



Notes from the Academy

JUNE 2019 | VOL. 1 NO. 2

Power of Partnering!

Did you know that the Historical Society partners with different persons and groups to “build pride in our community”? This year, the Historical Society is partnering with Zach Brown, a local boy scout. He is working on earning his Eagle Scout Award.

The eagle rank, originally called the wolf rank, was first awarded in 1912. While there are a number of benchmarks that must be met, primarily, the project that leads to the award is for proven leadership within the troop. Zach, with the help of fellow scouts and volunteers, will be recreating several buildings from Middletown’s historic district as Lego miniatures.

The Middletown Academy will be one of the buildings to be recreated. These structures in miniature will be an excellent interpretive tool for the society.



Highlights in this issue

The Power of Partnering

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Research Paper Contest

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Events and Programs Calendar

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In Memoriam

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From the Desk of the President



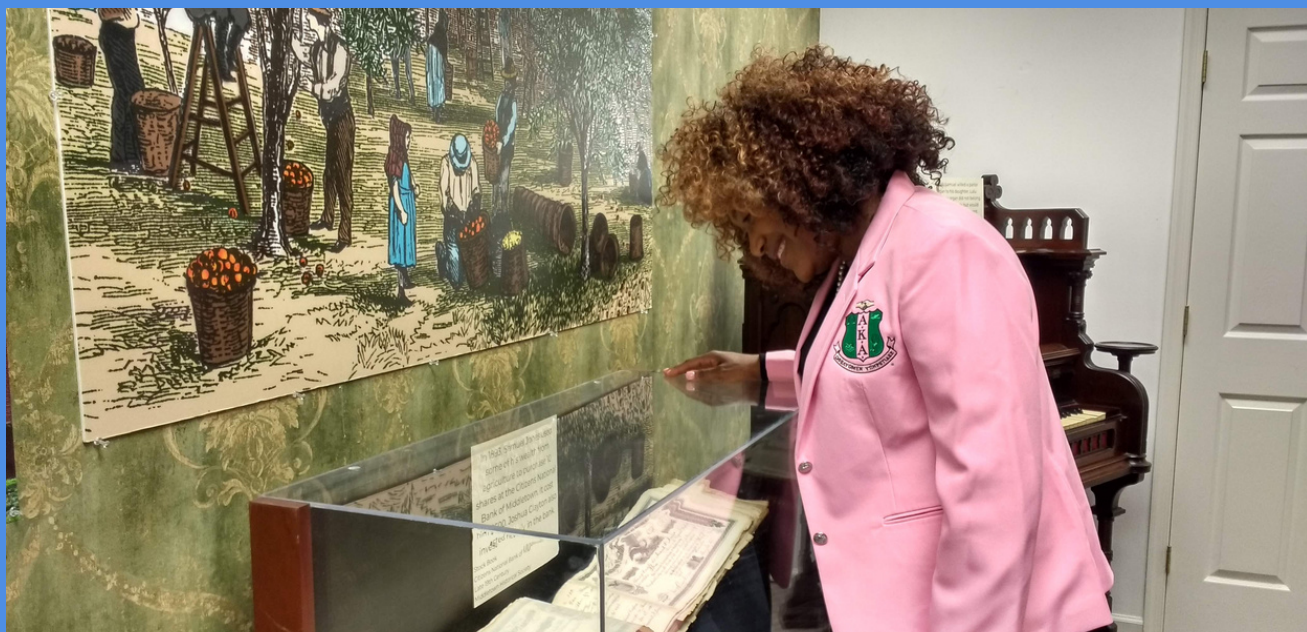
THANKS!

The Historical Society wants to extend a big thank you to all our volunteers and partners who helped prepare for our test run of our new peach exhibition! Be sure not to miss our grand opening on June 29th, 2019, from 7-9pm.

We're also looking for extra help at the museum of the day of peach festival. Please let Alison Matsen know if you're available: 302-740-5544.

Left: Charlotte O'Shaughnessy checking text alignment.

Below: Dina Griffin of Pearls of Distinction, an official interest group of Alpha Kappa Alpha, reviews our new exhibition.



Research Paper Contest

The Middletown Historical Society is conducting its third annual historical research paper competition for Middle and High School Students. Papers must be submitted on or before October 19, 2019. The Board of Directors has established \$3,500 to be paid in cash prize awards. The Society is offering this competition to build an interest in history, and specifically Middletown history, in students; and to introduce them to the joy and satisfaction of ferreting out a story from long forgotten facts and sources. This year's topic will be based on Middletown street names. What the Society will gain from this competition is accurate research into our history that will be permanently kept in our files for future researchers and visitors to our research room.

See rules and information on our website. Questions may be directed to David Matsen, dmatsen@verizon.net , or 302-378-8265.

Calender of Events and Programs

Be sure not to miss these opportunities!

Annual Picnic

June 18th, 6pm at MHS, rain or shine

Peach Exhibtion Opening

June 29th 7-9 pm

Annual Olde Tyme Peach Festival

August 17th, 10 am-4 pm

No Public Program in July and August





Gail Maclary Chickersky
1949-2019

In Memoriam

We were recently saddened by the unexpected death of one of our most active members, Gail Maclary Chickersky. She died on May 1, 2019 of undiagnosed leukemia.

Gail was a regular attendee of our monthly meetings, gave several donations to our collection, and was on the panel reviewing papers submitted for our historical research paper awards.

She was born in 1949 in Newark, where she lived her entire life. She was active in three historical societies: Newark, Pencader and Middletown. She was a professional accountant, and gave us sage advice on more than one occasion during discussions of a financial nature. Gail generously donated several items of local importance to our Society, including a spear used by Major William Rothwell in the early 1800's, which had come down through her family. She also gave a doll and high chair from the Hoffecker family. Gail was a helpful member of last year's committee for the historical research paper awards and will be sorely missed.

From the Desk of the Director

With Memorial Day in the recent past and D-day 75 years ago, we think of what our own friends and family, and generations before, have achieved for us. It is no small thing to know we have the right to peacefully disagree without recrimination. While considering these weighty issues on one hand, we are also happy to reflect on our organization's accomplishments in the past months.

Thanks to your participation in the survey, we were able to get valuable input for our strategic plan. It has been written and approved by the board, so look out for it on social media. The plan will guide our work for the coming months and years. As we continue that work, elections for Board of Director nominees will be in September. More information will be forthcoming.

Hopefully, you have been enjoying our increased presence on Facebook. You may have seen our April meeting live-streamed. The Middletown Nostalgia video has been published on YouTube in 4-parts so it is easier to enjoy. A big Thank you to Bob Biggs for all his hard work on the Advisory Council for that special program!

Contact Us!

(302) 378-7466

mhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Physical Address:

216 N. Broad St.

Middletown, DE 19709

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 567

Middletown, DE 19709

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The Middletown Historical Society
collects, preserves, educates, and
encourages the development of
Middletown's history in order to foster
historic awareness and pride in our
community.