

THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library

JANUARY 2005 ISSUE

Orange County Library Aid to Increase in 2005

From the Library Director, Kevin J. Gallagher

Thanks to strong advocacy for libraries from County Executive Edward A. Diana, and solid bi-partisan support from the County Legislature, there will be a 10% increase in county library aid in 2005. Mr. Diana submitted an increase to \$110,000, above 2004's level of \$100,000, as part of his budget for county operations. County Legislator Jeffrey Berkman was again a prominent supporter for this increase.

Middletown Thrall Library is very appreciative of this additional funding and recognition for the important role public libraries play in the lives of Orange County's residents. The county's libraries are available twelve months a year; evenings and weekends; and are used by all age groups. Despite predictions of the irrelevance of libraries due to the Internet, our library has seen continuing high circulation, program attendance by both adults and children, growing numbers of people registering for borrowing cards, and ongoing demand for the outstanding professional reference services offered by our staff.

Local financial support, including Orange County aid, is critical to our operation because unlike public schools, public libraries in New York only receive a tiny fraction of their budgets in the form of state aid: generally less than one-tenth of one per cent.

Also from the Library Director:

"Investment in Public Libraries Yields a Good Return"

According to a study conducted in Florida (Taxpayer Return on Investment in Florida Public Libraries: Summary Report. Sept. 2004), public libraries are a good investment for local taxpayers. After analyzing data from all of the state's public libraries, the study found that they returned a range of \$3.70 to as high as \$7.20 for every dollar of local tax support.

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 Dept.: 341-5461

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

Please visit us online at www.Thrall.org

Two New Genealogy Databases Available

Two new databases have been added to our lineup of powerful research tools: Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest. Ancestry Library Edition provides access to over 1.5 billion names in over 4,000 databases, including records from the U.S. Census, military records, court, land and probate records, vital and church records, directories, passenger lists and more. HeritageQuest Online offers a collection of 25,000+ family and local histories, Complete U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1930, PERSI - The PERiodical Source Index, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, Freedman's Bank Records, and more. Ancestry Library Edition replaces the AncestryPlus database, which will continue to be available for a little while. HeritageQuest may be accessed from home if you click on the "remote/home" link and enter your library card number on the screen that follows. To access any of these databases, come to the library or go to our web site (www.thrall.org) and click on the Article Databases link. If you would like to learn more about these or any other databases freely available to you, please visit the Reference Department or call 341-5461. You can also contact our librarians over the Internet by going to www.thrall.org/ask or by clicking the "Ask a Librarian" link on our home page.

Waldenbooks & Friends of Middletown Thrall Library Team Up for Cops 'N Kids Program

Thanks to a generous donation of children's books in Spanish and English, arranged by Waldenbooks store manager Stephen Paradise, the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library and the City of Middletown Police Department will be continuing the Cops 'N Kids program. The Police Department and the Friends have cooperated on this program for several years. The Friends provide children's books distribution by police officers to children in the community as part of the Police Department's outreach program. Over the years, many children received free books. Waldenbooks has donated 2 cartons of English books and provided an additional carton of Spanish books at a discount. Middletown Thrall Library wants to thank Waldenbooks, the City of Middletown Police Department, and the always supportive Friends of Middletown Thrall Library for the continuation of this program.

“Tidbits from Uncle Sam” from the Government Information Librarian

In *Escape from Freedom*, Erich Fromm states: “Man’s nature, his passions and anxieties, are a cultural product; as a matter of fact, man himself is the most important creation and achievement of the continuous human effort, the record of what we call history.” In order to better understand ourselves, a look back at our past is always revealing. The Library of Congress allows us that look through its *American Memory* project.(memory.loc.gov). “The seed that grew into the American Memory historical collections was planted in a pilot program that ran from 1990 through 1994. The pilot experimented with digitizing some of the Library of Congress’s unparalleled collections of historical documents, moving images, sound recordings, and print and photographic media – the “nation’s memory”.” Browse through collections by topic including *Advertising, Sports and Recreation, Performing Arts and Music, Native American History, Maps, Cities, Towns, War, Military, Women’s History, Immigration, American Expansion* and more. View actual vaudeville film produced by Thomas Edison, listen to band music from the Civil War, study famous baseball cards dating from 1887 to 1914, watch fifty years of coca-cola television advertisements or read personal narratives dating from 1750 to 1920 of travelers exploring America. Experience some of the best from the Library of Congress!

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 *Falling Angels*, a comedy directed by Scott Smith (109 minutes), February 3rd, 7 PM, 2nd Floor Meeting Room at Thrall Library. Set against the backdrop of the 1960's, free love, the Cold War, and the dawn of feminism, *Falling Angels* is a wickedly funny story of three sisters coming of age in a wildly dysfunctional family. Based on Barbara Gowdy's novel, *Falling Angels* is a keen observation of the destructive effects of secrecy and the bonds of duty between parents and children. 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. The Art and Foreign Film Festival Continues in 2005: March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1. For more information or special accommodations please call 341-5479 or send e-mail to thrall16@warwick.net. Film annotations provided by RB Publishing and Film Movement.

New Children’s Programs

A new series of fun and educational events have been scheduled for children of various ages. Programs include “First Steps” (up to Age 3 accompanied by an adult), “Drop-in Stories,” “Three to Get Ready” (Age 3), “Now We Are Four” (Age 4), “Moving Up” (Ages 5 – 7), “Exploring” (Ages 8 – 11), as well as special programs, including “Re-discovering Art & Illustration in Picture Books” (Ages 5 – 9), and “Come Draw with Me” (Ages 7 – 12). Please come to the Children’s Department to pick up the full schedule of events. Some events require registration. For more information please call the Children’s Dept. at 341-5470 or the Head of Youth Services at 341-5604.

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 planning 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. Details will be posted online at thrall.org as well as in our next newsletter. For more information, please call 341-5479 or send e-mail to thrall16@warwick.net.

Tsunami Information Guide

To assist our patrons in finding information about the recent tsunami tragedy, we prepared a guide at our web site: follow the link on our home page or go to: www.thrall.org/tsunami

There you will find links to related news, charity and assistance organizations, advisories for consumers concerning donations, as well as international rescue and rebuilding initiatives.

Stay Current

Click the Current Events button on our home page to catch up on the latest happenings in a variety of subject areas. A transcript of the Inaugural Address as well as Cassini-Huygens space mission links are recent examples of what you will find there, along with local and global news items.

Annual Winter Concert to Return Sunday, February 20th, 2 PM at Thrall

Thanks to the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library Inc., Brooklyn Baroque will return to Thrall to treat us once again to a memorable concert. Full details of this exciting event soon will be posted on flyers at the library and the Friend’s Book Store (next to the library) as well as at our web site (thrall.org) in the News & Programs section.