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Education foundation hosts World War I Centennial talk

AEF hosts educational & outreach activities for adults this summer

How did a 19-year-old assassin ignite a war that spread like wildfire across Europe? Why did that war take an unprecedented toll in human lives? And what role did New Jersey – and specifically Monmouth County – play in America’s entry into the war?

Almost exactly 100 years after the start of World War I, Brookdale Community College professor Paul Zigo answered these questions for the audience attending an Avon Education Foundation [AEF] lecture on the Great War held, in light of inclement weather, inside at the Avon United Methodist Church this past Thursday.

The talk drew members from across the community to hear Mr. Zigo’s insights on the causes and consequences of the war. He also shared local history about Thomas Woodrow Wilson’s summer residence in Shadowlawn, now part of the Monmouth University campus, and the former president’s summer White House offices on Cookman Avenue in Asbury Park in the years leading up to America’s declaration of war.

The lecture was part of the AEF summer enrichment series, developed in collaboration with Avon Public Library director Sheila Watson. It was originally scheduled to be held on the library’s front lawn.

Additional programs in the series include a community discussion of the Daisy Goodwin novel, “The American Heiress,” at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 4 at the boardwalk pavilion tent, as well as a bus trip to Winterthur on Aug. 21. The Winterthur trip will feature an exhibit of World War I era costumes from the popular PBS series “Downton Abbey.”

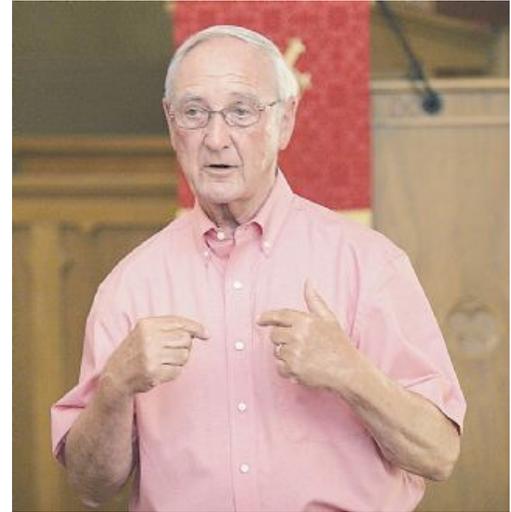
Both events are open to the public. Call 914-572-6988 or visit www.avonbytheseafoundation.org for more information or to register for either or both events. Trip information is also available at Avon Public Library and Avon Municipal Building.

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 Michele Gioia at 914-572-6988.

Photos

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Paul Zigo, a professor at Brookdale Community College, was the guest speaker at a world history lecture this past Thursday sponsored by the Avon Education Foundation and Avon Public Library. Photo by RYAN MAYER, STAR NEWS GROUP

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