



# Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER • PRESERVE • RESTORE

Fall 2019

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## Barrington Preservation Society Museum

Lower Level,  
Public Library

## Hours

Wednesdays & Saturdays  
1:00 – 4:00 or  
by appointment

## Phone

(401)289-0802

## E-mail

info@barringtonpreservation.org

## LOT 3A! Historic Kernel of Barrington Purchased by the Town: Thank you!

“Lot 3A” on Nockum Hill is the bucolic, six-acre historic kernel of colonial Barrington. The historic Baptist meeting house that almost certainly graced the site in the 1660s long ago gave way to horse paddock, wildflowers, and terrapin nests.

After six years of meetings, hearings, and litigation over Lot 3A, the Town of Barrington voted to fund its purchase at the Financial Town Meeting, and the purchase was concluded over the summer. One town councillor wrote, “I’ve never heard applause for spending tax dollars before!” Preservation Society members were front and center of this effort, in partnership with the Land Trust and other community groups and individuals.

Freedom from the threat of development gives us new opportunities to study this untouched window into Barrington’s past. Preservation Society volunteers are working with the Town to plan a non-invasive archeological survey, which should settle the mystery of the early Baptist meeting house location and may turn up traces of other colonial and pre-colonial habitation.

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## Elizabeth Sargent Warren Award: Nominations

The Barrington Preservation Society is asking for nominations for the 2020 Elizabeth Sargent Warren Historic Preservation Award. This award was established in 2012 and named for longtime architectural historian and preservation advocate Elizabeth (Bonnie) Sargent Warren.

The purpose is to honor an individual, business, family, or organization for outstanding work in maintaining or preserving the historic character of a property or landscape, or an exceptional record of service or advocacy for preservation and heritage in the town of Barrington.

Any resident of Barrington may make a nomination. Nominations should include:

- name and address of the nominee
- name and address of the person making the nomination
- statement of impact of the project or nominee on Barrington
- (if relevant) photographs of the project or nominee

Suggestions for potential future nominations are also welcome.

Please send any nominations (or suggestions for nominations) by November 30, 2019, to the Barrington Preservation Society by email to: [info@barringtonpreservation.org](mailto:info@barringtonpreservation.org); or by mail to: Barrington Preservation Society, Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806. The award is presented at the January Annual Meeting. Names of honorees are engraved on the base of an original architectural model of the Providence Arcade, on permanent display in the Barrington Town Museum, lower level of the Town Library. For further information, contact Nat Taylor, BPS President, at (401) 301-9968.

## BPS BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

**T**his year's Barrington Preservation Society scholarship award was presented on May 30 to **Sydney Polando**. This award was created by the Society to recognize a Barrington High School graduating senior who exhibits a high level of academic performance and an active interest in history, art history, historic preservation, or architecture. Sydney was highly recommended by several BHS faculty members and is now a first-year student at Cornell.



# museum news

## *Extraordinary Women of the East Bay*

A highlight of the year was the Barrington opening on Thursday, June 6, of the exhibit *Extraordinary Women of the East Bay*, initially organized through Roger Williams University, involving sixteen museums and historical societies in several East Bay locations. While the exhibit recognized and celebrated sixty extraordinary women of the entire East Bay from the past four hundred years, four women from Barrington were the focus of the our exhibition and the June 8 event: Mira Hoffman (1865–1944), benefactress of Girl Scouts; Mary Tefft “Happy” White (1916–2009), artist and philanthropist; Catherine Stewart “Kitty” Shadd (1923–2014), editor of *The Barrington Times*; and Natalie Peterson Luethi (1926–2012), founder of the Luethi-Peterson International Camps. At the opening, Arlene Violet moderated while those close to each of the four honored women shared memories in a heartfelt and unforgettable evening for over fifty attendees.



◀ Photo 1: A Lively Panel



▲ Photo 2: Opening Crowd in the Collis Gallery.

◀ Photo 3: Six-year-old Ella Horsman of Fall River greets Brownie manikin, part of the *Extraordinary Women* exhibit display about Rhode Island Girl Scout founder Mira Hoffman. June 12, 2019.

## Barrington Town Meeting Records, 1717-1746: Forthcoming Publication

The contents of the Barrington Massachusetts Book of Town Meeting records—restored last year by Jason Patrician of The Fish Bindery (see p. 4) with sponsorship of Barrington Preservation Society and Rhode Island Genealogical Society—are to be published in a slim blue paperback at the end of the year. The book will be available through Rhode Island Genealogical Society as part of its series Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records. Further information is at [rigensoc.org](http://rigensoc.org). Purchase of the book is by membership and subscription.

### From the Plaque Committee

Our annual plaque program is postponed from a fall date to spring 2020. The date and speaker will be announced at the beginning of the new year.

**Renewal Plaques:** Barrington Preservation Society plaques were originally painted on opaque white lucite (plastic). For the past several years, houses have been plaqued with more substantial signs of painted and lacquered wood. Old plastic plaques may be renewed with the current wood ones at cost—\$100 for members. Renewing a plaque may be an opportunity for additional research on a house's history. If interested in a renewed plaque, or with any concerns about weathering plaques, contact us at [info@barringtonpreservation.org](mailto:info@barringtonpreservation.org).

*Old and new plaques for the General Allin House ►  
We cannot guarantee your house's date will not change!*



## 2020 Annual Meeting and Future Programs

At our annual meeting and luncheon, to be held in January, we will welcome a new president and many new board members. The date is not yet set, but it will be sent out with a luncheon invitation. Programs in 2020 will include the annual plaque program in the spring as well as, we hope, an opening for the restored Barrington Militia Flag, which we hope to be returned to Barrington next year.





▲ Jason Patrician in action at the Fish Bindery.

## VISIT TO THE FISH BINDERY

On March 25, members of the Barrington Preservation Society learned what The Fish Bindery actually does when Jason Patrician opened the Maple Avenue business for a special tour. In 2016 Niamh and Philip Maddock bought 136 Maple Avenue from Tom Wallis, whose family had been in business selling fish for over 50 years. Philip, a retired radiation oncologist, had collected books since his teenage years and took up bookbinding as a hobby about 20 years ago. The Maddocks' son-in-law Jason Patrician, a graphic designer, also became interested in bookbinding. Both Philip and Jason have attended many classes, from Harcourt Bindery in Boston to the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. Philip and Jason decided to go into practice together, and after extensive renovation, The Fish Bindery was opened. The name is in honor of the long connection of the Wallis family to the site and has nothing to do with mistreating fish.

The range of work at the bindery includes restoration of antiquarian books, individually designed bindings for presentation books, bookbinding, and Jason's specialty, handmade marbled paper. Using centuries old techniques, everything is produced by hand. The visit focused on restoration work, with several examples available for inspection. Books can be bound in cloth or decorated papers, but a major focus of the bindery is on leather bindings, often finished with extensive gold tooling. Jason performed a gold tooling demonstration, and people were given the opportunity to try it. An added treat was that everyone received a small notebook with a handmade marbled paper cover.

Helmeted tour participants by Brickyard Pond ➤



## Barrington Bike Tour

What a perfect day it was! On Saturday, August 12, about twenty bikers got together to ride and learn about Barrington history, on a tour led by Barrington Preservation Society volunteer Sydney Montstream-Quas. The tour took in the bay, boatyard, brickyard, and beautiful Barrington neighborhoods. It is hoped the perfect-weather streak will continue with future summer tours.

## museum news cont.

***Andiamo! Italians Make Their Mark In Rhode Island***

Several artifacts from the BPS Museum's Nicholas Gizzarelli Sr. Collection were recently on display at an exhibition at the Rhode Island State Archives in Providence. *Andiamo! Italians Make Their Mark In Rhode Island* ran from June 21, 2019 through October 25, 2019. The exhibit celebrated the establishment, growth and contributions of Rhode Island's Italian-American community, through an assortment of cultural and historical memorabilia and manuscripts. Featured local artifacts included: Barrington bricks and brickworks pay envelopes; Rhode Island Laceworks bobbins and sample book; (Picerelli) Deep Rock Bottling Plant crate; and (DeSpirito) Brookside Dairy photo and bottle. The Nicholas Gizzarelli Sr. Collection forms an important core of BPS artifact, document, and working paper collections.

**OTHER  
MUSEUM  
NEWS**

While the Peck Center Renovation is underway, the bulk of our collection storage, formerly in the west end of the lower level, is still in commercial storage space in Warren. This has put a strain on our budget and made it harder to continue improving collection management practices and planning future exhibitions. BPS officers have been speaking with the town officials in the hope that renovations will continue on a timely schedule and we will be able to return to storage space as soon as possible.

The Museum Committee is actively seeking volunteers for many aspects of our museum, from behind-the-scenes collection management, to designing periodic exhibitions, to docent staffing during our opening hours (currently Wednesday and Saturday afternoons). Please contact [info@barringtonpreservation.org](mailto:info@barringtonpreservation.org), or call (401) 289-0802 (voice mail).

***If Jane Should Want to Be Sold***

▲ Photo : Marjory O'Toole in the Salem Family Auditorium.

In May, Marjory O'Toole, Executive Director of the Little Compton Historical Society, presented research from her book, *If Jane Should Want to Be Sold: Stories of Enslavement, Indenture and Freedom in Little Compton, Rhode Island*. Research for this project used hundreds of primary source documents to bring to light the lives of people of African, Native American, and European descent who were enslaved and forcibly indentured in Little Compton between 1674 and 1816.

Ms. O'Toole shared the personal stories of some of these people, including Jane, who was given the choice whether or not to be sold, Boston Wilbor, an enslaved man who secured his freedom by volunteering to serve in the Revolutionary War, and Aaron Biggs, whose testimony about the burning of the Gaspee was sent directly to the King of England. Through these local stories one can better understand the larger story of African and Native American slavery in New England and throughout the Atlantic World.

# membership dues

The season for dues renewal for 2020 has begun. For 2020 we are introducing a Business Membership Category at \$250. Supporting businesses will receive recognition in our newsletters and on our website. Please use the dues form in this newsletter or return the one to be sent in December.

\*\*\* Be a member and help preserve Barrington's rich history.  
2020 dues cover from January 1 to December 31.

## Join the Barrington Preservation Society!

### Membership Categories

- |                               |                            |                                 |                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5  | High School Student        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100  | Supporting      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | College/University Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250  | Patron          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | Individual                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250  | Business Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Family                     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | Life Member     |

Join or renew online at [barringtonpreservation.org/membership](http://barringtonpreservation.org/membership), or clip and send this form with a check payable to:

The Barrington Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806

\*Stay connected and help BPS reduce costs by giving us your email address. Dues are tax deductible.

New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \*

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Barrington Preservation Society**  
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