Every now and then a month rolls around which is so packed with exciting events, news and upcoming attractions, that we double up our newsletter coverage. March is turning out to be one of those months. Welcome the Spring season after this long and tedious winter by getting out of the house and experiencing something new in Cumberland County.

Seabrook Buddhist Temple Hosts Kimono Fashion Show

On Saturday, March 28th from 2 to 4 PM the Seabrook Buddhist Temple (9 Northville Road, Seabrook, NJ) will host a kimono fashion show. The kimono is a traditional Japanese garment worn by both men and women. Kimono are T-shaped, straight-lined robes secured by a sash called an obi. Usually made of silk, although infrequently cotton and synthetic fabric kimono can be found, these garments are beautifully decorated and require considerable amounts of hand stitching. The pattern or design on the kimono often indicates in which season it should be worn. For example, a pattern of butterflies or cherry blossoms would be worn in spring. Watery designs are common during the summer. A popular autumn motif is the russet leaf of the Japanese maple and for winter, designs may include bamboo, pine trees and plum blossoms.
Additional entertainment during the show will be provided by the Seabrook Minyo Dancers (wearing wonderful examples of kimono fashion themselves) and the Hoh Daiko Taiko Drummers. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Admission includes a Japanese Bento Boxed Lunch. To secure your tickets or for more information, call (856) 451-3422 or email boardoftrustees@sbtnj.org.

Millville Arts District Launches Public Art Campaign

In the heart of Millville is located the Glasstown Arts District. Galleries, theaters, restaurants, shops, and homes line High Street and the public spaces include sculptures and murals (the dedication to public art in Millville is clearly evident in the huge mural welcoming people to city hall). Now, the town has launched a new public art initiative called "Tile the Town" on Kickstarter. The plan is to have a variety of artists hand-paint 12 x 12 inch ceramic tiles with still life scenes, landscapes and abstracts and install the tiles throughout the arts district.

In its 15th year, the Glasstown Arts District has been working hard to build economic development through the arts. It supports non-profit centers like the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts and the Levoy Theatre and holds a variety of events and programs throughout the year, including Third Friday gallery crawls, Art Bar nights, multi-cultural week in May, and Soul of the Season in December, just to name a few. The districts public art initiatives help to provide artistic experiences to everyone in their daily lives. Public art is a free experience, which creates a sense a place and builds pride in communities.

The Kickstarter campaign is only seeking $2,500 to launch the Tile the Town project (as of today it has already secured its goal, but additional giving will allow the program to be expanded). Click on the image above to go to the Kickstarter campaign and watch the wonderful video created to tell the story of the tile initiative.

Living and Sustaining a Creative Life Talk for South Jersey Artists

The Cultural & Heritage Commission has been selected by the N.J. State Council on the Arts this year to co-sponsor a very special event for regional artists called "Saturday Artists Talk: Living and Sustaining a Creative Life." Scheduled for Saturday, April 25th from 1 to 4 PM, the event will include a panel discussion with area artists on how to foster a creative life while juggling the challenges of the everyday world.

The panel discussion will be facilitated by Sharon Louden. Sharon graduated with a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from Yale University, School of Art. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Drawing Center, Carnegie Mellon.
University, Weisman Art Museum, National Gallery of Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Weatherspoon Art Museum and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. She has taught art throughout the United States, but currently teaches at the New York Academy of Art and the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Sharon is also the editor of *Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists* published by Intellect Books and distributed by the University of Chicago Press. The book is already on its 5th printing since the first run sold out before its official release on October 15th, 2013, and has been #1 on Amazon.com's Bestseller List of Business Art References. It was also on Hyperallergic's List of Top Art Books of 2013.

"We thought the topic of Sharon's book was so important that we have worked with the University of Chicago Press to provide copies of the book to all the attendees to our event," said Matt Pisarski, Director of the Commission, talking about the Commission's planning of the event in April. The registration fee of $10 for the event includes a copy of Sharon's book, and Sharon will hold a book signing during the reception following the panel discussion.

The panel is comprised of artists from throughout South Jersey and Philadelphia. **J. Kenneth Leap** is a glass artist who has served as an Artist-in-Residence at WheatonArts and who received a Fellowship Award from the N.J. State Council on the Arts. Educated at the Rhode Island School of Design, Parsons and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Kenneth has taught at WheatonArts, Rowan and Salem Community College among others. His stained glass works have been installed in such locales as the New Jersey State House Annex, the Edison Rail Station, Kean University, and Historic Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

**Julie Langsam** is best known for her paintings of iconic Modernist buildings designed by celebrated architects such as Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, and Le Corbusier. Langsam's work playfully negotiates and questions the legacy of modernism on contemporary culture. Newer watercolors and wall paintings based on architectural blueprints are layered and transformed by abstract color fields, selected randomly by chance. Julie Langsam is currently an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include Gallery Thomas Jaeckel, NYC; Richard & Dolly Maass Gallery, SUNY Purchase; Espai 8, Barcelona, Spain; and Reykjavik Art Gallery, Iceland. She is the recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award, and is represented in collections throughout the United States.

**Wendel A. White** was born in Newark and grew up in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He was awarded a BFA in photography from the University of Texas at Austin. White has taught photography at the School of Visual Arts, NY, the Cooper Union, Rochester Institute of Technology, and is currently Distinguished Professor of Art at Richard Stockton University. He has received various awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, two fellowships from the N.J. State Council on the Arts, a photography grant from the Graham Foundation, and a New Works Photography Fellowship from En Foco, Inc. His work is represented in museum and corporated collections throughout the nation.

**Cesar Viveros** is a muralist who grew up in the Veracruz region of Mexico and was inspired by the Mexican School of muralists, including such luminaries as Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Realizing his love of muralism, Cesar moved to Philadelphia and began working with the city's award-winning Mural Arts Program. Nearly a decade later, Cesar's work can be seen throughout Philadelphia and New Jersey, including two large works in Bridgeton. A video perspective of Cesar's work can be seen by clicking his artwork.

Registration is $10 for the Saturday Artists Talk, which can be mailed to Matt Pisarski at 790 E. Commerce, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (check made out to "County of Cumberland") or the registration fee may be paid at the door on April 25th. In either case attendees are asked to RSVP by emailing Matt at mattpi@co.cumberland.nj.us. Click on the Facebook, Twitter or
2nd Friday By the Bay TONIGHT, March 13th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at the Bayshore Center of Bivalve (2800 High Street, Port Norris). Raw oyster bar, musical guest Spook Handy, and a presentation on "Preserving and Celebrating a Family’s Eternal Legacy: The McBride Enterprises." Captain James Elwood McBride was the first African American boat owner, captain, and entrepreneur in the oyster industry within the Mid Atlantic region. The Bayshore Gallery is showing "Self Taught" where five self taught artists from the South Jersey region will show their work and share some thoughts on creativity. The artists are Jay Stevenson, metal; Dave Zane, woodwork; Cindy Davis and Brad Neilson, painting; and George Elmer, folk carving.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Vineland Regional Dance Company presents its spring dance concert entitled, "Dance Does a Body Good." To be held at the Frank Guaracini Jr. Fine & Performing Arts Center of Cumberland County College, the performance begins at 2 PM with a cocktail reception to follow. Ticket prices vary depending on seating location. To order tickets and to learn more, simply click on the poster image to the left.

Visit the arts district of Millville on Thursday, March 19th, for the performance of Cirque Ziva at the Levoy Theatre. Danny Chang and his Golden Dragon Acrobats continue their 30+ year US touring schedule of this centuries-old Chinese art form. The performance was hailed in Broadway World, "This unique cirque spectacular showcases traditional Chinese acrobats who dazzle with amazing feats of athleticism, daring heart-stopping stunts and the grace of their centuries-old art form.” Tickets start at $24/person and can be purchased through Levoy’s website, accessible by clicking the Cirque Ziva image.

Join your neighbors, friends and family in supporting the Barn Studio of Art during its annual fundraising event scheduled for Saturday, March 21st at the Greenview Inn (Eastlyn Golf Course). Celebrating 53 years as one of South Jersey’s premiere arts academies, tickets are $85/person ($45 for children under 12). To learn more visit the Barn Studio’s website by clicking the image below.