



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

May-June 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: **Carmela, 2016 oil on canvas, by Abby Carter**

When the paintings, including "Carmela," were exhibited at the Hartford Lyceum, Abby Carter stated, "In this age of celebrity, many people are left unseen and under-appreciated. I hope these portraits help you to see the varied and interesting faces I see every Tuesday."

About the Artist and Painting
As Carmela's luminous brown eyes follow you about the space, you may wonder what she is thinking. Is that a smile on her expressive face? Or is it a smirk that says you have kept her waiting too long? Whatever the interpretation, it is personal – in her face and yours!

Abby Carter's painting may now be found at the Arts Office in the Middletown Municipal Building. Carmela was a recently acquired painting for the City Art Collection.

For several years the artist, children's book illustrator Abby Carter, had served as a volunteer at the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, sketching the guests and staff. As official Artist-in-Residence, she created more than 230 small pencil portraits. Abby framed these and hung them on the walls for all to view while giving a photocopy to the subject for the recipient to treasure. Shoulder to shoulder, the unique portraits now paper the walls of the dining area where they delight guests daily.

"Carmela" made her Middletown debut as part of a major art show, "Crossing the Street: Portraits of People in the Community" in 2016 at the Middletown Art Collective's MAC650. The striking painting was one of a number of oil interpretations of Carter's much smaller pencil portraits. By greatly enlarging the scale and changing from the black and gray values of the sketches to subtle color and lively brushwork, she adds immediacy and impact to the portraits. A Middletown Press article refers to the "unique personalities that sparkle... [revealing] a humanness and tender-hearted vulnerability."

Who is the enigmatic woman depicted? You may know her as Carmela Murphy, a long-time volunteer at the Soup Kitchen and a favorite among the guests.

A Wesleyan graduate in the Class of 1983, Abby Carter has recently moved from Connecticut to Maine, where she continues to create engaging illustrations for children's books.

-by Joyce Kirkpatrick
MCA Commissioner



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
- Pamela 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

Meetings 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.

Poet Laureate's Corner

2HB

Deep yellow, hexagonal
just like one I used
in elementary school,
before we were allowed
to use pens.

I love the feel of smooth paint,
the roughness of exposed wood that
encases the "lead".

I love the feel and sound of
tip gliding across a
rough sheet of paper.

I love the smell of wood shavings
and graphite as it's sharpened
to a fine point
again and again.

With it, I record important data
in my grown-up world,
even more important scribbles
in margins—

swirly vines, galaxies,
reminders,
notes on life,
shopping lists,
rhymes,

images I try to trap—
before they escape.

Most revealing
is the eraser.

The eraser, worn down flat,
even with the metal ferrule's edge.
Of mistakes, intended for oblivion,
always,

a little remains;
grey smudges on corrected pages,
textured imprints, ghosts of ideas,
never good enough—
never really gone.

(c) by Cheryl Anne Hale 2015

Mark Your Calendar!

MAY 4

12th Annual Composers & Improvisors Festival - World Class Jazz Artists
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
The Buttonwood Tree, 605 Main St.

MAY 5

Greater Middletown Chorale Presents: CHORAL MUSIC OF ANTON BRUCKNER MASS NO. 2 in E Minor w/ Wind Orchestra
Pre-concert talk 3:15 p.m.
4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Middletown High School
200 Larosa Lane, visit www.gmchorale.org

MAY 11

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS SPRING MUSICAL CELEBRATION
7 p.m., 95 High St., Portland High School
www.vocalcords20.org
or call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120

MAY 13

READERS THEATER PRESENTS: Williams & Wood by Max Wilk
Live drama enacted by local actors! This play explores the long relationship between playwright Tennessee Williams and his famous agent, Audrey Wood.
7 p.m., Hubbard Room
Russell Library, 123 Broad St.

MAY 18

MIDDLETOWN KIDS HEALTH & SAFETY DAY
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
A day of information, entertainment & family fun!
Main Street, Middletown

MAY 18

Live Performance
First Church presents a Performance of Julius Lesters' *Day of Tears*
FREE Community Event Open to ALL
7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
First Church, 190 Court St.

MAY 25 (Rain date June 1)

SWAG ME DOWN
Free Clothing, and apparel for the youth. Bring a bag to fill up. Accepting donations until May 18th-gently used hand me down swag: clothes shoes, jewelry, hats, jackets, reusable shopping bags, hangers and anything fun, cool & clean!
Free food & drinks!
12-3 p.m., Washington St. & Broad St.

MAY 31 - JUNE 2

THE 8TH ANNUAL MIDDLETOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL
6 p.m., Middlesex Community College
100 Training Hill Rd. www.jcherryresents.com

JUNE 1

City of Middletown & Board of Education EMPLOYEE ART SHOW
Celebrating the expression of creativity and unknown talents of our coworkers and friends.
On display for the month of June.
Russell Library, 123 Broad St.

JUNE 11

BOOK RELEASE READING
Middletown's 1st Poet Laureate, Susan Allison
Guest readers will recite Susan's poems from her books. Refreshments offered, books for sale and an open mic for poets following the main reading. All proceeds from book sales are deposited into the Susan D. E. Allison Fund of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. The Fund provides support for arts enrichment to North End children & teens.
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., Hubbard Room
Russell Library, 123 Broad St.

JUNE 12

22ND ANNUAL CRUISE NIGHT ON MAIN ST.
Powered by NAPA
Hosted by Cruise Night on Main St. & Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Main St., Middletown
visit www.middlesexchamber.com

JUNE 14 & 15

ARTFARM Presents: TERPSICHORE: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
7 p.m. @ Oddfellows Playhouse
128 Washington St.
info@art-farm.org, www.art-farm.org
or call 860-346-4390

JUNE 15

CAROLYN HALSTED, PIANIST
FREE CONCERT
Featuring her own solo works.
2 p.m., Hubbard Room
Russell Library, 123 Broad St.

JUNE 15

MIDDLETOWN'S FIRST PRIDE PARADE & CELEBRATION!
2 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Main St. Middletown
visit www.middletownpride.org
860-347-6924
Become a VENDOR OR SPONSOR



JUNE 21

MAKE MUSIC DAY RETURNS! ALL DAY EVENT - FREE!
Make Music Middletown is a part of the international Make Music Day movement which brings free, community-wide, outdoor musical celebrations to hundreds of cities worldwide! Every year, the celebration is held on June 21, the summer solstice, in more than 800 communities around the world.
To participate visit www.makemusicday.org/middletown sign up as a performer or a venue!
Deadline to register is May 31.

Connecticut still revolutionary Department of Economic and Community Development Office Of The Arts



JUNE 22

MUSIC FESTIVAL AT LYMAN ORCHARDS
Food Truck on the Farm with live music provided by The Buttonwood Tree
FREE family friendly event!
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
32 Reeds Gap Rd., Middlefield

2019 CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS FESTIVAL
OVER THE CONNECTICUT RIVER
SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH
5 PM - 10 PM
(RAIN DATE - SUNDAY JUNE 30TH)

FOOD VENDORS KIDS ACTIVITIES

CT STATE TROUBADOR
NEKITA WALLER - EMCEE
LIVE MUSIC
@ CITY HALL LAWN 5-10 P.M.
FEATURING
PRODUCED BY JEFF MCQUILLAN
A MIX OF ROCK, R&B, RAP, SALSA MUSIC
& AN ALL STAR DRUMMING ENSEMBLE

WITH MUSIC AT HARBOR PARK FEATURING
THE M.H.S. JAZZ ENSEMBLE
STARRING THE MIDDLETOWN SYMPHONIC BAND'S SYNCHRONIZED MUSIC
& FIREWORKS SIMULCAST OVER
WMRD 11 50 AM RADIO
AND ON THE TUNEIN RADIO APP
860-638-4801 - 860-638-4510
WWW.MIDDLETOWNCT.GOV/FIREWORKS
FACEBOOK/CITYARTSOFFICE

Upcoming summer events:

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES
LIVE MUSIC ON TUESDAY NIGHTS AT THE RIVERFRONT - FRIENDS AND FAMILY NIGHT FUN!
July 16th, July 30th, August 13th, August 27th & Sept. 3rd

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 & VISUAL 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.rjulia.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.canooclubmiddletown.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.

JUST FOR KIDS:

Summer camp registration is open for kids entering grade 3 through age 15.

Full day program for the 31st annual **KIDS ARTS - THE CHILDREN'S CIRCUS OF MIDDLETOWN**. Registration forms are available at Oddfellows Playhouse, Arts & Culture Office at City Hall and online at www.middletownct.gov/arts

GIRLS IN SCIENCE SUMMER CAMP

Girls going into grades 4, 5, and 6 can apply. August 5-9, 2019, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm each day with a Science Showcase on Friday at 4:30 p.m. Contact the **Jewett Center for Community Partnership** at www.wesleyan.edu/jccp, email engage@wesleyan.edu or call 860-685-2881

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION @ 61 Durant Terrace

Free Family Craft Night, All Ages

May 2, 5:00 - 8:00 pm,

Registration Number: 375375

Come down and make some crafts with your family as part of Screen Free week.

CUPCAKES, COOKIES & CANVASES UNDER THE SEA

Come as a family and paint together. Screen Free Week

May 3, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Cafeteria \$5 resident/\$10 nonresident

Registration Number: 329080 General Registration Form

FAMILY TIE DYE WORKSHOP

Ages 8 - 88, May 18 9:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Drop in any time before 11:00 am. Each item should take about thirty minutes.

Senior and Community Center Art Room.

Join us to have some tie dye fun. Please bring one or two items to tie dye. Registration Number: 300001

\$2 resident/\$3 nonresident

SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION

May 22nd 9:30 a.m.

Lady Katharine Cruise for \$1.

Arrive at the dock at Harbor Park, boarding time 9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Departure time 10 a.m. Contact Senior Services Division at seniors@middletownct.gov or call 860-638-4540.

ODDFELLOWS PLAYHOUSE TEEN

REPERTORY COMPANY announces the premiere of *Between You and Me*, an original, ensemble-generated play with music. This unique exploration of contemporary teen life and issues will be presented at Oddfellows Playhouse, 128 Washington Street in Middletown, May 16 - 18 and 24 - 25. All performances are at 7:30 pm

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 Fireworks Festival 2019; maximum of 2 entries per artist; 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 are available at the Arts Office.** Deadline for entry is May 31, 2019.

RUSSELL LIBRARY VETERANS WRITING GROUP

The long running Russell Library Veterans Writing Group: "We Were There," has received a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to deliver presentations to the community and share their stories. If you are interested in having the Russell Library Veterans come speak at your library or other community meeting space, please contact **cbillings@russelllibrary.org**

or call 860-347-2528 Ext 160

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

Discover your Main Street 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!!!

MIDDLETOWN PRIDE PARADE

The City presents the first Middletown Pride event, to take place on **Saturday, June 15, 2019**. The City of Middletown, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and Wesleyan University are partnering together to ensure that the inaugural event will be a successful celebration of our diverse community and particularly the lives and contributions of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning residents. To get involved and become a **vendor or sponsor**, register at www.middletownpride.org

The parade will commence at 2 p.m. in Middletown, Connecticut on Main Street at St. John's Square and will proceed down Main Street to Union Street. A festival will take place on the South Green immediately following the conclusion of the parade. We are inviting interested participants from local community groups, businesses, and individuals. Please contact the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce for information on sponsoring the event, joining in the parade, being a merchandise and/or food vendor, or overseeing an informational booth.

The Chamber can be reached by phone at (860) 347-6924 or by email at

info@middletownpride.org

e-NEWSLETTER-Get Notified!

To receive the Arts & Culture **e-Newsletter** visit www.middletownct.gov/arts click on the link that says "**Get notified when Arts & Culture Announcements are made**" and sign up for the notifications!

LISTINGS:

Submission deadline for the next calendar is June 17th, 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**