

ARTS & CULTURE

November - December 2019



NOVEMBER EVENTS

3rd @ 7pm

FILM SCREENING

11th Middletown International Film Festival showing *Summer 1993*
Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

5th @ 2pm

INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE

featuring Sarada Nori
Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

7th @ 6:30pm

POETRY

Poets on Poetry Gwendolyn Brooks Presentation & Discussion
Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

8th @ 8pm

LIVE MUSIC: DIRTY CELLO

Cello like you've never heard before!
The Buttonwood Tree
www.buttonwood.org

10th @ 4pm

pre-concert talk @ 3:15pm

LIVE CHORAL MUSIC

"New Every Morning"

Presented by the GMChorale
Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center
www.gmchorale.org

13th from 2pm-3pm

TEA & TOUR OF THE WADSWORTH MANSION

The Wadsworth Mansion
@ Long Hill Estate
www.wadsworthmansion.com

14th @ 7:30pm

THEATER

the Seagull by Anton Chekhov
presented by Oddfellows Playhouse
Teen Repertory Company
Performing Nov. 14-16 & Nov. 22-23
www.oddfellows.org

14th @ 7:30pm

LIVE MUSIC

For the Love of Bach, Volume 5
The presentation of two Bach cantatas & instrumental music.
Memorial Chapel-Wesleyan Univ.

16th @ 7:30pm

OPERA

"Tristan und Isolde" CT Lyric Opera & CT Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra
Presented by the GMCA
Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center
www.greatermiddletownconcerts.org

17th from 11am - 4pm

RECORD FAIR

HOSTED BY WESU 88.1

Featuring live DJ & vendors
Beckham Hall - Wesleyan Univ.
www.wesufm.org

17th from 2pm - 4pm

LIVE DRAMA Readers Theater

Enacted by local actors directed by Anne Cassidy & Richard Kamins
Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

23rd @ 2pm

LIVE MUSIC Ensemble Aubade

Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

29th from 4pm-8pm

34TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY ON MAIN STREET presented by Pratt & Whitney

Event will begin on Friday, Nov. 29th and will include three tree lightings, Santa Claus parade, free wagon rides, free pictures with Santa & more!
Event will continue on:
Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10am- 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10am- 2pm
Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10am- 2pm
www.holidayonmain.com

30th from 11am - 3pm

Artist for World Peace Presents ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & MARKETPLACE

Featuring paintings, jewelry, hand-made African Quilts, one-of-a-kind gifts, and many surprises! Photos with Santa and have your caricature drawn by editorial cartoonist Bob Englehart from 1pm-3pm
The deKoven House - 27 Washington St.
www.artistforworldpeace.org

29th @ 6pm

WESLEYAN POTTERS 64th ANNUAL EXHIBIT & SALE

Gala Opening Reception Fri., Nov. 29, 6 - 9 pm
Open Daily Nov. 29 - Dec. 15
Sat -Thur 10am-6pm
Friday 10am-9pm
www.wesleyanpotters.com

UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS
www.facebook.com/cityartsoffice

ARTS & CULTURE

EVENTS

POET LAUREATE'S CORNER

Thanksgiving Feats

'Twas the eve of Thanksgiving, and outside the house,
the birds had all gathered, chickadees and titmouse
Cardinal, nuthatch, finches and grouse,
Live entertainment for me and my spouse

The feeders were hung from the deck with great care
For soon, the feathered throng would be there,
waiting on branches, now leafless and bare,
About to arrive on a wing and a prayer.

Mamma poured the sunflower, and then thistle seed,
Suet and nuts to suit every bird's need,
Invite one and all to the bountiful feed,
Not knowing in whom it might inspire greed.

Then who on the window sill should appear
But our black and white cat, whose wishes were clear,
His tail, it was twitching, his ears held flat,
He stared out the window and drooled as he sat.

Papa in his sweatpants and I in a tee
Had been cooking for hours with cumin and ghee,
When out on the deck there arose such a clatter
We sprang from our kitchen to see what was the matter!

This scene wasn't what we'd expected to see.
We abandoned our tasks and stared up a tree
In time to see all the plenteous scatter
And discover who all of this seed had made fatter

And what, to our wondering eyes, should appear
But some fat furry bandits with little to fear.
A corpulent, brazen, furry gray troupe
Stuffing their cheeks with scoop after scoop

One on one the gray beasties fought for position
While the cat and the birds
looked on with suspicion.
'Round a feeder one body was wrapped, while non-stop,
He clung, while devouring my sunflower crop.

Their kin were alerted from far and near
Who argued with gusto and ate with good cheer.
Who hung by a foot or by one tiny hand
While another on releve opted to stand.

Meanwhile, licking his chops, was the glassed-in cat
Wishing to feast on a small acrobat.
He followed each movement, each swing of the feeder
And the flicking of tails as they challenged their leader

And below them, the birds snatched whatever they'd drop,
The cat viewed it as I might, a closed bakery shop
Kept from succulent treats by a thin pane of glass
A cruelly transparent and taunting impasse.

When the afternoon sky appeared to ignite
and quickly followed the shadows of night
The birds went to roost, the cat got bored
And the squirrels went home to measure their hoard.

We returned to our chore of cooking a feast
This one for our family, not bird or beast.
Family and laughter, the best parts of living,
reasons to smile, to pause for thanksgiving.

(c) by Cheryl Anne Hale

DECEMBER

7th @ 10am - 2pm
HOLIDAY ON MAIN STREET
Holiday events and activities!
393 Main Street
www.holidayonmain.com

8th @ 2pm
HOLIDAY CONCERT
Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord's
Winter Wonderland Concert
95 High Street-Portland High School
www.vocalchords20.org

11th 2pm - 3pm
TEA & TOUR OF THE
WADSWORTH MANSION
The Wadsworth Mansion
@ Long Hill Estate
www.wadsworthmansion.com

14th @ 10am - 2pm
HOLIDAY ON MAIN STREET
Holiday events and activities!
393 Main Street
www.holidayonmain.com

15th @ 2pm
LIVE MUSIC
Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem
Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

ON EXHIBIT



"In The Air: Mike Sweeney"



November 1st – January 8
"In The Air: Mike Sweeney"
Pegasus Gallery @ MxCC
Reception: 11/12, 5-7pm
www.mxcc.edu/art-exhibits/pegasus-gallery/

November 1st – January 8
"Art and Meditation Sound
Healing Workshops"
The Niche @ MxCC
www.mxcc.edu/art-exhibits/niche/

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

November 18 - December 13
SANTA MAILBOXES
Box locations @ 8 Middletown elementary schools and the Chamber of Commerce.
Letters should be addressed to:
North Pole Delivery @
the Recreation Office
61 Durant Terrace
Middletown, CT 06457

November 30-March 28
SKATING RINK OPEN
AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK
Saturdays/Sundays 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 27 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Monday, Dec. 30 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 18 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Last Saturday of the month, the rink will be open
12:00 pm – 7:00 pm
For schedule and fees visit:
www.middletownct.gov/recreation

December 4th
FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA!
Ages 5 & under 9:00 am - 9:45 am
Ages 6 - 12 9:45 am - 10:30 am
Vinnies Jump and Jive, 424 Main Street
Welcome Santa to Middletown by joining
him for juice, donuts, and instant pictures!
Parents are welcome to bring their own
cameras, no pre-registration needed
www.middletownct.gov/rec

December 7th
1-5 PM
SWAP YOUR STUFF HOLIDAY STYLE
Hosted by the Russell Library. "Change out some
of your holiday decor and add to your collection.
Donations will be accepted in the Hubbard Room.
All items must be intact, in good condition, and
no larger than 2 feet square. Only holiday items
and seasonal craft supplies will be accepted. No
trees, please. Each donor will receive a ticket for
admission to Saturday's Early Bird Browsing."
www.russelllibrary.org

WESU 2019 Fall Community Record Fair
Featuring dozens of vendors from across the Northeast
selling new & used records CDs, music memorabilia & more!
WESU DJs spinning vinyl sets all day long!
Visit the WESU booth for \$1 records, CDs, and WESU merchandise for sale!



Sunday, Nov 17th
11am - 4pm
FREE and open to the public!
Fayerweather-Beckham Hall
Wesleyan University 55 Wyllys Ave
Middletown, CT 06457
www.wesufm.org
generalmanager@wesufm.org or
860-686-7707 for donations or vendor info

UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS:
www.facebook.com/cityartsoffice
Email:
arts@middletownct.gov
Website:
www.middletownct.gov

ARTS & CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

ARTS GRANTS

MCA MATCHING FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM:

The City of Middletown Commission on the Arts (MCA) welcomes grant applications from organizations, businesses & 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 residents, with particular interest in programs that reach residents in all of the community's diversity.

Deadline for General Operating Support & Project Grants is 1/15/20. Forms and guidelines are available at www.middletownct.gov/arts.

ARTS ADVOCACY AWARD '20

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

The City of Middletown Commission on the Arts (MCA) presents the Arts Advocacy Award annually to an individual and a group who has significantly contributed to the cultural and artistic enrichment and/or has shown extraordinary support and initiative for the arts and culture in Middletown. The MCA is seeking public input on nominations for the award. The nominee(s) need not live in Middletown, but should be an individual or group that has made an outstanding impact on the arts in the city. Suggestions, which should include the sender's town and information about the nominee, can be emailed to the City's Arts Office at arts@middletownct.gov. Presentation of awards will be held at a local ceremony coinciding with Washington D.C.'s National Arts Action Summit on March 30-31, 2020.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE ARTS ADVOCACY AWARD:

2019-KLEKOLO WORLD COFFEE & STEPHAN ALLISON
2018-VINTAGE PLAYERS & DAVID SCHULZ
2017-MIDDLESEX VOCAL CHORDS & PIERRE SYLVAIN
2016-MAC 650, ARTHUR MEYERS & PAM TATGE
2015-KIDCITY ARTIST & JOHN BASINGER
2014-ARTIST FOR WORLD PEACE & DEBORAH MOORE
2013-COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY & CAROLYN KIRSCH
2012-GREATER MIDDLETOWN CONCERT ASSOC. & THE BUTTONWOOD TREE
2011-MAYOR'S BALL COMMITTEE & NEELY BRUCE
2010-GREATER MIDDLETOWN CHORALE & MARCO GAYLORD
2009-ART GUILD OF MIDDLETOWN & PETER LOFFREDO

YOUTH & TEEN

K-12 & Homeschoolers

FREE TUTORING: Wesleyan students offering homework help in all subjects K-12. Contact westutors@gmail.com

Kids Safe Online MS-ISAC® Poster Contest

Offered to K-12 students nationwide. "The winners of the contest are made into cybersecurity awareness posters that are distributed throughout the country in recognition of National October Cyber Security Awareness Month. The contest runs until Friday, January 24, 2020." Visit: www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/ms-isac-toolkit/

WANTED!

Gently used Halloween Costumes

What can you do with your child's old Halloween Costume? No need to throw another used costume in the closet. Middletown Recreation will be accepting gently used Halloween Costumes, starting November 1, 2019 through October 1, 2020. Help us make sure every child can wear a costume on Halloween. Contact rec@middletownct.gov

CULTURAL CONNECTORS

THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM TRAIL

The Underground Railroad: To learn more and to view the Underground Railroad Map visit www.ctfreedomtrail.org

Middletown Sites:

- *Benjamin Douglas House
11 South Main Street
- *Cross Street A.M.E. Zion Church
160 Cross Street
- *Leverett Beman Historic District
Cross & Vine Streets

GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY

The Godfrey Memorial Library

Services offered: 24/7 online access, onsite research help, hire them to research, educational & volunteer opportunities and membership options. Research help provided on **November 12th, 16th & 20th.** www.godfrey.org

Middlesex County Historical Society

Located in the General Mansfield House at 151 Main Street
Visiting hours are Monday through Thursday from 10am - 2pm
For appointments call 860-346-0746 or email mchs@wesleyan.edu

GET NOTIFIED & CONNECTED

e-NEWSLETTER

Visit www.middletownct.gov/arts and click on the link that says "Get notified when Arts & Culture Announcements are made"

e-NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Submit your non profit organization's events to the e-Newsletter by emailing your info and jpg images to arts@middletownct.gov. Space is available on a first come, first served basis.

SUBMIT A COMMUNITY EVENT

The City of Middletown will feature events of interest to our community on our Community Calendar.

To be considered for publication, an event must:

1. Be open to all members of the Middletown community.
2. Sponsored by a non-profit organization or the City itself.
3. Take place within Middletown.
4. Limit submissions to 3 events per month.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

To become a part of a list of community organizations & non-profits listed on the City's website visit: www.middletownct.gov/698/Community-Business-Guide

"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, 8:30am - 4:30pm, excluding state and federal holidays.



by Abby Carter



by Janine Janaki



by James White

ARTS & CULTURE

RESOURCES

GALLERIES, LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS

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

Kidcity Children's Museum
www.kidcitymuseum.com

Middlesex Community College
• Pegasus Gallery, Chapman Hall
• The Niche Gallery, Founders Hall
www.mxcc.edu/art-exhibits

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

Godfrey Memorial Library
www.godfrey.org

Middlesex County Historical Society
www.mchsct.org

Russell Library
www.russelllibrary.org

ART INSTRUCTION, MIXED MEDIA & WORKSHOPS

Wesleyan Potters, Inc.
Craft School and Co-op
www.wesleyanpotters.com

Middletown Art Academy
www.middletownartacademy.com

The Art Guild of Middletown
www.artguildofmiddletown.org

FAMILY & SENIOR SERVICES

Recreation & Community Services
61 Durant Terrace
860-635-4500/4540
rec@middletownct.gov
www.middletownct.gov/recreation



Senior Services Division
61 Durant Terrace
860-638-4540
seniors@middletownct.gov
www.middletownct.gov

Middletown Youth Services Bureau
372 Hunting Hill Avenue
860-854-6030
www.middletownct.gov
www.middletownyouthservices.org

DANCE, MUSIC PERFORMANCE THEATER & VISUAL ART

ARTFARM
www.art-farm.org
CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society
www.ctgands.org

CT Heritage Productions
www.chproductions.org

CT Poetry Society
www.ctpoetry.net

JCherry Foundation, Inc.
www.jcherryrepresents.com

Middlesex Hospital Vocal Cords
www.vocalchords20.org

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers
www.nhrscds.com

Middletown Stage Company
www.middletownstagecompany.org

Middletown Symphonic Band
www.middletownsymphonicband.org

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

Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater
www.oddfellows.org

Resonant Motion
www.resonantmotion.org

The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts Center
www.buttonwood.org

The Greater Middletown Chorale
www.gmchorale.org

The Greater Middletown Concert Association
www.greatermiddletownconcerts.org

Vinnie's Jump and Jive
www.vinniesjumpandjive.com

Wadsworth Mansion at Long Hill Estate
www.wadsworthmansion.com

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

FILM, MEDIA ARTS, RADIO, & SOUND PRODUCTION

The Coffeehouse Recording Studio
www.thecoffeehouse.net

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
City of Middletown
www.middletownct.gov

Downtown Business District (DBD)
Dining, Shopping and Business Directory
www.downtownmiddletown.com

Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
www.middlesexchamber.com

Wesleyan ENGAGE
Stay connected with all things Wesleyan! Sign up for the Wesleyan ENGAGE newsletter to learn about events that are open to the public, K-12 programming, and local job and volunteer opportunities.
www.wesleyan.edu/jccp/

COMMUNITY BASED & SOCIAL SERVICE

Artist for World Peace (AFWP)
www.artistsforworldpeace.org

Family Wellness Center (CHC)
familywellness.chc1.com

North End Action Team (NEAT)
www.neatmiddletown.org

ARTIST & ARTS ORGANIZATION RESOURCES

Americans for the Arts
www.americansforthearts.org

Community Foundation
www.middlesexcountycf.org

Connecticut Arts Alliance
www.ctartsalliance.org

CT Department of Economic & Community Development
www.portal.ct.gov/DECD

Connecticut Humanities
www.cthumanities.org

Connecticut Valley Federation of Musicians
www.ctvalleymusicians.org

Connecticut Songwriters Assoc.
www.ctsongs.com

National Endowment for the ARTS
www.arts.gov

New England Foundation for the Arts
www.nefa.org

Shoreline Arts Alliance
www.shorelinearts.org



ART ON VIEW, LESSONS, PERFORMANCES & LIVE MUSIC @ COFFEE SHOPS, RESTAURANTS & RETAIL STORES

Fred Astaire Dance Studios
www.fredastaire.com/middletown

ION Restaurant
www.ionrestaurant.com

Klekolo World Coffee
www.klekolo.com

Laboca Restaurant
www.labocamexican.com

Middlesex Music Academy
www.middlesex-music-academy.com

Middletown Framing
www.middletownframing.com

Pamela Rose Specialty Hand Knits & Yarn
www.pamela-rose.com
Offering knit & crochet classes.

Perkatory Coffee Roasters
www.perkatoryroasters.com

R.J. Julia Bookstore
www.rjulia.com

Stage Left Dance Studio
www.empowermovement.org

Tesorro Unique Gifts
www.tesorrouniquegifts.com

Mattabesett Canoe Club
www.canoecubmiddletown.com

Ursel's Web
www.urselsweb.com

ARTS & CULTURE DEPARTMENT

City of Middletown
Room B-11, Municipal Bldg.
245 deKoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457
www.middletownct.gov
arts@middletownct.gov
860-638-4510
Staff: Kisha Michael, Coordinator

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

Poet Laureate 2019 - 2022
Cheryl Anne Hale

Music Ambassador 2019
Neely Bruce

Happy Holidays!