

# Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

## Winter 2014 Edition

"What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day?" – Henry David Thoreau, *A Winter Walk*

### From Our Library Director Matt Pfisterer

#### With a Little Help from the Friends...

I am *extremely* pleased to announce that, thanks to the generosity of the **Friends of Middletown Thrall Library, Inc.**, we are going to be able to purchase **new public computers** for the Library. The Friends of Thrall, in honor of their 20th Anniversary, are contributing **\$20,000** to the Library, which will enable us to *greatly* improve the quality of our patron's experiences at our public computer / Internet workstations.

*But wait, there's more good news!!.....*

In addition to the new public computers, we are also going to purchase a time and print management software product called Envisionware. This product will allow us to regulate the amount of time people spend at our public workstations so now all people who need to use a computer will be given an exact amount of time to complete their tasks. Patrons will also have the opportunity to purchase print copies using their library card and keep a balance on their card, which will save time and effort. It is our hope that both the addition of the new computers and the installation of the Envisionware software will allow our patrons to work more independently and efficiently. We will be phasing in these improvements over the next few months, and we will keep you posted with all you need to know regarding this computer upgrade.

The Friends of Thrall serve the community by supporting the Library in a number of ways. They provide crucial financial assistance on a yearly basis, which allows us to purchase materials for the collection, fund extra programs, and purchase furniture and equipment. Our Friends also sponsor a series of worthwhile and entertaining special events, like musical performances, antique appraisals, and guest lecturers. We are truly thankful for their continued support.

### MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940  
Matt Pfisterer, Library Director

Winter / Spring Library Hours: Mon. – Thurs.: 9 AM – 8 PM  
Fri.: 9 AM - 6 PM Sat.: 10 AM – 5 PM Sun.: 1 PM – 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 more news and free services, please visit [www.thrall.org](http://www.thrall.org)

### From Our Head of Reference Services Mary Susan Flannery Climes

#### InfoTrac Collections

[www.thrall.org/infotrac](http://www.thrall.org/infotrac)

In addition to popular general research databases such as **Academic OneFile** and **General OneFile**, you can also enjoy **free access to InfoTrac Collections** online. They contain articles on specific topics: **Agriculture, Business Economics, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Diversity, Environmental Studies, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, Home Improvement, Mass Media, Popular Culture, Psychology, Small Business**, and *much* more.

#### Network Neutrality

[www.thrall.org/netneutrality](http://www.thrall.org/netneutrality)

Current and background information concerning the recent U.S. Court of Appeal finding on "Net Neutrality" can be found in our **Special Coverage Center** through the link above. In addition to news we also include a directory of articles, official documents, and related resources so you will have the opportunity to explore this hot topic comprehensively.

#### Computer Programming

[www.thrall.org/programming](http://www.thrall.org/programming)

Whether you aspire to be a computer programmer or are simply interested in learning how **programs** / **software** / **"apps"** work, we invite you to explore this new directory of resources. Learn about **programming languages** such as **C++, Java**, or **Python**, or delve into **Web Development** topics such as **CSS, HTML**, and **JavaScript**.

We also invite you to come to the library and explore our circulating **print collection of computer books**, which is *extensive* and up-to-date! Learn about **Windows 8 / 8.1, Linux, tablets, Apple gadgets (iPads / iPods)**, and *more!*

#### Affordable Care Act

[www.thrall.org/aca](http://www.thrall.org/aca)

The **new health insurance law** is now in full effect. The official **"New York State of Health"** website is open for business. Not sure **who to call** or **where to go online** to begin reviewing health coverage options? Simply go to the **"ACA"** site listed above to access the NYS website (along with some other **"ACA"** websites you might find informative).

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(From Our Head of Reference Services – continued)

## Salem History, Literature, & Science [www.thrall.org/salem2014](http://www.thrall.org/salem2014)

Encyclopedias we recently acquired also enable us to offer members of Thrall **free access** to the **online editions of these works**, which can be viewed or searched *right in your Web browser - no downloading necessary!* Titles include:

**Salem History:** *The 2000s in America*

**Salem Literature:**

*Critical Survey of Mythology and Folklore*

*Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes*

*Graphic Novels: History, Theme, and Technique*

*Graphic Novels: Independents & Underground Classics*

*Graphic Novels: Manga*

**Salem Science – Earth Science**

## Virtual Reference Library Update [www.thrall.org/e?110](http://www.thrall.org/e?110)

The two latest additions to our VRL are:

**Gale Encyclopedia of Mental Health**

**Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health**

These are **complete reference works** you can access online – *at any time* – for **free** as a member of Thrall! Also check out our *many* other VRL titles at [www.thrall.org/VRL](http://www.thrall.org/VRL)

## Upcoming Public Events

[www.thrall.org/events](http://www.thrall.org/events)

These **free** events are held in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room.

For more information about these events, please call **Gail Myker** at (845) 341-5483 or send e-mail to [thrall3@warwick.net](mailto:thrall3@warwick.net).

**Succeeding without Labels: Lessons for Educators.** Attend a book signing event. **January 30, 2014, 4 - 6 PM.** Meet Dr. Jonathan Jefferson as he presents and signs his new book, *Mugamore, Succeeding without Labels*.

**In Our Own Voice. February 18, 2014, 6:30 - 8 PM.** Two trained *In Our Own Voice* speakers share compelling, personal stories of living with *and* overcoming the challenges of mental illness. Audience discussion encouraged. A brief video will also be shown. This presentation is produced by NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

**Permaculture. Presented by Peter Lai, a Cornell Master Gardener. Saturday, February 22, 2014, 3 - 4:30 PM.** Learn about using "Permaculture Design" in your gardening, farming, and landscaping to promote *sustainability* and an *ecologically balanced* living environment.

**Meet the Authors: Tom Ingrassia & Jared Chrudimsky. February 27, 2014, 4 - 5:15 PM.** Reading and book signing for *One Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity by Following Your Dreams*, a book about 16 people from all walks of life who overcame adversity to achieve their dreams.

**Motown & the Civil Rights Movement: A Multimedia Lecture by Tom Ingrassia. Thursday, February 27, 2014, 6:30 - 8 PM.** Trace the rise and success of Motown during the Civil Rights Era, and learn about Motown's impact on culture, society, and politics in 1960s America.

\***Reel Eclectic films (7 PM): Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1**

\***Afternoon Movies (2PM): Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 21**

\*Please call 341-5483 or 341-5461 for the movie titles.

# Children's Events

Please visit the Children's Department, visit our **Youth Blog** (at [www.thrall.org/youthblog](http://www.thrall.org/youthblog)) or call us at (845) 341-5470 to learn more about these and other upcoming youth events.

## Homework Help

For students in grades 1 - 6. **Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-7 PM** in our 2nd Floor Story Time Room:

**January: 28, 30**

**February: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20**

**March: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27**

**April: 1, 3, 8, 10,** (spring recess April 15 & April 17),  
resuming on **April 22, 24, 29**

**May: 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27**

## Afternoon Gaming

Enjoy Wii on a large projection screen **Fridays (4 PM - 6 PM): February 7, March 7, April 4,** and **May 2** in our 2nd Floor Community Room. For ages: 3 – 17.

## Read to Sasha!

Sasha – a therapy dog - *loves* to listen to children read! For ages 6 - 13. **Please register. Mondays (4:15 PM - 5:30 PM):**

**February: 10 & 24**

**April: 7 & 21**

**March: 10 & 24**

**May: 5**

## Story Time

**Register: January 21, 2014 - February 3, 2014.** Story Time begins **Wednesday February 5, 2014** and concludes on **Wednesday February 26, 2014.** Times:

**"First Step"** (18 - 35 months). **9:30 AM - 10 AM** in our Story Time Room. No registration required.

**"Explorers"** Story Time & Craft (3 to 4 years old). **10:15 – AM 10:45 AM** in our Story Time Room. Registration is required.

**"Moving on Up"** Story Time & Craft (5 to 7 years old). **4:15 PM – 5 PM.** Registration is required.

## Knitting & Crocheting

Have you ever dreamed of creating or designing your very own scarf, hat, or sweater? Attend our free workshops and learn! For ages 7 & up. **Registration is required.** Upcoming dates:

**Mondays (6 PM - 7:45 PM) in our Story Time Room:**

**Jan. 13 & 27 Feb. 10 & 24 Mar. 10 & 24,**

**Apr. 7 & 21 May 5 & 19.**

...or **Thursdays during the afternoon (2 PM - 4 PM):**

**Jan. 16 & 30 Feb. 13 & 27 Mar. 13 & 27**

**Apr. 10 & 24 May 8 & 22**

## Art Lessons

Presented by local artist Diane Kominick-Ouzoonian.  
For ages: 7 - 12. Art sessions are held in our **Craft Room**.

**Saturday March 29, 2014, 1 PM – 2 PM:** "Paper Designs"  
Registration: **Monday March 17 - Wednesday March 26**

**Saturday May 24, 2014: Time: 1 PM – 2 PM:** "Flowers"  
Registration: **Monday, May 12 - Wednesday May 21**