

March 2007 E-Newsletter

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*[The Whaling Museum IS OPEN EVERY WINTER WEEKEND!](#)*



**Biting winds, ice-filled harbors, streets blanketed in snow, cozy firesides, a whale skeleton, and scrimshaw?** Make the most of the off-season with a warming and informative visit to the Whaling Museum. From January 5 to April 15, the Whaling Museum, 13 Broad Street, will be open Friday through Sunday, 11 A.M. – 4 P.M. Featuring the film, ***Bones of History***, the **Whale Hunt Object Theater**, the **whaleship *Essex Gam***, and various gallery tours; exhibits about Nantucket history, decorative arts, scrimshaw, and numerous interactive hands-on learning opportunities for children 12 and under, the museum also includes a restored 1847 candle factory —with its original whale-oil beam press (a three-story wooden structure that is the only such artifact surviving anywhere in the world); a 47-foot sperm-whale skeleton; a fully rigged whaleboat; a vast collection of whaling tools; the 16-foot Fresnel lens from Sankaty lighthouse; and numerous portraits of whaling captains and their wives.

*It's never too early to start planning for this summer's social season.*

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**Entertain your best clients; host a wedding; birthday; anniversary party; or invite more friends to a party than you can fit into your humble abode!** Call Susan Beaumont for details about hosting a memorable party in the Whaling Museum. 508-228-1894, ext. 131.

### *RECENT ACQUISITIONS Exhibition open in Peter Foulger Gallery*

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This special exhibition highlights a selection of beautiful and noteworthy new accessions in the NHA permanent collection - including a tilt-top mahogany Nantucket candle stand; artifacts from the Tuckernuck school; the Korean War-Era memorabilia of Major Faith A. Oldham, U.S. Army Nurse Corps; Morse-Clapp Family silver; a beer bottle from the R.M.S. *Republic*, which sank off Nantucket in 1909; a 1960s bowling pin from Mid-Island Bowl; the NHS Varsity Football Trophy circa 1969; four original watercolor whale murals by C. Robert Perrin; and assorted paintings by Jon Stroup, to mention only a few. The exhibition will remain on display through May 7. Whaling Museum, 13 Broad Street.

### *NANTUCKET NIGHTMARE Exhibition open in Whitney Gallery*

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**NHA Research Library, 7 Fair Street.**

***Nantucket Nightmare* is a collection of original editorial cartoons from the 1970s by Richard C. Maloney.** The cartoons provide satirical social commentary on Nantucket's burgeoning development issues—from housing and automobiles, new buildings and tourism. In an amusing and provocative way, many of his cartoons still have a strong resonance as the island continues to confront the problems that were beginning to appear in the early 1970s.

A 1926 graduate of Dartmouth College, Maloney served as lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy during the Second World War. A former professor and assistant dean, he retired to Nantucket in 1970 and created a series of editorial cartoons that appeared in the *Inquirer and Mirror* under the signature “Atropos” (one of the three sister Fates in Greek mythology).

The exhibition will be on display through April. The Whitney Gallery is open Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed Wednesday and weekends. 508-228-1655.

## *The NHA Celebrates Women's History Month*

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**With Nantucket's Extraordinary Women - A Women's History tour, Saturday, March 3, and Saturday, March 31, at 1 P.M. in the Whaling Museum, 13 Broad Street.** Price is included with museum admission. Heralding as far back as Nantucket's whaling heyday, island women have continued to hold important positions in all walks of island life: in business, law, politics, education, community service, medicine, and the arts.

The tour, "**Nantucket's Extraordinary Women,**" focuses on their lives through the NHA's collection of portraits, photographs, letters, journals, clothing, and souvenirs that enhance our understanding of their unique contributions throughout history. Notable women mentioned on the tour include: Mary Gardner Coffin; Mary Coffin

Starbuck; Eliza Ann Chase McCleave; Susan Veeder; Eliza Brock; Lucretia Coffin Mott, Anna Gardner, and Maria Mitchell. We invite you to join us and discover the profound differences Nantucket women made not only on Nantucket, but also in the world.

## *NHA Winter Concert Series*

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**Please join us for our third concert, Sunday March 11, 1:00 P.M.**

The NHA has been partnering with the Nantucket School of Music (formerly NCMC), to sponsor a very successful series of Winter Afternoon Concerts. The March 11 concert will feature Mollie Glazer on cello and her student chamber ensemble.

The two prior concerts have been very well attended, so come early and join us in our "community living room" on March 11 at 1 P.M., 13 Broad Street. Free for NHA members, \$15 general admission, or with museum admission. This program is supported by a grant from the M. S. Worthington Foundation.

## *Nantucket History in a Brown Bag – Food for Thought at Noon, FREE*

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**Save these dates: Thursday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, and bring your lunch.**

On March 1, Malcolm MacNab, MD will discuss "**Medicine Aboard the Whalers.**" When 19<sup>th</sup>-century crewmembers signed on for a three- or four-year whaling voyage, not only was it dangerous work, but they lived in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without a trained physician aboard. This lecture discusses how medical care would have been conducted aboard ship.



The March 8 topic, "**Conserving Nantucket,**" will be given by Jim Lentowski, director of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. Since he became its director, the foundation's holdings have grown from 1,200 acres to 8,900 acres. His presentation will focus on the accomplishments of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation.



The March 15 discussion, “**From the F’oc’sle,**” hosted by Doug Burch will present a number of brief stories typical of the kinds of yarns that may well have been spun as whaling crews passed the seemingly endless hours of inactivity between sightings, taking, and processing of whales during their lengthy voyages.



The March 22 “**Presence of the Past Gam: Reflections on a Changing Nantucket,**” will be led by moderator Nancy Chase. Ruthie Grieder and Eileen McGrath will discuss the history of the town and its changes, as they know them. Each woman has lived on Nantucket for 75-plus years.



March 29 will feature Molly Anderson, Library Director, at the Nantucket Atheneum, speaking on “**Phoenix from the Fire of 1846: The Reopening of the Atheneum.**” Only one portrait, a few coins, and about 130 out of the 3,200 volumes were recovered from the Great Fire. Molly will speak about this evolution.

Bring a sandwich to the Discovery Room of the Whaling Museum, with access from the Broad Street entrance, to the right of the main museum entrance. Each talk begins at noon and is free to the public. 13 Broad Street

For additional information about the Food for Thought series, please call 508-228-1894, ext. 0, or visit [www.nha.org](http://www.nha.org) to view the full schedule.

### *A Student Sleepover in the Whaling Museum*

**Jammy Gam 2007! Friday, March 16. Members of the Nantucket Boys and Girls Club will spend the night at the museum and sleep beneath the sperm whale skeleton during this second NHA Jammy Gam.**

### *One Book / One Island 2007 event at the NHA*



**Sunday, March 25, 5:00 – 9:00 P.M. Gosnell Hall, Whaling Museum, 13 Broad Street.** Please join us in our “community living room” as Homa Nasab gives a lecture on Afghan culture, as part of this islandwide One Book / One Island collaborative project. Ms. Nasab is a doctoral candidate in museum studies at Oxford. **The One Book / One Island** program seeks to promote reading, literacy, and community by encouraging the entire population of Nantucket to read, discuss, and reflect on the same book. The NHA is proud to be one of its sponsoring organizations. **FREE**

## *NHA Explorations program heads to Provincetown*

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**This one-day program includes a guided tour of the Provincetown Art Association & Museum, the Center for Coastal Studies, and a private tour of the Pilgrim Monument and the Provincetown Museum & Storage Collections, and will be held on Tuesday, March 27.**

A chartered bus will depart at 9 A.M. from Hyannis, returning to Hyannis no later than 6:30 PM. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation to and from Hyannis. Hosted by Nina and Bob Hellman, the program includes lunch at Napi's restaurant, a local favorite since 1973. Reservations are required, \$85 NHA Members, \$120 nonmembers.

Call Julie Kever for additional information, or to register by March 9. 508-228-1894, ext. 0.

## *New Year's Eve in Madeira!*

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**NHA Explorations heads to Portugal, December 29, 2007 – January 4, 2008**

Spend six nights on the private grounds of the Quinta Bela Sao Tiago hotel, built in 1894, with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and the famous Bay of Funchal. On New Year's Eve, the cosmopolitan city of Funchal hosts one of the largest fireworks displays in the world—attended by the crème de la crème of Portugal—where you'll enjoy drinks and a gala dinner at the hotel. Day trips to various points of interest include Porto Moniz, Camacha/Pico do Arieiro, a Botanical Garden, Embroidery Factory,

Madeira Wine Association, as well as a trip the Whaling Museum of Canico. Located in the heart of the Old Town, museums, restaurants, cinemas, theatre, and Fort Sao Tiago are all within walking distance of the hotel, whose grounds include subtropical gardens, a banana plantation, an orchard, a gymnasium, a Jacuzzi, a Turkish bath, and a sauna. This special New Year's price package, hosted by Bob and Nina Hellman, guarantees airfare, hotel, daily breakfast, two dinners, one luncheon, some sightseeing tours, and is limited to twenty guests. \$3,199. double occupancy for NHA members, \$3,499., nonmembers. A \$300 nonrefundable deposit is required by April 20. Please call Julie Kever at 508-228-1894, ext. 0, to reserve this special trip.

## *Classes in Early American Arts and Crafts Begin May 1 at the 1800 House*

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**Classes are beginning to fill, so sign up now!** Please go to the NHA Web site for full class listings. [www.nha.org](http://www.nha.org). Don't miss out on a chance for a summer full of informative and enjoyable entertainment, all while learning something new!

## *Renew your own membership, or Give the Gift of Membership*

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The NHA is a member-based organization, receiving no state or federal monies; your membership enables the NHA to continue its mission of preserving the island's history and connecting the island's residents to Nantucket's unique past.

**A one-year membership** (which includes unlimited admission to the Whaling Museum, Old Mill, Quaker Meeting House, Oldest House, and Hadwen House; free use of the NHA Research Library; subscription to *Historic Nantucket*; 10% discount at the Museum Shop; discounts on certain classes and Explorations trips; and invitations to special events, concerts, and lectures), **is a perfect birthday, hostess, or anniversary gift.** Please call 508-228-1894, ext. 115 (Peter), or 116 (Jeff), for additional membership information, or go to <http://www.nha.org/membership>.

## *Collections Database Now Online*

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The NHA artifacts collection represents many definitive aspects of Nantucket's history, including whaling, land and sea transportation, the Quaker religion, fine and decorative arts, farming, commerce, and architecture. There are some 30,000 artifacts in the NHA's collection, which encompasses all media—including textiles, glass, wood, metals, works on paper, paintings, and whale ivory. The vast collection includes over 700 paintings, almost 800 prints and drawings, 150 baskets, 400 lighting devices, 800 pieces of scrimshaw, over 2,500 whaling tools and implements, over 6,000 pieces of furniture and decorative arts, and the complete skeletons of a finback whale (now on display at Nantucket High School), and a 46-foot sperm whale (displayed at the Whaling Museum). Images of selections from our collections are now viewable online. These include most of our scrimshaw artifacts and painting collections and many

other items.

Visit our collections database (<http://www.nha.org/library/librarydatabases.html>) and let us know what you think!

**Research Library**

Located at 7 Fair Street, the library is open Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed Wednesday and weekends. Call 508-228-1655.

**Administrative Offices**

Located at 15 Broad Street, the administrative offices are open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Call 508-228-1894, ext. 0, or email [info@nha.org](mailto:info@nha.org)

**NHA Museum Shop**

**May be closed, but you can still shop on line by visiting the website at <http://www.nha.org/shop/index.html>, or place an order by calling 508-228-5785.**

*For a printer-friendly PDF of this newsletter, [click here](#).*

*If you wish to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter from the Nantucket Historical Association, please email [jwodynski@nha.org](mailto:jwodynski@nha.org).*

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