



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling
National Historical Park

33 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

508-996-4095 phone
508-984-1250 fax
www.nps.gov/hebe

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release
Emily G. Prigot - 508-996-4095 x 6105

National Park to host “Quaker Heritage Day”

Sunday, September 2, 2012

New Bedford, MA— Quakers. For some, this religious group is associated with the past. And while it's true that Quakers were instrumental in the founding of “Old Dartmouth” (the greater New Bedford area), Quakers are still very much alive, present, and steeped in strong religious conviction on the South Coast. Explore the Quaker way with Quaker Heritage Day on Sunday, September 2, from 10:00 am- 4:00 pm with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The National Park is proud to collaborate with the Seamen's Bethel and the New Bedford Friends Meeting House on this event. The day will be filled with activities for children and adults, including crafts, games, lectures, a picnic lunch, dress-up activities, and dance. The event is free and will take place at several locations in downtown New Bedford, including the park visitor center, located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford, the Seamen's Bethel at 15 Johnny Cake Hill, and the Friends Meeting House at 83 Spring Street.

Activities are as scheduled:

10:00 AM: All welcome to attend regular Sunday Meeting for worship at the Friends' Meeting House

Crafts and games for children (until 12:00), indoors and outdoors at the National Park Visitor Center.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park film, "The City That Lit the World", followed by Quaker 350th anniversary video in National Park theater

- "Down to the Sea in Ships" will be playing on continuous loop at the Seamen's Bethel all day
- 11:00 AM: Author George Salvador discussing his 1969 book "Paul Cuffe, The Black Yankee, 1759-1817" that revived interest in Paul Cuffe's historic contributions. Introduced by Robert Kelley, descendent of African-American Wampanoag Quaker whaling captain, Paul Cuffe
- 12:00: Picnic lunch (bring your own lunch) on lawn behind Seamen's Bethel
- 1:30 PM: Welcome to Friends Meeting House: Quakers in New Bedford, Then and Now by Marcia Cornell-Glynn and Friends (capital 'F' for Friends means Quakers), tour of building and exhibits, and coffee and refreshments, provided by Friends.
- 3:30 PM: Elm Dance in Meeting House yard

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- Historic Quaker Dress welcome

The public is warmly invited to come and find out about Quaker life, and make some new Friends!

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling industry. The park, which encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District, is the only National Park Service area addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States. The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free orientation movie every hour on the hour from 10 AM-4 PM. The visitor center is wheelchair-accessible, and is free of charge. For more information, call the visitor center at 508-996-4095, go to www.nps.gov, or visit the park's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NBWNHP>.

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