

Monday July 7, 2014

New events added to summer enrichment program for adults

Book discussion, history speaker & bus trip to Winterthur set

As part of its annual adult summer enrichment program, the Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation [AEF] will host a community discussion of the Daisy Goodwin novel “The American Heiress.”

The book, selected by Avon librarian Sheila Watson, is loosely based on the life of Consuelo Vanderbilt, the American-born Duchess of Marlborough. Like her, its heroine marries a British aristocrat who is seeking American wealth to replenish his family fortune — a storyline familiar to fans of the BBC series “Downton Abbey.” Copies of “The American Heiress” are available for residents at the Avon Library.

The book discussion, slated for 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at the pavilion tent on the Avon boardwalk, will be moderated by Chris Oleson. Refreshments will be served, and all are invited.

The AEF summer enrichment series will include two additional “Downton Abbey”-themed events.

On July 24 at 6:30 p.m., a special guest speaker, Paul Zigo, associate professor of history, Brookdale Community College, will lead a discussion at Avon Library about the World War I-era that is the historical context for “Downtown Abbey.” The talk will be followed by a reception on the lawn of the Avon Library.

On Thursday, Aug. 21, “Downton Abbey” fans will enjoy the AEF bus trip to Winterthur, the beautiful du Pont family estate in Wilmington, Delaware, where 60 costumes from the popular program are currently on exhibit. The bus will leave the Avon municipal parking area at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$45 and include transportation and museum admission.



Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation [AEF] president Michelle Gioia [from left], Avon librarian Sheila Watson and AEF vice president Tess Nielsen invite borough residents to read "The American Heiress" and attend discussion events following a 'Downton Abbey' theme this summer. *Photo courtesy AVON-BY-THE-SEA EDUCATION FOUNDATION*

The book discussion and history talk are free and open to the public, but seating is limited so pre-registration is requested. Both events will be held rain or shine.

Call 914-572-6988 or visit the AEF website, www.avonbytheseafoundation.org, to print out a registration form. Registration materials are also available at Avon Public Library and the Avon Municipal Building. To register for the trip, visit the AEF website to print out a registration form or call AEF president Michele Gioia at 914-572-6988. Trip information is also available at the Avon Public Library and Avon Municipal Building.

The Avon-by-the-Sea Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting educational and enrichment opportunities for residents of the community.

For information about becoming a member, contact Ms. Gioia at 914-572-6988.