

# THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

*The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library*

**WINTER 2006 ISSUE**

“...if one scheme of happiness fails, human nature turns to another; if the first calculation is wrong, we make a second better: we find comfort somewhere.” Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*

## FROM THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES, HEAD OF REFERENCE

(Reference Department Continued)

### Wireless Internet Access Now Available

Warwick Online has completed installation of three public wireless hotspots in the library. You may now come in with your laptop and enjoy high speed Internet access in the comfort of your library for free. Please visit the Reference Department to receive instructions and a special login card.

### A New Home Page to Arrive at Thrall.org

Since its inception back in the mid 1990s, our website, thrall.org, has been about helping people find information as quickly as possible while empowering them with the latest tools and resources. Over those years, Robert Tiess and I have worked steadily to advance Thrall.org's overall ability to meet the needs and expectations of today's users. Over the past year or so, we focused on redesigning the home page, taking into consideration feedback received from staff and patrons with a view towards creating a next-generation, one-stop access point.

### eBooks, eAudio Books, eMusic!

We are pleased to announce that a new free service is available to Middletown Thrall Library card members on their home computers. eBooks, eAudio books, and eMusic files can be accessed on a computer, allowing you to read or listen to content, such as fiction or nonfiction works, and classical music. Some titles can also be played on portable media devices compatible with the Windows Media format. For more information about this service, please call the Reference Department at 341-5461 or visit our website at [www.thrall.org/ebooks](http://www.thrall.org/ebooks)

While the current home page has long served as a public service model for libraries and other organizations worldwide, our web based offerings have matured and expanded to the point where the present model required revisions to promote our content quickly, effectively, and neatly. We reviewed numerous website models prior to establishing one particular new design that could be uniquely convenient to both staff and patrons in light of all Thrall offers. With an average of over 1 million visits a year now at thrall.org from local and global users, we always have much to consider before implementing any changes.

### Computer Book Collection Expansion

To help you keep up with the latest changes and advances in technology, we recently added over 100 titles to our computer book collection. These titles focus on different programs, graphics (2D and 3D), iPod, networking, Windows, Linux, OS X, OpenOffice, and much more. Titles suitable for beginners have also been added. Most books have been filed in the 004 – 006 area of our circulating nonfiction collection, while other items, such as those involving digital photography or electronic music, are located in their respective classification areas.

In our redesign philosophy, we focused intensely on specific areas, including:

- \* Ease and speed of use / user friendliness
- \* Ease of migration from old to new home page
- \* Identifiability of the organization
- \* Clarity of website mission and functions
- \* Aesthetics and legibility
- \* Intuitiveness
- \* Creating contextual spaces for information
- \* Improving use and balance of space
- \* Bringing more services to the forefront
- \* Minimizing clicks to major needs
- \* Browser independence/reverse compatibility
- \* Platform independence
- \* Variable monitor resolutions and fonts
- \* Accessibility / ADA considerations
- \* Latest W3C XHTML/CSS standards compliance
- \* Ensuring fastest possible page load time

## 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)

### Winter Hours

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 8 PM, Friday: 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday : 1 – 5 PM

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Dept: 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)

The new page will appear soon at Thrall.org. Stay tuned!

### Computer Upgrades, New Laser Printer

We recently completed our public computer upgrades. Word processing, database access, high speed Internet access, and more are available on certain computers throughout the library. A new laser printer for the public has been added as well. Stop by Reference and discover what's available to you!

## FROM THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIAN

Health alerts everywhere are focusing more and more on childhood obesity. A fact sheet from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) states the following: "The prevalence of overweight among children aged 6 to 11 more than doubled in the past 20 years, going from 7% in 1980 to 16% in 2002. The rate among adolescents aged 12 to 19 more than tripled, increasing from 5% to 16%." (JAMA 2004)

Sometimes it is very difficult to break children of the macaroni and cheese, chicken nugget, hot dog-only diet. In an attempt to teach children of all ages the nutritional value of a variety of foods and the importance of exercise, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, part of the Department of Agriculture, has created "an interactive computer game [www.MyPyramid.gov](http://www.MyPyramid.gov) where kids can reach Planet Power by fueling their rocket with food and physical activity. "Fuel" tanks for each food group help students keep track of how their choices fit into MyPyramid." – referring to the new Food Pyramid and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005:

The game asks for Name, Age and Gender to modify playing strategies (from pre-school to high school) and to determine correctly caloric and exercise standards for each player. Those who successfully plan three healthy meals and proper exercise for the day, will blast off on a trip among the stars! The game requires Flash Player 7 and "has been designed for broadband internet connections." Have some fun, play along with your children to test your food knowledge.

## Reel Eclectic Cinema for Connoisseurs

### The 2006 Art & Foreign Film Series at Thrall

This year "Reel Eclectic" will feature both independent as well as acclaimed feature films to appeal to many different tastes. The next film to play in our series is

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm: *Hawaii, Oslo*. Directed by Erik Poppe.

Other film dates for 2006:

April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7,  
October 5, November 2, December 7

## Oscar Winners and Losers "Hollywood Legends I Have Interviewed"

by Chris Farlekas, Times Herald-Record journalist  
Sunday, March 5, 1:30 - 3:30 PM  
2nd floor community room at Thrall

Join us and listen to Chris, a master storyteller, share secrets about Oscar winners and losers, including Bette Davis, James Cagney, Joan Crawford, Robert Duvall, Whoopi Goldberg, Tom Cruise, Cary Grant, Lillian Gish, and Mae West. This is a free program and light refreshments will be served. For more information please contact (845) 341-5479.

Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. Present

## A Vocal and Instrumental Extravaganza

The 2006 Winter Concert  
at Middletown Thrall Library  
Starring Brooklyn Baroque.

February 12th, 2 PM  
2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall

This event is free. Refreshments will be served.

## NEW ITEMS IN LOCAL HISTORY

Here are some of our most recent additions to the Local History Collection:

*I Grew Up On A Farm* by Alan K. Lewis  
*The New York, Ontario & Western Railway's Middletown Branch: Part One*  
*Images of America: Newburgh, The Heart of the City* by Patricia Favata  
*Shawangunk Place-Names* by Marc B. Fried  
*Images of America: The Delaware & Hudson Canal & the Gravity Railroad* by Matthew M. Osterberg  
*Images of America: Vernon Township* by Ronald Dupont  
*Historic Hudson: An Architectural Portrait* by Byrne Fone  
*The Catskill Park: Inside the Blue Line* by Norman J. Van Valkenburgh and Christopher W. Olney  
*Kaaterskill Clove: Where Nature Met Art* by Raymond Beecher  
*Images of America: Sussex County* by Wayne T. McCabe  
*A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors* by Franklin Carter Smith & Emily Anne Croom  
*Genealogical Data From Colonial New York Newspapers Ancestors of Orange County, New York* by D. G. Van Curen

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**Three to Get Ready - Age 3:** Stories, songs, finger plays, and/or games. Mondays, 10:30 am - 11 am. Starts Monday, Jan 30th. Limit 12.

**Now We Are Four - Age 4:** Stories, crafts, songs, and/or games. Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 11 am. Starts Wednesday, Feb 1st. Limit 12.

**Moving Up - Ages 5 - 7:** Stories, crafts, and/or games generally based on a theme. Wednesdays 4:15 - 5 pm. Starts Wednesday, Feb. 1st. Limit 16.

**Exploring - Ages 8 - 11:** Fiction and nonfiction stories, discussion and/or crafts. Thursdays, 4:15 - 5 pm. Starts Thursday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Limit 12.

**Friday Afternoon Movies - Movies based on books:**  
Friday, Feb. 17, 2 pm and Friday, Mar. 17, 2 pm.

**Come Draw with Me: Saturdays, Ages 7 - 12:**  
February 18th, 12 - 1 pm: Artist James Turner - Weather  
March 18th, 1 - 2 pm: Drawing Elephants  
April 8th, 1 - 2 pm: Drawing Dogs and Cats

Please call 341-5470 for more information on these events.