

Lunch and Learn series draws crowd of active learners

By **BETTY WUND**
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — For the fourth year, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities is holding a Lunch and Learn series at noon Wednesdays at the Emlen Physick Estate Carriage House.

Robert Heinly, director of museum education, has been involved from the start.

"It was the brainchild of Mary Stewart when she was chief outreach officer," he said. "She thought there should be something in the winter months that would be intellectually stimulating and also a way to socialize. I am involved in the content of each series and getting MAC staff members and volunteers to lead the programs."

The average attendance at a program is 40, according to Heinly. There are about 25 regular attendees while others come to learn about a subject that interests them, he said.

Heinly presented the third program in the series this winter Feb. 1. He spoke on the evolution of the American political parties. More than 50 people were present to learn what the past has taught us about our

two-party system. Heinly, a retired teacher, school administrator and college professor, writes the Victorian Views column for the Cape May Star and Wave. He spoke about the influence our first president, George Washington, had on the process of transfer of government power and Washington's dislike of factions, as he called political parties. Washington could have remained in office indefinitely, Heinly said, but he chose not to, which set a precedent of serving only two terms.

He also turned over the office of president to his successor peacefully, although John Adams had different views of governmental powers. Those factions Washington warned about became the first political parties, the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans. Without them, the process of succession of a president would not be possible even though Washington warned that factions would reveal loyalties that a demagogic despot could take advantage of because of their passion, Heinly said.

The issues that divided the first parties were adoption of a constitution, adding a bill of rights to the constitution to protect the

states, and the fact that the Federalists were pro-business and the Democratic-Republicans were pro-agriculture, according to Heinly. Andrew Jackson, the seventh president, set the precedent of replacing the old administration appointees and staff when taking office. This is what we refer to as the spoils of victory, Heinly said.

He gave the detailed history of the political parties that have existed since Washington's time, how they changed and combined and how they are known today.

Our two major parties, Republican and Democratic, emerged between 1854 and 1890. Previously there were various combinations of parties and ideologies. He said there were usually two major parties and when a third arose, usually to press a cause, one of the major parties absorbed it.

Details on the parties can be found in Heinly's Star and Wave column Victorian Views from Feb. 1. It is the first of a two-part series about political parties. His column in the Feb. 8 edition is about the evolution of political parties from 1932 with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Traditionally, Heinly

said, one party has favored a strong central government and the other strong state governmental powers. The party favoring a strong central government is usually for basing the economy on the gold standard, making money harder to borrow and for high tariffs. This philosophy favors big business. The party for stronger states' rights will be for easy money and support the government being run on the silver standard and want lower tariffs, thus pleasing agricultural interests.

Parties have become experts at survival tactics, according to Heinly. The transfer of power from a more liberal government to a more conservative one, or the reverse, is of concern when a party has been in control of the government for two terms or more, he added.

Discussion at the end of his presentation showed that the audience was involved in active learning and had thoughtful questions for discussion. Bringing lunch was also a good opportunity for the audience members to connect with each other.

The series will continue for seven more weeks including with the Feb. 15

presentation of "Cape May Oddities," presented by Heinly.

Other scheduled programs are Feb. 22: "An Afternoon with Gershwin," presented by Rich Chiemiango; March 1: "The Victorian Woman: Life in a Cocoon," presented by Mary Stewart; March 8: "The Victorian Woman: Shedding the Cocoon," presented by Ginger Killino; March 15: "Victorian Medicine with Dr. Anna Hand," presented by Dr.

Wilma Korevaar; March 22: Victorian Literature; and March 29, "An Afternoon with Sinatra," presented by Chiemiango.

The series takes place at the Emlen Physick Estate Carriage House, 1048 Washington St. in Cape May. Admission is free for MAC members, \$5 for others. Lunch may be brought into the event. Coffee, tea and cookies are provided. Call (609) 884-5404 or visit capemaymac.org for more information.

No tax hike sought in Cape May Point

By **JACK FICHTER**
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — The proposed 2017 borough budget shows no increase in taxes for the fifth consecutive year. The local purpose tax rate will remain at 25.8 cents for each \$100 of assessed values, the same as 2016.

Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk, commissioner of revenue and finance, said in 2008, the state set a 4 percent levy cap of which Cape May Point was under by only \$140. The state lowered the levy cap to 2 percent.

"This year we are under the 2 percent levy cap by \$474,720, we're just off the charts on not spending as much as we could possibly spend," she said.

In 2008, the borough's payment on bond principle was \$234,800 with the interest on bonds and notes totaling \$76,000, vanHeeswyk said. In 2017, the total of those two numbers is only \$5,607, she said.

In 2008, the borough was paying \$225,000 for police protection while in 2017, the costs is \$288,000.

"I don't see that as a big jump for our police service," she said. "I went through some other figures and I was just amazed at how we're pulling this together with higher costs and yet we are keeping the tax rate down," vanHeeswyk said.

A public hearing for the budget, where it will be explained in detail, will be held March 9 at 6 p.m. in the fire hall meeting room.

Commissioner Robert Mullock thanked volunteer organizations that have done much work "gratis" for Cape May Point.

"That's been a big boost to keep tax rates down," he said.

The borough's water/sewer utility has a solid surplus



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Mayor Robert Moffatt, Irene Schreiner, Commissioner Bob Mullock and Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk.

having recovered a few years ago from a balance of only \$10,000, Mullock said.

Borough Commission rejected all bids for an emergency generator to power the municipal building and will advertise for new bids. Initially, the generator was to be placed in an area through which water and sewer lines for the state park passed. Mullock said. It would have required the pipes to be moved but the borough decided instead to relocate the generator a few feet, saving about \$10,000, he said.

The initial bids for the project included relocating the pipes but that has been removed from project, Mullock said. A resiliency study showed the municipal building would remain high and dry through most major storms until the year 2030, said vanHeeswyk.

Borough commission honored Irene Schreiner for many years of service in the emergency management office. She stepped down as Emergency Management

Coordinator and will be replaced by Bill Gibson. Schreiner said she served in the borough's emergency management office since Hurricane Gloria in 1985.

"I enjoyed working with all of you," she said. Recent nor'easters have taken their toll on the borough's beaches just after the Army Corps of Engineers completed sand replenishment, particularly in the areas of Pearl and St. Peter's Beach, Mullock said.

Borough Administrator Steve O'Connor said the Army Corps had just received a before and after survey of the sand renourishment. He said the corps would determine how much sand the borough lost from the storms.

Mullock said the beaches lost a substantial amount of sand from winds. "We lost the front in the nor'easter, then we have a hump that was basically all level all the way up to the entrance and now we have a swale behind that," he said.

Strong northwest winds on Feb. 9 blew sand into the water, Mullock said.

Mayor Robert Moffatt reported feral cats are on the increase in the borough. He said animal control and volunteers have been trapping feral cats and taking them to the county Animal Shelter.

Some cats have been abandoned in the borough, the mayor said.

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Lafayette bridge fix under way

CAPE MAY — The second phase of construction, including structural repairs and other improvements to the Lafayette Street Bridge over Cape Island Creek, locally referred to as the Schellenger Landing Bridge, was slated to begin the week of Feb. 13.

The first phase was performed in spring 2016 and involved repairing the northbound side of the bridge. The second phase involves reconstructing most of the concrete sidewalk on the southbound side of the bridge along with some structural steel repairs. The new sidewalks will be constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The work in this phase requires one lane on the bridge to be closed to traffic. A temporary traffic signal system will be used to alternate the traffic in the one remaining open lane on the bridge. Signage will also be installed to encourage motorists to use the West Cape May Bridge as an alternate route.

2017 SEASON

MAY 24 JUN 23	BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR BY JOHN GRAY WITH ERIC PETERSON
JUN 28 AUG 4	THE TALE OF THE ALLERGIST'S WIFE BY CHARLES BUSCH
AUG 9 SEP 22	THE GIN GAME BY D.L. COBURN
SEP 27 NOV 10	OUTSIDE MULLINGAR BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY
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JULY 24TH, 2017 - JIM DALE
JULY 31ST, 2017 - JILL EIKENBERRY & MICHAEL TUCKER
AUGUST 14TH, 2017 - RITA GARDNER

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