

October 2019 Newsletter

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Middletown Township Historical Society: October 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 [Facebook](#) for even timelier news and for historical items of interest.



**THE RISE AND FALL OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN
IN NEW JERSEY**

Presented by **Joseph Bilby**

Monday, October 21 at 7:00 pm

Hosted by Middletown Township Historical Society at
Middletown Township Public Library
55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ 07748

Monday, October 21, 2019, 7:00 pm:

"The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey" presented by Joseph G. Bilby

The Middletown Township Historical Society hosts Joseph G. Bilby who will present on his newest historical book, *The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan in New*

present on his newest historical book, *The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey*. Mr. Bilby has authored many books on various aspects of New Jersey history, and he is a favorite presenter of our group. He received his BA and MA degrees in history from Seton Hall University and served in Vietnam and in the Army Reserve. The recipient of numerous awards, he also devotes time to the New Jersey National Guard and Militia Museum in Sea Girt, New Jersey. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

The event will begin at **7:00 pm** at the **Middletown Township Public Library** at 55 New Monmouth Road on **Monday, October 21 2019** in the Community Room. All are welcome free of charge.

An Addition to Our Archive

Recently we were gifted this antique rolltop desk by the Lucina Family of Belford. It is believed that it once resided in the trolley station or bus depot in Campbell's Junction. It was produced by the Standard Furniture Company in Herkimer, New York. Do we have any antique experts who could help us date it?

We are grateful for the donation! If you have any items of interest that you'd like to donate, [please let us know](#).





Out and About

We had beautiful weather at Middletown Day, where we gave out postcards and bookmarks and made connections with residents and local leaders. Thanks to everyone who stopped by.

More thanks go to those who participated in our Dine & Donate event at MJ's Restaurant.



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.



Last Month's Event Recap

Historian and author Brian Armstrong presented on the development of women's suffrage. Mr. Armstrong put the movement in historical context and displayed photographs, drawings, and items from the era. Thank you to all who attended.

Our Website Has Launched!

To further our reach, we have launched a brand new website:
[MiddletownNJHistory.org!](http://MiddletownNJHistory.org)

The site 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 [check it out](#) and spread the word!

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Preserving & Promoting the History of
Middletown, NJ Since 1968



A New Home for Our Archive?

Since we vacated the MacLeod-Rice House a few years ago, our archive of items has been held in storage by the township. While we were grateful that room was found to house it for us, we are only able to access it by making special arrangements, and only during regular business hours. We'd like to catalog the collection more completely, and take advantage of a free archival assessment that the State could provide.

Do you know of a local organization that might be willing to store our archive in a secure, temperature-controlled environment, and allow us regular access to it? Perhaps a church or a fraternal group that has extra room in their facility? If you have an idea or any contacts, [please let us know](#).

Would You Like to Become a Trustee or Volunteer?

Your local historical society could use your ideas and talents! If you have an interest in fundraising, communications, or in growing our membership, [please let us know](#) your ideas or your willingness to become involved. Our volunteer trustees would like to work with you to strengthen and expand our organization!

Your Membership Matters

Support Us in 2019!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE: Please Renew or Begin your Membership Today!

membership today:

In order to keep our Society going, we need your support. Our funds go towards securing speakers for our events and for administrative fees. We'd also like to undertake new initiatives that could expand our reach, but without proper funding, this will be difficult to achieve.

We now offer a couple of ways you can renew or start your membership:

- [Contribute online](#) and pay via credit or debit card. This is the quickest and easiest way!
- [Print out the membership form](#) and mail to us or bring it to an upcoming MTHS event

Thank you for your interest in Middletown's history, and for your ongoing support.

Upcoming MTHS Events

October 21: "The Rise and Fall of the Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey" by Joseph Bilby

November 18: "Hidden History of Monmouth County" by Muriel Smith, plus All Saints National Landmark Trust

Unless otherwise noted, all events will begin at 7:00 pm at the Middletown Township Public Library.

Upcoming Atlantic Highlands Historical Society Events

Consider attending an event by one of our neighboring historical groups:

October 12th: Screening of the Vincent Price classic *The Pit and the Pendulum*. 8 PM. \$10 per person. Includes free popcorn with additional refreshments available for purchase.

October 16th: Free lecture and musical presentation by Daimon Alexandrius on Vineland NJ's "Palace of Depression" and its founder. 7:30 PM.

More info and registration [here](#).



Trivia Time

This Month's Question:

Where was the Ku Klux Klan headquarters in Middletown?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Question:

Mary Wooster Sutton was one local suffragist. She was the first woman to actively practice law in Monmouth County, and was the subject of a MTHS presentation by member Randall Gabrielan earlier this year.

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 list!](#)

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