

Enriching, Informing, & Empowering Our Local Communities Since 1901

# Thrall Library Times

What's New & Interesting at Middletown Thrall Library!

## Winter 2020 Edition

"The frolic architecture of the snow." Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Snow-Storm*

### From Our Library Director Matt Pfisterer

#### Bullet Aid Grant

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and patrons of Middletown Thrall Library I extend thanks and appreciation to **NYS Senator Jen Metzger** (42nd Senate District) for securing a NYS Bullet Aid Grant in the amount of **\$2,000** to support programming at Middletown Thrall Library. The proceeds from this grant will go towards a **very special program** we are planning towards the end of **August 2020**. Stay tuned for more details upcoming about this very special event made possible by the generous Bullet Aid grant provided by Senator Metzger.

#### Homebound Delivery Service

Did you know that the Library offers **delivery of materials to homebound members of our community**? Our homebound delivery service is designed to keep people connected to vital literacy, information and entertainment resources even though they are unable to come to the Library; we bring the Library to them! Books, magazines, DVD movies, and music or audiobooks on CD are available with delivery **free of charge**. Deliveries are made once every four weeks by a friendly Library volunteer who will delivery items by request or items that have been selected by a professional Librarian based on the interests of the person receiving the delivery. **We want to help keep people connected to their Library!** Please contact Library Director, Matt Pfisterer at **845-341-5485** for more information.

### Middletown Thrall Library

11 - 19 Depot Street, Middletown, New York 10940

#### Regular Library Hours

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

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

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

#### Conducting "Opposition" Research

As our nation enters another politically-charged election cycle and partisanship seems to be at an all-time high, it is timely to remember that **public libraries exist for everyone's benefit** – institutions truly *of the people, by the people, and for the people*.

One of the *many* ways **library resources** can be utilized is to **gain more insight into - and appreciation of - those who are different than us**, whether that difference is **political, cultural, economic, philosophical**, or of any other form.

Moving *beyond* all the **hyper-partisan sensationalism** you might expect to encounter in **traditional media** and **social media outlets**, at libraries you can *calmly* and *objectively* **explore our country's history**, including its famous **founders**, along with its **historic advocates**, and **heroic challengers of the status quo**.

You can also **safely research ideas** which seem to **oppose what you believe**, discovering what *you* would prefer *changed* or *kept the same* in this world, while learning **why** various **individuals** and **groups reached their perspectives** over decades and centuries.

Researchers often discover there are **very specific reasons** or **historic situations** leading to the **rise or fall of certain ideas** and **ideologies**. **Awareness** of these developments can enable us to **discuss** and **debate** *many* topics more *patiently* and *intelligently*.

Research areas such as **civics, history, political science, government, world literature**, and **philosophy** can provide us **essential knowledge** that not only *promotes* comprehension but also **tolerance, empathy, respect**, and even **compassion**.

Such knowledge can also prepare us, as **citizens and individuals** with **shared societal interests** and **personal aspirations for betterment**, to speak *and act less* from *purely political instincts* and *more* with the vital **wisdom** and **caring** that serves to **bridge our divides** and **nurture our communities** through **communication, negotiation**, and **collaboration** with present or former "rivals" (who might eventually become *allies* or *friends* some day).

Yes, we certainly *can hope!* *More* than that, we can *preserve* much hope through our **mutual support of public libraries** and **our amazing communities**, which only stand to become *more enlightened* and **empowered through libraries** while helping to **create and foster better futures** for *generations to come!*

From Our **Head of Reference Services** (continued)

**Coming Soon...**

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

In coming weeks, **Newspaper Archive**, one of our most popular **electronic database** subscriptions, will soon be **available to members of Thrall from home!** In addition to some (1960-1977) **Times Herald-Record** papers, this database includes other Middletown papers back to the **1800s**, including the **Daily Argus**, **Daily Evening Press**, and **Daily Press**, among others.

### From Our Government Information Librarian

The **2020 Census** is *right around the corner!* This official count, which is mandated by the Constitution, and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, provides information about our population in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. A complete and accurate count is critical for our community, as the results of census data help to determine not only the distribution of billions of dollars of federal funding for our schools, hospitals, fire departments, roads, housing, and other resources, it also determines the number of seats that each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, census data is used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. By **April 1, 2020**, every home will have received an invitation to participate. This year, all participants are able to respond in one of three ways; online, by phone, or by mail. Our population has been counted every 10 years since 1790! For more information visit <https://www.census.gov>

## Free Public Events @ Thrall

in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room.

For more: [thrall.org/events](http://thrall.org/events)

### Kickbox: Balance & Sculpt

Tuesdays, February 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 - 7 pm

### Experience *Chinese Culture!*

Dumplings, paper cutting, lanterns, and more!

Friday, February 21<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 - 5:30 pm

### Remarkable Reads

#### Book Discussion Series

Friday, February 28, 2020, 3 - 5 pm

Discussing *The Kiss Quotient* by Helen Hoang.

### Self-Care with Essential Oils

Friday, February 28, 2020, 3 - 5 pm

Registration required: please call 341-5483.

### Poetry Workshops

Tuesday, March 2, 2020, 6 - 7 pm

Additional dates (also 6 - 7 pm):

March 24<sup>th</sup> April 7<sup>th</sup> April 21<sup>st</sup>

### Birds & Wildlife of Tanzania & Kenya

March 17, 2020, 6 - 7 PM

Photos, stories, more! This event was made possible by **Orange County Audubon Society (OCAS)**.

### Local Author Kathy Morley

April 9, 2020, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Discussion (*The Gift: Finding the Extraordinary in Everyday Living*) plus a book signing.

# Youth Services Events

To register, or for more information, please visit our **Children's Dept.** or call us at **341-5470**.

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!**

## Create a Snow Globe

Friday, February 14, 2020, 11 - 11:45 am

Participants will **create their own artwork**, assemble their snow globes, and watch the *glittering snow swirl!*

This is a **FREE** workshop for ages **3 - 6 years old**.

**All supplies and materials are *included!***

**Registration required** (space is limited).

Please call **341-5470**.

## Youth Book Club

February 24, 2020, 5 - 6 pm

Our next book discussion: *The Twits* by Roald Dahl.

**Registration required:** please call **341-5470**.

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Monday, March 16, 2020, 4 - 4:45 pm

Let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day with your very own Shamrock Bear! **Participants receive a FREE 15-inch fluffy furry Shamrock Bear** to stuff and make it "come alive" with their imaginations! Each bear comes with its own "Birth Certificate."

## 2020 Knitting & Crochet Workshops

*Three Choices...*

**1. Individualized Instruction.** For ages 9 and up. If you are interested in learning how to crochet or knit, please call (845) 341-5470 to schedule an appointment with Ms. Lu (crochet) or Ms. Betsy (knitting).

### 2. "Sit 'n Knit" or "Sit 'n Crochet"

This is an opportunity for knitters and crocheters to get together with other crafters and work on projects. A **FREE** event, but **registration is required**. Please note: these sessions are not for learning how to knit or crochet. **Mondays on these dates (6 pm - 7:45 pm):** March 9 & 23, April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, June 1.

### 3. Afternoon Knitting + Crochet. Registration required.

**Thursdays (2 - 4 PM) on these dates:** March 12 & 26, April 9 & 23, May 7 & 21, June 4.

## Dr. Seuss Read-Aloud!

Monday, March 2, 2020, 4 - 4:45 pm

in the **Story Time Room**

Let's celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday together with a fun read-aloud of *Horton Hears a Who!* by Dr. Seuss! Also: **there will be a SPECIAL BIRTHDAY SURPRISE for all attendees!** This event is **FREE!** Registration required. Registration begins **Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020**. For ages 5 - 12 years old.