

Enriching, Informing, and Empowering Our Local Communities Since 1901

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

Summer 2013 Edition

"And it is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer, the very crown of nature's changing year..." – Amy Lowell, "Summer"

From Matt Pfisterer

Director of Middletown Thrall Library

Two New Book Discussions this Summer at Thrall

In response to the number of requests we have been receiving for more book discussion opportunities for adults, we are introducing you to two new programs this summer at the library:

"What to Read this Summer"

Thursday, June 27, 2013, 6:30 PM

You are invited to a special two-part book talk program with Thrall Library Director Matt Pfisterer and Thrall Library staff member Jen Binnie.

This first program will introduce you to a number of great title and genre suggestions ranging from classics to "trashics." Come and find the perfect book to read this summer!

"What I Read this Summer"

Thursday, August 15, 2013, 6:30 PM

Our second program will focus on books we have read or are reading this summer: the good, the not so good, and the really bad.

This program will give you the opportunity to meet people who like to share good books and great conversation.

Both book discussions will be held in our library's 2nd Floor Community Room. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call **341-5485**.

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

Matt Pfisterer, Library Director

Summer Hours (as of June 15th): **Mon. – Thurs.:** 9 AM – 8 PM
Fri.: 9 AM - 6 PM **Sat.:** 10 AM – 2 PM **Sun.:** CLOSED

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

Youth Services: 341-5470 **Local History:** 341-5454, ext. 5479

Adult Events Coordinator: 341-5483

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

From the Head of Reference Services Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Learn Something New this Summer!

As a member of our library, you can enjoy **free access** to *many* educational and empowering resources and services!

You can, from home, access **Tell Me More**, an interactive **language learning** service. Learn French, Italian, Spanish, and more *at your own pace!* Start at www.thrall.org/tmm

We also offer you full access to **Universal Class**, an online school featuring **hundreds of classes** on all major topics. Some courses will even earn you Continuing Education Units (CEUs). These are **complete courses** including educational materials and **real instructors** you can interact with at any time. You can take up to six months to complete a course. For more, please go to www.thrall.org/uc

If you would like to study for upcoming exams (GED, SAT, CLEP, etc.), enhance your career potential, plan for college, or polish your resume, we also offer members of Thrall free access to the **Testing and Education Reference Center**. Please go to www.thrall.org/terc to begin using this service.

For even *more* educational opportunities and learning resources, including free **OpenCourseWare** (OCW) courses from MIT, NYU, Princeton, Yale, and others, please visit our education resource portal at www.thrall.org/education

From Our 125th Celebration Committee

If you've looked in our Reading Room recently, you may have noticed a mannequin wearing an old-fashioned dress. This is a representation of Mrs. S. Mareta Thrall, the famous local philanthropist after whom our library is named. From her father she inherited a large amount of property in Middletown. She gifted Thrall Park to the city and later contributed to the building of Thrall Hospital.

When she died, she left a considerable sum of money for the city to build a public library. The original Thrall Library stood on Orchard Street, at the site of an old school which served as one of Middletown's first public libraries. Even though we're located in another building, her legacy of supporting the public good continues to be felt throughout the city!

In addition to our history-themed displays, you can see her likeness (performed by Thrall Board Member Tonia Crown) walking with other board members, Thrall staff, Friends of Thrall, and relatives in the City's **125th Anniversary Parade** (on **Saturday, June 29th** at **3 PM** in Downtown Middletown) all dressed as literary characters from the past 125 years!

We hope you will partake in the festivities this June! Please visit www.thrall.org/mid125 for more details. To learn more about Mrs. Thrall and Middletown's rich history... (continued)

please feel free to come to the Reference Department and ask to see *Middletown: A Biography* by Franklin B. Williams, *Portrait and Biographical Record of Orange County, New York* by Chapman Publishing Company, or *Middletown: A Photographic History* by Peter Laskaris. We also have many interesting books about the region at Reference and even more in our Local History Room!

Your National Parks

From Our Government Information Center

Dig out your hiking boots, camera, binoculars and water bottles; it's time to visit one of the country's 401 National Parks (in person or online at www.nps.gov)! Cared for since 1916 by the National Park Service, today's parks and historic sites inspire us to care for the environment, to preserve history, to revitalize communities, and to help connect us to the natural world. Right here, in New York State, are some terrific examples!



Did you know that you can take a guided tour of immigrant life in New York City by visiting the Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard Street in Manhattan? See actual apartments representing life from 1863 to 1935! You can even take a virtual tour at www.nps.gov/loea

On a beautiful afternoon, take a drive up the Hudson with a stop at Hyde Park, NY and visit sites including the Vanderbilt Mansion and the home of Franklin Roosevelt. Keep going north and visit the village of Catskill, at the foot of the Catskill Mountains, to discover where American Art was born by visiting the Thomas Cole National Historic Site (www.nps.gov/thco). "Thomas Cole invented a new style of art, one Americans could call their own. His landscape paintings launched the Hudson River School art movement."

For a vigorous workout, take a hike on the "Footpath for the People, also known as the Appalachian Trail (nps.gov/appa). Or, if camping is your thing, take a trip to Fire Island's Watch Hill campground! (www.nps.gov/fiis/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm)

If you are not sure what you might like to do, you can always plan the perfect trip by visiting www.recreation.gov where you can explore trip ideas, activities, and make reservations. Have a wonderful summer exploring your National Parks!

Upcoming Events at Thrall

www.thrall.org/events

The Walkkill Guards: *Middletown's First to Fight for the Union* - A Presentation by Ryan Conklin

June 2, 2013, 2 PM in our 2nd Floor Community Room

The Walkkill Guards were formed at Gothic Hall in Middletown one week after Lincoln's first call for volunteers!

Flight of the Vin Fiz

A Presentation by Edward & Linda Dubin

June 11, 2013, 6:30 PM in our 2nd Floor Community Room

Middletown was *the first stop* on the Vin Fiz's first successful coast-to-coast flight! Cal Rodgers landed this early Wright Brothers' biplane at the "Pleasure Grounds" in Sept. 1911.

Upcoming Films

Afternoon Movies (2 PM): June 19th, July 17th, August 21st
Reel Eclectic (7 PM): June 6th, August 1st

All movies are [free](#) and are shown in our 2nd Floor Community Rm.

For more information on adult events, please call **341-5483**. You can explore these and other upcoming public events via our new online **calendar** at www.thrall.org/calendar

Youth Services News

Please visit the Children's Department, visit our **Youth Blog** (at www.thrall.org/youthblog) or call us at **(845) 341-5470** to learn more about these and other upcoming youth events.

"Dig into Reading"

The NYS Summer Reading Program at Thrall

Register from **Monday, June 10th** to **Friday, June 28th**.

Our summer reading program encourages children to read – and enjoy reading – over the summer – and to explore and enjoy our beautiful library! We offer a wide array of free programs that are educational and fun for children!

A Thrall library card is required. No card? Please visit the **Circulation Department** or call **341-5454** to find out if you qualify for a free card. We hope you do!

Our Summer Reading Program is for readers between the ages of **6 and 13 years old**. Parents with pre-readers are also encouraged to join us and read with their children!

"Dig into Reading" officially begins on **Monday, July 1st** and continues through **Monday, July 29th**.

Special thanks to **Orange County 4-H** for partnering with Thrall's Youth Services Department to provide fun and innovative children's programming for the month of July!

*Please stay tuned as we finalize our plans for summer fun at Thrall! We'll blog about it and publish an **events flyer** soon!*

"Battle of the Books" 2013

A Friendly Competition between Libraries

Calling all readers grades 6 - 12! Battle of the Books is back in full swing, and this year the battle is *on our home turf!* That's right: this year's battle will be held **Sunday, September 8th right here at Thrall!**

Our next meetings for Battle of the Books will be on **May 28th** and **June 25th**. If interested, please visit the Children's Dept. for more details, call us at **341-5470**, or visit thrall.org/botb

Knitting & Crochet Workshops

Mondays & Thursdays in our Story Time Room

Afternoon Workshops (2 PM – 4 PM):

June 6th, June 20th, August 8th, August 22nd

Evening Workshops (6 PM – 7:45 PM)

June 3rd, June 17th, July 1st, July 15th, July 29th,
August 5th, August 19th

Come Draw with Me!

Get creative! Have fun! For ages 7-12. Upcoming themes:

June 15th, 12 PM - 1 PM: *Snakes*
August 10th, 12 PM - 1 PM: *Robots*

Have You Tried eSebco eBooks?

You might already know about the free **OverDrive / RCLS eBooks** service, but did you know we also offer members of Thrall **free access to interactive eBooks for children and for young adults?** We do! Just click "eBooks" on our home page (www.thrall.org), follow the **eSebco** link on the menu that will appear, and log in with your Thrall library card number. There are *many* fun and interesting titles for you to explore!