



# TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

*Library Board of Trustees*

*Minutes*

*Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 2019 – 3:00 P.M.*

*The Meeting Room*

*30 Crest Road, Middlebury CT 06762*

Present: Rita H. Smith - Chairman  
William J. Stowell  
Peter Vaccarelli  
Ronald G. Clark, Sr.  
Jo-Ann LoRusso – Library Director

Also Present: Brigitte M. Bessette, Recording Clerk  
Excused Absent: Patricia C. Fahey  
Robert c. Desmarais, Sr.

## **Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by Mrs. Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance** – See above.

**Approval of October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Clark MOTIONED to approve the Minutes of the October 8, 2019 Meeting as submitted, SECONDED by Mr. Stowell, unanimous approval.

## **Trustee Reports**

*Treasurer's Report* – Mr. Stowell submitted the Treasurer's Report to each Trustee Member. There was no activity in the Brick Sales and Room Naming Opportunities accounts during the period October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. Total Brick Sales to date = \$52,260.00, Total Expenses to date = \$29,562.95, Balance in Fund 61 (Brick Sales and Room Naming Opportunities account) = \$22,697.05.

Mr. Vaccarelli MOTIONED to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted, SECONDED by Mr. Clark, unanimous approval.

*Secretary's Report* – Mr. Vaccarelli noted the recent passing (November 5, 2019) of Mr. Aldo A. Manzi. Among the many civic affairs Mr. Manzi participated in, he served as Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees from 1969 to 1982. This Board thanked the Manzi family for recognizing the Middlebury Library Memorial Book Fund as an option for contributions which may be made in his memory.

Mr. Vaccarelli read for the record a Thank-You note from Robyn Ames, Director of Community Service at Westover addressed to Jo-Ann LoRusso and Janice LeDuc. Mrs. Ames thanked them and the entire staff for hosting students on September 30, 2019.

Mr. Stowell MOTIONED to approve the Secretary's Report, SECONDED by Mr. Clark, unanimous approval.

**Director's Report** – Mrs. LoRusso confirmed that all Board Members received the attached Director's Report, Statistics for October 2019 and the November Calendar of Events. After briefly discussing the events, she distributed the November 2019 BookPage publication.

Mr. Clark MOTIONED to approve the Director's Report, SECONDED by Mr. Stowell, unanimous approval.

**Old Business** – Library Policy Manual

Discussions continued regarding Community Contributions to the Library and the Endowment Policy. Suggested changes will be made and again discussed at December's meeting.

Library Stationary – Ideas and sketches were discussed. More discussions will take place in December.

**New Business** – 2020 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Stowell MOTIONED to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly @ 3:00 p.m. in The Meeting Room, 30 Crest Road, Middlebury – no meeting in July and August), SECONDED by Mr. Clark, unanimous approval. The first meeting in 2020 will take place on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment** – Mrs. Smith recognized this meeting as Mr. Clark's last meeting due to his term expiring. She and all present thanked Mr. Clark for his years of serving as a Library Board of Trustees member. Mrs. Mary Vielllette was recently elected and will attend her first meeting on December 10, 2019.

Mrs. Smith also reminded the members that per the Library Board of Trustees By-Laws, election of officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) will take place at December's meeting.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Clark MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 P.M., SECONDED by Mr. Stowell, unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brigitte M. Bessette  
Recording Clerk

To: *Middlebury Library Board of Trustees*

From: *Jo-Ann LoRusso, Director*

RE: Director's Report

November 12, 2019

**Statistics for October 2019**

(Chart)

**Library Programs, Services, and Upcoming Events**

(Calendar of Events)

**Craft for a Cause** on Thursday, November 14th at 4PM-6PM

Make a no sew fleece scarf or hat to donate to St Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury Shelter

**Children's Thanksgiving Flower Arrangements** on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4PM

**White Christmas Cinema Special** on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1PM

**The Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser 2019 Update**

(Rep-American Article)


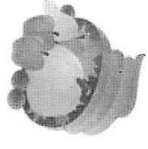
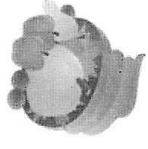


A Thank You Reception was held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Recap: 48 out of 50 Canvases were returned to be displayed in the art gallery.

Unsold artwork will be gifted to the Middlebury Convalescent Home just in time for the holiday season.

	October 2019	
Circulation	6046	
Programs	Number of Programs	Number of Attendees
Adult	21	146
Children	24	254
YA (12-18)	2	7
Technology	16	17
Outside Groups	2	33
Program Total	65	457
Study Room Usage	78 Times	125 Participants
Library Cards	3329 Active Cards	22 New Residents
Collection Size	74213	

# November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>4 Open Story Time 10:30 AM All ages Pencils &amp; Paints 1:00 PM</p> <p>Children's Art Workshops: Story Art 2:30 PM Grades K-5</p>	<p>5 Storytime Special 10:30 AM Open to all ages</p> <p>Teach Talk: OverDrive App 1:00 PM</p>	<p>6 Toddler Time 10:30 AM 3 years old Brown Bag Book Discussion <i>Radium Girls</i> 1:00 PM (Theatre Series 1:00 PM) <i>The Birds</i></p>	<p>7 Preschool Power 10:30 AM 4+ years old</p> <p>The Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser Thank You Reception 4:00-6:00 PM</p>	<p>1 Stories &amp; Yoga Fun 10:30 AM 2-5 years old</p> <p>New Movie Showing 1:00 PM <i>After</i></p>
<p>11 CLOSED</p> 	<p>12 Wiggles &amp; Giggles 10:30 AM 1 to 2 years old Wacky Workshop: Secret Spy Messages 4:30 PM Grades 4-6 Mystery Book Discussion <i>The Sneeziness at the Bottom of the Pie</i> 6:00 PM</p>	<p>13 Toddler Time 10:30 AM 3 years old (Theatre Series 1:00 PM) <i>The Life of Birds</i></p>	<p>14 Preschool Power 10:30 AM 4+ years old</p> <p>Craft for a Cause 4:00-6:00 PM</p>	<p>15 Stories &amp; Yoga Fun 10:30 AM 2-5 years old</p> <p>New Movie Showing 1:00 PM <i>MI8 International</i></p>
<p>18 Open Story Time 10:30 AM All ages Pencils &amp; Paints 1:00 PM</p> 	<p>19 Wiggles &amp; Giggles 10:30 AM 1 to 2 years old Teach Talk: OverDrive App 1:00 PM Paint a Tote Bag 2:00 PM (Children's Centrepiece Workshop) Grades K-5 4:00 PM Masterminds: Decorate a Tote Bag Grades 6-8 4:40 PM</p>	<p>20 Toddler Time 10:30 AM 3 years old (Theatre Series 1:00 PM) <i>The Big Year</i></p>	<p>21 Preschool Power 10:30 AM 4+ years old</p>	<p>22 Stories &amp; Yoga Fun 10:30 AM 2-5 years old</p> <p>New Movie Showing 1:00 PM <i>Yesterday</i></p>
<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Holiday Movie 1:00 PM <i>White Christmas</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>29</p> <p>CLOSED</p> 
				<p>30</p>

## Library hosts 'Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser'

BY KAREN ALI  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

MIDDLEBURY — It started with 50 blank canvases.

Then, novice and skilled artists bought up the canvases and went to work, creating art now on display in the Middlebury Public Library gallery.

The works will be available for purchase at the library's Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser 2019 Thank You Reception on Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. at the library. Each is \$30 and all proceeds go toward library programs.

The creations include a Van Gough replica; a lifelike owl, beautiful pond scenes; a cardinal perched upon a birch tree amid a snowy winter day and a childlike design

with glued-on pom-poms.

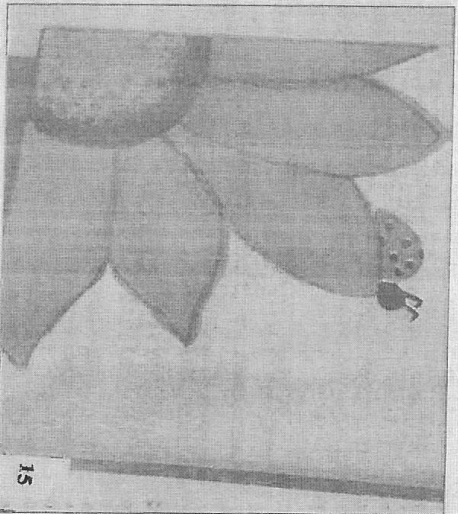
This is the first year of the event, said Jo-Ann LoRusso, library director. "The goal is to promote art literacy. The best way to promote is by doing," she said. "The Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser 2019 features beginners to masters in our gallery this October through November."

LoRusso said any unsold artwork will be given to Middlebury Convalescent Home residents during the holiday season.

Entwined Early Music Entertainment will also be on hand at the reception.

"Artists are an important part of our community. Our goal at the Middlebury Public Library is to offer the commu-

See CANVAS, Page 5A



Artwork on display at the Middlebury Library.

KAREN ALI  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

# CANVAS: 'Art literacy' main goal

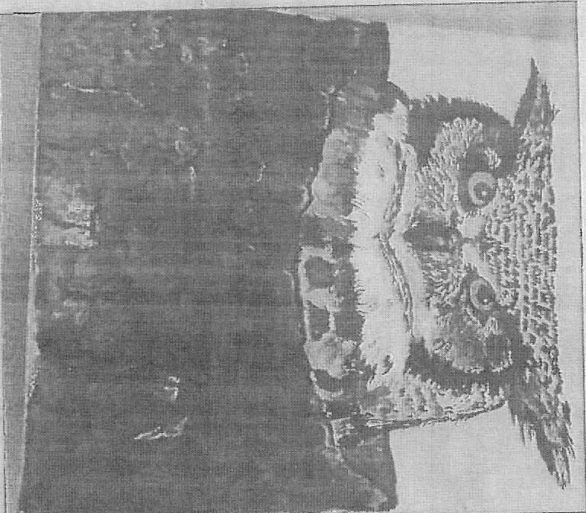
...nity the opportunity to showcase their artistic abilities while promoting art literacy for all ages. One of the best ways to promote art literacy is by doing," LaRusso said.

LaRusso said families, students from Westover School, art league members and town employees participated in the event. Art literacy will remain an important initiative at the Middlebury Public Library," she said.

Lauren Castagnola, director of communications and community relations at Westover, said Westover Art teacher Sara Poskas took eight students to the Middlebury Library as part of Westover's Community Service Day on Sept. 30, a day for students and faculty and staff to build relationships beyond the Westover campus.

At the library, students painted canvases as part of the library's Blank Canvas Art Fundraiser, contributed to the library's Middlebury Green mural project, played instruments around the fireplace, and participated in a children's library program, Castagnola said.

"Westover looks forward to continuing our partnership



Artwork on display at the Middlebury Library.

KAREN A U REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

with the Middlebury Library and we wish them much success on their Blank Canvas Fundraiser," she said.

Poskas described the event as "an inspiring day that allowed us to celebrate our love

of art with others and to give back to our neighbors."

"We appreciate the library's efforts to promote visual literacy and our students enjoy sharing their love of art with others," she said.