



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rediscover Newport History During the 2010 Winter Festival

The Newport Historical Society Offers a Diverse Range of History Events

Newport, RI – (January 2010) – The Newport Historical Society is pleased to offer many history-inspired events during the 2010 Newport Winter Festival. A diverse range of programs has been planned which include tours, a lecture, and family programs.

Newport History Tours will offer many walking tours during the ten-day festival. On the flagship tour, Discover Colonial Newport, hear stories of revolution and ruin, struggles for liberty, and remarkable entrepreneurship among Newport's diverse people. This 75-minute walking tour is offered daily at 10:30 am starting Friday, February 12th and runs through Sunday, February 21st. Specialty walking tours will be offered nearly every day as follows.

- *The Lantern Tour of Colonial Newport* transports visitors back to the heyday of this thriving colonial metropolis on a 75 minute lantern-lit stroll through the Historic Hill. Friday, February 12th and Friday, February 19th at 4:30pm.
- On the *Pirates & Scoundrels Walking Tour*, see where scoundrels lived, where pirates profited, and where criminals were put on trial and punished. Find out why this colony was sometimes known as "Rouge's Island". Monday, February 15th and Saturday, February 20th at 11:30am.
- Learn *Old House ABCs* as you explore the uniquely preserved historic streetscape of Newport, with examples of the earliest 17th century architectural styles to 19th century Victorian splendor. Tuesday February 16th at 11:30am.
- Explore *Newport's Other Summer Colony* through the lives of the 19th century writers, artists, and intellectuals who summered in Newport on this 90-minute tour through the Catherine Street and Old Beach Road neighborhoods. Wednesday February 17th at 11:30am.
- *Newport's Buried History: Slavery and Freedom* tour tells the stories of Newport's people of color, enslaved and free. Visit the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House and the colonial African burying ground on this 90-minute tour. Thursday, February 18th at 11:30am.
- On the *Tastes of the Working Waterfront* tour, you will taste, touch, and smell your way through history on a walk along Lower Thames while learning about the sailors, merchants, and immigrants who lived there. Tickets for this tour are sold at the departure point, Whitehorse House Museum 416 Thames Street. Saturday, February 13th and Friday February 19th at 11:30am.

All *Newport History Tours* are \$12 per person, \$10 with Newport Winter Festival button. Unless otherwise noted, tours last approximately 75 minutes and depart from the Museum & Shop at Brick

Market, 127 Thames Street, Newport, RI. All tours are weather permitting. Space is limited; reservations suggested. Questions can be directed to: 401-841-8770.

The Newport Historical Society offers tours of its important historic properties. Tour the 1739 Colony House on Washington Square, built to house R.I. government meetings. The first floor is open by donation; guided tours explore this historic site and include a Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington. Tours are offered on February 13, February 15, February 20, 11am to 2pm. Admission: \$5, \$4 with the Newport Winter Festival button, free for NHS members.

Saturday, February 13th at 11am, test your knowledge of historic Newport on a history hunt in and around Washington Square. This 20-question family-friendly hunt tracks colonial Newport sites and trivia. Maps are \$3 per family, \$1 with Newport Winter Festival button, and free for NHS members. Available at the Museum & Shop at Brick Market, 127 Thames Street. The first five submissions with correct answers win prizes (one prize per family).

Monday, February 15th at 1pm at the Colony House on Washington Square, children can learn first hand about colonial clothing from a historic interpreter portraying Polly Wanton, a young woman who lived in Newport during the Revolutionary War. Polly will tell of winter life in the 18th century including daily tasks and colonial fashion, and guide young visitors through a colonial inspired craft to take home: a young lady's cap or a tricorne hat. The program costs \$3 per child, \$2 per child with a Newport Winter Festival button, and \$1 per child for NHS members.

Saturday, February 20th at 3pm Newport Historical Society presents a history of hairstyles: "Rooted in History" with author Maureen Taylor at the Colony House on Washington Square. From Adam Lambert's spikes to Amy Winehouse's piled-high beehive, today's fashionable hairstyles may seem new and unique but are actually rooted in history. Taylor, author of *Fashionable Folks: Hairstyles 1840-1900*, uses old photographs to show how hairstyles and facial hair changed through the 19th century. Admission: \$5 a person, \$4 with the Newport Winter Festival button, and \$1 for NHS members.

For those craving more history, the Museum & Shop at Brick Market opens daily at 10am. The exhibit offers an overview of Newport's history from the 17th through the 20th century. Exhibit highlights include the Franklin Press and Clement C. Moore's (*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*) writing desk. Rotating exhibits currently include a special display on the Navy in Newport and Caswell-Massey apothecary. Museum admission is by donation. WinterFest button holders receive a 15% discount at the museum shop.

For additional information and/or to obtain media photos please contact: Elizabeth Sulock, Public Affairs Associate, 401-846-0813, esulock@newporthistorical.org.

About the Newport Historical Society

Since 1854, the Newport Historical Society has collected and preserved the artifacts, photographs, documents, publications, and genealogical records that relate to the history of Newport County, to make these materials readily available for both research and enjoyment, and to act as a resource center for the education of the public about the history of Newport County, so that knowledge of the past may contribute to a fuller understanding of the present. For more information please visit www.newporthistorical.org.

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