



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAL MARITIME HOSTS NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORY CONFERENCE MAY 14-17
Public Invited to Attend Two Special Events**

(Vallejo, CA – April 27, 2009)... The public is invited for portions of the program as some of the top Maritime History scholars from throughout North America gather on the Cal Maritime campus May 14-17 for a Joint Conference involving the National Maritime Historical Society, North American Society for Oceanic History and the Steamship Historical Society of America. The theme of this year's gathering is *Ports, Forts and Sports: Maritime Economy, Defense and Recreation*.

Cal Maritime Associate Professor Dr. Timothy Lynch, a noted authority on California maritime history in his own right, has played an important role in bringing this major event to the campus and helping organize the program. He extended an invitation to interested members of the community to attend two of the special programs which will be part of the conference.

- “On Thursday May 14th, at 6:30 pm in Rizza Auditorium, we’ll have a private screening of *The Men Who Sailed the Liberty Ships*, and a question and answer session with Director Maria Brooks will follow immediately after.
- Another great event for the public will be a one-man play by Ian Ruskin – *From Wharf Rats to Lord of the Docks: The Life and Times of Harry Bridges* on Friday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. also in Rizza Auditorium. “Bridges’ organizing on the San Francisco docks played a key role in the development of modern American waterfront labor unions,” Lynch noted. “If you ever wanted to know more about his role in California’s maritime history, this is a great way to do so.”

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Conference participants from across the country will enjoy lectures and panel discussions, and tour important historic sites and resources in the San Francisco Bay area, including the San Francisco Maritime Museum, the collection of the J. Porter Shaw Library at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and the Hyde Street Pier. They'll also have a chance to visit Vallejo's Mare Island resources, and numerous historic ships in the area, including the *USS Hornet*, *Liberty Ship SS Jeremiah O'Brien*, the *SS Red Oak Victory*, and the Presidential yacht *Potomac*. Additionally, conference attendees will have an opportunity to tour the campus simulator facility, browse the historical archives, and attend the annual award banquet. For more information on the conference, check out www.nasoh.org

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