



## Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center Bulletin

Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building  
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Seabrook, New Jersey 08302

Telephone: (856) 451-8393  
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Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Additional visiting hours by appointment



Vol. 3, No. 34 Spring/Summer 2018

## SECC: Envisioning a Successful Future

### Three Year Strategic Plan Completed

SECC seeks to establish itself on the national stage as a museum and scholarly resource for present-day students of 20th Century immigration, labor, food science, agricultural industrialization and South Jersey History. Funding from Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission supported our three-year strategic planning project which will focus on the following goals:

- ◆ Define a brand identity that emphasizes Seabrook as a microcosm of 20th Century history
- ◆ Evaluation/Interpretation of the collection
- ◆ Create more assessable archives/content online
- ◆ Organize infrastructure to current scale/goals
- ◆ Develop Education Program as core to SECC's mission and target audiences

### OBON FESTIVAL

**Saturday**  
**July 21, 2018**

Seabrook Buddhist Temple  
9 Northville Road, Seabrook, NJ 08302  
Phone (856) 451-3422, www.sbttnj.org



Please Bring a Blanket or Chair

This year funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State and the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholder Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission



### Research Continues on Seabrook Farms Founder, Charles Franklin (C.F.) Seabrook 1881-1964

By John M. Seabrook, Jr.

In recent months I have made a series of exciting discoveries about the work C.F. Seabrook's engineering and construction companies did between the two Seabrook Farms periods, mainly in the later 1920's. Some of this work was done in Philadelphia for the 1926 Sesquicentennial, and other work was done internationally in the late 1920's and early 1930's, including major contracts C.F. Seabrook signed with the Bolshevik leaders of the Soviet Union, as part of Stalin's Five Year Plan. Several of these contracts are preserved in Russia's state economic archives, known as RGAE.

Working with Russian researcher Sonia Melnikova-Raich, I have been able to obtain copies of two of the contracts and will receive a third, previously classified contract soon. In addition, with Sonia's help, I have found Russian articles from 1930 showing how poorly constructed C.F. Seabrook's Moscow roads were -- they hardly lasted one winter.

This sheds new light on why C.F. Seabrook wasn't paid for his work for the Soviets, and also why he turned so bitterly anti-Communist later in the thirties -- quite a change from five years earlier when he worked side by side with leading Communist builders and engineers, whose names we now know. We believe there was a lawsuit or an arbitration later in 1931, which would explain why C.F. went back to Europe and Russia and stayed for almost a year in 1931.

We hope the previously classified third document from the RGAE will point the way to those papers, which would prove invaluable. As an aside, Sonia Melnikova-Raich turns out to be the great niece of the Russian who C.F. Seabrook signed several major contracts with, Saul Bron. Bron was executed by Stalin in 1937, as were most of the Russian engineers Seabrook worked with. She grew up under Communist rule never knowing what happened to her great uncle. We will meet in San Francisco next month.



## INVISIBLE RESTRAINTS

Life and Labor at Seabrook Farms

Timeline "I Remember" Visual Essays About Bibliography

Professor Andy Urban of Rutgers University continues his study of Seabrook Farms. His students created an on-line exhibit *Invisible Restraints*. [https://njdigitalhighway.org/exhibits/seabrook\\_farms/about](https://njdigitalhighway.org/exhibits/seabrook_farms/about)

Urban invited John Seabrook to deliver the plenary address at Rutgers for the States of Incarceration Conference. At left is former Seabrook Reiko Fukuyama with Seabrook. Urban is pictured between Seabrook and Rutgers Women's Studies Librarian Kayo Denda who was instrumental in sharing the SECC core photograph collection on the New Jersey Digital Highway.

## SECC Happenings....

To follow more of our day to day activity visit Facebook or our calendar on the SECC website [seabrookeducation.org](http://seabrookeducation.org)

Much appreciation to our 2018 website sponsors:  
Seabrook Brothers & Sons  
Woodruff Energy and The Woodruff Family



JUNE 11  
Assessment of conservation needs by Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) - Grant-funded

JULY 11  
Reorganization/Quarterly Meeting

JULY 12  
Artifact Assessment Program (AAM) - Grant-funded

JULY 21  
Obon Festival, Seabrook Buddhist Temple @ 4PM  
SECC Special Program @ 1PM prior to Festival, "Living & Teaching in Modern Japan" with Sam Boss. Open until the Festival.



JULY 26  
Rutgers University Teachers Institute @ SECC

AUGUST Closing

SEPTEMBER 12  
Annual Joint Boards Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

### EXHIBIT: through August 26

SECC images were shared and are displayed as part of an exhibit at Bayshore Center in Bivalve, Port Norris, NJ entitled *Local Ancestors: Family Portraits* through August 26. The transitions of one Seabrook Farms family who remain active in the community, the Taniguchi Family, are documented in four images. Also included is an image of a cannery worker and children during the 1934 strike when workers doors were wired shut. Note-worthy, for this exhibit, is the worker's family portrait on the wall. Also on display is the 1953 image of the Seabrook Gold Star Mothers. All of these images are on-line at the New Jersey Digital Highway.



Be sure to get your tee-shirt (\$15.) before the Obon Festival and your summer vacations! Just call, email or go online to our website: [seabrookhistory.org](http://seabrookhistory.org)

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President: Bruce T. Peterson  
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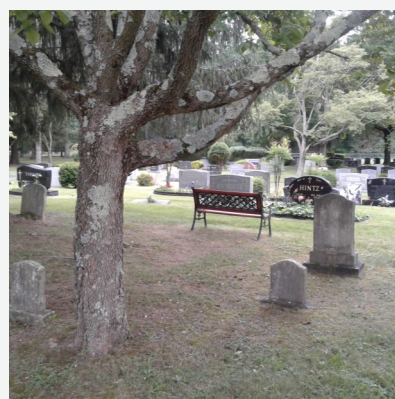


Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State and the Cumberland and Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders through the Cumberland and Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

## VISITORS & TOURING



Left: Former South Jersey residents, now living in Virginia are just one group in recent time to visit the Center and converse with volunteer Frank Ono about his experience at Manzanar Incarceration Camp. Center: Local farmer, Steve DuBois discusses the special design of a hand spinach cutter converted from a corn fork used in the Pittsgrove Division of Seabrook Farms. Right: Washington Bureau Chief, Wataru Sawamura of The Asahi Shimbun interviewed volunteer Roy Kaneshiki (center) and Ono (right).



Left: Estonian Lutheran Church Cemetery on Northville Road. Center: Seabrook Timmy Ellison, originally from Newport, TN guided SECC Executive Director Beverly Carr and volunteer Bonnie Bertram to many locations in the Seabrook Farms area including the Lutheran Church. Right: The now vacant site of Chiari's Store with a view of the structure formerly used as Chiari's Restaurant.

## Visit our Museum!

Visit our booth at the Obon Festival!



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Contributors,  
It is a pleasure to invite you to the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, Inc.'s (SECC) twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of Contributors.

SECC is supported by volunteers who provide invaluable services to make the museum a success, such as our Advisory Board, auditor, tax advisor, legal counsel, artifact donors, docents, consultants and officers. Your generous support by tax deductible contributions have made it possible for SECC to be recognized nationally for its mission to preserve and make known the unique history of Seabrook.

Sincerely yours,

**Your philanthropy helps to insure our future!**  
**Call our office for options (856) 451-8393**



Folsom School (Hammonton NJ) Fifth Grade students 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!**

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Members of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, Inc. a 501(c)3 public supported organization will be held at the Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building, Seabrook, New Jersey, on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

\*To elect the officers for the ensuing year as nominated:

President:	John M. Seabrook, Jr.
Treasurer:	Stefanie Pierce
Secretary:	Ingrid Hawk
Trustees:	Michael Asada
	Larry Erickson
	Rev. Dale Johnston
	Donna Pearson
	Bruce T. Peterson
	Eevi Truumees

\*To act upon such matters as may properly come before the meeting. Members of record at the close of business on May 9, 2018, and who are present will be entitled to vote with respect to this solicitation.