

# Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

## Winter 2018 Edition

"Yet, taught by time, my heart has learned to glow for other's good, and melt at other's Woe." - Homer, *Odyssey*

### From Our Library Director Matt Pfisterer

#### Our Library Receives a "Bullet Aid" Grant

The Library would like to express our thanks to **NYS Senator John J. Bonacic** who secured a New York State Bullet Aid Grant for the Library in the amount of \$3,000.

These funds have been used to purchase **new furniture and computer equipment** that will improve the quality of our visitors' experiences at the Library.

We have added **three new computer workstations** located in the Library's first floor **Reference** section. These computer workstations will allow people to complete a variety of word processing tasks such as updating a resume or completing school assignments.

We have also added a number of **comfortable cushioned chairs** to the **quiet reading area** and in the first floor adult Fiction and Non-Fiction areas located on the Library's first floor for people who want to spend some relaxing time browsing the collection

We will also be adding an **additional table and seating capacity** to the first floor reading room for people who want to browse our newspaper and magazine collection or tap into our **free Wi-Fi** with their own personal computing devices.

We hope these improvements will allow you to continue to make the best use of your time while visiting the library.

### Middletown Thrall Library

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

#### Winter - Spring Library Hours

Mon.-Thurs.: 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: 341-5454, ext. 5479

Adult Events Coordinator: 341-5483

For more library news and free services,  
please visit [www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)

### From Our Head of Reference Services Mary Susan Flannery Climes

#### Algorithms + Artificial Intelligence (AI) [www.thrall.org/aai](http://www.thrall.org/aai)

As "intelligent" computers are an increasing part of daily life, it is important to be aware of emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence** and to learn how the *many* algorithms already out there are influencing our world in subtle or surprising ways. To help you keep pace with these concepts and technologies, we have established an online informational guide with in-depth media coverage at the website above.

#### Quality Care

As part of our daily mission at Reference, we endeavor to connect you with the highest quality sources and services available to us. We don't just do quick Internet searches because we know *you* deserve better and we *can* do better than rely on generalized Web search engines full of questionable or outdated content. Search engines simply show you results based on what you type or say. We go *beyond* that because we actually care about the *quality* of information *you* encounter, from library collections we develop for your needs and interests to *all* aspects of our traditional and modern Reference services and resources. The next time you need some information or guidance on a topic, please consider **asking a librarian**. While we'd be delighted to meet you *in person*, you can also call us at **341-5461** when the library is open or ask us **online** ([www.thrall.org/ask](http://www.thrall.org/ask)).

#### Microsoft Office, Research Tools, & More on Our New Public Workstations

We have **three new** dedicated research + word processing workstations with extensive offerings: **Microsoft Office** (*Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, Access*), **LibreOffice**, **GIMP** image editor, a **Resume Generator**, easy access to all our **databases, encyclopedias, community organizations, educational and critical thinking resources, government information, WestLaw, Chilton Manuals**, and *so much more!* We also have a **new Jobs PC** for the public, offering *Microsoft Office*, a dedicated guide to employment opportunities and career-development resources, and more.

#### Free Lessons: Piano, Guitar, Vocal, Art, More! [www.thrall.org/aw](http://www.thrall.org/aw)

**ArtistWorks** is **free** to Thrall members! Simply visit the site above, create your free account, and **learn at your leisure** through high-quality videos from award-winning performers. Many **musical instruments** and **styles** are covered: bass, banjo, saxophone, percussion, violin, classical, rock, jazz, bluegrass, and more. Watch lessons at *any time*, coming and going as you please! Sample just one, for starters, or go ahead and *enjoy them all*, from beginner levels to *advanced!*

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

Would you *really* like to know **what's happening in Congress?** You can get some insight by taking a look at the Bills each House of Congress is proposing.

The **Library of Congress** provides a service called **Most-Viewed Bills**. Each week an updated list shows Bill numbers and titles. By clicking on the Bill Number you can read a summary or full text of the Bill, discover its sponsors and cosponsors, committees and latest actions as well as any related Bills and amendments.

You can explore Most Viewed Bills online via this link...  
<https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/Most-Viewed+Bills>  
and/or you can use this link to subscribe to RSS/e-mail alerts:  
<https://www.congress.gov/rss>

The **numbers** reflect from **which house the Bill originates**. For example, S.1615 Dream Act of 2017 is from the **Senate** and H.R. 4760 Securing America's Future Act of 2018 is from the **House of Representatives**.

As you can see, these Bills reflect current **Hot items in the news**. In celebration of **Black History Month** is **H.R. 1242 400 Years of African American History Commission Act**.

Other topics, such as the controversy over legalization of marijuana, is addressed in H.R. 1227 Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017.

You can check **what legislation your own representatives are sponsoring** or how successful or *unsuccessful* a Bill has become. Check it out yourself and *become informed!*

## Free Public Events at Middletown Thrall Library

These **events** will be held in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
**Community Room** (unless otherwise noted):

**Afternoon Movie: *The Big Sick***  
Feb. 21, 2018, 3 PM  
Rated R. 119 minutes.

**Kayaking: How to Get Started**  
April 26, 2018, 6 PM - 7:30 PM  
Presented by the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

**1959 The Year that Changed Jazz**  
Presented by Rick Feingold  
February 20, 2018, 6PM

**Past Life Regression Workshop**  
Presented by Lisa Ann  
April 12, 2018, 6 PM. Please register: 341-5483.

**Planning & Developing Your Product**  
Presented by Steven Lindner  
**One-time \$5 materials fee.** Please call 341-5483 for dates, times, **required registration.** Workshops begin on **April 14.**

**Remarkable Reads Book Discussion**  
Presented by Matt Pfisterer  
**Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, 3 PM**  
We will discuss ***Truly Madly Guilty*** by Liane Moriarty. Free copies of this book available for **borrowing** or **reserving** at Thrall.

**More events coming soon!** Please visit our website at [www.thrall.org/events](http://www.thrall.org/events) for the latest details. You can also call our **Adult Program Coordinator** at 341-5483 for more details.

## Children's Events

To **register** for certain events  
or for **more information**, please visit  
our **Children's Dept.** or call us at 341-5470.  
**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!**

### Learn how to Knit on a LOOM!

**Mondays, 6 PM - 7:45 PM** over **four sessions:**

**Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, March 19**  
in the **Story Time Room**

Please call 341-5470 to register.

### Private Classes Now Available!

You've asked, and we delivered! We now offer private sessions on **learning how to knit or crochet!**

**When? What time?** Just call us at 341-5470 and set up a appointment for one-on-one instruction!

**It's simple and FREE!!! For ages 8 and up.**

### Story Time 2018

Our Story Time cycle starts **Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018**  
and concludes **Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2018.**

Choose between...

1. **"First Step" Storytime**  
Ages 18 months - 35 months  
Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:00 AM  
In the Story Time Room. **No registration.**
2. **"Explorers"**  
Story Time & Craft Ages 3 & 4  
Wednesdays, 10:15 - 10:45 AM  
In the Story Time Room. **Registration required.**

### Homeschooler's Science Club

Our Homeschooler's Science Club will meet  
on the **third Friday of the month,**  
**1:30 PM - 3:30 PM,** in our 2nd Floor  
**Community Room at Thrall:**

February 9, 2018      March 16, 2018      April 20, 2018  
May 18, 2018      June 15, 2018

### Homework Help

Homework Help runs **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**  
(**4 PM - 7 PM**) and also **Wednesdays (5-7 PM)**  
in the **Story Time Room** at Middletown Thrall Library.

We will **not meet** from **March 26 - March 30, 2018.**

Homework Help resumes on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**  
and concludes on **Thursday, June 7, 2018.**

**Homework Help 2018 ends on June 7, 2018.**

For **students in grades 1 to 6.**  
**FREE! No registration** is required.

### Spanish Story Time

Ms. Hanna read some favorite stories in Spanish!

**No registration** required.

**Session 1:** Ages 2-5, 11 - 11:30 AM.

**Session 2:** Ages 6 -12. 11:30 AM – 12 pm.