WHALE’S EYE VIEW

The surprising success of last year’s innovative, collaborative programs, such as *Sentinels on the Sound* - our lighthouse heritage weekend, and the *One Big Table* community dinner, is making us rethink how we define ourselves and our partners. The lesson here perhaps is to keep trying out new things. Success can be found in the most unlikely places.

The Custom House Maritime Museum documents both our maritime history and the city’s *living* waterfront, with a strong community component thrown in. While we will continue to partner with area heritage organizations—this summer’s *Rockets Red Glare* - War of 1812 exhibition being a prime example—increasingly we realize the museum is much more than simple history. Our partners are fairly wide-ranging, depending upon the program. For *One Big Table*, some of our greatest supporters were the city’s restaurants, among them *Chaplin’s*, *Tony D’s*, *Mangetout* and *Mambo*, each of whom provided us terrific ethnic-New London dishes just for the fun of it. *Sentinels on the Sound* pulled us farther afield, with partnerships extending from Stonington to Norwalk. With our new focus on lighthouses and marine conservation, we’ve started thinking in even broader terms, to include water-based organizations bordering all of Long Island Sound and beyond.

At its height in the 19th century, when New London was the world’s second-leading whaling city, our ‘neighborhood’ extended across the globe. We should not forget that perspective today. And, in fact, we don’t.

This is all by way of a lead-in to our **29th Annual New London Maritime Society Founders Day Luncheon**. Celebrating imaginative & resourceful ‘founders’—local and global, who took the initiative in times of crisis, this March, we celebrate NLMS founder *Lucille Showalter*, and the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol. The Founders Day Luncheon takes place **Sunday, March 25, 2012**, from **12:30 to 2:30 PM** at the USCGA Officers Club. NLMS member donation is $35, non-member donation is $40. **Please call 860-447-2501 to reserve your spot.** Cont... page 2.

January through March, our hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 1 to 5 PM, or by appointment. April through December, the Custom House is open Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday), from 1 to 5 PM. New London Maritime Society, Custom House Maritime Museum, 150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut, 860-447-2501
Support the New London Maritime Society Today!

Your support is crucial to the New London Maritime Society (NLMS). We rely on contributions from our members to keep our doors open, offer educational programs, and preserve New London’s maritime heritage. Your membership helps us continue our mission of preserving New London’s U.S. Custom House and Harbor Light and promoting the maritime history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions and educational programs.

**Membership Benefits**
- Free admission to the Custom House Maritime Museum
- Invitations to special events and talks
- Discounts on events, educational programs, and museum store purchases
- A subscription to our newsletter

**Membership Levels**
- Individual: $35
- Family: $50
- Contributor: $100
- Sponsor: $250
- Patron: $1,000
- Life: $1,500

**Membership Year**
- Membership begins at the date of payment.

**New London Maritime Society’s (NLMS) mission is to preserve New London’s U.S. Custom House and Harbor Light and promote & interpret the maritime history of the port of New London and the surrounding region through museum exhibitions and educational programs.**
NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY
President’s Report to the Membership

Members and Friends:
We continue to be very busy on a number of fronts involving the Custom House Maritime Museum. And we continue to need more help. There is a great deal of good will and appreciation out there regarding our organization. Try sitting at the front desk -- it’s enjoyable and a good way to get to know the community.

The Founders Day event should be a real winner. Please participate, and bring a guest or two.

The Arctic Symposium to be held at the Coast Guard Academy in April is particularly gratifying to me. I have been “nudging” folks about that topic for at least a year. And I will attend.

Susan is meeting with significant success in providing leadership for coordination of the Arts/Culture scene in New London. As I have been saying for some time: the Arts/Culture scene is this City’s main economic engine. Let’s get it out of first gear.

The Museum Shop is a “diamond in the rough” that is now being carefully “cut”. It certainly is good enough – and unique enough – to market widely and from which to derive good profit.

The Lighthouse Committee had a very productive meeting. Please see those Minutes. This is not a closed group. Please volunteer your ideas and your expertise.

George A. Sprecace, M.D., J.D., President

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**Skill-Building Workshops with Harriet Grayson**

February 27, 9 am–noon, or Feb. 29, 5:30–8:30 PM. *Art of the Ask*
March 26, 9 AM–noon. *How to Demonstrate Gratitude to Donors*
April 30, 9 am–noon, or May 2, 5:30–8:30 PM. *Public-Private Partnerships: Strengthening Nonprofits*
May 14, 9 am–noon, or May 16, 5:30–8:30 PM. *Creating a Successful Volunteer Day*

Harriet Gayson is a speaker, author, fundraising consultant (previously a partner in Focus Fundraising) and former insurance executive and urban planner. Join her for a workshop to hone your non-profit administrator skills.

Workshops are $65 each, two for $100; Call 860-447-2501 to register.

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**News From the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library**

Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library Summer Exhibition Thirty-six years after the American Bicentennial was celebrated with parades of tall ships in New York, New London, and other ports, the bicentennial of the War of 1812 will be celebrated this summer in similar fashion. The War of 1812 was primarily a naval conflict, even though an influx of British troops, made possible by the defeat of Napoleon, burned the White House and the Capitol in 1814. The great sailing ships were potent symbols of national power and pride in the Great Age of Sail, and their descendents inspire us yet with their functional beauty.

The War of 1812 materials in the McGuire Library will be featured in an exhibit in the Custom House during the summer months. It will complement a show being planned for the Lyman Allyn Museum in a joint project by Mystic Seaport, New London County Historical Society, Stonington Historical Society, and the New London Maritime Society. The Custom House exhibit will highlight the research archive of Robert Bachman, a history teacher who retired from Waterford High School a number of years ago and was planning a book focusing on the events of the War of 1812 in Long Island Sound, specifically New London, Stonington, and Essex. Mr. Bachman had assembled a large quantity of material in the early 1970s, including copies of Royal Navy documents held at England’s National Maritime Museum; background material on Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, commodore of the British squadron blockading New London and one of the most famous officers in Royal Navy history; copies of pages from New London’s twice-weekly newspaper, the Connecticut Gazette; information about the British and American ships at New London; and much else. He did not finish the book, but the Robert Bachman archive is a trove of information for anyone interested in his chosen topic.

The collection was presented to the library in 2010 by Mr. Bachman’s niece, Ruth Regula, and also included several books on the war. We have augmented these with some recent titles resulting from the heightened interest of historians as the bicentennial looms. The latest is *1812: The Navy’s War,* published last year by former Connecticut College and Wesleyan University professor George Daughan. Stonington author James Tertius de Kay will also be represented by his three books relating to the war: *The Battle of Stonington; A Rage for Glory* (a biography of Capt. Stephen Decatur;) and *Chronicles of the Macedonian* (the British frigate captured by Decatur in a stunning action in 1812.)

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The Archibald Chester Collection We have been hard at work sorting the many documents, clippings and photographs on maritime topics that have been coming our way from Archibald Chester, a good friend of the Custom House Museum for many years and a faithful member of its docent staff and board of trustees. Archie has also given dozens of books to the McGuire Library, on a wide range of nautical topics. To recognize his manifold contributions, the handsome arched-brick meeting room on the lower level was named in his honor in 2010. As we put the finishing touches on the archive that will also bear his name, we want to take this opportunity to thank Archie publicly for his unstinting support for the Custom House Museum and its social and educational outreach programs. His interest and his presence have long been “Making a Difference,” as the saying goes.

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Cartooning classes with artist Jon Buller return this March.
Cartooning for Kids, ages 7 & Up. Four Tuesdays: March 12, 20, 27 & April 3, 4 to 5:15 PM. Fee $75, materials included. Call 860-447-2501 to register.

nlmaritimesociety.org

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Brian Rogers, Librarian
THANK YOU! We’ve already raised $24,000 towards our ANNUAL FUND goal of $25,000.

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New London Maritime Society
Custom House Maritime Museum
150 Bank Street
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www.nlmaritimesociety.org

Artist Michael Peery with his portrait of museum founder Lucille Showalter.

OPENING TO GOOD
A STORY ABOUT THE OCEAN, GRACE & GRATITUDE
on view through March 25

New London Maritime Society

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