

custom house MARITIMES SUMMER 2017



Above, Head docent Bill LaRoue raises the flag at the Custom House Maritime Museum. We are open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1-5 PM.



from top: Nick Korstad's US Lighthouse Service clock will be among the new items on view this summer; NLMS trustee Margaret Palmer is gathering gems for our MARITIME MARKET at SailFest on July 8; roof committee chair John Steffian helped select guzmán|prüfer architects to research and restore the custom house roof.

Maritime Market at SailFest & all things summer *After a happy but hectic blitz of end-of-school field trips, we've landed in July!*

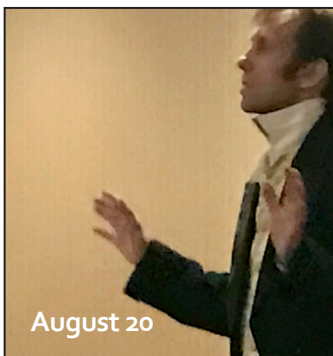
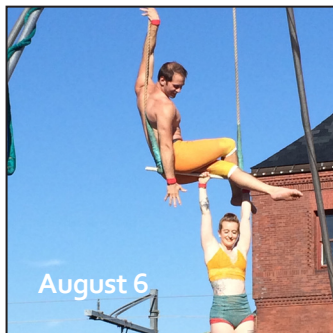
Coming right up is our SailFest MARITIME MARKET on Saturday, July 8, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Maritime antiques dealers and artisans, including Mystic Knotwork and the Custom House MUSEUM SHOP (with SALE items, toys, and new & used maritime books), will be among the vendors out beneath the tent, in the courtyard, behind the museum. We're celebrating SailFest's 40th anniversary! There will be a SILENT AUCTION, too, with some unusual items posted for online bidding. NLMS trustee, maritime collector, & dive historian Ed Uditis came up with the Market idea. Ed is bringing a classic deep-sea diving outfit -- for a donation, you may dress up as Capt. Nemo and have your photo taken!

Our 6th Lighthouse boat season starts up again on Sunday, July 9, with intimate, 6-passenger, Sunset and Full-Moon tours of New London Harbor and its lighthouses. New this year: you may charter a tour, any time, for groups of up-to six. Call Susan at 860-447-8700 to schedule.

We also have trips planned out to Fishers Island & the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, as well as a talk at the Custom House by Ferguson Museum director Pierce Rafferty. In that talk, entitled *The Prize that Got Away: the History of Fishers Island's Tangled Relations with the Mainland*, Mr. Rafferty will explain why nearby Fishers Island, originally part of Connecticut, became a place you couldn't land on for most of its 375-year history. It should be fun. And remember - you may visit the island *with us* on Saturday, July 22, and Thursday, August 10. Pierce Rafferty's talk is Sunday, August 12 at 4 PM.

It's complicated these days behind the scenes at the Custom House, where 2 large display cases are being assembled and several exhibitions reworked. We are constructing a ship model gallery on the museum's lower level, and have just signed a contract with the architectural firm guzmán|prüfer, inc. Over the next six months, architect Jose Guzman, who recently made a study of the Mills Custom House in New Bedford for the GSA, will create the plan to restore the museum roof as originally built in 1835, with four chimneys and a viewing platform. The planning is entirely grant-funded. But once Jose is done, we'll have to raise the money for the new roof.

Keep up with NLMS summer programs: 'like' our facebook page *Sentinels on the Sound*, and sign up for our weekly email blasts by emailing nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com. ■



from top: Our excursions to Fishers Island and the Henry L. Ferguson Museum take place on July 22 & August 10; for the 7th year, Nimble Arts Circus returns to New London. Earlier that day, they'll be offering a juggling workshop taught by real circus clowns. Ferguson Museum director Pierce Rafferty explains the tangled relationship between Fishers and the mainland on August 12; Role-player Joseph Smith brings Augustin Fresnel to life on July 20; Learn Cartooning with Jon Buller over 4 weeks beginning Sept 2.

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

JIBBOOM CLUB # 1 -- The Jibboom Club meets at 1 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of most months. Join Rob & Russ on the for a speaker's program, coffee, cookies, and good conversation. Donation for refreshments, only. Jibboom dates this summer include **July 18, August 15, and September 19**, at 1 PM at the Custom House.

SUMMER 2017 - Here's what's up next! - for full listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.com

MARITIME MARKET at SailFest: *Maritime antique dealers & artisans, MUSEUM SHOP, Silent Auction.* **July 8, Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM.** Visit us at in the courtyard, beneath the tent, at the Custom House. Silent auction items include paintings, a vintage *Eagle* photo, NL souvenir china. Dress up in a Deep-Sea dive suit!

Excursion I to Fishers Island and the Henry L. Ferguson Museum

Two trips: July 22, Saturday, and August 10, Thursday. Join our excursion to Fishers Island to view the new *Photographers of Fishers Island, Part One, 1880s to 1930s* exhibition, curated by Pierce Rafferty, at the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. A light lunch is provided. We're taking the Fishers Island Ferry from New London. Trips leave from the New London waterfront, within steps of the NL Amtrak station. Each trip is limited to 12 attendees. \$60.

Nimble Arts Circus - cosponsored by NLMS (Veolia Water grant), with the City of New London **August 6, Sunday, free performances at 4 & 6:30 PM.** Nimble Arts will offer a juggling workshop, too!

Excursion II to Fishers Island and the Henry L. Ferguson Museum

August 10, Thursday. (See July 22)

Illustrated Talk: *The Prize that Got Away - the History of Fishers Island's Tangled Relations with the Mainland*, with Pierce Rafferty, director of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum on Fishers Island. **August 12, Sunday, at 4 PM. At the Custom House.**

Joseph Smith, Roleplayer — *A Candid Conversation with Augustin Fresnel*

August 20, Sunday, 2 PM. Joseph Smith, the recipient of a 2016 Staten Island Arts Fund Grant, will present an original living-history portrayal of Augustin Fresnel, 1788-1827, the French inventor of the Fresnel lens. Based on his revolutionary theory of light behaving like a wave rather than as particles, Augustin developed the multiple glass prism shapes that made up a lens able to capture 85% of the light emitted by the light source, & project a light beam in a lighthouse over 25 MILES. (Veolia / New London Water Authority grant)

The Cartoonist Club, Taught by kids' book illustrator cartoonist Jon Buller.

Four Saturdays - September 2, 9, 16, 23, 10:45 AM to 12 noon. Learn the basics of cartooning. \$40. Register at brownpapertickets.com/event/2970219

Our Award-winning Sentinels on the Sound Lighthouse Boat Tours are small, quirky, & fun!

Sunset and Full-Moon tours take place across the nights of the full moon: July 9, 10; August 6, 7, 8; Sept. 5, 6, 7; or charter a private tour, anytime. Call 860-447-8700 with questions. Order tickets online 24/7. Sunset tours: brownpapertickets.com/event/2820719, Full-Moon: brownpapertickets.com/event/2820741 We'll post new tours as they are scheduled. Watch our website for details: nlmaritimesociety.org.



The Custom **MUSEUM SHOP** offers all kinds of unique gifts. Everybody is welcome in the shop, you don't need a museum ticket to get in. We have new and used books, maritime-themed objects, and a special section full of fun things for kids. The MUSEUM SHOP is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM, or by appointment.

NLMS Librarian. Brian Rogers, regularly reviews books from the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Research Library at the Custom House. Read more of his selections online at www.nlmaritimesociety.org/LibraryBookoftheMonth.html

ALTOGETHER AMERICAN: Robert Mills Architect and Engineer, 1781-1855

Rhodri Windsor Liscombem, Oxford University Press, 1994

The designer of New London's Custom House has been the subject of three biographies, one of which we are featuring to highlight the controversy over historic preservation brewing this month just two doors away from Robert Mills's landmark. In a city which has suffered the loss of too many valuable old buildings, the campaign by New London Landmarks, Inc., to save two Bank Street buildings has been gaining momentum since the threat of demolition was first publicized this spring.

At least two types of buildings are worth preserving: independent landmarks like the Shaw Mansion, the Court House, St. James's Church, and Union Railroad Station, to name but a few, which possess exceptional architectural value, and the more numerous ordinary structures which provide necessary, characterful context in historic neighborhoods such as this. Preservation and renovation of the threatened Bank Street buildings would inject new vigor into the social and economic revival of downtown New London and could lead to fresh possibilities for ongoing regeneration of the historic streetscape in which Robert Mills's granite temple of trade and commerce so proudly stands. ■

News from Ledge Light

This year, the Ledge Light Foundation is celebrating 30 years as steward of New London Ledge Lighthouse, as well as a 30 year partnership with Project Oceanology. Together, we have maintained, preserved and provided public access to this unique and iconic local maritime treasure.



This season, we have continued to work on projects at the light, both to further its preservation and enhance the interpretive center housed at the light. We have rooms full of exhibits, a theater with an orientation show, a gift shop, furnished keeper's room, and, of course, stunning views from the light tower at the top. On your visit, as you walk where the keepers walked, you are bound to see Ernie, the light's resident ghost.

Outside, we have benches where visitors can rest and enjoy the bustling activity of New London harbor and the Sound. This spring, we installed a flagpole that is a historical reference to the one originally at the light. And we've added a telescopic viewing scope so visitors can get closeup views of the surrounding area.

Tours to Ledge Light begin July 1, and run Tuesdays and Saturdays in July and August. There are tours only on Saturdays in September. All tours leave from Project Oceanology on Avery Point in Groton. To find out more about New London Ledge Lighthouse and to buy your tour tickets, please go to www.LedgeLighthouse.org. Help us celebrate 30 years of hard work and dedication to Ledge Lighthouse. Come on out and see this unique treasure for yourself. It's a great few hours out on the water and a memorable journey into local maritime history. -- Todd Gipstein ■

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 lroselund@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.

Hooray for New London's Third Graders!

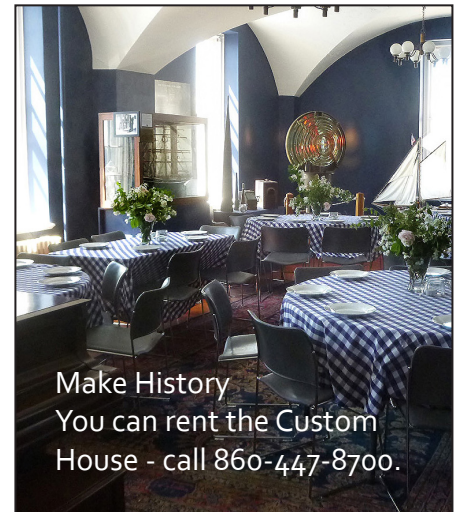


Support NL Maritime Society
No matter how the wind howls or the sea lashes, we see clear sailing ahead for our work preserving and promoting New London's maritime heritage. We work every day to preserve our maritime stories. We strive to make learning enjoyable, even fun! And we aspire to have a positive effect on the entire community, for this generation & beyond. Please support the New London Maritime Society.
We cannot do it without you!

For the 3rd year, NLMS has run a local history program -- a series of field trips allowing New London's 300 Public School 3rd graders to experience important historic sites throughout the City. The program fulfills a Social Studies curriculum requirement. It is under the direction of NLMS educator Jody Barthel. Field trips take place across the entire school year. Many of the sites visited were preserved through the efforts of these children's predecessors, citizens who valued our historic structures and the stories they enable us to tell.

We ended the school year at Fort Trumbull, touring both inside the museum and outside through the fort. Earlier in the season, students had visited aboard the *Amistad*, at the Nathan Hale School House, along NL's Waterfront Park, in the Shaw Mansion / NL County Historical Society, and at the Custom House Maritime Museum.

This program would not be possible without the generosity of our site partners; grants provided by the Community Foundation, Anthony & Elizabeth Enders, the Morgan McGinley Family Fund; and the NLMS volunteers - several of whom are retired teachers. The good news is we've already received funding for next year. Have a great summer, everyone!



Make History
You can rent the Custom House - call 860-447-8700.

Below, Peck's Ledge Light, Norwalk, CT, (detail), by David Zapatka, whose photographs of Long Island Sound lighthouses are on view at the Custom House..

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

nlmaritimesociety.org
nicely nautical & totally Thames

