

THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library
FALL 2005 ISSUE

FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

“Thanks for Your Patience”

I want to thank all of our patrons for their patience with the problems encountered with the new operating system that runs the online catalog, checkouts, reserves, et cetera. The regional online system (ANSER) is operated by the Ramapo Catskill Library System, and is used by the 47 member public libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, and southern Ulster Counties. This system is distinct from the online Internet service that Middletown Thrall Library uses for its website, www.thrall.org, and for all of our public Internet terminals. Our Internet service, provided free as a public service by Warwick Valley Telephone Company, has been operating without any problems. Our staff controls our website, but do not have any direct connection with the ANSER operations. In mid-August, a new operating system – from the same vendor that RCLS had been using for many years – was installed. Despite the best, and constant, efforts of the RCLS technical staff, the new system has been plagued with problems since it went “live.” The vendor is working with RCLS to try and fix the many problems. Our staff, like you, has been dealing with the same difficulties in using the new system – including a number of behind the scenes problems that impact our operations. We hope that the problems will be solved fairly soon, or that some other options will be explored by the Ramapo Catskill Library System.

“Wireless Internet is on the Way!”

Thrall is in the process of having wireless Internet installed in Middletown Thrall Library. Once it is operational, anyone with a laptop that has wireless capabilities, will have full Internet access anywhere within the building. There will be no charge for this service. Additionally, there will be a monthly savings in the library district’s budget since we will be able to drop several modem telephone lines that are being used to provide Internet access to library staff computers.

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (845) 341-5485 E-mail: thrall7@warwick.net

Fall Hours

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM, Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday : 1 – 5 PM

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Dept.: 341-5461

Children’s Dept.: 341-5470 Local History: 341-5483

For more news and free services go to www.Thrall.org

Library Budget and Trustee Vote to be held on October 11, 2005, 8 am -8 pm

The annual budget/trustee vote, normally held on the first Tuesday in October, will be held this year on Tuesday, October 11, 2005. The vote has been moved due to Rosh Hashanah observances. The polling place, Middletown Thrall Library, will remain the same. All registered voters living within the Thrall Public Library District of Middletown & Wallkill are eligible to vote.

For more information about the proposed budget, please visit our website at www.thrall.org or speak with the Library Director, Kevin J. Gallagher. Printed copies of the budget are also available in the library.

Middletown Thrall Library
invites you to attend...

“Scholar’s Choice” *So Many Books, So Little Time*

Our 2005 Autumn Book Discussion Series

Please join us at the library for lively, informed, and entertaining book discussions led by scholars on the following dates:

Wednesday, Sept. 28th, 7 - 9 pm: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Scholar: Chris Godwin, Chair SUNY Orange, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages

Tuesday, October 11th, 7 - 9 pm: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Scholar: Peggy Abt, Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY Orange

Tuesday, November 1st, 7 - 9 pm: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. Scholar: Renuka Khanna, Assistant Professor of English, SUNY Orange

Wednesday, November 16th, 7 - 9 pm: *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman. Scholar: Ed Godwin, Professor Emeritus of English, SUNY Orange

Because some of these titles are current and popular please consider sharing books. Copies may be limited. For additional program information or special accommodations please contact the program coordinator at (845) 341-5479 or thrall16@warwick.net. To receive library news and program updates by email please register for free over the Internet at www.thrall.org/bookdiscussions

Macbeth

"Shakespeare's Aristotelian Hero"

Presented by Dr. Mary Nickles on October 16th, 2 - 4 pm
at Middletown Thrall Library,
2nd Floor Community Room

Accompany Dr. Nickles on an exploration of one of Shakespeare's most famous and intriguing dramatic works. Dr. Nickles writes, "What does tragedy demand of its hero? Why has Lady Macbeth been called a diabolical helpmate of beauty and psychological and sexual persuasiveness? We will examine the nature of these fascinating characters, how they arouse our pity and fear, and how each action they take brings them closer to their inexorable doom."

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Our Year-long Art & Foreign Film Series continues in October with...

Roads to Koktebel, October 6th, 7 pm, 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall Library.

For more information, please come to the library to pick up a flyer, or go to Thrall.org, or call 341-5479.

Hurricane Katrina Information Guide

In an immediate response to the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina, and as part of our ongoing efforts to serve the needs of our local and online researchers, Middletown Thrall Library developed a comprehensive web guide to assist everyone in finding information. You may access the guide by going to our website www.thrall.org and clicking the Hurricane Katrina link on our home page or by going directly to www.thrall.org/katrina

More New Computers Coming Soon

New public Internet and research workstations are being installed as you read this. Several years ago we were thankful recipients of a technology grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This grant was used to purchase a number of computers for the public at the time. Those aging computers are now being replaced with new high speed systems with the latest software, including Microsoft Office and Firefox. To inquire about free Internet access, or any of our newly available research workstations and word processors, please visit or call the Reference Department at 341-5461.

Children's Department Programs & Activities

September 26th to November 18th

General Information

Registration is required for all programs except the First Steps toddler program.

Registration starts Monday, September 19th for all patrons with active RCLS library cards.

Register: Monday - Thursday, 9 am to 8 pm. Friday, 9 am to 6 pm.

A valid library card must be presented at registration. Children must be the specified age for the program by the first day of that program.

First Steps (18 months to 35 months)

Must be accompanied by an adult. Drop-in for stories, finger plays, and/or songs. No registration required. Wednesdays 9:30 am - 10 am. Starts Wednesday, Sept. 28th.

Preschool Programs

Three to Get Ready (Age 3) - Stories, songs, finger plays, and/or games. Mondays, 10:30 am - 11 am. Starts Monday, Sept. 26th. Limit 12.

Now We Are Four (Age 4) - Stories, crafts, songs, and/or games. Wednesdays 10:30 am - 11 am. Starts Wednesday, Sept. 28th. Limit 12.

School-age Programs

Moving Up (Ages 5 - 7) - Stories, crafts, and/or games generally based on a theme. Wednesdays 4:15 - 5 pm. Starts Wednesday, Sept. 28th. Limit 16.

Exploring (Ages 8 - 11) - Fiction and nonfiction stories, discussion and/or crafts. Thursdays, 4:15 - 5 pm. Starts Thursday, Sept. 29th. Limit 12.

Special Programs

It's Fall, Let's Enjoy Harvest Time (Ages 5 - 11) - Enjoy the pleasures of fall and harvest through stories, music, food ideas, and a craft. Tuesday, October 4th, 4-5 pm. Limit 16.

Wagon Trails & Tales: Pioneers and Moving West (Ages 5-11) - Explore the life of the pioneers through stories, music, recipes, and a craft. Thursday, Nov. 10th, 4-5 pm. Limit 16.

Come Draw with Me (Ages 7 - 12), Saturdays - October 8th, 1 - 2 pm: Patterns - Gustav Klimt; November 12th, 1 - 2 pm: One Hundred Flowers - Georgia O'Keefe; December 10th, 12 - 1 pm: Winter Scenes - Grandma Moses.

For more information please call 341-5470.