

EMERITUS – February 2025



An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

*** MEETING ATTENANCE ***

Happy New Year!

It's a fresh new year, any suggestions as to what we can do differently to interest our members to attend more meetings?

Our speakers usually give talks for about 40 minutes and then a Q&A.

Thanks.
Joel Rosenthal

ZOOM MEETING:

Our next meeting is Friday, February 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Information will be sent to your Stony Brook emails a few days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/94946083070?pwd=O7tnQJyiEWsFSRdgnAA3Cdv7p9LXaD.1>

Meeting ID: 949 4608 3070

Passcode: 040837



SPEAKER: Our guest speaker will be **Stephen Sanfilippo**, Maritime Historian & Performer of Historic Songs of the Sea.

Bio: Dr. Stephen N. Sanfilippo - Assistant Professor – Retired – Maine Maritime Academy

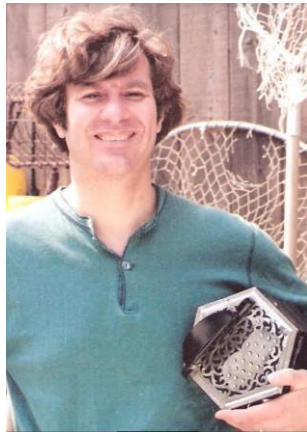
“The greatest power is the power to assign blame. In America, we usually assign blame downward.” - Bruce “Utah” Phillips, I.W.W. singer-organizer Blame is a requisite for absolution or for vengeance. The power to accept, to reject, and especially to assign blame permeates all levels of individual thought and social interaction. This assigning of blame regarding the consequence of alcohol use and abuse by seafarers and by those who sought to reform their conduct is a theme found in many traditional and contemporary songs of the maritime trades. Among these songs, and perhaps most exemplary, is “Off to Sea Once More,” a maritime ballad from about 1870, which presents a complex array of blame involving the seafaring “lad” himself, those with whom he interacts, and by implication, those who pass judgment on their actions. This is a song of great emotion, expressing the despair of a seaman given to “hard usage,” at sea, ashore, and in his mind.

Stephen Sanfilippo received his Ph.D. in History at Stony Brook University. His dissertation, “Whalemen’s Song: Lyrics and Masculinity in the Sag Harbor whaling industry, 1840-1850,” is a gender-based analysis of songs sung by whalers out of Sag Harbor and Greenport. Stephen is an honorably discharged United States Navy Vietnam War

veteran, a peace, environmental and social justice protest singer, and was co-founder of the Long Island Traditional Music Association. He taught history at the high school and college levels, including at Maine Maritime Academy, and has performed and lectured from Prince Edward Island to Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, mostly in Maine and on Long Island. With his wife Susan, he has sailed life's course for nearly 60 years, now dividing time between Southold, on Long Island's North Fork, and Pembroke, in Way Downeast Maine. He can be reached at seasonghistory@gmail.com regarding the Seasons newsletter, performances, to answer your questions and hear your comments, and to learn from you.

Topic: "IT'S MY OWN DAMN FAULT! - OR IS IT?" The Complexity & Futility of Blame in "Off to Sea Once More". Dr. Sanfilippo, who has been performing historic songs of the maritime trades since the early 1970s, will perform "Off to Sea Once More," then examine it verse by verse, seeking to understand the role played by blame and the power to assign blame as a foundational force in the individual mind and with societal interactions, particularly with regard to alcohol use and abuse within the culture of a post-Civil War "sailor town," and how this understanding might inform our own interpretation and singing. "Off to Sea Once More" is a paramount artifact-in-living-song of the life of those who served before the mast under sail, and how we see them - - - and ourselves.

1986



2014



SAVE THE DATES: (First Friday of every month)

Here is a preview of our upcoming 2025 speakers.

March – Katherine Twiss, Anthropology

April – TBD

May – Lori Flores, History

**DO YOU REMEMBER STONY BROOK IN ITS OYSTER BAY INCARNATION?
IF SO, CONSIDER YOURSELF AMONG NEXT YEAR'S SPEAKERS.**



IN MEMORIAM:

Peter Bretsky (1938 - 2025): Department of Earth & Space Sciences (ESS)

Mr. Bretsky passed away at the age of 86. He had retired to Penzance, Cornwall along the UK's "Jurassic Coast" after retiring from SUNY and had lived there for the last 30 years.

Please see the attached link to his obituary where an endowed full scholarship in Geosciences has been setup in his honor and memory.

<https://drbretsky.com/peterbretskyobituary/>



PARTICIPATION NEEDED:

"Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences":

Stony Brook University Libraries announced the establishment of "Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences," a new digital archive project to collect, preserve, and publish the institutional history of Stony Brook University. The archive will primarily be formed from submissions received directly from students, faculty, staff, and alumni that

document life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews, first-hand accounts, written narratives, photographs, and more will be important sources to consult in the future to study, interpret, and derive meaning from this historic time period. Members of the Emeritus Faculty Association are invited and encouraged to participate in the project. For more information, please visit: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/special-library-initiatives/documenting-covid-19/>

Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project:

In return for the light labor of arranging the calendar of speakers I claim the right to be a nag. Each month the SB Emeriti newsletter includes a plea for you to go to the Old Stony Brook memory project on the web site run by and preserved in the Melville Library's Special Collections. To date, only 19 retired SB faculty have filled out the forms designed to let you talk about the early days at SB and your retrospective views, both about what you expected (or were told) when you came and what you now have to say, looking back, on the experience. The responses are an open document and this paragraph is designed to make you feel guilty if you have not bothered to fill out the questionnaire. You can remedy this.

Joel Rosenthal

In an effort to document and preserve the unique and varied experiences of the university's emeritus faculty, a questionnaire has been designed to elicit the personal reflections of faculty members':

- impetuses for accepting academic positions at Stony Brook University.
- early experiences on the campus.
- views on the evolution and growth of the institution.
- contributions to departments and to the university.
- interactions with academic and administrative leadership.
- views on the institution's role in the community (local and wider).
- assessments of the university's mission and successes as a research university.

Stony Brook University history:

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/libspecial/archives/collections/facultyemeritus.php>

Historis of departments and units. Gerrit Wolf, a new member of our ranks, has written a history of the evolution of the College of Business at Stony Brook. The University Archives, under Kristen Nyitray, welcomes all such efforts. You might want to turn your thoughts in this direction.



CAMPUS EVENTS:

- Tuesday, February 11, 2025: Provost Lecture Series: Lawrence Martin & Pat Wright
3:30 - 5:00 PM – Wang Center Theatre
- Friday, February 14, 2025: Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra
Staller Center – Main Stage – 8:00PM
- Friday, February 21, 2025: New Orleans Songbook – A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents
Production
Staller Center – Recital Hall – 8:00PM



More Events and information can be found: <https://calendar.stonybrook.edu/>

EMERITUS FACULTY ASSOCIATION (EFA) MEMBER UPDATE:



It's 2025 and we're still searching for some new Steering Committee Members!
Please contact Joel.Rosenthal@stonybrook.edu for more information.

The Provost's Office has updated the EFA's member list! Below is the link for the updated contact information for all members. Please look and let us know if you notice any out-of-date or incorrect information about yourself or a colleague, please contact Faith Mirabile at faith.mirabile@stonybrook.edu with any changes. Please remember, we are only using your Stony Brook emails.

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/members.html>

Please contact Joel Rosenthal, Chair of the Retirees Committee on the local UUP executive committee with any problems or questions about your union status or related matters.

joel.rosenthal@stonybrook.edu.

WEBSITE: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>. It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.