

As seen in the...
OldTownCrier

Style Newport

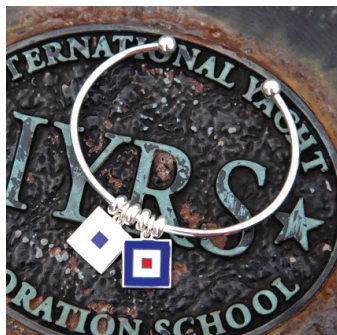
Chic elegance with a nautical twist

Karen King resides in Newport, Rhode Island where she owns and operates Style Newport. You may ask why the *Old Town Crier* is profiling a business so far out of our distribution area so allow me to explain.

King spent a good portion of her former life here in Old Town Alexandria working with her husband, Gordon, operating an Old Town icon fondly known as Bullfeathers. (A new icon has emerged in its place with the likings of O'Connell's, but that's a whole other story). Many of you may also remember her because of her standard poodles, Alice and Gracie. Karen

Karen began designing sterling and enamel charms in conjunction with local artisans in her free time and decided to open a small store on the waterfront in July 2010. She tells me, "I had such a great summer and the Newport Boat Show in September was a great experience that I moved to a larger store on busy Thames Street in November 2010. The response to the jewelry and accessories has been wonderful. It's a lot of work but a lot of fun."

You can create your own message in the form of beautiful jewelry. From the photos here, you can see that Karen has put them to good use in several combinations. She tells me that the personalized "secret code" necklaces and



tells me that, "In Old Town, I was known as Alice and Gracie's mother. The black poodles were popular from an *Old Town Crier* ad of them sitting in a convertible. I think the caption was 'the dog days of summer' or something to that effect." So you see we have a nice Old Town-Newport connection going on here.

The Newport experience isn't new for the Kings. Karen and Gordon have spent a good amount of time in Newport over the years since they have a second home there. This same home is where they have decided to stay for good. Whether you knew Karen when she lived here or not, we hope to get you acquainted with her and her store in this piece.

When I asked Karen what prompted her to open Style Newport she said that it was a combination of things. "Gordon gave me an I Love You ring about 12 years ago that was spelled out in nautical signal flags. I always loved it and it was interesting to learn more about the history of signal flags. I think of signal flags as the first use of texting. The flags individually and in combinations have different meanings."

Nautical flags have been used for over 150 years as a method of communication between ships. Think of it as texting on the water. As King stated earlier, they represent both letters and numbers individually and in combinations they have additional meanings. The flags themselves are both simple in their design and beautiful. If you haven't already guessed, they are the mainstay of her store, Style Newport.

bracelets are very popular. Wear your initials, someone else's initials or create a piece that is uniquely your own. Among my favorite things in her cache are the shackle ring and bracelet. I own both and I get lots of compliments on them. The bracelet is similar to the Island Hookup bracelets that you see on many of your friends and neighbors wrists after they have been to the Virgin Islands!

While the original Alice and Gracie are no longer with us, the King household and Style Newport have added two blondes, Alice II and Gracie II, and newcomer Augie-the-not-so-mini-goldendoodle to the King/Style Newport team. I asked Gordon for a quote and he said, "Karen's new business is the first time it has not all been about me and my business interests. Although I miss being the center of attention—surprise, surprise—I am really amazed at how successful she has been and how focused she is in building this all with only a little help from me and the girls (dogs). I can see a life of leisure in my future."

It was a pleasure catching up with my friends and we are very happy to feature Style Newport in this issue. If you are ever in Newport, be sure to stop in and say hello and be sure to mention that you read about them here. If you really want the jewelry but can't take the trip north, please see Style Newport's ad in this issue and log on to the website, www.stylenewport.com.

