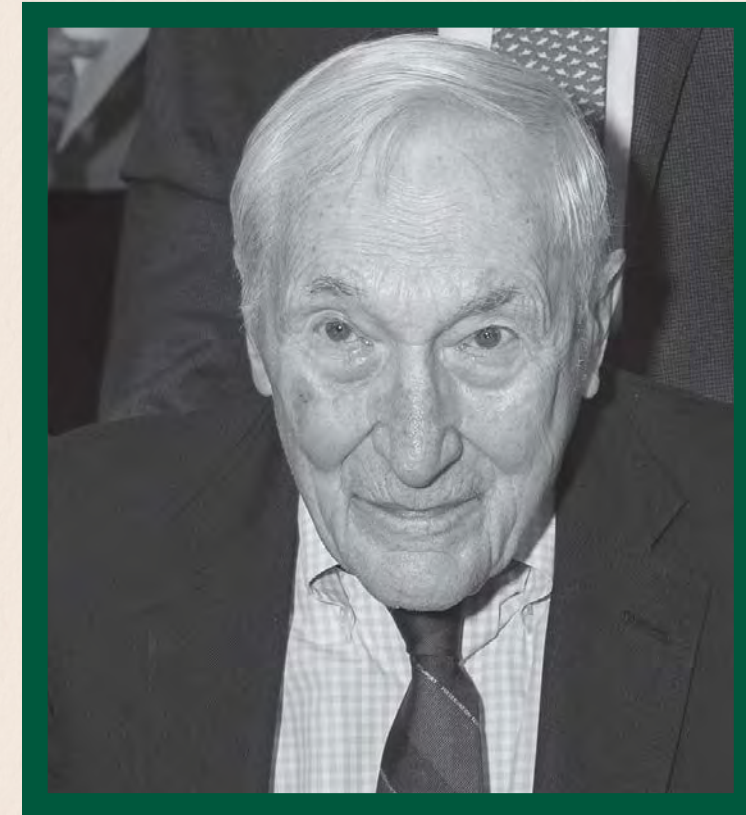


• We surpassed 1,000,000 users on our website, [NewportMansions.org](http://NewportMansions.org)



• We made additional languages (text only) available to our visitors taking self-guided tours. These additional languages include Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian and Russian for The Breakers; Chinese, Italian, and Korean at Marble House; and Korean at The Elms.

# In Memoriam



## George Henry Warren

*Trustee Emeritus, The Preservation Society of Newport County*

**June 17, 1920 – April 5, 2022**

Newport and the Preservation Society have lost a dear friend, a man who loved Aquidneck Island, historic preservation and his family for close to 102 years: George Henry Warren. Mr. Warren served 18 years (1977- 1995) as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Preservation Society, including many years before, during and after that in leadership positions. An architect by profession, his preservation efforts left an indelible imprint on the Preservation Society and on Newport. His crowning achievement was spearheading the acquisition and renovation of the McKim, Mead & White-designed Isaac Bell House in 1994.

George received the 2005 Laurel Award for Volunteerism and, in 2019, he was awarded the Preservation Society's highest honor, the Antiquarian Award, for his decades of dedicated service to the organization that his mother, Katherine Urquhart Warren, founded in 1945.

George was a kind and considerate gentleman, and he will be greatly missed.



Isaac Bell House





Treasurer and Incoming Board Chair Bill Lucey, Board Chair Monty Burnham, Trustee William N. Wood Prince

## ANTIQUARIAN AWARD

### *Awarded to* Monty Burnham

Elected in 2001, Monty Burnham has been a Trustee of The Preservation Society Of Newport County for 20 years, including two years as Assistant Secretary, five as Treasurer and five as Chairman of the Board. The life of our organization, including its growth and sustainability, is guided in large part by the Trustees. In addition to fiduciary responsibility for securing revenues and philanthropic resources, their role requires ambassadorial and diplomatic skills in tandem with reasoned decision-making and a calm, collected demeanor.

Monty possesses these skills and many more, all of which she brought to the fore when asked to step into critical leadership positions on the Board of Trustees. Highly intelligent, pragmatic when needed most, and devoted to the financial and reputational integrity of the Preservation Society, Monty has many accomplishments of which she can be proud.

As Treasurer, Monty oversaw a 17 percent increase in earned revenues and philanthropic gifts, from \$15.4 million to \$20.24 million, while the Preservation Society underwent a myriad of capital projects including the Berwind-Stautberg Scholars Center, Chateau-sur-Mer roof restoration and the conversion of Rosecliff's second floor to exhibition space. Very importantly, Monty ensured that each fiscal year ended with a balanced budget.

As Chairman of the Board, Monty's many accomplishments include:

- The installation of a geothermal system at The Breakers, saving thousands of dollars in heating fuel cost each year while helping the environment and safeguarding collections.
- Re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, putting the Preservation Society among the elite of museums adhering to the highest standards.
- Marble House roof restoration.
- Kingscote exterior roof restoration.
- Climate-control installation at Rosecliff.
- Completion of Phase I and Phase II of The Breakers landscape master plan.

These projects and more were part of the mission to preserve and protect 11 museum properties, 88 acres of gardens and landscapes, 1,700 specimen trees, and more than 60,000 collections objects. The crowning achievement of Monty's tenure as Chairman was the construction and dedication of the beautiful and much-needed Welcome Center at The Breakers. This years-long effort, which involved much unnecessary angst and tribulation brought by its opponents, caused Monty to be tested as few leaders have been, and her leadership throughout was exemplary.

As the Preservation Society approached its 75th anniversary in 2020, it faced its biggest challenge to date: global pandemic. Closing all the properties and canceling revenue-generating activities and events led to a financial crisis on a magnitude never seen before. Despite having to lay off more than 200 dedicated staff and reduce mission-related activities to a bare minimum, Monty was resolute in her belief that the Preservation Society would come through the storm intact.

Under her leadership, the organization embraced nimbleness, flexibility and innovation of new strategies to fight back against the effects of the pandemic. These included a new "Stroll the Gardens" offering with picnicking allowed at the properties for the first time; the outdoor "Sparkling Lights at The Breakers" that brought much needed holiday cheer to the community; and lectures presented via online technology that attracted hundreds of attendees from around the world. Monty kept us focused on doing everything that could be done to maintain a sense of normalcy and an "open for business" stance that other organizations and the public could emulate.

For her many years of steadfast leadership, The Board of Trustees of The Preservation Society Of Newport County is honored and pleased to award Monty Burnham the Antiquarian Award, our highest organizational honor.

Given at The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island  
This 10th day of June 2021.



Hope "Happy" van Beuren, Board Chair Monty Burnham

## ANTIQUARIAN AWARD

### *Awarded to* Hope "Happy" van Beuren

Happy van Beuren is a force of and for nature and a woman of deep conviction and action. For decades, she has championed the well-being of Newport County, its residents and the less fortunate among us as well as the preservation of our island's history, outstanding architecture, stunning gardens and open spaces.

Happy and her late, beloved husband John "Archie" van Beuren raised three children – Barbara, Archie and Andrea, who in time gave their parents seven grandchildren. As parents, Happy and Archie worked to make sure their children could make wise and good decisions for their futures and their children's, for the communities in which they would live, and the interests that would ultimately inspire each of them.

Happy's is a legacy of family. While change is constant, Happy knows firsthand that courage, strength of character, deeply held values, generosity, close family, lifelong friends and a fantastic sense of humor sustain anyone through the vagaries of life.

Four generations of Happy's family have provided vision and direction to The Preservation Society Of Newport County. Happy's mother, Elinor Hill Ingersoll, succeeded Katherine Warren as the Preservation Society's President. Husband Archie, daughter Barbara and son Archie have each served as Trustees. Happy has chaired, co-chaired or been Honorary Chair of Preservation Society events – and her granddaughter, Adrienne Glascock, is co-chairing the 2021 Summer Dinner Dance.

In 1986, Happy and Archie established the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. Early family conversations guide their philanthropy: encourage family involvement, develop firsthand knowledge of the community and operate with integrity, intelligence and imagination. This philanthropic powerhouse has invested more than \$100 million through organizations large and small to safeguard and advance Newport County.

For Happy, philanthropy is a vocal and very loud chorus, never a solo act.

As a Life Trustee of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, she was a leader and benefactor of the restoration of the Stanford White Casino Theatre to its original 1881 grandeur. She played a pivotal role in the Hall of Fame's campus-wide makeover, working to ensure that the footprint would align with Newport's historic aesthetic.

For her help to "Save Historic Trinity Church," Happy was chosen to select the building's exterior paint color in recognition of her keen aesthetic sense.

While Happy has a special fondness for Kingscote, she is the godmother of The Breakers Landscape Revival. Since April 2013 when plans for the Welcome Center and The Breakers historic landscape rehabilitation were presented to the community, she unreservedly endorsed both projects and especially championed the landscape initiative.

The Board of Trustees of The Preservation Society Of Newport County is pleased to award Hope "Happy" van Beuren the Antiquarian Award, our most prestigious honor.

Given at The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island  
This 10th day of June 2021.

# Laurel Awards



Board Chair Monty Burnham, John Palmer, Trustee Susan C. Petrovas, RPh

## *Horticulture*

### **John Palmer**

In recognition of your reliable and meticulous volunteer work in our gardens and landscapes, and the extensive knowledge of plants and plant care you give in service to the Preservation Society.



Board Chair Monty Burnham, Trustee John D. Muggeridge, Angela Moore

## *Volunteerism*

### **Angela Moore**

In recognition of your two decades of volunteer service to the Preservation Society, most recently bringing your flair for marketing and design to the branding and messaging of our Educational Sales Department and NewportStyle.net.



Board Chair Monty Burnham, Sandra Liotus, Trustee William F. Wilson, FAIA

## *Artisanship*

### **Sandra Liotus and Sir David Crampton-Barden**

In recognition of your more than 20 years of providing custom-designed and engineered lighting systems for the Preservation Society, taking care to illuminate our exhibitions and objects to best advantage while meeting the standards of historical conservation.



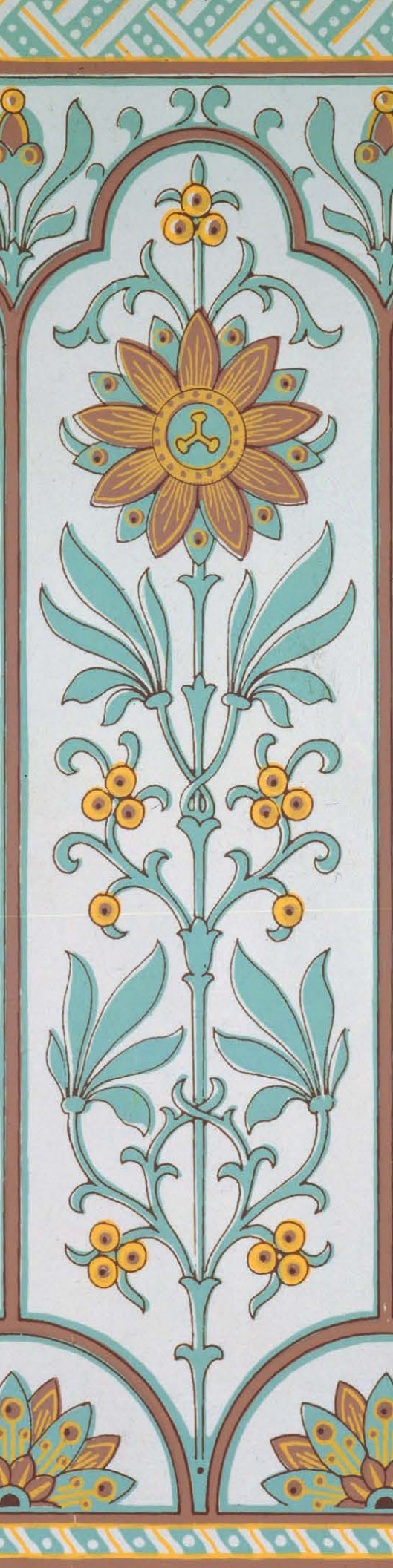
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## *Volunteerism*

### **Ruth Thumbtzen**

In recognition of your cheerful contributions at the mansions and many of our special events for more than 10 years, lending a hand wherever needed and welcoming visitors with your warm smile and friendly manner.

*Presented in recognition of outstanding service, artisanship or leadership*



Detail of wallpaper, Mrs. Weimore's Bedroom, Chateau-sur-Mer

# Awards of Special Distinction



Board Chair Monty Burnham, Rolf Wenge, Trustee Dale J. Venturini, Matt Dias

## *Award of Special Distinction*

### **Rolf Wenge**

In appreciation for your remarkable dedication to the Preservation Society by continuing to help as a volunteer after losing your employment with the Visitor Experience Department because of budget cutbacks during the COVID pandemic.

## *Award of Special Distinction*

### **Matt Dias**

In appreciation for your remarkable dedication to the Preservation Society by continuing to help as a volunteer after losing your employment with the Gardens & Landscapes Department because of budget cutbacks during the COVID pandemic.

## *Years of Service*

# THANK YOU

### **Peggy Cavaliere**

Starting in 1972, Peggy's roles have included tour guide, cashier, sales and more. She continues to help in many ways beyond her duties at Hunter House, where she became caretaker in 1998. Peggy's continuing 50-year tenure as an employee almost certainly is unmatched in this organization's history.



The Elms Dining Room, Unknown, Diana the Huntress, French, c. 1900, marble. Gift of Mr. Paul Marfini, 1962



# PROJECT PERSEVERANCE

Thanks to generous supporters, visitors and members, The Preservation Society Of Newport County was able to persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

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\* We remember.

Perseverance has been the motto for the Preservation Society since the COVID pandemic began. We were among the first museums to reopen after the general shutdown in the spring of 2020, and we came up with new ideas to draw visitors, including a gardens and grounds tour, picnicking at the mansions and an outdoor holiday light display at The Breakers.

An important part of our efforts to strive against adversity has been *Project Perseverance*, a fundraising campaign that started in February 2021 on the heels of the successful *Project Relaunch*. This campaign marked our pivot from reopening and relaunching to the goal of regaining financial stability for the years ahead.

We extend our sincerest thanks to all who supported *Project Perseverance* and the Preservation Society in 2021. We are grateful!



Ribbon Cutting: Diana Prince, Kim Darden, Barbara van Beuren, Monty Burnham, Happy van Beuren, Kate and Robert Bartlett, and John Grove

# Robert & Kate Bartlett Arboretum Walk

The weather was perfect for a stroll around the grounds of The Breakers on June 10, the day the **Robert & Kate Bartlett Arboretum Walk** was officially unveiled with a ribbon-cutting ceremony before the Preservation Society's Annual Meeting. This marked the completion of Phase II of The Breakers Landscape Revival Project.



Kate and Bill Lucey, Peter Damon, Kathy Damon, Elizabeth Leatherman, Peter Harris and Keith Stokes

Comprising the entire southern portion of the historic serpentine path, it begins on the right side of the front drive and extends all the way to the Cliff Walk. Combined with the northern part of the project that was completed in August 2019, this creates a landscaped path more than a quarter-mile long around The Breakers property.

The serpentine path once linked three neighboring estates as one continuous private park. Today, the only remnant of this extraordinary landscape survives at The Breakers. The renowned Ernest Bowditch designed the landscape with formal garden terraces, and the grounds were ringed by a meandering path bordered by dense plantings and layered garden beds. The Hurricane of 1938 decimated the landscape, and it was never fully restored.

The completion of Phase II marks another major progression in the master plan to revive this 13-acre historically significant landscape. The ongoing revival relies on generous donors, like Bartlett Tree Experts, whose gifts are dedicated to this transformational initiative.



Robert & Kate Bartlett Arboretum Walk

Donor Garden at The Breakers





## The Karel van Mander II Tapestry Returns

The 400-year-old van Mander II tapestry "The Family of King Darius of Persia Paying Homage to Alexander the Great" returned to its niche above the Grand Staircase of The Breakers in October 2021 after painstaking conservation by experts in Belgium.

Its reinstallation marked the completion of a four-year sojourn that was prolonged by the COVID pandemic. The restoration company, De Wit Royal Manufacturers, was forced to shut down for months, delaying the work. Restrictions on international shipping further postponed the tapestry's return.

The need for conservation work was noted as far back as 2008. The fibers were dry and brittle and small splits had developed due to breakage in the warp, the longitudinal threads that support the tapestry's weight.

Internationally recognized as the most trusted experts in the field, De Wit cleaned the wool and silk fibers using their patented aerosol suction method. Their conservation weavers then used a network of stitches to consolidate the entire tapestry, adding a support textile to the back and bridging areas of loss. A new lining was added to reduce dust penetration and high-strength Velcro was placed on the top and sides of the tapestry to hold it in place on the wall.

To prepare for its reinstallation, the Preservation Society's conservation team cleaned and prepared the niche and surrounding areas in the stair hall of The Breakers. A newly designed frame system and new velvet side panels were made.

A few days after its arrival at The Breakers, the tapestry – approximately 20 feet long and 11 feet high – was slowly unrolled and attached, little by little, to the new frame. At last it had returned to the place where it had hung since The Breakers was completed in 1895.

This is one of nine tapestries depicting events in Alexander's life designed by Karel van Mander II (Dutch, 1579-1623) and woven in his workshop in Delft, Holland. Made in 1619, it depicts a pivotal scene where the Macedonian conqueror, fresh from victory in the Battle of Issus in 333 B.C., is being honored by the family of the defeated Persian King Darius III.

Cornelius Vanderbilt II purchased the tapestry in 1880 at an auction in Florence, Italy. Previously, it was in the famous collection of the Russian Anatole Demidoff, Prince of San Donato. The tapestry was given to the Preservation Society in 1974 by Countess Nandine Eltz, a granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt II.



The Preservation Society sincerely thanks David B. Ford\*, the Coby Foundation, the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, Lynne and Armin Allen, Monty and Dick Burnham\*, Lynn and Gene\* Roberts, Tia and Ken Scigulinsky, and Mary and Guy Van Pelt for their generous contributions to this project.

\*We Remember.

Guests raise a toast celebrating the return of the 17th-century tapestry "Homage to Alexander" to The Breakers, November 19, 2021.



Artist David Rogers



Trebor Luke, Derek Noble Luke, Annie Sherman Luke, Jocelyn Sherman



DAVID ROGERS'  
**BIG  
BUGS**



Beginning in late June, there was a special buzz around Green Animals Topiary Garden, thanks to the installation of the David Rogers' Big Bugs exhibition.

Showcasing pollinators and other bugs on a scale that dwarfed even the iconic topiary giraffe at Green Animals, this exhibition proved to be extremely popular after opening June 25. Highlights included a 10-foot-tall Daddy Long Legs weighing 600 pounds, an 18-foot-long Praying Mantis weighing 1,200 pounds and a 10-foot-long Damselfly.

It contributed to a record-setting attendance year for Green Animals Topiary Garden, which accommodated an amazing 46,215 visitors from April 16 until October 31. In comparison, Green Animals hosted 18,622 visitors in 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

The ten sculptures in the exhibition were created by David Rogers, who uses various combinations of found or fallen trees, cut green saplings selectively harvested from the willow family, dry branches, and other sustainable forest materials. This work is one part landscape art, one part recycled art and two parts environmental art.

A total of nine sculptures were positioned around the grounds at Green Animals from June until October, tucked in among the gardens and topiaries. A tenth massive butterfly sculpture was positioned at The Breakers Welcome Center.



Left: The Newport Flower Show "Back in Bloom"

Right: Unknown maker, after the Spring Flower Egg attributed to Peter Carl Fabergé, Cloisonné Enamel Egg, Russian, mid-late 20th century, enamel, silver gill, marble. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galkin, 2002.  
Inset Right: Hawera Daffodils, Green Animals Topiary Garden

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Top: Detail from the Ladies Reception Room at The Breakers. Bottom Inset: Ralph Cahoon, "The Balloon Ascension", American, c. 1965, oil on panel. Gift of Mrs. Alletha Morris McBean, 1986. Detail of screen from the Dining Room at Kingscote.

Center inset: from the Ladies Reception Room at The Breakers.



Terry Morgenhaler and Patrick Kerins; Kate and Bill Lucey



Kari and Craig Shapero



Jack and Sherri Grace



Jennifer Nonemaker, Anne Ford, Kathryn Murphy



Paul and Kristen Fletcher



Center inset: Detail: from the Ladies Reception Room at The Breakers.



Dinner Dance Co-Chairs: Kim Darden, Anne Ford, Kim Palmer, Adrienne Glascock and Kate Lucey



AnaPaula and Mark Watson



Karl B. Smith, Trudy Coxe, Hal Truesdale



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Top: Detail of stained-glass window in the Marble House Gothic Room.. Bottom Inset: Detail of bookcase from the Library at Marble House.



Seated, left to right: Angus Davis, Peter W. Harris, John D. Muggeridge, William N. Wood Prince, Stephen B. Huttler, William P. Egan II, William F. Wilson, FAIA, Peter C. Erichsen  
 Standing, left to right: Edward F. Sanderson, Keith W. Stokes, Sherri Grace, Susan C. Petrovas, RPh, Holly M. Bannister, MD, Janet L. Robinson, William F. Lucey III, Dale J. Venturini, Meg W. Braff, Cynthia Stewart Reed, Anne Ford, Ann S. Mencoff, Beverly Y. Little, Kim Darden, William J. Corcoran, Jr.

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Back Cover: Green Animals Topiary Garden



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2021 Annual Report

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