

THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

Information and Events at Middletown Thrall Library

- PUBLISHED JUNE 28, 2007 -

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." - Arthur C. Clarke

FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library District Receives Grant from Assemblywoman Gunther

The Thrall Public Library District recently received a state grant to assist with library collection development and programs through the efforts of Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther. It will be used to purchase new materials for our patrons.

This support from the state helps to supplement our acquisitions budget. Assemblywoman Gunther has been a strong supporter of public libraries and their programs for many years. An earlier grant achieved with her assistance helped to provide the extensive variety of summer programs that were offered for children and their parents in 2006.

A Big Thanks to the Middletown Lions Club

The Middletown Lions Club recently presented a check to the library district in memory of Charles "Rock" Hardy and G. Ed Maly. The check will be used to purchase new adult large print materials to help expand our collection. Demand for large print materials has been increasing steadily in recent years.

The Middletown Lions Club has had a long history of support for the library, which has been greatly appreciated over the 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

Library Hours of Operation

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

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

(Summer: Saturdays, 10 - 2 pm; Sundays, Closed)

Main Desk: (845) 341-5454 Reference Librarians: 341-5461

Children's Dept.: 341-5470 Local History: 341-5483

For more news and free services go to www.Thrall.org

("From the Library Director" continued)

State Considering Increase in Library Aid

As of this writing, the Governor and legislators are in discussions concerning the 2007 NYS budget, which could include one of the biggest increases in direct aid to public libraries in decades. As proposed in legislation supported by the library Board of Trustees and the NY Library Association, basic library aid for public libraries would increase by 66%. In the case of Middletown Thrall Library, state aid could increase from \$14,747 to \$24,480. Aid for public library systems would also increase under the proposal. While state aid is a small portion of the library district's operating budget, less than one-half of one percent, any increase would be welcomed.

Yet More Support from the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc.

The Friends of MTL Board approved the following funding requests from library staff members at their March meeting. The purchase of the Encyclopedia of American Folklore for the Adult Reference collection; new shelving for the Circulation Desk area to help with storage of the expanding DVD collection; support for two speakers for public programs that will be offered in conjunction with the library's hosting of the national touring exhibit *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America*, which will be hosted by the library during the month of June. The library staff and Board of Trustees once again say thanks to the Friends!

"We the People Bookshelf" Awarded to Thrall

The library has just received notification from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities that it will be receiving the 20 volume *We the People Bookshelf* for 2007. This annual program is designed to expand people's exposure to classic literary works from a variety of authors and ethnic experiences.

Among the titles included in this year's collection are: *Aesop's Fables*; *The Great Gatsby*; *Esperanza Rising*; *The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung*; *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *A Wrinkle in Time*; and many more. All of the titles will be available for borrowing. This award was secured through the efforts of Bridget Manigo, Head of Youth Services.

New at Thrall.org: Blogs!

As part of our ongoing mission to make new and notable information in all its forms easily available to you, we have created a blog section at our library's website.

What's a blog? The word "blog" is short for "web log," a place where information, arranged usually around a specific theme, is posted at a website. Each post contains information, and posts are usually listed in chronological order, often with the most recent item displayed first.

Some blogs on the web are casually conducted by their creators, especially those preferring to entertain their readers. Other blogs are used to air strong opinions and perspectives on any number of issues.

Some blogs can be biased, misleading, or misguided. As is true of websites, anyone can create a blog and talk about anything that comes to mind.

Thrall's own blogs span a variety of topics we believe you might find interesting and information. Subjects covered include technology, the environment, government, health, and of course reading and research! Our blogs highlight freely available information available both in the library and on the Internet.

Whenever appropriate we will provide direct links to items in the library catalog so you may check their availability and even request an item to be held for you. Our librarians are always on the lookout for new information, and our blogs are updated regularly.

To explore this new service, please click the "blogs" link on the "News" line on our home page or select "Blogs" from the drop-down menu also on that page. You can also get there by going to www.thrall.org/blogs

A NEW FREE DIGITAL VIDEO SERVICE: MYLIBRARYDV

Thanks to a new subscription with Recorded Books, Middletown Thrall Library is pleased to invite its patrons to take advantage of a new and free video download service. From cooking programs to documentaries and full-length films, you have an ever-widening selection of items to explore for fun or knowledge.

To begin, please select the "Digital Videos" option from the drop-down menu on our home page or go to www.thrall.org/dv

Also worth noting is that there are even more freely downloadable videos available in the existing eBooks and eAudio books service, which you can reach by clicking the "eBooks" link at the top of our home page. You can also get there by going to www.thrall.org/ebooks

TRUE TO LIFE

Real Stories, Real People

Our Spring 2007 book discussion series continues throughout April and May. We invite you to join us to read, discuss or merely attend a fascinating scholar-led series featuring "real stories, real people". Here are the remaining dates and titles to be discussed:

April 24, 7-9 PM: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

May 8, 7-9 PM: *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt

For books, a copy of our program flyer, or more information, please e-mail us at thrall16@warwick.net or call 341-5479.

"REEL ECLECTIC" Film Series

Our popular and varied art and foreign film series called "Reel Eclectic" continues in May with "In the Land of Goshen," which will be presented on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Middletown Thrall Library. Attendance is free.

This documentary, produced and directed by Mark Doerrier, is in English and runs for 83 minutes. The director will be present to answer questions and share his thoughts at the conclusion of the program.

Join us throughout 2007 as our series offers you even more cinematic variety:

June 7th, July 5th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th
Oct. 4th, Nov. 1st, Dec. 6th

**Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. Present
Classical Guitarist Kevin Hubbard
Performing Sunday, May 6th at 2 PM**
in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall

We invite you to join us for an uplifting and relaxing afternoon of beautiful music at Middletown Thrall Library. This free concert is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

The Man Who Made Modern America

Historical Exhibit Coming June 2007

Middletown Thrall Library is honored to host the national traveling exhibit *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America* sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City. This exhibit and life size Hamilton/Burr statues will be displayed at the library from June 1 to June 30, 2007. Dr. Robert McDonald, Professor of History, United States Military Academy at West Point will be our keynote speaker. For more information about this exhibit and upcoming programs to be held at the library, please visit our website at www.thrall.org/hamilton or contact the Adult Program Coordinator at 341-5479 or thrall16@warwick.net.