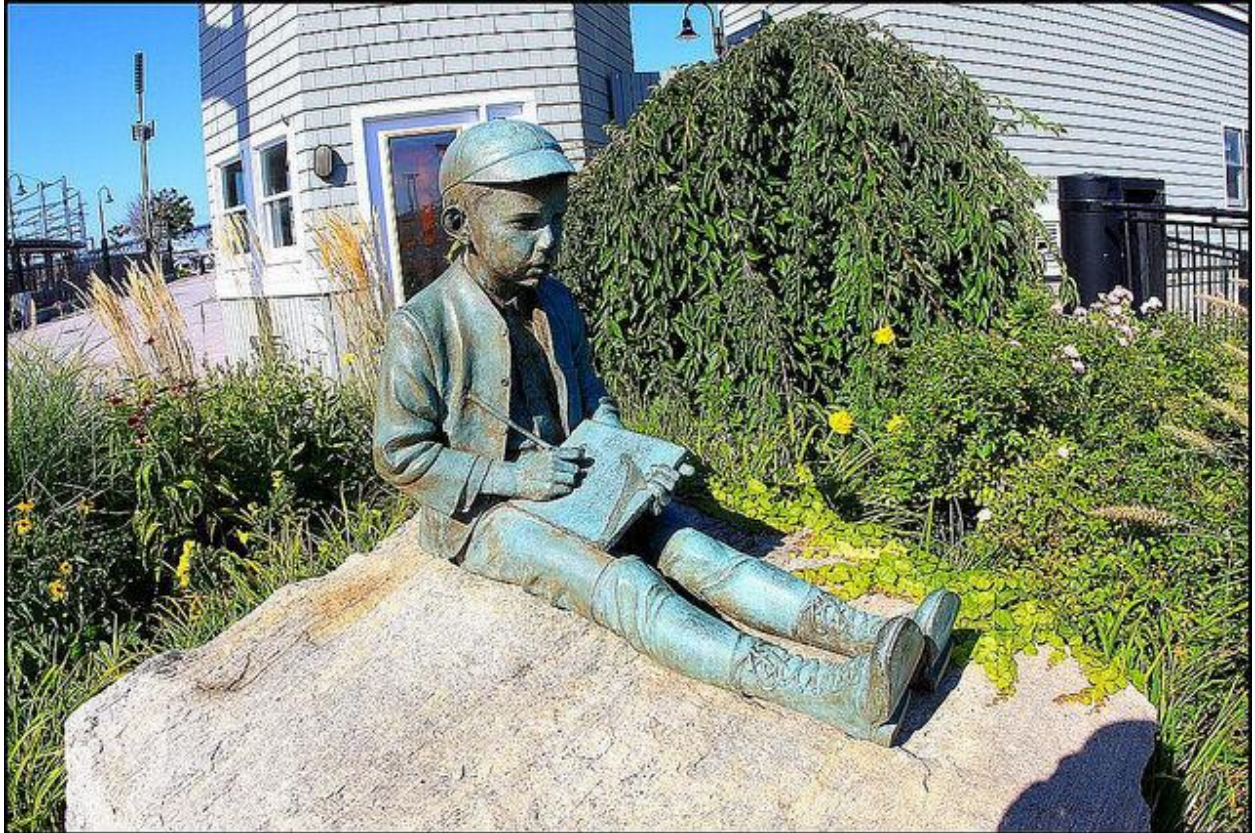


**The Friends of Fort Trumbull**  
**proudly present**  
**Robert Richter, author of**  
***Eugene O'Neill and Dat ole Davil Sea***



**On July 31, 2014, Robert Richter will continue The Friends of Fort Trumbull's presentation of "The Whaling City and the Sea", by discussing Eugene O'Neill, one of New London's most famous residents. Mr. Richter, a graduate of Connecticut College, is the Director of Arts Programming at the College. In addition, he consults for museums and historical societies on staff training, public program development, and the implementation of performance-based programs.**

As an author, he has written many books on Eugene O'Neill. In 2001, he wrote *Touring Eugene O'Neill's New London*, a guide which will introduce area residents and visitors to the local places connected with O'Neill's life. His next book, *Eugene O'Neill and Dat ole Davil Sea*, was a finalist for the 2005 Connecticut Book Award. In this book, Mr. Richter examines the influences on O'Neill of the maritime history of New London, his experiences in sailing and steamships, and his Provincetown experiences.

Eugene O'Neill, who is considered one of America's greatest playwrights, was significantly influenced by the maritime history and culture of New London. A bronze statue of O'Neill, near the entrance to the Fishers Island Ferry Terminal in New London, was fashioned after an early photo of O'Neill as a child, seated by the river, looking out to the waters beyond. Even as a young boy, the sea seemed to call to him.

In one of his earliest play, "Ile", O'Neill sets his play on a whaling ship, locked in the immutable ice of the Arctic. In this short play, he explores the pressures on the sea captains to obtain the whale oil, and the effects of the sailing conditions on the women who also went to sea to be near their husbands. There are many other maritime connections to be found in his plays.

The presentation will take place in the Fort Trumbull Conference Center on 90 Walbach St., New London, at 7 p.m. The public is invited, but seating is limited. New members are always welcome. Refreshments will follow the presentation.