



**MIDDLETOWN
FREE LIBRARY
MAGAZINE
AND 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

FALL 2023

MIDDLETOWN
FREE LIBRARY
MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

CONTENTS

MIDDLETOWN
FREE LIBRARY
MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER

Middletown Free Library

EDITOR

Dan Washburn

DESIGNER

Jeannie Ingiosi

CONTRIBUTORS

Lori Enriquez
Jason Fialkovich
Bob Fyfe
Dave Irving
Lura Kuchmay
Derek Lloyd
Steph McDermott
Ariel Mehmeti
Don Melnick
Eric Sucar

ON THE COVER

“Deep Relief” sculpture
photographed by Eric Sucar

middletownfreelibrary.org

President’s Letter	pg. 4
2022 by the Numbers	pg. 6
Mr. Library	pg. 8
Linville Legacy	pg. 12
A.I., Robot	pg. 16
Generous ‘Giant’	pg. 20
Photos: 2022 Beer Fest	pg. 22
Mr. Jason’s Corner	pg. 28
Ms. Laura’s Corner	pg. 29
2022 Library Timeline	pg. 30
Donors	pg. 32
2022 Financial Overview	pg. 37
Get Involved	pg. 38

“Having recently relocated, we discovered familiarity, community, and purpose at MFL. There’s so much to do and discover – and my daughter has a sense of purpose and belonging with her library volunteer job. We’ve been library lovers all our lives and find MFL to be pure gold.”

— ANNE MURPHY

(L to R) Anne and Rachel Murphy





BOARD

Robert Fyfe, *President*
 Parag Dalal, *Vice President*
 Mark Borda, *Treasurer*
 Donald Melnick, *Secretary*
 Patricia Finegan
 Perry Kotsiopoulos
 Dan Washburn
 Dave Irving, *Trustee Emeritus*

STAFF

Derek Lloyd, *Director*
 Laura Kuchmay,
Adult Services / Reference Librarian
 Jason Fialkovich,
Youth Services Librarian
Maker Space Manager
PA Public Notary
 Carol Rickert,
Head of Circulation
 Sarrah Deets,
Technical Services
 Jenny O'Neill,
Adult Services Assistant
 Libby McCampbell,
Youth Services Assistant
 Matthew Lomas, *User Services*
 Ana Paula Fonseca,
User Services
 Abbigail Jones, *User Services*
 Revathi Jangiti, *User Services*
 Alyssa Lintow, *User Services*

FRIENDS OF MFL

Cathy Bautista, *President*
 Sharon Napoli, *Treasurer*
 Leslie Grissom, *Secretary*
 Jeanne Mahoney, *Membership*
 Pat Voelker, *Book Bin*
 Mark Borda, *Liason*

Dear Friends,

It's been just over a year ago since we moved into the Roosevelt Community Center. It's my pleasure to tell you that things are going great. The Library has seen more visitors, held more programs, and had more community interest than ever before. We're amazed by the community's response — and the staff is stepping up to meet it.

We are thrilled that the University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design donated a one-of-a-kind wall sculpture. It was designed using artificial intelligence and fabricated by a robot. The impressive piece of art adds to the ambiance and inspires all who visit the Library.

We are also excited to announce that the Library received a bequest from Mary P. Packwood for over \$500,000. We've established an endowment so Mary's generosity will support the Library's programs and services for years to come. We are grateful for this gift and will work diligently to ensure that it is used wisely and in accordance with her wishes.

We bid farewell to three valued trustees who have stepped down. Betsy Podrebarac was planning committee chair for our recent campaign and continues to be a generous donor. Ken Dinitz, instrumental to our fundraising efforts, now sits on the Rose Tree Media School Board. And Tim Sander, our dedicated treasurer for many years, has relocated to Florida. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

I am excited to announce that we have welcomed Perry Kotsiopoulos, Don Melnick, and Dan Washburn to the board. They all bring a wealth of experience and passion to our team, and we look forward to working with them.

I want to express my gratitude to our staff, volunteers, donors, and community members for their ongoing support of the Middletown Free Library. With your continued help, we look forward to serving our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Fyfe
 President, Middletown Free Library Board of Trustees

“ Libraries evolved so much since I was a kid – MFL has video games, movies, and board games. As my kids (and I) grow older, there will always be something interesting here. My family and I are very lucky to have a place like MFL just down the street.”

*The Driver family: (L to R)
Pam, Milo, Luca, and Zak Driver*



— ZAK DRIVER

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Mark Twain once said, "Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are pliable." We assure you, however, that these stats are 100% factual.

PATRON VISITS
~52,000

CIRCULATION
61,895

NEW ITEMS IN THE COLLECTION

3,147

YEARLY LIBRARY VALUE TO COMMUNITY
(ALA CALCULATOR ESTIMATE)

\$2,715,400

PROGRAMS RUN
1,168

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
16,464

NUMBER OF STORYTIME READERS AT THE LIBRARY

23

NEW LIBRARY CARDS
717

TOTAL STAFF MEMBERS

12

AWESOME STAFF MEMBERS

12

MOST POPULAR
CHILDREN'S BOOK

**Pete the
Cat's Groovy
Imagination**

MOST POPULAR
MUSEUM PASS

**Elmwood
Park Zoo**

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

61

MOST POPULAR BOARD GAME
Forbidden Desert

MOST POPULAR ADULT BOOK
West With Giraffes

MOST POPULAR NEW MOVIE
Respect



MR. LIBRARY

A Q&A WITH DAVE IRVING

BY BOB FYFE

IN THE REMARKABLE TAPESTRY of Middletown's history, one name stands above all others when it comes to the local library: Dave Irving. For over half a century, spanning parts of seven decades, Dave's unwavering commitment has made him the library's longest-serving board member, leaving an indelible mark on the institution and the community.

Joining the library's board in 1967, Dave's dedication and leadership led him to serve as board president for an astounding 30 years. Today, as the first trustee emeritus, he remains an active and invaluable member, shaping the library's present and future.

Dave's visionary spirit and tireless efforts were on full display in 1973 when he spearheaded the expansion of the library's original building. With unmatched determination, he not only oversaw the physical transformation but also rallied the community in a successful fundraising campaign.

The Irving family's commitment to the library runs deep. Dave's daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Phil Zinn, have been the library's most consistent long-term donors, supporting its growth and impact in immeasurable ways.

Recently, Dave and his family's dedication reached new heights when they donated an extraordinary \$50,000 during the Campaign for Middletown Free Library, embodying their strong belief in the power of literacy and community.

Dave's involvement extends beyond the library, actively participating in local organizations such as the Middletown Sewer Authority, the Recreation Department, and the Historical Society. Even at 87 years old, he remains a steadfast presence at township council meetings, fueling progress and preserving the township's rich heritage.

Dave Irving's legacy is as vast as the knowledge he holds. Few individuals match his investment in Middletown and his role as a guardian of local history. In this Q&A, we celebrate Dave's extraordinary contributions, his family's philanthropy, and their enduring impact on Middletown's beloved library.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP ORIGINALLY?

During my earlier years, I was definitely a "Jersey Boy." As a senior in high school, in East Orange in the 1950s, the Garden State Parkway was built over land where my parents' house had stood, and our house, along with many others, was moved to a vacant lot in the city. I graduated from Princeton University as a history major, then received military training as an Infantry officer at Fort Dix.

My lifetime employer was Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut. I worked in their Philadelphia office as an employee benefits sales manager.

I married my wife, Barbara, in 1960 and we have two daughters, Diane and Carol. In 1967, we purchased our first and only home in the Wyncroft section of Middletown Township.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE MIDDLETOWN LIBRARY?

In 1967, as a library card holder in Middletown, I sought to take out the very popular, number one best seller on the *New York Times* book list (*The Money Game* by Adam Smith, aka George Goodman). I learned, however, that it would not be available for several weeks. I mentioned this delay to a neighbor, who later advised me, a "complainer," that interviews were being taken for an opening on the Library board, and that I should apply. I was interviewed, but a more worthy candidate was chosen. Later, another opening occurred on the board, and I was finally chosen from among previously losing candidates.

WHAT CAUSED THE LIBRARY TO UNDERTAKE ITS MAJOR BUILDING EXPANSION IN 1973?

In the early 1970s, the Library had become a major success with its patrons, but, as a result, the space had become inadequate. There was much talk about expansion, but no activity. I still remember, at a board meeting, Jerry Nowell, assistant principal at Penncrest High School, in frustration, stating, "We talk about necessary library expansion, so let's do something about it!" I was chosen as the fund drive chairman.

***WHAT WERE THE EDUCATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES –
LOWLIGHTS AND HIGHLIGHTS – OF THE BUILDING CAMPAIGN?***

The architect who designed the new 1973 building predicted that it would cost \$60,000. That became our fundraising goal. On what later was called “Black Thursday,” when we opened the three bids, there were costs of \$80,000, \$90,000, and \$105,000. But we eventually prevailed!

Happily, there was a highlight. We were approached by local citizen/attorney Mel Levy, who stated that he had contact with Franklin Mint President Joseph Segel, and would we mind if he approached him for a possible contribution to the Library’s fundraising campaign? Two weeks later, in his office with a corporate photographer present, Mr. Segel presented me and the Library with a sizable check.

***IN THE 67 YEARS THAT THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE,
STARTING AS A “RED SCHOOL BUS” IN 1956, CAN YOU REMIND US
OF THE NAMES OF THE LONG TIME PROFESSIONAL AND
VOLUNTEER LEADERS?***

Library Directors: Marjorie Spencer: 1960-2005, Betsy Barnes: 2005-2012, Mary Gazdik: 2012-2022, Derek Lloyd: 2022-present.

Board Presidents: Doris Sanders: 1956-1960, Dr. Robert Engle: 1960-1982, David Irving: 1982-2012, Justin Nepo/Gary Grove: 2012-2016, Robert Fyfe: 2016-present.

***YOU SEEM TO ENJOY ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES. WHAT WERE THE
MOST EXCITING?***

Paddle rafting through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. When a wall of water knocks you out of the raft into 45-degree submersion, it takes your breath away.

Hiking to the top of the mountain overlooking the Inca ruins at Machu Picchu, Peru.

Skydiving, with an instructor, from 12,000 feet, at age 75.

***WHAT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME THAT
YOU ATTENDED?***

My father, who worked in New York City, felt that his 8-year-old son should see a Major League Baseball game as a boy. With the choice of the Yankees, Giants, and Dodgers, he chose the Dodgers for a 1944 game. It was a life changing event, as I remain a Los Angeles/Brooklyn Dodger fan to this day. I was even able to play at the Vero Beach, Florida, “Dodgertown” adult camp in 1996 with my heroes Steve Garvey, Tom LaSorda, and Duke Snider.

***WHAT OTHER MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY BOARDS HAVE YOU SERVED
ON IN ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY BOARD?***

The Middletown Sewer Authority, as many-year treasurer, 1982-2012.

The Middletown Recreation Department, 1998-2010, as a tour trip escort, which allowed me to visit nearby locations, as well as distant: Jamaica, France, and Iceland.

The Middletown Historical Society, 2016-present.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR CURRENT FREE TIME?

At this age – 87 – mostly “reminiscing.” We enjoyed family international travel, when we would rent a car and tour Europe with our daughters, and camp at the water’s edge in the Virgin Islands. I also used to enjoy singing barbershop with the West Chester “Chordbusters” chorus.

***WHAT ARE YOUR BEST THOUGHTS ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARY AT THE
ROOSEVELT COMMUNITY CENTER?***

I am very proud of the Library board and Middletown community, which, when faced with the extreme challenge of moving to a new facility, stepped up and met the challenge. Almost 1,000 local supporters contributed well over \$1 million to make the “new” Library a success! •

“Our family’s world is richer because of Middletown Free Library. The staff are so warm, welcoming, compassionate, and helpful. There’s always something happening at the library – and there is something for everyone. As a homeschool family, the library is a central connecting place for us within our community.”

— ABBIGAIL JONES



*The Jones family:
Steve, Abigail,
and Sydney Jones*



Paul and Peg Linvill were devoted to Middletown Township, reading, and children's literature.



Linvill Legacy: How a Farming Dynasty Cultivates Community

By **ARIEL MEHMETI**



Linvilla Orchards Vice President Susan Jochum fondly recalls family trips to the Middletown Free Library when she was growing up. Her parents – Margaret (“Peg”) and Paul Linvill, the second-generation leaders of Linvilla Orchards – would round up the kids, and Susan and her three siblings would roam the aisles looking for books to take back home. Once there, they’d all settle into their own spots in the house for reading time. “All four of us are readers,” Susan said, noting that her mother was “a voracious reader” who held a master’s degree in English from the University of Connecticut.

Linvilla Orchards has been a longtime supporter and partner of MFL. So, when Wayne Matsinger, Penncrest High School lacrosse coach and Linvilla Orchards Farm Market manager, informed Susan and her siblings that the library was taking on sponsors to name rooms in its new location at the Roosevelt Community Center on South Old Middletown Road (just a three-minute drive from the family orchards), they knew what they had to do. The “Linvill Family Story Time Area” was born, dedicated “in memory of our childhood reading and in memory of Mom and Dad,” who passed away in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

Their memorial space will forever honor Peg’s love of children’s literature and Paul’s love of the Middletown community. Paul, who spent his entire life in Middletown, attended grade school in the Roosevelt building that now houses the library and graduated from Media High School.

Susan emphasized that the Linvill family, through its Quaker-inspired belief in education and peaceful collaboration, is committed to making a better community. Whether through its family business or its support for MFL, they emphasize learning and understanding as essential pillars in community growth.

This mix of learning and local pride lives on at Linvilla Orchards which, after more than a century, remains a Delaware Valley landmark. Susan chalks the longevity up to “providing the service that your customers are asking for.” And based on its wide range of offerings, Linvilla’s customers are asking for a lot. There’s the farmers market, the garden center, barnyard animals, hayrides, pick-your-own produce, fishing, mini golf, playgrounds, train rides, a beer garden, holiday festivals, Christmas trees, swimming clubs – and, actually, quite a bit more.

Sometimes, Linvilla’s offerings come about through strikes of inspiration. Peg got the idea for the iconic Pumpkinland after preparing an award-winning display for the 1971 Philadelphia Flower Show. The display then moved to the front of the iconic octagonal Linvilla Orchards barn. Now Linvilla attracts more than 10,000 people on an average October weekend.

The hayrides we know today grew from the Linvill kids loving to ride on flatbed trucks. Paul’s optimism and his belief that “anything you want to do is possible” led the family to develop their dreams as they worked together.

Through this inventiveness, the Linvill family was not only able to keep its business running, but it also allowed them to educate the community on how farms operate and how food gets to the table. The “pick-your-own” aspect of the farm allows families to interact with different fruits and vegetables directly and also promotes bonding time.

According to Susan, the Quaker value they uphold the most in managing their business is “operating by consensus.” Sticking to this idea can be challenging at times, and perhaps some decisions take longer than they would otherwise, but it’s proven effective in maintaining the century-old farm and fostering a sense of community amongst the third- and fourth-generation owners, the customers, and the employees. Some Linvilla team

members have been working at the farm for decades and, Susan says, the atmosphere is one of friendship and family.

“My biggest concern [for the future] is passing the legacy on to the next generation,” Susan said. She hopes that future Linvill generations carry the family legacy forward as a successful farming business, as well as an education and entertainment destination for the community.

And maybe, Susan said, in the near future Linvilla will add children’s story time to its list of offerings, in collaboration with the library she frequented as a child. It’s the kind of thing Peg and Paul would have loved. In a sense, it’s like coming full circle to a childhood full of reading in the library. •



This feature on the Linvill family was written by Ariel Mehmeti, a member of Penncrest High School’s Class of 2024. In line with MFL’s mission “to help the people of our community achieve their full potential,” we offered the opportunity to an aspiring student journalist at Penncrest. Invited by Penncrest English Language Arts faculty member Chrissa Kuntz, Ariel volunteered for this task. We thank Ariel for her excellent work on this project and we celebrate her as an exemplar of how our library engages our community at every opportunity.

Don Melnick, MFL Trustee

Third and fourth generation Linvill family members, present and future leaders of Linvilla Orchards.



The Linvill family sponsors of the Linvill Family Story Time Area at Middletown Free Library.

Left to right: Jean, Nancy, Steve, and Sue.



A.I., ROBOT

PHOTOS BY ERIC SUCAR

“Deep Relief,” a large three-dimensional bas-relief sculpture, was installed at Middletown Free Library in October 2022. The one-of-a-kind artwork combines artificial intelligence computation methods with industrial robotic manufacturing processes.

Made of high-density foam — and shaped by an autonomous six-axis robotic arm — Deep Relief was fabricated using a subtractive hot-wire cutting process that resulted in bespoke forms drawing inspiration from Baroque techniques characterized as “painterly.”

The wall was developed by the Weitzman School of Design, ARI Lab, and the MSD-RAS Program at the University of Pennsylvania, led by Andrew Saunders and Robert Stuart-Smith, with additional support from Penn Praxis, Universal Foam, L.J. Paollela Construction, and Erdy McHenry Architecture.





Generous 'Giant'

Bequest from Pulitzer Prize nominee
Mary Packwood allows MFL to launch
endowment fund

BY DAVE IRVING



“I GIVE MY TRUST PROPERTY to Middletown Free Library ... to help continue their mission of bringing the world to the young, the experienced, the aged, and all that hunger for the knowledge and understanding that will bring forth a united planet.”

So reads Mary Packwood’s inspirational bequest that will allow the Middletown Free Library board to establish a board directed endowment fund of more than \$500,000 due to her generosity.

Mary was a New Englander who received her college degree from Boston University and soon found her niche as a reporter, photographer, and editor with newspapers in Providence, Rhode Island; Binghamton, New York; Richmond, Virginia; and Philadelphia.

Though not tall in stature — she stood 4-foot-10 — her later success caused her to be known as a “giant” in the field of journalism.

When the 1956 Hungarian Revolution broke out in Budapest, she, along with other correspondents such as James Michener, reported to the world about the Soviet Union’s violent suppression of the uprising.

While working for the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, she was among the first travel editors to be invited to China when it began to allow visitors after President Nixon’s visit during the 1970s. Her series on the opening of China to tourism was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1981.

As she approached retirement, Mary resided at Riddle Village Retirement Community, where she served as pres-

ident of the residents’ council. It was from there that she met then Middletown Free Library Director Mary Gazdik and was exposed to all that the library had to offer to the public.

It is from Mary Packwood’s bequest that Middletown Free Library patrons — the young, the experienced, the aged, and all who hunger for knowledge, as she put it — will benefit in the future! •

“As we began planning our new urban educational non-profit, we needed a quiet, professional, and cost-effective space to meet and collaborate. That’s when we discovered Middletown Free Library, and we’ve been meeting here ever since. MFL’s support has been invaluable to our work and the success of our mission.”

**— ETHYL MCGEE AND KAREEM EDWARDS,
CO-FOUNDERS, LIBERTYRIGHT EDUCATION**



MFL'S 8TH ANNUAL
Craft Beer Fest

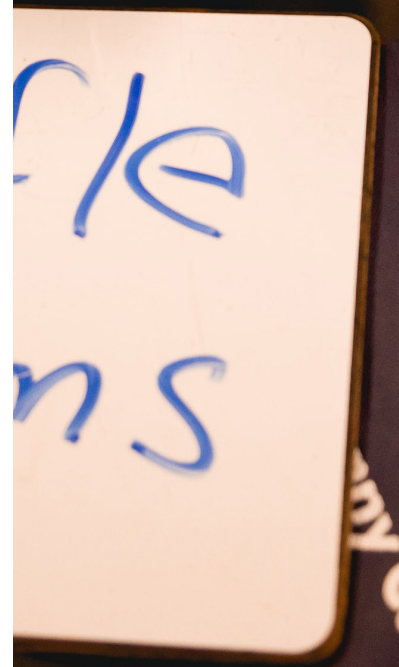


IRON HILL BREWERY

THE LIBRARY'S BIGGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

Over 200 people joined us for our 8th annual Craft Beer Fest. We love bringing together local breweries and our wonderful patrons.

PHOTOS BY STEPH MCDERMOTT





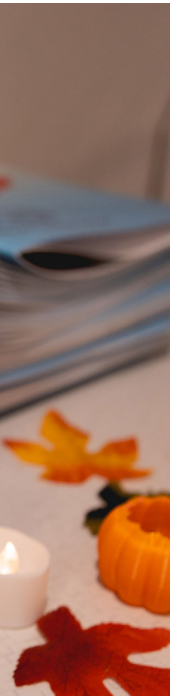
CONSHOHOCKEN BREWING COMPANY
BACK FOR ITS THIRD YEAR



FOOD FROM OUR NEIGHBORS
AT WAYSIDE MARKET



E COOKE WINERY



OUR LIBRARIANS, JASON FIALKOVICH, LAURA KUCHMAY, AND DEREK LLOYD (LEFT TO RIGHT)



STERLING PIG BREWERY







*The Appenzeller family: (L to R)
Oliver, Rachel, and Teddy Appenzeller*

“We just moved to the area, and MFL provided my family an instant community. Mr. Jason’s story time has had such an impact on my kids, especially my 3-year-old. He comes home and pretends to read to his little brother. New library books are part of our bedtime routine.”

— RACHEL APPENZELLER

A Few of My Favorite Things

By Jason Fialkovich

Hi friends! Thanks for picking up and reading the *MFL Magazine*. I wanted to share just a fun, quick top-5 list of things I recommend that are important to me, and have made me who I am today. Not all of these can be found at the library – but we don't expect you to spend *all* of your time at MFL, do we?

CAPTIVATE: THE SCIENCE OF SUCCEEDING WITH PEOPLE BY VANESSA VAN EDWARDS

In the beginning of “quarantine times” back in 2020, I got hooked on watching YouTube videos of author Vanessa Van Edwards breaking down how to be a better conversationalist, pick up on social cues, etc. I really wanted to make sure I was able to successfully make meaningful connections with people. Ever curious why sometimes it is so easy to talk to one person, but difficult with another? Or, how there's that one friend or relative who's able to talk to a complete stranger and the conversation seems so effortless? I, like many people, have some social anxiety, but I also love challenging myself and seeing if I can make small improvements in myself. This book is extremely interesting but also extremely helpful in navigating the art and science of conversation.

TED LASSO

If you know it, you'll know why. My mother's side of the family are big believers in optimism. The Apple TV show *Ted Lasso* is riddled with clever dialogue and jokes, has complex characters, and promotes positivity. There are so many quotes from the show that I try to keep in mind at any of my more struggling moments. “Be curious, not judgemental.” “You know who the happiest animal in the world is? A goldfish. Why? It's got a 10-second memory. Be a goldfish.” Forget the unnecessary hurt or resentment we carry. Forgive and forget. And most importantly: Believe. Believe in yourself, in others, and in the universe getting you to where you need to be (maybe not where you want to be). Oh, and tea is garbage water. Haha!

WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW!?

Watching this 2004 documentary and experiencing the death of my maternal grandfather back in early 2012, I think these were the paradigm shifts in my life that got me to where I am today. My grandfather was born in Italy and developed polio before moving to America as a kid. He never let that bother him. We can choose to be bitter, angry, and feel like the world is just throwing difficulties at us, and only us, while we see others having it easy. We become chemically addicted to those feelings and emotions, physically and mentally. If we shift our perspective and focus on the positive, everything changes. That's what I took from *What the Bleep Do We Know!?* Positive thinking yields positive results. Our minds can affect our realities. My grandfather chose to be thankful instead of angry. His optimism and positivity were an inspiration to many lucky enough to know him, and I hope to continue to honor him by reflecting those values to you all.

ATOMIC HABITS BY JAMES CLEAR

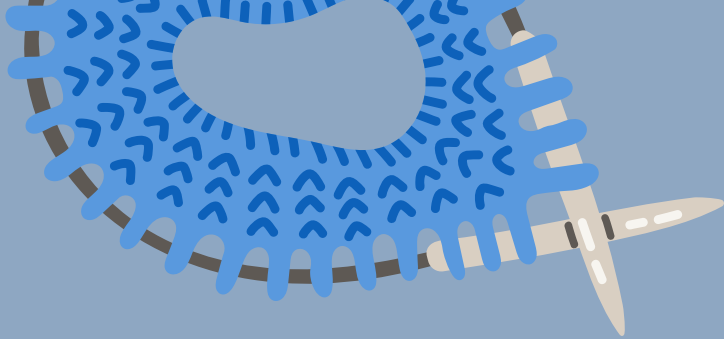
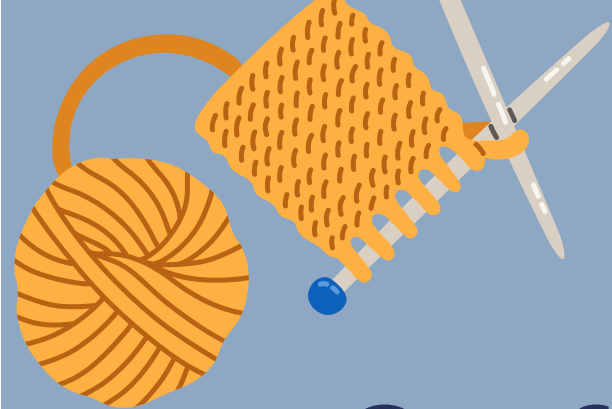
We are capable of making big changes, but that's the wrong approach. You should change your small habits. Want to be healthier? Be someone who does healthy things – even if it is as small as getting dressed to go for a run. Chances are, you'll use that momentum to then go for a run. But start with just putting on those running clothes and shoes. Choose a side salad instead of the fries. Become a healthy person, and not just somebody who wants to lose X amount of pounds. Change your personality to change your personal reality. Start small, and the dominos will fall.

MINDSET: THE NEW PSYCHOLOGY OF SUCCESS BY CAROL DWECK

I always had a feeling that I had a growth mindset. I like challenges and don't easily give up. I appreciate the process more than the end product. By only doing things that come easily to us, we keep our possibilities limited. Even if the finished result isn't as good as someone else's, we take pride in our hard work. I strongly believe this is something lacking in how we teach and praise our children. There's an entire chapter devoted to making sure we praise a child's efforts, not the end result. Otherwise, they are likely to cheat, take short cuts, or only do what comes naturally to them instead of stepping outside their comfort zone. Praise hard work and failures! •

Jason Fialkovich, aka Mr. Jason, is Middletown Free Library's youth services director and makerspace manager.





Crafts and Clubs

= Confidence and Community

by *Laura Kuchmay*

In my Makery @ Middletown arts and crafts workshops I strive to create a stress-free space where adults are not criticized and can feel confident in their creative abilities. I approach my classes with the same philosophy as the Zentangle drawing method: there are no mistakes, just new ideas and patterns. Sure, we all mess up from time to time, but instead of reacting with disappointment, anger, or discouragement, we embrace it. Many of our patrons are retired and haven't had a chance to express themselves creatively for years. They are looking for programs to try new things, have fun, and experiment. They have found new friends and a supportive community at the Library.

I love when participants of my Zentangle Club tell me, "Before learning Zentangle my mistakes would stress me out, I'd give up, and throw away my work. Now I adapt, go with the flow, and create something new." During PaintSpace I hear, "I never thought I could paint with acrylics — and actually like what I painted." People of all ages put so much pressure on themselves to be perfect. The boosts of confidence I witness each day warm my heart. I'm so proud to witness these moments of greatness!

During my three book clubs (historical fiction, British mysteries, and cookbooks) our patrons are expanding their horizons and perspectives on the world without leaving their community. They experience new cultures, new ideas, new foods, and learn from the shared experiences of the characters in the books and their fellow book club members. In the Cookbook Club they are building community through food. Many have remarked that since they live by themselves or have few family members nearby, they really enjoy making food for a large

group and getting to share their stories with others. Through these book clubs lasting friendships have been made.

During all of my workshops I encourage peer learning. You can't expect perfection from yourself or others. But each of us has strengths that can be shared. This increases confidence in the peer/teacher and establishes a bond with the person they coached. I love hearing the conversations during crafting — the funny stories, the heartfelt confessions, and emotional revelations. The saying that "crafting is therapy" is so true.

We can learn so much from shared experiences. Through shared experiences, creativity, and trying new things a strong community is formed.

And the Middletown Free Library is the best community in my opinion. *Keep it crafty, my friends!* •

Laura Kuchmay is MFL's adult services and reference librarian.



2022 LIBRARY TIMELINE



JANUARY

Ms. Libby shares her love of books and teaching ballet in Books 'N Ballet, an award-winning MFL program that has gotten so popular that it had to be moved to the Roosevelt Community Center auditorium.

Director for a decade and a driving force behind the new building, Mary Gazdik spends her last day on the job. Her legacy will always live here at the library.



MARCH

The library pays for a subscription to Bloxels so that kids ages 8+ can design their own video games. From characters, to levels, to the art and all the animation, we've got some future video game designers in our community!



APRIL

Ms. Kate runs this free infant massage class geared towards new parents who want to bond with their babies and meet other parents. It is both adorable and therapeutic.



MAY

Always a big crowd at Sleighton Park for Mr. Jason's Books on Blankets story time — especially when the weather is gorgeous. Families enjoy stories, outdoor toys, as well as the township's amazing playgrounds.

JUNE

Mr. Andrew gets all the kids and their adults rockin' and rollin' with such great songs in his Makin' Music classes. When the weather is nice, we enjoy rockin' out outside!



JULY

JULY

After a year of waiting, the main stairway is completed, allowing easy access to MFL's second floor.

Summers can be loud and messy here at the library, so Mr. Jason runs science experiments outside.



AUGUST

AUGUST

Splash day! A variety of water toys and sprinklers give kids a break on a hot day. How hot? Even Mr. Jason and Ms. Laura got in on the wet fun!



DECEMBER

OCTOBER

The Library helps host a rad pop-up skate park with the Delco Skatepark Coalition.



AUGUST

NOVEMBER

All ages got to check out the sun safely through a solar telescope from our friends at Timmy Telescope. A variety of indoor stations related to space and space travel are also popular.



DECEMBER

DECEMBER

Patrons experience Ukrainian culture by creating their own Pysanky eggs. Our instructor Tammy drives more than two hours to teach us this beautiful artform.

Twelve days of Christmas crafts! This is our most popular series every year. More than 20 crafts — the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season as a community.

DONORS

Thank you to our
466 donors

**JANUARY 2022 -
JUNE 2023**

\$100,000 plus

Wilbur C. & Betty
Lea Henderson Foun-
dation

\$20,000 plus

Elizabeth
Podrebarac

\$10,000 plus

Justin & Kaori Nepo

\$5000 plus

Parag Dalal &
Jeanne Maloney
Bob & Shirley Fyfe

\$2,500 plus

Khaw Family
Foundation (Bliss
Khaw & Dan
Washburn)

William Zimmer
Philip & Diane Zinn

\$1,000 plus

Mark Borda
Keith & Katherine
Buchanan
Sally Burkam
Gail & Bruce Clark
Brian &
Suzzane Clauser
Ken & Paulina Dinitz
Friends of the

Middletown Library
Laura & Joe Graham
Larry Hartley
Donald &
Pamela Melnick
Carol Nichols
Benjamin &
Margery Preddy
Bill & Judy Strine
William &
Beverly Taylor
Werner Volkmann
Helene Weathers

\$500 plus

Glenn Butterfoss
Eileen Everly
Talmadge &
Susan Graham
Gary &
Mary Jo Grove
Denise Hader
David &
Barbara Irving
Christopher
Lamoureux
Margaret Kuo's
Kitchen
Middletown
Township Sewer
Authority
Heidi & David Powell
Susan Rupp
Mariann Rybarczyk
Richard Scheff &
Natalie Ramsey
Phyllis Stevick
Karen & Pete Toto
Wiley Rein LLP

\$250 plus

Richard &
Mary Anne Adler
Benjamin Alouf
Beneserv
Gregory Blackman
Katherine Button
Dianne & Nick Caggiano
Sheila Chellappa
Michael Cosentino
Philomena D'Orazio
Amber Flynn
Glen Riddle Rotary Club
Sharon & Al Guarente
Genevieve &
Robert Hamilton
Martha Harriz
Augusta & John Hixson
Christine Kagarise
John Kelley
Howard & Maria Kotch
June Kowalski
Mary Anne &
Stanley Kwaszkiewicz
Laxton Enterprises
Laxton Trash Removal
Charles & Karen Lillie
Cynthia Martin-Furia
Robert & Alice Messinger
William & Karen Mills
Dorry & Philip Newcomer
Barbara Norton
Esmail & Sakina Olia
Louis Pobo
David Reed
Jay Sanders
Susan Satur
Charles & Jane Schock
Kenneth Soltis
William &
Jean Stollsteimer
Dana Vellios-Miller
Jacquelyn White-Reimer
Lawrence Willinger
Carolyn Wilson
Anthony Zupa

\$100 plus

Ward & Brenda Abrams
Janice & Thomas Alessi
Judith Allen
Albert &
Margaret Amoroso
David & Doris Archibald
Rudolph & Marcia Baehr
Jo Ann Baiocco
Donald &
Conadine Banninger
Amy Barnes
Michael Barron
Bonnie & Robert Bellino
Robert &
Nancy Bernhardt
Barbara Bevilacqua
James & Carol Bigas
Amy Binder
Ernest & Edna Bogert
Michael Bomstein
Margaret Demarteleire
Margaret Boris
James & Jean Bowen
Jeanne & Martin Brna
Christine Brose
Kathryn Buckley
Jay Carlis
Dee Anne &
Warren Casner
Charlene &
G. Richard Chapman
Robert Clancy
Katie Clifford
Sandra Clitter
Clifford & Donna Cohen
Robert & Paula Cook
Cooper and
Holland Trust (Gerald
& Barbara Cooper)
Donna Coulter
Robin Danley
William & Norma Defulvio
Lynn Demeester
Lawrence &
Patricia DeMooy
Anthony & Debra Diccico
Barbara Digi
Michael & Kathleen Dolan
Florence Dougherty

Raymond &
Rosemary Duffy
Lynne Easton
John Ebenreiter
Matthew & Mary Egan
Geraldine Eunson
Sean & Melinda Fathel
Patricia Finegan
Cheryl Fisher
Louis & Linda Flocco
Bill & Jen Flounders
Marcie Ford
George Fotiades
Penny Frasier
John & Nancy Furmanak
Edward &
Margaret Furmaniak
Thomas & Kathleen Gaval
Larry Geary
MaryAnn Geiger
David Geveke
Joseph & Donna Glace
James S. & Mary Glessner
William &
Elizabeth Gorman
Leslie Grissom
Geraldine Hansen
John & Geraldine Hansen
Hardworking
Packaging LLC
Judith Harper
Don & Jinny Heilala
Patrick Hencinski
Joan Hendrickson
Stephanie &
Gary Herman
Alina Hess
Betty Hummel
Daniela & Hiroshi Iizuka
Charles &
Connie Joanedis
Ruth Ellen Johnson
Joan Johnston
James & Helen Kain
Eileen & Paul Karwaski
Diane Keeley
Diane & Tara Keeley
Raymond &
Geraldine Kelleher
Scott & Jacqlyn
Kennedy Sisson



Lucy Klodarska
Walter Koenig
Bonita &
John Kushnerick
Faith Kwaszkiewicz
John & Karin Laffend
Roclyne LaPorte
Suzanne Lehman
Elizabeth Lieux
Bill Linke
LPL Financial
Terry Lytle
Donna Maher
Michael &
Rebecca Majeski
Patricia Maloney
Korah & Shobha Mani
Joan & Edward Martin
Marjorie Mcaboy
Alina McDonnell
Charles &
Coleen McKenney
Susan Mescanti
Donna & Neil Meyer
Middletown Township
Historical Society
Andrew Miller
Terry & Marilyn Mills
Richard Moberly
Arthur & Kathleen Moffa
William & Marian Moran
Michele Morris
James & Geri Morrison
Kevin Murphy
Mary North
Bruce &
Bonnie Oestreich
Ohm Chiropractic Center

Tricia & Dan O'Loughlin
John & Gail Olshefski
Joseph Orso
John & Debra Paulson
Frances Poole
Yutao Portre
Susan Powell
Katherine Prosser
Walter & Carolyn Reading
Judy ReedGreen
Ernest & Angela Repice
Residents of Lima Estates
Paula & John Ridge
Michael Ripple
Michael & Elizabeth Ripple
Connie Rosenberger
Anthony & Gay Sabatelli
Jay Sadowski
Dominic & Kjerstin Sama
Steven & Carolyn Samples
Tim & Arlene Sander
Judith & Peter Schlett
Charles Schock
Tina Shaffer
Susan Sharp
Barbara Shellington
Ruth Shuman
Renaë & Sean Sirkin
Stanley Slater
Ernest Snodgrass
Ernie & Mary Snodgrass
Timothy Snyder
Kenneth & Dolores Soltis
Tom & Mary Starrs
Joseph & Lorraine Stavola
Todd Swanson
The Pat Gildea Group

Keller Williams Real
Estate
Raymond &
Rosemarie Titter
MaryAnne Troy
Allen &
Margaret Turberville
Joseph & Rita Tyson
Patricia Vogler
Emogene Vough
Marie Wardynski
Iles Wauhoph
Susan Welfley
Nicholas Whalen
Pat & Nick Whalen
Donald & Susan Wilkins
Paul & Cheryl Wilkinson
Barbara & Earle Williams
David & Priscilla Williams
JoAnn Williams
Lawrence &
Marie Willinger
Kyle Winters
Patricia &
Frederic Woerth
Clifford & Lorraine
Woodbury
Kenneth & Patricia
Woznicki
Tanya Yang

\$50 plus

Carl Adams
Linda Alba
Nani Batta
Elaine Battle
Florence Bendrick

David & Sandra Bennett
Birch Benefits
(Leigh Ann Ingersoll)
Rita Bloomingdale
Robert & Jean Boell
Judith Boudwin
Anne & Steuart Brown
Clarence &
Susanne Bryan
Daniel & Susan Bubnis
Domnick &
Deborah Bucci
William & Leslie Bullitt
Patrick & Susan Caligiuri
Carol Campanelli
Leslie Campo
Dean & Virginia Cave
John & Ellen Chacosky
Frederick Clothier
Patricia Cofiehl
James & Carol Colombo
Deborah Cotter
William &
Denise Davidson
Rita Defelippes
Robert &
Margaret Delprato
Warren &
Mary Densmore
Donald & Lynne Dix
Sandra Donnelly
Anne Donovan
Marisa Drake
Elaine Dunn
Alicia Eggers
Lorraine &
Jeffrey Ertwine
Melissa &
Jonathan Evans
Dan &
Kathleen Falkenstein
James Fawcett
Abby Feinstein
David Fiebert
Debbie Field
Kimberly Finlay
Don & Leslie Fredericks
William &
Rosemary Fulgham
Nancy Furmanak
Bette Jean Ganter

Jeanne M Gelbach
Elizabeth George
Jeff & Elizabeth George
Alan & Mary Jane Golub
Kate Gordon
Diana Grant
Kenneth Green
Marlene Green
Daniel Grover
David Guthrie
Samuel Hall
Grace Hedmeck
Nancy Heinbaugh
Peter Holston
Joan Hendrickson
Robin Juliano
A. Robert Kannapel
Virginia &
Stephen Kapski
Robert Keller
William &
Antoinette Kinney
Drew Kmetz
Helen Larkin
Mary Logue
Jeanette Lynch
Elizabeth Lynn
Louise Malady
Janice Mancuso
Frank Margeson
Daniel Marmer
Matthew Mccusker
Karen McGinn

Lynn Mcmonagle
Bruce McWaters
Joseph Mercadante
Karen Miles
Sara Mills
Terri & John Missar
Christopher &
Janice Moore
Carole & James Nolan
Shawna Ong
Theodore &
Elizabeth Ottey III
Joseph Patterson
Janice Kirkwood &
Philip Peterson
Janet Powell
Beatrice Price
Dorothy Pywell
Leonard &
Suzanne Rappold
Terry &
Polly Renee Rauenzahn
Sarah Rehberg
Michele Restaino
Sheila & William Roberts
Mildred Royer
Kathleen & James Ryan
Eileen Sabatelli
Liz Scholz
Sharon Scott
Caroline Seddon
Kristin Sergi
William Sheehan

Daniel & Mary Sylvester
Dot Talley
Jennifer Tate
Glenn & Deborah Taylor
Michael & Stacy Tegan
Craig & Donna Thompson
Margaret Turbitt
Peter Voudouris
Donna Weischedel
Elliot Weisman
Judith Wentz
Edward & Mary Williams
Stephen Wood
Lillian Young

Under \$50

Joan & John Amoriello
Peter Barry
Margaret Berken
Dilip Bhandarkar
James & Tracy Boyle
Daril Browning
Mandy Buhle
Richard Burgess
David & Claudia Burt
Polly Bush
Shirley Clayton
Paul & Rosemary
Conway
Kathy DeJohn
Kathleen Del Vacchio
Liliana DelBonifro
Christine Demuro



Michael &
 Mary Jo Di Mario
 Carolyn M Fansler
 Charles & Carol Farnan
 Linda Fox
 Patricia &
 William Gardner
 Marie Gianchetti
 Jennifer Gillespie Buccilli
 Linda Gose
 Mary Graham
 David & Diane Granger
 Revelino & Merlyn Guron
 Suzane Gutierrez
 Todd & Susan Hagenbuch
 Carol Happersett
 Ruth Hendry
 Richard Henne
 Annie Hollis
 Susan Howe
 Elwood Irwin
 Diane & Herbert Jackson
 Marianne Johnson
 David Kacala
 Georgette Kandrak
 Thomas & Maureen Kane
 William & Helen Kaufman
 Kate Kauranen &
 Bill Moore
 Joseph Klinger
 Lois Kolimaga
 Linda Locklear
 Gary & Gayle Logue
 Helen Maglio
 Shannon Mahler
 Robert &
 Charlene Mangano
 Elizabeth &
 Raymond Maruca
 Sandra & David Masse
 Stephanie McDermott
 Jane &
 Thomas McGovern
 Cindy Miller

Terrance Mohan
 Mary Mulholland
 Linda Murphy
 Anna & Gessie Nasino
 Conor O'Donnell
 Cade Oliver
 Michael Ostroski
 Gail Perzchowski
 Joanne Phillips
 Theresa Phillips
 Peter & Helen Pitts
 William & Marianne Poole
 Ralph Rainey
 Julie Ramsey
 Andrew &
 Catherine Redding
 Sharon Reed
 David Rittenhouse
 Janice Sawicki
 Kathy & George Schlenk
 Suzanne Schoettle
 Ginny Schroeder
 Alfred & Ann Schwacke
 Brooke Shapiro
 Agnes Silverman
 Joan Skurski
 William & Jean Spring
 Carol & Donald Storey
 George & Vivian Sutton
 Carol swayngim
 Mary Tobin
 Marilyn Verbits
 Mark & Joyce Volpe
 Maryann & Richard Volpe
 John & Sandra Whitnell
 Ronald &
 Sharon Woolfrey
 Courtney Wright
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard
 Wroblewski
 James Yates



Thank You!



(L to R) Karen Holcombe, Sue Clark, Kate Kauranen

“Laura’s programs have really improved my life. At 70, I have made new friends. The time I spend in class helps me be social and engaged. The library is wonderful. It has a great variety of activities and amazing instructors. Everyone is impressed by this library. MFL does a phenomenal job.”

— SUE CLARK

2022 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



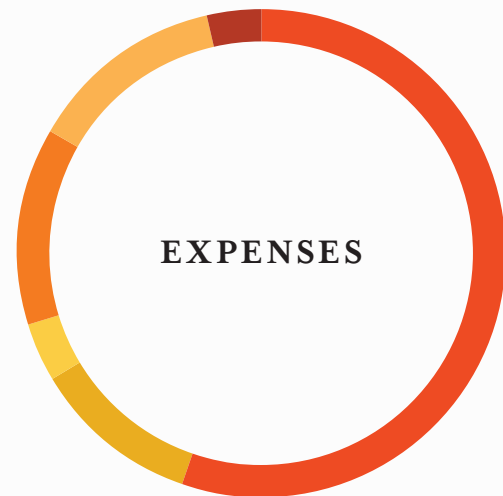
- Government Support **\$325,082**
- Donations/Fundraising **\$247,100**
- Fees/Fines/Interest **\$26,282**

TOTAL: \$598,463

Net Income, Before Extraordinary Items **\$63,360**

Packwood Estate Bequest **\$480,751**

Total Extraordinary Items **\$480,751**



- Compensation and Benefits **\$296,617**
- Books/Materials **\$58,647**
- Programs **\$21,058**
- Facility and Equipment **\$70,704**
- General and Administrative **\$69,302**
- Fundraising **\$18,774**

TOTAL: \$535,103

NET INCOME, INCLUDING EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS: \$544,112

GET INVOLVED

Middletown Free Library is stronger because of the many volunteers who help the library in various ways. Volunteers support the staff with events and programs, keep library materials and resources organized, lead some of our many clubs, provide technical help to library users with the “book-a-geek” service, help in the makerspace, and much more!

There are many volunteering opportunities to either use your existing talents or learn new skills. One thing is for sure: you will meet some great people in your community – often the benefits you get are more than what you give.

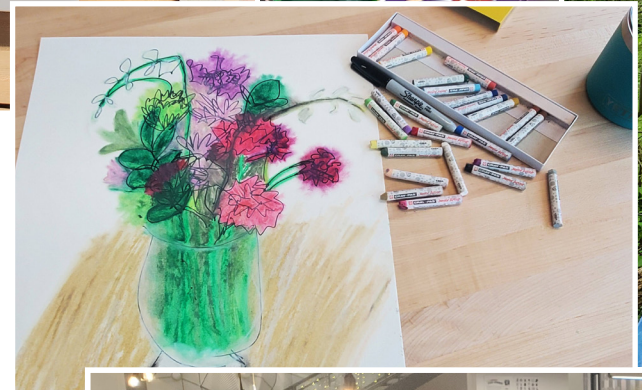
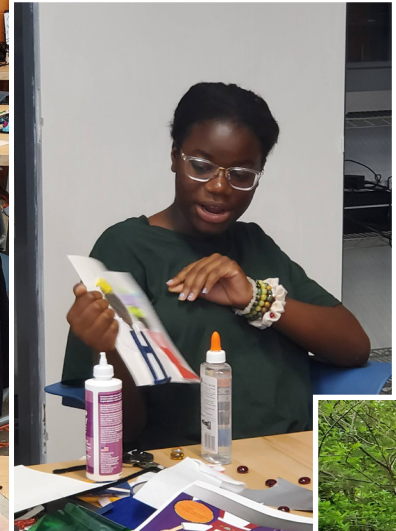
Research has shown that volunteering can offer many health benefits such as better mental and physical health, self-esteem, and happiness. Whether you have a little time to volunteer or a lot of time, we can find a place for you to help.

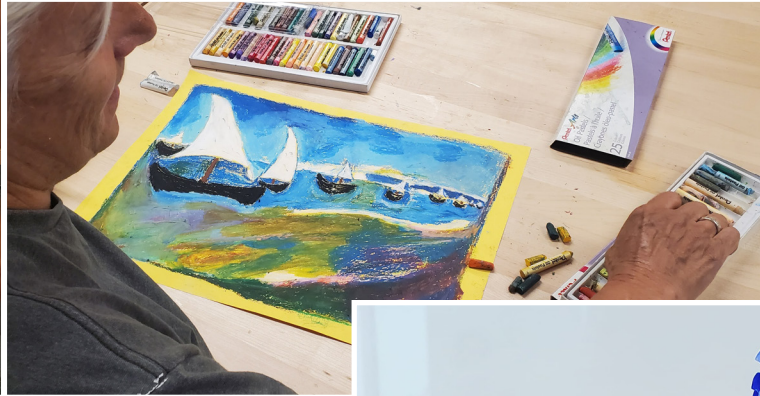
Middle school and high school students, teens aged 13-17, can also volunteer at the library. Teen volunteer night is usually the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Volunteering is fun (and especially helpful when you need to accrue serve hours). Teens who are interested can contact Ms. Libby for more details:

mflyouthservicesassistant@gmail.com.

Adults wishing to volunteer can contact Derek Lloyd, the library Director, at **midirector@delcolibraries.org**. Adults will need to complete a background and fingerprint check before volunteering. For more information, please go to our volunteer page at **middletownfreelibrary.org/volunteer.html**. Another volunteer option for adults is to join the Friends of the Middletown Free Library. More information can be found at **middletownfreelibrary.org/friends-of-the-mfl.html**.

— Lori Enriquez





THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

HOLLYWOOD LANDSCAPING
ROTARY CLUB OF GLEN RIDDLE
SAY CHZ PHOTO

BEERFEST 2022 PARTNERS

2SP BREWING COMPANY
CONSHOHOCKEN BREWING COMPANY
E COOKE WINERY
FOUR FINGERS BREWING CO.
IRON HILL BREWERY
KENWOOD ORIGINAL
STERLING PIG BREWERY
WRONG CROWD BEER COMPANY

VOLUNTEERS

PAT VOELKER
BEA PRICE
SHARON NAPOLI
LESLIE GRISSOM
JUDITH BOUDWIN
JOAN HENDRICKSON
JERRY YOUNG
CHRISTINE KAGARISE

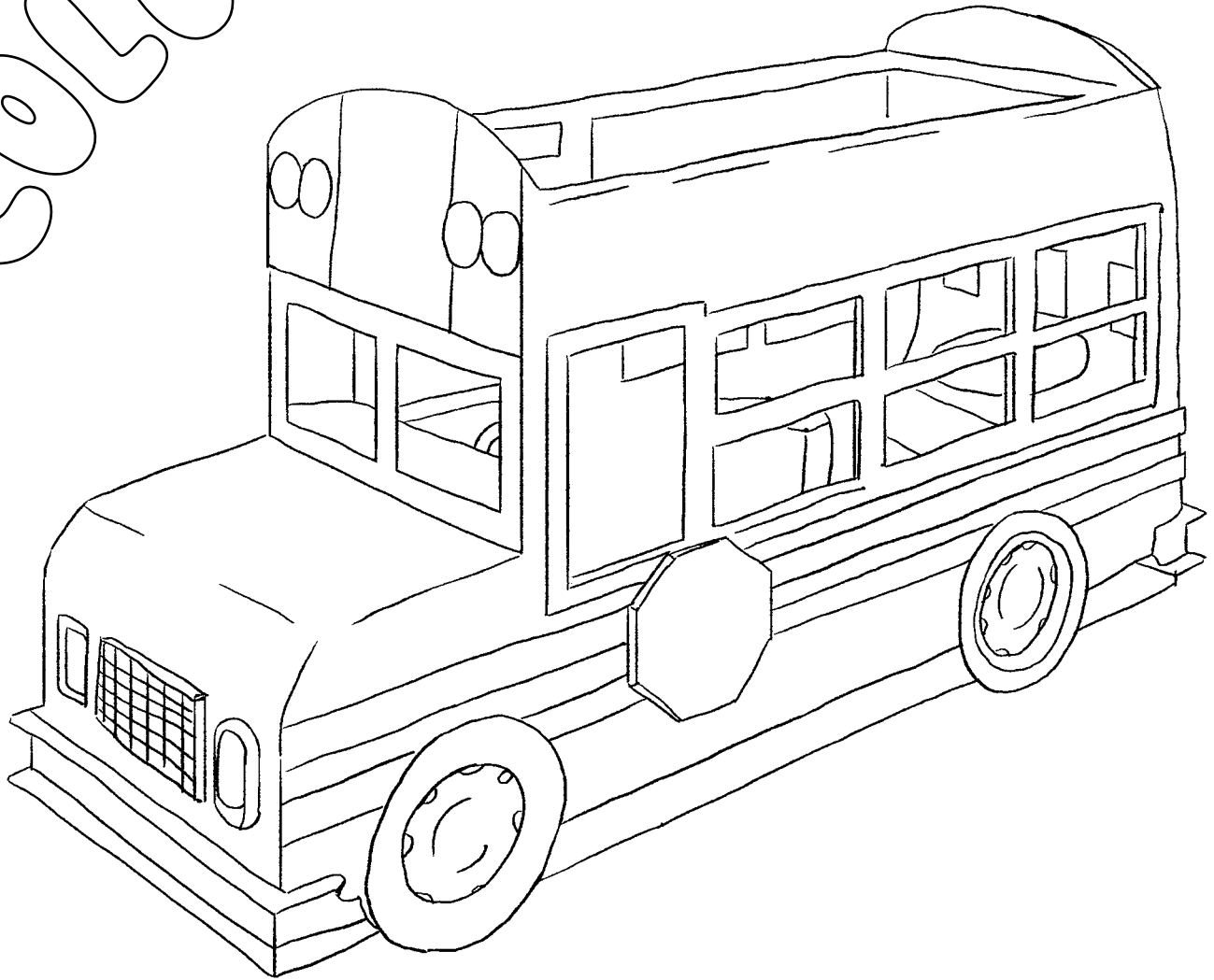
TRIMM Glass Co.

Your local experts since 1947.

**Glass for every purpose.
Serving your commercial and residential glass needs.**

316 MEDIA STATION ROAD - (610) 566-6262 - TRIMMGLASS.COM

COLOR OUR BUS



Middletown Free Library started as a school bus full of books in the 1950s. Back then it was painted red.
Use your imagination and show us how you would paint it today.

Other ideas: Where is the bus? Fill in the background to create a scene. Who is riding the bus? Draw some passengers.

Be sure to bring your finished coloring pages to the library and show us what you dreamed up.

Illustration by Lisa Lok



MIDDLETOWN
FREE LIBRARY