Woodruff brothers share Encore Award; ceremony moved to Landis Theater

The Encore Awards will have a new look this year.

As a result of negotiations spearheaded by the Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Commission, this year’s awards will move from an Atlantic City venue to Vineland’s restored Landis Theater. Matt Pisarski, Principal Planner for the Commission, commented, “The Cultural & Heritage Commission is so pleased that it was able to help facilitate the move of the Encore Awards from Atlantic City to Vineland. Events such as this one are the economic drivers that help to support cultural organizations like the Landis Theater.”

The 17th annual Paul Aiken Encore Awards on May 17 are given annually by the South Jersey Cultural Alliance to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the development of the arts, history and cultural attractions in the region. Entertainment will include performances by the Ocean Theatre Company, Harmony Choir from Mainstage Center for the Arts, Vineland Regional Dance Company, Ritz Theatre Company of Haddon Township and Bay Atlantic Symphony.

The evening’s schedule calls for a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres reception at 6 p.m., the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. and a dessert recep-

“The Commission is pleased that it was able to help facilitate the move of the Encore Awards from Atlantic City to Vineland. Events such as this are the economic drivers that help support cultural organizations like the Landis Theater.”

—Matt Pisarski, Principal Planner

(Continued on page 2)
Woodruff brothers share devotion to community

(Continued from page 1)

and was then appointed to the college Foundation Board, where he still serves.

Other community activities include heading the fund drive for the Bridgeton Hospital Foundation in 1990 and 1991, raising more than $400,000, and serving on the board of the Bridgeton Symphony (now Bay-Atlantic Symphony) for 21 years. He was president in 1976-77 of the Bridgeton Rotary Club and twice was named Rotarian of the Year. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest honor Rotary International can bestow.

On the personal side, he has had a lifelong interest in music. He continues a Woodruff family tradition as organist for the Woodruff United Methodist Church, a post he has held since age 14. In the 140 years the congregation has been in the current building there have been only four organists: the Woodruffs’ great grandfather John, grandfather Warren, father George, and now Alan.

Robert Woodruff, Sr., Alan’s junior by two years, was president of Woodruff Energy from 1994 to 2008, a title he has now relinquished to his son, Robert Woodruff Jr. He still works full time as senior vice president. He and his wife, Merry, also have three grown daughters and reside in a 200-plus year-old historic home in Friesburg, Salem County.

Like his brother, he is a graduate of Bridgeton High School and the University of Delaware with a degree in Accounting, in 1958. Also like his brother, he was captain of the tennis team at Delaware.

Community service comprises a long list, including:

• President: Bay-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra (current)
• Secretary: Mid-Atlantic Career & Education Center (current)
• Member, elder, and choir member at First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton
• Member and past president of Bridgeton Rotary Club
• Past member of Alloway Township Planning Board 1976-2006. Chairman for 10 years.
• Past president of Bridgeton Jaycees (1962)
• Past president of Fuel Merchants Assoc. of NJ (1980-82)
• Past president of the Bridgeton Area United Way (1968)
• Past President of the South Jersey Tennis League (1966)

Robert also shares his brother’s interest in music. He says, “I do a lot of singing (church choir and occasionally with outside groups), but I also play the baroque recorders (soprano, alto, tenor, bass). When my children were home they all played instruments and we used to perform for weddings and special events, but mostly play for our own pleasure now.”

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.