



Books, Brushes, Jazz & Blues 2007

Author Biographies

U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE

150 Bank Street, New London CT
Readings on Maritime History

Saturday, September 8, 2007

12:00 Anne Farrow [Complicity](#)

Anne Farrow is the co-author of *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged and Profited from Slavery* (Ballantine Books/Random House, 2005). Formerly a staff writer at The Hartford Courant, Anne is a freelance writer, editor, lecturer and researcher. She is at work on a new book about slavery, and lives in Haddam.

1:00 Nancy Steenburg [Children and the Criminal Law in Connecticut](#)

Steenburg, a lifelong Connecticut resident, and a New London County resident since 1980, has been employed at the University of Connecticut since 1991 and at UCONN Avery Point since 1996. Her education includes: Harvard University A.B., Trinity College M.A. and University of Connecticut, Ph.D. She is a board member of the New London County Historical Society, Stonington Historical Society and the Association for the Study of Connecticut History. *Children and the Criminal Law in Connecticut* won the 2006 Homer Babbidge, Jr. Award from the Association of Connecticut History for the best book on Connecticut History in 2005. She is currently working on a biography of Frances Manwaring Caulkins, author of the still acclaimed *History of New London* published in 1853.

2:00 Greg Stone *The Day Paper: One of America's Last Independent Newspapers*

Greg Stone retired in April as deputy editorial page editor of *The Day*, after a 40-year career in journalism. He was brought up in Niantic, and is a lifetime resident of southeastern Connecticut. He holds degrees from Tufts University and Boston University. In addition to his career at *The Day*, he has worked for the Associated Press and he served in the U.S. Army from 1968-1970. He is an adjunct faculty member in journalism at the Avery Point branch of the University of Connecticut. He was one of the first recipients of the Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship, one of the highest honors awarded an American editorial writer. His book *The Day Paper: One of America's Last Independent Newspapers* was published in 2000.

3:00 John Merrill Books on Naval Maritime History

John Merrill, former Submarine Electromagnetics Systems Department head at the former Navy Underwater Systems Center at Fort Trumbull in New London, has written five books on naval maritime history, submarines and technology during his retirement years. In addition, he has published a number of related articles in maritime journals. Recently, he received the 2007 John Gardner Maritime Research award from the G. B. Blunt Library at Mystic Seaport for making a significant contribution in the maritime research field. At the Custom House, Merrill will talk about his books and how he became an author.

4:00 [Jim Nelson](#) *Benedict Arnold's Navy*

James L. Nelson, a former professional sailor, is committed to bringing to life, through fiction and nonfiction, America's historical connection with the sea. His writing covers a wide range of America's maritime heritage, from piracy in Colonial Virginia to the naval action of the Civil War.

NATHAN HALE SCHOOLHOUSE

35 State Street

Readings about Local Heroes

Sunday September 9, 2007

12:00 [Barnet Schecter](#) [*The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the Revolution*](#)

Barnet Schecter is an independent historian based in Manhattan. His first book, *The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* (Penguin 2003), was a *New York Times* "New and Noteworthy" paperback. *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America* (Walker 2006) was included in both the "Editors' Choice" list and "Paperback Row" in the *New York Times Book Review*. It also received the Bronx County Historical Society's Hermalyn Award of Urban History and the award in social history from the New York City chapter of the Victorian Society in America. Each book includes an extensive historical walking tour. He is also a contributing editor of the three-volume *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (Scribner's 2006). In addition to creating and conducting historical walking tours and boat excursions, he has lectured widely at New York City's cultural institutions and national historic sites. His television appearances include C-SPAN2's Book TV and several History Channel documentaries.

12:45 [Robert M. Dowling](#) [*Slumming in New York: From the Waterfront to Mythic Harlem*](#)

Dowling has been a resident of New London since 2000; originally moving here from New York City to finish his dissertation for a P.H.D. in English and American studies from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He has taught in the English Departments of both the Coast Guard Academy and Connecticut College and has just been promoted to Associate Professor of English at Central Connecticut State University, where he has taught since 2004. Dowling also teaches courses and seminars on Mark Twain, Eugene O'Neill, American Realism and Naturalism, American Drama, New York novel and American Bohemianism. His most recent articles include *The Screenews of War: A Newly Published Short Story by Eugene O'Neill*

1:15 [Richard A. Radune](#) [*Pequot Plantation*](#)

Radune is a 1965 graduate of Syracuse University with a major in U.S. History. He served during the Vietnam War as an Air Force Captain at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota and in the Alaskan Air Command at Sparrevohn AFS, Alaska. Following a 30 year career with CIGNA Corporation in different parts of the country, Mr. Radune retired in 1998 to CT to pursue his life long interest in history. His book *Pequot Plantation*, was the 2006 recipient of a 2006 Independent Publisher award and has been praised by The Association for the Study of Connecticut History. The book is currently in over 40 libraries in Connecticut as 30 others nationally.

2:00 [Eric Jay Dolin](#) [*Leviathan-The History of whaling in America*](#)

Born in Queens, New York, Dolin grew up in New York and Connecticut and since an early age was fascinated by the natural world and, in particular, the ocean. At Brown he earned a double-major in biology and environmental studies, then received a masters degree in environmental management from Yale and a Ph.D. in environmental policy and planning from MIT, where his dissertation focused on the role of the courts in the cleanup of Boston Harbor.

Dolin's professional career included jobs as a fisheries policy analyst at the National Marine Fisheries Service, a program manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an environmental consultant stateside and in London, an American Association for the Advancement of Science writing fellow at Business Week, a curatorial assistant in the Mollusk Department at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, and an intern at the National Wildlife Federation, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the U.S. Senate. In addition to books, Dolin has written more than 60 articles for magazines, newspapers, and professional journals. His book *Leviathan* was reviewed favorably by the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

2:45 Pat Schaefer *A Useful Friend: A Companion Volume to the Diary of Joshua Hempstead, 1711-1758*

3:15 Jim Nelson *Benedict Arnold's Navy*

James L. Nelson, a former professional sailor, is committed to bringing to life, through fiction and nonfiction, America's historical connection with the sea. His writing covers a wide range of America's maritime heritage, from piracy in Colonial Virginia to the naval action of the Civil War.

4:00 Robert A. Richter [*Eugene O'Neill and Dat Ole Davil Sea*](#)

Robert A. Richter is currently Director of Arts Programming at Connecticut College, where he is responsible for the college's performing arts series, *onStage at Connecticut College* and artist residency programs. Besides his work at Connecticut College, Mr. Richter is an independent museum education and theater consultant. Mr. Richter has worked for the Connecticut Historical Society as Director of Public Programs and Mystic Seaport Museum where he was responsible for the development and supervision of performance based programs (theater and music). Besides his work for museums, Mr. Richter has worked throughout the United States as an actor and director of theater and video productions. He has been a teacher of arts programs in schools, libraries, museums, community centers and correctional institutions. Mr. Richter has presented programs on the use of theater techniques in teaching reading and social studies for teachers and museum professionals. He has a BA from Connecticut College and a MALS from Wesleyan University. His book *Eugene O'Neill and Dat Ole Davil Sea* was published in September 2004.