



BROTHERS ALL

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Brotherly Love ★ Fidelity**

December 2023

THE MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE MIDDLETOWN B.P.O. ELKS LODGE 2179
251 Church Street • Belford, New Jersey 07718 • (732) 495-2733 • www.middletownelks2179.org

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of U.S.A. A Fraternal Organization **EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE**

Greetings All,

I would like to start off by hoping everyone had a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving. The month of November started off with a 4 club golf tournament, ran by Charlie Diehl and PEOY Frank Zechman, they did a great job and proceeds went to our Veterans Committee. Later that day, our Youth Activities Chairman John Martinez and the Ladies Auxiliary held our Annual Breeders Cup day at the races at the lodge and fun was had by all. On November 5th, we had our tailgate breakfast at which all the proceeds went to our Veterans Committee. I would like to thank everyone that came and helped out. Later that day our Members and the Ladies Auxiliary Members marched in Middletown Veterans Day Parade. I would like to thank PDD Ed Hahn and PER Fran Corridon for organizing and keeping us in step. On November 16th, our Veterans Committee held a veterans dinner to feed our local veterans, great job by Committee Chairman PER John Steakin Sr, Kathy Steakin, PER Don DesFosse, PDD Mike Dickie and Brian Phillips. Thanks to all the members who came out to support our Lodge and Middletown Helps It's Own by delivering food baskets to our neighbors in need. That night, our Youth Activities Chairman John Martinez and his Committee held a Comedy Night at the Lodge, it was a great success (great job, John keep up the good work).

On December 3rd, our Elks Memorial Day Chairman PDD Dan Maloney and the Officers will be performing our Elks Memorial Day Service. This is to Honor our members that we lost this year and to Honor one of our



Donald Anderson
Exalted Ruler

Ladies Auxiliary Member. Please come out and support the families by honoring the memory of our departed. On December 6th, please come out and support our Special Children's Committee for our spaghetti dinner night. On December 13th, please tell your kids, grandkids and neighbors Middletown Elks will be holding our Annual Hoop Shoot Contest. For boys and girls from ages 8-13, it will be held at Croydon Hall from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. On December 16th, please come out and support Middletown Elks and Middletown Helps It's Own by delivering food baskets and gifts to our neighbors in need. On December 17th, our Youth Activities Committee will be having their Annual Christmas Party with Santa from 11:00am to 1:00pm for more information, please contact Youth Activities Chairman John Martinez. Later that day from 2:00pm to 4:00pm our Special Children's Committee will be having their Annual Christmas Party with Santa for more information, please contact Special Children's Committee Chairman PER Tom Cribbin. Myself, Veterans Committee Chairman, John Steakin Sr. and Ladies Auxiliary Madam President Ginger Smith had the honor of receiving handmade pictures for Veterans Day. Thank you from the children at Spice Tree Pre School. On behalf of myself and the Officers of Middletown Elks, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

People will remember your example, not your advise.

Donald M. Anderson, Exalted Ruler





ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICERS 2023-2024

- EXALTED RULER Donald Anderson, PER. . . . 732-915-2371
- LEADING KNIGHT John Steakin, Sr., PER. . . . 732-492-0118
- LOYAL KNIGHT Donald Desfosse, PER. . . . 732-788-4840
- LECTURING KNIGHT Al Smith, PER 732-804-2712
- LODGE SECRETARY . . . Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- LODGE TREASURER . . . Mike Trieste, PDD 908-902-3447
- TILER Dave Bennett 732-775-8753
- ESQUIRE John Steakin, Jr. 732-492-0322
- CHAPLAIN Jim Lampert. 732-978-3886
- INNER GUARD Brian Phillips 732-670-1987

TRUSTEES

- ONE YEAR TRUSTEE . . . Kevin Brittian, PER 732-371-7513
- TWO YEAR TRUSTEE . . . Michael Anghelone 732-546-7734
- THREE YEAR TRUSTEE . . Ron Steinberger 732-673-8954
- FOUR YEAR TRUSTEE . . . Richard Mirenda 718-930-9084
- FIVE YEAR TRUSTEE . . . Isaac Dziadzio 732-337-9306

HOUSE COMMITTEE

- Chairman: Nick Figaro, PVP
- Members: Al Smith, PER
- Donald Desfosse, PER
- John Steakin Sr., PER
- Charlie Diehl

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- ACCIDENT PREVENTION Donald Desfosse, PER . . . 732-788-4840
- AMERICANISM Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- AUDITING Rich Jaeger, PER 732-241-3753
- BAR STEWARD Charlie Diehl. 732-687-5769
- BLOOD BANK. Brian Phillips 732-670-1987
- BULLETIN Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- CONVENTION. Fran Corrdion, PER 732-978-0886
- DRUG AWARENESS. John Steakin, Jr. 732-495-0322
- ELKS MEMORIAL DAY. Daniel P. Maloney, PDD . . . 732-915-9351
- FLAG DAY William Nicholl, PER 732-309-5873
- GOLF TOURNAMENT. Charlie Diehl. 732-687-5769
- GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. Donald Desfosse, PER . 732-788-4840
- HALL BOOKINGS Donald Desfosse, PER. 732-788-4840
- HOOP SHOOT Ron Steinberger 732-763-8954
- HOUSE. Nick Figaro, PVP 732-241-5131
- HOUSE & GROUNDS Dennis McInnes 732-546-8255
- INDOCTRINATION Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- INVESTIGATION. Rich Jaeger, PER 732-241-3753
- JUSTICE. W. Randolph Smith, PDD
- LAPSATION Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- LODGE ACTIVITIES . . . Donald Desfosse, PER. 732-788-4840
- LODGE PHOTOGRAHER. . . Al Smith, PER. 732-804-2712
- MEDIATOR. Daniel P. Maloney, PDD . . . 732-915-9351
- MEMBERSHIP Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- NATIONAL SERVICE. . . John Steakin Sr., PER 732-492-0118
- OFFICERS TRAINING . . . Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- PARADES. Edward Hahn, PDD 732-670-1775
- PUBLIC RELATIONS. . . Donald Desfosse, PER. . . 732-788-4840
- RITUAL Kevin Brittian, PER 732-371-7513
- SCHOLARSHIP. Richard Niekrash 732-671-6347
- SICKNESS & DISTRESS . . Al Smith, PER 732-804-2712
- SOCCER SHOOTOUT . . . Tom Cribbin, PER. 347-451-7913
- SOC. COMM. WELFARE. . . Jim Lampert. 732-978-3886
- SPECIAL CHILDREN . . . Tom Cribbin, PER. 347-451-7913
- YOUTH ACTIVITIES John Martinez 732-720-1546

Meet the Last Saturday of month at 12:00PM



ELK OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER 2023

My Elk of the Month is
Ike Dziadzio.

Thank you for all
your hard work.

#getyourelkon



ASK A FRIEND to JOIN

Special Children's Committee



Middletown Elks Welcomes You To Join Us
For Our Monthly Spaghetti Dinners!

September 6th, 2023

Special: Ravioli Parmesan

October 4th, 2023

Special: Shrimp Scampi

November 1st, 2023

Special: Chicken Parmesan

December 6th, 2023

Special: Buffalo Chicken Penne

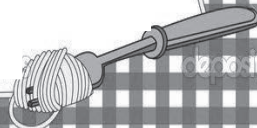
Menu:

\$10 Spaghetti with Meatballs or Sausage

\$12 Monthly Special

All meals come with Salad, Bread, and Dessert

Specials will be published in bulletin and in the lodge monthly



Christmas PARTY

HOSTED BY:

LADIES AUXILLARY

MUSIC PERFORMED BY **SHAMELESS** | **9** DEC | **6 - 10 PM**

CASH BAR AND LIGHT FOOD

RSVP TO LISA HAHN
732-757-2981





MIDDLETOWN ELKS



ELKS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY DEC. 3, 2023
11:00AM

OUR ABSENT BROTHERS :

JOHN HUBER 60 YRS, BRUCE BREWER 49 YRS
KEN MASSICOTTE, PER, PEYOY 49 YRS
JOHN DESIATO 48 YRS, DAVID PALMER 45 YRS
DENNIS BULMER 43 YRS, JOHN CONDON 38 YRS
PAT MALLEY 36 YRS, BERNARD SHEEHAN 34YRS
TOM MC COLGAN 19 YRS
JOHN YELENOCK 14 YRS, WAYNE LAMKEN 10YRS

LADIES AUXILIARY : LINDA BRAZAUCKUS

CONTACT: DAN MALONEY CHAIRMAN

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TRUSTEE'S MEETING

3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:30 PM

Please have vouchers and all other business for our review submitted to the Trustee's mailbox prior to this time.

Thank you to Spice Tree Preschool from the members of Middletown Elks Lodge, Number 2179



MIDDLETOWN ELKS #2179

AMBASSADOR - CAMERON FIORELLO

MARCH 2, 2024



Our beautiful baby boy Cameron was born on March 10, 2021. Sadly, while pregnant I suffered from migraines and our OBGYN prescribed medication considered to be “pregnancy safe.” The afternoon after he was born, life came to a stop when the doctor informed us Cameron was born addicted to Barbiturates, which was an ingredient in the migraine medication I took. While Cameron’s case was considered mild, as he did not need medical intervention, we still had to leave the hospital without him. When he came home after five days, our family was ready to put it all behind us and start life as a family of 4.

We assumed he was advanced when he started rolling over at a week old, instead of recognizing the red flag that it was. After additional symptoms appeared, Cameron was sent for his first MRI at 4 months old to rule out Cerebral Palsy. The scan returned normal and we were relieved. We were grateful and ready to put this behind us and move forward. Cameron seemed to be a “normal” baby in many ways, but in other ways he was still struggling.

He would arch his back away instead of cuddling, he couldn’t tolerate solid foods, he had Hypotonia, which is weak muscle tone, and he had a head lag long past the normal age. We were encouraged to start Physical and Occupational therapy, so we began services through Early Intervention along with feeding therapy to work through our concerns.

At 11 months, Cameron began to struggle with tremors which culminated in a 24-hour EEG, which again returned normal. When he was 18 months, he was referred to Children’s Specialized Hospital and started private therapies to address additional emerging issues. At this point Cameron was a professional knee walker. He wouldn’t plant his feet or walk like an average child but he could outrun anyone on his knees. It seemed painful to everyone but him, and although it was funny to watch, it was frustrating that he wouldn’t try to walk or stand.

Even with multiple therapy sessions a week, Cameron wasn’t progressing as he should. Every additional genetic test, blood panel and even a repeat MRI returned normal results. We regularly heard that this could all be a lingering side effect of his birth history, so all we could do was wait. We continued to seek out additional specialists, tests and treatments through Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, with no further answers. At age 2, Cameron was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum, like his older brother, which enabled additional services and the ability to start school early.

Receiving a walker from the Middletown Elks was a turning point for Cameron and his progress. He gained so much confidence from being able to walk independently, that he started climbing and standing. As time went on, Cameron actually started to walk on his own, without the help of the walker or holding onto someone or something. Our older son Emmett told Cameron “You have to walk by 3,” and here we are! He may still be weak and is not able to run or jump, but we are so happy with how he is improving.

Cameron is so lucky to have some of the best therapists and doctors there are. They have been such a blessing and we do not know where he would be if it wasn’t for them. He also has the best extended family and friends who have always rooted him on. They say raising a child takes a village and we couldn’t love ours more.

We may never have an answer to why Cameron is delayed and we’ll always wonder if it was from the medication I was prescribed while pregnant. So, our main takeaway from this story for anyone is to always trust your gut and ask additional questions. While our path hasn’t been easy, we wouldn’t change it. With his infectious laugh and a smile that can light up every room, Cameron is a blessing in our life and we are so grateful God gave him to us. As a family we will continue to do whatever we can to help him live his best life. We cannot wait to see what the future has for him! I hope the world is ready because he’s going to do great things.





Spotlight Lady

My Spotlight Lady for December is Tara Mirenda.

Tara thank you for always keeping our books up to date. Your always a phone call away when the auxiliary needs help. I appreciate everything you do.

Ladies Auxiliary Officers 2023-2024

PresidentGinger Smith732-495-4693
 1st V.P.Michelle Fairhurst
 TreasurerTara Mirenda347-512-8724
 Recording SecretaryDebby Gerardi201-978-7223
 Corresponding Sec.Janet Desfosse732-788-4839
 Chaplain.Lauren Eckleberry

Executive Board

Kathy Corridon732-673-4756
 Tisa Dziadzio732-693-5678
 Lisa Hahn732-757-2981

LADIES AUXILIARY UPCOMING EVENTS

DecemberNo Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
 December 9Christmas Party
 January 28thSteal Bingo

JOIN THE LADIES AUXILIARY

STEAL BINGO

SUNDAY JAN. 28, 2024

STARTS AT 1PM

DOORS OPEN AT 12 PM

CONTACT : JANET DESFOSSE

Madame President's Message

Hello everyone,

We ended October with a Halloween party. Costumes were great. Food was delicious the band High strung was awesome. Everyone had a great night. Thank you Kathleen Steakin for helping John Steakin Jr. and the Ladies Auxiliary put together such a fun night. We had our annual breeders cup John Martinez and auxiliary worked together to make it a fun day. Full house and lots of food to feed everyone. Veterans day parade was a beautiful day to show support for our honored veterans very proud to be apart of it. Thank you Tisa, Debby, Dana, Tara, Tricia, and Miss Cathy Grabau for walking with me. Cathy Grabau had a blast riding in the golf cart with PER Rich Jaeger. He kept her safe and laughing the whole day. Thanks Rich. Thanksgiving eve, thank you ladies for always stepping up and making food . You ladies are the best. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the auxiliary. Comedy show, great success, great job John Martinez. Saturday November 25th we put up the Christmas trees. Thank you so much Joyce, Tara, Kathy, and big shout out to Debby Gerardi who out did herself doing the memory tree it's absolutely beautiful. PER Fran Corridon, did a great job as usual decorating the bar area. Thank you ER Don Anderson for helping get everything down for us. The lodge looks so festive. Make your way down to see it. December 9th from 6pm to 10pm, Ladies Auxiliary is hosting the lodge Christmas party. Food, live band Shamless to entertain everyone. Come down see some friends and enjoy the night. December 10th, Santa will be in the house, Kids Party 11 to 1pm and Special Children's Committee party 2 to 4pm. No ladies meeting in December. Steal bingo is January 28th at 12noon it will sell out. Please call Janet or myself to reserve your seat. Remember working together we can do great things. I want to wish everyone a very happy healthy Christmas and New Year.

ALWAYS BE KIND YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY

Ginger Smith, President



BULLETIN BOOSTERS

Each booster helps to offset printing and mailing costs of this monthly newsletter. Boosters are for one year, and payable in advance. Please note your name, and when it is due. Thank you.
ANY OVER DUE HAVE BEEN DROPPED FROM LIST

January

Tom & Flo Gormley

February

Tom McColgan

April

In Memory of Gene Ruck
Mary Ruck
Ed and Frann Glenney
In Memory of Lou & Kay Dandorph
Bill and Joan Burger
Edna Bryk
In Memory of Ray Bryk

May

Joan McTigue
Jim and Pat Waked
Mary and Richard Bryk
Nicholas and Donna DiGrigorio

June

In Memory of
Dan Marchetti
Dan and Carol Maloney
In Memory of Robert J. Brant

July

Chris Marchetti
Red, White, & Blue
Mike and Nancy Brandine, Jr.

August

In Memory of Jack Spann
Joe and Rosemary Keeney
John and Kathy Steakin
Ed and Lynn O'Kane

September

In Memory of Mary Brant
Frank and Dianne Zechman

October

In Memory of PER John McTigue
In Memory of
Kathleen L. McCartan
Dan McCartan

Al and Cathy Grabau
Bob and Alice Eckert
In Memory of Bob Brant
Kathleen Brant

November

In Memory of Willy Fix
Chuck and Adrienne Bolin
Cathy Grabau

December

In Memory of Ken Thompson
Jane Thompson
"God's Little Miracles"
Coach Saige

Please check to see if your payment is due - those more than two months in arrears will be dropped. Thank you for your support.

Please support your Bulletin Committee expenses of printing and mailing with a Booster.
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 Complete this coupon and send your check to:
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ATTN: Lodge Secretary
251 Church St., Belford, NJ 07718

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 Address _____
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DECEMBER LADIES BIRTHDAY

12TH. . .DEBRA SEE

12TH. . .DIANE STEINBERGER

19TH. . .DONNA SMITH

21ST. . .CATHEY MERKER

25TH. . .NATALIE MIRENDA

ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY!

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Please remit your dues for 2022-2023. \$20.00 If you have any questions, please feel free to call Janet Desfosse 732.788.4839
Corresponding Secretary

SUNSHINE CHAIRLADY MESSAGE

Any Member Ill...or in the Hospital...
Please contact Debby Gerardi at 201-978-7223 to receive flowers or get well message.

HALL RENTALS

Contact Don Desfosse

732-788-4840

for Information



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Alicia Kedz Sarin
OWNER / SENIOR DIRECTOR
N.J. lic. # 4062

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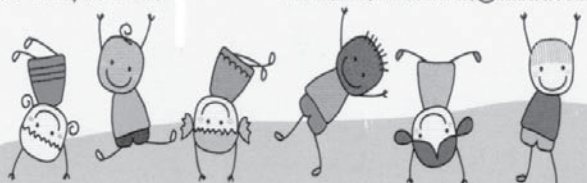
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Calendar Events For December 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3 ELK MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE	4	5 CORNHOLE	6 SCC SPAGHETTI DINNER	7	8	9 LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY
10	11	12 CORNHOLE	13	14 REGULAR MEETING	15	16
17	18	19 CORNHOLE	20	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26 CORNHOLE	27	28	29	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE						

Calendar Events For January 2024

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2 CORNHOLE	3 SCC SPAGHETTI DINNER	4	5	6
7	8	9 CORNHOLE	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 CORNHOLE	17	18 REGULAR MEETING	19	20
21	22	23 CORNHOLE	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 CORNHOLE	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			

