



# THE NAVY YARD NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

Spring 2012

## Bicentennial of the War of 1812 to be commemorated in the Navy Yard

*USS Constitution*, berthed in Charlestown Navy Yard, holds a central place in the historic battles of the war with England 200 years ago. This summer, from June 30 until July 5, the Navy Yard will be center stage for visitors and will host two navy frigates and the U.S. Coast Guard's training ship *Eagle*. Tall ships from many nations will be berthed at the Fish Pier in South Boston as part of Operation Sail.

The high point will be in the morning of July 4 when *Constitution* undertakes the annual "turn-around cruise" accompanied this year by *Eagle* with the Navy's Blue Angels performing an aerial demonstration on the return trip.

In anticipation of the bicentennial, the USS Constitution Museum is holding a lecture on May 22 by Lieutenant-



*Barque Eagle*, the US Coast Guard's training ship, will join "Old Ironsides" in the Navy Yard for the bicentennial celebration.

General Jonathon Riley, "The World at War, 1812-1815." The speaker is a British military historian who is currently director general and master of the royal armouries.

## Navy Yard residents present "Traces of the Trade"

Since its inaugural broadcast on PBS in 2008, the video about the DeWolfes, a prominent Rhode Island white slave-holding family, has been shown throughout the country and abroad. On May 22, the Navy Yard will host neighborhood residents Dain and Constance Perry (below) in a showing of the film and a discussion about the slave trade. Dain Perry is a DeWolfe descendant and Constance Perry is a descendant of enslaved people in North Carolina. The



event is sponsored by the Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard and Boston African American National Historic Site.

The documentary is the product of filmmaker Katrina Browne, who according to the film's website, "discovers



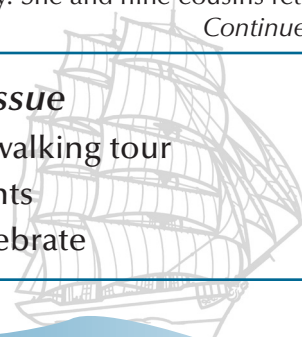
Filmmaker Katrina Browne and a Ghanaian child on the ramparts of Cape Coast Castle slave fort. Photo by Elly Hale.

that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the

*Continued on Page 3*

### Inside this Issue

- Navy Yard walking tour Page 3
- Spring events Page 3
- Friends celebrate Page 4



## BRIEFLY NOTED

**The Charlestown Ferry** will continue to operate, to the relief of residents, employees, and visitors. The two-month process by the MBTA of gathering public opinion about cuts in transportation service and increase in fares concluded by retaining the Charlestown ferry but raising rates. The current one-way fare will rise from \$1.70 to \$3.00. This represents



an increase of more than 75 percent, and goes into effect on July 1. The schedule will remain unchanged. The Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard contributed its collective voice to that of others who objected to dropping ferry service between Long Wharf and Charlestown Navy Yard.

**New restaurant plans** are moving forward as Navy Yard Bistro owner John Moore has reached agreement with the owners of Harborview on First Avenue to build a new Italian restaurant that has been long in the planning. If the process moves smoothly, Moore expects to open by December this year, about the end of construction on nearby Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital.

Positano, as the restaurant will be called, will offer “modern Coastal Italian” dishes, brick oven pizza, homemade pasta, and fresh seafood. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, it will seat 120 inside and 40 outside on the patio overlooking the harbor. Moore expects to have a six-person shuttle van for Charlestown residents, and valet parking in the MGH garage.

**Navy Yard street sweeping** started in April with each side of a street being swept twice a month. The City of Boston inaugurated Thursday sweeping in the Navy Yard, expanding this amenity to Charlestown’s waterfront neighborhood. With sweeping between 8 a.m. and noon comes towing, although no major incidents have been publicized.

Residents may sign up to be notified in advance by email as a reminder of



the towing and sweeping days at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping/>.

**A food truck festival on Pier 4** will feature 20 to 30 food trucks scheduled on Saturday, June 16, for an afternoon of culinary exploration. Courageous Sailing will be the host for the event on Pier 4 created by Food Truck Festival of New England, which will be holding 11 such days in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire this summer. The trucks will be arrayed around Dry Dock 2 and extend onto Piers 3 and 4. The offerings are a range of cuisines that have become familiar in Boston in the last two years under the Mayor’s food truck program. One of them, Go Fish, has been a Navy Yard vendor on Fridays through Sundays.

The first festival is planned for June 10 at UMass Boston campus, and later food truck festivals are scheduled for July 28 in Brighton, and September 22 in East Boston. Courageous Sailing Program will be a beneficiary of the festival receiving a percentage of the ticket sales. Admission ranges from \$40 for an advance preview at 11:00 a.m. to \$10 for children 6-12. Additional information is available at <http://foodtruckfestivalsofne.com>. Tickets entitle the holder to one food portion per truck and are available online, with some tickets available on the day of the festival.

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For membership information, please visit the website or send an e-mail.

The organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

# An insider's tour of historic navy yard

The Friends will sponsor a walking tour of the buildings and landscapes of the Charlestown Navy Yard led by former Boston National Historical Park Superintendent Terry Savage on Tuesday, June 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by Ruth Raphael, landscape architect for the park, and Clarissa Rowe, of Brown, Richardson & Rowe, a landscape architect who did early work at Dry Dock 2 and Shipyard Park. This outdoor tour is a reprise of a popular tour conducted two years ago. Building highlights will include the Marine Barracks, the Commandant's House, and the Rope Walk. In case of rain, the walk will be held on June 12.



Marine Barracks was built in 1810-11 and remains the oldest such building in the country. Postcard circa. 1910-11, from [www.CardCow.com](http://www.CardCow.com).



Above: View southeast in the 1890s of a cannon ball laden cart rolling over recently installed granite block pavers. Dry Dock 1 and the Carpenter Shop (Building 24) are visible in the background. From *Boston National Historical Park Cultural Landscape Report*, p.64, 2005.

## "Traces of the Trade"

Continued from Page 1

Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide." Dain Perry is one of those cousins.

Three generations of DeWolfe of Rhode Island operated ships between 1769 and 1820 in a three-way trade between Bristol, Rhode Island, West Africa, and Cuba, trafficking more than 10,000 enslaved Africans. By the end of his life in 1837, James DeWolfe had been a U.S. Senator and purportedly one of the richest men in the country.

The Dains often travel to present the film and host discussions on the subject of enslavement by telling their own stories.

## CALENDAR

- MAY 22 *Traces of the Trade*, video and discussion of New England slavery, with CNY residents Dain and Constance Perry. MGH Institute of Health Professions, 36 First Avenue, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- MAY 22 *The World at War, 1812-1815*, a lecture by Lieutenant-General Jonathon Riley, USS Constitution Museum, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- JUNE 5 **Walking Tour of Buildings and Landscapes**, led by former National Park Service Superintendent Terry Savage. Meet at USS Constitution Museum, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- JUNE 12 Rain date for Walking Tour (above)
- JUNE 16 **New England Food Truck Festival**. Dry Dock 2, Piers 3 and 4, Noon – 4:00 p.m.
- JUNE 16 **Flag Day** celebrated by USS Constitution Museum with three enormous flags of the "National Flag Truck"

- JUNE 29 - JULY 4 **Boston Harborfest** <http://www.bostonharborfest.com/> including 31st Annual Chowderfest, July 1. Boston waterfront and Boston City Hall Plaza.
- JUNE 29 - JULY 5 **Bicentennial of the War of 1812** celebrated with Navy, Coast Guard, and Tall Ships in Boston.
- JUNE 29 Two **navy frigates** arrive, Pier 4.
- JUNE 30 Coast Guard training ship *Eagle* arrives.
- JULY 4 *Constitution* "Turn-Around" Cruise and *Blue Angels* aerial demonstration.

## ONGOING

- TUESDAY through SUNDAY: *USS Constitution*, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- DAILY: USS Constitution Museum, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- DAILY: *USS Cassin Young* in Drydock 1; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 40-minute tours at 11 a.m., 2 and 3 p.m.

# Annual meeting gathers Friends, presents awards



## Support the Navy Yard, support the Friends

Since 2004, the Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard has represented residents, employees, and employers as it encourages compatible development and promotes enrichment activities for those who live, work, and visit here. Among its sponsorship this spring are a clean-up of the neighborhood and at the Harvard-Kent School, a video with discussion about northern slavery in "Traces of the Trade," and a walking tour of the historic navy yard. Summer activities will include music and theater at Shipyard Park and a picnic at Courageous Sailing on Pier 4. Support

*The Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard held its annual meeting on March 1, with more than 150 people attending. Awards were given to Mayor Thomas Menino and Charlestown Against Drugs (CHAD). Parris Landing turned over its first floor lobby for the occasion, and refreshments were provided by Navy Yard Bistro.*

through membership is important to keep the Friends viable. Information on membership and activities is at <http://www.friendscny.org/membership.html>.

Comments? Letters to the Editor? Send an email to Friends of Charlestown Navy Yard at [info@friendscny.org](mailto:info@friendscny.org)