

# July 2018 Newsletter

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## Middletown Township Historical Society's July Happenings

This newsletter is meant to keep 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.



### Skies of the American Revolution

Presented by Elaine Lent

July 16, 2018 | 7:00 pm

Poricy Park Nature Center

*Middletown Township Historical Society*

**Speaker Event: Monday, July 16, 2018**

*"Skies of the American Revolution" presented by Elaine Lent*

Did the sky and the weather play a part in the American War for Independence? Elaine Lent will present a different view of the Revolutionary

War through the life and times of the colorful William Alexander, Lord Stirling (1726 – 1783), a prominent amateur astronomer, surveyor, soldier, and patriot. Stirling's military contributions to the American side of the conflict were considerable, but are largely forgotten today. A native of New York and Basking Ridge, NJ, Stirling played a pivotal part in the American Revolution, particularly during the early years.

Elaine Lent, a member of the Middletown Township Historical Society, is a teacher and grant writer. As Vice-President of the New Jersey Astronomical Association, her interest in astronomy and history led her to write a number of grants to fund personal exploration of these studies. Ms. Lent is also a member of the Middletown Township Historical Preservation Commission, the Monmouth County Historical Association, and serves as the Church Historian for Middletown's Old First Church.

**We hope to see you Monday, July 16 at 7:00 pm at the Poricy Park Nature Center, 345 Oak Hill Road, Middletown, NJ.** There is no fee for admittance!

Do you have suggestions for upcoming speakers? If so, please contact [Randall Gabrielan](#), our Program Chair.



## Help Us Spread the Word!

We'd love to have more people attend our monthly events and to have more members. To that end, we have created this [printable flyer](#) of upcoming events that is designed to be displayed in public places, such as bulletin boards in stores and community gathering areas. We'd be grateful if you could print a few copies of the flyer and post in places around town that allow for such items (if you have doubts, please ask someone in charge before posting). This file can also be sent via email or posted to social networks. Thank you!

[Download and Print](#)



## June Event Recap

John Fabiano, Executive Director of the Monmouth County Historical Commission, presented *The Search for Molly Pitcher*. Mr. Fabiano made the case that a lesser-known real-life "Molly" was actually the legendary heroine. We thank him for his appearance!

After the presentation, a Special Meeting of members was held, and those in attendance unanimously voted in favor of amending our Certificate of Incorporation as recommended by our Board of Trustees.



## Continued Thanks to Our Hosts

Since the Society vacated Croydon Hall a number of years ago, the Poricy Park Nature Center has been the meeting place for most of our monthly events. We continue to be grateful to the Poricy Park Conservancy volunteers and Middletown Recreation staff for allowing us access. For more information on

the programs offered at Poricy Park and to become a member of the Conservancy, [visit their website](#). Information about Middletown Recreation can be found [here](#).

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## Support the Society

If you value the aims of the Society, we ask that you please support us both when we put out a call for volunteers and also via membership dues. Volunteer opportunities will be coming soon, but for now if you are interested in continuing your membership or joining for the first time, please [contact us](#). Also, if you have any items of historical value that you would like to donate, [please get in touch](#). Thank you!

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## Other Upcoming Events of Interest

In addition to our own event, you may be interested in the following historic-themed events occurring in the Middletown area in the coming weeks:

- [Fossil Hunt](#) - What can you and your youngsters find in Poricy Park's Fossil Beds? 11:00 am on **Sunday, July 29**. Reservation and fee apply.
- [Revolutionary Rave](#) - The Monmouth County Historical Association holds its first 18th Century-style party in Middletown's Taylor-Butler House on **Saturday, August 4**. Reservation and fee apply.

**Saturday, August 4.** Reservation and fee apply.

- [Fort Hancock/Sandy Hook](#) - This park offers a number of tours throughout the summer months

Do you know of other events our readers would benefit from? [Let us know!](#)

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## Trivia Time

### *This Month's Question:*

With a Middletown resident now serving as governor, who was the last Middletown resident to serve in the United States Senate?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

### *Answer to Last Month's Question:*

The main highway which formerly passed through Middletown village along Kings Highway threatened to overwhelm the historic district as motor vehicle traffic increased. In 1928, nine years after it had been straightened, Kings Highway was realigned and a new section of what became Highway 35 was built from where the Sears store is located to the area by the present Township Hall.

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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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