

Thrall Library Times

Information and Events at Middletown Thrall Library

F A L L 2 0 0 8 E D I T I O N

*“Autumn is the mellow season, and what we lose
in flowers we more than gain in fruits..” Samuel Butler*

FROM KEVIN J. GALLAGHER
MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Library Budget & Trustee Vote October 7, 2008

The public vote on the proposed 2009 library district budget and election of trustees will be held from 8:00am to 8:00pm on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. The polling place will be in the Reading Room of Middletown Thrall Library. All registered voters in the Thrall Public Library District are eligible to vote.

The proposed operating budget for next year is \$2,842,332, an increase of only 1.7% over this year. The proposed tax levy of \$2,421,312 goes up only 2.5%. These are the lowest increases in many years. The Board of Trustees has reviewed the proposed budget with consideration of the difficult economic times facing all of our taxpayers. The budget also takes into account significantly increased use of the library so far this year. As one example, borrowing of DVDs is up more than 25% over last year's figures.

There will be three candidates for three openings on the Board of Trustees. The two candidates with the highest totals will receive four-year terms. The third candidate will receive a one-year term. The individuals running for seats are Richard C. Bell; Barbara Kay; and Lois D. Ruckert.

You can pick up a copy of the proposed budget in the library or view the information on our website at www.thrall.org/budget

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, NY 10940

KEVIN J. GALLAGHER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (845) 341-5485 E-mail: thrall7@warwick.net

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

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

FROM THE HEAD OF REFERENCE
MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES

A NEW LITERATURE INFORMATION GUIDE www.thrall.org/literature

Thrall's Literature information guide on the web has been thoroughly revised, updated, and expanded. Our new guide contains two sections: "Literature in the Library" and "Literature on the Web."

In the "Literature in the Library" section you will find categories including: Rediscovering Literature, How Literature is Classified, Classics in the Library Catalog, Databases & Virtual Reference Titles, and Literary Reference Materials in Print.

The "Classics in the Library Catalog" link leads to our Literature Explorer, where you will find convenient links to popular literary authors and titles. Clicking on any link in that area will direct you to the library catalog, where you can: determine if an item is available, request it be held for you, read summaries/chapter excerpts/reviews (for items that offer such information in the catalog), or locate other titles by an author or other books with similar topics

The "Reference Materials" section of our guide alludes to a number of materials you may consult in Middletown Thrall Library's Reference collections. Thrall has extensive volumes of literary criticism and many other reference materials covering all modes and movements of literature. We also have a number of comparable items in our circulating collections (in the 800s aisles).

Other sections include: "Databases," where you will find some of the most powerful literary research and discovery tools available to members of our library, and web guides highlighting some of the very best and most interesting literary sites on the Internet.

We encourage you to explore this truly epic resource and discover (or rediscover) some true literary treasures!

“ R E : F R E S H ! ”

AN INFORMATIVE NEW NEWSLETTER
FROM THRALL'S REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

To help you keep up with recent developments in Reference Department services and collections, as well as online and electronic resources news, we have created a newsletter called "Re:Fresh!" Copies are available at the library as well as on the web at www.thrall.org/refresh

THRALL DATABASES: IMPROVED & EXPANDED!

We have completely redesigned and expanded the Thrall Databases section of our website. In doing so, we wanted our patrons to have clear, easy, and comprehensive access to every database provided by or through Thrall. We also want our patrons to learn more about, and have instant access to, other related electronic resources available on any given research topic.

Each database now has its own dedicated web page with a detailed description of its main contents and any notable secondary features. Included are tips, other noteworthy navigational and technical information to help you learn and get more out of each database, and a "See Also" section allowing you to quickly access other related databases as well as specific web resources indexed in our web guides.

All databases can now be instantly and easily reachable from any other database page, listed by topic and alphabetically.

Our Virtual Reference Library (online editions of reference works and encyclopedias) are also now individually and instantly accessible. These are huge, multivolume works you can browse just like regular books or search.

We invest in these resources for your benefit, your informational empowerment, so please take advantage of these services. Databases contain very high quality articles and information you will not find elsewhere on the Internet. So, the next time you want to look something up, rather than trying your luck with a general web search engine, explore these databases and reference works instead!

You can reach our databases by clicking "Databases" on our home page or by going to www.thrall.org/databases

A NEW "24/7" REFERENCE SERVICE

Thanks to a Library Services Technology Act grant, our patrons have a new option when they need immediate reference help.

"Ask Us 24/7" is a cooperative virtual reference service that provides the ability to chat with a librarian (usually not a local one) online and receive one-on-one reference assistance.

For complete details, please go to www.thrall.org/247 or call our Reference Department at (845) 341-5461.

U.S. Presidential Election 2008 Guide

This is just a friendly reminder as the U.S. Presidential Election draws closer: in our "Special Coverage Center" (at www.thrall.org/special) we have a handy information guide you can use to learn more about the candidates, as well as their parties, platforms, and stances on specific issues (along with "fact checking" websites). We also feature information concerning voter registration, the Electoral College, and more. Just click the "Election 2008" link on our home page or go to thrall.org/election2008

From the Government Information Librarian...

November 4, 2008 is quickly approaching – ELECTION DAY – It's a serious time with serious issues. So let's take a short break and look at a few interesting tidbits. Where did the Democrat Donkey and the Republican Elephant come

from anyway? "When Andrew Jackson ran for president in 1828, his opponents tried to label him a "jackass" for his populist views and his slogan, "Let the people rule." Jackson, however, picked up on their name calling and turned it to his own advantage by using the donkey on his campaign posters." – from www.democrats.org



As for the Elephant, "This symbol of the party was born in the imagination of cartoonist Thomas Nast and first appeared in Harper's Weekly on November 7, 1874. An 1860 issue in Harper's Weekly connected elephants with Republicans, but it was Nast who provided the party with its symbol." – from www.gop.com

For a little more insight on the political process, see Herblock's History: Political Cartoons from the Crash to the Millennium, from the Library of Congress loc.gov/rr/print/swann/herblock "From the stock market crash in 1929 through the new millennium beginning in the year 2000, editorial cartoonist Herb Block has chronicled the nation's political history, caricaturing twelve American presidents from Herbert Hoover to Bill Clinton."

Be sure to vote this November 4th. If you need help with the voting process or are just interested in learning about the candidates try "Can I vote?" - www.canivote.org

THE EMPIRE STATE

Our Fall book discussion series features authors or stories with ties to New York State. Here is the schedule:

Tuesday, September 23rd, 7 - 9 PM: *Wait 'Til Next Year*

Tuesday, October 7th, 7 - 9 PM: *Invisible Man*

Tuesday, October 21st, 7 - 9 PM: *City of Light*

Wednesday, November 5th, 7 - 9 PM: *Entombed*

All programs are FREE, and light refreshments, courtesy of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc., will be served. Copies of books are available. For full program details, please call 341-5479 or see our Library Programs blog at www.thrall.org/blogs

"THE BIG READ"

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. This initiative is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

Seventeen libraries in Orange County, NY successfully applied for a grant from NEA to sponsor The Big Read. The Orange Librarians Association chose to read and discuss John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.

ALL events are FREE. We encourage everyone to attend events anywhere in the county, including these events in Middletown:

Sunday, September 28, 2008, 2 PM: Woody Guthrie Tribute Concert at the Paramount Theatre in Middletown.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008, 7 PM at Middletown Thrall Library: Keynote lecture by Chris Godwin.

Thursday, October 30, 2008, 7 PM: *The Grapes of Wrath* (film) at Thrall, introduced by Jim Givant.

For all programs in Orange County and complete details, call 341-5479, e-mail thrall16@warwick.net, or go to thrall.org/bigread