



# Barrington Preservation Society

DISCOVER, PRESERVE, RESTORE

Spring 2008

## New Leaders Inducted February 2008

Kent Phillips, Nancy Peck and Christina Scola (l-r)  
photo: Paul Darling

**T**he baton has been passed. This year we added new names to the presiding slate. We welcome their enthusiasm and history of community involvement as follows:

**Nancy R. Peck**, President, previously served on the Barrington Preservation Society's (BPS) Program and Education Committees. Her experience includes volunteering in the historic preservation arena, writing a local history newspaper column in NJ, and working in multiple small museums. She was a co-founder of the Glen Rock (NJ) Historical Society and a newsletter editor for Glen Rock's Centennial celebration. In addition to her local work with BPS, she is a supporter of the Barrington Garden Club and Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum.

**Kent M. Phillips**, First Vice President, has been a resident of Barrington for 17 years. Kent and his wife Sally raised two boys here. Since retirement from Textron Investment Management as a Senior Vice President, Kent has volunteered with Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum, Tap-In, and St. John's Church, and has served on many corporate boards of directors.

**Christina M. Scola**, Second Vice President, grew up in Barrington. After completing law school, she settled

back in Barrington and currently works for Bank of America in the Estate Settlement department. She was introduced to the Preservation Society by her aunt and uncle who have been very active in the Society.

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## Two More Houses To Receive Plaques

**O**n Monday, May 19, plaques will be presented to the owners of two charming Victorian houses that are 100 years old and meet the Preservation Society's criteria. Honored will be the **MARTIN-WYMAN HOUSE** (ca. 1883-1928) at 37 Ferry Lane. This large, 2-story Victorian home has a one-story, Colonial Revival gabled wing on the east side. This house is on the "Barn Lot" sold by the estate of Ambrose Martin to Martha Smith in 1865. The Martin family ran the ferry to Warren in the 1770s and owned a large tract bound by Ferry Road and Shore Road (now Mathewson Road). In 1883, Charles H. Martin bought the property and his house appears on the 1895 Map of Barrington. Dwight M. Wyman bought this house in 1928, enlarged it and hence the value jumped from \$1500 to \$3000.

Also awarded a plaque will be the **GEORGE H. MCGREGOR COTTAGE** (1908) at 43 Sowams Road. George H. McGregor of Fall River bought Lot #2 on the 1907 "Warren or Palmer River Plat... belonging to Eliza J. Stanley" to build a summer house. Eliza's plat of 12 lots extended to the Palmer River.

*May is National Preservation Month*

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37 Ferry Lane

43 Sowams Road

## Letter from the President

If multi-tasking is your cup of tea—or, if concentrating on the details of one artifact captivates you—you’ve come to the right newsletter. As a community organization, the Barrington Preservation Society is a place where talents are accommodated and dull moments are never to be found.

From experience, I can tell you that preservation societies are grand opportunities for variety! Our tasks are many—from administrative to archival to advocacy, from outreach programs to promotion, from research to displays. Not to be neglected is that unavoidable non-profit task of fundraising. Certainly we like to attract historic preservation specialists. But equally important to our group’s function is the participation of others such as born board leaders and those with various skills: educators, graphic designers, photo experts, publicists, grant writers, computer “savvies,” hospitality mavens, and those finding fun in finances.

Whether or not you are a historian, membership in this group allows a civic celebration of Barrington and its roots. In so doing we promote a sense of community enjoyed by all. If you are interested in volunteering, I would encourage you to contact me and I will let you know all the different opportunities there are. I can be reached at [npeck2@cox.net](mailto:npeck2@cox.net) or you can leave a message at our new Museum phone number: 289-0802. Come and be a part of our community.

Nancy R. Peck, President

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## Jennys Lane Historic District Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Jennys Lane Historic District is a linear district with 30 houses which also includes several properties on Mathewson Road and Rumstick Road, and a boat house on the river. These residences primarily date from the 1850s through the 1920s. Architectural styles include Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman, as well as more vernacular forms.

Development as a summer colony was initiated by Allen C. Mathewson, a Barrington native. A highly successful jeweler, he retired to Barrington in 1862 to build a model farm on Shore Road, now Mathewson Road. Mathewson urged his friends to come and enjoy Barrington’s “fresh air and saltwater” and built two hotels and several Victorian cottages; seven properties are extant that document this Mathewson legacy.

support, and compiling information from the Society’s archives for the nomination of the Jennys Lane Historic District. A majority of homeowners donated the funds necessary to hire Joanna Doherty, Preservation Consultant, to complete the research and lengthy nomination. Homeowners are delighted that they are now eligible for the State income tax benefits for exterior

The Barrington Preservation Society spent four years canvassing the neighborhood, soliciting

rehabilitation and may apply for low interest loans for needed restoration work.

Jennys Lane Historic District is Barrington's second neighborhood to achieve this honor. The Alfred Drown Road District achieved the status in 2005.

## Membership Drive Launched

**D**id you know that the Barrington Preservation Society is supported by 128 members? With that number, the Society can barely meet its operating requirements and still conduct a modest number of programs each year.

Kent Phillips, Membership Chair, reports, "A successful membership drive will enable BPS to expand its programs of guest speakers, facilitate our curator's efforts in the Museum, and promote the importance of historic preservation. It will also enable the Society to enhance its image in the community. This year please take time to reflect on the Society's civic contributions and consider increasing your annual donation."

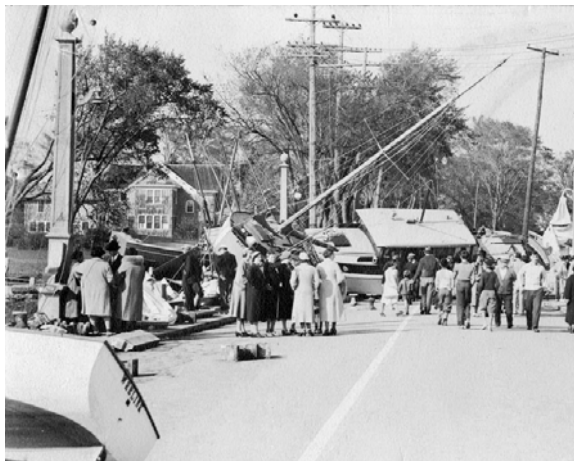
The Board of the Directors has recently made a commitment to designate this year as **Membership Emphasis Year** with the theme *8 in '08*. As such, each of our Board members has personally committed to locating eight new members. Would you make a similar commitment and recommend a friend to join you as a member? This one and a half-story gambrel-roofed cottage

*The Barrington Preservation Society's new phone number is 289-0802*

### Save the Date!

Our Storm of the Century:  
a 1938 Hurricane Anniversary Program  
September 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
in the Barrington Library Auditorium

Share your 1938 hurricane stories at this September program or write them down and submit them to Barrington Preservation Society.



Boats crossed bridges during the Hurricane of 1938. For three days afterward, *Dotnye* blocked both lanes of the Barrington Bridge.

with a small balustrade front porch is almost unchanged today. All the window and door frames in the interior exhibit a unique molded design. This cottage has had only three owners, passing to the Covell family in 1946, then to Mark Allard and Leah O'Mahoney in 1983.

Following the plaque presentation, Joanna Doherty, Preservation Consultant, will give an illustrated talk entitled "The National Register Comes to Jennys Lane." Joanna will explain the benefits of National Register listing and how to apply for the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit. This important state tax incentive is still in place and a welcome benefit to homeowners!

Come and learn about our local history on May 19 at 7:30 pm in the Library Auditorium and then join us for a reception in the Preservation Society Museum.

**Plaque article continued from page 1**

## Your Help Needed In Endowment Campaign

**F**or a small organization like the Barrington Preservation Society, creating an appreciation for the town's rich history and architectural legacy is a big mission. We do this by caring for thousands of documents and artifacts in our museum – and sharing them with you – and by providing informative facts and programs about Barrington's illustrious past to people of all ages. We've been busy producing *Barrington by the Bay* (a history book for third graders), leading the charge to put two lovely old neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places, plaquing worthy homes, running two popular house tours, and sleuthing out the original color of our beautiful Town Hall.

While we've been fortunate to keep our expenses low, we know that it is essential to shore up our finances for a viable future. The BPS Board of Directors recently voted to create an Endowment Fund to do just that, and has approved policies that

will safeguard its use. The interest from this dedicated and conservatively invested fund will help us balance the books each year, while preserving capital. Former BPS President Van Edwards heads the Endowment Committee, which includes Larry Farmer, Bernard Scola, Kent Phillips, Christina Scola and Lynn Kelly.

Our first step in building a fund is turning to our members for support. There are many ways you can help: outright gifts (checks made out to the BPS Endowment Fund), gifts of stock, property and other types of appreciated assets, donating ownership of whole life insurance policies and charitable bequests in your estate plans. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. If you have questions or would like more information, please call Van Edwards at 245-9719. We sincerely appreciate your help.

*Welcome new board members: Paul Darling, Louis Fragola and Phyllis Fragola*

## Museum Mission Accomplishments

The BPS Museum has never been more active. Along with school and scout tours comes a steady stream of researchers. Store architects, bridge designers and railroad buffs are among those who've paid a visit.

Also we've seen how the Museum collection is equally valuable to local civic organizations. This year the Yacht Club and St. John's Episcopal Church celebrate major anniversaries. Photos and other articles in our collection have helped them tell their stories. The Rhode Island Country Club, too, has sought help as

they re-create their history in book form. RICC suffered memorabilia losses in a major fire more than 50 years ago and our collection helps fill some gaps. BPS is also the historical repository of past noteworthy groups such as the Barrington Boys' Choir, League of Women Voters and the Barrington Players.

The Museum's mission statement, finalized in 1984, states its intent to act as a center for research, serve in an educational capacity, and be available to citizens and researchers. We proudly fill that role. If you'd like to research a Barrington topic, call the Museum at our new phone number 289-0802 for an appointment.

*Next Museum Exhibit: The Second World War Effort Begins Memorial Day*

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

### Board of Directors

Nancy Peck, President  
Kent Phillips, First Vice President  
Christina Scola, Second Vice President  
Bernard Scola, Treasurer  
Lynn Kelly, Secretary

Paul Darling                      Jean MacIntyre  
Lawrence Farmer                Sydney Montstream-Quas  
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Sydney Montstream-Quas, Newsletter Editor

**Join the Barrington Preservation Society**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### Classes of Membership:

\_\_\_ Patron (\$100)     \_\_\_ Family (\$25)  
\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$60)     \_\_\_ Single (\$15)  
\_\_\_ Business (\$60)     \_\_\_ Student (\$5)  
\_\_\_ Supporting (\$35)     \_\_\_ Other  
(\$\_\_\_\_\_)

Return this form with check payable to:  
**Barrington Preservation Society**  
**P.O. Box 178, Barrington, RI 02806**