

Home > News > Avon-by-the-Sea

Local foundation to offer adult summer enrichment

The offered events are based off 19th century Impressionist art

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By Christopher Neely

AVON-BY-THE-SEA – The Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation is gearing up for a busy summer as they prepare to offer their fourth annual adult summer enrichment program.

The Education Foundation is a third-party group that works to promote educational programs and programs for not only students, but the entire Avon-By-The-Sea community. The foundation pegs adult summer programs as one of their top three priorities, accompanied by school enrichment and educational technology equipment.

This summer, the group will host a series of events based on Susan Vreeland’s “Luncheon of the Boating Party.” The novel is inspired by an 1881 painting of the same name by 19th and 20th century French Impressionist pioneer Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

To stay with the flow of the events series, adult learners may find the novel at the Avon-By-The-Sea Library, online and at local bookstores. The novel dives into the stories of Mr. Renoir’s friends to vividly portray the bohemian atmosphere of late 19th century Paris, which was the origin of the Impressionist Movement.

The first official event hosted by the foundation will be an Impressionist painting class held at Torché Gallery in Belmar on Monday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m. For \$20, participants can create their own Impressionist paintings on pre-sketched canvas with the guidance of a professional teaching artist, while enjoying wine and snacks.

Then, on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m., adult learners are invited to the Avon Marina to hang out with Avon-By-The-Sea librarian, Sheila Watson, Master of Library Sciences, as she leads a discussion of “Luncheon of the Boating Party” with light refreshments served.

Finally, on Thursday, Aug. 13, the foundation will offer a bus trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to view the exhibit “Discovering the Impressionists.” The bus will leave at 8 a.m. and

return at 5:30 p.m.

The cost to participate in this event is \$45 and includes a guided tour of the exhibit. Following the exhibit, participants may spend their afternoon exploring different exhibits on their own.

According to Tess Nielsen of the Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation, last year’s participation in the adult summer enrichment programs was at capacity.

“What I’ve learned is that people are really seeking cultural events that have an enrichment component,” Ms. Nielsen said. “They’re actually learning something and have an education to take away with it.”

Ms. Nielsen said events offered by the foundation come at a low cost to participants because the group is able to subsidize the costs with money raised from fundraising efforts throughout the year. This year, she said the foundation

Photos

1



The Avon-By-The-Sea Education Foundation’s board members are looking forward to the offerings of their 2015 adult summer enrichment program. Pictured: Michele Gioia, President [from left]; Tess Nielsen, Vice President; Meghan Rehbein, Peggy Oladakowski, Susan Bongiorno, Treasurer; Peggy Bonanno *Photo courtesy TESS NIELSEN*

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is looking forward to offering the Impressionist-themed events.

“The board is very excited about these events because the Impressionistic paintings are so beautiful and meaningful,” Ms. Nielsen said. “It is a very reflective experience to see these masterpiece paintings.”

To register for the painting class or bus trip, visit www.avonbytheseafoundation.org or call 732-925-4974.

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