



Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission December 2009 Chronicle

County wins first Sheva Kotok Memorial Award

The Cultural & Heritage Commission's hard work in promoting the arts and culture of the regional community and providing that all-important professional helping hand was rewarded in October when the Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties presented the Commission and the Board of Chosen Freeholders with its first-ever "Sheva Kotok Memorial Award."

Presentation of the award, a large framed certificate and original sculpture by an Israeli artist, took place at the Federation's Annual Meeting, held at Beth Israel Synagogue in Vineland. Representatives from the Cumberland



Henry Schwed at left, president of the Jewish Federation, and Assemblyman Matthew Milam at right pose with recipients of the Sheva Kotok Memorial Klal Israel Award: Marianne Kornbluh-Lods, chair of the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission, and Louis Magazzu, director of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec. 12

**Millville "Soul of the Season"
Downtown Millville, 6- 9 p.m.
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Sunday, Dec. 13

**"Christmas in Greenwich"
Tour of historic homes, noon
See page 2**

Thursday, Dec. 14

**Vineland Public Library
"Owning and Operating Your
Own Business"
Robert Marino
Community Event Room
1-3 p.m.**

County Board of Chosen Freeholders, sponsor of the Commission, were on hand for the presentation, as well as members of the Commission Board.

Reasons for choosing the Commission for the inaugural Kotok award were outlined by Kirk Wisemayer, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation: "As a Board, we felt we had benefited so much from the Com-



mission over the years, not only financially as one of the grantees, but also from the

support they give us in conducting our programs."

One example of the Commission's support was choosing the Federation as one of five 2008 community organizations to benefit from the N.J. State Council on the Arts program, "Building Arts Participation," which aims to increase the public's awareness and participation in the arts.

Matt Pisarski, Coordinator for the Commission, was quick to return the praise. "Truly, we are honored every day by the high caliber of the Federation's programming and the strong collaborative partnership we have built
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Commission receives Jewish Federation honor

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over the years.”

Wisemayer explained that because of his organization’s selection in the program, three consultants advised the Federation Board on practical matters such as running the organization more efficiently and building an effective Board. He also praised members of the Commission for providing valuable feedback on Federation programs and events.

The Jewish Federation has been a Commission grant recipient since 2000.

Sheva (“Shaye”) Kotok, for whom the award is named, was a well-known Vineland community activist who was a member of Beth Israel congregation and a founding member of the Vineland chapter of Hadasah. She remained committed to its goals of community service and education until her



death on Nov. 4, 2008, at the age of 90.

Mrs. Kotok was the mother of David Kotok, owner of Cumberland Advisors in Vineland, and the wife of the late Leslie Kotok. She was an English teacher in the Vineland public schools for many years.

A closeup of the sculpture, “Dancing Star,” that the Commission received as part of its award.

The sculpture presented to the Federation is a free-flowing representation of the Star of David called “Dancing Star” made of stainless steel encased in brilliant blue and white ceramic.

The artist is Yosef Ohayon of Arad, a city in Israel, Cumberland County’s sister community in Israel.



Millville captures holiday spirit with ‘Soul of the Season’ Dec. 12

“The essence of the holiday season.”

That’s how organizers of Millville’s ninth annual “Soul of the Season” describe the annual event featuring Victorian-inspired holiday entertainment.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, from 6 to 9 p.m., visitors to Millville’s downtown will find carolers and horse-drawn carriages on lamp-lit streets as a gateway to a lineup of special entertainment, including:

- Santa’s Workshop and Musical Holiday Review at the Village on High
- Nutcracker Ballet performances by the Vineland Regional Dance Co.
- Strolling entertainers throughout High Street
- Glassblowing demonstrations

- Horse and carriage rides @ \$5 for adults

In addition, Millville’s boutiques and galleries will be open for holiday shoppers, and restaurants, cafés and pubs will be open late.

Funding for this newsletter has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



Greenwich house tour offers a taste of history

Colonial Greenwich again is sponsoring its annual holiday house tour on Sunday, Dec. 13, beginning at noon at the Gibbon House, 960 Greate St., where patrons can purchase tickets, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

About 10 private homes open their doors for the tour, as well as several historic buildings. Two special features will be a demonstration of hearthside cooking at the Gibbon House and an artisans’ market at the Morris Goodwin Elementary School, 837 Ye Greate St.

The tour is sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. More information is available by calling 856-455-4055.