

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

Winter 2012 Issue

"One kind word can warm three winter months" – Japanese Proverb

From Matt Pfisterer Director of Middletown Thrall Library

Winter 2012 is upon us, but fortunately we have experienced milder temperatures than normal thus far and we have avoided the severe storms and extremely cold temperatures that we experienced last winter.

We have planned some great programs this winter, and Thrall Library is the perfect place to shake off the winter blues by coming to the Library for some great adult programs:

- **Afternoon Movies for Adults** – Great Hollywood movies shown in the 2nd floor Community Room on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All movies are free and begin at **2:00 PM**. Upcoming dates are **March 21st**, **April 18th**, and **May 16th**. We do not publicize movie titles outside of the Library due to licensing restrictions, but you can call the Library to find out each month's title.
- **Real Eclectic Film Series 2012** - "Reel Eclectic" is Middletown Thrall Library's year-long art / independent / international film festival. Throughout this series we present thought-provoking, unique, and critically-acclaimed films, many of which are international in scope. If mature entertainment of a truly different order is what you crave, this series should appeal to you! The next few series dates are **March 1st**, **April 5th**, and **May 3rd**. All movies are shown in the library's second floor Community Room on the first Thursday of each month. Admission is free and all movies begin at **7:00 PM**. Please call the Library to find out each month's film title.

So here's to a mild winter made warmer by quality programs at the Library!

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MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

Matt Pfisterer, Library Director

Fall 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

Adult Programs and Book Discussions: 341-5485

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

(From the Director continued)

And, since we are talking about winter: if you want the most up to date information regarding the status of the library during inclement weather, call the Library at (845) 341-5454.

You can also check out the Library website, www.Thrall.org (click on the link for **Closings/Delays** on the upper most right side of the home page) or listen to Cumulus media radio stations WALL-AM 1340, WRRV-FM 92.7 OR FM 96.9, WPDH-FM 101.5, or WPDA FM 106.1, WZAD-FM 97.3, WCZX FM 97.7.

From Our Head of Reference Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Library System Transition: A Progress Report

Over the past several weeks, the library system (RCLS) completed its transition from the old *Horizon* library software to a new system called *Symphony*.

Beyond the expected share of initial technical glitches and the very human challenges involved in adjusting to a new system, we are happy to report on some of the more *positive* and *exciting* aspects of this transition:

- Free telephone notifications of reserves are now available! A robot will call you to let you know if a book you requested has arrived at the library.
- If you prefer, you can also opt to receive free e-mail notices instead. Please inquire at Reference about this.
- You can now pick up requested items at *any* RCLS library you want! Just indicate which library you prefer when reserving an item - either when you are online (at the "Place Holds" prompt in the catalog) or when you visit the Reference desk and ask a librarian to reserve an item.

Also, we (Thrall) established new search and browse options in our *own* entrance page to the catalog. For example:

- You can limit searches to "newest items" (under Date) or select a year or decade (1990s, 1980s, etc.).
- You can limit searches to *Large Print* items.
- Looking for music CDs? There's an option for that as well.
- Our Children's Catalog and Young Adults catalog entrance pages enable you to search expressly for Juvenile, Picture Books, or YA items and set the catalog into Children's or YA mode as you continue to search from those points.

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If you "bookmarked" any old catalog pages, such as the old Library Account login page or *AquaBrowser*, please delete those outdated "bookmarks" (or "Favorites") and consider creating *new* bookmarks for either our library home page (www.thrall.org) or main catalog entrance page so you can quickly reach the new catalog and our library services.

We updated our own "OpenSearch plugins" so Firefox and Internet Explorer users can access the new catalog (along with many of our other services) directly through their browsers. For more on this: [http:// thrall.org/addsearches](http://thrall.org/addsearches)

While the RCLS transition is technically "over," we still welcome your feedback and inquiries about RCLS's new catalog. If you have any questions, technical difficulties, or comments, please feel free to visit or call our Reference Department or to ask our librarians a question online.

Special Coverage Center Update: Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)

Learn more about the recently proposed SOPA act, issues it involves, and various perspectives on the proposition in our **Special Coverage Center** at www.thrall.org/special

Open Meetings & Public Documents www.thrall.org/pubdocs

As per the recent New York State law, Thrall provides free access to meeting-related documents, such as agendas, minutes, and other related information at the above website.

Two Great New Online Services Available to Members of Thrall!

1. **Testing & Education Reference Center** helps you prepare for exams, high school and college tests, financial aid applications, graduate school exams, resume writing, and career choices. In addition to over 300 practice tests and courses, you can take practice tests for GED, AP, CLEP, ACT, GRE, LSAT, PSAT, SAT, MCAT, TOEFL (among many others), search for scholarships, explore universities, consider career moves, and much more.

2. **Chilton Library** (which takes the place of our *Auto Repair Reference Center* subscription) provides maintenance, repair, and service information on vehicles, including cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs (domestic *and* foreign). Also included: diagnostic trouble codes, step-by-step diagrams, troubleshooting guides, specifications, videos and animations of procedures and system operations, close-up photographs and illustrations, and a "parts finder" integrated with *eBay Motors*. This database is updated monthly!

Access either free service through our **Databases** page:

- from any of our **public Internet or research workstations**
- or through our **home page** (via the **Databases** menu)
- by going to www.thrall.org/databases and clicking on either **Online Learning** or **Auto Repair**.

When *outside* the library, you must log into each of these databases with the **number** on your **Thrall Library card**.

In Celebration of Black History Month

The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. Present

Kofi & Sankofa: African Drum & Dance

Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2 PM

at Middletown Thrall Library, 2nd Floor Community Room

"Our performances generate a community spirit of sharing, oneness, joy and love, where everyone gets involved."

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

From the Local History Department: Recent Additions to Our Collections

Lost Towns of the Hudson Valley

Dutch New York: The Roots of Hudson Valley Culture

Hudson River Valley Farms

Images of America: Around Crawford

America's First River: History & Culture of the Hudson River Valley

The Tappan Zee Bridge and the Forging of the Rockland Suburb

So Many Brave Men: A History of the Battle at Minisink Ford

Images of America: Village of Montgomery

Jane Colden: America's First Woman Botanist

Diners of New York

Images of America: Middletown & Unionville Railroad

Lost Arrowheads and Broken Pottery

Landscape Gardens on the Hudson: A History

Women of the Catskills

Rural Life in the Hudson River Valley 1880-1920

Remembering the NY O&W Railway: Oswego to Sidney & Branches

For more additions, please visit thrall.org/localhistory

From Youth Services...

New eBooks for Children & Young Adults

www.thrall.org/ebooks

Thrall now offers (independently of the regular RCLS eBooks service) a number of online titles for children and young adults. You can reach these new eBooks at the above link or by clicking on the **eBooks** link on our home page (www.thrall.org).

These eBooks are *always* available: no checkouts, no waiting, no downloading! No extra software is required (just the free *Adobe Flash Player* from www.Adobe.com). Some books are interactive, animated, and can contain sounds or music. These eBooks are free to all members of Thrall!

Meet Sasha, the Therapy Dog!

Tuesdays (4:15 - 5:15 PM) on March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd in the Children's Department. For ages 6 and up. Registration required. Please call (845) 341-5470 for more details.

Game Days at Thrall

Join us for Game Days the **first Friday of each month from 4 PM to 6 PM: March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, October 5th, November 2nd, December 7th**. We will have games for *all* ages!

Free Knitting & Crochet Workshops

Learn about basic stitches, patterns, and more! Open to children age 8 and up, young adults, as well as adults. Our schedule is for the following dates on **Mondays, 6-7:45 PM: February 27th, March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd**.

"Come Draw with Me!"

On **Saturdays** for ages **7 to 12**. Limit of 15 members of Thrall Library. **Registration required**. Upcoming events:

- **March 10, 1 - 2 PM: "Castles"**
- **April 14, 1 - 2 PM: "Recycle, Reuse, Reduce Posters"**
- **May 12, 1 - 2 PM: "Lighthouses"**