Greetings! This latest CHABA newsletter is an official invitation to CHABACON 2014: Changing Places, Changing Planet—a philosophical festival that celebrates the past AND stakes a claim to a sustainable future.

If you don’t mind our saying so...this is huge.

On Saturday, October 11--for free—and right here in Bridgeton—you can hear Bridgeton-born-and-bred Lester R. Brown, the MacArthur “genius” whose name is synonymous with the global environment and our planetary future and who has been called “one of the world’s most influential thinkers.” This is a unique chance for expert and candid insights into how climate change is really affecting our region, as Brown dialogues with other experts on cultural and environmental sustainability and what is now known as “resiliency”--the ability to come back from storms and other disasters.

Hang out afterwards—a little or a lot. Engage with some of the live “ghosts” of the past as you meander downtown for lunch. Eat local—catch a futurist film—join an expert-led “Green City” bus tour around this heritage riverfront city in its “emerald” natural surround. See things you’ve never seen or see the familiar as you’ve never seen it before: the Park, the Zoo, the Greenway, Sunset Lake (it IS coming back)--the astonishing cross-generational renewal of Immaculate Conception church, the leading edges of the changing historic district—largest in New Jersey. Meet experts and activists—visioning a future Bridgeton and acting on it now.

Back at the Riverfront, dance (or just relax and listen) to the drums of Bridgeton’s own Lenni-Lenape—the People—who have stayed the course for centuries. Hear multicultural poetry or recite some of your own at the Mural Park. Or settle back for an evening of low-carbon-footprint entertainment at the “Ashley” as Jane Seaman brings cabaret theater straight from Broadway to Bridgeton for this single weekend.

And stay over into Sunday (Monday IS a holiday, after all!). Climb aboard our easy-rider tour led by the American Littoral Society--an eye-&-spirit-opening wander through the beautiful Cohansey Rivershed, revealing rarely-seen built relics of the WPA era. Lunch in Greenwich, an 18th century village time-traveling back to the future.

This very special event will happen once, and once only. Let us hold a legacy autographed copy of Lester Brown’s “Breaking New Ground” for you for only $20 when you preregister for the conference. Go to our registration site for details.

Looking for a place to stay Saturday night? Have other questions? OR maybe there’s just something you’d really like to ask Lester Brown or our other speakers? We’ll be sure it gets their attention. Please email jamie.chabacon@gmail.com.

Click on the link below to Register for FREE and choose more of CHABACon’s other creative and low-cost options. You will want to be here. And we can’t wait to see you.

the Center for Historic American Building Arts
Info (daytime) 856-455-2294
Info (evenings, etc) 641-751-3900 x 579314#

REGISTER HERE

For all our other partners & cosponsors, please visit our website at: www.historicbuildingarts.org

THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

Globalization has changed everything—not just where our food comes from, but what we eat—and sometimes whether some will eat at all.

Economic boom and bust have rattled our communities, leaving almost no one untouched by a sudden plant closing or poisoned site. Coastal towns and river cities have been devastated by catastrophic weather events.

A landmark city like Bridgeton struggles with post-industrial poverty and "distress," and loses pieces of its encyclopedic historic district to fire, decay and attrition. A landmark village like Greenwich lives in dread of relentless sea-level rise. People—livelihoods—homes—habitats—are all at stake and at risk....

Join CHABA at the “Ashley” for a conversation about “HomeFronts” --and our plans for hands-on streetscape, landscape and "maker" projects later this year and early next