

# Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library

## December 2010 Edition

"The library fueled all of my curiosities." Ray Bradbury

### From Kevin J. Gallagher

Director of Middletown Thrall Library

#### Moving Some Things Around

You might have noticed that the VHS tape collection has gotten somewhat smaller in recent weeks. Library staff weeded out titles that have not circulated in recent years. Remaining tapes were moved to taller shelves behind the microfilm / fiche readers on the first floor. Shelves previously housing VHS tapes now contain our adult Spanish-language collection. Space gained will help us expand our books on CD and other collections.

#### Behind the Scenes

Patrons usually don't realize all of the things that are going on in the building besides maintaining our collections, answering reference questions, checking out materials, and other public services. However, there is a lot of maintenance involved with a large building open as many hours as Thrall is each week.

In recent weeks we have had work done on various parts of the sprinkler system, elevator, installed new shelves, repaired some exterior wood trim, and had some door locks repaired. The building is now more than 15 years old and does require ongoing maintenance as part of each year's budget. The Board of Trustees and custodial staff work hard to ensure that the community's investment in Middletown Thrall Library is well-maintained.

(continued)

(Director's comments continued)

#### Job Search Computer Usage Remains High

There is steady, daily use of the Job Search computer on the first floor by individuals filling out online applications, updating resumes, developing letters of application, and more. The computer was purchased by the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library. If you need a computer to help with any of these aspects of your job search, please stop at the Reference Desk to sign up for a session.

#### 2011 Library District Budget Passed

The proposed 2011 budget for the Thrall Public Library District of Middletown & Walkill was passed by a vote of 114-36 in the vote held on Tuesday, October 5th. Our thanks to the community for your continuing support of Orange County's busiest public library!

#### Announcing My Retirement

During my tenure, the library was moved from its original, and much smaller, location on Orchard St. to the Middletown Thrall Library building. The library has subsequently become the busiest in Orange County.

The library also has become a leader within the region for reference and electronic services. Since the opening of Middletown Thrall Library in February of 1995 the collection size has quadrupled; public computers were added, and increased in number through the years; a year-round series of programs for all ages was established; and library cardholders increased significantly.

All of these steps are thanks to wonderful support from the staff, the community, and the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library.

I want to thank the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve as Director. I'd also like to thank the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library for their tremendous, and ongoing, support for all that the library does.

Finally, I want to express special gratitude to the outstanding dedicated staff. It's been a pleasure to work with all of you through the years.

- Kevin J. Gallagher

### Middletown Thrall Library

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

**Kevin J. Gallagher, Director** (Retiring, Dec. 2010)

**Matthew Pfisterer, Director** (January 2011)

**Library 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:** 341-5454, ext. 5479

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

(Director's comments continued)

### ***A New Library Director***

Following an extensive search, Matthew Pfisterer has been appointed as the new Middletown Thrall Library Director. Mr. Pfisterer will start his new duties on January 3, 2011.

Prior to accepting this position, he has served as the Library Director of the Sarah Hull Hallock Library in Milton, NY, and as the Library Director of the Grinnell Library Association in Wappingers Falls, NY.

The Board of Trustees of the Thrall Public Library District of Middletown and Walkkill and the library staff welcome Matt to Middletown.

### **From the Staff at Middletown Thrall Library: *Thank You, Kevin! Welcome, Matt!***

We wish to express our gratitude and best wishes to our Library Director, Kevin J. Gallagher, who will retire in December 2010.

Kevin, we deeply appreciate your many years of public service, your dedication to our community, your belief in and respect for your staff's roles and capabilities, your forthrightness and immediacy in all of Thrall's matters, your extensive knowledge of libraries and your abilities to meet all related challenges, your involvement in helping the library become a proven leader within and beyond the Ramapo Catskill Library System, your advocacy of information access in all forms, your openmindedness and willingness to consider your colleagues' concerns, your assistance in the home delivery program, and (neither last nor least) your excellent sense of humor.

We wish you and your family the very best in all the coming years! "May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back..."

Thrall's crew also wishes to welcome aboard our new Director, Matt Pfisterer!

We look forward to continuing our collective efforts with you at the helm of our sturdy ship!

And, just like that, two new voyages are set to embark! Smooth sailing to all!

### **"Reel Eclectic Film" Series: 2011 Schedule**

Our series of independent and international films continues in 2011 on the following dates at **7 PM**:

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

### **"Afternoon Movies for Grown-Ups" 2011**

Our series of "something for everyone" films continues in 2011 on the following dates at **2 PM**:

January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20,  
May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21,  
October 19, November 16, December 21.

## **Holiday Music Event!**

Middletown Thrall Library's Youth Department invites everyone to "Celebrate the Seasons with The Marvelous Musical Martins" on Sat., Dec. 11, at 2 PM. Enjoy vocals, instruments, and bells as many holiday favorites are performed! This program, sponsored by The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc., will be held in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Middletown Thrall Library. All ages welcome!

## **From the Head of Reference Mary Susan Flannery Climes**

### **Finkelstein Memorial Library**

The Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS) catalog includes items available at Thrall and nearly 50 other libraries. Finkelstein, one of the larger libraries in RCLS, now uses a different catalog. If you need an item from Finkelstein (or any other library in or beyond RCLS), please feel free to inquire at Reference.

## **New at Our Special Coverage Center: Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking")**

Access at: <http://www.thrall.org/special>

Our **Special Coverage Center** now contains information, news, and perspectives on the practice of "hydraulic fracturing," a process used to extract natural gas for energy. You can use our guide to learn about the debates concerning this subject

## **eBooks & eAudiobooks**

Access at: <http://www.thrall.org/ebooks>

We established a new entrance page for the eBooks (electronic books) catalog. The new page centralizes all the information you need to start enjoying the eBooks service. You can browse eBooks by topic, format, and other criteria. You can also explore other free eBook providers elsewhere on the Internet.

## **"Ref Is Ready!"**

Access at:  
<http://www.thrall.org/ref>

Our **Ready Reference Center** ([www.thrall.org/readyref](http://www.thrall.org/readyref)) is a popular destination for researchers at our website. The RRC contains Internet and library catalog links for a wide variety of subjects.

We created a new edition of the RRC for children. The new site (**"Ref Is Ready"**) offers links to "homework helper" websites and lets you browse the library system for related books and videos.

There's also a built-in trivia game! We hope you find "Ref Is Ready" a fun and useful guide to information!

