

custom house MARITIMES

SUMMER 2016

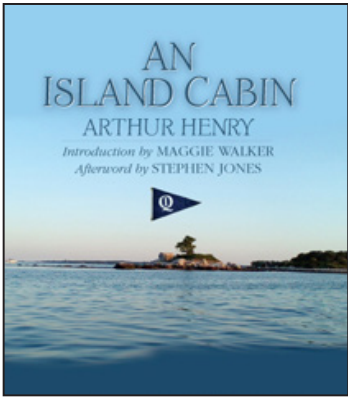
find your lighthouse!

Already the summer season is awhirl with new tours, new exhibitions, and a host of special musical offerings - from classical pianist **Aymeric Dupré la Tour** to revered folk singer **Peter Yarrow**. More on those events, inside. But for now, let's talk **LIGHTHOUSE TOURS**.

This summer, we're inviting everyone to explore the region's lighthouses *with the one who knows them best* (well, NLMS does own *three lighthouses* and it is our 6th season of lighthouse boat tours). For starters, try our 90-minute **Find your lighthouse!** tour. This season we present an expanded version of our *Yankee Magazine* award-winning 'Best Lighthouse Tour' aboard the quiet, 20-passenger *Popeye*. A true escape on the water, our personal, 90-minute tours leave from downtown NL to cruise out six miles past Harbor, Ledge and Avery Point lighthouses to Race Rock and North Dumpling Lights. Along the way we pass a submarine factory, two forts, a USCG station, and Fishers Island. With luck, we may even spy some seals. *Find your lighthouse!* tours depart Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11:30 AM. Advance reservations are strongly suggested. Sign up at brownpapertickets.com/event/2557359.

Peaceful and intimate, our popular 6-passenger **Sunset** and **Full-Moon Lighthouse Boat Tours** take place monthly, over the three nights of the full moon, aboard *WaterTransit II*. These evening tours visit Harbor, Ledge, and Avery Point Lights. **Sunset tours** leave at twilight, so times vary with the setting sun. Register for the 60-minute tour at brownpapertickets.com/event/2560310. As the sun disappears, we present the rare opportunity to see area lighthouses as they were meant to be seen. Sign up for our memorable 6 person, 60-minute **Full-moon tour** at brownpapertickets.com/event/2560315. Our boat tours leave from the floating dock to the left of City Pier behind the NL rail station.

You'll be happy to learn, all of our boat tour income supports local lighthouse preservation! What's more, boat tour takers receive free admission to the lighthouse exhibition at the nearby Custom House Maritime Museum (a \$7 value) as well as a one-time 10% discount on purchases in our delightful MUSEUM SHOP.



SUMMER 2016 Here's what's coming up next.

The Custom House Maritime Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 1 to 5 PM (closed Monday & Tuesday), or by appointment. Call 860-447-2501. Admission is FREE for current members, individuals with current military or USCG cadet ID and children under age 14 (with adult), \$7 suggested donation all others. Go to nlmaritimesociety.org for details. Register for events online 24/7 at brownpapertickets.com.

Our 2016 Sentinels on the Sound Lighthouse Boat Tour season runs through October

Go to our website for details: nlmaritimesociety.org

Find your lighthouse! tours run every Wednesday and Saturday from 11:30 AM to 1 PM.

Sunset and Full-Moon lighthouse tours take place monthly across the three nights of the full moon July 18, 19, 20; August 17, 18, 19; September 15, 16, 16; October 15, 16, 17.

new Two 'An Island Cabin' boat tours out of Noank, with Steven Jones

July 20, Wednesday, 11 AM to 12 NOON

September 10, Saturday, 11 AM to 12 NOON

This special boat tour, led by **Stephen Jones**, is presented in partnership with the **Noank Historical Society**. Tour the Islands off Noank, where author **Arthur Henry** penned his 1902 book, *An Island Cabin*, in which five disparate friends from the Big City occupy a simple summer cabin—and things devolve from there. Sign up at brownpapertickets.com/event/2566726.

Limited to 20 passengers, we tour aboard the *Popeye*, which leaves out of Noank. **Copies of *An Island Cabin* are available for \$10 at the Custom House and Noank Historical Society**, and also can be mailed for an additional \$6 postage. Call 860-447-2501. \$35.

new Two Excursions to Fishers Island, to visit the Henry L. Ferguson Museum

July 25, Monday, app. 10 AM to 2 PM

August 20, Saturday, app. 10 AM to 2 PM

Visit Fishers Island and see *Mansion House Hotel & Cottages*, curated by **Pierce Rafferty**, at the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. We're taking the ferry from New London, just steps from the Amtrak station. A light lunch is included. \$60. Trips limited to 12 attendees. Register at brownpapertickets.com/event/2566687.

JIBBOOM CLUB # 1- Speakers to be announced

July 19 Tuesday, 1 - 4 PM

August 16 Tuesday, 1 - 4 PM

The Jibboom Club meets monthly, April through November, on the third Tuesday of the month for a speaker's program, coffee, cupcakes, and good conversation. Donation for refreshments, only. 860-447-2501.

new Concert series with Aymeric Dupré la Tour, artistic director

July 23 Saturday, 7 PM — 'Battle Cry of Freedom' piano recital with **Aymeric Dupré la Tour**

Programmatic pieces on historical battles, piano variations, and concert works paraphrase our national tunes, with patriotic airs sung by guest baritone **Thomas Mullaney**. Space is limited. Aymeric's last concert sold out, so please book in advance. Admission \$15, \$10 NLMS and students. brownpapertickets.com/event/2567474.

September 17, Saturday, 7 PM — **Schubert Parlor** concert with pianist **Aymeric Dupré la Tour**

Works include the *Sonata in A minor for Arpeggione and Piano*, D. 821, with **Alison Holt** on viola, and the first part of *Schone Mullerin* with tenor **Christopher Lucier**. Space is limited. Aymeric's last concert sold out, so please book in advance. Admission \$15, \$10 NLMS and students. brownpapertickets.com/event/2567476

Both the **New London Currach Rowers Regatta** and the **Shennecossett Yacht Club's 3rd Annual Lighthouse Regatta** are scheduled for **Saturday, July 30, 2016!**

new Summer Stars & Celestial Navigation

Thursday, August 4, 9 PM - meets at the lighthouse on the UCONN campus at Avery Point

Bruce Levine, Planetarium lecturer at Mystic Seaport, will point out Saturn and seasonal constellations, discuss the importance of the North Star, and explain celestial navigation. Bring your binoculars & telescope, if you have them. The event is weather-dependent. \$15, \$10 NLMS members and students. Register at brownpapertickets.com/event/2567434.

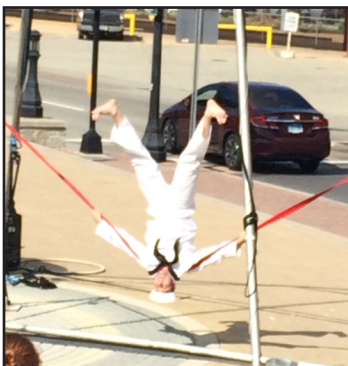
Nimble Arts Circus - it wouldn't be summer without Nimble Arts

August 28, Sunday. FREE performances at 4 & 6:30 PM.

Juggling workshop - Learn how to juggle with real circus clowns at 2 PM. brownpapertickets.com/event/2567271

Save the date - An Evening of Song and Conversation with Peter Yarrow

December 2, Friday Watch our website for details nlmaritimesociety.org



Samantha, above, is a volunteer. Want to help? Call 860-447-2501.

News from the Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library

Maritime History Preserved in Books and Newspapers

Although we are planning web pages for our interesting 'non-book' archives — the postcard collection, the Bachman War of 1812 papers, the Admiral Billard Academy collection, and many others — our book collection will be the intellectual and spiritual heart of the library for years to come. Books old and new make their way to our shelves as gifts of friends, or as purchases funded by friends. In May Capt. Joseph P. (Joe) Maco, gave us an opportunity to select titles from his library of nautical books. One of these, *The Sea and Civilization - A Maritime History of the World*, by Lincoln Paine (2013), is perhaps the most comprehensive narrative of its kind, and no maritime library should be without it. We chose thirteen other good books as well, and are grateful for his interest and support. A resident of Madison and a member of our Society, Joe is a pilot who has brought many a vessel into New London over the years. He is past president of Northeast Marine Pilots Inc., based in Newport, which prepared a valuable letter supporting our efforts on behalf of New London Harbor Light.

Our conservator, Gene Macmillan, has assembled a large-format album containing the late Archie Chester's collection of newspaper pages documenting the 20th century history of what we used to call 'atomic submarines.' The earliest item is a special supplement on the dawning of a new naval era, published by *The Hartford Courant* a year or two before the launch of the *Nautilus*, the first 'atomic' submarine, then a building at the Electric Boat Co. The front page of *The Day* was devoted to that historic launch in 1954, and is the rarest document in the album. Dozens of later stories, chronologically arranged up to 2007, bring back memories of the fanfare that always accompanied the dramatic slip-way launches. These were later replaced by more benign 'launches' in which the waters of the Thames were admitted to the drydock to float the boat where it had been built, but the excitement still hung in the air. This handsome album recaptures one of the most colorful chapters of our local maritime history and we look forward to sharing it with visitors. ■

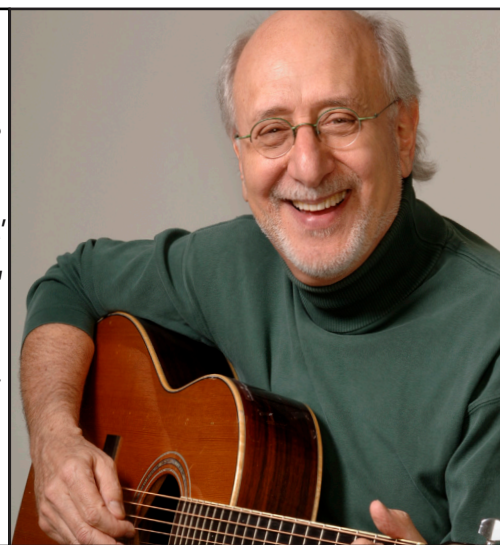
Brian Rogers, Librarian

SAVE THE DATE - Friday, December 2 An Evening of Song and Conversation with Peter Yarrow

Peter Yarrow's talents as a creative artist—both with the legendary trio Peter, Paul & Mary and as a solo performer—are frequently directed at using music to convey a message of humanity and caring. His gift for songwriting has produced some of the most moving songs from Peter, Paul & Mary, including 'Puff, the Magic Dragon,' 'Day is Done,' 'Light One Candle' and 'The Great Mandala.' As a member of the renowned musical trio, Yarrow has earned multiple gold and platinum albums, as well as numerous GRAMMYS. He performs for NL Maritime Society on Friday, December 2. ■

Yes, it will be nostalgic for many. But on another level, it will bring them a sense of what is still possible. Yes, they will sing 'Leaving on a Jet Plane,' and I will give them a sense of the current history of what this music is doing, and why it's important. So it will be a history lesson, it will be a singalong that inspires, but it will also assert the importance of the continuation of this kind of music in people's lives today. And where we're going from here in those terms. It's not necessarily a big lecture — it's inherent in the music. They'll get it. I know it, 'cause that's what I do.

— Peter Yarrow



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.



Visit the Custom House MUSEUM SHOP
 Our museum shop offers all kinds of unique gifts. We have a special section full of fun things for kids. Everybody is welcome in the shop, you don't need a museum ticket. All NLMS members and boat-tour takers receive 10% off. ■
 Above, Alan Claude prints & 2017 calendars, and a watercolor by Constance Kenyon featuring New London lighthouses.

Explore the region's lighthouses with the one who knows them best.
 Take our *award-winning, personal, 90-minute* tour aboard the 20-passenger *Popeye*.

FIND YOUR LIGHTHOUSE!

New London Maritime Society

Race Rock Light

Support preservation. NLMS owns 3 lighthouses: NL Harbor, Ledge, and Race Rock. Included with your boat-tour ticket is *free* admission to our **lighthouse exhibition** at the **Custom House Maritime Museum** and a 10% discount in our delightful **MUSEUM SHOP**. We have intimate, 6-person **Sunset** and **Full-Moon** lighthouse tours, too. nlmaritimesociety.org
 150 Bank Street, downtown New London, CT 860-447-8700

We now offer combined Segway tours & *Find your Lighthouse!* tickets-2 tours-a \$110 value for just \$90. Call 860-447-8700 or 877-474-1117 & get moving!

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

nlmaritimesociety.org



In April, New London's Planning & Zoning Commission took a vote...and while all seven members expressed the sentiment that allowing people—residents, school children, even tourists—to visit New London Harbor Lighthouse on a limited basis would be a *good thing* and was an act consistent with the stated objectives of the City's own development plan (promoting historic preservation and tourism, adaptive reuse of historic structures, etc.), five of the seven members voted against our zoning text amendment to allow for public access to historic sites, such as Harbor Light. As a result, we now are without the ability to bring any visitors to see the lighthouse, period. We—and you, the public—are essentially shut out of our own property.

Harbor Light still is an active US Coast Guard site. According to the Coast Guard, from the lantern one can see more lighthouses than from any other place on earth! —an astounding fact in which the City should take real pride. Citizens built and restored this historic property—the oldest and tallest lighthouse on Long Island Sound and scene to much significant local history. NLMS now owns it on the public's behalf. Access to the lighthouse should not be a matter of zoning, but of civil rights.

In the six years since we began offering tours to the lighthouse, visitors have come from as far away as Alaska, Oregon, Texas, and Maine to climb the 118 steps and see that spectacular view. With all the current effort to make New London a tourist destination, a US Coast Guard City, and the all-out push for a national USCG museum in 2020, it is bewildering that an existing, downtown maritime museum serving all these same ends and more, does not get the City's support on this critical concern.

One can only believe, as with many issues of civil rights, that it's a matter of education.

The City's trusty lighthouse has suffered worse insult. Harbor Light is where Benedict Arnold landed his troops *en route* to burn New London down in 1781. To keep the British away, the Light was extinguished during the War of 1812. Now the current lighthouse neighbors have figuratively turned the Light out.

Meanwhile, we are not giving up our efforts toward access. The ZBA appeal and federal litigation defending NLMS from the lighthouse neighbors, the Waesches, are being actively pursued. ■

Left: NL Harbor Lighthouse depicted on prints, ads, pottery, cakes, etc.

Keep up with What's Up! To receive weekly Custom House news, email nlmaritimedirector@gmail.com.

Below, In April, NLMS's Long Island Sound Lighthouse Symposium brought together lighthouse stewards and stake holders.



New London Maritime Society is lucky to be located in historic, downtown New London at the Custom House Maritime Museum. The Custom House is a community museum, a spot where friends often drop by to chat and share their news, and sometimes their treasures.



We knew **Ed Uditis**, above, was an historic dive enthusiast—some of his vintage dive gear is on display in our front hall. But we were surprised to learn that his main collection concerns submarines. As part of our participation in the 100th anniversary of Sub Base New London, Ed is loaning us some highlights from his collection. The exhibition will be on view through August.



Next door to the Custom House Maritime Museum is **Studio 33 Art and Frame Gallery**. Since 1979, Studio 33 has specialized in custom picture framing. Owner Sara Munroe, above, expertly frames artwork, three dimensional items, mirrors, and more. Her services have proved a life-saver for the Custom House as we work towards exhibition deadlines. Art restoration services are offered for oils, acrylics, and photos, as well.

The Studio 33 gallery is filled with locally hand-crafted items—seaglass jewelry, wooden boxes, baskets, walking sticks, functional and decorative pottery, beaded and leather jewelry, handblown glass jewelry. Pewter ornaments include a whale tail.

This spring, during our Lighthouse Symposium, gallery walls showcased lighthouse works by local artists: the late Robert Hauschild, Liz McGee, Lori McClain, William Prensky, Courtney Tyson. Upcoming summer events will feature local New London scenes and historic buildings as well as seascapes. Watch the Studio 33 Facebook page for further information. ■

*On our block, Studio 33 Art and Frame Gallery, Waterhouse Salon, and the Custom House Maritime Museum all participate in the new **New London Art Stroll on the third Thursdays of every-other month - coming up August 18 and October 20, from 5:30 to 8 PM.***

Ceramic artist **Albert Sussler** just confirmed that he will be bringing a small group of ceramic works from Japan to exhibit at the Custom House this summer. The exhibition will open in late July.



Soon to be on display at the Custom House are items from the collection of **Loren & Mildred Kohrs and Loren & Lucy Kohrs**, loaned by their sons Philip & Kevin Kohrs. Above: **Phil Kohrs** and **Karl Ricker** stopped by with some objects last week. Below, a whale bone clothespin from the Kohrs Collection, by C. W. Brock of Nantucket, ca. 1855.

