

THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library

MAY 2005 ISSUE

"It is never too late to be who you might have been" – George Eliot

New York State Legislature Restores Library Aid Cuts

From the Library Director, Kevin J. Gallagher

Both houses of the Legislature approved a restoration of the 5% cut in basic library aid. This reversed actions taken in 2004 which dropped library aid to levels not seen since the early 1990's. While state aid is not a major component in Middletown Thrall Library's annual budget, making up less than four one-thousandths of one percent of the total budget, it is critical for the operations of the state's public library systems. Our local system, Ramapo Catskill Library System, has been forced to pass many costs on to member libraries due to the cuts in state aid and the lack of regular increases. The restoration of the 5% cut is a step in the right direction.

Our thanks to Senators Bonacic and Larkin, and Assemblywomen Gunther and Rabbitt for their support and work to secure these funds.

Also from the Library Director: Some Repairs Inside, and Out

In the weeks ahead, there will be repairs done on the front parking lot to fill and repair potholes, and to fix a storm drain cover. While the work is being done, the parking lot spaces closest to the entrance may be unavailable. Additional parking is available on the Union St. side of the building, and in the James St. parking across the street. The repairs are expected to be completed in one day.

(continues)

The other "repair" job involves the replacement of the carpet on the first floor of the library. Being Orange County's busiest public library has led to a lot of foot traffic since the building opened in February of 1995. Each year more than 500,000 people visit the library. As a result of that, the carpet has become badly worn in a number of areas. The replacement work will likely result in the building being closed for at least one day and possibly more to allow for the removal of existing carpet and the installation of the new in heavily used areas like the Circulation Desk and by the central stairway. Once that work is done, the rest of the first floor, including offices, will be done in stages while the building is open to the public. We will give plenty of advance notice about any closings, and will not be charging fines for materials that are due while the building is closed.

Middletown Thrall Library invites you to get your "Free Legal Checkup" at the Library

Why is a will important? What is a living will? What are health care proxies? Who needs powers of attorney? What do DNR orders mean? What insurance, pension, and financial documents should I keep and for how long?

Find answers to these and similar questions from a NY State Elder Law Attorney in the following free public program:

Elder Law Issues and Topics Explained
May 5, 10 - 11 am
Second Floor Community Room

This program will be of special interest to seniors and to those adults and health care professionals who deal with the special needs of the elderly. Attendees at this FREE program will be given information by an elder law attorney on the purpose of powers of attorney, health care proxies and how they differ, and what insurance, pension, and financial documents should be maintained, and why a will is important.

This public service program entitled "Decision Making Day 2005" has been sponsored annually since 1995 by the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association.

Handouts and sample documents will be given out to assist people in making informed decisions about important legal issues. The program will last one hour.

For more information please call 341-5479.

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

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

Winter Hours

Monday - Thursday 9AM - 8 PM, Friday 9 AM - 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday 1 PM - 5 PM

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

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

Please visit us online at www.Thrall.org

The 2005 Art & Foreign Film Festival at Thrall:

“A Mile in My Shoes”

Stories from the Journey of Life

First-Run, Award-Winning, Independent Films. All films begin at 7:00 pm and will be digitally projected on a large screen in the 2nd floor meeting room at Thrall Library. Admission is FREE, and the public is invited.

The next film in our year long film celebration is *Wilby Wonderful*, which will be shown on May 5, 7 PM, in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall Library. *Wilby Wonderful* is a dark comedy directed by Daniel Macivor (Canadian/in English - 99 minutes). RB Publishing and Film Movement describes the film as follows: “A recent scandal has rocked this island community, and all the details will be published in the local paper in a few days. *Wilby Wonderful* chases truth, transformation, romance, and mystery in twenty-four hours.”

Please note: These adult films are not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. Additional information for some films in this series may be found online at www.filmmovement.com or www.imdb.com.

Lincoln's America Snapshots of the Century

The 2005 Spring Book Discussion Series at Thrall

Chris Godwin, SUNY Orange Dept. Chair of English & Foreign Languages, and Peggy Abt, Professor Emeritus, OCCC, are leading a lively book discussion series to set the stage for our upcoming Abraham Lincoln traveling exhibit from the ALA. This exhibit, entitled “Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation,” will be on display at the library from June 22 to August 5, 2005, and will be complemented by a series of special programs as well as a major music concert.

The book discussion series continues with these novels.

Wednesday, April 27, 7-9 pm: *The Living* by Annie Dillard
Scholar: Peggy Abt, Professor Emeritus, OCCC, English Dept.

Wednesday, May 11, 7-9 pm: *Time and Again* by Jack Finney
Scholar: Chris Godwin, Chair, SUNY Orange, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages

For more information, please call 341-5479 or send e-mail to thrall16@warwick.net.

Laser Printer for Catalog / Database Computers

A relocated laser printer has replaced four aging printers by our public article database and library catalog computers. All of our adult catalog computers now have printing capability. Prints from these computers are sent to the Reference Department. Signs have been posted on the seven computers affected by this upgrade.

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY'S FREE
PUBLIC PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
FOREVER FREE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S JOURNEY
TO EMANCIPATION

JUNE 22 – AUGUST 5, 2005
at Middletown Thrall Library

1. Opening Reception – Wed., June 29, 7 – 8:30 pm
Keynote Speaker Major David Siry, United States Military Academy, Dept. of History, West Point. Lecture: Lincoln and Liberty: the Evolution of an Idea.
2. Lincoln in Literature - Wed., July 6, 7 – 8:30 pm
Lecture by Chris Godwin, Chair, Orange County Community College, Dept. of English & Foreign Languages.
3. Music of the Civil War & Beyond - Sat., July 9, 7 – 9 pm.
Concert by nationally known performers Molly Mason and Jay Ungar at the PARAMOUNT THEATRE, 17 South Street, Middletown, NY. Get to the Theatre early for the best seats. We reserve the right to limit seating if necessary.
4. Civil War Women: Their Roles and Their Legacies - Tue., July 12, 7 – 8 pm. Talk by Trish Chambers who last spoke on the “Freedom Quilt” for the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library.
5. The Civil War as Seen through the Eyes of the Children – Sat., July 16, 10:30 – 11:30 am Bring the children to listen to costumed presenter Yvonne Bigney.
6. Glory – Tuesday, July 19, 7 – 9 pm. A dramatic film account of the Civil War’s first all-black regiment, led by a idealistic, privileged, northern white commander, fighting not only the enemy, but also convention and prejudice.
7. What Did Our Local Soldiers Think of Abraham Lincoln? - Thurs., July 28, 7 – 8 pm. Captain of the “Orange Blossoms” and well known scholar/Civil War re-enactor Chuck LaRocca will talk about local soldiers views and read from their diaries and letters home, includes slide presentation.
8. Civil War Soldiers in Encampment – Saturday, July 30, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. Costumed re-enactors from the 124th NYSV regiment will re-create a Civil War environment with materials that would be familiar to a Civil War soldier. The entire family will enjoy listening to these experts and asking questions about life as a Union soldier. The encampment location will be outside the library in the adjacent vacant lot or upstairs in the Community Room in the event of extreme bad weather.
9. Lincoln, Booth and Ford’s Theatre: A Look Back - Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. This presentation takes on the mood of a documentary with a narrator, two performers, and a short video to bring history to life. Enjoy Chris Farlekas, Times-Herald Record columnist, and Ken Tschen, local community actor in this program.

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation has been organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of the American history, New York City in co-operation with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. This exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.