

## Last Look Party for *Middletown Artists* and *The Whole Shebang*

On June 17, the Historical Society welcomed guests from our membership, the Appoquinimink High School, and the general public to a final viewing party for *Middletown Artists* and *The Whole Shebang: Who and What They Fought For*.

We were happy to welcome Jessica Davis (pictured below with State Senator Stephanie Hansen), the teacher who oversaw the art side of *The Whole Shebang*, which was a collaborative exhibition between the Appoquinimink Honors Art Society and the Historical Society.

*Middletown Artists*, a mixed media art show, showcased the works of a number of local artists. The pieces included landscapes, still lifes, and scenes with animals. A number of the works were on loan to the Society. *The Whole Shebang* focused on the history of women's struggle for the right to vote and the work of local Middletown suffragist Marie Lockwood as well as the contributions of other women both from Townsend and Odessa



and further afield in Delaware. During the pandemic, the students of the Appoquinimink Honors Art Society created around 30 artworks inspired by historic documents, biographies, illustrations, and photographs from the fight for women's suffrage. For *The Whole Shebang*, a smaller version of this exhibition will be moved upstairs as a semi-permanent exhibition. Many thanks to those who helped with this event and to those who visited! See the gallery of pictures on page 3.

Photograph courtesy of Senator Stephanie Hansen

## Highlights in this Issue

*Last Look Party*

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*Volunteer for the Peach  
Festival*

~

*Gallery of Last Look Photos*

~

*From the Desk of the  
President*

~

*100th Anniversary of the  
Everett Theatre*

~

*Objects from the Collection*

~

*Sale of Artworks of Local  
Scenes*

## Volunteer for the Peach Festival

As the peach trees start to swell with fruit, it's time to be thinking of the Olde Tyme Peach Festival on the third Saturday in August. After two years of cancellations due to Covid, we're planning to have a great day on August 20, 2022. As usual, we will be relying on volunteers to help out by taking a two-hour shift sometime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you can help (a lot of jobs to choose from), please call or text Alison Matsen at 302-740-5544.



# Last Look Party!





## From the Desk of the President

As the summer is quickly slipping by, there are projects that continue at the Historical Society. We'll be welcoming back our flagship event, the Olde Tyme Peach Festival. For questions about that, please reach out to Brian Rickards at [Middletownpeachfestival@gmail.com](mailto:Middletownpeachfestival@gmail.com). During Peach Festival the Society will be unveiling a new exhibition *Teens on the Town: Middletown and the Roaring '20s*. The exhibition focuses on a number of Middletonians who were teenagers in the 1920s and their experiences of both life in Middletown and the decade itself. As part of looking forward, the Society will again be going through a period of strategic planning. We'll be unveiling a survey focused on membership and volunteering soon. Thank you for all your support. Be certain to say "Hi" during the Olde Tyme Peach Festival!

# 100 years for the Everett



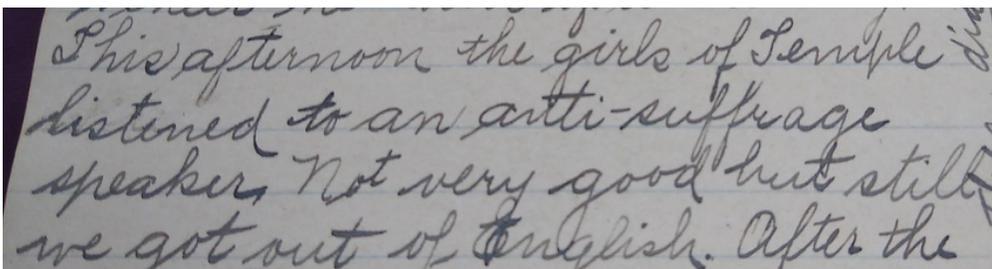
This year marks the 100th birthday for the local Everett Theatre! On April 6, 1922 the Middletown Opera House burned down. The new theatre, christened by its owner, J. E. Davis, the Everett Theater, hosted its first public performance of “Under Two Flags” on November 7, 1922. Our new exhibition, *Teens on the Town* pays homage to how important the Everett Theatre was to the social life of the community in the 1920s. Learn more about Middletown in the Roaring ‘20s and the part that the Everett played when our new exhibition opens for the Olde Tyme Peach Festival, August 20, 2022.

# Objects from our Collection

*The Whole Shebang: Who and What They Fought For* focused on the work of Middletown Suffragist Marie Lockwood and her petition sent to Gov. Townsend in 1920. When creating *Shebang*, it became apparent that the exhibition would need to use objects that told the larger story of suffrage in Middletown since the society's collection only holds one item directly related to Marie. A number of objects were selected that directly told the story of suffrage. Three of these objects were owned by Rosetta Evans, a local resident. These three objects, a watercolor of a suffragist, a photograph of Rosetta driving, and Rosetta's diary, all give a small glimpse into the mind and life of a young woman in the early 20th century.



Rosetta Evans driving car  
1910s



Rosetta Evans diary  
1914

Entry reads:

"...the girls of Temple listened to an anti-suffrage speaker.  
Not very good but still got out of English..."



The Suffragette  
1910s

Done by a cousin of Rosetta Evans



## Sale of Artworks of Local Scenes

David Ohlerking is a plein air artist who travels the United States. His paintings are being featured at the historical Society through the Olde Tyme Peach Festival. The artworks show local M.O.T. structures and townscapes. Above is an image of 208 N. Broad St. in Middletown. The works will be available for purchase for \$100 each with the funds going to the Society. We thank Mr. Ohlerking for his generosity! Be sure to see the paintings at the Academy.

# Picnic at Buena Vista

The Historical Society is planning to have a picnic supper at Buena Vista (661 S. Dupont highway near New Castle) on July 19 in their Pavillion, followed by a tour of the house. It's a beautifully maintained brick country house built by Delaware and United States statesman John M . Clayton in the 1840s, and is now maintained by the state as a conference center. Watch for details in a later email. You can learn more about Buena Vista on their [website](#).



Photo courtesy of Buena Vista

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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.