

# THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

*The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library*

## SUMMER 2006 ISSUE

"We realize that what we are accomplishing is a drop in the ocean. But if this drop were not in the ocean, it would be missed." - Mother Teresa

### FROM RICHARD C. BELL, PRES., LIBRARY BD.

Our state leaders in Albany may finally be hearing the appeals for increased library funding. Several huge steps were taken during the recent budget approvals that will benefit our library and all others in the state. I believe these actions were the result of continuing pressure from library officials and library users like you. The major improvements include the basing of financial formulas on the 2000 census (they had been based on the 1990 census until this year) and the appropriation of library building funds. State funds pay for the bulk of the services provided to member libraries by systems such as the Ramapo Catskill Library System. Individual libraries such as Thrall receive very little in direct state aid that can be applied to our budget. Despite the giant strides made during the current legislative session, it is important that we continue to let our representatives know that more funding is needed. Please continue to communicate your support of increased library funding to our state representatives.

### FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

#### Library Budget Vote: October 3, 2006

The Thrall Public Library District of Middletown & Wallkill will hold the annual budget vote on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8 AM to 8 PM. Voting will take place at the library, in the Reading Room. Due to the variation of dates of trustee terms, there will be no trustee seats up for election this fall.

The budget is still being developed by the Board of Trustees. Copies will be available for public inspection later this summer. The budget information will also be posted on the website: [www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org). The public hearing on the proposed 2007 budget will be held at the library on Wed., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM.

### MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

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

(Summer: Saturdays, 10 – 2 pm; Sundays, Closed)

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 DIRECTOR – CONTINUED)

### Library Receives Gift from MHS Class of 1944

The library is the grateful recipient of a donation from members of the Middletown High School Class of 1944. A check was presented by Class Reunion Treasurer Nicholas Cortese to benefit the library collection. He explained that members of the class had wanted funds to go to worthy community organizations, and felt that Middletown Thrall Library was well-deserving of their gift. The class members visited the library as part of the festivities connected with their 60th reunion in 2004, and shared many memories of the old Thrall Library and of various experiences with the Erie Railroad Station - now a part of the library building. The Bd. of Trustees and library staff are most appreciative of this gift.

### Photograph by Marc Etienne Given to Library

A lovely photograph of the front of the library building and the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library bookstore taken by photographer Marc Etienne has been donated. Mr. Etienne presented the photograph, which is a nighttime shot of the building. It will be displayed on the first floor on the stairwell wall. This photograph was taken as part of a project involving the Interactive Museum, which is slated to open soon on Center St. The project also received funding from Orange County Tourism/Orange Arts and the County of Orange. We are very happy to receive this beautiful addition to the library's permanent collection of art and photographs.

### FROM THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES, HEAD OF REFERENCE

#### New Databases and Virtual Library Titles

Two new music databases and the *Encyclopedia of Religion* are now available from Thrall's database page. The music databases are African American Song and Smithsonian Global Sound. They work in a similar fashion to the Classical.com music database. The *Encyclopedia of Religion* is part of the Gale Virtual Reference Library and was a gift from the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc.. To give you an idea of its size and depth, it is a fifteen volume set in print. Additional titles included in our Gale Virtual Reference Library, which may be searched individually or as a group, include the following:

*Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture*, 2v, 2004

*Encyclopedia of Religion*, 2nd Ed., 15v, 2005

*Encyclopedia of World Biography*, Vol. 24, 2nd Ed., 2005

*Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd Ed., 23v, 1998

*Gale Encyclopedia of Children's Health: Infancy*

*Through Adolescence*, 4v, 2006

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**(“From the Reference Department” continued)**

*Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia*, 2nd Ed., 17v, 2004  
*Terrorism: Essential Primary Sources*, 2006  
*U\*X\*L Encyclopedia of Science*, 2nd Ed., 10v, 2002  
*Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, 6v, 2004

In addition we have these titles available from NOVEL's Gale Virtual Reference Library:

*American Civil War Reference Library*, 4 vol. + index  
*American Revolution Reference Library*, 4 vol. + index  
*Americans at War*  
*Business Plans Handbook*, vols. 5-10  
*Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*  
*Encyclopedia of Small Business*  
*Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World*  
*Fashion, Costume and Culture*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Cancer*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of E-Commerce*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Genetic Disorders*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*  
*Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health*  
*History Behind the Headlines*, vol. 1-6 set  
*Major Acts of Congress*, 1st Ed., 3 volumes

These are all **freely available** to you at home with your Thrall library card.

**FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION LIBRARIAN:  
“TidBits from Uncle Sam”**

Everyone knows that today is all about the Internet, but don't be caught in the “Dark Side of the Web!” Identity theft, sexual predators, money scams, urban legends, viruses, pop-ups, hackers, and spyware represent just a few of the sticky entanglements out there. What to do? There are websites that can help you become informed and armed against these predators. The Federal Trade Commission is a good place to start. For an overall view of specific problems go to OnGuard OnLine:

**[www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov)**

Dealing with Cyberbullying, Identity Faceoff, Worms and Viruses are each examined through interactive video. Sections on e-mail, mobile devices, and privacy issues are also included. The site is very thorough and consumer friendly. For those concerned about their children's safety, try KidzPrivacy: **[www.ftc.gov/kidzprivacy](http://www.ftc.gov/kidzprivacy)**  
This interactive website has links for parents, teachers and kids. Learn about “phishing scams” and online auctions by going to **[www.ftc.gov/onlineshopping](http://www.ftc.gov/onlineshopping)**

Please try to play it safe when surfing through Web!

***Reel Eclectic: Cinema for Connoisseurs***  
The 2006 Art & Foreign Film Series at Thrall

Due to licensing arrangement for the next film in this series, we are unable to publicize the title of the film. Please visit or call the library to discover what will be shown on Thursday, July 6th, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall. We can tell you it is a comedy. Other film dates for 2006: August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7. For more information please call 341-5479.

**THRALL FALL BOOK DISCUSSION PREVIEW...**

**FASCINATING  
FICTION**

**- CHARACTERS TO CARE ABOUT -  
- STORIES TO SHARE -**

The theme for our upcoming fall book discussion, set to start in late September, focuses on fascinating and memorable characters and stories. The titles we will read and discuss are:

Sept. 27th: *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson  
Oct. 11th: *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf  
Oct. 25th: *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger  
Nov. 8th: *Ladies Auxiliary* by Mirvis Tova

As always, copies of books will be available for borrowing. Please call 341-5479 for more information.

***BOOKS: A TREASURE!***  
**CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

“Books: a Treasure” is the New York State children's summer reading program theme this year. We have lots of fun programs and events planned for children of all ages. To learn more about these programs and any registration requirements, please call the Children's Dept. at 341-5470.

**RAVING ABOUT RAVES!**

Response to our new free reader's advisory service, RAVES!, has been enthusiastic! We thank you for that! Nearly 150 titles of all kinds (fiction, non-fiction, biography) have been added to the RAVES! database since it debuted in April 2006. Please feel free to search or browse the list of recent entries to see if there is a book you might like. Remember, you can also quickly and easily suggest good books you have read – either new books or past favorites – to help other readers in search of something new and interesting to read. To access RAVES! go to our home page at **[www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)** and click the RAVES! link there.

**NEW THEMATIC BOOK DISPLAY**

Thanks to the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc., we have a new book display at the library located on the first floor near the catalog computers. This display will be updated periodically to contain titles arranged by themes or genres. Currently on display are “Some Good Summer Reads.” Be sure to check it out the next time you visit the library!

**SPECIAL COVERAGE: IMMIGRATION WEB GUIDE**

In our ongoing efforts to make definitive Internet-based information on critical topics easily and immediately available to you, we have created a new web guide on the topic of Immigration. Annotated links in this guide lead to related information sources in the area of government information, news, opinions, and debates. Go to our home page, click Special Coverage Center, then click the Immigration link, or go to **[www.thrall.org/immigration](http://www.thrall.org/immigration)**