



# Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Summer-Fall  
2007

# Chronicle

## Jewish Federation Director returns to U.S. after 'exile'

If you're looking for something to boost your spirits about America, look no further than the words of Toronto transplant Kirk Wisemayer.

The director of the Vineland-based Jewish Federation of Cumberland County talks about the people he serves and his feelings after having to leave the U.S. because his visa had expired.

"Cumberland County's a wonderful community—not only the Jewish community but the greater community," he says. "It's very active, warm, and the people are grounded—it's an honor to work for them." He goes on to say that in his self-described six-week "exile," he never expected his native Toronto to feel "so foreign."

"Life here is much simpler," he muses. "People are friendlier, more



Photo by Prestige Publications

Kirk Wisemayer, happy to be back in his Vineland office.

friendships, purchased property, and fell in love with the American way of life" —according to a recent column he wrote for the Vineland Daily Journal.

He returned to the U.S. on July 3, just in time to celebrate the Fourth of July.

courteous. In Toronto everyone's always rushing, with no regard for others. And the environment here is much cleaner," compared to Toronto's urban congestion.

When Wisemayer was hired as director of the Federation in July 2001, he entered the U.S. on a three-year visa, which was renewable for two years. That meant that in 2006 he would be required to obtain a new visa. And he tried. He began in 2005 to make the necessary application, but because of the backlog in processing applications, the visa never came through and he was forced to leave in April 2007.

"I was only gone six weeks, but it seemed like six months," he says ruefully. It's clear he regards Cumberland County as his home—he "established

He wrote, "I will be forever grateful to have been home for the 4th, and I am not completely sure why being here for Independence Day meant so much to me. It was because I wanted to celebrate with my community, my country (although officially I am still an alien and not an American) ...being here somehow meant the dream of becoming an American might somehow come true, especially if I was here to celebrate the birthday of this great nation."

He was able to return to the U.S. because his new visa finally came through, and fortunately it can be renewed

indefinitely. Although when he was (Continued on page 2)

### Upcoming Events

Off Broad Street Players:  
"Beauty and the Beast,"  
Aug. 3-12

Cumberland Players:  
"Peter Pan," Sept. 20-29  
See page 4 for complete  
theater listings

Bay-Atlantic Symphony  
"Songs of the Heart," Nov. 3-4  
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Deerfield Harvest Festival  
Oct. 5-7  
Featuring Emerson Drive  
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Pumpkin Festival, Oct. 13  
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[www.ccculturalheritage.org](http://www.ccculturalheritage.org)



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## Message from the Freeholder Director

Late summer is upon us, which marks the beginning of grants season once again. The 2008 Cultural & Heritage Commission Re-granting Program applications are now available on the Commission's website, [www.ccculturalheritage.org](http://www.ccculturalheritage.org), with a submission deadline of September 14.

To assist both new and returning applicants this year, the Cultural & Heritage Commission is bringing back its ever-popular grant writing consultant, Patricia Bohse of Bohse & Associates from Middletown, NJ. The Grant Writing Workshop is scheduled for August 14 at the WheatonArts Conference Center at 1501 Glasstown Road in Millville. This year, along with her step-by-step explanation of the Commission's grant application, Pat will discuss diversification of funding sources, paying special attention to those governmental and foundational sources actively funding projects in southern New Jersey.

While on the one hand, organizations are working on acquiring grant dollars, on the other they are planning a full season of events and activities throughout the



*Douglas  
Rainear*

county. As can be seen in the enclosed calendar of events, the cultural offerings in Cumberland County are varied and numerous, and should provide fulfilling experiences for all those who

partake in the festivities.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kirk Wisemayer on his return to the United States. As reported in the article on Kirk in this newsletter, he has undergone a tumultuous several months but has come out of it safe and sound back in Vineland, his much-loved adopted home. His story exemplifies the appreciation our residents hold for this unique corner of New Jersey. I am honored to work with the Cultural & Heritage Commission in fostering the qualities of our county that draw people like Mr. Wisemayer to Cumberland County.

—*Douglas Rainear*  
Freeholder Liaison

## Wisemayer's return to the U.S.

*(Continued from page 1)*

“exiled” he had been forced to resign his position with the Federation, he was immediately re-hired, returning gratefully to his office at Columbia and Landis Avenues. He is eager to go on to the next step, to obtain his “green card,” or proof that he is a legal permanent resident, and his application is already in the works. Once the application is approved, he can proceed to the final step of applying for citizenship.

One would think he supported the recently defeated immigration bill, which would have granted legal status to all illegal immigrants. On the contrary, he was against it. “It (the bill) didn't take into consideration the one million immigrants who are here legally,” he says. “It in a way penalizes them for doing the right thing. It sets a bad precedent to grant legal status to those who broke the law, kind of like someone pushing ahead of you in a line at the supermarket.”

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 'Wall of Remembrance' a focal point of Alliance memorial



Photo courtesy of Kirk Wisemayer  
**"Flame of Remembrance" at the Holocaust memorial at Alliance Cemetery.**  
 (Continued from page 2)

Preserving the heritage of the Jewish settlers who immigrated (legally) to the area is another passion of his, and of the Jewish Federation. There are major plans to re-design Alliance Cemetery in Norma, where most of the Jews in this area come for their final resting place, as a center dedicated to the history of Jewish life in Cumberland County. The grounds will become a living history of those who arrived primarily from Russia to escape persecution in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Beth Israel Congregation on Garton Road in Bridgeton, built in 1888, will be moved there, as well as the Crown of Israel Synagogue, built in 1890 in Monroeville.

The Stavitsky Homestead on nearby Henry Avenue, built in 1881 by one of the first families to settle from Russia, will also be moved to the Alliance location, and the home of I. Harry Levin, once a prominent Vineland attorney, at the far end of the property, will be renovated and used as a visitor's center. The plan is to create a

historical display—of old documents, artifacts, furnishings and anything representative of the period—in each building that will reflect "the chronological experience of Jewish life in Cumberland County," explains Wisemayer.

One doesn't have to go far in the Norma cemetery to see a dramatic memorial of a more modern persecution—the Holocaust of the World War II era.

Called the "Wall of Remembrance," it's a circular-shaped brick structure with

names of Holocaust victims inscribed in the brick. Vineland Rabbi Murray Kohn, who was co-chairperson of the wall when it was built in 1994, explained the

**125th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Alliance Colony  
 Saturday, August 26  
 12 Noon, Alliance Cemetery  
*Celebrating the legacy of the first colony of Jewish farmers in America*

symbolism of the design in an accompanying plaque: "The circular shape is a symbol to remind us not to forget the human tragedy that evil men perpetrated against their innocent neighbors amid the silence of an indifferent humanity.

"The interior columns represent the crematoria chimneys of the gas chambers where the victims were murdered before their bodies were discarded en masse." Even the archway at the main entrance carries its own symbolism,



Photo by Prestige Publications

**Kirk Wisemayer tests the lights on a menorah at Alliance Chapel, built in 1924.**

recalling the gateways to the concentration camps where the European Jews were imprisoned.

The focal point of the memorial is a sculpture that depicts the defiant hands of victims, their concentration camp numbers still embedded on their arms, rising out of the ashes. The hands cradle an orange flame pointing towards the heavens. The base was created by sculptor John Lupton and the glass flame by artist David Lewin.

The work is a metaphor, said Rabbi Kohn, for "the victims and survivors upholding the flame of hope: never again."

That same philosophy of preserving the past is guiding the renovation at the cemetery—"to make accessible the unique American Jewish experience of this community," says Wisemayer. With a little luck, he'll celebrate the completion of the project with another celebration—his long-awaited status as a full-fledged American citizen.

## Local theater: focus on musicals

**M**usicals dominate the local playbills this season, with the Off Broad Street Players scheduling "Beauty and the Beast," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "South Pacific" and the Cumberland Players offering a children's musical classic, "Peter Pan." The Cumberland Players will also present a drama, "Proof," and a seasonal comedy classic, "A Christmas Story."

**Off Broad Street Players**  
**All Performances at Bridgeton High School Auditorium,**  
**West Avenue, Bridgeton.**  
*All musicals*  
*accompanied by a live pit orchestra;*  
*call 856-451-5437*

**Beauty and the Beast** - Aug. 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12: 8 p.m. curtain on Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday; special Family Night on Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

A classic tale of love and forgiveness, "Beauty" was one of the most popular shows on Broadway in its depiction of Belle, a young French woman, her father Maurice, who becomes trapped in a cavernous castle, and the dual personality "Beast."

**Ain't Misbehavin'** - Sept. 28, 29, 30, Oct. 4, 5, 6, 7: 8 p.m. curtain on Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday; special Family Night on Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Paying tribute to the talents of the legendary Fats Waller, this song and dance production features such favorites as "This Joint Is Jumpin'," "Honeysuckle Rose" and "I Can't Give you Anything but Love."

**South Pacific** - Nov. 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18: 8 p.m. curtain on Friday

and Saturday, 3 p.m. on Sunday; special Family Night on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.



This Rodgers and Hammerstein famous musical is set on a South Pacific island during World War II and concerns the love stories of U.S.

Navy nurse Nellie Forbush and a French plantation owner, Emile DeBecque. There are racial overtones in the plot, which were considered daring at the time (1949). The show is replete with well-known favorites such as "Younger than Springtime" and "Some Enchanted Evening."

**Cumberland Players**  
**All Performances at the Little Theatre of Vineland,**  
**Sherman Avenue and the South East Boulevard; call 856-692-5626**

**Peter Pan** - Sept. 20, 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 30 at 2 p.m.

This beloved children's classic is one of the world's most celebrated musicals, allowing everyone to take a trip into their childhood of dreams and fantasies.

**Proof** - Oct. 12, 13, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m.; Oct. 21 at 2 p.m.

This play explores the mysteries of both love and science, focusing on Catherine, a young woman who cares for her father, a brilliant mathematician now unable to function on his own and Hal, her father's former student.

**A Christmas Story** - Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

By Jean Shepherd (not Charles Dickens), this is the story of a young boy and his quest for the "Holy Grail of Christmas presents." Based on the 1983 movie, it's a tale of growing up in the 1940's, suitable for all ages.

## Elwyn to present 'Art of 2 Palettes'

Members of the Southern New Jersey community will come together on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m., on the campus of Elwyn New Jersey (formerly The Training School at Vineland), 1667 East Landis Ave. in Vineland, for a unique fund raising event.

"The Art of Two Palettes" features the works of many artists with disabilities including Richland's own Janice Peroni, plus the culinary arts of some of the area's finest restaurants and caterers.

The event's purpose is to highlight local artists and educate guests about the Elwyn New Jersey mission: to help the 300+ individuals with special needs who live and work in Cumberland, Atlantic and Gloucester counties. The goal is to maximize their potential.

The evening will also include live performances by Southern New Jersey musicians ... "a totally tasteful event," say organizers.

Advance tickets are necessary. For tickets or more information, contact Jane Detweiler at 856-794-5300.

### In Brief...

◆ **Wheaton Arts** will hold its annual "Festival of Fine Craft" on Oct. 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featured will be jewelry, fiber, metal, wearable art, ceramics, photography, paintings, mixed media and studio glass, and projects for children.

◆ The Glasstown Arts District will present the September Shorts Film Festival on Sept. 28 and 29. Details are not yet available; check the web site, [www.glasstownartsdistrict.com](http://www.glasstownartsdistrict.com), for more information.

◆ The Glasstown Arts District is also planning a "Sizzlin' Swing Sunday" at Riverfront Park, Millville, on Aug. 26 with big band music and dance contests.

# Bay-Atlantic fall concert features 16-year-old prodigy from Korea

The Bay-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra launches its fall season Nov. 3 and 4 with “Songs of the Heart” featuring Verdi’s *La Traviatta*, Prelude to Act III, Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 12 and Schubert’s “Tragic” Symphony No. 4.

The pianist for the Mozart piece is Ji Yong, a native of Korea who is just 16 years old. In 2001 at the age of ten, Ji-Yong became the youngest pianist ever to win the New York Philharmonic Young Artists Competition. He subsequently made his debut with the New York Philharmonic performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto in D Minor, K. 466, under the baton of Kurt Masur.

In addition, he has performed at such venues as Chicago’s Orchestra Hall and Prague’s Smetana Hall, and in recital at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, and St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall and the Sheremetev Palace in Russia. In June 200, Ji-Yong returned to his native Korea for the first time to play a much-anticipated recital at Seoul’s LG Arts Center.



*Pianist Ji-Yong*

Highlights of Ji-Yong’s 2007-08 season include performances with the Toronto Symphony and Peter Oundjian, Nashville Symphony with Joel Levine, Cascade Festival of Music. His recital at William Jewell College in Kansas City was deemed as one of the top five arts events of the city in 2004 by the *Kansas City Star*: “Ji-Yong proceeded to play the most beautiful recital I’ve heard this year . . . His playing has its own personality and character. It has a point of view that is distinctly his, and that is fresh.”

He is currently a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky at the Juilliard School’s pre-college division and recently completed tenth grade at Ramapo High School in New Jersey.

Saturday performances are held at the Guaracini Fine and Performing Arts Center, Cumberland County College. Visit the website, [bayatlanticsymphony.org](http://bayatlanticsymphony.org), to order tickets or call 856-692-

8499. Sunday performances are at the Stockton Performing Arts Center at the Richard Stockton College in Pomona. Call 609-652-9000 for ticket information.

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## Grant writing workshop set for Aug. 14 at Wheaton Arts

The Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission will present a Grant Writing Workshop on Aug. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Wheaton Arts Conference Center, 1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, as part of its “Programming for Success” workshop series.

This workshop will provide a step-by-step guide to the Commission’s regrant application process. Guidelines will be reviewed, and the application will be explained in full detail.

This workshop will be particularly useful to new applicants to the Com-

mission’s program, and will be a great refresher for those organizations which have applied in the past. In the second half of the workshop, diversification of funding sources, with attention to governmental and foundational sources actively funding projects in southern New Jersey, will be discussed.

The presenter will be Pat Bohse, founder and Executive Director of Bohse & Associates, Inc., a consulting firm which specializes in bridging the gap between not-for-profits and corporate America.

Founded in 1989, Bohse & As-

sociates, Inc., has been focusing on management, marketing, training and development solutions for non-profit organizations, government agencies and corporations nationwide. To learn more, visit the website at [www.bohse.com](http://www.bohse.com).

To register online, and for more information, visit the Commission’s website, [www.culturalheritage.org](http://www.culturalheritage.org), or call the Commission office at 856-453-2175.

Future workshop topics are “Partnership in Philanthropy” and “Foundation Center.”

# Deerfield Festival 2007: Emerson Drive, 'Idol' and more

A three-day blockbuster event featuring hit rock groups, fireworks, a parade, amusement rides and the Cumberland County version of American Idol will again take over Morton Avenue in Rosenhayn Friday through Sunday, Oct. 5, 6 and 7 —the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Deerfield Township Harvest Festival.

Underscoring the Festival theme, "We are Country Proud," the country music group Emerson Drive will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday. The Academy of Country Music's 2002 "Top New Vocal Duet / Group," Emerson Drive was also nominated for the same award in 2007. Its single, "Moments," recently became the number one country song in the America.

Another highlight will be "Starship Starring Mickey Thomas," the revamped musical group formerly known as Jefferson Airplane, Jefferson Starship and Starship, which will perform Saturday at 8:45 p.m.

Other groups on the Festival stage will be the Sensational Soul Cruisers and Lady Antebellum, performing Sunday; and Bon Journey, a tribute band to Bon Jovi and Journey and Grammy winners, The Trampms, on Saturday. Admission to the Festival is free, with no additional charge for the

musical attractions.

The parade will take place on Saturday at noon, and the concluding fireworks will be on Sunday at 9:30 p.m.

The "Deerfield Township Harvest Festival Idol" contest, open to everyone (not just Deerfield Township residents), will hold the preliminary competition Friday at 6:45 p.m. and finals on Sunday at 1 p.m. Entries must be made by Sept. 18. This year entrants are required to choose a song that was popular in a movie, to follow the Festival theme of saluting America. The web site, [www.deerfieldtownship.org](http://www.deerfieldtownship.org), lists more than 130 songs from movies from which participants may choose, although



songs do not have to come from that list. Soloists only, not groups, are eligible.

Contestants will compete in three age categories: 4 through 12, 13 through 19 and 20 and over. A cash prize of \$100 in each age group will be awarded, as well as a certificate for a recording session to produce a demo CD.

For more information, call 856-455-3200 or e-mail [festival@deerfieldtownship.org](mailto:festival@deerfieldtownship.org).

## Gallery 50 to host 'Low Country Boil' southern fare

Gallery 50, Inc.'s third annual "Low Country Boil" is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 12 at 5 p.m.

This unique fund raiser is hosted by Linda and Ned Young at TideMarsh Farm, their home on the scenic Cohansey River in Fairton. The Young family will cook up traditional southern fare of fresh corn, kielbasa, shrimp, and potatoes in a savory broth in what is known also as "Frogmore Stew."

Wine, iced tea, coffee, hot tea and homemade desserts baked by Gallery 50, Inc., board members will complement the meal. Members urge the public to enjoy the river's view at sunset, listen to music by David Price, enjoy the mature gardens of rare speci-

men trees and cooling breezes off the water.

Ticket prices are \$40 per person. To reserve a seat or for more information, call Gallery 50 at (856) 575-0090.

Gallery 50, Inc., is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 50 E. Commerce Street in Bridgeton. The website at [www.gallery50.org](http://www.gallery50.org) lists current and upcoming shows and directions.

The Gallery's late summer/fall schedule is as follows:

### August

Artist: Meade Barnett / paintings, jewelry, sculptures

Opening Reception: Aug. 3

Show Dates: Aug. 1 - Aug. 31

### September

Artists: Selected by Jury/Cash Awards

Show Title: *Nature & The Landscape: An Environmental Perspective*

Show Theme: *A Regional Wetlands Competition*

Opening Reception: Sept. 7

Show Dates: Sept. 5 - Sept. 28

### October

Artist: Terri Amig / Paintings

Opening Reception: Oct. 5

Show Dates: Oct. 3 – Oct. 26

### November

Artists: Selected by Jury / Cash Awards

Show Title: *Cumberland County on Canvas*

Opening Reception: Nov. 2

Show Dates: Oct. 31 – Nov. 30

# High School students to help re-create USO canteen at sixth annual Veterans' Appreciation Day

The Millville Army Air Field Museum and area high school students will join in a tribute to the nation's veterans at the sixth annual Veterans' Appreciation Day on Saturday, Nov. 3, beginning at 11 a.m., at the museum at Millville Airport.

All veterans are invited to attend and will be honored for their contributions. The event is free and open to the public.

A special feature will be students from local high schools dressed in World War II uniforms and others as USO "Donut Dolly" canteen workers. Students participate by performing songs and dance of the time, greet-



*Photo courtesy of Millville Army Air Field Museum*

*Gina Pace, Millville Senior High School student re-enactor at last year's Veterans' Appreciation Day, is seen chatting with Tony Mazzeo of Vineland, former vice commander of the American Legion Post 4 in Vineland. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served in Korea.*

ing visiting veterans and learning about history from those who lived it. The USO "workers" will also re-create a typical "mess hall," serving lunch to the veterans attending.

Displays on the Museum grounds will include military vehicles and a scale model of a P-47 "Thunderbolt" fighter plane. Master of ceremonies Joseph Hampton, commander of the VFW post in Vineland, will preside at the opening ceremony at 11 a.m.

For more information, Hampton can be reached at 856-692-8050.

## A.J. Meerwald lists special events for August

Special educational presentations will take place onboard the historic oyster schooner A.J. Meerwald in Cape May during August, part of several scheduled public sails. The A.J. Meerwald departs from Utsch's Marina, 1121 Route 109, during her stay in Cape May.

The special events are:

**Thursday, Aug. 2,** 1:30 - 4 p.m.: Don Taggart from the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs on photography techniques.

**Thursday Aug. 9,** 1:30p.m. - 4 p.m.: Matt Blake from the American Littoral Society will present "Natural History of the Delaware Bay."

**Saturday Aug. 11,** 1:30 - 4 p.m.: Don Cossaboon and his fellow pirate re-enactors from Millville present "Pirate Lore." Includes activities for kids. Come dressed as a pirate!

**Sunday Aug. 19,** 1- 4 p.m. - Oyster Sail with raw bar and presentation

about oysters and oystering.

**Thursday Aug. 23 and Thursday Aug. 30,** 1:30- 4 p.m.: Commercial Fishing.

**Sunday, Aug. 26,** 1:30- 4 p.m.: A South Jersey musician will entertain.

**Saturday afternoon sails** (1:30- 4 p.m.) :presentations by A.J. Meerwald crew/educators:

**Aug. 4** - Nautical Knots

**Aug. 18** - Charting the Course-learn about tall ship navigation

**Aug. 25** - Trawling - Help haul in the trawl and discover the living sea creatures that are captured.

In addition to these special presentation sails, there are several regular public sails scheduled in the morning (10 a.m. - noon), afternoon (1:30- 4 p.m.) and evening (5 - 7:30 p.m.).

Reservations are required for all public sails. Space is limited. Call 856-785-2060 for reservations, ticket prices and more information.

## CCC&H Planner named to arts board

Matthew Pisarski, Principal Planner in the County Department of Planning & Development, Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission, has been appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors of the South Jersey Cultural Alliance.

The Alliance represents 130 arts/cultural organizations throughout Southern New Jersey and assists them with marketing, education and programming.

Pisarski has been with the Cultural & Heritage Commission since 2005. Prior to that he was a Senior Planner for Cumberland County. He holds a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Historic Preservation and has taught "Historic Preservation Through Computer-Aided Documentation" at Cumberland County College.

# Annual Pumpkin Show heralds fall

**T**he fifth annual South Jersey Pumpkin Show arrives at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds on Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Previously a two-day event, it has been changed to one day but it's still the same big show, says Kathy Bailey, organizer.

The festival will open to a fairground filled with over 125 artists and craftsmen, a Home & Garden Expo and New Jersey's only Pumpkin Weigh Off at noon. Pumpkin growers from New York, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey will compete for \$1,000 and bragging rights for the biggest pumpkin.

The Cumberland County 4-H prog -



grams will receive 50 percent of the \$3 general admission, and many non-profit organizations participate every year.

Nighttime will bring lantern-lit hay rides, gigantic Halloween inflatables, Halloween costumes and a Baby Stroller Parade. A pumpkin dessert contest will be held at 6 p.m., and festival goers can sample pumpkin bread, fudge, cake, cookies, cheese rolls and candy.

The first 200 children to the Pumpkin Show will receive free pumpkins. Craftsmen, food vendors, bands and home show companies are being sought. Call Kathy Bailey, event organizer, at (856) 765-0118 of B & K Enterprise of Millville for exhibitor information.

*Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission*  
**800 E. Commerce St.**  
**Bridgeton, NJ 08302**

*Check out all the  
 exciting events in  
 Cumberland County!*