

Thrall Library Times

Updates & Events at Middletown Thrall Library

SPRING 2009 EDITION

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In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on. Robert Frost

From Kevin J. Gallagher

The Director of Middletown Thrall Library

Board of Trustees Honor Gertrude Mokotoff and the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library

The Board of Trustees held a reception at the library on March 19th to honor former Middletown Mayor, and library trustee, Gertrude Mokotoff for her long history of support for the library and its programs. Ms. Mokotoff was instrumental in the selection of the downtown site, utilizing the old Erie Railroad station for a new library in the 1990s. She has provided financial support for many improvements since then, including the station clock replica in the Reading Room; new cushioned chairs for the Meeting Room; and ongoing support for the foreign and independent film series. In recognition of her efforts on behalf of the library, a plaque was unveiled and the foreign film collection has been named The Gertrude Mokotoff Foreign Film Collection.

The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library were recognized for their two decades of support. This all-volunteer group, which operates the used book store located by the library's main entrance, has provided financial support for the expansion of the collection; programs; equipment; and furniture. In 2001 they commissioned collage artist Jonathan Talbot to create the beautiful work depicting the library's history that now graces the central stairway. Their work has been recognized with their receipt of the Daniel W. Casey award as the outstanding Friends' group in New York State. They also received the Literacy Advocate Award from the New York State Reading Association.

The Board members thanked them for their ongoing support and noted how much the community has benefited from their efforts.

Middletown Thrall Library

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

Kevin J. Gallagher, Library Director

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

Library Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM
Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM *Sat: 10 AM – 5 PM *Sun: 1 – 5 PM
(* Summer hours for Sat/Sun: Sat: 1 PM – 5 PM Sun: Closed)

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 **Reference Librarians:** 341-5461
Youth Services: 341-5470 **Local History:** 341-5483
Adult Programs and Book Discussions: 341-5454, ext. 5479

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

(From the Library Director – Continued)

MTA Payroll Tax Proposal Would Negatively Impact Library District Budget

The proposed MTA payroll tax could add more than \$5200.00 to the library's annual operating budget, and would come at a time of declining state library aid and increased public use. This added cost would have to come out of some other area of the library district budget, such as materials or programs. It would also be a new cost that would need to be funded in the budget in future years, resulting in additional adjustments to either revenues or cuts in services.

New Jobs Center Computer to Be Added

Thanks to funds from the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, a new computer station dedicated to job searches, resume writing, and applications will be added in the very near future. This equipment purchase is in response to significant increases in public demands for computer access for these activities. More and more employers are requiring individuals to fill out online job applications for all positions. These can be time-consuming, and also usually require that the applicant have a return e-mail address.

Librarians have been busy directing patrons to job search databases and providing information on how to go about establishing e-mail accounts required for job searches. The new work station will probably have a somewhat longer time period available so that patrons can complete their job search activities in one session.

NYS Library Aid Likely to Decrease This Year

From all indications, it appears very likely that state aid to public libraries will decline in 2009. Our state aid is actually a very small portion of the operating budget, less than one-half of one percent, based up the current aid formula of .31 per capita for the chartered population of the library district. The bigger impact of a cut in state aid will be felt by New York's numerous library systems, which are almost entirely funded by state aid. The Governor's proposed budget cuts aid by 18%, which is a much deeper cut than other segments of the budget are facing. If that cut is approved by the Legislature, it would leave state library aid at approximately the same level as seen in 1993. It is highly likely that local library systems, like the Ramapo Catskill Library System, will look to impose fees for their services upon public library members to make up the difference. Such fees, if implemented, could lead to increases in local library taxes.

From Mary Susan Flannery Climes Head of Thrall's Reference Department

New York State NOVEL Databases

New York State's NOVEL database lineup changed as of April 2009. As a result, the following databases are no longer available:

- *Informa*
- *General Science Collection*,
- *Science Reference Center*
- *TopicSearch and InfoTrac Junior*

Now, the good news: through NOVEL we can now access the vast *Proquest Platinum* database as well as *Grolier Online*, including multimedia encyclopedias such as *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, and *The New Book of Knowledge*.

You can access these databases and encyclopedias at the library or through our website (www.thrall.org).

New & Improved: Thrall Web Guides and Web Resource Search Engine

Our web guides page (www.thrall.org/guides) has a fresh look and expanded capabilities. The new layout gives you instant access to all topics in our guides.

At the top of this page there is a search box: here you can use our new, home-grown search engine to locate websites on an ever-expanding array of topics!

Our clustered search results will let you jump right to a website while showing you where you can find related sites and topics in specific areas within our Web Guides.

To the right of search results are recommended databases you can explore for full-text articles as well as library catalog links you can follow to quickly check if there are books / DVDs / etc. on your topic.

We invite you to bookmark our Web Guides page and to consider making it one of your first stops whenever you need to do research on the Internet.

Work continues on developing our search engine and our guides in an effort to make online research easier, faster, safer, and generally more rewarding than other general purpose search engines on the Web.

Coming Soon: Library Catalog Update

An extension to the library system catalog (known as AquaBrowser) will appear in the very near future as part of an upgrade being implemented for all member libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS). Once in AquaBrowser, you will see some new things besides titles of items and their authors: related topics, similar authors, information sorted by year or genre, and more. AquaBrowser uses Flash (a plug-in from www.Adobe.com).

Music Wellness & Therapy Collection

Thanks to the Friends of Thrall, our library will soon have a Music Wellness and Therapy Collection. Critically-acclaimed titles in this collection, from such composers as Steven Halpern, provide a variety of soothing instrumental music often perfect for relaxing, reading, or focusing on tasks. This new collection will circulate and will be maintained near our Classical and Jazz CD collections.

Book Discussion: "Favorite Fiction"

Our book discussion series continues in April and May:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Tuesday, April 14, 7 - 9 PM - presented by Mary Makofske

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Tuesday, April 28, 7 - 9 PM - presented by Chris Godwin

A Separate Peace by John Knowles

Tuesday, May 12, 7 - 9 PM - presented by Peggy Abt

All programs are free, and refreshments, courtesy of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. will be served. Books are also available for borrowing. For more information, please call (845) 341-5454, ext. 5479.

"Reel Eclectic" Film Festival

Adults are invited to our year-long art and international film festival. The next film will be shown on Thursday, May 7th at 7 PM. Admission and refreshments are always *free!*

"Hudson's Valley"

Middletown Thrall Library celebrates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage of discovery and exploration with three special programs:

Henry Hudson and His World - "The Place Where America Began" - Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 7 - 8:00 PM - Questions to follow. Presented by Historian Tony Nappo

"Of Time and the River: Songs of the Historic Hudson" - Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 7 - 8:00 PM. Presented by singer / balladeer / musician Linda Russell. This event is made possible through Speakers in the Humanities, a program of the New York Council for the Humanities.

Be Your Own Explorer - "The Joy of Hiking" or "A Walk in the Woods" - Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 7 - 8:00 PM. Presented by Peter Reiner and Aaron Schoenberg, leaders of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Brochures describing these wonderful events and their presenters will be available at Thrall. Information will also be posted at our website (www.thrall.org). Subscribers of our program announcements soon will receive copies at home. For more information, or to be added to our free subscription service, please call 341-5454, ext. 5479.

New Spring Programs for Children

Thrall's Children's Department invites you to these events:

Ages 3 & 4: Create your own Easter / Spring craft!

Wednesday, April 15th, 11 - 11:30 AM

Ages 5 & up: Create your own Sock Bunny!

Wednesday, April 15th, 3 - 3:45 PM

Ages 8 & up: Create your own Ceramic Egg!

Thursday, April 16th, 3 - 3:45 PM

Also: **Movie Time (ages 5 & up) - Friday, April 17, 2 PM**

All programs will be held in the Story Hour Room. For more information, please call 341-5470.

Attend a Free Music Event at Thrall!

Ada Margoshes' musical experience called "**Cummings and Goings**" will feature the poetry of E. E. Cummings combined with music. This program will be held on **April 19, 2009, 2 PM**, in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Middletown Thrall Library. Singer Julie Zivavras will also perform along with others.

This concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. have made this free event possible.