



## 2022 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Jaychele Nicole Schenck is the fifth student to receive the annual \$15,000 Rhode Island PBS Foundation Scholarship. Jaychele entered Bentley University in September 2022 and is pursuing a double major in diversity, equity and inclusion and public relations. See her interview on the set of [\*\*\*A Lively Experiment\*\*\*](#).

2022 was a year of immense creativity and collaboration at WSBE Rhode Island PBS, with in-person productions, events and initiatives resuming. As always, our focus was community outreach and original content. We worked hard to share viewpoints with a local interest, and to amplify the voices that add value to our collective experience but might not otherwise be heard.



### AN INTEGRAL PART OF RI'S CULTURAL TAPESTRY

As part of WSBE's commitment to our region's culture and robust history, Rhode Island PBS delivered award winning content aimed to meet people where they are; on-air, online, and in-person. From **Black Joy** – an original series providing perspective into the strength of Rhode Island's Black community, to **Hi-Neighbor!**, the story of one of Rhode Island's most iconic brands, to community events aimed at educating and raising awareness, Rhode Island PBS strove to tell the stories of our community.

### IN 2022, WSBE PROVIDED THESE KEY SERVICES

Rhode Island PBS reached out into the community, telling in-depth stories, hosting workshops and panels, and providing resources to further education and awareness. In partnership with Rhode Island College, Rhode Island PBS hosted a premiere for **Black Joy** and a public discussion with the production team about strength, joy, and issues facing the Black community. Education Services continued to provide content and resources supporting teachers, students, and adults trying to further their education through the Rhode Island PBS LearningMedia portal. Rhode Island PBS also provided content digitally, improving access to information and resources for the community.

### EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES, AFFECTING CHANGE

Rhode Island PBS aimed to spark imagination, explore our history, and reflect the values of our community by telling Southern New England's unique stories. **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** produced stories ranging from education and healthcare, to local history and the environment, with content shown nationally on **PBS NewsHour**. **Our Town** went into communities, spotlighting stories told by neighbors and friends. **Ocean State Sessions** highlighted performances and the creative process of local musicians in Rhode Island.

## HI-NEIGHBOR! THE STORY OF THE NARRAGANSETT BREWING COMPANY



***Hi-Neighbor! The Story of the Narragansett Brewing Company*** explores the history of one of Rhode Island's most famous icons. Founded by German immigrants in 1890, the Narragansett Brewing Company grew from a humble craft brewer to New England's largest and most advanced brewery, commanding 65% of Rhode Island's market and 25% of the New England market share by 1965. Despite strong sales and legendary marketing, it fell victim to modernization and by 1983, closed its doors for good while its product was produced out-of-state.

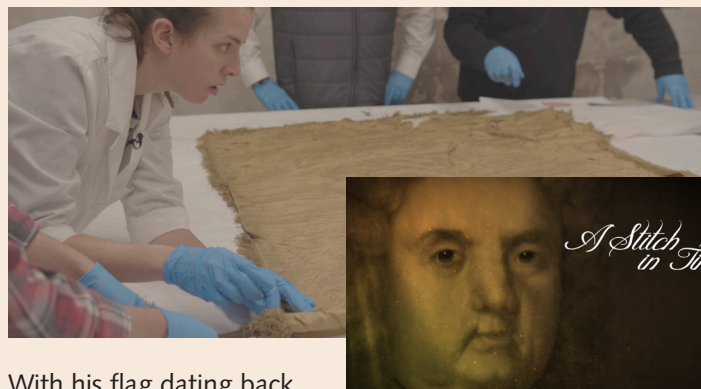
By the early 2000s, in an amazing turn of events, the brand was resurrected at the start of the craft beer renaissance and returned home to Rhode Island.

This Rhode Island PBS Original documentary premiered May 25 to be 'lager' than life, with an in-person watch party at the Narragansett Brewery in Providence. [Enjoy the documentary now, On Demand.](#)

## A STITCH IN TIME

When a long-forgotten flag catches the eye of expert textile conservator Maria Vasquez and curator Patrick Donovan, an exciting journey of discovery unfolds.

***A Stitch in Time***, a Rhode Island PBS Original, follows the delicate conservation of the "Byfield Flag" as historians piece together the timeline of the flag's benefactor, Colonel Nathaniel Byfield – a commanding officer of the Bristol County Militia and one of the original founders of the Town of Bristol.



With his flag dating back to the 1690s, the "Byfield Flag" may now be the oldest Colonial American flag in existence.

[Watch this remarkable story which brings history to life.](#)

# BLACK JOY

**Black Joy**, a Rhode Island PBS Original three-part series, launched on April 14 with a live community experience at Rhode Island College. Each episode in the series provides a unique perspective into how Rhode Island's Black community draws upon joy as a source of strength.



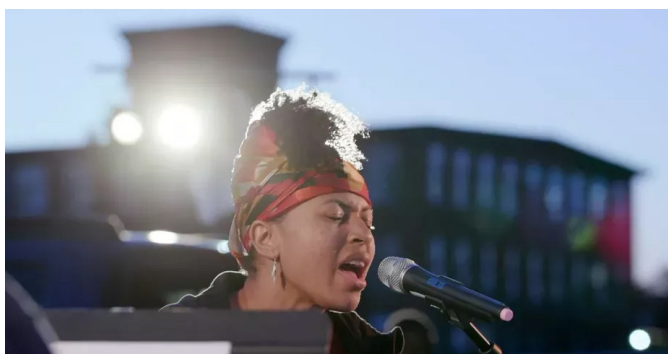
## **Black Joy: Strength**

Akeem Lloyd and Bithja Meus from *A Leadership Journey* address mental health in the Black community. In the face of ongoing violence and injustice, Lloyd and Meus have made it their passion to empower young Black leaders in the community, equipping them with the mental and emotional strength to seek out joy in themselves.



## **Black Joy: Perseverance**

Julia Broome, owner of Kin, one of Rhode Island's only Black-owned soul food restaurants, and chef Kevin Johnson explain the importance of having a safe space for the Black community and how Kin has become a place of joy for many.



## **Black Joy: Celebration**

Artists delve into their childhoods and challenges, sharing personal stories that capture how art has been a source of joy and refuge to escape the world around them. Featuring Trinity Repertory Company director and actor Joe Wilson Jr., Mixed Magic Theater choir director Kim Pitts-Wiley, and nationally recognized poet Rudy Cabrera.

[Watch the entire 3 part series as well as the live experience here.](#)



## DON'T MISS IT!

There is so much compelling local content on Rhode Island PBS, and we don't want anyone to miss it!

That's why, in April, we launched ***In Case You Missed It***. The half-hour, monthly series highlights some of the best of Rhode Island PBS content that has previously aired and is available On Demand, or will be encoring soon.



Episodes feature segments from ***Rhode Island PBS Weekly, A Lively Experiment, Ocean State Sessions, Our Town, Story in the Public Square, Treasures Inside the Museum***, and more.

[Past episodes can be watched online now.](#)



***Ocean State Sessions***, a Rhode Island PBS Original series, returned in April with more performances by a wide variety of talented, local musicians.

The episodes, shot at the spacious WaterFire Center for the Arts as well as other performance locations, include interviews with artists as they share their creative process and the inspiration behind their performance pieces.

Each episode of ***Ocean State Sessions*** continues beyond broadcast with extended interviews and exclusive insights from the local music scene. [Enjoy the series On Demand here.](#)

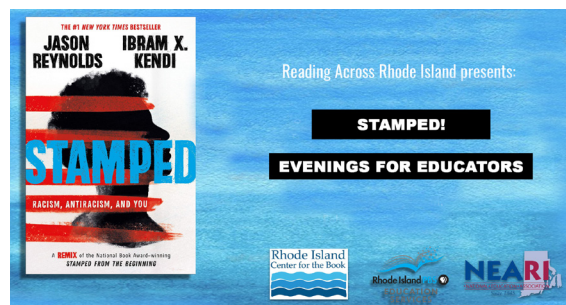


## AWARD-WINNING LOCAL CONTENT



Now airing on PBS nationally, ***Chasing Silver: The Story of Gorham*** earned three prestigious awards in 2022. In January, the Rhode Island PBS Original series won Best Historical Documentary at the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) 53rd Public Media Awards; in May, Chasing Silver won a gold Telly Award, reserved exclusively for the top 3% of Telly winners; and in June, the series captured the New England Emmy® for Outstanding Historical/Cultural Long-Form Content. [Watch the first episode here.](#)

Rhode Island PBS Education Services took home top honors in Education Learning Events for its program, **“Reading Across Rhode Island: STAMPED Evenings for Educators”**, at the 53rd Annual National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Public Media Awards.



Rhode Island PBS Weekly won two prestigious awards this year. In January, ***Dark History***, a story about genocide, won Best Education/Schools content at the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Public Media Awards. Then in May, ***Finding Hope***, a story about one family’s harrowing escape from Afghanistan earned a Silver Telly Award.

Last but not least, ***Under the Ground: The Story of Liberation News Service*** tied for Best Cultural Documentary at the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) 53rd Public Media Awards. This independently produced documentary was presented by Rhode Island PBS.





## BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH SPECIAL EVENTS



On February 9, Rhode Island PBS hosted a virtual cooking class with Rosemary Gill, Director of Education for **Christopher Kimball's Milk Street**. Rosemary shared her approach to blending spices, including when to use ground or whole spices and the difference between toasting and blooming. It was a fun and informative event for all the culinary enthusiasts who attended.

On February 24, in honor of Black History Month, Rhode Island PBS partnered with Rhode Island College for the premiere of **Black Joy**, a Rhode Island PBS Original three-part series that shares the history, tradition, and legacy of joy in the Black community. Between the three short films, Rhode Island College students performed on stage at Roberts Auditorium. This was followed by a discussion with the producer and guests from the production.



In April and May, Rhode Island PBS and Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art (RIMOSA) held a series of hands-on virtual workshops, "Electric Dough for Adults," plus a preview of the Ken Burns film, **Benjamin Franklin**. The fun and informative workshops included a complimentary kit with all the materials needed.

On May 18, Rhode Island PBS screened the Netflix film **Rescued by Ruby** at the Historic Park Theatre & Event Center for the community in honor of K-9 Ruby, who passed away that same month. The film shares Ruby's journey from shelter dog to K-9 partner of Rhode Island State Police Corporal Dan O'Neil.

The screening included the **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** segment, **Remembering Ruby**, where correspondent Pamela Watts had the opportunity to meet Ruby and Corporal Dan O'Neil before Ruby's passing. A Q&A with K-9 trainer RISP Sergeant Matthew Zarrella and the actor who portrayed him in the movie, Scott Wolf, followed.






# RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES

Rhode Island PBS Education Services provides content and resources to support teaching and learning for educators, students, parents and learners of all ages in our community. Resources are distributed free-of-charge and leverage high-quality public media content adapted for instructional use, supported by outreach efforts and teacher trainings. In addition, we offer community engagement screenings and events to ensure that we reach our region's entire diverse audience. For thorough information on Rhode Island PBS Education Services, please visit [www.ripbs.org/education](http://www.ripbs.org/education), sign up for our free monthly Ed Services e-Newsletter [here](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#) (@EdServRIPBS).

## Early Childhood Education

Rhode Island PBS broadcasts the full PBS KIDS daily line-up of high-quality children's television programs. Our Ready To Learn Learning Neighborhoods project, as well as our core ongoing efforts, dedicate extensive staff time and energy to distribute a comprehensive range of supporting resources to support learning and skills development for young children and their parents. In addition, we provide teacher training and workshops for early childhood educators on standards-aligned, research-based best practices for integrating this content into their work in childcare and center settings. Nearly all of our early childhood workshops are offered in both English & Spanish. All of these resources are provided free-of-charge to children, parents and professional educators in our community, with special focus on Rhode Island's "Core Four Cities" of highest levels of recurring childhood poverty.

Outreach efforts this year included:

- Summer Learning Hours** - A series of 5 events in collaboration with local public libraries and community centers for families to participate in engaging, educational and fun activities based on PBS KIDS content and resources.
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**Play and Learn Science: Water Play Workshop Series** - A science curriculum training for early childhood educators, providing an introduction to appropriate development practices relevant to learning environment, interactions, and individualized instruction.
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**Elinor Wonders Why:** Estrategias de Enseñanza para Explorar STEM con Niños Pequeños (Teaching Strategies for Exploring STEM with Young Children), OFFERED IN SPANISH ONLY. This series of workshops provided participants with an intensive, hands-on introduction to developmentally appropriate STEM learning. All workshops were based on the extensive resources offered for the new PBS KIDS program, **Elinor Wonders Why**.
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**Week of the Young Child Celebration** – From April 4 - 8, 2022, we partnered with the Rhode Island Association of the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC) and Providence Community Library (PCL) to celebrate the Week of the Young Child with a series of free activities and giveaways based on each day's themes at 4 different community library locations.

The contents of these resources/events were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. The project is funded by a Ready To Learn grant (PR/Award No. S295A200004, CFDA No. 84.295A) provided by the Department of Education to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting."

# RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES

## Early Childhood Education, *cont'd*

- **Rhode Island PBS Educator & Community Learning Professional Development Series** - Designed for educators of children ages 3-8, the goal of each three-hour session was to empower educators with the tools, skills and confidence to bring media-rich, play-based and learner-centered experiences into their own environments and communities.

### Rhode Island PBS Announces CJ Meehan as PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion

In March 2022, local early childhood educator CJ Meehan was recognized by Rhode Island PBS as a leader in the early education community - and was selected as a national PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion. The award, established in 2018, recognizes and celebrates passionate educators who work with the country's youngest students, from infants to second graders. The program represents the diverse teaching community impacting young learners today, and surrounds educators with professional learning and networking opportunities. [Read more about CJ and the PBS KIDS Early Learning Champion on our blog.](#)

### Rhode Island PBS LearningMedia

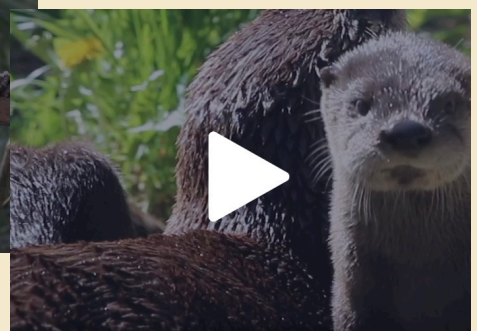
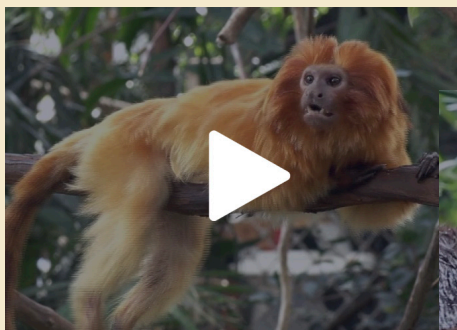
One of our featured local resources is [Rhode Island PBS LearningMedia](#) – an online PreK-12 content library that provides FREE access to media-based instructional resources for educators, students and parents. Resources cover the full range of subject areas and grade levels, and include video from PBS broadcast content and original interactives, supplemented by standards-aligned lesson plans, teaching tips, activities, handouts and assessments to facilitate classroom use. Currently there over 30,000 media-based instructional resources on the site, generating over 100,000 visits annually by RI users. In addition, working closely with local partners and expert educators, Rhode Island PBS Education Services adapts and aligns originally-produced local Rhode Island PBS content for posting on PBS LearningMedia, with nearly 20 resource collections published to date, generating over 130,000 cumulative views by educators.

Content launched this year includes:

- **Camp TV RI Season 2**

Resources developed in collaboration with local partners Roger Williams Park Zoo and Save The Bay to support the national series **Camp TV**, offering children the opportunity to experience a range of informational and fun activities throughout the summer months.

[The Deal with Harbor Seals](#)  
[From an Otter Point of View](#)  
[Monkey Business](#)



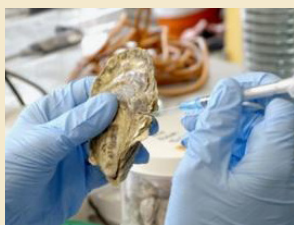


# RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES

## Early Childhood Education, cont'd

- **Treasures Inside the Museum**

[Treasures Inside the Museum](#) looks into the back rooms of museums throughout Southern New England, delving into their treasured collections and uncovering pieces that often remain hidden away. The collection is intended to be utilized by educators and students to recognize local history and to show how varied museums can be. Video content demonstrates how science, history, culture, and art come together through the institution's holdings to tell their own specific stories.



- **Oysters and Genetics**

In this **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** story, scientists at the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Dr. David Nelson and Dr. David Rowley, use genetics to inform their research into infectious disease prevention in Rhode Island oyster farms. Discover their successes in both the laboratory and the field.

- **Inside the Work: *Through Her Eyes — A Newport Nutcracker Reimagined***

Island Moving Company: *Inside the Work* provides viewers with a more in-depth look at dance making. Each installment of the series allows viewers to see IMC dancers rehearsing and performing pieces by IMC choreographers and guest artists from around the world, as well as the ideas that inspire them.

[A Dancer's Career Path](#)

[Dual Roles](#)

[Performing Arts Careers](#)



# RHODE ISLAND PBS EDUCATION SERVICES

## Adult Basic Education/GED

Rhode Island PBS provides and distributes online study resources and collaborates with a range of strategic local partners, including the RI Dept of Education, Community College of RI and Providence Public Library to help adults achieve their education and career goals. We connect students with classes, resources, and educators to help them gain skills and credentials for high school equivalency diplomas, employment, citizenship, and family and community leadership. Nearly 300 adult RI students utilize Rhode Island PBS-distributed content each year to achieve their GED, including these 2 success stories from local students [Josh](#) & [Claribel](#).

**FASTFORWARD™**

## Events/Trainings

Rhode Island PBS coordinates a range of initiatives each year to help connect with students and educators:

PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs Livestream special, ***Our New Normal: How Teens Are Redefining School Life***



Rhode Island student journalism students contributed content to this national initiative. From vax and mask mandates to curriculum protests, students in America are seeking a new normal amid the ongoing chaos created by the pandemic. So how are they doing? This [PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs special](#), which aired January 25, 2022, provided answers.

## READING ACROSS RI:

Rhode Island PBS sponsors this annual event in collaboration with RI Center for the Book to provide statewide shared reading opportunities for general audience, and K-12 students. This year's events included:

- ***Firekeeper's Daughter*** Evening for Educators – This event included activities, speakers and resource guides for educators to teach this book with high school students, exploring issues of indigenous identity and clash of cultures.
- ***Kids Reading Across RI*** - A live, virtual discussion with ***How to Win a Slime War*** author, Mae Respicio. Schools, public libraries, homeschoolers, and children's literature lovers were invited to celebrate the award-winning author behind this year's joyful, honest, and heartfelt selection.

## ***Benjamin Franklin*** Virtual Professional Learning Workshop

This outreach event complemented [Benjamin Franklin](#), a new Ken Burns series exploring the life of scientist, inventor, writer, diplomat, and signer of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. The virtual professional learning workshop for middle and high school educators shared a teacher toolkit with resources to support use of the film in English Language Arts, STEM, and Social Studies classrooms.



***Nobody makes television like  
this anymore!***

**— Bernier W.,  
MA**

Appreciate your creative local  
programming and learning about the  
history and culture of Rhode Island.

**— Mary-Louise J.,  
Quincy, MA**

Thank you so much!! You are picking  
some first-class entertainment and  
giving me, at old age, the closed  
captioning to understand it. Bravo!

**— Casper R.,  
Middletown, RI**

## LETTERS, EMAIL AND PHONE MESSAGES FROM OUR VIEWERS

Deeply appreciate programming like  
Slaterville and Gorham which would  
never be available anywhere else.

**Carol D.,  
Providence, RI**

In addition to all the wonderful programming you offer for  
the general public, our 8-year-old daughter really enjoys the  
children's educational programs. This year, she was especially  
thrilled to see her name on the Birthday Announcements for the  
month of October! Thank you for making her feel so special!

**— Lupe L.,  
Milford, MA**



## STORIES FROM INDEPENDENT VOICES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rhode Island PBS has a longstanding tradition of putting the spotlight on independent voices in our community. From [\*Nine Lives for Number Nine: The True Story of the Ramsdell Train\*](#) to *Antiques with Mike Rossi* to the *Mostly Music Chorus of Westerly*, we love delighting our viewers with programs that inform, inspire and entertain.

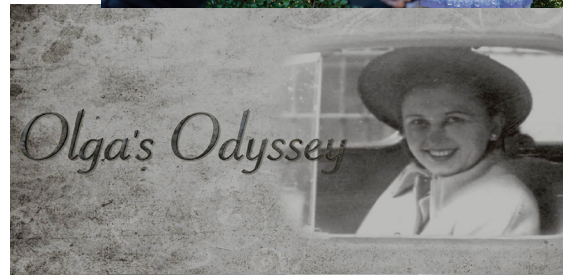
One of the programs that did just this was *Behind the Scenes: Through Her Eyes - A Newport Nutcracker Reimagined*.

Due to the pandemic in 2020, Island Moving Company's traditional, in-person performance of A Newport Nutcracker was reimagined as a feature film. In 2021, this classic holiday ballet was followed up by *Behind the Scenes: Through Her Eyes - A Newport Nutcracker Reimagined*. The program took viewers back stage for an intimate look at the magic of the ballet, which was filmed at six historic locations in Newport, Rhode Island.

Other collaborations with independent producers brought important social issues to the foreground with heartbreaking, yet inspiring documentaries such as [\*Breaking Good: Women and the War on Drugs\*](#); *Olga's Odyssey*, a survivor's story of war and genocide; [\*With Dad\*](#), a son's photographic journey through Alzheimer's disease; and, *The Key Man: Dave McKenna*, the rise and fall of a local pianist, who despite his struggles with extreme shyness and alcoholism, is still considered a legend among jazz musicians around the globe.

We also enjoyed partnering with many community organizations around the state, such as United Way of Rhode Island for [\*Sparked!\*](#) [\*The Nonprofit Innovation Lab\*](#). This "shark-tank" inspired program featured non-profit organizations pitching their innovative ideas in a friendly competition, with winners getting the opportunity to transform their ideas into reality.

And for the first time ever, we took our viewers into the sports arena, giving them a glimpse of Rhode Island's elite hockey club. NESN's Bruins host, Dale Arnold showcased the Classes of 2020 and 2021, in the first televised *Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame "Enshrinement Special."*





## HOMETOWN STORIES TOLD BY NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS: IT'S *OUR TOWN*!

Part documentary film, part community builder, part fundraiser, and part “day-in-the-life” scrapbook, ***Our Town*** is a project where neighbors and friends share the stories of their community.

On a quest to visit all 31 Rhode Island towns, Rhode Island PBS had the opportunity to work with Cumberland and East Greenwich as the 12th and 13th stops in the series. [\*\*\*Our Town: Cumberland\*\*\*](#) premiered on September 8, 2021, and [\*\*\*Our Town: East Greenwich\*\*\*](#) premiered on March 2, 2022.

Neighbors and friends of both towns became the storytellers and filmmakers, capturing the stories they wanted to share in the documentaries.

***Our Town: Cumberland*** featured the following stories: ***100 Years of Cadillac Mills, A Rock 4 U, Arnold Mills Parade and Road Race, Caring for the Blackstone, Coffee and Community, Diamond Hill Boxing Legends, Explorer River Tours, Gardening for Good, Geddes Family Farm, Healing with Horses, Honoring Lt. Robert Waugh, Inside Scoop, Ski Valley, The Cumberland Land Trust, and The Monastery and Library.***

[Watch the full documentary here.](#)

***Our Town: Cumberland*** was made possible in part by Navigant Credit Union, Blackstone River Theatre, and Cadillac Mills, LLC.



CADILLAC  
Mills, LLC

***Our Town: East Greenwich*** featured the following stories: ***A Patriotic Orator, Fighting for Freedom and Country, 300 Years and Counting, History Recorded in Fabric and Thread, A Legacy of Love and Learning, 50 Years of Main Street, The Room Where It Happened, A Community of Artists - The East Greenwich Art Club, The Clement Weaver House, The Many Lives of Bruce Mastracchio, and In Memory of CJ.***

[Watch the full documentary here.](#)

***Our Town: East Greenwich*** was made possible in part by Dave's Fresh Marketplace, East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, and Rasa Restaurant.



East Greenwich  
Chamber of Commerce



## IN-DEPTH STORYTELLING THAT MATTERS

# Rhode Island PBS WEEKLY

It was another eventful year for **Rhode Island PBS Weekly**. Since launching in November of 2020, this small team of enormously talented journalists have produced more than 180 unique local and regional stories on a variety of issues, including the environment, education, healthcare, local business, the immigrant experience, history, youth perspectives, and political commentary.

On-camera correspondents, Pamela Watts and Michelle San Miguel, are consummate news professionals who bring objectivity, in-depth research and a genuine warmth to each of their stories. They, and the entire **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** team, are committed to presenting balanced and diverse voices and perspectives on stories that matter to Rhode Island, southeastern New England and beyond.

This year, **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** began a strong partnership with PBS's premier and highly regarded nightly newscast, **PBS NewsHour**. **NewsHour's** Senior Executive Producer & Senior Vice President, Sara Just, recently reflected on the partnership, "At **PBS NewsHour**, we look for opportunities to bring some of the best local public media journalism to a wider national audience. We have been grateful to **Rhode Island PBS Weekly** for consistently delivering meaningful, beautifully told stories that we have been proud to present on **PBS NewsHour**. We welcome the opportunity to partner with RIPBS in bringing more stories from the country's smallest state to a national audience."

**Rhode Island PBS Weekly** airs Sunday at 7:30 p.m., and encores the following Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. [Watch past episodes on demand.](#)





My wife and I have watched Rhode Island PBS for years and she introduced me to new programs. Though she passed away in 2020, I have continued watching, and think of her as I do. Thank you for the wonderful programming and variety.

— Thomas E.,  
MA

I support RIPBS because of the quality of the programming, which cannot be found anywhere else. The variety of the shows are so refreshing to see.

— Cameron L.,  
Westerly, RI

## LETTERS, EMAIL AND PHONE MESSAGES FROM OUR VIEWERS

This is a Christmas gift for my mother, who gains so much joy from watching your local programming. Her physical condition limits participation in communal events so she loves to stay connected and see what is happening in the community by watching your programs. Her absolute favorite show is Antiques Road Show and she can't wait to have access to all PBS programs on demand!

— Ashley B.,  
Middletown, RI

I have been watching Rhode Island PBS for so long, and I made it my New Year's resolution to become a sustaining member! So I can feel good every time I tune in to watch Simply Ming or Milk Street, knowing that I am doing a part to ensure these shows are available to anyone who wants to tune in.

Eric M.,  
Newport, RI