



custom house MARITIMES SPRING 2018

Above, Williams School students examine a selection of confiscated contraband in the US Customs office. at the Custom House.



From the top, We've had visitors coming in just to see the new Woolies collection. A donation of three large display cases is allowing us the better organize the galleries at the Custom House. Newly-restored, the *Black Hawk* will be back after five years in May.

from our executive director

We've got friends, good energy, and some amazing donations coming at us this spring –an enviable situation, but enough to make one's head swim. Trustee **Andrew Blacker** and his brother **Kevin** are opening up the Custom House doors with a series of free social gatherings on the 2nd Thursday of each month beginning April 12. They're looking to be part of the NL waterfront's transformation and have plenty of ideas for how to get started. Stop in between 5 & 7 PM and join the discussion. Carson's, of Noank, is providing the nibbles.

Meanwhile the Jibboom Club, back after a short winter's break, clearly has hit its stride. There was a full house for **Sidney & Sandy Van Zandt's** March slide show on sailing to New Zealand. Come for coffee and a lecture; meetings are at 1 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. On April 17 **Frank Bohlen** continues the sailing theme, this time in the Azores. Longtime Long Island Sound pilot **Joe Maco** sheds light on the Merchant Mariner's life May 15, and art historian **Ann Marenakos** discusses artist Reynolds Beale and his New London sketches June 19.

The much anticipated delivery of **Bill Strachan's** *Black Hawk* will soon take place. The *Black Hawk* is a large sailor-made ship model donated to us in 2011 by **Adrienne Cavarly**. Bill has devoted 5 years and over 3,000 hours to putting the schooner back into shape. The *Black Hawk* will soon be on view in the still-evolving ship model gallery on the museum's lower level. A gift of three large display cases has allowed us to finally sort out some of our permanent exhibitions. Everything to do with Lighthouses and local boat building, including **Bob Landry's** models and **Captain Gumb's** *Seagull*, now fill the large gallery on the main floor, while *Kids Ahoy*, our celebration of sailor style in childrens' clothing, toys & entertainment is being reinstalled in the front gallery. A special display of Victorian sailors' embroideries, or 'woolies', remains on view through June 10 in the upstairs hall gallery. About a dozen works from this charming collection, donated by **Charles Moss, Jr.** have found homes in the museum's permanent displays.

Led by New London Landmarks, this winter the maritime society joined with NL Main Street, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation as *amicus* in what proved to be a successful effort to preserve two historic Bank Street buildings from certain demolition. The Office of the Attorney General filed the lawsuit and **Matt Berger** was local counsel for the *amici*, filing the brief. Preservation efforts can be a heart-breaking business, but fortunately not this time. February brought our annual Reid MacCluggage Black Maritime History Scholarship. We heartily congratulate **Zach Bradley** of East Lyme High School for his essay on Doris Miller, and **Tessa Marie Rock**, of NL's Science and Tech Magnet High School, for her essay connecting the Amistad Story to the fight for equality and human justice today. Cabaret, Woolies Workshops, Social Networking, Talks, Tides, Dowsing. One way or another we're gonna get you to the Custom House this spring. ■ *Susan Tamulevich*

The Custom House Maritime Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM, or by appointment: 860-447-2501. Get details and register for most events online 24/7 at brownpapertickets.com. Search 'New London'.

SPRING 2018 - Here's what's up next - for full listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.org

■ NEW EVENT SERIES: 'A Chance to Meet', the 2nd Thursday of each month from 5-7 PM.

These gatherings present a perfect opportunity for NLMS friends, members and trustees to bring in people they believe will enjoy the museum; it is also an opportunity for young professionals to network, ideas to be nurtured, and for individuals to interact socially. Our goal is for local businesses, individuals, and local government officials to socialize while discussing ideas that can improve our community. Carson's Store in Noank is our sponsor. Questions? call 860-447-2501.

Thursdays, April 12, May 19, & June 7, 5-7 PM.

■ ONGOING PROGRAM: JIBBOOM CLUB, the 3rd Tuesday of the month, doors open at 1, program at 2.

Join Rob and Russ for a speaker's program, good conversation & coffee. Donation for refreshments, only. **Tuesday, April 17 - East to the Azores - A sail through the Islands, with W. Frank Bohlen** oceanographer and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Marine Sciences UCONN. An experienced offshore sailor, racing and cruising, he has a particular interest in islands and island groups, their natural history and cultures.

Tuesday, May 15 - Pilotage in America, with Captain Joseph Maco MNI, a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy Class of '66', will discuss his last 40 years working as a ship pilot in Long Island Sound, including New London Harbor, and the visit of the cruise ship EXPLORER OF THE SEAS in 2007.

Tuesday, June 19, National Academy artist Reynolds Beal, with Ann Marenakos, art historian, including discussion of original ketches of New London by Beal.

■ **Illustrated Talk: Long Island Whalers of Color, with Sandra Brewster-Walker, Sunday, April 15, 2 PM** Long Island Indigenous People Museum executive director Sandi Brewster-Walker discusses whaling captains and crews of color on Long Island Sound, highlighting the genealogies and experiences of the local men who hunted the whale during the peak years of 1840 to 1860. \$12, \$10 NLMS members, \$8 youth. Register online at brownpapertickets.com/event/3372097 or call 860-447-2501.

■ **Workshop: Stitch Your Own Woolie workshops with Christina Corcoran, May 5 & 12, 11 AM.** Learn how to make your own 'woolie' embroidered picture in the style of Victorian sailors! This 2-session workshop will introduce the various tools and techniques used in the handcraft of embroidered maritime pictures (currently on view at CHMM.) \$45-55 brownpapertickets.com/event/3376194 or call 860-447-2501. Stop in and see examples of Christina's embroidery in the MUSEUM SHOP.

■ Cabaret: Love Is... a cabaret with Gary Baillargeon on Saturday evening, May 5, at 7 PM.

An evening of Broadway and contemporary classics featuring song from Irving Berlin, Cy Coleman, Oscar Hammerstein, Jerome Kern, Richards Rogers and more, *Love is...* takes a lighthearted look at love and what happens when you find it. Enjoy music, fabulous desserts (cheese, fruit, not-so-sweets, chocolate), coffee & wine. A Fundraiser \$75, \$60 members. Register: brownpapertickets.com/event/3371977.

■ **Talk & Tour: Dowsing Downtown, with Roger Ryley. Saturday afternoon, May 12, 3 PM.** Roger Ryley presents a brief history of dowsing at the Custom House followed by a hands-on demonstration during an archeological walking tour of lower Bank Street as it was circa 1600-1650. Learn more & register online at brownpapertickets.com/event/3371944 or call 860-447-2501.

■ **Illustrated Talk: Building the First Steamship in History, with John Laurence Busch, Sunday, May 20, 4 PM.** Celebrate the 200th anniversary of National Maritime Day, a holiday created to recognize the maritime industry, with a discussion of the 1807 invention of the steamship, and the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power on May 22, 181 (under the command of New London-born Captain Moses Rogers). \$12, \$10 NLMS members, \$5 youth ages 10 to 18. brownpapertickets.com/event/3390828.

■ **Commemoration: Celebrate the actual 200th anniversary of National Maritime Day on Tuesday, May 22, 12 noon**, in a ceremony at Fort Trumbull Park. This event is FREE and open to the public.

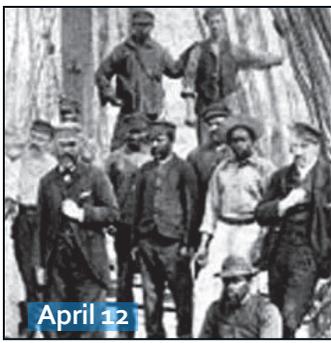
■ **Science Talks: Untold Tides: the Surprising Influence of the Tides in Human Affairs, with Mark Borton two Thursday evenings -- June 14 & 28, 6-7 PM.** Tides are caused by the gravitational attraction of the moon and the sun, and they affect everything on earth, not just the oceans. Join us on for Attend one talk or both talks. \$12, \$10 NLMS members, \$8 youth. brownpapertickets.com/event/3382689.

Check our website for additional program details & updates: nlmaritimesociety.org

Be the first to know - sign up for weekly email new blasts: nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com

Want to add some excitement to your summer? We need volunteers for a maintenance run to Race Rock Lighthouse in June. Also coming up and in partnership with the Ledge Light Foundation, we're adding boat tours to Ledge Lighthouse out of New London; you could help give the tours. And for those of you who are willing to really commit, we plan on adding a new class of NLMS membership, Lighthouse Inspector! Email Susan at nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com or call 860-447-2501 to find out more.

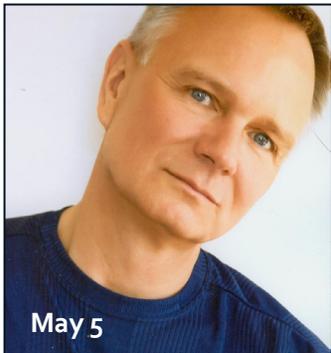
photo right: Philip Medbery



April 12



May 5 & 12



May 5



May 12



May 20



June 14 & 28





Over the last decade, two of our best working relationships have been with educator Jody Barthel, *above left*, and New London Public Schools. We first met Jody in 2010 when the maritime society took ownership of Harbor Lighthouse and Jody, as NL's *Gifted & Talented* teacher, created the *Lighthouse Kids* program for motivated 4th & 5th graders. That truly terrific effort ended abruptly after three years, when New London schools required control of a Special Master. We might have given up on the partnership at that point but for an idea from Elizabeth Enders. With the support of our funders, notably the Community Foundation of SE CT, and Enders Fund, we hired Jody, ourselves, and created something new.

Today that new thing, NLMS's *Third-Grade Local History Program*, is in its fourth year of bringing all 300 of New London's 3rd graders to experience the City's amazing historic sites. September through June, Jody arranges for students to visit local landmarks. Sites vary. This year, so far, they've included Nathan Hale Schoolhouse, the Custom House Maritime Museum, Hempsted Houses, *above center*, and the Shaw Mansion, *above right*. In the past students also have climbed Harbor Light, toured the Coast Guard Academy Museum and Union Railroad Station, scaled the ramparts at Fort Trumbull, and clambered aboard the *Amistad*. Each venue pitches in by not charging admission and by providing the site educators. Together these field trips fulfill the new Connecticut state social studies curriculum requirement for local-history in the 3rd grade. The program is a boost for the schools, teachers, and historic sites; we know from Elizabeth's own experience that students may well remember their visits for a lifetime.

from the Frank L McGuire Library

How the Historic Thames Shipyard was Saved

A unique item in our collection is a thick set of photocopied newspaper articles documenting the controversy about the Thames Shipyard that lasted from 1969 to 1981. The Wronoski family, which had operated the shipyard under lease from the Coast Guard, became locked in a dispute when the landowner wanted to expand northward. Unfortunately, the shipyard buildings and slipways stood squarely in the way. It's a story with many twists and turns, among them the provocative naming of the shipyard to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The dispute dragged on and the city got involved, but the Coast Guard backed off and in 1981 the government let the Wronoskis buy the shipyard they had been running since 1967. To preserve the convoluted story as it played out in the press, conservator Gene MacMullan has arranged the articles in three, inch-thick chronological albums and added an index. Although Thames Shipyard is the main topic, other news of New London maritime matters during the 1970s is also included. ■ Brian Rogers, Librarian

Just in time for National Maritime Day May 22 our online exhibition, *U.S. Maritime Service Officers School at Fort Trumbull, 1939-1946 -- A documentary history of the U.S. Maritime Service Officers School at Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut*, is available on our website. This is the 5th in a series of new online exhibitions developed by the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library.

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.

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Below, Over the past two years, Italian architecture students Andrea Botta and Alessandro Cassia used Race Rock Lighthouse as the subject with which to learn computer rendering. Their school, the University Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, a department of the Università della Svizzera Italiana, is in a small city called Mendrisio. The school is known for its unique way of teaching architecture —as a humanistic matter rather than a technical one. Only 100/120 students are admitted each year.

Don't Miss the Woolies! on view through Sunday, June 10



Above, A woolie depicting a ship with both steam power and sails.

A small gem in downtown New London, NLMS's Custom House is New London's local maritime history museum & preservation organization. We are teachers, sailors, historians, librarians, & maritime aficionados. Please support us! Your donation helps keep the lights on & the museum warm as we preserve & share our authentic maritime heritage. Visit us at nlmaritimesociety.org.

New London Maritime Society

Custom House Maritime Museum

150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320

nlmaritimesociety.org
nicely nautical