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PHOTO CAPTION: Author and publisher Carlo DeVito will share some of the whaling lore he learned while compiling the book *Wreck of the Whaling Ship Essex*. The true-life harrowing story of 30 sailors and their ship, rammed and sunk by a bull whale in the southern Pacific almost 100 years ago, is the basis for Herman Melville's classic *Moby Dick*. The evening includes a lecture and whaling-themed dinner as a benefit for the Hudson Area Library. It is being held at Café Le Perche, 230 Warren Street, Hudson. Call 518.822.1850 for reservations.

Whaling Lecture is Tied to Hudson's Whaling History

HUDSON – Most of the Hudson community is aware that the city was closely aligned with the whaling trade for many years during the 19th century. Those ties play right into the benefit the Library is presenting on Thursday, January 21.

WHALE HO! is a two-part evening taking place at Café Le Perche, 230 Warren Street, Hudson. Beginning at 6pm, author and publisher Carlo DeVito will speak on the whaling business, its trials and the specifics of the true-life harrowing tale described in the book, *Wreck of the Whaling Ship Essex*.

In 1820, the *Essex* was more than 1,500 miles from the nearest land when an enraged bull whale rammed her. The crew was only able to collect some bread, water and a few navigational tools before fleeing the wreck in small, frail, open boats. They spent the next 90 days without charts, sun baked, starving and dehydrated. In an effort to stay alive, they resorted to cannibalism. Of the 30 who left the ship, only 8 survived. The first to die was 27 year-old Matthew Joy of Hudson.

The Wreck of the Sailing Ship Essex is a compilation of whaling stories including the original which was recounted by the *Essex* First Mate, Owen Chase. It is the basis of a current film, "In the Heart of the Sea", directed by Ron Howard and is also the basis for the classic, *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville - great, great grandfather of the owner of Café Le Perche, Allan Chapin.

Admission to the 6pm lecture is \$25.00 per person at the door. A complimentary glass of grog will be provided.

At 8pm, the restaurant will serve a whaling-inspired dinner to those with reservations. The menu will include Anti-Scurvy Salad (spinach, tangerines, spiced walnuts, pickled onions with warm vinaigrette), Colonial Fish Pie (clams, mussels, oysters and Atlantic cod under puff pastry crust) and Maple Mousse with Sea-Faring Ginger Cookies. A Root Vegetable Pie will also be available. The menu is price fixed at \$50.00 per person.

Carlo DeVito is a lifelong publishing executive who has published books with Stephen Hawking, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Dan Rather, Thomas Hoving, The Fabulous Beekman Boys, Jane Goodall and many others. He has written more than 15 titles on topics including dogs, sports and wine. He is the owner of the Hudson Chatham Winery and also publishes blogs on the subject of wine.

Tickets to the lecture can be purchased at the door. For the dinner, reservations must be made in advance by calling the restaurant at 518.822.1850. The evening is a benefit for the Hudson Area Library – www.HudsonAreaLibrary.org.