



## Small Cities

# The Legacies of *Middletown*



## SMALL CITIES

### The Legacies of *Middletown*

Fourth Annual  
Conference

November 4–6, 2004

Sponsored by

The Center for Middletown Studies,  
Ball State University, and Minnetrista,  
East Central Indiana's Center for Natural  
and Cultural History

The fourth annual Small Cities Conference, sponsored by the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University, and Minnetrista, East Central Indiana's Center for Natural and Cultural History, explores the unique challenges that have confronted and still confront municipalities with populations between 40,000 and 100,000.

The theme of the Small Cities Conference 2004 is "The Legacies of *Middletown*," in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the publication of *Middletown: A Study in Contemporary Culture* by Robert S. and Helen Merrell Lynd.

The keynote speaker, Staughton Lynd, son of Robert and Helen Lynd, will present "Making Middletown." Lynd is the author of *Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising* (2004).

Other featured speakers at the conference include Theodore Caplow, Commonwealth Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia and author of *All Faithful People* (1982) and *Middletown Families* (1983), and Philip Raisor, professor of English at Old Dominion University and the author of *Outside Shooter: A Memoir* (2003). Sessions will explore the social, economic, political, and cultural significance of the Middletown studies.

The conference will be held from November 4 to 6, 2004, at Ball State University and the Minnetrista Cultural Center. For more information, contact:

James J. Connolly, acting director  
Center for Middletown Studies  
206 Bracken Library  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
Phone: (765) 285-8037  
Fax: (765) 285-3571  
E-mail: [jconnoll@bsu.edu](mailto:jconnoll@bsu.edu)



## Session Titles and Participants

Sessions will be held at the Minnetrista Cultural Center, 1200 North Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie, Indiana, telephone (765) 282-4848, and at Bracken Library on the Ball State campus.

## Thursday, November 4

7:30 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

Performance: *Shedtown*, written by Indiana playwright Madge Dishman, will be performed as a staged reading by members of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Ball State University. *Shedtown* chronicles the struggles of a working class family in Muncie during the twentieth century. The play won an honorable mention citation in the Writer's Digest Playwriting Competition.

## Friday, November 5

9–10:15 A.M., Room 215, Bracken Library, Ball State

### Session 1: "Muncie Before the Middletown Studies"

**Paper Presentations:** **James A. Glass**, professor of architecture, Ball State, "The Gas Boom Era in Muncie and Central Indiana"

**Earl A. Conn**, professor emeritus of journalism, Ball State, "Frank C. Ball and the Ball Family's Move to Muncie"

**Moderator/Commentator:** Owen R. Glendening, president, Minnetrista

10:30–11:45 A.M., Room 215, Bracken Library, Ball State

### Session 2: "Developing the Middletown Research Collection: From the Lynd Studies to the Middletown Digital Archives"

**Presenters:** **John B. Straw**, director, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State, and **Dwight W. Hoover**, founding director, Center for Middletown Studies, and professor emeritus of history, Ball State

**Moderator/Commentator:** **Nancy K. Turner**, director emerita, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State

Noon–1 P.M., Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Registration

The conference will feature a photo exhibit, "75 Years of Middletown," organized around the six themes of the Middletown studies: Getting a Living, Making a Home, Training the Young, Using Leisure, Engaging in Religious Practices, and Engaging in Community Activities. Prepared by Ball State's Archives and Special Collections staff, the exhibit features the resources of the extensive Spurgeon-Greene Collection of photographs in the archives. The exhibit will be available for viewing at the Minnetrista Cultural Center and at Bracken Library.

1 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 3: "A Discussion of Luke Eric Lassiter's *The Other Side of Middletown*"

**Presenter:** **Luke Eric Lassiter**, associate professor of anthropology, Ball State, and currently visiting professor of anthropology, University of North Carolina–Greensboro

**Moderator/Commentator:** **Jayne R. Beilke**, associate professor of educational studies, Ball State

2 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Public Address: "The Art of the Memoir"

**Speaker:** **Philip Raisor**, professor of English, Old Dominion University

**Moderator/Commentator:** Joseph F. Trimmer, director, Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, and professor of English, Ball State

3–3:15 P.M., Break

3:15–4:45 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 4: "A Roundtable Discussion on the Middletown Jewish Oral History Project"

**Panelists:** **C. Warren Vander Hill**, provost and vice president for academic affairs emeritus, Ball State; **Dwight W. Hoover**, professor of history emeritus, Ball State; **Martin D. Schwartz**, businessman and philanthropist, Muncie; **Dana R. Narter**, assistant professor of psychological science, Ball State

**Moderator/Commentator:** **Janet R. Bednarek**, professor of history, University of Dayton, and secretary, Urban History Association

3:15–4:45 P.M., Large Conference Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 5: "Voting in Middletown in Recent Presidential Elections"

**Presenters:** **Raymond H. Scheele**, professor of political science, Ball State, and **Gary L. Crawley**, assistant professor of political science, Ball State

**Moderator/Commentator:** **Stephen D. Johnson**, professor of sociology, Ball State

5–6 P.M., E. B. and Bertha C. Ball Center, Ball State

### Reception for Conference Participants

Hosted by the Office of the President, Ball State University

6 P.M., Dinner on Your Own

A list of Muncie’s popular restaurants, with directions, will be available at the Minnetrista Cultural Center registration desk.

## Saturday, November 6

7:30–8:15 A.M., Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:15–8:30 A.M., Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Welcome

**Owen Glendening**, president, Minnetrista

8:30–10 A.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Plenary Session: “Recent Research on Muncie as Middletown”

**Presiding: Theodore Caplow**, Commonwealth Professor of Sociology, University of Virginia

**Paper Presentations: Howard Bahr**, professor of sociology, Brigham Young University, “Erasure, Convergence, and the Great Divide: Observations on Middletown’s Black Population”

**Louis Hicks**, associate professor of sociology, St. Mary’s College, Maryland, “Entrepreneurial Bureaucracy in Middletown”

**Sarah A. Igo**, faculty fellow, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, “The Mass Mediation of Middletown”

10–10:15 A.M., Break

10:15–11:45 A.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 6: “Middletown and Basketball: The Muncie Central/Milan Phenomenon”

**Presenters: Greg Guffey**, author, *The Greatest Basketball Story Ever Told* (2003)

**Philip Raisor**, author, *Outside Shooter: A Memoir* (2003)

**Moderator/Commentator: C. Warren Vander Hill**, provost emeritus, Ball State, and co-author (with Anthony O. Edmonds), *Ball State Men’s Basketball* (2003)



Noon, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Luncheon

1 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Keynote Address: “Making Middletown”

**Staughton Lynd**, son of Robert and Helen Lynd, and author of *Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising* (Temple University Press, 2004)

2:30–4 P.M., Indiana Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 7: “A Roundtable Discussion of Middletown in the Digital Age”

**Presenters: Mark Popovich**, professor of journalism, Ball State; **Michael Holmes**, acting dean, College of Communication, Information, and Media, Ball State; **Robert Papper**, associate professor of journalism, Ball State; **David Ferguson**, director, Center for Media Design, Ball State; **Michael Bloxham**, testing center director, Center for Media Design, Ball State

**Moderator/Commentator: Bruce Geelhoed**, professor and chair of history, Ball State

2:30–4 P.M., Large Conference Room, Minnetrista Cultural Center

### Session 8: “Future Visions: Transforming Middletown”

**Presenter: Leslie H. Smith**, professor of landscape architecture, Ball State

**Moderator/Commentator: German T. Cruz**, assistant professor of landscape architecture, Ball State



## egistration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Preregistration fee is \$35, which includes attendance at all sessions, refreshments, and the continental breakfast and luncheon on Saturday, November 6. Registration is due on or before **October 15, 2004**. The registration charge after October 15 is \$45 for the conference and \$30 for single-day registration.

Checks should be made payable to Ball State University.

Students and faculty, including emeriti faculty, of Ball State University and members of Minnetrista may attend the sessions at no charge but purchase a separate ticket for the luncheon at \$10, if they choose.

Preregistration (includes conference sessions, continental breakfast and luncheon on November 6) \$35

Single-day registration \$20

Saturday conference luncheon \$10  
(if separate from the registration charge)

**Total amount included** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with payment to:

Small Cities Conference  
James J. Connolly, acting director  
Center for Middletown Studies  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306



## Muncie ccommodations

Please identify yourself as attending the Small Cities Conference. Reservations should be made by **October 4, 2004**, to ensure rooms and rates. Conferees are encouraged to make their lodging reservations as soon as possible.

### Best Western

3011 W. Bethel Avenue · Muncie, IN 47304  
(765) 282-0600 · Fax: (765) 282-0377

### Super 8 Motel

3601 W. Fox Ridge Lane · Muncie, IN 47305  
Phone and fax: (765) 286-4333  
Toll-free reservations: (800) 800-8000

### Comfort Inn

4011 W. Bethel Avenue · Muncie, IN 47305  
Phone and fax: (765) 282-6666

### Signature Inn

3400 N. Chadham Lane · Muncie, IN 47304  
Phone and fax: (765) 284-4200 or (800) 822-5252  
E-mail: [Muncie@signature-inns.com](mailto:Muncie@signature-inns.com).

### Hotel Roberts

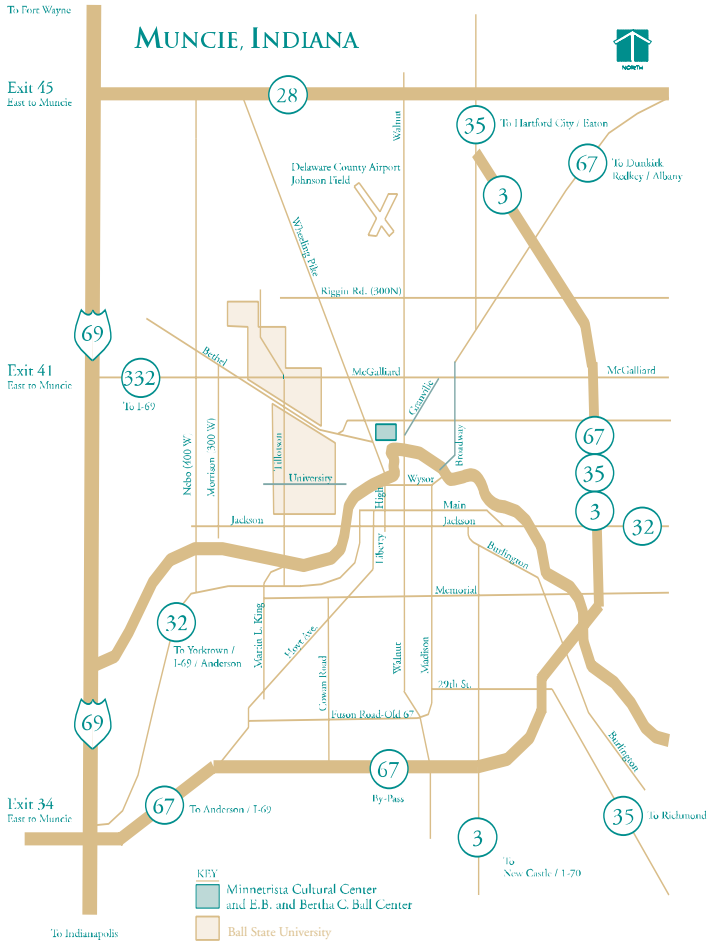
420 S. High Street · Muncie, IN 47305  
Phone: (765) 741-7777 · Fax: (765) 747-0067  
Toll-free reservations: (800) 333-3333





# How to Reach Muncie

The closest airports are in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Dayton, Ohio. Traveling time from these airports to Muncie is approximately 90 minutes. All major car agencies have offices at the airports.

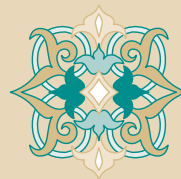


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