

The Freedom Trail Foundation

99 Chauncy St. ~ Boston, Massachusetts 02111 ~ phone: 617.357.8300 fax: 617.357.8303 www.TheFreedomTrail.org

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(Photos Available)

Contact: Suzanne Taylor
617.357.8300 extension 206
staylor@thefreedomtrail.org

Fall Festivities Abound Along the Freedom Trail®

Boston, Massachusetts – Exciting Fall festivities have been scheduled along the Freedom Trail® to celebrate Boston's rich history. From first time celebrations to annual events and educational talks to a chantey sing, these events and programs will bring out the history buff in everyone. The following is a list of just a few programs scheduled this season.

On Sunday, October 16, 2011, the **USS Constitution Museum** will host the **5th annual Chantey Sing** from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In cooperation with the Boston National Historical Park and Northeast (and MIT) Chantey Sing, *USS Constitution* Museum invites one and all to experience the romance, history and humor of the sea through song. One doesn't have to sing to enjoy it, but most people just can't help but join in on the chorus. Bring a chair or a blanket (some seating will be available) and your favorite sea song to join in the fun.

The **USS Constitution Museum** will celebrate the upcoming Bicentennial Anniversary of the War of 1812 with an official **Launching Party** on Thursday, October 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This special event will introduce educators and historians to new free resources created for schools and libraries. With the approach of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Museum will share new library kits, curriculum and new school programs that teach the broad subject of the War through the lens of *Constitution*. Everyone can learn and share in history, inspiring within themselves today, the honor and freedom felt on board *Constitution* in 1812.

Highlights for the evening include the launch of an online game and educational resource, "A Sailors Life for Me!" The website (www.asailorslifeforme.org) invites students to join the fight for freedom on the high seas when they virtually enlist as sailors on board *Constitution* and travel back in time to the War of 1812 with supporting curriculum offers over 120 lesson plans, activities, and primary sources for the classroom; museum educators sharing new interdisciplinary, K-12 programming opportunities for students such as field trips with activities including hands-on simulated debates, life at sea, invention labs and more; an introduction to "A Sailors Life for Me Discovery Kit," a brand new resource for children and families to explore the *USS Constitution* in an engaging way. The kit brings the stories of *Old Ironsides* 1812 crew to life through activities, interactive games, images of real artifacts, and online challenges. The kits will be available to libraries across the state, thanks to funders from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Harold Closter, Director of Smithsonian Affiliations, will be at the event to announce the Museum's new affiliation with the Smithsonian and how this partnership can help to share in a combined effort to bring education and history into *your* neighborhood. In addition, Sarah Brannen, author of children's book "Mathias Franey, Powder Monkey," will be on hand to autograph her book which will be available for purchase in the Museum Store.

Events at the *USS Constitution* are held at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Parking is available at the Nautica Garage. Reservations are required for the October 20 Launch Party via e-mail at rsvp@ussconstitutionmuseum.org. For more information regarding the *USS Constitution* Museum and its events and programs, please call (617) 426-1812.



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The **Old South Meeting House** has planned an exciting Thursday noon-time series of fascinating performances and discussions about war, a powerful preacher, and African Americans fighting for freedom. The series will take place from 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. each Thursday and admission is \$6 per program.

On Thursday, November 3, Old South Meeting House will present **“First Blood: The Minutemen of '61”** which will recount history on April 19, 1861 when the 6th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, responding to the attack on Fort Sumter, reached Baltimore by train. With the tracks blocked by Confederate sympathizers, the soldiers disembarked into a restless crowd. In the riot that ensued, four Massachusetts men were killed. Boston National Historical Park Ranger Dan Gagnon discusses the Massachusetts men who echoed the spirit of their Minutemen forefathers.

On Thursday, November 10, **“Service in Time of Fire: Reverend Jacob Manning, Old South, and the Civil War”** will bring to life the Reverend Jacob Manning, a powerful preacher, radical abolitionist, and advocate of freedom and equality for all Americans. As minister of Old South, he turned the Meeting House into a recruiting station for the Union Army and later volunteered as chaplain of the 43rd Massachusetts Infantry. In this first-person performance, Boston National Historical Park Ranger Merrill Kohlhofer enlivens this inspiring patriot in his own words from Manning's own pulpit at the Old South Meeting House.

“Defending the Holiest of All Causes: Liberty and Union” will take place on Thursday, November 17. Boston National Historical Park Ranger Bill Casey shares the inspiring true stories of two of the more than 20,000 African Americans who served in the Union Navy during the Civil War. Learn of the bravery of Medal of Honor recipient John Lawson who, wounded by enemy shell, held his post supplying the guns aboard *USS Hartford* with ammunition, and of William B. Gould I, an escaped slave whose provocative war diary tells the tale of life at sea aboard *USS Cambridge* and *USS Niagara*.

For more information about the Old South Meeting House and the Thursday lunchtime series, please call (617) 482-6439 or visit www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.com. For more information about Boston National Historical Park, please call (617) 242-5642 or visit www.nps.gov/bost.

Boston's annual Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service will take place on Wednesday, December 7 from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Pearl Harbor survivors and friends will host this riveting service on the pier adjacent to the World War II destroyer *USS Cassin Young* to commemorate the 1941 surprise attack by the Japanese on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. *USS Cassin Young* is named for U.S. Navy Commander Cassin Young who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor. *USS Cassin Young* has been at Boston National Historical Park in the Charlestown Navy Yard since 1978, where the National Park Service and many dedicated volunteers maintain the ship as a living memorial to the thousands of men and women who built, repaired, and served on Navy ships throughout American history.

For additional information on Boston National Historical Park, Pearl Harbor Day activities, or other programs please call (617) 242-5601 or visit www.nps.gov/bost.

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About the Freedom Trail Foundation

The Freedom Trail® Foundation is dedicated to marketing, promoting and helping to preserve the Freedom Trail through varied tourist services and activities, educational programs, and marketing and public relations efforts. Marked by a red brick or painted line, Boston's 2.5 mile Freedom Trail connects 16 of the country's most significant historical landmarks weaving its way through Boston's proud past in the midst of this vital, modern city. The Freedom Trail Foundation Preservation Fund supports preservation, rehabilitation and capital projects for official Freedom Trail sites which help avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects of the elements and manmade wear and tear of Boston's and America's precious 18th century sites. For Freedom Trail Foundation information, please call 617.357.8300 or visit www.thefreedomtrail.org