SUMMER HOURS (May - December): Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Until 9:00 p.m. every second Thursday of the month

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is governed by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.

Subscription to this publication is a benefit of membership. For more information about membership, call 508 997-0046 ext. 150 or visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

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Scenic 5 Lighthouse Tour of Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound
Pass the picturesque Bullet Flats and Palmas Island lighthouses in scenic New Bedford Harbor. Travel through the Nantucket Narrows passage for a close-up of the Nobska Point Lighthouse on your way to the beacons of East Chop and West Chop in Vineyard Sound.

ABOARD SEA STEAK MARThAS VINeYARD
Every Mon-Thur from May 21st - Oct 12th
Departs New Bedford 11:00am
Arrives Oak Bluffs 1:30-3:00pm
Departs Oak Bluffs 3:30pm
Arrives New Bedford 5:30pm
Adults $45
Seniors/Students $31
Children 3-12 $25

Whale Watching Tours
Captain John
Town Wharf • Plymouth, MA
800-242-2449 • 508-746-2443
www.captjohn.com

BULLETIN FROM JOHNNY CAKE HILL • SUMMER 2011

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THE

Museum is fully accessible.
From the Helm:

Summer means fun, and wonder and wonderfully cool, air-conditioned galley! Enjoy this season's feast of whaling delights with your friends and family in a parched and parched community. Jim Lopes’ article on the upcoming Cape Verdean exhibit is a great example of how people have come together to build a better world. I am on some of these meetings and the passionate dialogue is inspiring and reminds us of why we are here. After a year’s worth of work, the committee will present a genuine, authentic and poignant exhibit that has a high likelihood of capturing the spirit of the Cape Verdean diaspora. Building these community-centric exhibits, including last summer’s Aneura Whale Museum, presents unique challenges. The role of our curators is more complex—rather than “coming up with an idea” and executing, now the curator must frame a concept, lead a discussion, marshal community resources and draw out the essence of what’s important. Complicating matters is that with both the Aneura and Cape Verdean exhibits, the Whaling Museum’s collections were not particularly deep when compared with our collection of Yankee whaling. Therefore, curators had to rely on their community participation to augment with personal artifacts. You’ll read, in Dr. Gales’ piece on acquisitions and donations, that community support always has been the life-blood of this Museum. We are grateful to many hundred of individuals who have stepped forward over time and donated their personal possessions— in 2010 alone, 244 items were accepted into the collection. Periodically, the Collections Committee agrees to loan objects to synergistic organizations. For example, the NBHM loaned 244 items...
Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit

By James J. Lopes, Vice President, Education and Programming

With the opening of the Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit on July 5, 2011, the Whaling Museum will continue its interpretation of the experience of whalers from the Portuguese islands. In Moby-Dick Herman Melville wrote that islanders were the finest whaemen in the industry. Many islanders hailed from then what were the provinces of the Azores and Cape Verde. Since 1975 Cape Verde has been an independent republic but the legacy of whaling and immigration endures.


In the weeks and months leading up to the opening, the Whaling Museum will offer varied programming that explores Cape Verdean culture both in the islands and in America. Programs range from a primer in Cape Verdean Crioulo (which some describe as a dialect of Portuguese and others as a language in its own right), to a presentation of contemporary art by Cape Verdean and Cape Verdean-American artists, music, essays and poetry, dance troupes, storytelling and much more. Do you want to learn how to play arri, the Cape Verdean version of mandala?

Online at the Whaling Museum’s website, we are sharing a preview of some elements of the exhibit, including a collection of vintage postcards from Cape Verde dated between 1900 and 1912. Those postcards depict everyday life in Cape Verde at the turn of the 20th century, including an outdoor Catholic mass, a fisherman, a woman carrying a basket of the day’s catch, a baby in a basket on the back of her mother. The pictures vary from a number of compelling vistas to glimpses into everyday life. Many of the cultural elements visible in Cape Verde became central aspects of the Cape Verdean community in New Bedford.

Although Cape Verde is a small country, each island has its own character and personality which is often expressed in surprising ways. The music traditions vary from island to island. The spoken Crioulo takes on nuances. Cape Verde with its unique history of 500 years of cultural, racial and ethnic mixing has a thousand faces. It is even said that each island has a unique way of tying traditional head scarves.

Islanders seem to make the best whaemen—[quote]

“The exhibit will also draw on the Whaling Museum’s collection of logbooks, rare maps, art, engravings, scrimshaw and various artifacts that illustrate both life in the Islands through the ages and the challenges of nature in a country fraught with natural disasters like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, famine and plagues and how these harsh conditions gave rise to the Cape Verdean diaspora. How the Cape Verdean people overcame these challenges is an inspiring narrative. How they excelled in the maritime trades, as whaemen, and in the land-based occupations of longshoremen, in the sail lofts and codage works, and as agricultural workers—many finding work as cranberry and blueberry pickers.

Cape Verdeans are recognized as the only people of African descent who controlled and owned the ships that brought them to America prior to the twentieth century. The unique story of the Cape Verde Packet trade which brought thousands of immigrants directly from Cape Verde to New Bedford, may be told through the lens of the Ernestina or the Coralião or many other ships that linked Cape Verde and New Bedford, Cape Verdean Ellis Island. The bustling, diverse immigrant culture of South Water Street compares with that of any other seaport in the world. Only on South Water Street in New Bedford would you find a baker from Lithuania who could transact business in Crioulo or a Russian fruit peddler who could haggle in both Yiddish and Portuguese.

Interpreting and presenting the Cape Verdean experience has presented various challenges and opportunities. To guide this process, the Whaling Museum engaged community members with various talents and broad experience, including community historians, linguists, composers, maritime scholars, musicians and other professionals.

continued on page 4

“Islanders seem to make the best whaemen” —Moby-Dick, Herman Melville

The meaning of power is an African tradition. Power was the currency of the slave trade.

Above: Santiago is the largest of the Cape Verde islands and culturally the most African. (UN 1185.6)
Below: View of the port of Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde. (UN 1185.6)

Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit Committee
Carlos Almeida, Joaquim Lioramento
Dr. Patricia Andrade, Eugene Monteiro
Ronald Barbosa, John Mendes
Cândida Rosa Baptista, Ramiro Mendes
Dawn E. Blake-Sousia, Jennifer Narciss
Carl J. Cruz, Daniel Rodrigues
William de Carino, Janet Whitt
John Garfield, Michael Lapides, James P. Russell.

Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit Staff Members

Cape Verde Recognition Highlights
Monday, June 27th
12 noon: Raising of flag of Cape Verde, City Hall, New Bedford
6:30 pm: Presentation: “How to Learn to Speak Cape Verdean Crioulo in 20 Minutes” Whaling Museum
Tuesday, June 28th | 6:00 pm
An Evening of Cape Verdean Poesy, Essays, Contemporary Art and Music
Thursday, June 30th
Annual Cape Verdean Recognition Committee Scholarship Dinner (Private)
Saturday, July 2nd | 11:00 am
Annual Cape Verdean Recognition Parade
Tuesday, July 5th
6th Cape Verdean Independence Day
6:00 pm: Opening of Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit, Whaling Museum
Thursday, July 7th | 4:30 pm
A Tribute to the Artistry of Ship Model Builder Joaquim “Porkchop” Almeida on film & a Parade of the Small Ships
Thursday, July 28th | 7:30 pm
Storyteller Len Cabral

Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit Opening Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit

By: James J. Lopes, Vice President, Education and Programming

With the opening of the Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit on July 5, 2011, the Whaling Museum will continue its interpretation of the experience of whalers from the Portuguese islands. In Moby-Dick Herman Melville wrote that islanders were the finest whaemen in the industry. Many islanders hailed from what were the provinces of the Azores and Cape Verde. Since 1975 Cape Verde has been an independent republic but the legacy of whaling and immigration endures.


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Islanders seem to make the best whaemen—[quote]
Traveling Exhibit

Whaling Museum traveling exhibit heads overseas

Building upon the success of the Azorean Whaler, the Maritime Curator at the Whaling Museum in Lajes on the Island of Pico with a group of our Museum members and Jorge Bruno, the Director of the Culture of the Regional Government of the Azores, in attendance. After completing its Azores tour in the fall the exhibit returns to the U.S. where it will travel to locations with a Portuguese whaling association. The exhibit will cross the country and be on display in locations from Connecticut to California.

The exhibit explores the history of whaling and the relationships between Yankee and Azorean whalers. The story of the Dinney Family from Boston, who played a central role in the Azores for nearly a century, is the topic of a main section of the exhibit. The exhibit addresses the critical nature of whaling in the development of the United States and Portuguese population.

New Bedford Crew Lists: A Great Resource

A Collaborative Project with the NBFPFL & The Port Society

By Judith Navas Lund

Through the efforts of 31 volunteers working with Advisory Curator Judith Lund, the Whaling Museum has been able to augment a project begun many years ago by the New Bedford Free Public Library. Using the records of the chaplains of the Port Society currently stored in the Whaling Museum’s Research Library, the volunteers, working from home, culled the names and physical descriptions of men leaving New Bedford on whaling voyages from 1855 to the end of whaling in 1927. These individual records were combined into a database of 58,752 names that was then combined with the work previously completed at the Public Library. This expanded database, now totaling 121,039 records, is being added to the Whaling Museum’s Digital Archive. By July it will be available to all on the Whaling Museum’s website and through a gallery-based kiosk near the soon-to-open Cape Verdean Maritime Exhibit and the Azorean Whaleman Gallery.

This database names only men who left from New Bedford on whaling voyages. It does not include those who joined after a ship left New Bedford. Occasionally there is added information about deaths or dismissals, but these are hit or miss records the chaplain probably read in the newspaper and added to his files. The list shows what Melville picturesquely noted, that persons from all around the world passed through New Bedford. In all, there were men from 33 states and territories in the United States represented, as well as men from more than 100 nations or islands worldwide.

The original Customs documents listing crew names were handwritten. The Port Society records were handwritten transcriptions of the Customs documents. The valiant volunteers who entered the data were reading and interpreting second-generation handwritten records. The original records were written down by Customs officers who were not particularly familiar with the spelling of names. Often the seamen themselves were not certain how to spell their names. The Customs agent wrote down what he heard. Therefore, the records present a need for creative interpretation in their use. One can assume that “Cape de Birds” is yet one more variation in the 8 or 9 ways of spelling the Cape Verde Islands. The city of Poughkeepsie, on the Hudson River, a whaling port in its own right for a short while, appears in about as many spelled versions as there are letters in that city.

Those records will be useful in many ways, particularly to family members wishing to learn about the whaling careers of their ancestors. They will also be useful to scholars of the arts of the whaling industry. They will provide raw data which can be studied by sociologists and anthropologists regarding both the whaling industry as well as immigration patterns of the residents of the city.

Life on a Whaler: A Community of Voyages

By Michael P. Dyer, Maritime Curator

For this exhibit the Lagaada model is the primary interpretive vehicle, from cabin to forecastle. Its interpretation through the multiple processes and personal stories of the whaling voyage itself is ideally a combination of a variable vessel thoroughly outfitted and insured, a master who was both a skilled seaman and a good whaleman, officers who also displayed good seamanship as well as being expert whalemen, craftsmen like cooper vesels with the best information about where whales of each desired species were most likely to be found. The masters could then navigate effectively to those regions while the officers and crew attended to their daily tasks. When going onto the whales, the crew needed to be fearless, the boatsteerers strong and true and the boatheaders cool as they pulled “into the charmed, churned circle of the hunted sperm whale.” Most of all, however, after a whale had been killed, the officers needed to know exactly how to flense the animal, bail out the head or cut out the whalebone, and try out the oil so that it did not burn and did not become discolored or adulterated with foreign matter. When vessels returned from their voyages the cargo was then judged as to its quality and quantity and the voyage was termed a success or failure.

This new installation will focus on the tools and techniques which each of these groups of people applied to their spheres of responsibility. Be it ledger and document houses, medicine chests and handcuffs, lances, cutting spades, try-pots, oil casks or gauging rods, the number and variety of objects that made up the business of whaling still all come together taking our visitors on their own personal whaling voyages.

1 Lagesse often changed from voyage to voyage while the principal agent or agents consigned the crew for a long time to these agents under a particular name.
A Light Look at People and Things from the City

What do a ship in the harbor, scallop shells, a girl on a swing, people working in a sail loft and in the Pairpoint glass factory, and the subjects of portraits by New Bedford painters and photographers have in common? They were each, at one time or another, “sitting” in New Bedford.

Sitting in New Bedford is a show for the summer, when kids are out of school and families are on vacation. They often seek a break from heavy intellectual content and prefer entertainment and levity with some interesting facts and information “snuck in” for good measure. “Sitting” tries to hit the sweet spot, presenting unique items from our collection that may not just fascinate but also raise an eyebrow, and in some cases a chuckle. Sometimes we learn best when our guard is down.

The word “sitting” can be interpreted a number of ways, and this exhibit plays on this fact. Chairs – traditional, strange, even unanticipated types – are on view. How could they not be in an exhibit about sitting? The creation of a portrait is known as a “sitting.” See the serious faces of the city’s founders and energetic faces of its children and everyone between.

However, there are many things that “sit” in this city – unique manufacturers that produce goods have sat here for decades if not centuries, and several of those businesses survive today, flying under the radar of those who visit New Bedford. They would never know, for instance, that materials in their computer printer or cell phone, on their plate, or in their golf bag probably spent some time sitting in a bin nearby.

“Sitting” can be a contradictory term, on one hand suggesting inaction, on the other indicating a position of oversight and power—a sitting judge, religious leader, or legislature, a sitting incumbent in a government office, or in our case a whaling merchant sitting at his desk reigning over his fleet of vessels and barrels of oil at market. Thousands of people sat for their portrait (photographic or painted) over the years. While this exhibit contains its share of portraits, a rather inactive form of sitting, this is not meant to imply New Bedford and its citizens were passive.

For a city so busy “sitting,” there has been an awful lot of activity. Innovators and businessmen, supported by a wide range of native and immigrant workers, built this city into the wealthiest in the nation in the middle of the 19th century.
**A “Cymbal” for the Community**

Join us for this FREE collaborative concert

The United Way of Greater New Bedford, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and New Bedford Whaling Museum are teaming up this summer to present free musical performances on the Museum’s outdoor plaza. Building on the success of last year’s concert series, the team is now planning an exciting addition – an Independence Day brass hand concert with guest performers! 

**Whaling City Pops: A 4th of July Brass Band Concert**

**Monday, July 4 | 7:00 p.m. Museum Plaza**

Forget Boston – we’ve got a first-class symphony right here in New Bedford! The NBISO brass band selection will feature patriotic and pops music in celebration of America’s Independence Day. Fortunes kick-off on the Whaling Museum’s plaza at 7:00 p.m. and conclude just in time for the city’s famous fireworks display. Sponsored in part by the Education for Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Program.

**36th Annual Whaling History Symposium**

Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16

**Saturday Session One: Commerce and Industry**

Textile Manufactures in a Whaling Town, David M. Maloney, Ph.D.

Old Works and Candle Manufacture in 19th Century New Bedford, Mark Faure

**Saturday Session Two: Whaling in the Civil War**

Sunk by Torch and Stone: The Whaling Industry in the Civil War, Robert Lloyd Webb

The Old Sailor’s Lament: Melville’s Reflections on the Sinking of the Stone Fleet, Mary Melby, Ph.D.

**Saturday Session Three: Whaling History and Culture**

Mapping and Recording the Norwegian Antarctic Whaling Stations on South Georgia, Prof. Dr. Bjørn Basberg


Report: The Online Database of Whaling Voyages and Whaling Masters, Judith Stavre Lund

**Saturday Evening Program**

The Banjo Goes to Sea – Concert Performance by Hetty Green, “The Witch of Wall Street” - Locally-produced documentary film screening

The Sailor Boy with Paddle Arms by Rick Creighton

Dreamboat by Steve Whittlesey

I am The Walrus, I am The Hunter by Eric Lintala

Unofficial by Chance Fountain

Boyond Expectation by Lasse Antonsen

Untitled by Shingo Furukawa

Ishmael by Judith Navas Lund

**Win a Cruise to Bermuda**

Raffle Tickets: $100 each

Only 100 tickets will be sold

You and a companion will sail as the 100th allure from Port Liberry, NJ on June 3, 2012 for a seven-night cruise to Bermuda aboard Celebrity Cruiseship Summit. The cruise is transferable, but both passengers’ names must be provided by December 31, 2011. Don’t miss your chance to cruise aboard this luxury ship!

The raffle will be drawn at the July 4th Whaling City Pops event, or as soon as the 100 tickets are sold. To purchase your ticket, contact Amy Morrison at (508) 997-0046 ext. 150 or amorrison@whalingmuseum.org.

**Support the New Bedford Whaling Museum**

Join us for this FREE collaborative concert
Thursday, June 9

AHAT Day of Celebration
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., The Whaling Museum celebrates "One of a Kind" with performances by Anoush French and Dance Affiliates in the Jacobs Family Gallery. In the Cook Theater join Hi and Fun History's crew of Gamblers Historian for a screening of "The Great Race of Old Dartmouth", and the theme of family history as a way to find the roots of the first African American sailor, Paul Cuffe. For over fifty years the Whaling Museum has displayed exhibits that celebrate the spirit of Paul Cuffe and his family. See this exhibit, "Sails from Home: Celebrating the Impact of Paul Cuffe," which celebrates the life and legacy of Paul Cuffe.

Saturday, June 18

S весьма T 7:30 p.m., Cook Theater
The government of Cape Verde will present an evening of African music and dance, in the Jacobs Family Gallery. In the Cook Theater join Hi and Fun History's crew of Gamblers Historian for a screening of "The Great Race of Old Dartmouth", and the theme of family history as a way to find the roots of the first African American sailor, Paul Cuffe. For over fifty years the Whaling Museum has displayed exhibits that celebrate the spirit of Paul Cuffe and his family. See this exhibit, "Sails from Home: Celebrating the Impact of Paul Cuffe," which celebrates the life and legacy of Paul Cuffe.

Monday, June 27

How to Learn Cape Verdean Creole in 20 Minutes
6:30 p.m., Cook Theater
Teach yourself the basics of the Cape Verdean Creole language in twenty minutes. Join us and learn more about this fascinating African language.

Wednesday, June 29

An Evening of Contemporary Cape Verdean Arts and Culture
18:00 p.m., Cook Theater
Join in the excitement of Cape Verde's vibrant contemporary arts and culture scene! This program will feature contemporary works from Cape Verde and New Bedford.

Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3

New Bedford Celebrates Summerfest!
Monday, July 4

Whaling City Pops: A 6th of July Brass Band Concert with Special Guests, Dancers and Singers of the Wampanoag Nation
7:00 p.m., Memorial Hall
Becoming the whole family and join the Whaling Museum, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, and United Way to celebrate New Bedford Celebrates Summerfest! This day of festivities will include a live children's concert, a “Landing” event, and a dance party under the stars.

Every Monday, July 11 – August 22

Sperm Whale Gallery Walk
11:00 a.m.
Learn about the great sperm whales and the whaling industry in a Museum Docent Tour that guides you through the Permanent Presentation exhibit. The tour will leave from the front desk. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Monday, July 11 – August 22

Moby Dick Tour
1:00 p.m.
Join a docent for a 45-minute tour that focuses on the highlights of the Moby Dick collection. The tour will leave from the front desk. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Monday, July 11 – August 22

Sailor's Valentines
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Children will learn how to make Sailor's Valentines, traditional gifts which sailors gave to their wives and sweethearts upon returning from a voyage. Take your valentine home as a keepsake. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Thursday, July 14 – August 25

See highlights of the Whaling Museum's collection. The tour will leave from the front desk. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Thursday, July 14 – August 25

Moby Dick Tour
11:00 a.m.
Join a docent for a 45-minute tour that focuses on the highlights of the Moby Dick collection. The tour will leave from the front desk. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Thursday, July 14 – August 25

Highlights Tour
1:00 p.m.
Join a docent for a 45 minute tour that focuses on the highlights of the Whaling Museum's collection. The tour will leave from the front desk. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Every Thursday, July 14 – August 25

Sperm Whale Gallery Talk
11:00 a.m.
Join our teen apprentices in the Jacobs Family Gallery as they investigate the contents of Discovery Sea Chests. Plan your visit to coincide with the tour. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Thursday, July 21

City Celebrates!
June 21

Aloha! A Day in Hawaii:
Activities all day long beginning
11:00, Jacobs Family Gallery
"Hula" class: Spend the day on a Hawaiian vacation at the Whaling Museum. Try on a grass skirt or a lei. Hula dancer Len is a native Hawaiian and will join us for the day. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Thursday, July 28

City Celebrates!
July 28

Sperm Whale Gallery Talk
11:00 a.m.
Join our teen apprentices in the Jacobs Family Gallery as they investigate the contents of Discovery Sea Chests. Plan your visit to coincide with the tour. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Thursday, August 4

City Celebrates!
August 4

A H A! Kids Rule
10:00 a.m.
Children will learn how to make Sailor's Valentines, traditional gifts which sailors gave to their wives and sweethearts upon returning from a voyage. Take your valentine home as a keepsake. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

August 18

City Celebrates!
August 18

A H A! M aking W aves
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Children will learn how to make Sailor's Valentines, traditional gifts which sailors gave to their wives and sweethearts upon returning from a voyage. Take your valentine home as a keepsake. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Friday, August 26

City Celebrates!
August 26

Sperm Whale Gallery Talk
11:00 a.m.
Join our teen apprentices in the Jacobs Family Gallery as they investigate the contents of Discovery Sea Chests. Plan your visit to coincide with the tour. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.

Saturday, September 2

City Celebrates!
September 2

Peter Arteaga and friends playing traditional and contemporary Cape Verde music
3:00 p.m., New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park
The Whaling Museum is proud to present a diverse lineup of performers to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Coast Guard and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The program will feature traditional and contemporary Cape Verde music, as well as original stories and tales from around the world. This event is free and open to the public.

Saturday, September 10

City Celebrates!
September 10

Storyteller Len Cabral
3:00 p.m., Cook Theater
Storyteller Len Cabral will entertain byimmortal storyteller Len Cabral. Len Cabral is an internationally acclaimed storyteller who has been enchanting audiences with his storytelling performances at schools, libraries, museums, and festivals since 1976. A great-grandson of a Cape Verdean whaler whose ancestors immigrated to America from the island of Santiago, Len's strong Cape Verdean accent and songs and stories attuned to the experience of his Cape Verdean ancestors make him an endearing storyteller of African, Cape Verdean, and Cabo Verdean tales as well as original stories and tales from around the world.

Sunday, September 11

City Celebrates!
September 11

Yankee Notions playing your favorite Maritime music
6:30 p.m., New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park
"Yankee Notions" playing your favorite Maritime music in the Leatherlapper Room for the AHA! Kids Rule! family celebration. Go to Alaska by Film
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon
Cost will include a quick trip to Alaska. On this van the Barrow High School Band Championships in Barrow. Take your valentine home as a keepsake. All family programs are FREE for children with a paid adult admission.
The Eagle Has Landed

Eagle will be open to visitors FREE of charge from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. July 29, 30, and 31, sponsored by the Whaling Museum.

Keep an eye on New Bedford Harbor this July 29 for a special visitor - the United States Coast Guard tall ship Eagle! To commemorate her 75th anniversary, the 295-foot barque used as a training cutter for future Coast Guard officers will embark upon a cruise to Ireland, England, Iceland, Germany, and finally New Bedford before returning to her home port in New London, CT. She is one of only two active commissioned sailing vessels in American military service (the other being the USS Constitution).

In addition, on the evening of July 29, the Whaling Museum will hold an invite-only special preview party to our annual summer gala, Over the Top. Corporate and Individual sponsors for the gala and members of the Cupola Society will have the opportunity to attend. For more information, please contact Alison Smart, Director of Development at (508) 997-0046 ext. 115.

Corporate and Individual Sponsorships are available

Sponsorship includes: tickets to the event and reserved seating, invitation to a VIP preview party aboard the USS Eagle, acknowledgement on the program and auction catalog, and advertising opportunities. Proceeds will help underwrite the Whaling Museum’s programming that serves 65,000 children and adults each year.

For general information, to make a donation to the auction, or sponsorship information, contact Alison Smart, Director of Development, (508) 997-0046 ext. 115 or asmart@whalingmuseum.org

Save the Date

Over the Top 2011

Saturday, August 6

A formal summer Gala to benefit the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Captain Paul Cuffe Park

On February 26, 2011 the Old Dartmouth Historical Society held a symbolic ground-breaking of Captain Paul Cuffe Park. In 1800, Cuffe, a sea merchant and civil rights advocate, owned a store at the Four Corners, at Water and Union Streets. The site will be formally dedicated on September 24, 2011. The following remarks are from Jennifer Nersesian, Superintendent of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

“From Frederick Douglass’ Freedom’s Journal in 1854, which quotes the Liverpool Mercury upon Cuffe’s visit to England in 1811:

‘A sound understanding, united with indomitable energy and perseverance, are the prominent features of Paul Cuffe’s (sic) character. Born under peculiar disadvantages, deprived of the benefits of early education, . . ., he has struggled under disadvantages which have seldom occurred in the career of any individual. Yet, under the pressure of these difficulties, he seems to have fostered dispositions of mind which qualify him for any station of life to which he is introduced . . ., his prudence, strengthened by parental care and example no doubt guarded him in his youth, . . . whilst religion . . ., has, in advancing manhood, added to the brightness of his character, and instituted or confirmed his disposition to practical good.’

For my own part, I offer the following:

We learn about our forefathers, people who stood up for what they believed in and shaped our country, and again, in each instance, they were white, then we learn by omission that great vision and deeds are not in the purview of people of color.

So by inference, a student of color today learns that being one of the wealthiest people in the country, directing the course of world events, being a leader for social justice belong in someone else’s domain, because that’s the way it has always been.

The sin of omission grows.

Here today we begin to correct that course as we honor Paul Cuffe – a man of Quaker, African and Native American descent who 200 years ago was one of the wealthiest people in the country, did direct the course of world events, and was a leader in issues of social justice. Today with this park, by placing his name forever in public view, we commit him to our communal memory. We broaden the definition of what is possible, what we are capable of, – and we teach our children that no matter what their race or background, greatness is in their purview.

Our local history contributed to shaping this country, and Cuffe played no small part in that. It is time for his story to be known. By dedicating this park today, we make his name a part of our national lexicon, where it belongs.
A Harbor for Painting

By Keith Kauppila and Mary Jean Blasdale

The Wattles Family Gallery has a new look, replacing its inaugural exhibit, Treasure of Old Dartmouth. The new exhibit, A Harbor for Painting, is drawn from the Museum’s permanent collection, American Landscapes and Seascapes: Paintings. It features master paintings in the Whaling Museum’s collection by artists who began their careers locally in the Old Dartmouth area, and others who came from elsewhere but stayed in the region to record its beauty.

This area became a welcoming harbor for the work of artists in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Great wealth realized from the success of whaling and the subsequent prosperity of the cotton textile industry provided the means for artists to succeed in their careers locally in the Old Dartmouth area, and others who came from elsewhere but stayed in the region to record its beauty.

The Old Dartmouth region harbored and supported artistic endeavors during its formative years. The inhabitants’ wealth and educational commitment furthered the careers of many artists, and the natural beauty of the land and sea in the area provided subjects for paintings. These factors fostered the many paintings that will be featured in A Harbor for Painting, an exhibit guest-curated by Trustee and Collection Committee member Keith Kauppila and former Collections Manager Mary Jean Blasdale who also serves on our Collection Committee.

With prosperity came leisure time, and towards the end of the nineteenth century the local summer communities bloomed. Demand increased for an artistic recording of the area’s unspoiled land and sea. Artists such as Dwight W. Tryon, R. Swain Gifford, Louis H. Richardson, and Clifford Ashley provided views of the moorlands, marshes and local harbors.

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This area became a welcoming harbor for the work of artists in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Great wealth realized from the success of whaling and the subsequent prosperity of the cotton textile industry provided the means for artists to succeed here. Whaling merchants and businessmen became art patrons, collecting paintings and supporting artists who sought training abroad during the city’s gilded age.

Included in the exhibit is William Allen Wall, who was able to train abroad through the generosity of the Rortches, Arnolds and Grinnells. Albert Bierstadt was supported by Captains Thomas Nye, Jr., William Blackler, and whaling merchant Edward C. Jones. Born into the prosperous Nye and Swift families, Clement Nye Swift was able to pursue artistic training in France. New Bedford’s most famous painter, William Bradford, offered the shelter of his Fairhaven studio to the Dutch immigrant artist Albert Van Berest.

t to those of you who have helped build our collections, we thank you immensely. A few recent cases demonstrate how the largess of donors has provided materials otherwise unavailable to us.

The bequest of George C. Perkins and Margaret F. Perkins includes some 200 whaling heritage items. Perkins, a partner in the law firm of Caspo, Clifford, Prescott, Ballard and McLord, built much of this collection from reams of legal documents generated by the firm as early as 1879 when the firm was called Caspo, Clifford and Clifford. The lives documented in the collection seem as much Hollywood as real life: the reporting of the assassination of President Lincoln, the destruction of the bark Gipsy by the Confederate courier schooner Shenandoah, the seizure of the whaling bark Cape Horn Penguin by Russian authorities, the imprisonment of Captain Gilbert B. Rorden of the New Bedford bark Hope On by Chilean authorities. The donation includes logbooks, account books and much documentary evidence of regional and whaling history and the city’s harbor and commerce.

The Perkins materials complement previous donations such as Davis Howes’ 2003 donation of volumes of marine insurance proofs from the firm where Howes was also a lawyer. Alongside the Whaling Museum’s 2008 acquisition of the Merchants Bank collection, the Perkins donation adds an important new dimension to our existing collections of the Whaling Museum that attracted these new additions. The Curatorial staff is always happy to accept donations of any kind. All donors deserve accolades for helping to enhance our never-quit-complete collections.

In recent years an increase in competition for the artifacts and manuscripts we seek for our collections has caused us to be even more appreciative of donors to our collections. In the last five years nearly 200 people have given, several multiple times. Donors find the Whaling Museum a compelling home for their items because of the breadth of our existing collections and the Museum’s long history and high regard among scholars. The critical mass of our holdings provides confidence that curators, even internationally known scholars, will study and care for their precious objects. Donors recognize that artifacts should be exhibited and studied to forward public understanding and scholarship.

Greatness Begs Greatness – Donating to the NBWM Collections

By Gregory J. Gale, Ph.D., Vice President, Collections and Exhibitions

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In ten years, the New Bedford Whaling Museum dramatically increased both in its physical size and in the breadth of its programming. The museum complex has expanded with the additions of the Jacobs Family Gallery, the Purchase Street library, the restoration of the Bourne Building, and the Wattles Family Program offerings have more than tripled. All of this is due to the extraordinary generosity of donors like you, making the Navigating the World: Phase I capital campaign a resounding success.

The Board of Trustees is focused on endowment growth for educational and community programming, in preparation for the fall 2011 “sun-setting” of a U.S. Department of Education award that generates $875,000 net to operations annually. Currently, this funding accounts for 32% of the Whaling Museum’s operating budget. The Museum does not want to relinquish hard-won ground in its efforts to support K-12 education, an innovative apprenticeship program, community programming, world-class exhibitions, and high-level scholarship. The pressing need for a reliable income stream is underscored by imminent reductions in competitive government grant funding and an increase in competition for annual funding through corporations and foundations in the current economic climate.

Endowment growth with a focus on education will ensure sustainable funding for the Whaling Museum’s programs well into the future. Currently only 8% of the organization’s operating budget is funded by the Endowment. A $3,000,000 boost would substantially augment that income stream. Thanks to an extraordinary $1,000,000 anonymous donation received in October 2010, this ambitious goal is within reach. As an added incentive to donors, the National Endowment for the Humanities has approved a highly-competitive $500,000 matching challenge grant. To secure these funds, the Whaling Museum must match 3:1 by raising $1,500,000 in new gifts to the endowment.

Build a New Educational Center and Research Library

The Research Library on Purchase Street has served the Whaling Museum well for nearly a decade by safely housing its library collections and curatorial offices. The Whaling Museum is now at a crossroads: either invest in major infrastructural improvements at the Library on Purchase Street, or sell the building and consolidate holdings, with resultant efficiencies, on Johnny Cake Hill. A modest addition on Johnny Cake Hill will greatly enhance public access to the Whaling Museum’s resources — collection, library, and staff — while significantly increasing educational spaces, distance learning capabilities, exhibitions, and upgraded compact storage for the 500,000 maps, manuscripts and rare books (building designs accommodate 25% future growth). Importantly, the current 630 sq. ft. classroom space has not kept pace with growth in educational programming, which served 12,300 students in 2010. Expanded classroom spaces will be integrated into the third and fourth floor of the new building, allowing for enhancements in both the scope of programming and the number of students who benefit.

To learn more about the Navigating the World: Homeward Bound capital campaign, contact Maureen Coleman (508) 717-6816, mcoleman@whalingmuseum.org or Allison Smart (508) 717-6815, asmart@whalingmuseum.org.
Sperm Whales Can Stun Their Prey. Many of you may remember during your visits prior to 2009 that we had a panel in the Sperm Whale Gallery that stated sperm whales may be able to stun their prey, using powerful sounds from their heads. This hypothesis was first proposed in 1963 and expanded upon in 1971 and 1982. However, a study published in Biology Letters, June 2007, by Maria Wilson, Roger Harlen, Peter Tyack and Peter Madsen, clearly shows that stunning of prey does not happen. The researchers used clicks that mimicked sperm whales. The squid showed no change in swimming patterns when they swam past the sound pulses.

That’s an Irrawady Dolphin. Just like DNA evidence is being used to solve crimes and to monitor the health and status of all known North Atlantic right whales, DNA is being used to confirm new cetacean species. In 2005, Australian Isabel Beasley used DNA evidence and skull measurements to prove the identification of the ‘new’ Australian Studdin Dolphin, which had previously been mistaken for an Irrawady Dolphin or a dugong. In 2003, a new baleen whale species, the relatively small Omura’s Whale, was first made known to the public. It should be noted that one species, the Baiji, was declared functionally extinct in 2007.

Ocean Acidification May Deafen Whales. In 2009, a paper published in Nature Geoscience argued that “as ocean water becomes more acidic – thanks in large part to human-generated carbon dioxide – concentrations of sound-absorbing chemicals drop, which means noise, especially low frequency rumbles, travels farther.” The concern was that this would have a negative effect on whales and their kin. Researchers at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, led by Tim Duda, conducted their own experiments, and within a year had published their results which disagree with the 2009 assertion. One thing we can all agree on, the noise we’ve added to the oceans by human activities has changed the lives of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Sperm Whales and Smud: Wendell Collection. (2003.100.7726)
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From the Helm
Continued
corps. Important community-wide activities such as AHA! and City Celebrates! are collaborative initiatives that we enthusiastically support. Our summer Music on the Plaza series with the NB Symphony Orchestra was extremely popular last year and we’ll repeat this with a July 4th Pops. We sampled free admission to New Bedford residents for 6 months, and offer similar privileges to the military, UMass Dartmouth and BCC students. In addition there are the dozens of lectures and performances, vacation programs and kid-friendly activities, plus important official City events and forums. The Whaling Museum, for all practical purposes, serves as a unique community center.
The USCG Eagle’s visit to New Bedford this summer is sponsored by the Whaling Museum. The vessel will be open for 3 days of tours. Expectations are equally high for the opening of the Capt. Paul Cuffe Park in September. Behind-the-scenes activity includes creating a sculpture that will be unveiled in the park on September 24. On sculpture, the collaboration with UMass sculptors and the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park has been nothing short of phenomenal. Visitor reaction to these probing pieces is enthusiastic. Wouldn’t it be fun to see this initiative extend around the rest of the National Park! I should add that, barring one minor incident, no damage has occurred to the pieces. This is a great testament to the safety of the neighborhood.
The article on the capital campaign is noteworthy. Receipt of an anonymous $1 million gift to the endowment jumps out. That this gift came unexpectedly made it even more delightful! The timing could not have been better because this institution faces an important juncture in 2011 when a substantial Department of Education directed grant “sunsets.” For eight years, New Bedford residents benefited from the New Bedford ECHO project, a joint program with the NB Ocean Explorium. We express our deep gratitude to our Massachusetts delegation and their staff who fought hard on our behalf for close to a decade. Navigating through this will require focusing on our core values. This Museum has made great progress in part because of adherence to both mission and fiscal discipline. Trustees and staff are implementing a careful plan to reposition the organization so as not to relinquish hard-won ground as we continue to impart a superior educational experience for our children, youth and visitors alike. That being said, this would be a particularly propitious time for you to maximize your Annual Fund contribution!
While you have “fun in the sun” this summer, carve out some time to buff up on your knowledge of whales at the Whaling Museum.

SUMMER BULLETIN 2011

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Call 508-997-0046 x133 or email - specialevents@whalingmuseum.org

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**SUMMER HOURS** (May - December): Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Until 9:00 p.m. every second Thursday of the month

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is governed by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.

Subscription to this publication is a benefit of membership. For more information about membership, call 508 997-0046 ext. 150 or visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

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