Two new members with impressive backgrounds and experience joined the Cultural & Heritage Commission in 2013: Maria E. Cerda-Moreno, an architect specializing in historic preservation, and Merle Z. Silver, a former paralegal with a degree in Political Science.

Merle Z. Silver, appointed in February, is a native of Englewood (N.J.) and grew up in New Milford, where she attended public schools. She is a graduate of Wilkes College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where she obtained a B.A. in Political Science. A year after graduation she received a certificate in Paralegal Studies and worked in the field for law firms in New York City and Washington, D.C.

As a young wife married to Dr. Seth Silver, now an orthopedist in Vineland, she moved about the country while he was serving with the U.S. Army. “We lived in San Antonio and Killeen, Tex., Augusta, Ga., and the Washington, D.C. metro area,” she said. “We raised a family, worked, and met diverse people from various parts of the country and the world. While an army wife and mother of three young children, I volunteered for and was an active member of the military base’s charitable organizations and our chapel.”

The family moved to Vineland in 1992 to be closer to their extended family. She said they have enjoyed the Cumberland County area for more than 20 years, currently residing in Maurice River Township and enjoying their life on a farm along the banks of the Manumuskin River. “We enjoy the proximity to the big city while living among the beautiful nature that surrounds us,” she added.

Ms. Silver recently retired after 20 years of working at the orthopedic office where her husband’s practice is based. She has plenty of outside interests to keep her busy: reading, cooking, hiking, traveling, nature, bird watching, the arts, current events and sports.

She played varsity tennis in high school and college and enjoys watching competitive sports. She is also an active member of Temple Beth Hillel/Beth Abraham of Carmel, The Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties, and Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries.

Maria E. Cerda-Moreno, appointed in November, is a licensed architect in the states of New Jersey and New York. She was educated in Chile, Venezuela, and England, and while teaching at the School of Architecture, University of Los Andes in Venezuela, she expanded her interest in historic preservation and “vernacular architecture,” a style based on localized needs, traditions and construction materials.

Upon her arrival in the U.S. and prior to establishing her own architectural practice in North Jersey, Ms. Cerda-Moreno worked with well-known architectural firms doing residential, commercial and institutional work in New Jersey and New York. Her consultantship on several National Register nominations led to board memberships for preservation organi-

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Marketing and Tourism Grants Available

Grants of up to $3,000 are now available for use in 2014 to promote cultural programming through funding provided by the State’s Division of Travel & Tourism.

Provided through a partnership with the Southern Shore Region Destination Marketing Organization (SSRDMO) and the Cumberland County Tourism Advisory Council, the Cultural & Heritage Commission is able to offer this grant opportunity to offset marketing costs associated with cultural programming occurring within the county in the 2014 calendar year.

As Ella Boykin, Chair of the Cultural & Heritage Commission, states, “With so much happening within the county on a daily basis, it is critical that we get the word out about all the wonderful events available to residents and visitors alike.

“Cumberland County provides practically every type of cultural and historical experience you could imagine, she continued. “Thanks to the great collaborative efforts of our partners we can help to promote all Cumberland County has to offer.”

Non-profit organizations and governmental entities planning to conduct cultural programming within Cumberland County in 2014 should visit the “Grant Opportunities” section of the Commission’s website, www.ccculturalheritage.org, for more information and to download the application.

New members join Commission

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izations. She became resident architect for Paterson’s Historic Preservation Commission in 1993 and New Jersey Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2000.

“In 2006 I relocated to Bridgeton as an associate of Bridgeton’s acclaimed preservation firm of Watson & Henry Associates,” she related. In 2009 she joined several pioneers in local historic preservation activism to become a founding member of CHABA, the Center for Historic American Building Arts.

“Since that time I have helped build common ground in historic preservation with Bridgeton’s Hispanic community, this year completing New Jersey’s first-ever translation of local Historic District Design Guidelines into Spanish,” she said.

Ms. Cerda-Moreno is currently completing an array of audio-visual materials for Spanish language workshops in CHABA’s HomeFronts series. She is in independent architectural practice in Bridgeton.