



# 19/20 Annual Report



A Publication of The Preservation Society of Newport County





2019-2020 Annual Report  
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The Preservation Society of Newport County  
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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)  
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)

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**Cover Clockwise:** The Breakers; Photo montage, unknown artist, Portrait Bust of Madame du Barry, white marble, c. 1900, Foyer, The Elms and Conservatory, The Elms; The Breakers; Visitor Experience employee Dena Pemental, The Breakers; Sparkling Lights, The Breakers; Visitors to The Breakers; The Breakers; Caretaker Harold Mathews, The Elms



Preservation Society VIPs (Volunteers In Preservation) assisting with Stone Wall Project at Glen Farm.



Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival, Rosecliff



Green Animals Topiary Garden



Visitors to The Breakers



Becoming Vanderbilt Exhibition at Rosecliff



# Chairman's Report

*By Monty Burnham  
From the Virtual Annual Meeting  
June 11, 2020*

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, this is Monty Burnham, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Welcome to the 75th Annual Meeting of the Preservation Society, albeit a virtual meeting, which makes it two unique events in one. I must tell you, I could not have imagined an annual meeting like this one in my wildest dreams (or perhaps I should say my wildest nightmares).

The world around us has changed. If this were an annual meeting held under normal circumstances, we would be at Rosecliff this evening with me standing at the podium and you sitting in those wonderfully comfortable ballroom chairs that we all love. Instead we are in the Music Room at The Breakers, or at least some of us are, with the others, like me, on Zoom.

After my welcoming remarks I would then begin by filling you in on all the accomplishments of the past year.

But our many accomplishments of the past year are now in stark contrast to our present circumstances. As you know, our lovely houses have all been closed, due to the COVID pandemic, since March 15, and we have only just been able to open The Breakers and The Elms again, on June 4, last week.

Truthfully it was quite an achievement to get to this point, and a very costly one, both financially and emotionally. We have had to downsize in every possible way, and many of our staff, our friends and colleagues are no longer by our sides.

I very much want you to know that the effort expended by Trudy Coxe, Jim Burrell, John Rodman, and Terry Dickinson to get us to the point of being able to reopen these houses and safely present them to our visitors is nothing short of miraculous. Each day, even each hour, brought changes which had to be considered and incorporated into multiple plans. Each day absorbed energy that I cannot even begin to fathom. All of this incredibly hard work resulted in a remarkably well-organized plan for the future, known as Project Relaunch.



Billiard Room, The Breakers

Trudy, Jim, John and Terry deserve our very highest regard, as do Leslie Jones, our Chief Curator and Mike Taber, head of the Properties Dept., who together worked out all the details of the COVID-19 Plan, and Maria Corey, Human Resources, who singlehandedly coped with every aspect of the unhappy necessity of laying off employees.

There is no doubt in my mind, nor in the opinion of our Board of Trustees, that we will be able to initiate a new process for directing the mission of the Preservation Society. We will get back to level ground, and along the way will become more resilient and nimble. And hopefully we may be able to rehire a number of the employees whom we have had to lay off.

I would like to cite two of our most noteworthy accomplishments finished prior to the pandemic closing. Both projects were at The Breakers. The first project was the beautifully restored exit from the original laundry drying yard up to the carriageway. The curving



design of the exit is one of the loveliest driveways you will ever see; it required nearly 10,000 pavers, many of them hand cut, and even melts its own snow. This restoration was supported by a generous gift from the William H. Donner Foundation.

The second accomplishment is the completion of Phase One of The Breakers Landscape Master Plan, made possible by the generosity of the van Beuren Charitable Foundation. This part of the project includes that section of the Serpentine Path which winds from The Breakers side gates past the Welcome Center to the Donor Garden. We are deeply grateful for the transformational gift which made this completion possible.



These major projects are certainly not the only achievements of last year, but are among the many of which we can all be proud. They also serve as an example of the kinds of successes that may lie ahead.

In the meantime, be aware that even during the period when we have been closed, we have been able to accomplish a number of tasks that otherwise would have interfered with our visitors had we been open, so the time was definitely not wasted.

I will conclude by thanking each of you for your significant contributions to the Preservation Society. It is you who share your professional skills and expertise, your wealth of experience, vast amounts of your precious time, and your financial treasure, making this organization the premier collection of historical houses in America, and I think, the world.

Thank you and cheers to all of you!











# CEO & Executive Director's Report

By *Trudy Cox*

*From the Virtual Annual Meeting*

*June 11, 2020*

If any of you have ever taken a public speaking course, you are advised to never start with a negative. I'm going to start with two. I'm breaking all the rules.

The first negative is – and I think all of you would agree – the last one hundred-plus days have really been hard. They've been hard on the Preservation Society, they've been hard on each one of us, individually, and they've been hard on our families.

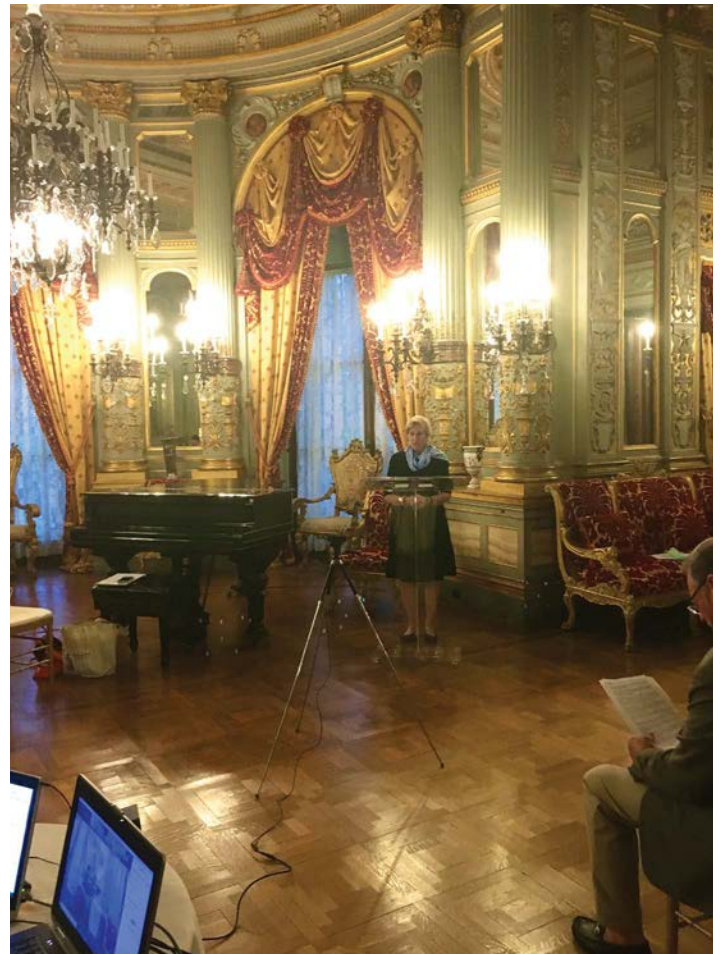
The second negative is that nobody quite knows what is going to happen in the future. We are really, really in a very interesting world right now and it is anyone's guess. So what do you do? Well, the thing that you do is you have to keep going, right? We have no choice. We have to just keep going, moving forward, and moving positively. We have to get through this. We have to somehow break the curse of the coronavirus and get back to normalcy, and that is exactly what we have been doing at the Preservation Society.

We have been working virtually, and we were one of the first institutions in the state of Rhode Island to get a PPP grant. That was incredibly important in order to pay staff at their full rate for eight weeks. It was a stay of execution, but at least it got us through eight weeks of an important time.

A second thing, and I am really proud of this, after a lot of planning and working with the state Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and others, we were the first museum in the state of Rhode Island to get the green light to open. And, in fact, last Thursday, we did open. We opened The Breakers and The Elms on a limited basis.

How would I portray the last week? I would say that American travelers have yet to get their sea legs. We have done all right, but we are certainly not at the level of attendance we were at last year. Nevertheless, I think we will come back.

Many of you have asked what keeps us moving forward. I want to share a very personal moment with you. I think the thing that has kept me moving forward is the fact that many of you, hundreds of you, have written personal notes, you have written personal emails, and I have learned a lot about why you are members of the Preservation Society. I learned that you really, really love Newport. It's unbelievable. And I have learned from your notes and your emails that you really love the Newport Mansions, way beyond anything that I've ever thought before. And thirdly, I learned that you really want us to succeed and you're willing to help us any way you can and that is such a motivator. That is so energizing. There are moments in time when I go back to your letters and I am so grateful for your having sent them because they really mean a lot.



Virtual Annual Meeting zoomed from The Breakers, June 11, 2020.



People also ask what they can do to help. There are a lot of things you can do to help. You can get your friends to come and visit. We are eager to welcome people at The Breakers and The Elms, and hope to open the other houses later this season. You can give your friends a membership in the Preservation Society. You can buy all your presents from the Newport Mansions Stores, either online or at Bannister's Wharf.

And then, most importantly each can invest in Project Relaunch. And I want to take just a moment to talk about Project Relaunch. When we were looking at opening The Breakers and The Elms, we figured out that it takes 25 front-line staff to keep the house open. It costs 2,000 dollars a day to keep The Breakers open. It costs 2,000 dollars a day to pay the salaries of those 25 people. So we figured, well, what if we asked our members and donors to support that? Buy a day for \$2,000, buy a week for \$15,000, buy a weekend for \$5,000, or a month for \$65,000. And if you do, you get your name on a banner in the front hall of one or the other of the houses. You get your name on a plaque that 100 years from now, people will say, "that person really helped this organization," and most of all, you get to help keep people in their jobs at a time when unemployment is really high. More importantly, you help relaunch Newport. One of the things I think people forget about the PS is that our success helps to drive the success of every other business on this island. If we don't make it, nobody else is probably going to make it. So we have to. That's the mission. That's what is important.

If you are still at home and looking for things to do, a lot is going on on our website. Almost every house has been turned virtual, so you can take tours any time of the day or night. They're fascinating. Several weeks ago, we had a virtual exhibition opening of "Becoming Vanderbilt," which is at Rosecliff. It's a phenomenal exhibit of four incredibly interesting women, all Vanderbilt women. I am going to end with a story about Alva Vanderbilt, who built Marble House and who was a very important suffragist. One hundred years later, we women are voting because of much of the work Alva Vanderbilt did back in the 19-teens.

When Alva died, a banner was carried above her casket in her funeral march. The banner said, "Failure is impossible." And I think we can learn something from that motto 100 years later. That has to be in your head. We cannot fail. I am really, really pleased with the fact that – as you can see from the members of the Board participating in tonight's meeting – we have a phenomenally strong board. They have been hard at work over the last few months. We have an incredible staff. We have all of you as members and donors. So I think together we can be successful. Failure is impossible. We learned that 100 years ago from Alva Vanderbilt.

Thank you all very much for being with us and please support us if you can. And come and visit as soon as you can.

Thank you.



Stewardship employee Tara Phelan cleaning in the Gothic Room, Marble House.



# Accomplishments & Challenges



- Marble House hosted an installation of sculptures by contemporary artist Nicolas Party from July 7 to September 22, 2019. The installation was curated by Dodie Kazanjian and jointly presented by The Preservation Society of Newport County and Art&Newport.
- The exhibition “Tiffany Glass: Painting with Color and Light” at Rosecliff opened December 8, 2019 and closed February 29, 2020. It was composed of 19 lamps, five stained-glass windows and more than 100 pieces of opalescent glass.
- In January, we announced hosting more than 1 million tours – 1,006,190 – in 2019. It was our fourth straight year of giving 1 million tours.



- Our Conservation Department directed a comprehensive, six-week deep cleaning of Marble House early in 2020, including all surfaces, objects, furnishings and fabrics. Some pieces that needed conservation work were treated by our professional staff.

- The 28th Annual Newport Symposium, “Movers, Shakers, and Makers: Women in the Arts,” was postponed.



- While all our houses were closed from mid-March to early June, we took the opportunity to complete several projects, including improvements to the parking lots at The Elms and Green Animals Topiary Garden; resetting marble floor slabs in the Great Hall of The Breakers and repairs to mosaic tiles in the Billiard Room; completion of the exterior restoration of third-floor windows and doors at The Breakers; plaster work and painting in Alice Vanderbilt’s bedroom; and others.



- From April through November, we hosted 17 virtual lectures via Zoom video conference, offering our entire Spring and Fall programs for free to the public. This included our first lecture presentation from overseas, a tour of the Zorn Museum in Sweden by its Executive Director and International Council member Dr. Johan Cederlund. Videos of all lectures are available on the Newport Mansions YouTube channel.
- We have posted virtual tours of seven of our properties on our website. We also created virtual tours of our previous three exhibitions and our Servant Life Tour at The Elms.

- In early June, the Preservation Society reluctantly laid off 231 full- and part-time employees. This represented 69 percent of our staff.
- The Breakers and The Elms opened on June 4, Green Animals Topiary Garden opened in July, and the “Becoming Vanderbilt: An Exhibition at Rosecliff,” was open for 12 weeks. All other properties remained closed.
- The Preservation Society hosted for the first time in its 75-year history a virtual Annual Meeting on June 11, 2020.
- The 25th Newport Flower Show was postponed until June 18-20, 2021. It will retain the same theme and all competitive classes will remain the same.



- Phase II of the ongoing Breakers Landscape Revival, addressing the south portion of the Serpentine Path to the Cliff Walk, is well underway.



- On July 22, we introduced “Stroll the Gardens and Grounds,” an outdoor-only ticket that allowed visitors to picnic on the historic landscapes of The Breakers, The Elms and Green Animals Topiary Garden for the first time.





- In August, during our Centennial Commemoration of the 19th Amendment, Marble House was added to the National Votes for Women Trail and Alva Vanderbilt Belmont was inducted into the R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame. The event included a presentation from Blenheim Palace by Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, great-granddaughter of Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan.

- The Marble House roof restoration continues. Funds, including a \$500,000 Save America’s Treasures grant by the Historic Preservation Fund, were raised prior to the pandemic.
- “Becoming Vanderbilt: An Exhibition at Rosecliff,” celebrating four remarkable Vanderbilt women, opened September 10 after a pandemic-related delay of five months. It can be visited virtually on our website.



- A smaller Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival was held September 17-20. Attendance was limited at each seminar and at the Vintner Dinner and the Sunday Brunch & Bubbly. The Grand Tastings were eliminated. Every event was sold out. At a time when so many other scheduled events in Newport were canceled, it was a huge success.



- Scenic Aquidneck, a collaboration of the Preservation Society, Preserve Rhode Island and the Aquidneck Land Trust, provided technical support for a privately funded project to eliminate 76 utility poles and overhead lines along 1.2 miles of road in the Third Beach and Indian Avenue area of Middletown, R.I.

- The Preservation Society hosted its 11th annual International Council meeting virtually on October 20, with members attending from England, France, Sweden, Austria and the United States.



- We hosted a Halloween Trick-or-Treat Scavenger Hunt for families at The Breakers on October 30. All 540 tickets for this first-time event were sold in less than 24 hours.
- “Sparkling Lights at The Breakers: An Outdoor Magical Wonderland” was introduced on November 21, filling the historic landscape and Serpentine Path with holiday lights.



- A 162-page hardcover book, “The Newport Experience: Sustaining Historic Preservation into the 21st Century,” was recently released. Commissioned by the Preservation Society with funds donated by Richard H. Driehaus, this is an overview of the history of the organization since its inception in 1945.

THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Newport Mansions Exclusive Experiences Holiday Auction

**READY...SET...BID!**  
Bidding opens at 9 am TODAY

Bid on an array of amazing experiences you might never have thought possible – and support The Preservation Society of Newport County!

**BID**

email bids accepted through 8 pm (est) Sunday, December 6

- Two virtual auctions were held, raising \$226,850. We learned that our members like exclusive opportunities.
- The Preservation Society Annual Golf Outing at Newport National Golf Club on August 31 sold out quickly and every player enjoyed a leisurely day on the greens.





# Treasurer's Report

*Presented by William F. Lucey III  
From the Virtual Annual Meeting  
June 11, 2020*

FY20, the fiscal year which ended on March 31, 2020, seems like a lifetime ago, before COVID-19, working from home, zooming, social distancing and masking. Who could have imagined our entire world would be turned so upside down? Last year seems like a dream now, and it will doubtlessly be years before we achieve the lofty heights we reached so very recently.

Revenues in FY20 were \$24.5 million, led by strong results in admissions, membership sales and special events. Expenses were \$23.7 million, of which \$13.7 million was payroll. By comparison, our visitation is down almost 80% in FY21, and our revenues will be about half of what they were in FY20. It would be millions lower if not for government assistance, which will probably not be repeated.

The stock market tumble at the end of March 2020 led to our endowment declining from \$42 million to \$38.7. Ideally, we would have an endowment of \$200 million to help care for the houses, which are valued for insurance purposes at over \$1 billion. Nevertheless, the endowment

provided over \$1.9 million in funds to the operating budget.

Several important projects were completed this year. A new visitor exit from The Breakers, years in the planning, replaced the deteriorated service drive. The laundry circle, courtyard and service drive were leveled and resurfaced with over 10,000 hand-cut pavers, over a radiant heating system to ensure visitor safety in snow and ice.

We began a \$4-million multi-year project to rehabilitate the entire 13-acre Breakers landscape. Phase I revitalized the northwest quadrant of the Serpentine Path, an extensive, meandering path that was a critical landscape feature of the original Breakers owned by Pierre Lorillard. Phase II will be completed in 2021.

A strategic revenue study generated several new and exciting ideas which have been deferred, but stay tuned for some exciting new programs.

Roof replacements continue to be a major concern. Both Marble House and Rosecliff roofs are in need of multi-million-dollar restoration work. Most of the funds for the Marble House roof have been raised and the work will be performed in this fiscal year, but we have not yet begun fundraising for the Rosecliff roof.

Our staff is a huge part of the success that the Preservation Society has achieved, so it was a bitter day in June 2020 when we were forced to lay off 231 employees. We obtained a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan to maintain employment for eight weeks, but then we had to reduce staffing to a level which reflects the new normal.

So the pandemic continues to challenge us, but we're survivors. The Preservation Society and the Newport County community will eventually emerge from this pandemic. 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 soon.

To request a copy of the complete FY2019-2020 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)











# *Antiquarian Award*

Awarded to  
David W. Ray

David Ray's investment in Newport is a great deal deeper than one might think. He is the person who envisioned a colonial house on a dilapidated wharf and made it into a restaurant mecca. David somehow knew that the Clarke Cooke House, not then on Bannister's Wharf, could be moved, meticulously restored and become a magnet for gourmet eating.

David bought the Clarke House for one dollar and had it moved to the wharf. The purchase price has a role to play here, not in monetary value, but in the fact that the image of George Washington on the bill was painted by Gilbert Stuart, the famed portraitist, who lived with his family as a child on Bannister's Wharf. Who else but David would have known that as a part of Newport's history?

Over the years, David would do much more, quietly and behind the scenes, to support Newport's sense of place. He was a founder of Harbour Court, the New York Yacht Club's Newport clubhouse. He purchased Katherine Warren's early Federal style home on Mill Street, meticulously restoring both it and its garden. Originally designed by landscape architect Christopher Tunnard, the garden is itself a nationally acclaimed treasure.

What we do today is tomorrow's history. David knows this now, and must have subconsciously known this many years ago, when he began to make his dreams our reality. For his visionary efforts in making Newport both a contemporary destination and a place with layers and layers of history, we are honored to confer on David W. Ray the Antiquarian Award for Distinguished Service and Untiring Devotion to Making Newport a Special Place to Visit and Live.



# Laurel Awards

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



## **Newport Garden Club for Horticulture**

In recognition of its dedication to Newport's horticultural legacy through its enhancement of the Newport Public Library's landscape, support for the Newport Flower Show, and involvement in many other civic and environmental endeavors.

Accepted by Caroline Slee, Newport Garden Club President.



## **Allison Dufty for Artisanship**

In recognition of your superb artisanship and magical touch in creating audio tours that tell the stories of the Preservation Society's Gilded Age properties and the families who created such architectural treasures.



## **Lew Keen for Volunteerism**

In recognition of your substantial volunteer efforts to help preserve for generations to come historic cemeteries in Newport, Rhode Island including the Common Burying Ground and God's Little Acre, along with Braman and Old City Cemeteries.



# PROJECT RELAUNCH

## The Breakers & The Elms are Open Thanks to OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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Employee Jamie Ascioffa at The Breakers



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\* We remember.

To support the reopening of The Breakers and The Elms in early June 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Preservation Society began a major fundraising campaign called Project Relaunch. The goal was to cover the cost of staffing the two houses every day for several months, giving us the ability to rebuild our revenues through ticket sales.

Potential donors were asked to contribute funds to operate one house for a month (\$65,000), a week (\$15,000), a weekend (\$5,000) or a day (\$2,000). This campaign has been supported by numerous smaller donations, including from visitors who have given something extra after enjoying their tour.

At a time when admissions have been down nearly 80 percent, donations to Project Relaunch have saved more than 50 jobs every day at The Breakers and The Elms.

Project Relaunch will go down in the Preservation Society's history as one of its crucial success stories, on par with the Society's founding in 1945 to save Hunter House and the effort to save The Elms from demolition in 1962. It has truly helped to keep us afloat in 2020, and we are extremely grateful.



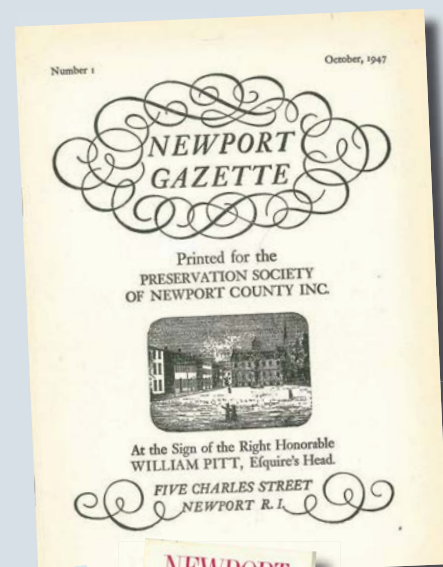


The Preservation Society of Newport County commemorated its 75th anniversary in 2020. The Preservation Society was born August 2, 1945, when Articles of Association were filed with Rhode Island Secretary of State Armand H. Cote. The original purpose was to preserve Hunter House, a significant 18th-century Georgian Colonial. Over the decades, the Society's mission and holdings expanded to include Gilded Age mansions and other architecturally and historically important properties.

In 2004, the Preservation Society was awarded the highest honor for a museum: accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

Today, the Preservation Society is internationally renowned for its preservation work and its historically informed presentation of these properties. It has long been a major driver of Newport's tourist economy, reaching a peak of more than 1 million tours per year from 2016-2019.

Much has changed since 1945 but the organization's purpose remains the same, including "the acquisition, collection, development and preservation of houses, places and objects of historical, artistic and architectural interest."



Hunter House doorway detail; Newport Gazette Number 1, October, 1947; Newport Mansions brochures c. early 1960s; Katherine Warren receiving a certificate at the dedication of Hunter House as a National Historic Landmark, 1964.

*"If you will undertake this adventure together - each doing that part which he is best fitted to do - there is no question in my mind as to the outcome of your endeavors. Newport's history belongs to all of you. All of you share the responsibility for your city's future. Together you can bring lasting prosperity to this area. Together you can make Newport one of the most interesting tourist centers in the United States. Together you can help to preserve America's history in bricks and mortar and do a tremendously important service for the generations which will come after you."*

"Only Tomorrow"

Kenneth Chorley, President of Colonial Williamsburg

As read to an assembly of Newport Citizens under the auspices of The Preservation of Society of Newport County  
March 25, 1947



# Centennial Commemoration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

The long-planned Centennial Commemoration of the 19th Amendment, which gave women nationally the right to vote, took place August 26 in the Gold Room at Marble House. The event was hosted by CEO & Executive Director Trudy Coxe with a virtual audience looking on via Zoom video conference, as necessitated by the pandemic.

The keynote speech was delivered virtually from Blenheim Palace in the UK by Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill, great-granddaughter of Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, who was a noted suffragist along with her mother, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont. Governor Gina Raimondo, the first woman elected to the office in Rhode Island, and R.I. Poet Laureate Tina Cane provided recorded messages while poet, activist and educator Amber Rose Johnson spoke virtually.

Also participating were Jane Koster, President of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island; Russell DeSimone, Director of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame; and Theresa Guzman Stokes, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society.

During the event, a plaque was unveiled designating Marble House part of the new National Votes for Women Trail. Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, who hosted national suffrage conferences at her Newport estate in 1909 and 1914, was also inducted into the R.I. Heritage Hall of Fame.



Trudy Coxe, Theresa Guzman Stokes, Russell DeSimone and Jane Koster;

Alva Vanderbilt Belmont



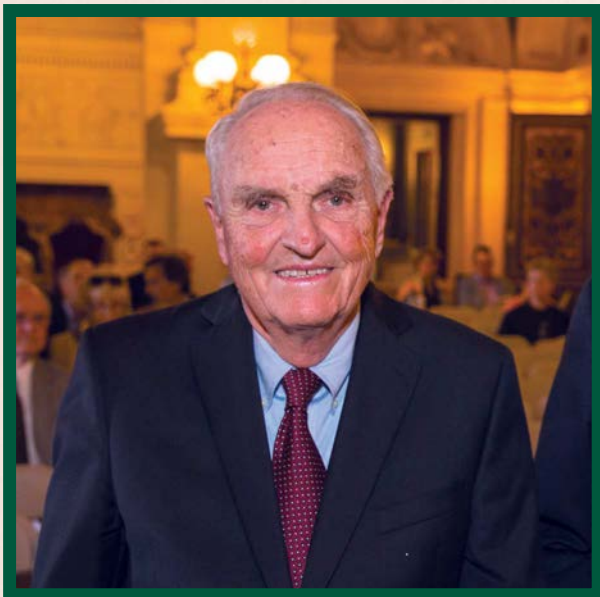


# *In Memoriam*



**Dayton T. Carr**  
**January 7, 1942 – April 7, 2020**

Dayton T. Carr's contributions to the Preservation Society were much more than that of an individual expressing personal philanthropic support for the organization. Dayton played a critical leadership role in the six year comprehensive campaign that concluded in 2016 having raised \$39 million. As co-chair of the campaign, Dayton was an untiring cheerleader promoting the goals and mission of the Preservation Society. He also gave much of his time and energy to serve on the Holiday Dinner Dance Committee, Coaching Weekend Dinner Committee, Concours d'Elegance Men's Committee and the Preservation Society's 60th Anniversary Ball and Auction Committee. Dayton was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and he will be deeply missed.



**William W. Corcoran, Esq.**  
**October 18, 1929 – January 19, 2021**

William W. "Bill" Corcoran, Esq. began his service in 1959. Over the years, he would serve as a Trustee, member of the Finance Committee and the institution's principal legal advisor. Bill's involvement covered the gamut from assisting his father in handling the purchase of The Breakers from the Vanderbilt heirs to working with the City of Newport to establish the Historic District Commission. Through it all, he would leave his indelible fingerprints on the tremendous expansion of the Preservation Society from a struggling organization with only Hunter House to today's internationally recognized institution with 11 historic properties. Always equipped with a mirthful chuckle, Bill took all his tasks very seriously, but never himself. Bill was a kind and thoughtful man who expressed a genuine love for the Preservation Society, his native Newport, and, above all, his family. He will be sorely missed.





**David B. Ford**  
**January 4, 1946 – September 20, 2020**

David B. Ford was an active and ardent supporter of the Preservation Society. He served eight years on the Board of Trustees, including several as Vice President, and he was a co-chair of our landmark comprehensive campaign, which raised \$39 million from April 2010-August 2016. He served on the Investment, Collections and Breakers Stable Committees. With his 33 years of experience working on Wall Street, his financial expertise was invaluable to the Preservation Society. David was a consummate gentleman and reliable friend with a passion for preservation in all forms – cultural, architectural and natural. He will be greatly missed.



**Sarah M. Gewirz**  
**October 19, 1940 – October 29, 2019**

Sarah M. Gewirz served as a Trustee of the Preservation Society for 12 years during which time she provided wise counsel on a host of important issues affecting the health and vitality of the organization. Sarah was an active member of the Comprehensive Campaign Committee that raised \$39 million for the institution. It was her commitment to this endeavor that helped make it such a success. Sarah's leadership extended to her involvement in the House Advisory Committees for both Rosecliff and The Breakers. Sarah was also a sponsor of the Annual Preservation Society Golf Outing along with her husband Bernie. Sarah was an exceptional lady and she will be dearly missed.



**Eugene B. Roberts, Jr.**  
**October 16, 1939 – April 18, 2020**

Eugene Roberts was an avid supporter of the Preservation Society for many years, serving in leadership roles as a member of the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee and Collections Committee which he chaired. Gene's extensive knowledge and passion for art and cultural artifacts served the Collections Committee well as he led the effort on many occasions to successfully acquire and return objects to their original home at one of the Preservation Society properties. A direct descendant of the Vanderbilt family (his parents were Eugene Bowie Roberts and Cornelia Széchény), Gene worked hard to faithfully represent the legacy of the Vanderbilt family during his decades-long association with the Preservation Society. Gene's invaluable leadership also included service on the Chateau-sur-Mer House Advisory Committee. Gene was a gentleman who will be truly missed.





Sparkling Lights at The Breakers: An Outdoor Magical Wonderland



# Donors

April 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020

The Preservation Society of Newport County thanks our many members, individual, foundation and corporate contributors and matching gift programs for their ongoing generosity. Your support makes it possible for us to protect, preserve and present the exceptional collection of house museums and landscapes entrusted to our perpetual care.

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\* We remember.



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\* We remember.

"Jeux d'Enfants Statuary Grouping," from the workshops of Jules Allard et ses Fils, after originals by Jean-Joseph Vioche, white marble, 19th century. The Elms; Detail of Louis XVI Style carved gilded screen, Music Room, The Breakers



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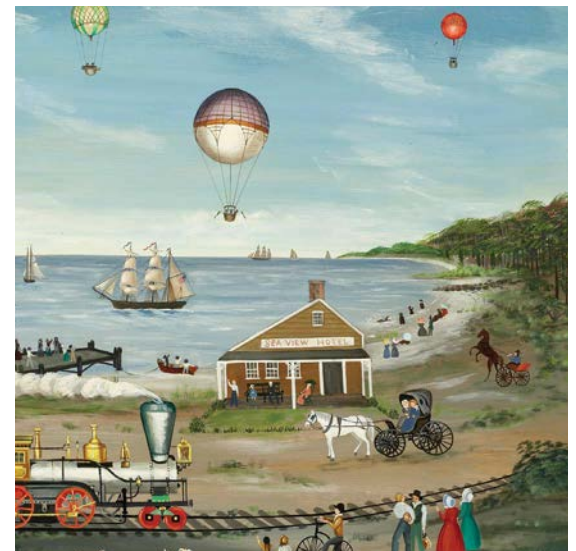


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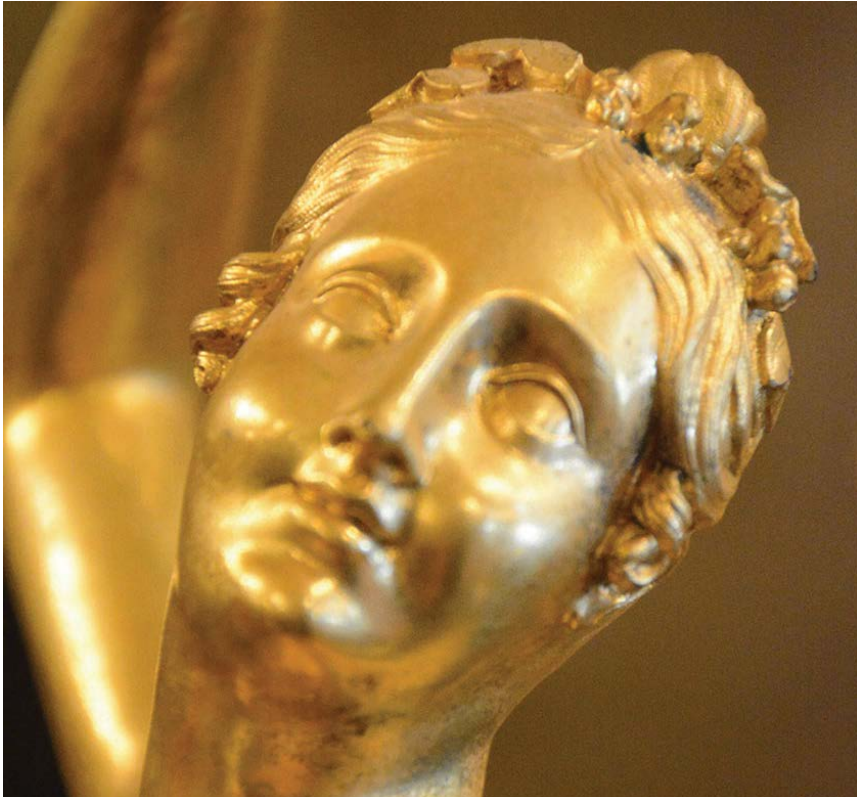
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Unknown maker, detail of a Neoclassical candelabra centerpiece, c. 1830, Foyer, The Elms

\* We remember.



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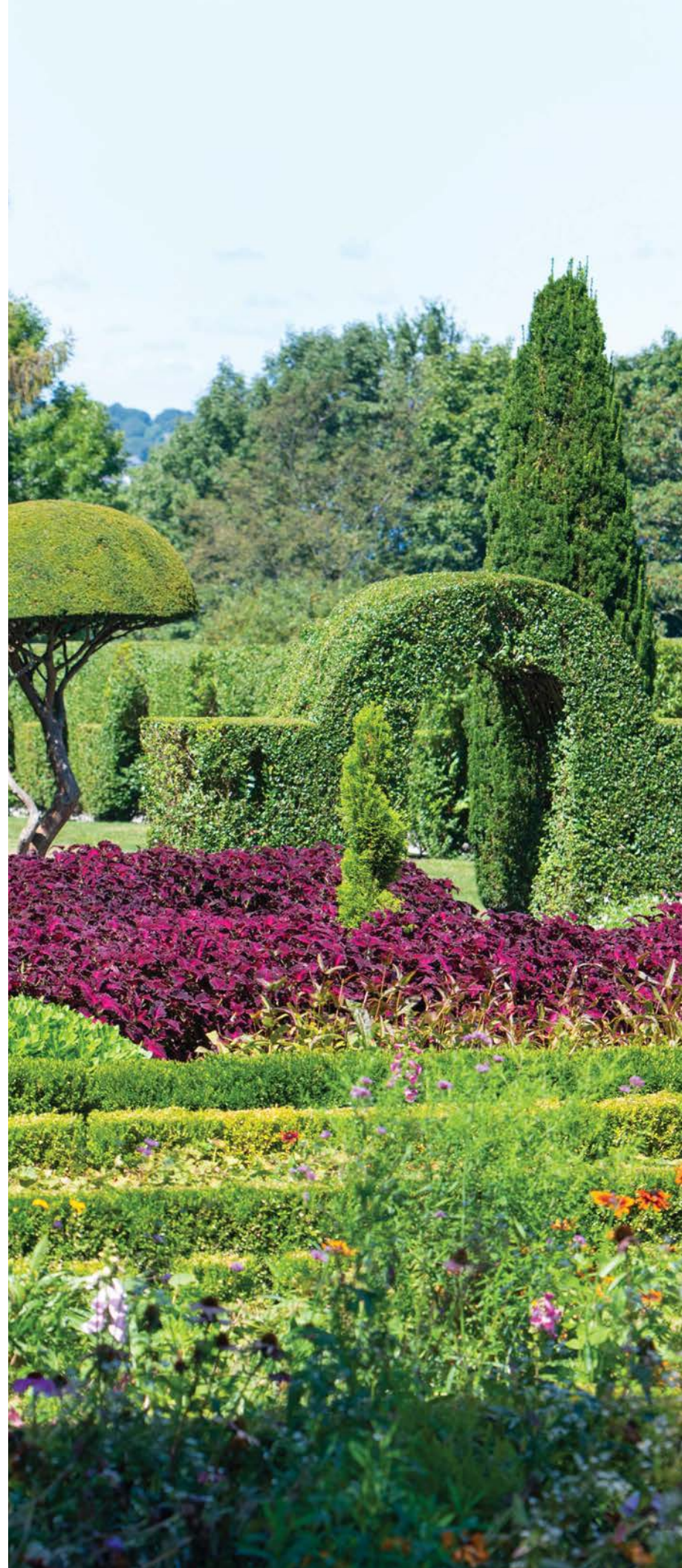
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Thank you.

\* We remember.







Marble House roof restoration

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Karl Theodore Francis Bitter, marble roundel of Richard Morris Hunt, 1891, Grand Staircase, Marble House

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Library, Marble House

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