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Season Launch for Newport History Walking Tours Tour of the Month & Summer 2016 Schedule

Newport, RI – (April 2016) – Newport History Tours, a partnership between the Newport Restoration Foundation and Newport Historical Society, announces the opening of the 2016 season with a new tour schedule. Visitors interested in the “City by the Sea” can explore its history on foot with Newport History Tours’ personable guides.

The 2016 schedule launches in April, with tours offered Friday through Monday; beginning in July and running through October, tours are offered daily. Monthly specialty tours include the Tour of the Month, available on the third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m., and the Super Saturday Tour, presented the first Saturday of the month at 11am.

2016 Newport History Tours

Newport History Tours provides three regularly offered tours for visitors to explore Newport’s historic downtown on foot.

- **Discover Colonial Newport** - Stories of remarkable entrepreneurship and religious diversity during Newport’s colonial period.
- **Golden to Gilded** - Newport’s colonial Golden Age evolves into the Gilded Age summer colony; discover the transformation of the city and its people.
- **Rogues & Scoundrels** - See where scoundrels lived, pirates profited and criminals were punished. Find out why this colony was known as “Rogue’s Island.”

The 2016 Super Saturday Schedule

The 2016 Tours of the Month

Explore Newport’s history in greater depth during the Tour of the Month, which takes place on the third Saturday of the month at 11am. The 2016 schedule includes:

April 16 at 11am – A Breach of Unity: Religion and Revolution in Ezra Stiles' Newport

Rhode Island's "lively experiment" set out to prove religious liberty was the best way to maintain a secure and flourishing civil state. Yet a century after King Charles II approved this grand experiment, Rhode Island was embroiled in turmoil and revolution. This tour explores the role religious liberty played in Newport's final years as a colonial city. Drawing on Ezra Stiles' journals and other records, review familiar sites with new insight while highlighting some less familiar events to show how Newport's "breach of unity" fell not only along socio-economic and political lines, but religious lines as well.

April 16 at 1pm – Common Burying Ground tour – Free tour!

Explore the Common Burying Ground. Learn about the stone carvers, their art and the diverse people buried there who helped shape Newport's history. Presented for Historic Cemetery Restoration and Awareness Day in the State of Rhode Island.

May 21 at 11am - Colonial Jewish Newport

The Jews of colonial Newport significantly influenced the city's growth, trade and economy. Their presence and participation is an example of the religious diversity and acceptance that underscores the principle of tolerance. Hear the stories of several Jewish leaders, see where they lived and worked, and learn about their non-Jewish business colleagues and religious leaders who also played an important role in building a vibrant community before the American Revolution. This tour concludes at Touro Synagogue, the oldest existing synagogue in the United States. Learn about its history and significance from the colonial period to present day.

June 18 at 11am - Photographing Newport's Architecture

Newport's Old Quarter contains over four centuries of architecture ranging from the 17th century through the 20th century. During this photo-focused walking tour, learn about select historic buildings, architectural details and Newport's streetscapes while discussing site-specific photography techniques. Bring your camera, cell phone or tablet to capture the city's outstanding architectural treasures and create interesting images on this two hour walk. Appropriate for photographers of all skill levels.

July 16 at 11am - French in Newport

Explore the heart of 18th century Newport and discuss the year-long period when roughly 12,000 French soldiers and sailors lived alongside Newport citizens during the American Revolution. Learn how the French contribution to the Revolutionary War was vital to the success of American Independence—and it began in Newport.

August 20 at 11am - William Ellery Channing's Newport

William Ellery Channing, a key figure in the Unitarian Church and influential in the Transcendental and abolition movements, was born in Newport in 1780. Visit sites from his life, learn about his ideas; and explore his family's connections with Newport history.

September 17 at 11am - Newport Tree Tour

A tree tour with Frank Amaral, Newport Restoration Foundation Grounds and Gardens supervisor. Offered in partnership with the Newport Tree Society.

October 15 at 11am - Photographing Stones and Souls in the Common Burying Ground

The stones and sites in cemeteries have captivated people for decades. Newport's Common Burial Ground provides a wealth of images waiting to be photographed. The material, craftsmanship and aging of the stones resting in this unique setting provide an unlimited opportunities to capture remarkable images. Appropriate for photographers of all skill levels; the ground is uneven, proper footwear is recommended. Don't forget your camera!

October 29 at 11am – *Special Halloween weekend tour*

Common Burying Ground

Explore the Common Burying Ground. Learn about the stone carvers, their art and the diverse people buried there who helped shape Newport's history.

November 19 at 11am - Bricks, Sticks & The Vernon House

Discover Newport's exquisitely preserved architecture, from the colonial era to the Victorian splendor of lower Bellevue Avenue. This tour stops inside the Vernon House, one of the most lavish buildings in colonial Newport. Explore the architecture and craftsmanship of this Georgian home including its remarkable Chinoiserie parlor panels which are believed to be unique in colonial America.

Additional Details:

Tours cost \$15 per person; \$10 for Newport Historical Society members, active and retired military with ID. Purchase tickets and depart from the Brick Market: Museum & Shop, 127 Thames Street, Newport. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 401.841.8770. Visit www.NewportHistoryTours.org for more information on specific times and tours.

About Newport History Tours:

Newport History Tours is the joint collaboration between the Newport Historical Society and the Newport Restoration Foundation, celebrating eleven years of partnership. NHT, which received a *Yankee Magazine* Best of Award, offers the most comprehensive line-up of walking tours that explores Newport's early history and is extensively researched for historical accuracy. Proceeds from the tours support both non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.NewportHistoryTours.org.

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