

# *Thrall Library Times*

## *Information & Events at Middletown Thrall Library*

WINTER 2009 EDITION

Published February 6, 2009

*"Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart."* Victor Hugo

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

#### **Big Changes on the First Floor**

The Union News stand, one of the links to the original Erie Railroad train station, was moved from its previous location in the middle of the main floor to a new position against the wall of the original building. At the same time as that move, a piece of the Circulation Desk (which formerly served as the registration area for new library card applications) was relocated to become part of the Reference area. This resulted in a much more attractive and uniform look for the entire Reference service area. The move was made to gain additional space for shelving for DVDs, which will be added within the Union News stand. Thanks to your support and support from the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, the DVD collection has grown significantly in recent years. We also plan to purchase additional, medium height shelving for the area where the Union News formerly stood. That shelving will be used to allow for additional growth in other areas of the collection.

#### **2008 Was a Busy Year!**

2008 saw significant gains in every element of library use. Borrowing totals for all kinds of materials, both adult and children's, was up. Reference use was up. We recorded a new high for the number of hits on the library's website ([www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)) with more than 1,464,000 being registered. In-house use of materials was also up. Middletown Thrall Library has been Orange County's busiest public library for many years.

### **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  
Fri: 9 AM - 6 PM Sat: 10 AM – 5 PM Sun : 1 – 5 PM

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Librarians: 341-5461  
Youth Services: 341-5470 Local History: 341-5483

**For more news and free services please go to [www.Thrall.org](http://www.Thrall.org)**

(From the Library Director – Continued)

#### **NYS Library Aid Likely to Decrease This Year**

From all indications, it appears very likely that state aid to public libraries will decline in 2009. Our state aid is actually a very small portion of the operating budget, less than one-half of one percent, based up the current aid formula of .31 per capita for the chartered population of the library district. The bigger impact of a cut in state aid will be felt by New York's numerous library systems, which are almost entirely funded by state aid. The Governor's proposed budget cuts aid by 18%, which is a much deeper cut than other segments of the budget are facing. If that cut is approved by the Legislature, it would leave state library aid at approximately the same level as seen in 1993. It is highly likely that local library systems, like the Ramapo Catskill Library System, will look to impose fees for their services upon public library members to make up the difference. Such fees, if implemented, could lead to increases in local library taxes.

### **FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE** MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES

#### **REFERENCE TELEPHONES**

Thrall's telephone system was recently upgraded, and some numbers were converted to extensions. To reach any Reference persons below, please dial **(845) 341-5454**, wait until the welcome message begins, then dial an extension:

<b>Head of Reference Services</b>	<b>5467</b>
<b>Government Information</b>	<b>5465</b>
<b>Local History</b>	<b>5483</b>
<b>Adult Programs Coordinator</b>	<b>5479</b>

The main Reference Desk telephone remains unchanged at **341-5461**. While our 341-5462 number is no longer in service, we still have two telephones at Reference to ensure you can still get through to one of our librarians.

#### **SPECIAL COVERAGE: JOBS & UNEMPLOYMENT**

Our latest web guide focuses on jobs, job loss, finding new jobs, unemployment, and related topics. The guide can be accessed at Thrall or our website ([www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)) through our **Special Coverage Center** ([www.thrall.org/special](http://www.thrall.org/special)). Included in the guide are links to job-related items in our library system. Also try our **InterJob Search** service ([www.thrall.org/jobs](http://www.thrall.org/jobs)) for job searches, resume tips, and other information that can help you find new opportunities.

(From the Head of Reference – continued)

## **GOING BEYOND THE BOX OFFICE!**

Thrall has a new, freely available, quarterly publication called "Beyond the Box Office." Each issue highlights a variety of interesting or little-known films from our video collections. It is hoped this publication can help you move beyond the usual Hollywood box office fare and discover some cinematic gems. Copies are available by Reference and our DVD collections.

An online edition of this publication also exists in our blogs (at [www.thrall.org/blogs](http://www.thrall.org/blogs) or [www.thrall.org/btbo](http://www.thrall.org/btbo)). You can click on any movie title to find it in the library catalog and request it, if you wish.

If you would like more assistance in finding some films, we also have movie guides in print as well as access to movie databases and reviews at the library.

## **INTRODUCING THE "FEED OF FEEDS"**

Thrall's blogs ([www.thrall.org/blogs](http://www.thrall.org/blogs)) contain a constant variety of important and interesting news, and you already have the option of being able to subscribe to any of our individual blogs, such as *Booklovers*, *Library Programs*, or *Science & Technology*.

Our newest subscription option is the "Feed of Feeds," an RSS feed featuring headlines from all of our blogs. The feed is updated whenever our blogs are updated.

To subscribe to the new feed, simply go to our Blogs page (or click on the Blogs link on our home page) and scroll down to the Subscription section for simple instructions.

**From the Government Information Librarian  
Karen A. Heil**

## **"Where is it now?"**

A new President, a new Administration and a new look for the White House website ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)). It's fresh, timely (including lots of video and audio) and interactive (highlighting a Blog). Now that digital information is quickly taking the place of paper, what happens to documents from past administrations? If you missed the "100 Things Americans May Not Know About the Bush Administration Record," featured on the White House website on January 19th, but not the 20th, all is not lost. The National Archives ([www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)) is responsible for keeping historical information from disappearing. Through their link to the Presidential Libraries, one can access historical materials from Herbert Hoover to George W. Bush. The most current includes a "snap shot" of the recent past (and White House website): [georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov) Living in the moment is all the style, but forgetting our past would be a terrible loss!

# **"FAVORITE FICTION"**

## **OUR SPRING 2009 BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES**

This book discussion series highlights some favorite novels from some of our favorite scholars. (We might also discover other titles that are scholar favorites.) With these examples of good literature we are given an opportunity to transcend ourselves – our time, our place, our backgrounds to discover characters of depth and substance. Join us and read any or all of these titles and see if you agree with the scholars' choices:

*The Hamlet* by William Faulkner  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by David McTamane

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Mary Makofske

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
**Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Chris Godwin

*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 7 - 9 PM**  
Presented by Peggy Abt

All programs are free, and refreshments, courtesy of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. will be served.

Copies of each book can be requested at any time and in any order you wish using your RCLS library card. We will have copies of each book at Thrall about three weeks before each discussion. When available we will also try to have copies of each title in different formats – large print, book on CD or cassette. For more information, please call (845) 341-5454, ext. 5479.

## **Children's Programs in 2009**

Come to the Children's Department or call (845) 341-5470 for information on upcoming programs, such as Story Hour, "Come Draw with Me," crafts, and more. Program dates are also posted in our blogs: [www.thrall.org/blogs](http://www.thrall.org/blogs)

## **"Gravikord Duo"**

A Free Music Concert at Thrall!  
**February 22, 2008, 2 PM**

The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. present "Gravikord Duo." This group will perform contemporary, folk, traditional, and Celtic music. The concert will be held in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall. A statement from the performers: "This program is made possible, in part, with funds from Orange County Tourism, Orange County Arts, and the County of Orange." This event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.