Middletown Township Historical Society:
December 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.

Essay Contest for Middletown Students Now Underway!

The Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission and the Middletown Township Historical Society have teamed up to offer an essay contest for Middletown's middle schoolers.

The theme of the essay is "Middletown's Impact on History" and is open to all Middletown residents currently enrolled in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. One winner from each grade will be awarded $50, courtesy of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Winners will be selected by the members of the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

"Middletown has such a rich history, and we hope this contest can spark an interest
in some students," said Linda Maresca, Chairwoman of the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

"We're happy to have the support of the Middletown public schools in this endeavor, and we hope this can be a learning process for both the student and their parents," said Thomas Valenti, president of the Middletown Township Historical Society.

Recently, in another effort to educate residents about Middletown's history, township social studies teachers were given a bus tour of local historic sites. The tour was organized and guided by the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

The essay contest will accept entries until December 20. Official rules can be found at MiddletownNJHistory.org. We're grateful for the recent publicity this contest has received from Middletown Patch, Atlantic Highlands Herald, Middletown Township Board of Education, and the Middletown Minutes newsletter.

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**Another Addition to Our Archive**

Recently we were gifted a collection of early 1970s housing brochures. One of them is for the "Hills of Brigadoon" development, now better known as McCutcheon Court off of Middletown-Lincroft Road. It was presumably named for the then recently-deceased Middletown Committeeman Robert McCutcheon. Previously, it was a farm owned by Edward Ellison.

Thank you to new MTHS member Alfred Phillips for the donation! If you have any items of interest that you'd like to donate, please let us know.
A Call to Help Preserve The Courier Newspaper

The Courier newspaper ran weekly from 1955 through 2009, and is the most notable Middletown-based periodical. While the Middletown Township Public Library has a bound collection of the newspapers, they are deteriorating and are in dire need of being scanned and digitally preserved so that researchers and future generations can access this trove of knowledge. If you’d like to help with the project, the library would love you to volunteer your time to scan the newspapers! No technical knowledge is necessary. Please contact (MTHS member) Pam Curchin at pcurchin@mtpl.org.
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](http://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 Speakers: All Saints National Landmark Trust

Becky Cosgrove (an MTHS member) and Kim Warman presented on the history of the Stone Church and spoke about their campaign to raise funds for its maintenance. More info on their cause can be found here. As a thank you for listening to their talk, MTHS members have the opportunity for a private tour of the Stone Church and its grounds! If you are interested, please contact Andrew Navarette, their Development Counsel, at AndrewNAllSaints@gmail.com or 917-742-3592,
Last Month's Speaker: Muriel J. Smith

Our final speaker last month was Muriel J. Smith, coauthor of the new book *Hidden History of Monmouth County*. Ms. Smith, an MTHS member, recounted her career in journalism and discussed how she compiled the book. If you purchase the book for the upcoming holidays, remember to start your visit at Smile.Amazon.com and connect your account to us so we can get credit!

Have You Visited Our Website?

It's live at 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!
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!

Upcoming MTHS Events
**February 17:** Show & Tell
**March 16:** Annual Meeting of Members and TBD Speaker

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

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

**December 12:** "History On Tap" at Seabrook-Wilson House courtesy of Monmouth County Parks. Join historian and archaeologist Kristen Hohn as she presents on "From Piracy to Prohibition: Rum Running on the Jersey Shore." 6:00.

**December 18:** Join the A Capella Choir of Henry Hudson Regional School for their annual holiday concert at the Strauss Mansion Museum. 7:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Trivia Time
_This Month's Question:_
What famous automobile racing figure owned a Middletown mansion? What was the name of the house, and who was original owner and architect?
Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

*Answer to Last Month's Question:*
In 1897 Captain Benjamin Griggs, the township Collector, was accused of financial irregularities. It was said that the books involved in the investigation had been stolen, as had all the earlier books.

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

[Institution logos]

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](mailto:jointhislist@middletownhistoricalsociety.org)!