

custom house MARITIMES SPRING 2017



Friday, April 21, 5:30 PM is the Opening for Lighthouses, Tall Ships, and Submarines: *Maritime Photos from The Day's Photojournalists*. Above, The United States Coast Guard Barque Eagle motors past New London Ledge Light as the U.S. Navy Virginia-class attack submarine USS California (SSN 781) passes southbound Thursday, January 23, 2014. (Sean D. Elliot/The Day) The show will be on view at the Custom House through July 16, 2017.



from top: Come on a **SEAL WATCH** with Black Hawk Fishing on Sunday, April 30. We're working with Alwin Christie and the Lighthouse Inn. The CT Marine Modelers Society annual expo is Sat. April 29 at Port 'N Starboard, Ocean Beach.

old friends and new

So many of our projects this spring involve people and organizations not necessarily part of the Maritime Society. In fact, it's these partnerships and new faces that keep things lively and put a spin on the programming. Just look at what we've got coming up at the Custom House.

This year's Lighthouse Conference (April 24-25) has gone up a notch with an impressive line-up of speakers. Organizers Elinor DeWire, Nick Korstad, and Pam Setchell have brought in lens experts, historians, and even performance artist Joseph Smith, who will portray Augustin-Jean Fresnel, inventor of the revolutionary Fresnel lens. For the first time, *Day* photojournalists will have an exhibition of maritime photos (see above). Meanwhile, last year's favorite, David Zapatka, has ventured further into LIS for new images of lighthouses at night. His work will be here just through mid May.

A highlight of the two-day conference is an extended *three*-hour Lighthouse Tour on the Cross Sound Ferry (April 25) with a once-in-a-lifetime crew of lighthouse authorities narrating. We've tweaked the ferry's usual route to bring you to lights rarely visited from out of New London. Thank you, Cross Sound Ferry (& Ted Webb)! Meanwhile, new friend Black Hawk Fishing has got us back offering a Seal Watch on April 30. We'll leave from Niantic and seek seals on Plum and the Gull Islands. If you haven't seen them, you will be astonished that these engaging giants winter off our shores.

For several years, NLMS maintained a facebook page for the Lighthouse Inn, hoping to keep memories of the old Inn alive as its future remained unclear. The good news is that new owner, Alwyn Christie, is working to reopen the Inn this summer. We now are assembling an Inn exhibition and would love to have your stories and photos. Dr. Michael Deren donated an album of photographs he took of a major fire there in 1979. Haven't you got a picture or a story to share? Please let us know.

CMMS, our ship model-makers, are helping create a ship model gallery on the museum's lower level. We're calling that space *The Underground*, and hope to have it available for a series of small musical events and private rentals in about two months.

Hear a talk, take a cruise, share a story. We'll be happy to see you at the Custom House. ■



April 25

The Custom House Maritime Museum is open Thursday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM, or by appointment. Call 860-447-2501. Admission is FREE for NLMS members, individuals with current military or USCG cadet ID and children under age 14 (with adult), \$7 suggested donation all others. For details, go to nlmaritimesociety.org. Register for most events online 24/7 at brownpapertickets.com. Search 'New London'.

We want to get you out on the water with a Lighthouse cruise, a Seal Watch, Full-Moon tours

JIBBOOM CLUB # 1 -- Jibboom Club monthly meetings resume in April. Join Rob & Russ on the 3rd Tuesday of the month for a speaker's program, coffee, cookies, and conversation. Donation for refreshments, only.

SPRING 2017 – Here's what's up next! – for all listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.com

Opening - Lighthouses, Tall Ships, and Submarines: Maritime Photos from The Day's Photojournalists Friday, April 21, 6:00 PM is the Opening reception for a first-time ever gallery show of some of the best maritime photos from *The Day's* staff of Tim Cook, Dana Jensen, Tim Martin and Sean Elliot. The reception will include refreshments and a question and answer session with the photographers. Please join us!

2nd Annual LIS Lighthouse Conference

April 24-25, Monday & Tuesday, 9 AM - 6 PM. \$75 Morning coffee, and lobster roll lunch included. Call 860-447-8700 or book online at brownpapertickets.com/event/2913940

LIS Extended 3-Hour Lighthouse Cruise & morning downtown

April 25, Tuesday, 9 AM - 3 PM. Have coffee, network, and see two new exhibitions at the Custom House, then take a three-hour tour of eastern LIS with lighthouse experts aboard Cross Sound Ferry. Call 860-447-8700 or book online at brownpapertickets.com/event/2913940

David Zapatka's exhibition **Stars and Lighthouses: LIS** will be on view for two weeks, only.

Come on, let's take a 2 1/2-3 hour SEAL WATCH!

April 30, Sunday, 10 AM. Find seals wintering on the rocks off New London. Come out on a Seal Watch aboard the Black Hawk. There are hundreds of seals wintering on Little Gull and Plum Islands. The boat leaves from Niantic. Bring your binoculars. Sign up at brownpapertickets.com/event/2907476.

Jibboom Club #1 - the Jibboom season runs April through December on the 3rd Tuesday.

May 16, 1 PM Join Russ & Rob for a speaker's program, coffee, cupcakes, and conversation. Donation for refreshments, only. Speakers will be posted at nlmaritimesociety.org.

Storytelling with Art, with Jasper and Sgott MacKenzie

May 20, 10:45 AM to 12 NOON, four (4) Saturdays Create a story book with Sgott MacKenzie and his daughter Jasper. Sgott, author of the *Squid and the Seagull*, will present classes on four Saturdays. \$40, all materials included. Children ages 8 and older are welcome. Register at 860-447-2502.

Join us for a 3-hour Freedom Sail aboard the Amistad!

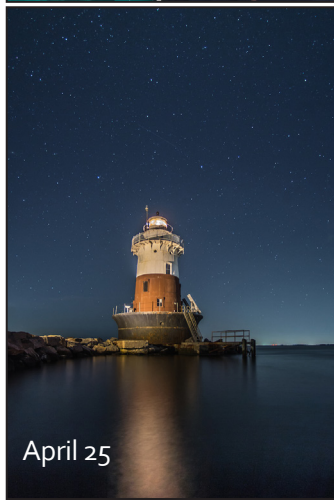
May 7; May 13 and 14; May 20 and 21; and May 27 and 28; Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 3 PM. Celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Amistad Africans' return to Africa. Take a sail at brownpapertickets.com/event/292213 or lease the ship for your non-profit organization or business - call 203-498-8222.

Our 2016 Sentinels on the Sound Lighthouse Boat Tours start up again on June 7

June 7, 8, 9. **Sunset and Full-Moon tours** take place across the nights of the full moon. Sign up for Sunset tours at brownpapertickets.com/event/2820719, Full-Moon brownpapertickets.com/event/2820741; Day-time tours brownpapertickets.com/event/2820779. Small, personable, quirky, fun! We'll post new tours as scheduled. Go to our website for details: nlmaritimesociety.org.



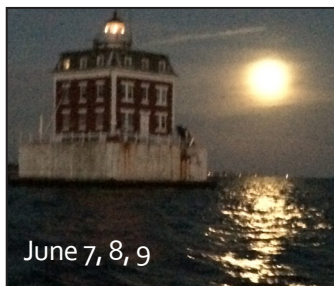
April 24



April 25



May 20-June 10



June 7, 8, 9

from top: Time for a boat ride: LIS 3-hour lighthouse tour takes place April 25; Jeremy D'Entremont will speak at the 2nd LIS Lighthouse Conference April 24-25; 'Stars and Lighthouses' by David Zapatka are at the museum April 24 through mid-May; across four Saturdays, Jasper and Sgott MacKenzie will teach Storytelling with Art; our award-winning lighthouse boat tours commence June 7.



We're creating a new museum space *The Underground*. Get a preview at the NL Food Stroll, May 10.



Celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Amistad Africans' return to Africa with a 3-hour sail aboard the *Amistad* with **DISCOVERING AMISTED**. Sails take place on May Saturdays & Sundays. \$35, \$30 youth & seniors 65+ Sign up at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2922130 Group sails for church groups and nonprofits (\$1,200) and for corporations (\$2,500) are also available. Contact Barbara Bind at Discovering Amistad. 203-498-8222 or bbind@optonline.net.



The Custom **MUSEUM SHOP** offers all kinds of unique gifts. Above, Beautiful koi soap-on-a-rope! Perfect for your outdoor shower, and a terrific hostess gift! \$30. from Japan. Everybody is welcome in the shop, you don't need a museum ticket to get in. We have a special section full of fun things for kids.

News from the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library Taking up the Slack

Lately this writer has noticed the absence of subject indexes in history books coming from small publishing houses, a traditional and indispensable component of such books. A collection of the late Carol Kimball's newspaper columns, "Remembering Groton: Tales From East of the Thames," was brought out by History Press a few years ago, with informative essays on maritime topics, but no index. To delve into maritime history, or any other kind, one often needs to track down names - whether of ships, captains, events or places - in the chapters of books. Another collection of Carol Kimball's fact-filled columns was republished as a book by Mystic's Flat Hammock Press; entitled "Historic Glimpses: Recollections of Days Past in the Mystic River Valley," this trove of information on maritime topics also lacks an index. Recognizing its potential value to researchers, library volunteer Eugene Macmillan read "Historic Glimpses" from cover to cover and prepared a fourteen-page alphabetical list of names, vessels, places and events that transforms our copy into a useful reference book of local maritime history. ■

Brian Rogers, Librarian

Volunteer at the Custom House Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum has been fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers, but there is always a need for additional assistance. With even a few hours of commitment, volunteers can help occasionally with fund-raising activities, mailings, writing thank-you notes, supervising educational tours, or providing hospitality during Museum events.

Training is provided if volunteers would be interested becoming docents or substitute docents at the Museum. Interested in how you would be able to assist? Please contact Linda at Iroselund@hotmail.com.

The Custom House Maritime Museum - your local, independent, community museum - open year-round - telling the stories of New London's waterfront!

I'M JOINING THE NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY!

Name _____ phone _____ e-mail _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Individual \$35__ Family \$50__ Contributor \$100__ Sponsor \$250__ Patron \$1,000__ Sign-up date _____

Cash__ Check__ ~ please make payment to New London Maritime Society Visa__ Master Card__ AmEx__

Number _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

Benefits of membership include *free* admission, invitations to special events, discounts, and a newsletter.

New London Maritime Society's mission is to protect, preserve, & and celebrate New London's U.S. Custom House, three area lighthouses, and Long Island Sound, and to interpret the rich maritime life & history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation initiatives. Learn more about us at nlmaritimesociety.org.

New London Maritime Society - Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320 860.447.2501

N.L.M.S.

____ I'm donating \$ _____ to the Custom House. ____ Contact me about leaving a legacy.

Long Island Sound Lighthouse Conference Monday & Tuesday, April 24-25, 2017

All area lighthouse lovers & stakeholders are invited to attend the 2nd annual **Long Island Sound Lighthouse Conference** on Monday & Tuesday, April 24 -25, presented by the New London Maritime Society. Lighthouse fanciers and preservationists number in the tens of thousands in the US and they're eager to share information, network, and learn more. Our conference aims to meet those goals.

People may come for both or only one day. Registration is \$75 for both days, \$50 for Monday, only, and \$35 for Tuesday, only. Questions? call **860-447-8700**, and we'll get back to you.

For both days, or for Monday, only
Sign up today at: brownpapertickets.com/event/2913940
For Tuesday and the LIS Lighthouse Boat Excursion
Sign up at: brownpapertickets.com/event/2914005

On Monday, spend the day sharing information, learning best practices, & planning for the season ahead. A major focus is on lighthouse lenses, including technical, cultural, and historical aspects. Moderated by **Elinor DeWire**, presenters include Fresnel lens expert **Chad Kaiser** with videos by **Dan Spinella**, historians **Jeremy D'Entremont** and **Bob Muller**, representatives of the **USCG**, and **Nick Korstad** the owner of three lighthouses (one of which is a B&B). **Pam Setchell**, known as 'the woman who saved Huntington Light', presents 'Rock & Roll Light' - about producing the annual Huntington Lighthouse Musicfest, the **ONLY Music Festival in the WORLD** held on top of a working lighthouse in the middle of the water! Living history artist **Joseph Smith** will portray **Augustin-Jean Fresnel** (1788-1827), the inventor of the Fresnel lens. Coffee & a lobster roll lunch is included; dinner is on your own at *On the Waterfront*. ■

The 2017 Lighthouse Conference is coming up April 24 & 25. We're focusing on lenses! *Below*, detail of 1860 1sts-order Fresnel lens at Jupiter Inlet, FL.

New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum
150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320

nlmaritimesociety.org
nicely nautical & *totally* Thames

LIS Extended Lighthouse Boat Excursion with lighthouse experts – Tuesday, April 25



Start Tuesday by exploring downtown New London, beginning with coffee at the **Custom House Maritime Museum**, where you may view two new photography exhibitions: 'Stars & Lights: LIS', by **David Zapatka**, and 'Lighthouses, Tall Ships, and Submarines: Maritime Photos from The Day's Photojournalists'. The morning is an opportunity to network with other lighthouse enthusiasts.

At noon, board **Cross Sound Ferry** for an **extended three-hour tour** to view many of eastern Long Island Sound's lighthouses. This trip offers the **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to hear stories by a team of lighthouse authorities: **Bob Muller**, **Elinor DeWire**, and Cross Sound's own **Ted Webb**, among them.

The ferry will travel down the Thames, past **Ledge** and **Harbor Lights**, to North Dumpling and Plum Islands, proceeding to Gardniers Point and along Plum Island traveling up to Long **Beach Bar Light** and **Bug Light** off Long Island, heading back over to **Coffee Pot** then across to **Plum Island Light**, **Little Gull Light** (and seals), across to the west entrance to Fishers Island Sound, to see **Morgan Point Light**, **Latimer Reef**, **Watch Hill Light**, the home of **Taylor Swift(!)**, then a return to New London. ■

We thank Cross Sound Ferry for generously donating this trip to benefit New London Maritime Society!

