

Avalon History Center Director's Report – March, 2015

	# Visitors On-site	# Reached Digitally	# Objects Catalogued	# Objects Digitized
February 2015	6	3,769	18	35
March 2015	9	42,650	21	52

Administration

- History Center was closed or opening delayed on several days due to snow.
- Staff attended workshops including:
 - Writing and Implementing an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, presented by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, 3/16 in Wilmington, DE (first of two sessions).
 - Housekeeping for Historic Collections, presented by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, 3/17 in Philadelphia, PA.
- Drafted three-year Capital Plan in conjunction with the Library, for submission to AFPL Board.
- Will pursue suggested projects in relation to the Borough's participation in "Sustainable Jersey" initiative.

Marketing

- History Center Logo.
- Drafted/gathered brochure content.
- Developed proposal for spring Newsletter content.

Programs & Outreach

- Met with Father Barron about his 25th St Chapel research project.
- Programming Committee met on 3/9 and added the following to the schedule:
 - Every third Tuesday at 11AM, join us for Teatime at the History Center. Enjoy tea, cookies, and conversation as we view collection items and reminisce about Avalon's history.
 - Sept. 23. Preserving Your Historic Home or Building, presentation by Joan Berkey at 6:30p.m. at 39th St Tennis Building. Arrive early to view the Avalon Cottage!
 - July 22. Open Mic Night at 7PM at the History Center—come share your talent or just listen at this family-friendly event. This possibly will be themed around the "One Eyed King," old Avalon coffee shop.
- Programming Committee also determined that birding program scheduled for July 27 will be presented in partnership with New Avalon Assembly as part of their Chautauqua program.

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Ongoing Major Initiatives

- Completed Oral History with Joe Breslin. Requests in to Rose Wells, Jim Tracy, Bill Tozour.
- Requesting capital funding for photography equipment to assist with digitization and oral history.
- Have requested access to 26th St Schoolhouse to evaluate for preservation/restoration potential.

Exhibits

- Currently gathering materials for and evaluating feasibility of “Avalon in the 1940s” exhibit that would feature WWII items, information about the '44 storm, and general characterization of the town in that decade.
- Traveled to the “Newseum” in Washington, DC to see methods of mounting and displaying newspapers.

Collections

- Requesting capital funding for collections care equipment including specialized storage cabinets, dataloggers, HEPA vacuum, and security cameras.
- Cottage preliminary application for eligibility has been submitted. Restoration will take place in April. Further research revealed that the Cottage most likely had a cedar shingle roof, and after consultation with the Collections Committee, restoration plans have been updated accordingly.
- A conservator specializing in large-scale outdoor items will visit on April 9 to assess mast, gas light, benches, chain, etc.
- Collections Committee recommends implementing a system of archiving regularly-produced publications in town. If approved, archives would begin with items listed here, and others would be proposed for approval as they arise.
 - Seven Mile Times
 - First United Methodist Church of Avalon church bulletins
 - Maris Stella Roman Catholic church bulletins
 - Avalon Borough Newsletter
- Collections Committee recommends approval of the following acquisitions.
 - Promotional branded items formerly sold at the Paper Peddler offered by Craig Cunningham, including:
 - Beach towel
 - Christmas ball
 - Post card
 - T-shirt

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- Booklets, photos, and papers offered by Jim Thatcher, including:
 - “First United Methodist Church First One Hundred Years” booklet
 - “A History of First United Methodist Church of Avalon” booklet
 - “Our Treasure, Let’s Preserve and Enhance it” AHLOA booklet
 - Avalon Museum and Historical Society Handbook for Volunteers circa 2001
 - 2004 photographs of various Avalon locations such as Hands, TrueValue, Post Office, and Bank of America
 - Avalon Museum promotional flyers with “Did you know?” listings
 - Avalon Chamber of Commerce 1993 calendar including old photos
 - First United Methodist Church Bulletin, June 21 1993
 - Women’s Civic Club 1993 booklet
 - AHLOA Newsletter May 1992
 - Cape May County Library notice from 2002 explaining issue of Avalon’s potential withdrawal from that system
 - Circa 2003 exhibit outline from Frank Coburn
 - 2001 bylaws of the AMHS
 - Circa 2003 “Brief History of the Avalon Museum”
 - July 9, 2002 memo from Pary Tell to Frank Coburn regarding exhibits
 - “Maps of Antiquity” Catalog 14 (lists historic NJ maps and includes Bruce Tell’s notes on same)
 - “A Book of Maps of Cape May 1610-1878” produced by Cape May County Geographic Society in 1954.
 - Fourteen newspaper clippings from the 1980s and 1990s on various Avalon-related subjects.