USS CONSTELLATION MUSEUM RECEIVES LIBERIAN DELEGATION

The staff of the USS Constellation Museum were pleased to receive a visit from several members of the Liberian government including the Liberian Ambassador, Mr. Charles Minor, two Liberian Senators and the Superintendents of two Liberian counties. The delegation was in the United States to participate in the signing of a memorandum between the State of Maryland and Liberia for sister-state relations and the development of economic ties between the two governments. The visit was arranged by Mr. William Connery, who is with the staff of the Washington Times. When USS Constellation was the flagship of the African Squadron Liberia was a US protectorate and the capital Monrovia was return point for Africans rescued from slave ships.

The group enjoyed an extended tour of USS Constellation and asked many questions about the ship’s role in fighting the slave trade. The Museum’s staff intends to maintain and develop this historic tie by sending a traveling exhibit on the African Squadron and USS Constellation’s to Liberia.

ANNUAL CREW AND DESCENDANT REUNION

Each year, descendants of crewmembers gather to share their family histories and walk the same decks as their ancestors. On August 25th, the Museum was proud to host 70 descendants of 17 crewmembers from every era of the ship’s history.
On September 14th, USS Constellation slipped her lines and made her way down the Patapsco River for her annual salute to Ft. McHenry. Former crewmember LCDR Bruce Kubert, USNR (Ret) and his family were special guests. The Museum would like to thank the Vane Brothers Companies, BACVA, Pintail Yachts, Nautical Destinations, Loane Brothers, Pump & Power Equipment Company and Absolutely Perfect Catering for making this event possible.

SHIPYARD SCUTTLEBUTT

While this summer’s drought was really bad news for Maryland’s farmers, the lack of rain has allowed the Restoration crew to make great strides on the deck repair project. What at first appeared to be a small pocket of rot around the foremast became a major repair. The rot had spread through the decking to the mast partners, the deck beams, and even into the galley house framing. Once all of the affected timbers had been removed, we had a gaping hole in the spar deck all around the foremast. With the 4th of July fast approaching, Shipwright, Tim Fowler, led the crew through long days and weekends to get the job done. Thanks to the big push, the repair was completed in time for the fireworks.

I would like to introduce our new shipwright, Elijah Racicot. Elijah is a talented woodworker and avid bicyclist who joined us in early August to replace Dave Mower. Dave took a job closer to home in Alexandria, VA. Welcome aboard Elijah.

In the process of recaulking the deck we discovered that a lot of loose bungs (wooden plugs covering fastenings) were contributing to our leak problems and needed to be replaced. By the time the repair is finished the crew, with help from volunteers Dennis Grimes, Randy Hall, and Fran Marinaro, will have replaced around 4,000 bungs. That’s nearly all of them, but we will finally have a leak free deck!

In addition to the work on the deck, routine maintenance goes on as usual. Joe Lengieza has been spending some time aloft tending to some projects up in the rig. He is rebuilding blocks, replacing topmast shroud lanyards and releading some running rigging to assure that everything stays up there where it belongs. Joanie Murphy has been working on paint and varnish, getting a coat of paint on the hammock rails and ten (yes, ten!) coats of varnish on all of the brightwork. Wear your sunglasses, because it gleams!

Over at the shop in Fell’s Point, Bruce MacKenzie and Mark Pettingill, with help from Fresh Start students Travon Griffin and Cherrod MacKall have made a lot of progress on the Quarter Boat. The hull lamination is complete, it has been faired and painted, taken off the molds, and turned right side up in order to complete the interior. Bruce has made and fit all of the floor timbers, put a couple of coats of oil on the hull interior, and he is currently making and fitting the washboard - the top strake of planking into which the bronze oarlocks will be cut. This is one of two boats being built for the ship. We anticipate a May, 2008 launch.

USS Constellation

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Have Your Next Party, Corporate Function, Or Special Event On Board USS Constellation
For Information Contact Laura Givens
(410) 539-1797 ext. 432
lgivens@constellation.org
EDUCATION NEWS

Front and center was 2007 SuperKids Camp. Approximately 400 Baltimore City 2nd and 3rd graders stepped aboard Constellation for reading and language development and a lot of fun. Organized and facilitated by the City’s Parks & People Department, SuperKids Camp provides elementary grade students with a variety of enrichment programs designed to reinforce the reading skills they learned through the year and to help ensure the retention of those skills over the summer between semesters. From the last week in June through the first week in August, Constellation provided SuperKids campers with daily shipboard programs. These programs reinforced and expanded reading, listening, and vocabulary skills while they offered campers a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about life at sea aboard a 19th century warship. By all accounts, SuperKids campers learned a lot, had a great time, and acquired some of the best memories of their summer aboard Constellation.

SuperKids prepare to fire the Parrott Rifle

Constellation’s literacy development programs are being offered throughout the year. Half or full-day programs that reinforce reading, listening, and vocabulary development are now available for elementary grades, and the new, African Squadron Reader, aligned with the Maryland State Voluntary Curriculum, is available for 6th through 12th grades.

Overnights are rare during the July and August heat. Nevertheless, this year was an exception, for out of the west came a determined and stalwart group of 21 Boy Scouts from Troop 279, Middletown, Indiana. The Scout motto, “be prepared,” was not lost on these overnighters, and Constellation’s crew found them quite prepared to overlook the heat and to get on with the fun. They had a ball! In August 28 newly-selected Navy chiefs from the Annapolis area motored up the bay in their yard patrol craft for a night aboard Constellation as part of their “Chief’s Initiation.” We welcomed the opportunity to host the chiefs, were honored by their presence, and were gratified they could each share and experience time aboard this ship.

To schedule an overnight adventure or day program for your class or group call 410.539.1797 ex. 466 and visit our website for additional information.

NEW AND RETURNING MUSEUM MEMBERS
WELCOME ABOARD!!

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Mr. Richard Campbell
Mr. David Cannon
Mr. Jim Crawford
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Mr. Brennan Cruise
Mr. Eric Crompton
Ms. Candice Cuddington
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The following companies, foundations, and individuals have made cash and in-kind contributions to the USS Constellation Museum June through August of 2007

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Mr. Larry Bopp
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Mr. Robert Cheel
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Corporate, Family, and Individual memberships are a great way to support your Museum’s education and preservation activities and keep YOUR ship afloat.

For information on how you can become a member and part of the USS Constellation Museum Crew, call Dayna at 410-539-1797, ext. 422; daldrige@constellation.org.

Memberships make terrific gifts too!
By the time Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the days of the wooden men-of-war were long gone. USS Constellation (IX-20) permanently moored at Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island since 1893 had recently been designated relief flagship of the Atlantic Fleet. America's entry into World War II necessitated tremendous shifts in both naval personnel and organization and Constellation was called to serve her country once more. VADM Royal E. Ingersoll the new Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANT) transferred his flag from the heavy cruiser USS Augusta on January 19, 1942, making the last all-sail vessel designed and built by the U.S. Navy the new flagship of the Atlantic Fleet.

For the first 6 months in 1942, the Admiral and his staff directed operations from Constellation while awaiting a transfer to the gunboat USS Vixen. Vixen would give Ingersoll more mobility to properly direct the vessels under his command. USS Constellation Museum Curator John Pentangelo recently completed two interviews with members of Ingersoll's staff: Chief Yeoman Eli William Sockey of Otego, NY was interviewed in October, 2006 and the curator spoke with LCDR Bruce Lee Kubert of New York, NY this September. It is unclear whether the two ever interacted with each other but their service in 1942 left them with personal memories of Constellation and Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll.

Bruce Kubert was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1918. He attended a preparatory school before majoring in English literature at Yale University. Not long after his graduation in 1940, Bruce's father read an article in the New York Times about the Navy's new officer training program for college graduates. Bruce recalled, "The war in Europe was raging and my father intuitively realized that we might be dragged into the war...here was a chance for me to at least be an officer." The V-7 program brought candidates in as apprentice seamen and sent them to a reserve midshipman school for accelerated training. Bruce was appointed a midshipman at his school on the USS Prairie State. He graduated the program in February of 1941 and received his commission as ensign.

His first assignment was as a communications watch officer on the staff of Admiral Ernest J. King, CINCLANT. Kubert was in Augusta's coding office on December 7, 1941, when another ensign Robert Ryf gave him startling news. "I was working on papers in there...he came in from the coding office and said that a communication has just come through that Pearl Harbor had been bombed and of course that changed everybody's attitude. Everything about our lives had changed." Asked about the mood aboard, Kubert admitted he remembers little about the personal emotion of those around him; "after all we were all doing our duty, we did what we had to do, we obeyed orders and that's it.

He continued his duties as a coding officer for Admiral Ingersoll after King was promoted to Chief of Naval Operations and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet. He soon found himself on board what was then believed to be the Frigate Constellation. Just as they had done almost one hundred years earlier, these junior officers lived and ate in the wardroom on the berth deck:

We slept in little cubicles just off the drawing room so there was never any privacy. The room had a bunk, a wash basin, closet space, a door which I don't think could be locked, and a little curtain-making us a little more private from the wardroom. People were coming in and out of the wardroom all night getting their coffee. Obviously, I was able to sleep. I remember the yeoman coming in [during the night] flashing, putting a searchlight in my eyes to wake me up and then I'd crawl over to the coding office and I'd crawl over to the appropriate office [to notify an officer]. If it was about gunnery I'd go over and speak to Commander Moses.... The reason I brought up Moses's name is because he would never stop smoking and he would light a cigarette as soon as he took my message board and fall asleep while he was reading the message with the cigarette dangling from his mouth...even in the shower he had a cigarette in his mouth.

Kubert became a close friend of Admiral Ingersoll and the two frequented the opera together while stationed in Philadelphia. Echoing most descriptions of Ingersoll, Kubert remembers the Admiral as a warm and considerate man. "I remember when he was promoted to Admiral from Vice Admiral. He gave me, and I suppose everyone else, a cigar." He chuckled, "It was the first time I ever tried to smoke a cigar and I was not very successful."

Ingersoll's attributes undoubtedly endeared him to the men under his command and they promoted an admiration for his leadership and attention to duty. One such example is found in the Admiral's reaction to the death of his son, Lt. Royal Rodney Ingersoll. The lieutenant was killed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet during
in the Navy, were low and I had to duck my head because I was six feet tall. The Admiral was a short man so he didn't have any problems walking there."

After serving on Constellation, Kubert was transferred to USS Vixen along with the rest of Ingersoll's staff. He was promoted to lieutenant and served aboard USS Brooklyn when the ship covered the Anzio landings in 1944. While Brooklyn was docked at New York Navy Yard, Kubert was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He retired a lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve while recovering from the illness. He still resides in New York City.

Bill went to a school for yeomen and storekeepers and soon found himself on the enlisted staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Royal Ingersoll. "I was just a young run-about because I was only a seaman and everything they needed me to run for, they'd send me out to do it." On USS Augusta, Sockey and crew received notice about the attack on Pearl Harbor. Bill described their reaction with one word: Anger. "We were all upset. We really wanted to get out there and get into battle." Upon America's entry into the war the cruiser Augusta was needed at sea because it was a fighting ship. Then Sockey moved to USS Constellation. "I remember that the ceilings, overheads, they call them
COLLECTIONS UPDATE

This past summer has seen exciting growth to the Museum’s artifact collection. As always, the descendants, members, and even former crewmembers have contacted the curator or dropped by the Museum with fascinating objects that help tell the story of USS Constellation and the United States Navy. Most of these generous gifts were significant additions to the collections relating to Constellation’s service during the Second World War.

Museum member and long-time supporter, Robert Cheel of Baltimore assisted the Museum with the purchase of white trousers and a white dress jumper from the late nineteenth century. The curator has been trying to grow the Museum’s collection of uniforms as this is an underdeveloped part of our collection. Though we are honored to have uniform pieces of former crew members the frock and trousers recently acquired have no known connection to the ship. They are representative of a sailor’s whites during the time Constellation moved from Annapolis to Newport. Mr. Cheel is currently working to obtain other uniforms and gear from the early twentieth century.

LCDR Bruce L. Kubert USNR (Ret) of New York City, the subject of this newsletter’s Curator’s Corner, loaned personal photographs and documents from the World War II scrapbook his mother compiled. These included two pictures of Kubert and signed photographs of Admiral Royal E. Ingersoll when he was preparing to leave USS Augusta for Constellation. The Museum previously acquired a colored photocopy of CINCLANT’s junior officers onboard Constellation. Kubert loaned his copy of this photograph complete with signatures of his fellow officers and allowed the Museum to make a professional copy for the collection.

In July, Mr. Richard Sees of Fayetteville, North Carolina visited the ship to donate some personal items that belonged to his father Gerald Hudson Sees. Sees was a gunner’s mate stationed on Constellation in 1944. The donation included Sees’s military dog tag, a rare Constellation ID button with his photo and service number, and several matchbooks commemorating the ship’s 1940 re-commissioning. The Museum has recently learned through another descendant, Mr. Chris Mathews of Grahamsville, NY, that the photo-buttons could be issued to a crewmember’s spouse as well. He owns the button his grandmother wore at Newport while visiting the Naval Station.

Finally, the Museum received a wonderful surprise when a package arrived from former crewmember Robert Lennart Johnson of Warwick, Rhode Island. Lenny Johnson was a coxswain 3/c and he was one of the ship’s complement when she was transferred from Newport to Boston in 1946. Mr. Johnson provided several personal photographs of he and his shipmates when the ship arrived at her new home. He also helped us identify crewmembers in several other photographs taken on board at this time. In addition to his coxswain badge, Mr. Johnson donated Constellation’s World War II commissioning pennant (possibly the same one used for the 1940 ceremony). According to Lenny, the pennant was removed by the late Chief Boatswain’s Mate Joseph Cintrano of Baltimore prior to getting underway for Boston. Cintrano gave the pennant to Johnson who kept it for over sixty years. The Museum is honored that Johnson has returned this precious artifact to USS Constellation.

We thank all of the Museum’s supporters for their generosity. If you would like to donate an artifact or photograph to the Museum collection please contact the curator, John Pentangelo at (410) 539-1797, ext. 446 or jpentangelo@constellation.org

LEAVING A LEGACY
BEQUESTS AND MEMORIAL FUNDS

Planned gifts are an important way of helping the USS Constellation Museum to meet its financial needs. These contributions provide donors with a easy and satisfying means to help us to preserve USS Constellation while providing you with the added benefit of a charitable income tax deduction. For more information, please contact Christopher Rowsom, Executive Director, at the USS Constellation Museum, (410)-539-1797.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
Join the Staff, Volunteers, and Members of the USS Constellation Museum for a day and evening of sailboat racing, great food, music, and fun at

THE USSCONSTELLATION CUP
SAILBOAT REGATTA

AND

THE RESTORATION CREW
BULL ROAST AND AWARDS PARTY

Bull Roast Tickets Prices:
$25 for Museum Members / $35 General Public
$10 for Youth Members up to Age 17
General Public Youth $15
For Tickets and Information Including Race Entry Forms call 410-539-1797, ext. 422 or visit our websites:
www.constellation.org
or
www.ussconstellationcup.org

LIVE MUSICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY TUMBLEHOME

Proceeds benefit the Museum's education programming, ongoing restoration and preservation projects.

2007 SHIP’S COMPANY DATES:
SEPTEMBER 29, OCTOBER 27
USS Constellation’s volunteer living history unit of sailors and marines comes aboard to populate the ship and to provide a unique glimpse into the life and times of the men who served aboard USS Constellation in the mid-19th century.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, NOON
“AND A FEW MARINES” – THE US MARINE CORPS IN THE CIVIL WAR
FEATURED SPEAKER – MR. JOHN BARNARD
The 45 Marines who served on board Constellation during the Civil War were a part of a Marine Corps tradition of services that began in 1775. This year the Corps celebrates its 232nd birthday, and Constellation is proud to host this presentation of Marine Corps Civil War history.

FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SECOND SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES
ON BOARD USS CONSTELLATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 2:00 PM
CIVIL WAR SUBMARINES
FEATURED SPEAKER: MR. MARK RAGAN
German U-boats certainly did not present the U.S. Navy with its first underwater challenge. During the American Civil War, fear of Confederate underwater vessels presented a fearsome prospect and undeterminable threat to Union ships of the Charleston, S.C. blockading squadron. Mark Ragan, Hunley Project Historian, focuses on the South’s determined efforts to wage underwater warfare.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
"Festivities, Diplomacy & National Day of Thanksgiving
CONSTELLATION ON FOREIGN STATION" I
In 1863, just a few months after the Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln invited all "fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving." Stationed in the Mediterranean, the crew of the Constellation celebrated this first general Thanksgiving Day in Spezia, Italy. Join Mary Eastman and Wendy Taparanskas, Ph.D., as they provide a unique, first-hand opportunity to view this little-known aspect of Constellation’s Civil War history.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9; NOON
"CONSTELLATION’S RESTORATION"
FEATURED SPEAKER: PAUL POWICHROSKI
Constellation’s Ship’s Manager leads a walking tour through the ship focusing on the architectural challenges and triumphs of shipbuilding and craftsmanship that were part of USS Constellation’s restoration.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, NOON TO 4 PM
DESSERT NAVIGATION AFLOAT
PRESENTED BY LCDR RICK GAY, USCG
Explore the impact desert travelers had on maritime navigation. Join LCDR Rick Gay, USCG, as he explains the contributions made by desert navigators to their oceanic cousins, including various instruments used to obtain the height of the sun or stars when determining a ship’s position. Among the timely and engaging subjects addressed are: the Star of Bethlehem – fact or fiction; and the Wise Men, who were they?
Yes, I would like to become a member of the USS Constellation Museum.
Please enroll me as a member so that I may help the cause and receive the Constellation Museum’s newsletter, THE DECK LOG, and enjoy the many other benefits of membership. Enclosed is my check for:

- $30 Petty Officer
- $50 Ship's Crew (family)
- $100 Sailing Master
- $250 Captain and Crew
- $500 Commodore
- $1000 Admiral
- $1000+ Corporate

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You may also become a museum member when you visit the ship or our website.

MEMBERSHIP HELPS TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT!

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