

THRALL LIBRARY TIMES

The Official Newsletter of Middletown Thrall Library

SPRING 2006 ISSUE

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune
– without the words, and never stops at all.” Emily Dickinson

FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR KEVIN J. GALLAGHER

Yes, We Have Friends!

The Friends of Middletown Thrall Library continue their hard work in support of the library through the sales in the bookstore, presentation of free public programs, and volunteer help with different projects. In case you wondered what gets purchased with the funds raised at the bookstore, here's a partial list of some of their recent approvals. A new microfilm/microfiche reader/printer for public use; a new CD display unit for the ever-expanding collection; funds for the Mattie Gaines Jazz Collection (which helps account for some of the expansion of the CD collection!); the reference set Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States; Children's Department program funding for "Come Draw With Me" and Arbor Day; and an upcoming adult program on flower arrangement, featuring Cathy Miller - who has prepared arrangements for several Presidents. The all-volunteer Friends of Middletown Thrall Library has been recognized as a recipient of the Daniel W. Casey Award as the outstanding Friends group in New York State.

A Big Thank-You to Our State Legislators for Supporting Increased NYS Library Aid

The NYS Legislature has approved increases in state library aid for the first time in several years. These increases, which had solid bi-partisan support in both houses, will help our library and area library systems. The increases (state-wide) are as follows: \$2,700,000 to give libraries and library systems credit for population increases reflected in the 2000 Census. (continued)

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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

Previously, per capita library aid was using the figures from the 1990 Census. The use of the earlier figures short-changed this library, and other libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System that had experienced dramatic population increases during the previous decade.

Additional increases include \$3,000,000 in support for basic library system operating aid and \$14,000,000 for library construction projects around the state.

We would like to thank Senators Larkin and Bonacic, and Assemblywomen Gunther and Rabbitt for their strong support for these needed increases in state library aid. It is now hoped that the increases will not be vetoed by the Governor as part of his review of the newly adopted budget.

FROM THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT MARY SUSAN FLANNERY CLIMES, HEAD OF REFERENCE

Something new to RAVE about!

RAVES! is a fresh, free, and fun service created entirely at Thrall for all adult readers. Craving something new to read? Or have you read a really good book you believe someone else might enjoy? Through RAVES!, our very own Readers Advisory service, you can discover fresh works of all kinds – fiction, nonfiction, and biographies – as well as share (or “rave about”) reading experiences with other readers. Search by author, title, keyword, subject, or genre, and then discover other titles by browsing subjects that interest you. RAVES! is updated regularly as new titles are entered. Thrall staff members are also contributing titles to the database for you to explore. If you're feeling adventurous, try the “Random Read” link for a randomly suggested title. RAVES! also allows you to comment on books others have read. If you find a book that interests you, you can click the library catalog link to automatically check if that book is available for borrowing somewhere in the library system. To access RAVES! go to www.thrall.org and click on the RAVES! link on our home page, or go directly to thrall.org/raves

New Thrall Documents on the Web

We create and publish a number of free informational handouts for the public at Thrall. Such items include our “Web Check List,” a guide to evaluating web sites, and “Critical Thinking Skills,” which suggests some ways you to evaluate information of any kind. These and other documents are now accessible online. Click on the “Library Documents” link on our home page (www.thrall.org) or go directly to www.thrall.org/docs to find them.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION LIBRARIAN

Do you ever wonder who, out there, might be watching over us? There is a government entity whose mission is to do just that, the GAO. What is the GAO? Here is their answer right from their website:

“Under recently passed legislation, we have changed our name from the General Accounting Office to the Government Accountability Office. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an agency that works for Congress and the American people. Congress asks GAO to study the programs and expenditures of the federal government. GAO, commonly called the investigative arm of Congress or the congressional watchdog, is independent and nonpartisan. It studies how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars. GAO advises Congress and the heads of executive agencies (such as Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, Department of Defense, DOD, and Health and Human Services, HHS) about ways to make government more effective and responsive. GAO evaluates federal programs, audits federal expenditures, and issues legal opinions. When GAO reports its findings to Congress, it recommends actions. Its work leads to laws and acts that improve government operations, and save billions of dollars.”

From the website - <http://www.gao.gov> – it is possible to read or request copies of the reports that are created. Here are some examples of titles: Energy Markets: Factors Contributing to Higher Gasoline Prices, Hurricane Katrina: GAO's Preliminary Observations Regarding Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, Identity Theft: Some Outreach Efforts to Promote Awareness of New Consumer Rights Are Under Way and Foreign Affairs: Agencies Have Improved the Intercountry Adoption Process, but Further Enhancements Are Needed.

It is even possible to receive email updates on recent releases. The site is searchable by date, topic, agency or keyword. Reports often contain background information and result summaries. With all the information overload out there, these reports often get down to basics.

Brooklyn Baroque Music Concert

The free music concert, originally scheduled for February 12, has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 7, 2 PM at Thrall in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Refreshments will be served.

Reel Eclectic: Cinema for Connoisseurs The 2006 Art & Foreign Film Series at Middletown Thrall Library

The next film in our series is *Day Break*. It will be shown on Thursday, May 4th, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Thrall. Other film dates for 2006: June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7. For more information please call 341-5479.

Elder Law 2006 May 3rd, 10 – 11 AM at Thrall

This program will be of special interest to seniors and to those adults and health care professionals who deal with the special needs of the elderly. Attendees at this FREE program will be given information by an elder law attorney on the purpose of powers of attorney, health care proxies and how they differ, and what insurance, pension, and financial documents should be maintained, and why a will is important. This public service program entitled 'Decision Making Day 2006' has been sponsored annually since 1995 by the Elder Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Handouts and sample documents will be given out to assist people in making informed decisions about important legal issues. For more information please call 341-5479.

Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc. Present the
4th Annual Edward M. Kurdyla Commemorative Program

Navajo Code Talkers Sunday, April 23, 2 PM at Thrall in the 2nd Floor Community Room

Join us as celebrated storyteller and writer Joseph Bruchac discusses the Navajo Code Talkers and their pivotal role in World War II. Learn how they helped the United States in the Pacific at Iwo Jima and more. The author will also have some of his books available at the event. This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

UP IN ARMS ORANGE COUNTY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Thursday, May 25th 7- 8 PM
2nd Floor Community Room
at Middletown Thrall Library

A Lecture by Louis V. Mills, Chair, Orange County Land Trust Founder and Former Orange County Executive and Richard W. Hull, Professor of History, NYU and Trustee Emeritus, Historical Society of the Town of Warwick, NY.

Discover radicals, loyalists, farmers, and citizen militias once here in Orange County during the Revolution. Learn of the lasting consequences of War in the Valley. This is a free public program with light refreshments. Please call 341-5479 for more details.

Shakespeare Book Discussion

with Special Guest Scholar David McTamane

Our Shakespeare book discussion series concludes with the following two free programs:

April 18th, 7 - 9 pm: *The Taming of the Shrew*
May 2nd, 7 - 9 pm: *Macbeth*

For more information please call 341-5479.