

Joanne Brasil

Interviewed by: Jasmine Utsey

Joanne Brasil is a third generation native of Fox Point, and is of Portuguese descent. Her great-grand parents immigrated to Fox Point from the Azores in search of work during the 1930's. She lives in a cottage at 74 Arnold Street with her husband and two children and is a stay-at-home mom. Joanne's mother lives at 68 Arnold Street in a cottage immediately behind her. 68 Arnold Street is also Joanne's childhood home. Joanne's mother also owns a third cottage, which is rented out to Brown University students. The properties were first purchased by Joanne's great-grandmother in the late 1930's, and have been inherited by female members of their family for the past two generations.

Joanne is the daughter of Hilda and James Brasil. She was born at Lying-Inn Hospital in Providence in 1963 and considers herself a "lifer" in Fox Point. She is the youngest of four siblings and is the only one who still lives in Fox Point. She attended private Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school, and she also attended Rhode Island College. After marrying her husband, Brian, they lived in Smith Hill for a short period of time. However, Joanne did not consider the area home and they moved into one of her mother's properties. As a lifelong resident of Arnold Street Joanne has observed many changes in the community's dynamics. She recalls that an increase in absentee landlords and college-aged neighbors has created a disconnect within the area. She sees this as a drastic change from the tight knit network of neighbors she was surrounded by as a young child. Many of the changes to Fox Point Joanne would like to see, deal with the use of open space that will be created once the interstate relocation project is complete.