



Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center Bulletin

Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building
1325 Highway 77
Seabrook, New Jersey 08302

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Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Additional visiting hours by appointment



Vol. 3, No. 31 Spring 2017

REUNION REGISTRATION OPENS

SECC SECURES TWO GRANT AWARDS FROM NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SECC has been successful in its applications for county re-grant funds from both Cumberland and Salem Counties via the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State and the Cumberland and Salem County Boards of Chosen Freeholders through both the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission will be funding a Special Project Proposal with a \$5,300 contribution. The project includes a three-phase Strategic Planning Project contracting with R & R Creative, Oral History Workshop with Rutgers University Oral History Department, and public programming with food historian Judith Krall-Russo.

The Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission is funding a two-part Living History Program in Salem County addressing civil rights, contracting with American Historic Theatre Inc., with a \$1,000 contribution. ♦



SEABROOK REUNION 2017 -Your Life, Your Legacy

Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC) and the Seabrook Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) are hosting this three day reunion. Anyone who has a tie to Seabrook is encouraged to register. We would like as many past residents to return for the event as possible and encourage all of the ethnic groups who were at Seabrook to be present. Please join us as we commemorate our community of Seabrook!

Accommodations and transportation to Seabrook and between events is arranged by the attendee. The Ramada Inn, Vineland, NJ serves as headquarters of the Reunion. Information about accommodations there, and elsewhere, is detailed in this issue and on the SECC website. A paper registration form is enclosed.

The Reunion event plan includes free time on your own to explore, the Obon Festival (donations appreciated) and three events for which there is a fee.

The three events with a fee are the (required) Registration Mixer on Friday, Fellowship Lunch on Saturday and John Fuyume Citizenship Award Luncheon on Sunday. Attendees pay a registration fee (early bird or regular) and are encouraged to also select one or both of the other two events.

Registration is also available on-line at the SECC website at this link <http://seabrookeducation.org/seabrook-reunion/>

REUNION AGENDA

FRIDAY, 14 July 2017

4:00PM-7:00PM: Registration & Social Mixer

Venue: [Ramada Inn Vineland](#) (HQ)

COST: \$10. (Early bird before 6/13) **or \$25.**

SATURDAY, 15 July 2017

9:00AM - 1:00PM: Personal & travel time

1:00PM-4:00PM: Fellowship Lunch @ [Edgar Joyce Senior](#)

[Center](#) (Guests are free to visit SECC Museum upon completion of lunch activities or stay @ Senior Center.

COST: \$25. (Light lunch of local food)

1:00PM-4:00PM: [SECC Museum](#) open

4:00-9:00PM: Seabrook Obon Festival

[Seabrook Buddhist Temple](#), 9 Northville Road

SUNDAY, 16 July 2017

9:00AM-11:30AM: Personal Time

12:30PM: John Fuyume Citizenship Award Luncheon

[Ramada Inn Regency Ballroom](#)

(Image right)

COST: \$40.

Choices:

A: Chicken Marsala

B: Flounder Florentine

C: Beef

D. Vegetarian

3:00PM: Reunion Ends

Departure



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to register on-line via Eventbrite? No. A paper registration form will be mailed in the newsletter and you can return (mail) the form and your check to SECC. If you register on-line via Eventbrite you should know that PayPal is our payment processor and that you will incur fees.

Do I have to pay a registration fee if I am only attending one or two event options? Yes, a registration fee is required. The reduced Early Bird Registration fee is only available until June 13, 2017.

What are my transportation/parking options for getting to and from the event?

Transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the attendees.

How can I contact the organizer with any questions?

◆ *Registration:* Beverly Bradway, SECC Executive Director, seabrookhistory@gmail.com (856) 451-8393

◆ *Hotel reservations:* Kim Asada, kimasada@gmail.com (248) 561-4735

◆ *Event planning:* Michael Asada, SECC Trustee, JACL President, and Chairperson of the event: michael.k.asada@gmail.com (248) 979-4828

What's the refund policy? Mail a written request to SECC, 1325 Highway 77, Seabrook, NJ 08302 *after* the event. SECC will mail a refund check by July 31, 2017.

Do I have to bring a printed ticket from Eventbrite, if I have registered on-line to the event? Printed tickets via Eventbrite are not required. It is recommended, but not required, that you bring your registration receipt/proof of payment.

Can I update my on-line or paper registration information? Yes until July 6, 2017. If you have turned in a paper registration you will need to call SECC.

Is my registration transferrable? No

Is there a way to know who else is coming? If you are using social media or Eventbrite to register on-line it will be possible for others to know that you have registered. If you mail your registration to SECC we will be adding your information to the attendance list.

Who has been invited? This is a public event which means that you can invite other Seabrookers to attend. Save the date information was distributed via the SECC Winter newsletter to SECC contributors and is posted on the SECC website. An email was sent by JACL to JACL membership with preliminary information. Please help spread the word! SECC will be happy to send a paper registration form, if requested, to anyone who does not receive the SECC newsletter or does not use a computer.

Why am I registering as an individual rather than a couple? The Eventbrite system is based on "tickets" for each person (which you do not need to bring) and is creating our master list of those who register. As SECC is a repository we are also collecting information that will help us to better understand the Seabrook community, such as how you came to Seabrook, etc. In some cases couples will not be attending all of the same events. For example if the wife is unable to attend the Saturday Fellowship Lunch because she is helping with Obon preparations (as many JACL BOG members are), her husband can still register for the Lunch.

The Temple Next Door

By Marilem Soodla Ferentinos

Continued from Winter 2016-2017 issue...

Around Columbus Day in October 1954, the entire east coast of the United States was hit with a level 4 hurricane. Again this was a new experience for us. Having survived bombings by the Soviets and by the Nazis, my parents did not know what to expect and were not ready for Hurricane Hazel. My memory of the night of the storm was the darkness, the roar of the wind, and my mother's fear. The winds were supposed to have been 100 miles per hour with torrential rain. We lost electricity and all contact with the outside world. Even though I was told to stay away from the windows, I could see the downed electric wires flashing blue and burning in the street. By candle light, Mother packed a suitcase for us in case we had to evacuate, but there was actually nowhere to go.

I never heard it or saw it, but the neighboring temple, the shack, which was just 12 feet from my bedroom wall, flew away that night. The fierce wind lifted it totally from its slab foundation and blew it away, breaking it into hundreds of pieces. We, however, were safe. By morning all was calm, blue skies and litter everywhere. Luckily nobody had been in the temple that night, but the rumor next day was that someone had ventured to the temple during the storm and had saved a sacred object, probably a statue of Buddha.

The Buddhist temple located temporarily to the children's day care center building which was empty at that time and was located in the heart of the Japanese village. Several years later the congregation built a large imposing white concrete structure with pillars and steps, reminiscent of a stylized ancient Greek temple. It was miles from the former site, but was surrounded by grassy fields.

As children we did not know or care why the Japanese were in Seabrook and probably my Japanese classmates were not interested in why Europeans suddenly appeared in their school.

The Japanese in Seabrook and members of the Buddhist Temple were not new immigrants, but were refugees like us, displaced from their homes and forced to find a new life after World War II. However, they were American citizens — first, second and third generation Americans from California and Hawaii — who, because of their heritage, had been — lawfully and forcefully — detained, stripped of their homes and businesses, and put into American concentration camps during the war— by their fellow Americans. Many of them did not even speak Japanese. Coming to Seabrook, despite the hardships, was a chance for a new life and a second chance at the American dream. *(Conclusion)*



VISITORS



Top: Classmates from the 1963 graduating class of Bridgeton High School, Valdis Basens (Latvian) and Marilem Soodla Ferentinos (Estonian and author of the article on this page) visited SECC.

Middle: *Below:* Reinvald family shared Estonian memories of Seabrook (corrected from Winter 2017)

Bottom: Visitors from Ocean County came to SECC to meet with volunteer Frank Ono.

**Advertising from the 1957 *Seabrooker*
Visit SECC and read the company publications!**



SECC Upcoming Events * Grant funded

APRIL 29 COMMUNITY DAY - 1PM HISTORY PROGRAM in courtroom,
New Jersey's Agricultural Inventions, Innovations & Discoveries
By Judith Krall-Russo *

MAY 13 SPIRIT OF THE JERSEYS STATE HISTORY FAIRE 11AM-5PM
Monmouth Battlefield, State Park, Manalapan

JUNE 14 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING /Election of Trustees

JUNE 22 ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP (Registration Required) 9:30AM
Rutgers University Oral History Department *

JULY 14-16 SEABROOK REUNION includes Obon Festival July 15.

JULY 15 OBON FESTIVAL, Seabrook Temple 4-9PM.
SECC open prior to Obon from 1-4PM

SEPTEMBER 13 ANNUAL JOINT BOARDS VOLUNTEER RECONGNITION DINNER - Maplewood III, Vineland



Volunteers Bonnie Bertram and Frank Ono

SECC seeks interns and volunteers with basic typing and computer skills. We are also able to train those seeking job skills. Interns who are interested in learning the Seabrook story perform as museum docents during visitations and as collection catalogers between visits. Volunteers are needed for daily operations and special or short-term projects in our facility and for outreach events.

We can match your skills with our needs!



Upper Deerfield Girl Scouts Troop #50526 learned how Seabrookers from twenty-five different countries came to the global village and worked side by side with other newcomers in an innovative agricultural enterprise called the “**Largest vegetable factory on Earth**” by Life Magazine in 1955.

Call our office (856) 451-8393 to book your group today!

SEABROOK EDUCATIONAL AND
CULTURAL CENTER, INC.
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President: Bruce T. Peterson
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Secretary: Ingrid Hawk
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Trustee: Larry Ericksen
Trustee: Donna Pearson
Trustee: Lauren Taniguchi
Trustee: Eevi Truumees
Trustee Emeritus: Barbara Morella, Ed.D.
Executive Director: Beverly C. Bradway



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State and the Cumberland and Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders through the Cumberland and Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDEES

**Complete both sides of this sheet and mail it along with a check payable to:
SECC, 1325 Highway 77, Seabrook, NJ 08302**

Registration is also available on-line at the SECC website. A direct link to the event page is <http://seabrookeducation.org/seabrook-reunion/> Processing fees for on-line registration apply. If you have difficulty completing registration by any method please call SECC at (856) 451-8393 .

Disclaimer: Event organizers may find it necessary to change some details of the event which would improve the experience of all attendees should registration exceed capacity and expectations. Check for Reunion News at Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center website seabrookeducation.org and follow us on the official SECC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/seabrookeducation/>

REGISTRATION FORM *Required

Last Name*	
First Name*	
Maiden Name	
Nickname/Prefix/Suffix	
Email Address*	
Home Phone	
Cell Phone	
Home Address*	
City, State, Zipcode*	
Gender*	
Birth Date (Optional)	
Age (Optional)	
REGISTRATION* (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10. Early bird OR <input type="checkbox"/> \$25. Regular (after 6/13)
Saturday Fellowship Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.
Sunday Fuyume Award Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40. (Select one) <input type="checkbox"/> A - Chicken Marsala <input type="checkbox"/> B - Fish Flounder Florentine <input type="checkbox"/> C - Beef <input type="checkbox"/> D - Vegetarian
Check #	Amount of check \$ (Sum of selections above)
Signature	
Date	

Registration Form continued

Q1* **Were you associated with the Seabrook area or Seabrook Farms operations?** Yes or No

Q2* **If so, what years were you associated with the Seabrook area?**

___ Prior to and including 1943

___ 1944 through 1950

___ After 1950

Q3* **Which of the following best describes your personal journey to the Seabrook area?**

___ I was a displaced person

___ I was incarcerated in an American Incarceration Camp

___ I was seeking employment as a temporary or migrant laborer

___ I was seeking or occupying a position in a nearby business, school, church or organization

___ My family was local

Q4* **Did you ever work for Seabrook Farms?** Yes or Never

Q5* **Please type or print below exactly how you would like your name to appear on your name badge.**
(Consider including your given name, nickname, maiden name and/or surname.)

RESERVE HOTEL: The newly renovated **Ramada Inn** Vineland has been selected as the Reunion HQ Hotel. Rooms at this rate are available on a first come, first served basis. Please reserve only what you know you'll need. If you cancel a reservation, your cancelled room does not return to our block; it goes to the hotel's general inventory (usually at a higher rate).

Hotel Headquarters: Ramada Inn Vineland 2216 W Landis Ave, Vineland, NJ 08360

(800) 615-3114 (856) 696-3800

Rate per night: \$119+tax

Please be advised, **online reservation is NOT available for the Seabrook Reunion** and must be coordinated by calling the hotel

Group Code: CGSBR1 Reference "SEABROOK REUNION"

Reservation deadline: June 14, 2017

Cancellations policy: Cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to the arrival date in order to avoid penalty of one night's room and tax.

Manager Special: Each room will be given a \$5. voucher for the New IHOP collocated with the hotel for each day of your stay.

Alternate Local Hotels:

Hampton Inn, 2134 W. Landis Ave, Vineland, NJ 08360 (856) 405-0600

Rate per night: \$139+tax

Reservation deadline: June 14, 2017

Cancellations policy: Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to the arrival date in order to avoid penalty of one night's room and tax.

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 301 Bluebird Lane, Millville, NJ 08332 (856) 776-2400

Rate per night: \$149+tax

Reservation deadline: June 14, 2017

Cancellations policy: Same as Hampton