

Tidings

Official Newsletter of the Avalon History Center and Avalon Historical Society

Summer 2016 Issue

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PAINTING RESTORATION UPDATE!

The 1889 landscape painting of Avalon by Joseph Wells, recently donated by Dee Phillips, is undergoing restoration by Joseph Siderio in Williamstown, NJ. Joseph sent photos of his progress!

The newly-restored painting will be on view as soon as it is complete, likely by Memorial Day!

THANK YOU

to the following people who have supported the restoration this painting!

M.V. (Jenny) Convery • Neil & Suzie Gallagher
Avalon Hardware • Richard Curley
Stephen & Evelyn Malyszka • Roger & Gail Soens



Cleaning verso of oxidation, soot, dirt and irregularities of canvas.



Application of wet stretch tissue using Beva resin to protect surface while removing painting from stretcher bars.

BEFORE



Before

AFTER



Painting removed from stretcher bar, interleaved attached, facing removed, and upper right hand corner cleaned.

The Avalon History Center is very grateful to Rose Wells, not only for the time and memories she - together with son Larry Wells and long-time friend Betty Shoemaker - so generously shared for our Oral History project but, also for her continued donations. Her latest gift to the museum was over 20 folders of Avalon photos, postcards, newspaper articles, personal records & reminiscences. Rose also kindly shared family photo albums, which were digitized & returned intact. Rose's donations & memories offer us all a wonderfully vivid and personal insight into life in Avalon from the early 1900's onwards.

Rose Wells was born to parents Mary (Amelia) and Tony (Fransesco) Giampa, on June 6th 1926, on 6th St. Avalon, where she lived until



marrying Marvin Wells in the late 1940's & moving to 33rd St. Rose lived in that house for 65 years until moving

to North Cape May in 2015. We hope to be seeing Rose and sharing some more memories this summer.

FROM THE TECH'S DESK

Remember those old home movies you have in the attic? Are you wondering what's on them? Could they be of any interest to you, your family, to Avalon? Get them out, carefully check them over and consider having them restored and transferred onto DVD.

Avalon History center recently received a donation of several 16mm, 8mm and Super 8mm cine reels dating from as early as 1936. As most of the reels were in a fragile condition, it was decided not to try to view them ourselves but, sent them away to an expert to salvage whatever possible and transfer onto DVD. The result was fantastic - footage of 1940's Avalon beaches, the Baby Parade, swimming in the back bays, families enjoying summertime in Avalon, and of course those fabulous clothes.

A word of warning about old movies. Pre 1950's can often be highly flammable. Never run them through a projector, store in metal



cans away from any heat source and combustibles. Contact a film preservation resource but, never send through the mail. Post 1950's film was usually printed on safety acetate film but, does degrade much quicker, suffering from "vinegar syndrome". Do not store these in metal cans, avoid

attics and basements. Mail them off to a preservation specialist for transfer!

If you think you have some old Avalon home movies you'd like to get transferred, call the Avalon History Center, so that we can provide you with some useful resources.



at the AVALON HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY CENTER SUMMER HOURS

Begin Memorial Day Weekend!

Tuesday-Sunday 10am to 4pm

Closed Mondays

ANNOUNCING 2016 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS!

Check out "On the Way to Cape May," our 2016 summer Historic Lecture Series!

Travel the coast with us as experts from local towns talk about their unique history.

Held at the Avalon History Center at 7pm.

Wednesday June 29th

Peter Harp of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood.

Wednesday July 6th

Bob Heinley, Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities, Cape May.

Wednesday July 20th

Mike McHale, Sea Isle City Historical Society.

Wednesday July 27th

John Loeper, Life Saving Station 30 & Ocean City Historical Museum.

Wednesday August 3rd

View and learn about restored 1889 Joseph Wells landscape painting with History Center staff.

Wednesday August 10th

Terrie Cwik, Stone Harbor Museum.

Wednesday August 17th

Nate Doughty, former mayor of Middle Township.

New Children's Program for 2016!

Four-session day camp: Mondays July 11th, July 18th, July 25th, and August 1st from 9am-12pm. Rising 5th-7th graders are invited to participate in fun, hands-on activities to learn more about Avalon's history and culture.

Limited capacity; call to register for one or multiple sessions.

Plus, lots of other great events and programs!

May

Historical Society's Photography Contest. Call for information.

Saturday June 11th @ 9am

Historical Society's 4th Annual Mini Golf Contest. Call for information.

Saturday June 18th @ 9am

AFPL Open House/Welcome to Summer

Saturday June 18th @ 1pm

Historical Society's Olde House Tour, beginning at Avalon History Center.

Tuesday June 21st @ 11am

Teatime at the History Center

Wednesday June 22nd @ 7pm

Second Annual Paper Peddler Trivia Night! Call to reserve a table.

Tuesday July 5th @ 7pm

Chautauqua Program in partnership with the New Avalon Assembly, at the First UMC of Avalon.

Tuesday July 12th @ 7pm

Chautauqua Program in partnership with the New Avalon Assembly, at the Avalon Elementary School.

Tuesday July 19th @ 11am

Teatime at the History Center

Tuesday July 19th @ 7pm

Chautauqua Program in partnership with the New Avalon Assembly, at the First UMC of Avalon.

Saturday July 23rd

Historical Society's Clamshell Pitch. Call for information.

Tuesday July 26th @ 7pm

Chautauqua Program in partnership with the New Avalon Assembly, at the First UMC of Avalon.

Tuesday August 2nd @ 7pm

Chautauqua Program in partnership with the New Avalon Assembly, at the First UMC of Avalon.

Tuesday August 16th @ 11am

Teatime at the History Center



Experience sights, sounds, and artifacts representing Avalon in the 1940s. Check out movie posters from the Avalon Pier, video of the storm of '44, and more. Opening Memorial Day weekend.



The Avalon PD recently donated some great artifacts, and our staff dug up some "fun facts" to list in the new Police Department Exhibit! Did you know that before the PD was officially established, "bathing masters" (lifeguards) worked as marshals in the evening to enforce laws? Visit the History Center to learn more, plus take your own mugshot at the selfie station!



Finally, check out Len Morgan's great collection of antique cameras, on view for a limited time only this summer!

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