

custom house MARITIMES

Summer 2015

5th annual Sentinels on the Sound



Above: The world as seen from the lantern of New London Harbor Light. Photo: Dana Jensen/The Day.



Top: wear our button to receive discounts all over town; middle: Pirate Radio plays at the Hygienic August 5 -- it takes place on a lightship; bottom: Sea-to-Table chefs Ameila Lord and Elisa Giommi.

Let SUMMER begin!

Who would have imagined back in 2010 that our initial one weekend of lighthouse activities would, in five years, grow to encompass 5 months -- all summer long & beyond. We have terrific programs this year and even some surprises. Season highlights are listed inside this newsletter; get the full schedule online at nlmaritimesociety.org. Watch the facebook page for 'Sentinels on the Sound' for the latest updates.

This year, too, marks the 15th anniversary of the **National Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000**. In the history of the Act, no single organization has even been awarded ownership of three lighthouses, until now.

New London Maritime Society, with its educational *Lighthouse Kids* programs, boat tours, partnerships in the community, and special events, is the poster child for Lighthouse Preservation. With the **Ledge Lighthouse Foundation**, we take ownership of **New London Ledge Lighthouse** on August 6.

New London Harbor 'Pequot' Light was among the first group of six lighthouses offered for disposal by the GSA in 2002 -- The Maritime Society applied for and was awarded the lighthouse, although the actual conveyance took place eight years later in October 2010. We received **Race Rock Light** in July 2013.

The **Ledge Light Conveyance ceremony** takes place one day before **National Lighthouse Day**. It was on August 7, 1789, that Congress approved an Act for the establishment and support of lighthouse, beacons, buoys and public piers. In celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the Act and the commissioning of the first Federal lighthouse, Congress passed a resolution which designated the lighthouse holiday.

At the Custom House this year, we celebrate a special **NL Loves Lighthouse** week from August 1 through 9.

New London Maritime Society has fought & continues to fight for public access to our lighthouses.

In 2013, we lost the battle for **Little Gull Light** (a campaign we waged to stop the public auction of this historic lighthouse), but we also applied for and were awarded **Race Rock Light**. That same year, **Harbor Light** appeared on the US Postal Service 'Lighthouses of New England' series stamp representing Connecticut. Currently NLMS is defending the rights of the public to have access to their lighthouses in court. Due to a lawsuit by a neighbor to Harbor Light, our lawyers have filed a 'Motion to Dismiss' which establishes federal primacy in all zoning disputes with these historic American beacons. If this motion is accepted, we will have won a battle for all civic groups working to preserve their local lighthouses.

Across five years, New London Maritime Society has successfully established New London, CT, as a true '**Lighthouse Hub**'. People now recognize the wealth of diverse lighthouses just off our shore and their potential for tourism, education, and fun. In recognition of our work with lighthouses, this spring, NLMS director received the NL Elks' *Citizen of the Year* award, and the Maritime Society received formal recognition/award from the mayor, NL Main Street. and New London's Economic Development Commission.

from the President, New London Maritime Society

NOW HEAR THIS! Friends, this is an urgent call for help.

'Man Your Battle Stations' might be too dramatic. But, in our efforts to represent you, the people, in preserving your lighthouse historic landmarks, the New London Maritime Society / Custom House Maritime Museum has been placed in a difficult financial position by our two neighbors immediately abutting the New London Harbor Lighthouse on Pequot Ave. in New London. As a direct result of their actions, we are in Federal Court together with the United States as defendants, we are in State Court as plaintiffs after one neighbor physically blocked our access to the Lighthouse, and we are appealing a 'Cease and Desist' order from the City Zoning Authority. In the opinion of our very good - and expensive - attorneys and ourselves, the first two actions are without legal basis. And the City action will not only be appealed locally, but is being challenged on Constitutional grounds in an action that could have national ramifications for any other similar organizations seeking to implement the Federal Act of 2000 that enables them, and that has enabled us, to preserve three local lighthouses in the public domain.

WE NEED DONATIONS: large and small, "fast nickels and slow dollars". As anyone who has taken a course in typing will recognize; **NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD PERSONS TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR..." SOCIETY. PLEASE!**

--George A. Spreccace., president



Everyone wants to visit the lighthouse! *above:* NL City Councilman Martin Olsen, State Senator Paul Formica, State Representative André Bumgardner, and State Representative Kevin Ryan climbed the 199 steps to the lantern in late June.

We regret having had to cancel our **Open House** on June 21 (due to thunderstorms, pouring rain, slippery rocks, and poor visibility). A second **Open House at Harbor Light** takes place **Sunday, September 13, from 10 AM to 4 PM** in conjunction with New London's Maritime Heritage Festival. The event is Free, but reservations are required. Call 860-447-8700 after September 1 to sign up.

Boat Tours run every Saturday & Sunday through Oct. 25.

2015 New London Lighthouse Boat Tours

They're the perfect way to show your guests the **real** New London.

1.) The **original New London Harbor Lighthouse Tours** run Saturday & Sunday, 11 AM, 12 noon, and 1 PM through October 25! *Special tours may be chartered at any time.*

2.) In honor of Coast Guard Summer, our new **90-minute USCG Boat Tours** run every Saturday at 3 PM, through September 12.

Ever-popular 3.) **Sunset Lighthouse Boat Tours** (7:30 PM) & 4.) **Full-Moon Boat Tours** (8:30 PM) run across three nights on the dates of the full moons through September.

It's all fun and personable. We use small boats, passionate guides, and local captains. Passengers are limited to 6 per trip. Maybe that's why we won Yankee Magazine's 2014 Editors' Choice Award for Best Lighthouse Tours. Your ticket also includes free admission to the Custom House Maritime Museum. Buy an NLMS membership for additional savings.

right: Full-moon boat tour passes Ledge Lighthouse.



Sign up for boat tours at brownpapertickets.com, search: 'New London' lighthouse

SPECIAL PROGRAMS this Summer



It's Coast Guard Summer - a summer-long celebration recognizing the U.S. Coast Guard & we're a part of it.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has officially designated the summer of 2015 as "Connecticut's Coast Guard Summer" in celebration of the 225th anniversary of the founding of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the USCG Academy's 100 years at its current location in New London. As part of Connecticut's Coast Guard Summer, which runs from June through September, 2015, several major event organizers in New London will choose themes to commemorate USCG for its service to the region and nation.



5th Annual Sentinels on the Sound - New London Lighthouse Summer Celebration.

Join us when New London hosts 19 weeks of Lighthouse boat tours, exhibitions, & special events. Hourly boat tours of NL harbor & area lighthouses; special boat trips to Coast Guard sites, Ledge Light, Fishers and Plum Islands. Sunset, full-moon, & Segway tours, too!
 What's new at the Custom House? --a family-friendly exhibition: Kids Ahoy!, Seafood tastings and cooking classes, too.
 Overnight B&B packages.
 Full weekends of activities, food & fun.



Connecticut & the Sea

Make Summer 2015 your time to explore the maritime art and culture of southeastern Connecticut through exciting exhibitions of art and artifacts, special events and performances, and popular excursions on the river and sound. Discover summer and fall's activities at three museums—the Custom House Maritime Museum (New London), the Connecticut River Museum (Essex), and the Florence Griswold Museum. Buy a 3-in-1 ticket to visit all three site.



Above: Joann Cain presents director Susan Tamulevich a check to from the Chelsea Groton Foundation to support our Summer activities with the Amistad and US Customs. We also thank our new summer sponsor Suisman Shapiro Attorneys, New London.

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 \$1,500__ (This entitles you to Life Membership)

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

Number _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

I want to support the **Ben Martin LIGHTHOUSE FUND** ____ Please accept this donation of \$ _____

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

150 Bank Street, New London, Connecticut 06320, 860-447-2501



Special events at the Custom House Maritime Museum



Wednesday July 1 -- it is the Full Moon and time for our first **Sunset and Full-Moon Boat Tours**. Ever-popular Sunset Lighthouse Boat Tours (7:30 PM) & Full-Moon Boat Tours (8:30 PM) commence July 1. They are offered across three nights on the dates of the full moons July through October. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1661496>
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1662407>



July 11 through August 1 -- **How to be a Cartoonist**, with Jon Buller. Learn the basics of cartooning with Jon Buller, author of Graphic Novels: *The Fog Mound trilogy*, *Scarlett: Star en Cavale*; *Picture Books: Fanny and May*; *Board Books: The Noisy Counting Book, I Love You, Good-Night*; and many more. We've offered this popular class several times over the past several years. Adults often sign up -- and are most welcome. Four Saturdays, July 11 -- August 1, from 10:45 AM to 12 noon. \$40, all materials included. Sign up at [brownpapertickets.com/event/1597478](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1597478)



Tuesday, July 21 -- **Jibboom Club GAM**. Speaker TBA. 1 to 4 PM.

Tuesday, July 28, 10 AM to 2 PM. -- **Fishers Island Boat Tour**

Take our excursion to Fishers Island to view 2015 Annual Exhibition: *The History of Farming on Fishers Island*, curated by Pierce Rafferty at the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, with lunch at the Pequot Inn. We're taking the Fishers Island Ferry from New London. \$60 donation. Book tickets nlmaritimesociety.org. Limited to 15.



August 1 -- 9, 2015 -- **New London Loves Lighthouses Week** of activities and special events
Saturday, August 1 -- **Shenecossette Yacht Club Lighthouse Regatta**



Saturday, August 1 -- **Sea to Table Talks & Tastings, Cooking Class with Dinner**. This class features the 'catch of the day' - cooking with fresh FISH. Learn all about the amazing seafood harvested off our shores. *Sea to Table* is a series of five Talk & Tasting sessions featuring local seafood growers, paired with Cooking Classes with Dinner presented by chefs Elisa Giommi and Amelia Lord, held at the Custom House Maritime Museum. Participants may sign up for just the *Talk* or for both the *Talk* and *Cooking* presentations. Register [brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528) or call 860-447-8700.

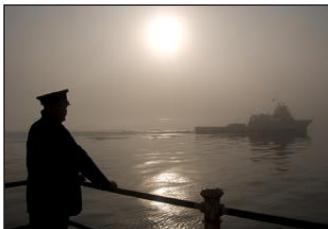
Tuesday, August 4 -- **Plum Island Boat Tour** -- FILLED



Wednesday, August 5 -- **Summer Flickers at Hygienic Art Park** (79 Bank Street, New London). At Hygienic Art **Pirate Radio** (the film takes place on a lightship) Admission is \$5, snacks and libations available for purchase. Gates at 8pm. 1 Boat. 8 DJs. No Morals. They rocked. They rolled. Then they sank. On air. Off shore. Out of control.

★ Thursday, August 6 -- **Conveyance Ceremony Ledge Lighthouse** -- by invitation - Award of New London Ledge Lighthouse from the federal government to NLMS and the Ledge Light Foundation, who have been stewards to Ledge over 30 years.

Friday, August 7 -- **National Lighthouse Day**



Saturday, August 8, 2 PM -- **Jibboom Roundtable: Lighthouse Keepers** discussion by former USCG lighthouse keepers. *photo: Todd Gipstein*



Sunday, August 9 -- **Nimble Arts Circus** FREE performances at 4 & 6:30 PM. (stick around for cake at the **People's gala** between performances). Supported by Veolia Water. **Juggling workshop** with real circus clowns at 1 PM. [brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528)

nlmaritimesociety.org

Sunday, August 16, 2 PM -- **Preserving Plum Island for Future Generations**, photo presentation, with **Chris Cryder**, Special Projects Coordinator for Save the Sound, will present a "virtual tour" of Plum Island using new imagery taken by photographer Robert Lorenz. The island, home to the nation's foreign animal disease center, as well as several endangered species and unique habitats, is soon to be sold to the highest bidder. But, many organizations would rather see the amazing island conserved. Come learn about current efforts to protect it. (Save the Sound is a bi-state program of CT Fund for the Environment, based in New Haven, CT)



Tuesday, August 18, 1 PM -- **Jibboom Club GAM**. Speaker **Capt. Rod White** on *Antarctica*.

Friday, August 28, at 6:30 -- Please join artist **Josie Iselin** as she reads from her newest book, **An Ocean Garden: The Secret Life of Seaweed**. She will be presenting her stunning imagery of ocean botanica and explaining her unique process of using her flatbed scanner to capture the seaweed's underwater essence. She will continue with the fascinating biology of seaweed explaining its important place in our near-shore ocean environment. please join us for a joyful comingling of art and science! brownpapertickets.com/event/1744025



Saturday, August 29 -- **Sea to Table Talks & Tastings, Cooking Class with Dinner**
brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528

Sunday, September 13, 10 AM – 4 PM -- **Harbor Light OPEN HOUSE**

Tuesday, September 15 1 PM -- **Jibboom Club GAM**. Speaker **Carolyn Stearns** on the ship named *Confederacy*, built on the Thames River during the Revolutionary War.

SAVE THE DATE -- Saturday, September 19 -- **Celebrate the Sentinels Gala**

Saturday, September 26 -- **Sea to Table Talks & Tastings, Cooking Class with Dinner**
brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528

Saturday, October 24 -- **Sea to Table Talks & Tastings, Cooking Class with Dinner**
brownpapertickets.com/event/1672528



Exhibitions

Three special exhibitions are on view this summer at the Custom House.

~ *Kids Ahoy*

~ *180 Years of US Customs in New London*, from The National U.S. Customs Museum Foundation

~ *The History of US Coast Guard Education*, curated by Norman Brouwer.



Visit the Custom House **MUSEUM SHOP** for terrific gifts—including Josie's book, sailing ship kites, elegant scarves, nautical clocks, toy submarines, rubber stamps, fluffy duckies, and sea creature ornaments. We have Lighthouse Keepers caps, whales of every sort, oyster linens. New London Maritime Society members receive 10% off their purchase.

left: Stars n' stripes marble bags, \$4.

We're open Tuesday—Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM. Find 'Custom House Museum Shop' on facebook.



Ledge Light Foundation news

The Ledge Light Foundation, in partnership with Project Oceanology and the New London Maritime Society, begins its season of tours to Ledge Lighthouse on July 5th. The tours take visitors INSIDE the light to see exhibits about history, lighthouses, keepers, the resident ghost Ernie and much more. The building itself is fascinating, and the rooms full of exhibits — many new this year — offer visitors insights into the life of the light and the men who were its keepers. The Interpretive Center includes an air-conditioned theater and a gift shop. Benches outside circle the building and afford great views of the surrounding area and maritime activities. Foundation docents host all tours.

Celebrate the Sentinels

The Ledge Light Foundation and New London Maritime Society are planning a **gala** to celebrate our three lighthouses. It will be held **September 19th** at the Port 'N Starboard at Ocean Beach in New London. Check at nlmaritimesociety.org or the Ledge Light Foundation website for updates over the summer.

We are accepting donations for the silent auction. Please email info@ledgelighthouse.org to offer your catamaran, home in Tuscany, or other tantalizing prizes.

Tours Schedule - July and August

Tuesday at 4:00 from Avery Point in Groton

Saturday at 1:30 from Avery Point in Groton

Sunday at 1:30 from the City Pier (behind train station) New London

Tours Schedule - September

Tours run only on Saturdays at 1:30 from the City Pier in New London.

Tours last 2.5 hours and include a narrated trip into New London harbor.

Booking is simple. Just go to www.LedgeLighthouse.org/tours and follow the instructions and links to get your tickets. Adults are \$40 and children (6 to 12) \$30.

*below: Friday, August 28, at 6:30 -- Please join artist Josie Iselin as she reads from her newest book, *An Ocean Garden: The Secret Life of Seaweed*. Josie will present her stunning imagery of ocean botanica and explain in her unique process of using a flatbed scanner to capture the seaweed's underwater essence. She will continue with the fascinating biology of seaweed to explain its important place in our near-shore ocean environment. Please join us for a joyful comingling of art and science! Books will be available for signing. Please register online at: brownpapertickets.com/event/1744025*

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

www.nlmaritimesociety.org

Summer is here.

Watch the website for the latest updates.

