

Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401

EMERITUS – February 2023



An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

WELCOME BACK & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ZOOM MEETING:

Our next meeting is Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.. This will be virtual meeting using ZOOM. 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/98215757529?pwd=WEFFQWtVOGh0cFdyOXpUajFhWiwswUT09>

Meeting ID: 982 1575 7529

Passcode: 683595

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

Bio:

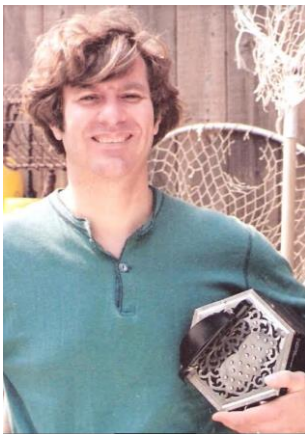
Stephen Sanfilippo, a 5th generation Long Islander, was born in 1948 in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, dividing his boyhood between Brooklyn and Ridge, near Port Jefferson, which at the time had a population under 500. He has been a resident of Suffolk County for well over 60 years. He married his high school sweetheart, Susan, who was Education Director for the Suffolk County Historical Society Museum from 1976 through 2008. They were among the founders of the Long Island Traditional Music Association, each serving as its president. Stephen, an honorably discharged United States Navy veteran, served on active duty from 1970 through 1974. Stephen & Susan have been researching and performing historic songs of the sea since the early 1970s. Stephen received his PhD in History from Stony Brook University, his dissertation titled "Whalemen's Song: Lyrics and Masculinity in the Sag Harbor Whalefishery, 1840-1850." He taught American and European history for many years at Longwood High School, in Middle Island, History of Long Island and American History with a Long Island Perspective at Suffolk County Community College, Songs of Labor in Nature at the University of Maine at Machias, and most significantly American Maritime History through Historic Songs of the Sea at Maine Maritime Academy. He has been a frequent performer and lecturer across Long Island, in coastal Maine, at Mystic, Connecticut, and from Virginia to Prince Edward Island, and at national academic history conferences. His article "I Have Seen the Storm Arise," was published by the Stony Brook University History Department, with audio links, in Long Island History Journal, and he recently made an audio-visual recording of songs of Long Island for Coffeyville (Kanas) Community Colleges "Americana" music series. He is currently working on two long-delayed books on maritime history as found in historic songs of the sea. Stephen has a unique song repertoire arising from his many years of research into the historic music of Long Island seafarers and coastal workers. He performs vocally, and with banjo, guitar, and concertina. He and Susan divide time between Southold, on the North Fork, and Pembroke, on the Maine coast, near Canada. Stephen can be reached by email at <seasonghistory@gmail.com>, by telephone at 631-765-257, and by U.S. mail at 145 Hope Lane Southold NY 11971-2507.

Topic: Songs of the Sea (A brief overview of what they is & what the aint)

Just what is a "sea shanty?" That's a question that begs to be answered, and in "Songs of the Sea: What They Is & What They Ain't," Stephen Sanfilippo aims to do just that. He received his Ph.D. in History at Stony Brook. Working mostly in American social and cultural history, his dissertation, "Whalemen's Song: Lyrics and Masculinity in the Sag Harbor Whalefishery, 1840-1850," addressed the many complex and contradictory ways in whalemens thought of themselves, and how their conceptions of "masculinity" was reflected and reproduced in the songs they sang and wrote down into their journals. He has been researching, performing, writing about, and teaching historic

songs of the sea since the early 1970s, and most recently taught courses in American Maritime History through Historic Songs of the Sea at Maine Maritime Academy. A long-neglected and often stereotyped genre, the songs of maritime and coastal workers have undergone a recent rise in popularity through TikTok, “Assassin’s Creed,” and “Pirate” movies and festivals. Regrettably, this increased “popularity” has grown out of Disneyfication and entered into McDonaldsization, as the songs of hard labor and the complex culture of life at sea and at the docks, praised by the likes of Dana, Melville, London, and O’Neill, have become playthings, trivialized entertainments, and a place for quick profits, based upon and re-enforcing stereotypes of jolly inebriated pirates yo-ho-ho-ing the same two or three songs over and over to no purpose other than mindless amusement. For his presentation, Dr. Sanfilippo will give examples of historic hanteys and how they were used, and will also sing two of the ballads known to have been sung by Long Island whalemens of the 19 th century. He’ll then open up for questions and discussion. Now in his mid-70s, Stephen retains his youthful enthusiasm for songs of the sea, always in pursuit of history, not histrionics. Dr. Sanfilippo may be reached at seasonghistory@gmail.com You might wish to write to him with a question or concern.

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SAVE THE DATES:

Here is a preview of our upcoming speakers.

March: Timothy August, English

April: Gary Marker, History

May: Carl Lejuez, Provost

CAMPUS EVENTS:

- Saturday, February 4, 2023: **Lil Buck - Memphis Jookin** (Charles “Lil Buck” Riley is a movement artist who is known for being an ambassador for Memphis Jookin, a freestyle-based dance involving intricate footwork.)
Staller Main Stage: 8:00 PM
- Saturday, February 11, 2023: **Kristin Chenoweth** (One of the biggest Broadway stars by any measure, Tony and Emmy-Winner Kristin Chenoweth makes her Staller Center debut in a one-night-only performance.)
Staller Main Stage: 8:00 PM
- Saturday, February 18, 2023: **Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra**
Staller Recital Hall: 8:00 PM
- Saturday, February 25, 2023: **Jazz at Lincoln Center Voices (Songs we love)**
Staller Center Main Stage: 8:00 PM

Participate in "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/>

Participate in the 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.

Your participation is vital to documenting Stony Brook University history.

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<http://www.library.stonybrook.edu/special-collections-university-archives/university-archives/>

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Emeritus Faculty Association (EFA) Member Update:

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

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

Visit our 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.