

Announcing NERWHA's Fall Symposium

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The New England Regional World History Association and Tall Ships America will co-sponsor the one-day symposium, "Ships and Seafarers in World History," on Saturday, 28 October 2023, at the Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI) in Fairhaven, Massachusetts (please note, this is not lovely but landlocked Fair Haven, Vermont, "the Slate Center of the Nation"). Fairhaven, MA is about a six-minute drive (or half-hour walk) across the bay to historic New Bedford, but more about that in a moment. NMI is a private, coeducational, maritime college with excellent facilities for our use. Moreover, thanks to the generosity of Tall Ships America, each symposium attendee will receive a free copy of the *Sail Tall Ships* book, which features articles and information on the fleet of historic ships operating throughout North America.

Plans regarding a keynote speaker and other aspects of the symposium are still in their early stages, but I can promise you that we intend to host a symposium that is first-rate in every respect, and I can further promise regular updates on the progress of our preparations.

Now a little bit about New Bedford. As you know, it was North America's whaling capital, a practice none of us would support today but an enterprise that made the city wealthy and bestowed on it an historical importance second to no other city in North America. Consequently, this small city encompasses the National Park Service's New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the world-famous New Bedford Whaling Museum on pleasantly named Johnny Cake Hill. I visited New Bedford in mid-March, spending several delightful days touring the city's historical and other cultural attractions and exploring for hours the NPS's Visitor Center and the nearby Whaling Museum. Let me assure you that New Bedford deserves several days, and given the comfortable accommodations available there and in Fairhaven, I suggest (and will continue to stress in future emails) that this presents a lovely opportunity for a weekend getaway with family. An additional attraction is nearby Fall River with its Battleship Cove, a collection of naval vessels (including the World War II battleship *USS Massachusetts* and submarine *USS Lionfish*) that families with children will especially enjoy visiting. .

Attached to this email is an initial Call for Participants. I ask you to consider seriously participating in what promises to be an exciting symposium, consider coming for several days to enjoy the sights, and also spread the word. Thank you.

With every best wish for a delightful summer, which will soon be upon us, and with the promise of more emails to come, I am,

Collegially yours,

al andrea, NERWHA Secretary