



# *Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center Bulletin*

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Facebook: [facebook.com/seabrookeducationsecc](https://facebook.com/seabrookeducationsecc)

Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Additional visiting hours by appointment



Autumn 2025

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## **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 Ericksen 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**

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## *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 Ericksen 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

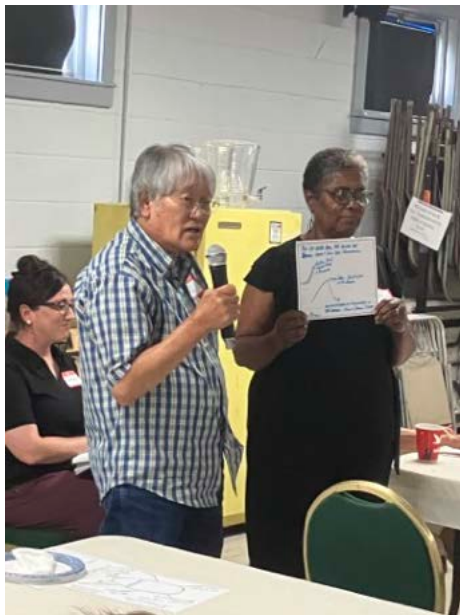


## *African American Labor Dialogue at Gallery 50 in Bridgeton*





## *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.

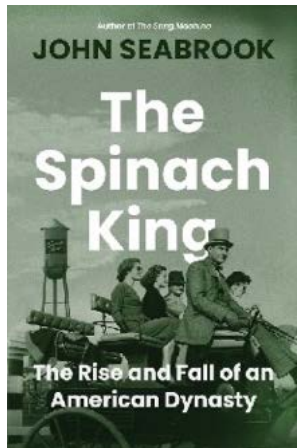
**TO MIGRATION**  
**STORIES**  
**LABOR**  
**ON**

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

**RSVP HERE**

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

[NJMML.COM](http://NJMML.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](mailto: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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