

Middletown Township Historical Society: May Happenings

This newsletter keeps you updated on the latest events and news of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Also, be sure to follow us on social media for even timelier news and for historical items of interest.

May Speaker Event Postponed

To keep all of our members and friends safe during these unique times, our May speaker event has been postponed. We hope to be able to restart our speaker series soon.



Participate in Our Video History Project!

Thank you to all who already expressed interest in this project!

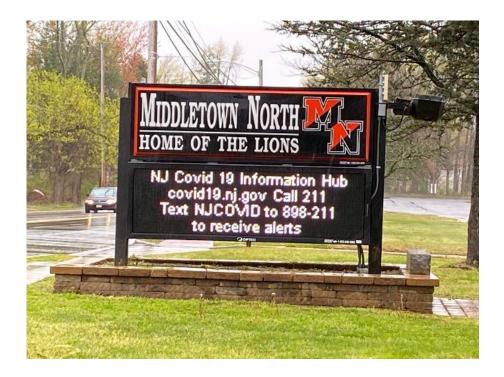
We are all familiar with Oral Histories- interviews with people captured on audio. MTHS is starting a new project similar to that, but we're going to use video instead of audio. This will allow us to reach a larger base and include interesting visuals such as old photographs and contemporary locations. This project will help broaden our reach and will be an excellent collection of first-person memories for generations to come.

For this to be a success, we need your help! If you'd like to impart your experiences of Middletown, please complete this brief questionnaire. Whether you've been here for many decades, lived through a unique experience in more recent times, or have a collection of local memorabilia you'd like to show us, we'd like to hear from you. Do you know someone who has lots to share, such as a parent, friend, or neighbor? Please feel free to let them know about this opportunity!

The process will probably consist of a brief pre-interview over the phone or via email, followed by the on-camera interview at a location we mutually select.

Complete the questionnaire and we'll get back to you if we need more information.

Take the Questionnaire!



And the Pandemic Continues . . .

We hope everyone is doing well and adapting to these circumstances.

Do you have any interesting photos of Middletown during the pandemic to share with us, such as the one above? This time in our history needs to be preserved.

The Monmouth County Historical Association has been asking residents to share their stories during our current pandemic. This is a great way to document history in real time, and we encourage you to share your experiences with them. If you have any photos or stories that are Middletown-specific, we'd love to have them, as well. Please contact us with anything you'd like to share!

From Our Archive



This file documents the creation of the Hillandale Drive development, which was begun in the late 1960s. Included are press releases (written by Middletown historian Thelma K. Jelliffe) and photos of the Lefferts family, the lead developer on the project.

If you have any items of local interest that you might like to donate, <u>please</u> <u>contact us</u>. Don't let them become lost or thrown away!

New Newsletters Added!

Due to a technical glitch, four of our newsletters were not resident on our site. That's now been fixed, and they're freely available at MiddletownNJHistory.org!

The site also features our events, provides an easy way to become a member, and affords free access to our library of official newsletters dating back to 1985. Please <u>check it out</u> and spread the word!



Your Membership Matters . . .

Support Us in 2020! Join or Renew Today!



Join or Renew for 2020

The Middletown Township Historical Society gets the bulk of its revenue from member contributions, so your support is vitally important. Your contributions make our initiatives possible, including our speaker series and essay contest for students, and are also essential for paying our administrative costs.

You may join or renew online or, you may also print out the form here.

Join or Renew Online

Support Us When You Shop at Amazon!

Now, when you purchase most items from Amazon, they will donate a portion of the sale to us! It costs you nothing! Here's what you need to do: First, you must connect our organization to your Amazon account using this link. Then, if you shop using a computer, you must go to smile.amazon.com for us to receive credit. If you use the Amazon mobile app, be sure it is updated to the latest version and then go into settings to see that Amazon Smile is turned on and that our name is listed.









Trivia Time

This Month's Question:

This year's Weekend in Old Monmouth, organized by the Monmouth County Historical Commission, was unfortunately cancelled. It would have featured five sites in Middletown. When was the term "Old Monmouth" coined and what area did it refer to?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Ouestion:

The Mecca Inn on the northwest corner of Shrewsbury Avenue and Newman Springs Road in Red Bank used its second and third floors for patients in the 1918 flu pandemic. Also, a temporary hospital was built near Newman Springs Road in today's Tinton Falls (then Shrewsbury Township) during the 1893 smallpox epidemic. Extra Credit: William Bingham is the man who fled Philadelphia for his country home in Rumson in 1793 during a yellow fever outbreak. Bingham was a key financier of the Revolution. His Rumson house is extant, with significant alterations. He went on to become a US Senator, and Bingham Avenue in Rumson and Binghamton, NY are named after him.

In Addition to Our Members, Thank You to the Following for their Assistance and Support:



Thanks for reading! The Middletown Township Historical Society will be in touch again soon! If you know others who would be interested in receiving communications from us, please forward this email and ask them to join this <u>list!</u>









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