

PROCLAMATION
SHAKESPEARE MONTH IN NEW LONDON
MAY 2010



WHEREAS, the NorthEast Shakespeare Ensemble, a non-profit professional repertory company based in New London, is returning to its roots with eight performances of Shakespeare's Othello at the Sawyer Center theatre from May 21 through May 30; and

WHEREAS, this homecoming will be celebrated with a month-long series of Shakespeare-related events in New London, starting on May 1 with May Day festivities that were popular in Elizabethan England; and

WHEREAS, these festivities will transform New London into the Olde London of Shakespeare's time with a parade, the crowning of a May Queen, dancing around the May Pole, performances by Morris dancers in traditional costume, the ChocolateFest, and the making of May Day Baskets and games for children; and

WHEREAS, the festivities will include performances by three community groups, with choristers from the Kearsarge Chorale singing Shakespeare madrigals, members of the Kearsarge Community Band playing Renaissance music and the Colby-Sawyer Players selecting and crowning a May Queen and populating her Court; and

WHEREAS, on May 8 there will be a community discussion on how Shakespeare's plays and the founding of the New World propelled English into the world's richest and most dominant language; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, the Center for the Arts will screen "Shakespeare in Love," winner of Best Picture and six other Academy Awards, in Colby-Sawyer's Wheeler Hall; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, the Center for the Arts will host a gala dinner in New London's finest restaurants before the opening night performance of Othello, with a post-performance Champagne and dessert reception and meet-the-actors party; and

WHEREAS, this month-long series of events will attract visitors to New London, showcase the community's cultural richness and provide affordable family-style entertainment and fun for New London residents and visitors alike;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2010 as "Shakespeare Month in New London," and we call upon all citizens to partake and enjoy the month-long festivities to the fullest.

Christina M. Helm *Mark Kaplan*

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R. Peter Bianchi

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