



Arts & Culture Department
Room B-11, Municipal Bldg.
245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457



City of Middletown
www.Middletownct.gov
arts@Middletownct.gov
860-638-4510

March-April 2019

ARTS & CULTURAL NEWSLETTER

Serving the citizens of the City of Middletown, CT through arts and cultural opportunities.

SPOTLIGHT: Art on View at City Hall

"The City Art Collection," initiated in 1977 by the Commission on the Arts, is a unique Middletown asset that brightens up our building and has been viewed by thousands of people. It is a permanent collection of art works purchased from local artists, and on continuing exhibition in the Municipal Building. Each newsletter publication will feature a piece of the collection, and a statement about the artist who has created the work. The collection can be viewed Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., excluding state and federal holidays.



ENTITLED: **Eli Cannons, 2016**, Pastel, by Janine Janaki

Eli Cannons - (2016) The popular pub on Main Street that ignited The Middletown Series. The piece began with a playful summer photograph. Throughout the fall, I made slow and sporadic progress in drafting the complicated perspective. My effort was halted abruptly by my Dad's passing on New Year's Day. After a month of raw grief, I returned to the easel. As I meticulously crafted the layout, something whispered, "You could paint a whole series of Middletown!" And so began my two and a half year journey into the depths of the town I love.

Artist Statement

I have never not painted. As early as I can recall, I've spilled colors and patterns on the paper... sometimes mere scraps with whatever implement I could find. As does the sun that rises... as do the birds that sing... I paint because I must. I disappear into the realm of the unseen and return with a translation of a soul-felt reality.

Is there a plan? Somewhat – a rudimentary outline of a subject at hand. Then I depart... my hands move. Compelled, I work in minute detail, an inch at a time, pushing colors inexplicably upon the pastel board. When I step back, I am always surprised to see the world, larger than life.

Middletown is a special place... the only place I've ever truly felt at home. It has a certain vitality... a certain edge that cannot be contained by the status quo. The North End is alive. Wesleyan breathes dreams. The Connecticut River is a steady friend. From

the colorful exchanges outside the soup kitchen, to the quiet beauty of Wadsworth Park, to the happy Saturday morning queue outside O'Rourke's, to the world music at The Buttonwood Tree, to The Mug Club at Eli's, to the multinational restaurant scene... Middletown speaks of originality and authenticity. I simply had to paint it!!

Janine Janaki
www.JaninesArt.com

@ The Russell Library

The exhibit "Images of Middletown" with paintings by Janine Janaki and photography of North End scenes by Ed Friedman can be seen on display at the Russell Library for the month of March at 123 Broad Street, Middletown.

More Events
@ The Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org
The Atwater Donnelly Trio
March 17th, 2 p.m.
The Hubbard Room
The New World Trio
April 25th, 7 p.m.
The Hubbard Room



MAYOR DANIEL T. DREW

Commissioners

Cassandra Day, Chair
Charlotte McCoid, Vice Chair
Julia Faraci, Secretary
Barbara Arafah
David Bauer
John Basinger
Franca Biales
Lee Godburn
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Crystal Laffan
Pam Steele

Ad Hoc Members

Councilman
Sebastian Giuliano
Councilman
Robert Santangelo

Poet Laureate 2019 -'22
Cheryl Ann Hale

Music Ambassador 2019
Neely Bruce

Staff: Kisha Michael
Arts Coordinator

*Meeting are held every 4th
Wednesday of each month, Room
208 Municipal Building, unless
otherwise indicated on the calendar.
Public session is held at the
beginning of the agenda.*

EVENTS, PERFORMANCES & THE ARTS

Serving the citizens of the City of Middletown through arts and cultural news and activities.



Cheryl was recently appointed Middletown, Connecticut's second Poet Laureate. She is active in both Connecticut Poetry Society and Faxon Poets, where she is co-editing an anthology. She recently retired from a recreational therapy position at an assisted living facility. She currently facilitates art and poetry programs in community settings.

The Empty Chair by Cheryl Anne Hale, 2019

*-In loving memory of Middletown's first Poet Laureate,
Susan D. E. Allison, 1961-2018*

*Here, an old upholstered chair quietly
deliquesces beneath tree boughs-
Here, birds seek refuge in her winter garden-
here, her Love seeks solace;
here, as river breezes ruffle dry grass and seedpods,
he tends this tranquil shrine to the Poet*

*Here, the Poet fell in love with the
moon, scentually surrounded by
lily-of-the-valley and silvery sage; one ear ever
tuned to the hive-buzz of her city.
Here, her pen sang their song-
the song of the North End.
Here, she was their queen.*

*I never knew her with hair.
Here, bald and beautiful, the Poet-Warrior,
battle cry of hope in those blue-green eyes,
fanned herself with her wig; joked
that she wasn't a natural blonde anymore.*

Here, the poet fell asleep at dawn.



MIDDLETOWN COMMISSION ON THE ARTS 2019 Arts Advocate Awardees

Honoring **Stephan Allison** who has retired after serving 19 incredible years as our City Arts Coordinator!

Honoring **Klekolo World Coffee**, which has been expertly brewing up coffee, friendships, and artistic culture on Court Street in Middletown for 25 years.

A ceremony in their honor will be held at:
Klekolo World Coffee
181 Court Street
Tuesday, March 5th 2019
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Daily, weekly, and up-to-date events happening in Middletown are also listed on our Facebook page. Please visit www.facebook.com/cityartsoffice listings of more events.

Mark Your Calendar!

March 5th
Arts Advocacy Award Ceremony
@ 181 Court St./5:30-6:30 pm
Honoring
Klekolo World Coffee
& Stephan Allison

March 9th-17th
**Middletown Public Schools
K-12 Art Show** @ Zilkha Gallery
Reception 3/9/19 5-7pm

March 14-16
Jr. Repertory Company presents:
The Servant of Two Masters
"pay what you can preview on 3/14"
Oddfellows Playhouse
www.oddfellows.org



tickets:
info.lindaransom@gmail.com
<https://arethaconcert.eventbrite.com>

March 29th
The New England Neville Brothers
The Buttonwood Tree
8-10 pm
www.buttonwood.org

April 5th - May 26th
Exhibition
**For Effect: Emphatic Bodies from the
Renaissance to the Industrial Age**
301 High St. Davison Art Center
Reception: 4/4, 5-7 pm
www.wesleyan.edu/dac

April 5th
Tempest - Celtic Rock Benefit Show
The Buttonwood Tree
7:30-10:30 pm
www.buttonwood.org

April 7th
Artist for World Peace presents
Interfaith Dialogue
End of Life Customs
27 Washington St, deKoven House
2-4 pm, FREE
www.artistforworldpeace.org

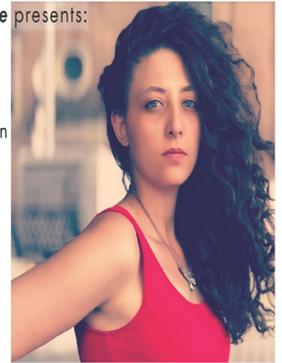
April 8th
Readers Theater presents
RABBIT HOLE
by David Lindsay-Abaire
Hubbard Room, Russell Library
7 pm

Jazz Up Close presents:

Can I Get A Witness

Jazz Composition
as Storytelling

Thursday,
April 18
7pm
Russell Library



with Sanah Kadoura

FREE @ Russell Library - Hubbard Room
www.resonantmotion.org/jazzupclose

April 27th
Greater Middletown Concert
Association's (GMCA)
**50th Anniversary
Celebration & Concert**
featuring the Hal McIntyre Orchestra
MHS Performing Arts Center - 200 LaRosa Ln.
7:30 pm - For tickets: call 860-343-7555

April 27th
2019 Mayor's Ball
Wadsworth Mansion
Beneficiary: Middlesex Chamber's
Hal Kaplan Mentor Program
Sponsorship Deadline March 30th
contact mayor@middletownct.gov

preview...

May 11th
**Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords Spring
Musical Celebration**
95 High St., Portland High School, 7 pm
www.vocalcords20.org

June 15th
**Middletown's First PRIDE PARADE
& CELEBRATION! Main Street, 2pm**
More info coming soon...

June 21
MAKE MUSIC DAY RETURNS!
More info coming soon...

MIDDLETOWN PRESENTERS and more...

ARTS ON VIEW

City Art Collection
Municipal Bldg./City Hall
245 deKoven Dr.
www.middletownct.gov

GALLERIES

MAC 650 Gallery
650 Main St./860-343-1516
www.mac650.com

Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Rd./860-343-5806
• Pegasus Gallery, Chapman Hall
• The Niche Gallery, Founders Hall
www.mxcc.edu/art-exhibits

Wesleyan Potters Gallery & Shop
350 South Main St./860-344-0039
www.wesleyanpotters.com

Wesleyan University, CFA

- Davison Art Center
- Ezra & Cecile Zilkha Gallery
- Mansfield Freeman Ctr.,
College of East Asian Studies
www.wesleyan.edu/cfa

LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS

Godfrey Memorial Library
134 Newfield St./860-346-4375
www.godfrey.org

Middlesex County Historical Society
151 Main St./860-346-0746
www.mchsct.org

Russell Library
123 Broad St./860-347-2528
www.russelllibrary.org

PRESENTERS

ART INSTRUCTION, MIXED MEDIA & WORKSHOPS

CT Woodcarvers Association
Facebook: @Connecticut Woodcarvers Association

Middletown Art Academy
504 Main St., Suite South-3/860-344-0554
www.middletownartacademy.com
featuring Art Walk Middletown
www.artwalkct.org

The Art Guild of Middletown
P.O. Box 205/860-358-9212
www.artguildofmiddletown.org

KIDS, FAMILY & SENIOR SERVICES

Kidcity Children's Museum
119 Washington St./860-347-0495
www.kidcitymuseum.com

Recreation & Community Services
Recreation Division
61 Durant Terrace/860-635-4500
Senior Division/860-638-4540
www.cityofmiddletown.com

Russell Library Children's Department
123 Broad St./860-344-8479
www.russelllibrary.org

COMMUNITY BASED & SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Artist for World Peace
860-301-9757
www.artistsforworldpeace.org

Family Wellness Center/CHC
635 Main St./860-347-6971 x3662
familywellness.chc1.com

North End Action Team (NEAT)
645 Main St./860-346-4845
www.neatmiddletown.org

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATER & PERFORMANCE ART

ARTFARM
119 Highland Ave./860-346-4390
www.art-farm.org

CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society
P.O. Box 313/860-554-1256
www.ctgands.org

CT Heritage Productions
152 Nejako Dr./860-398-9247
www.chproductions.org

CT Poetry Society
www.ctpoetry.net/860-563-5761

Middlesex Hospital Vocal Cords
www.vocalchords20.org/860-347-2787

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers
www.nhrscds.com/860-653-5258

Middletown Stage Company
www.middletownstagecompany.org

Middletown Symphonic Band
www.middletownsymphonicband.org

Middletuners
The Senior Chorus of Middletown
Barbara Arafeh/860-347-4887

Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater
128 Washington St./860-347-6143
www.oddfellows.org

Stage Left Dance Studio
100 Riverview Center-Suite 100/860-346-6928
www.empowermovement.org

The Buttonwood Tree Performing
Arts Center
605 Main Street/860-347-4957
www.buttonwood.org

The Greater Middletown Chorale
P.O. Box 527/860-316-4854
www.gmchorale.org

The Greater Middletown Concert
Association
P.O. Box 2622/860-343-7555
www.greatermiddletownconcerts.org

Wadsworth Mansion at Long
Hill Estate
421 Wadsworth St./860-347-1064
www.wadsworthmansion.com

Wesleyan University, CFA
• Crowell Concert Hall
• Ring Family Performing Arts Hall
• World Music Hall
www.wesleyan.edu/cfa

Vinnie's Jump and Jive
424 Main St/860-347-6971x3777
www.vinniesjumpandjive.com

MEDIA ARTS, FILM, RADIO & SOUND PRODUCTION

The Coffeehouse Recording Studio
510 Main St./860-347-8439
www.thecoffeehouse.net

Wesleyan University
• WESU 88.1 FM/860-685-7700
www.wesufm.org
• Center for Film Studies/
www.wesleyan.edu/cfilm

RETAIL, COFFEE SHOPS & RESTAURANTS FEATURING LIVE MUSIC, PERFORMANCES & ART ON VIEW

ION Restaurant
606 Main St./860-346-9210
www.ionrestaurant.com

Klekolo World Coffee
181 Court St./860-343-9444
www.klekolo.com

Laboca Restaurant
337 Main St/860-347-4777
www.labocamexican.com

Middlesex Music Academy
440 Main St./860-344-0525
www.middlesex-music-academy.com

Middletown Framing
502 Main St./860-347-0064
www.middletownframing.com

Perkatory Coffee Roasters
725 Main St. Unit 23/860-788-2029
perkatoryroasters.com

R.J. Julia Bookstore
413 Main Street/860-685-3939
www.rjjulia.com

Tesoro Unique Gifts
680 Main St/860-704-0607
www.tesorouniquegifts.com

The Mattabessett Canoe Club
@ Harbor Park
80 Harbor Dr./860-347-9999
www.canoecubmiddletown.com

Ursel's Web
140 Washington St./860-344-0041
www.urselsweb.com

HEALTH, WELLNESS & ARTS EDUCATION

Meditation in Middletown
www.themeditationman.org/860-685-8716

Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education (MILE)
www.mileonline.org/860-343-5863

Middletown Adult Education
398 Main St./860-343-6044
www.maect.org

Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council
311 Hunting Hill Ave./860-638-1419
www.middletownschools.org

Wesleyan Institute for Life Long Learning (WILL)
51 Lawn Ave./860-685-3005
www.wesleyan.edu/will

Yoga in Middletown
438 Main St./860-347-YOGA
www.yogainmiddletown.com

OPPORTUNITIES

Serving the citizens of the City of Middletown through arts and culture opportunities.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:

City of Middletown part-time employment applications for the summer are available online at www.middletownct.gov and are due by Friday, March 15, 2019. Positions are available to those 16 years of age and older. Applications must be returned to the proper department:

Rec & Community Services
@ 61 Durant Terrace

Kids Arts
@ Arts & Culture Office,
City Hall

Youth Services Bureau
@ 372 Hunting Hill Ave.

Parks Division of Public Works
@ 319 Butternut St.

JUST FOR KIDS:

Summer camp registration is open for kids ages 5-15. Full day program for the 31st annual **Children's Circus of Middletown**. Two programs of full day circus camp; The Teeny, Tiny Circus Troupe, ages 5-7 and the Children's Circus core group, entering grade 3-age 15. Please note that city of Middletown resident taxpayers are given priority for registering. Availability is on a first come, first served basis. Non resident applications are processed on/ on April 1st.

Applications are available at the **Arts & Culture Office, The Russell Library, Senior & Community Center** or online at www.middletownct.gov/arts

Recreation and Community Services has **summer youth day camp** information available. Current brochures are available online. Look for their **summer brochure** and new programming on **May 1**.

Youth Fishing Derby will be held on **Saturday April 27th** at Butternut Pond on Butternut St. Check in & registration starts at 8 a.m., Fishing Derby is held from 8-10 a.m. and awards are at 10:15 a.m. Contact Rec&Community Services at 860-638-4500 for more information.

Kids Night @ the Observatory are on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 7 or 8 pm during the academic year. Aimed at elementary school ages, but open to all. 96 Foss Hill, Van Vleck Observatory
www.wesleyan.edu/astro

ART GRANTS:

The Middletown Commission on the Arts welcomes grant applications from organizations, businesses and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of Middletown residents through the arts. Commission funded programs and projects include, but are not limited to: **performances, exhibitions, children's arts programs, arts education, public art, and other arts activities that benefit Middletown and its residents.** The Commission is particularly interested in programs that reach residents in all of the community's diversity. The MCA does not provide funding for capital projects, endowments, or multi-year grants. **MCA Arts Grants Policy** requires that the expenditure of any City funds must have a 1:1 matching requirement. **Deadlines: 15th of January, February and September of each calendar year.** Please visit the www.middletownct.gov/arts, or call the Arts office at 860-638-4510.

VOLUNTEER:

General Mansfield **Docent Program - The Middlesex County Historical Society** is currently seeking volunteer docents so that it is able to resume being open and giving tours on Saturdays. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please contact Maria Weinberger at mchs@wesleyan.edu.

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano Lessons
contact Carolyn Halsted
860-343-0677

Discover your Main St Downtown Business District (DBD)
330 Main St./860-347-1424
www.middletowndowntown.com
Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
393 Main St. / 860-347-6927
www.middlesexchamber.com
Monthly business networking!!!

LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL ARTS & PHILANTHROPY ORGANIZATIONS:

Local 400 American Federation of Musicians
www.members.afm.org/locals/info/number/400

Connecticut Songwriters Assoc.
www.ctsongs.com

Connecticut Office of the Arts
www.ct.gov

Connecticut Arts Alliance
ctartsalliance.org

National Endowment for the Arts
www.arts.gov

Americans for the Arts
www.americansforthearts.org

New England Foundation for the Arts
www.nefa.org

Community Foundations of Middlesex County
www.middlesexcountycf.org

Shoreline Arts Alliance
www.shorelinearts.org

CALL FOR ARTISTS:

The Arts & Culture office will be accepting submissions for the **First Annual Mayor's Visual Art Contest & Exhibit.**

Criteria: seeking the interpretation of city life, people & places, or land & streetscapes of the City of Middletown; through drawing, painting and photography. Open to city residents of all ages. **Terms:** Artwork will be on exhibit during the annual Fireworks Festival 2019; maximum of 2 entries per artist; must supply easel for display; awards will be given to 3rd, 2nd and 1st place. **All** artists will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation and given honorable mention.

Applications will be available at the Art Office on March 30th. Deadline for entry is May 31, 2019.

Summer Youth Day Camp Junior Counselor Program for students born in 2003 or 2004. Camp starts June 24th and runs for seven consecutive weeks ending August 2. Camp is five days a week and runs from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Experience will help foster leadership,

motivational skills, character development, appropriate decision making, communication and working professionally with staff, families and children. For more information contact Karen Nocera at **860-638-4502** karen.nocera@middletownct.gov Middletown Recreation & Community Services

NOMINATIONS:

Connecticut Office of the Arts is accepting nominations for **Connecticut Arts Hero Award** to honor and celebrate residents who are doing extraordinary work in the arts. Deadline to submit a nomination is March 28, 2019.

Past recipients
Mark Aldrich, 2018
Adam Atkins, 2017
Wendy Black-Nasta, 2017
Leslie Elias, 2018
Dr. Jose Gonzalez, 2018
Mohamed Hafez, 2018
Bruce John, 2017
Calida Jones, 2018
Suzanne Kachmar, 2017
Shanna Melton, 2018
Elizabeth Morgan, 2018
Lynnette Letsky Piombo, 2017
Kerri Quirk, 2018
Dayna Snell, 2017
Allison Stockel, 2017
Kim Stroud, 2018
Joy Supples, 2017
Aaron Jafferis, 2017

LISTINGS:

Submission deadline for the next calendar is April 13th, space is available on a first come, first served basis. We will make every effort to list your **event OR organization** for each coming month. Email to arts@middletownct.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

To reach a larger audience of citizens in a timely fashion, the Arts Office utilizes **Facebook** to assist with informing the city, county, and its visitors with the most up-to-date events that are occurring in Middletown. Visit, like and follow us @[Facebook.com/cityartsoffice](https://www.facebook.com/cityartsoffice)