

# Thrall Library Times

Information and Events at Middletown Thrall Library

PUBLISHED JANUARY 25, 2008

*"One kind word can warm three winter months." (Japanese Proverb)*

## FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

### Board of Trustees Elects New Officers

The Board of Trustees of the Thrall Public Library District of Middletown and Wallkill elected new officers at their annual meeting, held on January 9th.

The new officers are as follows:

Marlena F. Lange - President  
Carl S. Berkowitz - Vice-President  
Barbara Kay - Treasurer  
Joan C. Hutchinson - Secretary

### Heating and Cooling Repairs Upcoming in 2008

We anticipate undertaking a number of heating and cooling system repairs during this year, following the receipt of an energy efficiency report funded, in part, by a grant from the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority.

An analysis of the entire building's heating, cooling, and ventilation systems was done in 2007 and reviewed by NYSERDA. A number of energy-saving measures and repairs were recommended in the final report.

Some of the repairs will be paid for through a grant obtained by Sen. John J. Bonacic.

### 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 of Operation

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

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

(Fall/Winter: Saturdays, 10 AM - 5 PM; Sundays: 1 - 5 PM)

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Librarians: 341-5461

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

For more news and free services go to [www.Thrall.org](http://www.Thrall.org)

## FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES

### NOTICE TO ROSETTA STONE USERS

The Rosetta Stone language learning service is no longer available due to the vendor's decision to no longer offer subscriptions to public libraries.

Thrall is exploring another service to ensure our online language learners can continue with their online education!

### NEWLY EXPANDED LIBRARY HOME PAGE

Our home page at [www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org) has been expanded and refined in several ways. The home page now opens to the full horizontal width of your web browser and monitor, and you now have direct access to more of our online services, including our reader's advisory guides, and our blogs.

A new section called "Booklover's Lane" features links to bestseller and forthcoming title lists as well as recent "RAVES!" from readers finding certain books and authors enjoyable. You can submit your own recommendations through this free service as well. Discover fiction, nonfiction, biographies, and more through RAVES! today!

As more of our online users are using widescreen and higher resolution monitors, it is our intention that this expansion can enable you to see and do more at our site.

We truly want to be your first and best step for information in any form. We encourage you to make our home page your web browser's start up page. We can show you how to do that if you like, or you can go to this web address for easy instructions: [www.thrall.org/home](http://www.thrall.org/home)

### NEW INFORMATION GUIDES ON THE WEB

At our website we offer several new information guides to help you find news and articles on specific topics:

*U.S. Presidential Election 2008*

*Human Rights*

*Homelessness*

You can access these guides by going to our home page at ([thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)) and clicking on the "Special Coverage" link. You can also go directly to: [www.thrall.org/special](http://www.thrall.org/special)

Our *Current Interests* page ([www.thrall.org/current](http://www.thrall.org/current)) has also been enhanced and expanded to give you improved and immediate access to important news (such as product recalls) along with enriching and entertaining information.

(FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE – CONTINUED)

### Newspaper Archive Online Now Freely Available to Members of Middletown Thrall Library!

Some great news for local history, genealogy, and all other researchers: Thrall has a new subscription to the Internet-based Newspaper Archive. This subscription enables you to search many old local area Middletown newspapers back to the 1800s up to the 1970s. You can also access articles in other newspapers from other states that have been indexed in Newspaper Archive.

To get started, simply click on the Databases link on our home page ([thrall.org](http://thrall.org)), select the “Newspapers” topic, and click on Newspaper Archive. Log into the service using the barcode from your library card.

While this service is only available at home to Thrall users, anyone can come to the library and access the service on our computers. Please inquire at the Reference Department, and we will direct you to a computer where you can begin your research.

### New Database Available at Thrall: Salem Health: *Magill's Medical Guide*

A new print subscription to *Magill's Medical Guide* has also entitled us to three years of access to Salem Health on the web. In addition to monthly highlighted health topics, this consumer-friendly resource enables you to find information about nearly every health topic imaginable.

This service is only available in the library, and you may access it on any of our research computers by clicking on our Article Databases link and then following the “Salem Health” link in the “Health” section of the page. At Reference we also have the complete print edition ready for you to read.

### Spanish Information Web Guide Updated

Our Spanish (en Español) information guide on the web has been revised and expanded to enable our Spanish-speaking communities to find information in Spanish on the Internet. The web guide can be accessed through our home page ([thrall.org](http://thrall.org)) or by going to [thrall.org/espanol](http://thrall.org/espanol)

## FROM GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIAN, KAREN A. HEIL Gov Gab: U.S. Government Blog [www.govgab.gov](http://www.govgab.gov)

**blog:** “an online diary or journal entries posted on the World Wide Web.” *World Book Online Reference Center*

Did you ever wonder about your family history or how to renew your license online or which cars boast the best fuel economy? These bloggers have and would love to share what they know with interesting, fun blog entries. Gov Gab features five federal employees blogging about the great government information they use in their daily lives.

Who are the bloggers? “We are federal employees who work in the Office of Citizen Services and Communications at the U.S. General Services Administration. In our daily jobs, we encounter a staggering amount of U.S. government information and services that can benefit your life. From saving money and visiting National Parks to finding out about government auctions and the latest recalls, we want to bring these resources to you in a new way.”

## WHERE STORIES TAKE US – Exploring Literary Locales –

Middletown Thrall Library begins its Spring 2008 Book Discussion Series a bit early this year. Five books will be discussed. The books, schedule, and scholars are:

### *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

**Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 7 - 9 PM**  
Scholar: Mary Makofske

### *Jim the Boy* by Tony Earley

**Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 7 - 9 PM**  
Scholar: David McTamane

### *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

**Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 7 - 9 PM**  
Scholar: Anne Sandor

### *A Thousand Splendid Sons* by Khaled Hosseini

**Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 7 - 9 PM**  
Scholar: Chris Godwin

### *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven

**Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2008, 7 - 9 PM**  
Scholar: Peggy Abt

More detailed information about each book will be published at a later date, but please contact the program coordinator at (845) 341-5479 or e-mail [thrall16@warwick.net](mailto:thrall16@warwick.net) if you would like more information about this series now or other programs or if special accommodations are needed.

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN EXHIBIT

*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* is a national traveling exhibit, and it will be on display at the Middletown Thrall Library from June 4 to July 25, 2008. This exhibit examines the remarkable life and achievements of one of America's most beloved personalities.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia and the American Library Association organized the exhibit with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): great ideas brought to life.

Many free programs are being offered at the library in support of this exhibit. Benjamin Franklin of Philadelphia, (AKA Dean Bennett) specializes in recreating the persona of Benjamin Franklin. He will formally open the exhibit and present a program on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 7 – 8 PM. Watch history come alive! Bennett has performed worldwide as Franklin – even at the White House!

On Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 7 - 8:30 PM, Cecilia Brauer, pianist, teacher, associate member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, will present a concert playing the rare and unique glass armonica, reportedly Benjamin Franklin's favorite personal invention. Marie Antoinette took lessons on it, and Mozart and Beethoven composed for it. Brauer will reveal Franklin's lesser-known musical talents.

Even more great events are being planned, so stay tuned!

### “Reel Eclectic” Art & Foreign Film Series

Our popular free film series continues the first Thursday of each month in the 2nd floor Community Room. Watch first-run, award-winning, independent works that film buffs and cinematic connoisseurs especially enjoy. Information about each film can be found at our website ([www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)). Please call Reference at 341-5461 for dates and more details.