



Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center Bulletin

Upper Deerfield Township Municipal Building
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Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Additional visiting hours by appointment



Autumn 2025

Appreciation Luncheon

The Annual Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon took place on Sunday November 2, 2025 at the Maplewood III Restaurant in Vineland, NJ. Sharon Yoshida organized the luncheon with her team of Mary Linda Lacotte and Penny Watson. SECC Board President Masaru Nakawatase presided over the luncheon and gave a talk about the SECC mission to accurately present the complex history of Seabrook Farms. Executive Director Larry Erickson described the numerous SECC activities this last year and planned for next year.

Advisory Board Member Darlene Mukoda gave the blessing. Upper Deerfield Township Deputy Mayor Jim Crilley presented Proclamations of Appreciation from the Township to the SECC and to Helga Merits, producer to the film “The Paradox of Seabrook Farms.” Sharon Yoshida gave Helga Merits a paperweight made at WheatonArts. Mas gave bouquets of roses to Eevi Truumees and Kennon Nakamura, while Sharon gave roses to the SECC weekly volunteers.



Joint SECC Board and Seabrook JACL at the Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon

Luncheon Program and Acknowledgements



Joint SECC/ Seabrook JACL & Volunteers Appreciation Banquet



SEABROOK EDUCATIONAL
AND CULTURAL CENTER

Celebrating 31 Years!

1994-2025

Esposito's Maplewood III
Vineland NJ

November 2, 2025

OUR PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction of Guests
Masaru Nakawatase SECC President

Greetings Deputy Mayor James P. Crilley
Upper Deerfield Township

Lunch Blessing Darlene Mukoda

Address
SECC Museum 31st Anniversary
Masaru Nakawatase SECC President

Introductions & Noteworthy Events
Larry Erickson SECC Executive Director
Sharon Yoshida JACL Board Member

Recognitions by
Matthew Pisarski Director of Planning
Cumberland County

James Crilley Deputy Mayor
Upper Deerfield Township

Closing Remarks Masaru Nakawatase

Group Photos : SECC & JACL Boards ; SECC Volunteers

Immigrant and Migrant Labor in South Jersey

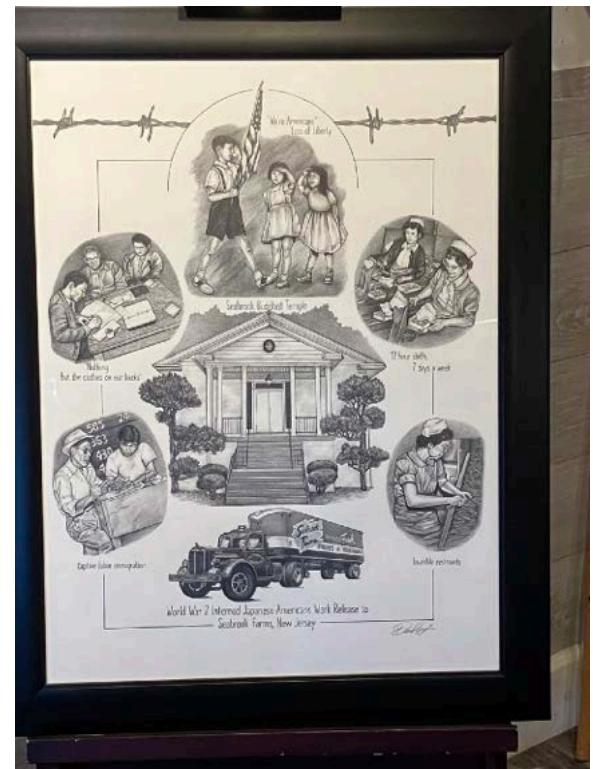
The Mellon Foundation Initiative

With a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation, the SECC is the lead organizer for events throughout South Jersey on Migrant and Immigrant Labor. We held one public event focusing on African American labor and another on Japanese American labor at Seabrook Farms. This Mellon Foundation Monuments Project is dedicated to creating public art and monument installations that honor the contributions of immigrant and migrant laborers across New Jersey. Through participatory dialogues and events that engage historical and firsthand narratives of migrant labor, the project commemorates the histories of diverse communities that have built and sustained New Jersey. The project website is at <https://njmml.com/zones/south-new-jersey/>

Original Artwork was commissioned from the dialogue at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple based on Japanese American Labor at Seabrook Farms.



Painting by Kevin Quigley



Artwork by Diane Rodgers

Upcoming Dialogues on Migrant Labor in South Jersey

FREE ADMISSION. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Come participate in upcoming dialogues that will contribute to the creation of Memorials/Monuments honoring Migrant Labor.

WHERE AND WHEN

WheatonArts

1000 Village Drive
Millville, NJ

Saturday, January 17, 2026

1:45 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE AND WHEN

Noyes Arts Garage

2200 Fairmont Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ

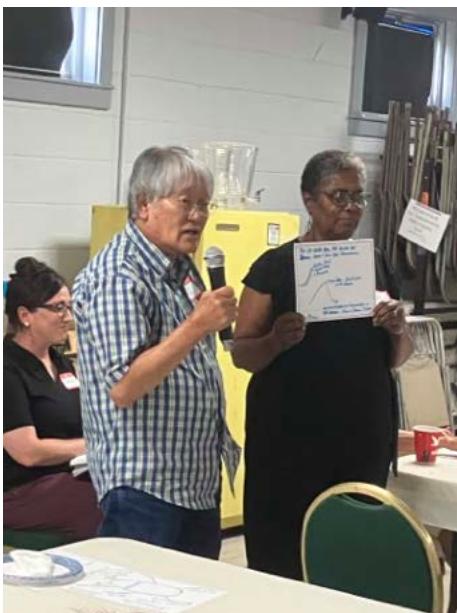
Thursday, March 12, 2026

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

African American Labor Dialogue at Gallery 50 in Bridgeton



Seabrook Farms Labor Dialogue at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple



Migrant Labor Dialogue at the Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris



**FLAGSHIP:
MONUMENT
ON THE MOVE**

Join us for a community gathering that begins the journey of creating a new mobile monument that tells the stories of migration and labor in South Jersey.

This event is your chance to meet the monument artist, Immanuel Oni while helping shape the narratives that will travel with this work. We'll explore community values and their connection with place, examples of moving monuments, and other art-making activities that express identity and heritage. Lunch to be provided.

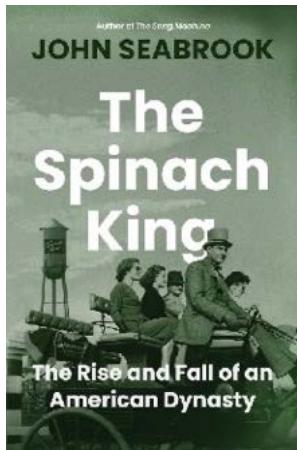
**Saturday, November 1, 2025
1:00pm-4:00pm
Bayshore Center, Bivalve
2800 High St, Port Norris, NJ 08349**

TO MIGRATION
MONUMENTS
TO LABOR

RSVP HERE

Together, we'll imagine how a monument in motion can carry our stories across towns, generations, and futures to come.

NJMM.COM



The Spinach King: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty

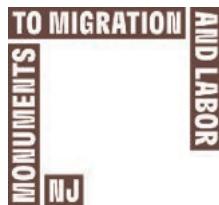
The tell-all book by John Seabrook was published this year. As a fundraiser, SECC is selling them at the museum for the discounted rate of \$25 per hardback book. We can mail a copy anywhere in the US for an additional \$7 for shipping and handling. To place your order, contact the SECC by email seabrookhistory@gmail.com or pick up book(s) at the museum.

SECC Officers

President: Masaru Nakawatase
Treasurer: Stefanie Pierce
Secretary: Mary Linda Lacotte
Executive Director: Larry Ericksen

SECC Trustees

Eevi Truumees Donna Pearson
Gloria Kates Penny Watson
Peeter Vilms Helle Gawrylewski
Ken Nakamura



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