

custom house MARITIMES FALL 2021



Above, sports channel ESPN filmed at Ledge Lighthouse in October. The segment will be used to promote the Veterans Day (November 11) football match at the USCG Academy. The game will pay tribute to the men of Pea Island, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, which in the 1880s was the first life-saving station in the country to have an all-black crew. It also was the first in the nation to have a black man, Richard Etheridge, as commanding officer.



The museum received some splendid ship model donations this year. From top, Sissy Wines brought us four boats from the RAFA (Retired Armed Forces Association) Bar. This is the *Emma C. Berry* - an 1866 Noank smack, built by Fred Maddox. Middle, USCGA cadets helped with the display. Bottom, Ralph Belifiglio donated a collection of 20 ship models which had belonged to his uncle Status Nicolas.

Steady As She Goes

We're observing our 38th onboard a ferry on the first Sunday in November! Come, celebrate with us. Following a brief **Annual Meeting**, we'll take off on the *Cecelia Ann* for a spin by **Harbor, Ledge, and Race Rock Lights** – the 3 historic beacons which we own, and that together create a safe course from the wild Atlantic to New London harbor. There'll be experts to expound on current & future lighthouse preservation plans, cake & libations. We want you there. Sign up online 24/7 at <https://3lights.bpt.me>.

Having been closed for over a year due to COVID-19, and with the director home with a twice broken foot (yes, I returned to work too early and broke it, again), the good news is that NLMS is holding its own. Everyone pitched in to reopen at the end of May. What an amazing corps of volunteers we have – thank you, all. Special thanks go to **Christina Corcoran**, whom we're happy to report will stay on in 2022 as NLMS president, along with **John Desjardins** our VP, and **Alan Lyon** our treasurer. **Regan Morse** will join us as secretary. Regan and lighthouse fan **Andy Champagne** also will come on to the NLMS board. Longtime docent **Bill LaRoue** retired in 2020, although you might catch him here at programs. We still are looking for a membership coordinator. Please email to learn more about volunteering: nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com. The museum now opens at 10 AM Saturdays and we'd like to extend our hours on other days, too.

The Briney Bank border, now 3 years old – created with funds from a community art project organized by our neighbor at *Studio 33 Sarah Munroe* – continues to delight us this season with bright anemones, dusky verbena, and salmon-y chrysanthemums. Another lovely development is that you've discovered our music programs. **OpenMic at the Museum** has become a friendly monthly happening, with balladeers, bongo players, and a tenor sax. Our **Custom House Soirées**, featuring songstress **Lisa Marien** and jazz guitarist **Bill 'Fox' Mills**, have proved a great way to chill on a Wednesday evening. 'Her voice soothes, excites, invites, and delights. Lisa Marien has this thing, this jazz vibe with beautiful phrasing and such great feel,' wrote one collaborator. Stop by. We know you'll agree.

--Susan Tamulevich, director

from the Frank L. McGuire Library

Earlier this year, during the months when the Custom House was closed because of the pandemic, we hosted a project to transcribe the Journal of the *Merrimac* and publish it online. The completion of the project was celebrated on Tuesday, October 19, at the Custom House. Coordinator and editor Laurie Deredita gave a short talk for the Jibboom Club about the transcription project and the journal followed by questions and comments (and cake and refreshments). Some of the volunteer scribes who worked on the project attended the celebration and contributed to the lively discussion. The Journal itself was on display at this time and will be available for viewing for a while. The transcription is one of 16 online exhibitions: <https://mcguirelibrary1998.omeka.net/>.

The Custom House has been open again as a functioning museum for several months with regular hours, programs and tours. The McGuire Library on the second floor is also open for research but before you come please make an appointment by contacting librarian Laurie Deredita at Imder@conncoll.edu.
– Laurie M. Deredita, Librarian

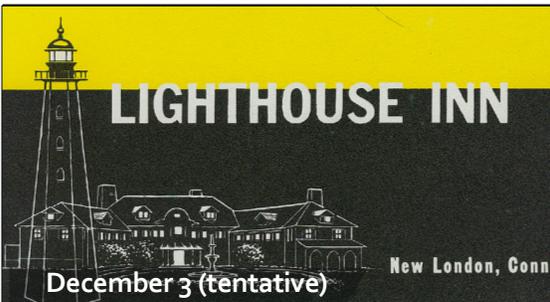


AUTUMN 2021 highlights - for full listings, go to nlmaritimesociety.org

PROGRAMS

- Tours to climb HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE run all year. The views from the top are spectacular! We meet at the lighthouse, then climb 116 steps to the lantern room – all the while learning about the 260-year history of Harbor Light, the oldest and the tallest lighthouse on Long Island Sound. A 4th-order Fresnel lens, installed in 1857, remains in the lantern today. brownpapertickets.com/event/5127942. custom tours: 860-447-2501.
- JIBBOOM CLUB #1, meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Join us for a talk, good company, coffee & cookies. Sponsored by the Maco Family Fund, the gatherings are FREE and open to all. Upcoming dates are **October 19** –Laurie Deredita on the *Merrimac Journal Transcription Project*, (all Merrimac transcribers are encouraged to be there); **November 16** –Claudia Kenyon returns to JIBBOOM to tell stories about her family, New London, & the sea. You are invited to join in with tales of your family's maritime history. Please come and bring a friend.
- *OpenMic at the Museum*, meets the last Sunday of the month, **October 31, November 28, 6-9 PM**. Share your original music, poetry, prose, stand-up, or just say what is on your mind. OpenMic welcomes performers of all kinds. Bring your bongos. Perform, or just enjoy. By donation.
- *Custom House Soirée*, with singer Lisa Marien and guitarist Bill 'Fox' Mills, **November 3, December 1**, two seatings at **6:30 and 8 PM**. Lisa sings songs made popular by the likes of Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Tony Bennett. Her Soirées are loosely themed: **November 3** – *Thankful*: songs reflecting on gratefulness and appreciation; **December 1** – *Seasons of Love*: including holiday selections. Sign up today at <https://chsoiree.bpt.me>
- 38th ANNUAL MEETING, **November 7, Sunday, 2-4:30 PM**. <https://3lights.bpt.me>
- Wine Tasting/Auction at the Lighthouse Inn, **Dec. 3, Friday, 5:30-8 PM**. <https://lighthouseinn.bpt.me/>
- HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, **December 16, Thursday, 3-5 PM**. Join us at the Custom House **FREE!**

Don't forget to visit the MUSEUM SHOP for everything from maritime mobiles to local history books.



▪ **Wine Tasting at the Lighthouse Inn & Online Auction**, date TBD. Watch: nlmaritimesociety.org
Join us to relaunch New London's newly renovated Inn, which was closed for over a decade. Salute its devoted champions Alwyn Christy & Ned Hammond. (image: James Diaz-Saavedra collection) Ed Cramer of Gordon's Yellow Front Wines and Liquors presents the wine tasting as a fundraiser for New London Maritime Society. <https://lighthouseinn.bpt.me/>



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

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

from the NLMS President

I attended Daddy Jack's memorial concert in October. It was so sad to lose him. We all have lost so many special friends and places and so much has changed in the past year and a half. But the event was more of a celebration of a great life and a chance to bring people together to appreciate what we do have.

New London is a special place for so many of us and has so much to offer. It was nice to see everyone. Some folks recognized me from Daddy Jacks, where I would go with my friend Norma after my shift at the Museum every Saturday to enjoy amazing food and music and a smile. But most recognize me from the Maritime Museum. Several people mentioned that they are happy to see the "Museum Open" flag flying again!

I am so thankful that we have the dedicated people needed to keep the museum alive and well...and getting stronger. Our director Susan is unstoppable and while she was out with her broken foot I realized how much she does to keep everything going. I appreciate Susan and the volunteers and board members who all care so much about our mission to keep not only the museum open, and the programs going, but to educate, maintain, and give access to our three incredible lighthouses.

I have been giving tours to Harbor lighthouse pretty regularly, through parts of the pandemic as well, thanks to masks and vaccines. I do not do it because I love to climb 116 steps wearing a mask, but because I love to see the look on peoples faces when they get to the lantern room and look out on beautiful New London Harbor. People come from as close as across the street and as far away as Oregon, Wisconsin, Honduras, and even Spain! My young student Karter visited the lighthouse with his Mom and Papa this spring. When we had made our way up into the lantern room he asked me where the treasure was. I told him we are in it! He nodded thoughtfully letting me know that he got it! Harbor Lighthouse is a treasure that belongs to the people of New London and all who appreciate its beauty and history. I hope that if you are reading this and thinking about the people and places we appreciate after losing so much, you will take the time to visit and help us to keep this treasure going for Karter's generation and beyond.

- Christina Corcoran



October 31, November 28

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.

Join us aboard the *Cecelia Ann* for our Annual Meeting then sit back and relax on a ferry ride out by our three lighthouses. There will be cider & cake.

Special guests include **Walter Sedovic & Jill H Gotthelf** of Walter Sedovic Architects, who created a preservation plan for Race Rock Lighthouse; & **Bruce Buckley**, president of the Ledge Light Foundation.

Register online 24/7:
<https://3lights.bpt.me>
We thank the Cross Sound Ferry for generously providing the ship.

New London Maritime Society

38th ANNUAL MEETING - it's on the ferry!
Dedicating 2022 to preserving our lighthouses.

Sunday, November 7, 2-4:30 pm



photo: Andy Champagne



Don't you just love the
Custom House SHOP!

Our SHOP offers all kinds of wonderful things! New Holiday gifts are arriving daily! NLMS Members always receive 10% off!

The Custom House Maritime Museum & SHOP are open Wednesday –Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM, & Saturdays from 10 AM. The **John Michael Corcoran Museum Day Fund** provides free admission to the Custom House for all New London students and their families.

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



nlmaritimesociety.org
local friendly authentic