

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library

February 2010 Edition

"Love must be as much a light, as it is a flame." Henry David Thoreau, 1852

From Kevin J. Gallagher

Director of Middletown Thrall Library

Yes, 2009 Was a Very Busy Year!

Middletown Thrall Library saw an overall increase of borrowing of 8.45% last year, one of the largest year to year increases we've ever experienced. Every objective category that is measured saw an increase over the previous year.

Some examples include over 2,000,000 hits on the library's website; more than 86,000 individual sessions by patrons on library computers; over 30,000 reference questions answered; more than 2300 children attending programs; over 2600 local residents registering for new library cards; and an increase of almost 38% in DVD borrowing.

We are happy to see this kind of use by the community and pledge to do our best to keep up with your needs. Many thanks for your support for our annual budget vote, which enables us to provide the materials and services that you want.

Our Library Board's Officers for 2010

Our library trustee officers for 2010 are:

Carl S. Berkowitz, President
Rose M. Boyd, Vice-President
Barbara A. Kay, Treasurer
Lois Ruckert, Secretary

(continued)

(Director's comments continued)

Loads of Thanks for Our Home Delivery Volunteers

Middletown Thrall Library offers a home delivery service to individuals who live within our service area, are unable to get to the library, and do not have anyone who can select or pick up materials for them. These deliveries are made by two wonderful volunteers – Gayle McDonald, and her capable driver Rich.

People who receive these deliveries, along with our library district, want to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers for their dedication, thoughtfulness, and good humor. Their efforts are truly appreciated.

From the Head of Reference Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Haiti Earthquake Information Guide

Shortly after the tragic earthquake in Haiti, we created an information guide to assist our patrons and their families in locating key information, such as emergency contacts, missing persons, charities, and background information on Haiti and its people. This guide can be reached through our **Special Coverage Center** at www.thrall.org/special or directly through the library's home page at www.thrall.org.

New Online Music Services

Members of Middletown Thrall Library have two new online music services to enjoy: **Jazz Music Library** and **Music Online**.

Jazz Music Library is said to be on pace to become the "largest and most comprehensive collection of jazz available online" including "thousands of jazz artists, ensembles, albums, and genres."

Music Online lets you browse or search the Alexander Street music databases we offer, including: **African-American Song, American Song, Contemporary World Music, Classical Music Library, Jazz Music Library, Smithsonian Global Sound**.

Please go to thrall.org/databases and click on the **Music** link to begin accessing any of these services.

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 visit www.thrall.org

(from the Head of Reference continued)

New Thrall Library Catalog Pages

We have developed several new ways to help you access and enjoy materials in the library catalog. In addition to Thrall's own entry page to the library catalog, we now offer a new **Children's Catalog**, along with a **Young Adult Catalog** and a catalog for **Government Information**.

Search or browse by topic, author, awarded books, and more! You can also explore book lists and reviews from the American Library Association and others.

You can access these in the library as well as through our website by going through our home page (www.thrall.org) and clicking on the **Library Catalog** link: once you do, select any **Thrall Catalog** link on the right side of that page.

New Language Learning Software

Middletown Thrall Library has purchased **Transparent Language** learning software in a USB drive format for the following languages: **Spanish**, **English** (for Spanish Speakers), **Chinese** (Mandarin), **French**, **German**, **Arabic**. Members of Thrall may borrow this software for three weeks. As you would do when browsing our DVDs, locate a Transparent Language browser card (cards are located in their very own bin *before* the DVDs) and bring it to the Circulation desk.

New eBooks Section in Our Booklovers Guide

Our online guide Booklovers (thrall.org/booklovers) has a new section covering eBooks and eReaders.

New Virtual Reference Library Titles

We acquired a number of reference works for our VRL. Topics include art, film, mythology, philosophy, medical tests, holidays, symbols, and cultures. Members of Thrall can access all of them through our home page.

A New Home Page for Our Local History Dept.

Our Local History Department's new home page can be accessed right through the library's home page (www.thrall.org) or at www.thrall.org/localhistory

In addition to historical texts and photographs, you can explore genealogical / local history materials within the library system or explore related online resources.

Interlibrary Loans: A Friendly Reminder

The ability to request an item from another library (an interlibrary loan) is both a free service and a privilege enjoyed by many members of Thrall. Through this service you can access materials other libraries choose to share for the mutual benefit of all library patrons.

When requesting items, please be sure you truly want each item and can pick it up when it arrives.

If you cannot pick up or return an item on time, please call Circulation at (845) 341-5454 to learn of available options, if any. For more assistance on this service, please call (845) 341-5487 or 341-5454, ext. 5479.

"Anansi, Spiderman of Africa" Saturday February 27, 2010, 11:00 AM in Thrall's 2nd Floor Community Room

Presented by Crabgrass Puppet Theatre. "This clever performance is a side-splitting selection of famous folktales from Africa, Starring Anansi the Spider, whose appetite always overrules his intellect." This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Knitting & Crocheting Workshops

Middletown Thrall Library's Youth Services Department invites you to join our Knitting and Crocheting Workshop. Learn basic stitches or share your skills! Open to ages 8 and up. Here is our schedule:

Monday, February 22, 2010, 6 - 7:30 PM
Monday, March 8, 2010, 6 - 7:30 PM
Monday, March 22, 2010, 6 - 7:30 PM
Monday, April 5, 2010, 6 - 7:30 PM

Please call 341-5470 for details or schedule updates.

"Afternoon Movies for Grownups"

Movies are shown at Middletown Thrall Library in the 2nd floor Community Room on the 3rd Wednesday of each month throughout 2010. All movies are free and begin at **2:00 PM**. Due to licensing restrictions, movie titles cannot be publicized outside of the library. Schedules are available at Thrall. You can also call us at call (845) 341-5454, ext. 5479 for more information.

"Coming to Life at the End of Winter" *An Evening of Poetry*

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 7 - 8 PM

Presented by Mary Makofske and Joan Siegel
in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall

Enjoy an evening of great poetry from two well-known published poets. Both will read from their own works and from poems of some of their favorite poets.

Spring Book Discussion Series Preview: *Novelists & Historians Confront the Past* **"How Storytellers Use History"**

Here is our schedule of titles to be discussed:

April 13: *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

April 27: *North River* by Pete Hamill

May 11: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

May 25: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Copies of books will be available at Thrall for borrowing. For more details, please call 341-5454, ext. 5479.

"Reel Eclectic" Film Series Continues!

Our independent and international film series continues on these dates: **March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4, December 2**. Films begin at **7 PM** and are shown in Thrall's 2nd Floor Community Room. Admission is always **free!**