

Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

Spring 2015 Edition

"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day; / And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here / All simply in the springing of the year." - Robert Frost

From Our Library Director Matt Pfisterer

National Library Week

I'd like to take a moment in observation of **National Libraries Week** (April 13-19, 2015) to give a shout out of thanks and appreciation to our **Library staff, Board of Trustees,** and the **Friends of Middletown Thrall Library** for all of the outstanding work they do to ensure that our community continues to benefit from outstanding library materials and services.

Libraries are more important and relevant today than they have ever been. Consider the following facts from a recent **Pew Research Center** study of people's opinions about public libraries:

- **95% of Americans ages 16 and older** agree that the materials and resources available at public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed
- **95% say that public libraries are important** because they promote literacy and a love of reading
- **94% say that having a public library improves the quality of life** in a community
- **94% said that based on their own experiences,** they would say "**public libraries are welcoming, friendly places.**"

Here are some interesting facts from Thrall Library's **Annual Report to the Community 2014** (www.thrall.org/reports) that show the Library:

- **circulated 257,517 items**
- added **26,233 new items** including **e-books, audiobooks,** and **DVDs** to our collection
- answered **28,480 reference questions**
- logged **3,327,490 visits** to our website www.thrall.org

We take great pride in these numbers and we will continue to work hard in 2015 to provide outstanding library service to our community.

Middletown Thrall Library

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

Mon.-Thurs.: 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: 341-5454, ext. 5479

Adult Events Coordinator: 341-5483

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

From Our Head of Reference Services Mary Susan Flannery Climes

Art Treasures for Free!

www.thrall.org/artbooks

The **Art** section of our **Ready Reference Center** has a new *subsection*: **eBooks & Online Books**. There you can explore electronic collections of **art books** and **periodicals** from **The Getty, Guggenheim, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art,** and other art museums. Many interesting titles, unique topics, and in-depth studies await your enjoyment! Our guide also highlights select titles from these incredible and inspiring collections.

If you have not yet had the chance to browse our **700s** aisles *in person*, the next time you **visit Thrall** you might also enjoy perusing our **own art books in print**. Many of these beautiful books are often large (even "oversized") and can afford you great opportunities to witness the wonderful world of art *up close and personally*. These books do **circulate**, so you can *check them out* and enjoy them comfortably *at home!* **Some browsing tips:** for **sculptures**, try the **730s** area of our **nonfiction** shelves. For **famous paintings**, try the **750s**.

And that's just the *beginning*. When you're ready to go further, you can also use our **Ready Reference Center** (www.thrall.org/readyref) to explore a *greater* selection of art plus *other* topics and items in the **library system catalog**.

Music Collection Updates

In the *Winter 2015* edition of our newsletter we mentioned our **classical, jazz, and wellness music CD collections** would be expanding. Those CDs are now available and ready to be **checked out!** If you *don't* have a radio or stereo with a CD player, you might still be able to play these CDs in your **car, computer or laptop, or DVD / Blu-ray player**. If you're more into **digital streaming**, you'll definitely want to check out our **free music streaming services:** www.thrall.org/musicdbs

Celebrate National Poetry Month

www.thrall.org/npm

Whether you're a **poetry lover, an aspiring poet,** or simply someone welcoming *new, potentially inspiring reading experiences*, we invite you to explore our online portal to all things poetic. Read, hear, or see poems come to life, learn about poems, and even find out where you might **publish** some of your *own* poems through our guide! At the library we also have *many classic, contemporary, and world poetry books in print*. For example: **American Poetry** can be found in our **811** shelves, while **English Poetry** is in the **821s**. For more tips, please visit www.thrall.org/poetry to get our free **Getting Into Poetry** guides – or **ask our librarians**.

(From Our Head of Reference Services - continued)

California Drought www.thrall.org/special

Our **Special Coverage Center** now includes news and other information on the dire drought situation in **California**.

Update: "Local Holds" for Library Items

From **May 1st** to **October 31, 2015**, Thrall and other libraries in the **Ramapo Catskill Library System (RCLS)** will *suspend* the "Local Holds Only" status for many library items as part of a study. During this time, **most items** (except **new videos** and "non-circulating" items) **can be reserved** by *any* RCLS patron at *any* RCLS library. After the study, **library directors** will consider making the change permanent if it improves library item reserves (holds) and interlibrary loans in general.



From Our Government Information Librarian, Karen Heil

The Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Assassination

"On the evening of **April 14, 1865**, while attending a special performance of the comedy, *Our American Cousin*, President Abraham Lincoln was shot. Accompanying him at Ford's Theater that night were his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, a twenty-eight year-old officer named Major Henry R. Rathbone, and Rathbone's fiancée, Clara Harris. After the play was in progress, a figure with a drawn derringer pistol stepped into the presidential box, aimed, and fired. The president slumped forward." (memory.loc.gov)

One hundred and fifty years ago, our nation was changed forever with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The Library of Congress houses over **20,000 documents** covering his presidency including a draft of the **Emancipation Proclamation** and his second **Inaugural Address**. There are 61,000 images in the collection. The **National Park Service** offers a lesson plan entitled "Eulogy of Abraham Lincoln" (www.nps.gov/abli/learn/education/classrooms/eulogy-of-abraham-lincoln.htm) describing the twelve day funeral train journey of Lincoln and his deceased son, Willie from Washington, DC to Springfield, IL.: "Bells tolled and cannons were fired in honor of the fallen President Black mourning decorations and evergreens adorned homes and businesses alike in the North. Eulogies of Lincoln by politicians, preachers, and newspaper editors began to quickly appear across the North."

Experience history with **primary material** by reading *Broadsides*, original correspondence, or viewing photographs taken of events as they unfolded. Plan a **summer vacation to the national historic park** in Kentucky celebrating Lincoln's birthplace, and see the newly restored **log cabin** of his boyhood (www.nps.gov/abli/learn). Make history come alive with resources from the Federal Government.



From Local History Librarian Charles P. DeYoe, III

One of the lesser-known books in the local history department is **Favorite Recipes of the Women of The First Presbyterian Church** from 1959. In the interest of improving access and preserving its contents, we are developing a **digital version** of this book. Hopefully it will provide our patrons with some new foods to experiment with and offer some insight into what people were eating over 55 years ago.

One recipe submitted by **Mrs. Truman J. Moon** stands out: her husband's name is shared with an elementary school in Middletown. Feeling adventurous? Try making it yourself:

"Date Nut Kisses: 2 egg whites, 1 c powdered sugar, 1 c broken walnut meats, 1 c chopped dates. Beat egg whites stiff and add other ingredients in order given. Drop from teaspoon onto buttered cookie sheet. Bake till delicately brown in slow oven, 275° between 15 and 20 minutes. Remove at once. Makes 30 kisses."



Upcoming Events

www.thrall.org/events

These **free events** will be held in our **2nd Floor Community Room**:

Afternoon Movies: third **Wednesday** each month at **3 PM**:
Apr. 15: *A Walk in the Spring Rain*. Romance / drama. PG.
May 20: *Da Vinci Code* (2006). Mystery / thriller. PG-13.
June 17: *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Drama. NR.

Meditation / Guided Imagery - Sat., April 25, 1 PM
Presented by **Lynne Newman**, Spirit Heart Counseling & Healing Ctr.

Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood - Sun., April 26, 2 PM
A dramatic reading by the Amity Players.

Remarkable Reads Book Discussion: Wed., April 29, 3 PM
We will discuss *Then We Came to the End* by Joshua Ferris.

Tenant's Rights & Responsibilities: Tue., May 5, 6:30 PM
Presented by **J. Samarel**, Atty., Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

Jewelry Class: Sat., May 9, 1 PM
Presented by **Margaret Ibitoye**. **Registration is required:** please call **(845) 341-5483** or send e-mail to thrall3@warwick.net.

Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden: Wed., May 13, 6:30 PM
A Master Gardener Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Secrets of Wall Street: Sat., May 16, 10:30 AM
Presented by **Richard Nathan**, consumer advocate.



Children's Events

Please visit our **Children's Dept.** or call **(845) 341-5470** for more details on these and other upcoming events:

April & May Story Times

(Wed., April 22, 2015 - Wed., May 27, 2015)

Registration begins **Monday, April 6, 2015**

"First Step" Story Time

Ages 18 months - 35 months

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM. No registration.

"Explorers" (Story Time & Craft) Ages 3 & 4.

Wednesdays, 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM. Registration required.

"Moving on Up" (Ages 5 - 7)

Wednesdays, 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM. Registration required.

Read to Sasha the Therapy Dog!

Mondays (4:15 PM - 5:30 PM) in the Story Time Room:

April 20, May 4 & 18. Ages 6 - 13. Registration required.

Learn to Knit or Crochet!

Sign up for a **free** class on Monday evenings

(6 PM - 7:45 PM): April 20 May 4 & 18

also available: **Afternoon Knitting & Crochet**

Thursdays (2 - 4 PM): April 23 May 7 & 21

Get Free Homework Help!

Tuesdays & Thursdays (4 PM - 7 PM) to June 18, 2015.

Get free help in **English, Math, and other subjects!**

*** For Students in Grades 1 - 6 * No registration required!**

Parents / guardians must be present.

Join the Battle of the Books!

Like to read? In grades 6 to 12? **Join our team!**

To **sign up** and **get your books**, please call **Theresa** at **(845) 341-5470** or visit the **Children's Dept.**