

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

Spring 2012 Issue

"I feel at times a love and joy for every weed and every thing" – John Clare, English Poet

From Matt Pfisterer Director of Middletown Thrall Library

We have just completed our Annual Report to the Community for 2011, and I am happy to report to you that people are continuing to make great use of the materials and resources available to them at the Library. Here are some interesting statistics from the report:

- The Library circulated 285,955 items in 2011 which represents an increase of more than 4% from 2010
- Circulation of children's items increased more than 12% from 2010
- The Library added 29,147 items to its collection in 2010 for a grand total of 319, 915 items.
- The Library provided access to 7,818 electronic books
- Logged more than 81,000 internet workstation sessions
- The Library website www.thrall.org logged 2,775,884 visits which is an increase of 6% from 2010

In addition to these impressive statistics, the Library implemented a library system wide transition to a new Symphony / Enterprise automated circulation system. This system allows our users to (among many other things):

- receive telephone notices
- designate a specific pick-up location for requested items. For example you can now order a book from Middletown's collection and pick it up at any one of 47 RCLS member libraries.

The Library also provided a full slate of quality programs for children, teens and adults including:

- Summer reading program
- One on one employment counseling
- Wii gaming
- Foreign, independent and classic films
- Fiction and non-fiction book discussions.

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MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

Matt Pfisterer, Library Director

Fall Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM
Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM Sat: 10 AM – 5 PM Sun: 1 – 5 PM

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

Youth Services: 341-5470 **Local History:** 341-5483

Adult Programs and Book Discussions: 341-5485

For more news and free services, please visit www.thrall.org

(From the Director continued)

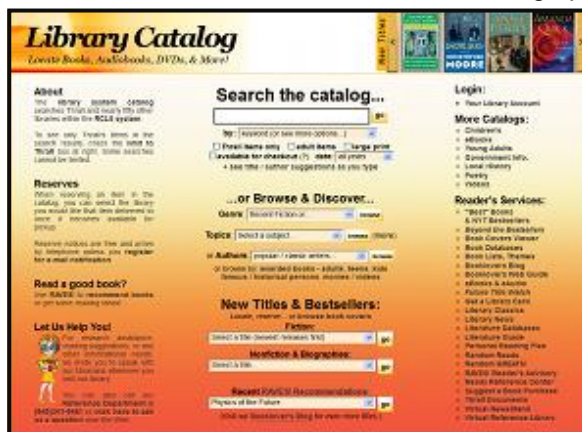
All of these numbers are worth bragging about, but what they really demonstrate is the continued commitment of the Library Board of Trustees and staff to providing outstanding library service and the continued support we receive for our community. Free copies of our report are available online (www.thrall.org/reports) as well as in print at the Library. Thank you for a great 2011, and here's to a great 2012.

From Our Head of Reference Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Library Catalog Enhancements

www.thrall.org/catalog

Our own entrance page to the library system catalog has been enhanced with a fresh look and new browsing options:



At the top/right side of our page you can quickly scroll through and view new fiction, nonfiction, and biography titles.

A **New Titles** tab, when clicked, leads to a book cover browser, where you can scroll and click on titles to instantly search the catalog to check their status or request them. You can also switch to a clickable text list of upcoming and recently published books.

In the **Browse & Discover** section (middle column) you will find a new **Genre** option, which lets you to browse Recent Fiction, and popular genres, such as mystery, fantasy, romance, sci-fi, and historical fiction, among others.

On the **Topics** browse line, the "more" link leads to our newly revised and expanded **Subject Explorer**, which lets you browse the library system alphabetically by topic.

Our **Video Browser** (thrall.org/videos) has four new options: **all recent video releases, recent videos for children, recent videos for adults, and recent videos at Thrall.**

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New Poetry Menu + Free Publication www.thrall.org/poetry

While poetry is indeed perennial, ever in season, April is National Poetry Month, a time our nation commemorates poets and all forms of verse. This April, we took some extra steps in hopes of inspiring you to celebrate the power and beauty of poetry - perhaps even to write poems of your own!

On our home page you will find (on the "Literature" line) a new "poetry" link. This leads to a new menu where you can access poetry eBooks, poetry criticism, online archives, our poetry catalog, daily poems, rhyming dictionaries, and more! You can also reach this menu directly at the above Web link.

Realizing not everyone is keen on poetry, we created a new downloadable/printable guide ("**Getting into Poetry**"). This guide is intended to be an invitation to a celebration of words and ideas - or, to mix up our metaphors a bit, a friendly "road map" into the wide and wondrous world of poetry.

We start off with some reasons you might want to introduce (or reintroduce) poetry into your life. (Trust us, there are many!) We include a few poetry terms you might find useful as well as some fairly "easy-to-understand" poets you might like to begin with before moving on to some classic and more challenging / thought-provoking poems (also listed).

On the second page you'll find some poetry reading tips and some suggested books on reading - and writing - poetry.

If you haven't read poetry in a while - or at all - perhaps our guide can help you discover some great new writing and feel some fresh inspiration!

Free printed copies of "Getting into Poetry" (and our "Looking for Poetry" guide) are also available in the library.

Currently on Display...

"Transformed: Stories & Studies of Change"

Our latest adult display features books involving change - from life-changing stories (fiction and nonfiction) to how-to guides on transforming yourself, your home, and your world! This rotating display is located on the first floor, near the library catalog computers and stairs to the 2nd level. You are welcome to browse and check out any book you like!

From Our Government Information Librarian, **Karen A. Heil**

Everyone knows that April means its income tax time again. But, this year, there is something far more interesting happening. On April 2nd, the National Archives released the 1940 Census in digital format on the Web:

<http://1940census.archives.gov>

Chances are that you may know someone who now appears in the Census. Researchers had been waiting to dive in and study the numbers showing how much we have changed since the Great Depression and the end of World War II. Remember when gas was 18 cents a gallon and the average cost of new car was \$1,611?

Back then, Bing Crosby and Glenn Miller were singing and playing "Only Forever" and "In the Mood." In 1940, California had the highest rate of college graduates at 6.8%. In 2010, it was Massachusetts at 39%. New York remained the most populous city going from 7.5 million to 8.2 million.

"How has American Changed"? By visiting the Census website (www.census.gov), you can explore an interesting variety of comparisons, watch census videos from the forties, or learn historical pop culture facts. Of course, you can always start your own family search and become hooked on the fun of genealogy!

Adult Events

Traction: A Poetry Reading

Wednesday, April 25th, 7 PM

in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall

Mary Makofske will read and discuss her latest poems.

"Managing Your Money Wisely"

Attend **free** financial workshops by Cornell Cooperative Extension-Orange County on any of these dates (7 PM): **April 24th, May 29th, June 26th**. Workshops are held in our 2nd Floor Community Room. For more information, please call 341-5485.

Afternoon Movies 2012

Movies play in our 2nd floor Community Room on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at **2 PM**: May 16th, June 20th, July 18th. Please call 341-5461 for titles.

Reel Eclectic 2012 Film Series

Our independent / international films series plays in our 2nd floor Community Room at **7 PM**: **May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th**. Please call 341-5461 for the next film title.

Children's Events

Prepare for the **"Battle of the Books"**

Join Thrall as we compete with other libraries in coming months for prizes! For students in grades 6-12. Please visit our Children's Department or call 341-5470 for all the details.

This summer... Dream Big!

(A Preview of Our 2012 Summer Reading Program)

"Dream Big" starts Monday, July 2nd and concludes Monday, July 30th. Registration runs June 11th to June 30th.

Our **Teen Summer Reading Program ("Own the Night")** begins Monday, July 2nd and concludes Monday, July 30th. Registration will run from June 25th to June 29th.

For more details on either reading program, please visit our Children's Department for call 341-5470.

Wii Gaming at Thrall

Join us the **first Friday of each month** from **4 PM to 6 PM**: **May 4th, June 1st, October 5th, November 2nd, and December 7th**. We will have games for all ages!

Free Knitting & Crochet Workshops

Learn basic stitches, patterns, and more! What is really special about this program is that it's open to all ages. Our upcoming workshops are on the following **Mondays** (6PM - 7:45 PM): **April 30th, May 14th, May 21st, June 4th**

"Come Draw with Me!"

Saturdays for ages **7 to 12**. Limit of 15 members of Thrall Library. **Registration required**. Upcoming events:

- **May 12, 1 - 2 PM: "Lighthouses"**
- **June 2, 12 - 1 pm: "Roosters"**
- **July 14, 12 - 1 pm: "Blue Birds"**