Films define 25th anniversary celebration of Millville Army Air Field Museum

The Millville Army Air Field Museum is celebrating its 25th anniversary in style. It’s designating Sunday, March 10, as “WW II Day in Millville” with an hors d’oeuvres reception and locally-themed film presentations at the Levoy Theatre, 126-130 N. High St., Millville, from 3 to 6 p.m.

The first film is “Thunderbolts of Millville,” a documentary produced in 2004 by New Jersey Public Television about the impact of World War II on the civilians of Millville who saw their local airport transformed into “America’s First Defense Airport,” the name bestowed by the U.S. War Department. It shows original footage of Millville in the early 1940s, interviews with “Thunderbolt” pilots, veterans and original USO volunteers.

What We Live By,” the second film, was written by Vineland resident Stephanie Terista.

A field trip to the airport museum in 2011 when she was teaching fourth grade at Millville’s Mt. Pleasant School inspired Terista to take on the film-making project.

While there she met veteran Burke Peirce who told the group stories about his war experiences. His tales, along with those from other veterans, form the core of the story, told along with a re-created tour of the museum in which the school children take part.

The story is told through the eyes of fictional pilot Reed Anderson who relives his past while guiding a tour at the museum. The exhibits come to life as the veteran recalls his own experiences during that time—cheating death in a fiery airplane crash and dealing with the effects of war on his personal life and loves.

The film, financed in part through a grant by the Cultural & Heritage Commission, is produced by Code 3 Films of Absecon and Los Angeles. Terista says the stories of the veterans seemed to lend themselves to a film presentation. “This film honors an amazing generation of men and women who put service before self,” she says. “It’s a tribute to veterans everywhere.”

She recounts the process of becoming a screenwriter. “I came upon the film company through an Internet search. I wanted to make the film a sustainable project, utilizing as many New Jersey resources as possible. It came down

(Continued on page 2)
A mural adorning an outside wall at the Carl Arthur Center in Vineland will soon be restored to correct a faded surface and lack of protection from the elements because it was improperly sealed, said Denise Monaco, City of Vineland Business Administrator.

Maryann Cannon, local artist and owner of La Bottega of Art in Millville, has been awarded the job of painting a portrait of Mr. Arthur, for whom the Center is named, and repainting the entire wall, which measures approximately 70 square feet. She will also apply the appropriate sealing.

Cannon expects to begin work in early spring, pointing out that she prefers to work in temperatures above 50 degrees. Once begun, the job should be completed fairly quickly, she said. The Cultural & Heritage Commission is providing partial funding for the project.

The Center, located at Third and Plum Streets and operated by the City of Vineland, is home to three non-profit organizations: the Boys and Girls Club, Visions of Hope and the South Jersey Youth Alliance. All offer recreational and educational programs for the youths of the community.

Carl V. Arthur, a community youth activist who was well known in the city for his participation in many municipal endeavors, died in the late 1970’s.

Films recognize WW II pilots

(Continued from page 1)

to geographics and a simple Google search!”

She also sought training in what it takes to write for the screen, explaining, “I researched the mechanics of a screenplay, took writing courses at Rutgers University and tutoring sessions through Columbia University.” She ultimately completed a 120-page screenplay that is registered with the Writer’s Guild of America. The current production is a shorter version adapted from her full-length script.

The writer says she’s proud to have completed the project but even prouder of the subject matter. “The story really says something about humanity,” she adds. She is no longer a full-time teacher, having taken time off for a maternity leave, but does some substitute teaching, along with trying out different ideas for more scripts. Her dream would be seeing “What We Live By” produced in its 120-page entirety.

The reception following the screenings will offer hors d’oeuvres with wine, beer and desserts. On display on High Street will be a two and a half ton military truck and military ambulance to greet the guests.

Tickets for the fund raiser are $75 per person, available by contacting Museum Executive Director Lisa Jester at (856) 327-2347 or e-mailing her at ljester@p47millville.org.