

# Thrall Library Times

## Updates & Events at Middletown Thrall Library

SUMMER 2009 EDITION

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*"There is no such thing on earth as an uninteresting subject"* G. K. Chesteron

### From Kevin J. Gallagher

Director of Middletown Thrall Library

### Proposed 2010 Library Budget

The Board of Trustees is proposing an operating budget for 2010 of \$2,907,395. This represents an increase of \$65,063 over this year's actual budget, or 2.3%.

If approved, the 2010 budget would mark the second year in a row with an increase of less than 2.5%. With this proposed budget, the library tax levy would increase 2.98%.

Some notable points concerning the budget proposal:

- Middletown Thrall Library is the busiest public library in Orange County.
- Borrowing for the first half of this year is up significantly over the same period last year. It should be noted that last year's borrowing was up over the previous year as well. The community is using the library and its resources.
- Members of the library staff have seen significantly increased demands for books and materials related to employment needs: resume writing; cover letters; job search strategies. A new dedicated use computer solely for job searches and related work was put into operation this year to assist patrons.
- To help meet the increased use, there is an increase in materials expenditures for next year.
- There are no new positions included in the budget.
- The library district, like other Orange County employers, is now saddled with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority payroll tax. This new expense, estimated at \$5600.00 in 2010, adds .3% to the tax levy.
- New York State library aid has been cut this year by approximately 9%. No increase is anticipated for next year.

(continued)

### 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 go to [www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)

(“Library Budget” continued)

The public hearing on the budget will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2009, at 7:00 PM** at Middletown Thrall Library in the Board Room.

If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please contact Kevin J. Gallagher, Director, at 341-5485, or via e-mail at thrall7@warwick.net.

### New Shelving, a New Computer, and Jazz CDs All Thanks to the Friends of Thrall!

There is new shelving on the first floor that houses the video cassette collection, including the Robert Cunningham Collection. All of that new shelving was purchased by Friends of Middletown Thrall Library. The installation of the new shelves has permitted the expansion of our book collection and gives us a bit of breathing room for the future.

There is also a new computer located just outside of the Government Documents office that was purchased by the Friends. This is a dedicated workstation for people doing job searches, creating resumes, submitting online applications, and more. Please continue reading below for more details.

Finally, jazz fans should check out the latest additions to the library's extensive holdings. Thanks to the Friends' funding of the Mattie Gaines Jazz Collection, Middletown Thrall Library has perhaps the most extensive collection of jazz recordings of any public library in the area.

### From the Head of Reference Mary Susan Flannery Climes

#### About Our New Job Search Computer

Job seekers and others interested in pursuing new career opportunities now have their very own workstation at Thrall.

Usage time is a minimum of two hours, and you can stay on longer if no one is waiting to use it. Two people can sit at this computer. A printer is attached for prints (\$ .20 / page). If interested, please stop by our Reference Department.

On the computer are tools and services addressing all aspects of job searching, from cover letter and resumes (including several word processors you can use) to direct links to job search sites on the Web and interviewing tips.

We developed a number of free informational flyers (also available at that workstation) to help job searcher's make the most of their time and these technologies.

As part of this effort, we also redesigned *InterJob Search* guide, which anyone can access at [www.thrall.org/jobs](http://www.thrall.org/jobs)

(“From the Head of Reference” continued)

## A New Publication: “Why Search?”

In continuance of our ongoing information awareness and literacy endeavors, we published a new document (in print and online at [www.thrall.org/docs](http://www.thrall.org/docs)) examining online research and the use and abuse of search engines.

As a recognized pioneer of Internet research services and resource guides, within and well beyond our library system, we know the benefits online research can often provide.

We are also aware of potential issues researchers can face on the Internet, especially wherever there might be a heavy reliance on general Web search engines instead of more appropriate sources and research services.

It is that awareness we wish to pass on to you, to empower you, so you can take better advantage of the many superior tools and resources freely available to you at Thrall.

There are often much better paths to the information you seek, and our librarians will be happy to show you the way!

## Come See Our Latest Display: “Great Book!”

Our **rotating book display** (located near the stairs) currently features an eclectic selection of contemporary and classic works of fiction and nonfiction titles from celebrity and critics’ lists of recommended readings.

Our Booklovers web guide ([www.thrall.org/booklovers](http://www.thrall.org/booklovers)) has, among several new categories, a new **Book Lists** section, where you can explore a variety of suggested works and authors arranged according to themes.

## Now Circulating: Music Wellness Collection

In our last newsletter, we announced a new music wellness collection being established thanks to the Friends of Thrall. This collection of peaceful music features music therapy pioneers such as Steven Halpern and others. These CDs are located at the end of our Jazz collection. We encourage you to check them out.

## From the Government Information Librarian Karen A. Heil: “Your Government on YouTube”

Have you finally given up on those hundreds of television channels? So many repeats, and nothing new or interesting to watch! Why not try the **U.S. Government’s Channel on YouTube**: [www.youtube.com/USGovernment](http://www.youtube.com/USGovernment)

Discover **interesting historical treasures** from the **Library of Congress**, from *Rosie the Riveter* to *Thomas Edison and the Sioux Ghost Dance*, featuring Native American Indian dancers from Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show. **NASA Television** provides real-time video as well as a tour of the International Space Station and a fly over Mars! Reconnect with the natural world. Try viewing EPA’s “**Wetlands and Wonder or Climate Change – Wildlife & Wildlands.**”

Are you **prepared for a disaster**? “**Are you Ready?**” and “**A Story About a Flood**” are two examples of videos from FEMA about disaster preparedness. Summer reading and information about **Federal Student Aid** are highlighted on the **Department of Education’s** site. Learn about “marbling” or the history of government printing from the **Government Printing Office**, which first opened in 1861.

Learn the latest from the **White House’s official channel**, including the **President’s weekly address**. Most U.S. Government agencies allow you to sign up for **RSS** or **Twitter feeds** through their websites so you can keep up with all their news using the latest technology.



## Summer Reading & Fun at Thrall

If you haven’t already, please visit our Children’s Department (or check out our **Youth Services blog** at [www.thrall.org/blogs](http://www.thrall.org/blogs)) to learn about the many **fun** and **free programs** we have planned throughout the summer. Some events require registration. For more details, please call our Children’s Department at 341-5470.

## Two Trustee Seats Up for Election

There will be two seats on the Board of Trustees up for election this October. Each seat carries a four-year term, beginning Jan. 1, 2010. (The incumbents, Richard C. Bell, and Joan C. Hutchinson, are expected to seek another term.) Seats will be voted on as part of the budget vote on **Tuesday, October 6, 2009**. Individuals interested in running for the Board of Trustees can learn more about the duties by contacting Kevin J. Gallagher, Director, at 341-5485, or via e-mail at [thrall7@warwick.net](mailto:thrall7@warwick.net). Petitions for candidates can be picked up in the Director’s office beginning on Monday, August 17th. There is no remuneration for serving as a library district trustee.

## Baseball: America's Pastime

Three programs and a film span baseball’s early years and darkest hour. Join us and discover little-known connections between baseball’s early years and Middletown players and the story behind baseball’s greatest scandal:

1. **The Asylum Base Ball Club: Glimpses into Baseball's Past.** **Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7 - 8 PM**  
Presented by Bob Mayer, baseball historian / Collector
2. **Alfred W. Lawson's Whirlwind Tour Through Middletown.** **Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 7 - 8 PM**  
Presented by Jerry Kuntz, author of the forthcoming book *Baseball Fiends and Flying Machines*
3. **Baseball's Darkest Hour – The 1919 "Black Sox" Scandal.** **Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 7 - 8 PM**  
Presented by Chris Godwin, Professor Emeritus, SUNY Orange
4. **Film:** Please call 341-5454, ext. 5479 for the title. (1988 / PG / 119 minutes) **Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 7 - 9 PM**

All four programs are **free** and will be held in the 2nd floor meeting room at Middletown Thrall Library. For more details, please call 341-5454, ext. 5479.

*Fall 2009 Book Discussion Series Preview...*

## Stories into Screen “Do Good Books Make Good Movies?”

In our next series we invite you to read four acclaimed books that have been made into movies. Here is the schedule:

- Book:** *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby (trans. by Jeremy Leggatt). **Tue., Sept. 22, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Chris Godwin, Professor Emeritus, SUNY Orange  
+ **Film:** **Tuesday, September 29, 7 PM, 112 minutes.**
- Book:** *The Shipping News* by Annie Proulx  
**Tuesday, October 6, 2009 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Peggy Abt, Professor Emeritus, SUNY Orange  
+ **Film:** **Tuesday, October 13, 7 PM, 111 minutes.**
- Book:** *Persuasion* by Jane Austen  
**Tuesday, October 20, 2009 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Mary Makofske, SUNY Orange  
+ **Film:** **Tuesday, October 27, 7 PM, 107 minutes.**
- Book:** *Ragtime* by E. L. Doctorow  
**Tuesday, November 3, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Tony Nappo, Middletown School District (retired)  
+ **Film:** **Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 7 PM, 155 minutes.**

Copies of books in this series can be requested or borrowed at any time. Please see our upcoming full-length flyer (by mail or in the library) for complete details or call (845) 341-5454, ext. 5479.