

# Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library May 2008

## “ Scouting in Portland ” Display

During the month of May, local Cub Scout Pack Leader Cindy May, will have a “Scouting in Portland” exhibit on display in the glass cases located in the Library. Items on display may be viewed during regular library hours.

There will not be an artist display in the Mary Flood Room during the month of May due to the referendum.

## Town Budget Vote

Don't forget to vote! The referendum will take place here, at the Library on Monday, May 12th. On that day, you may enter the Library's front door to access the Mary Flood Room to vote between 6:00 am and 8:00 pm. The Library will remain open on this day, from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm.

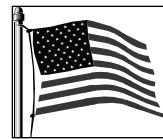


## Magnification Screen Available

**For those with vision impairment, the Library has a large magnification screen. Books and documents may be viewed with different contrasts, including white print on black background. The size of the visual or print may be adjusted with a zoom feature.**

**The magnification screen can be used in the library at any time, but if you would like to reserve it for a meeting or use it in a study room, please contact Administrative Assistant Gail Pititto before 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**

**This equipment is a generous donation made by John McNickle.**



The Library will be closed on Monday, May 26th, in observance of Memorial Day.

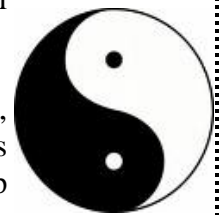
## Spring Happenings

### Stress Relief:

On Monday, May 5th at 7:00 pm, local Chiropractor, Dr. John Mormile will be returning to the Portland Library to speak about another health-related topic. In March, Dr. Mormile explored the subjects of acupuncture and natural treatments for headaches. This time he will be speaking about the natural methods of stress relief.

### Feng Shui:

Feng Shui Consultant and Professional Speaker Ned Farrell will be returning to the library on Thursday, June 5th at 7:00 pm. This time he will be discussing the core Feng Shui concept of the bagua. Bring a hand-drawn floor plan of your home, and Ned will teach you how to use this important Feng Shui technique to help you feel fantastic!



No registration is required to attend either program.

## Book Donation Drop-off

**When:** Thursday, June 5th, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

**Where:** Brownstone Intermediate School on Main Street. Look for the sign out in front.

The Friends of the Library accepts gently used books, books on tape or CD, Videos, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games. Text books and magazines are not part of the read-and-recycle program. The all-volunteer Friends group thanks you for your donations which will benefit library programs and services!

## Children's Events

# Catch the Reading Bug!



### Reading Bugs:

Tuesdays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Story time for children ages 0-5 years old.

Meets every Tuesday at 12:15.

### Bug Blast!: Thursdays, June 26, July 10, 17, 24, 31

Weekly event for children going into grades K and up.

Meets every Thursday at 12:15 for stories, crafts, and special events.

**Mad Science: BUGS!:** Explore the world of insects with the help of the Mad Science crew!

**Meet the Mascots:** Join the professional mascots from teams such as the Connecticut Sun and the Hartford Wolf Pack (to name a few) for a morning of pandemonium and racing.

**Art & Science of Beekeeping:** See inside a real hive and learn about the world of bees.

**This School is Soooo Weird!:** Help us find out just how weird school can be during a lunchtime book group event featuring the series by Dan Gutman.

Summer is just around the corner and you know what that means...*wild and wacky reading fun at the Library!*

Our theme this year is **Catch the Reading Bug!** And we can't wait to show you what we have planned!

In addition to all of our fun programming, awesome reading incentives, great book suggestions, and overall sparkling personalities, we will have some new pets at the Library this summer!



"*Pets at the Library?*" you ask, just wait and see.

Here is a list of some of the events we have in the works for the summer:

## TRANSFORM YOURSELF READ



Tweens / Teens entering grades 5 and up may register for the **Metamorphosis** summer reading program and transform themselves throughout the summer!

Beginning **June 16th**, participants may come into the Library and fill out a registration form and receive a registration packet. Participants will read books from the new! Suggested Summer Reading List and from specific genres and complete trivia questions in an attempt to get

### MORPH-ED!

Each successful **MORPHING** will leave the participant with a goodie bag filled with raffle tickets, candy, and coupons to cool area attractions! In addition, the Library staff has planned many new and exciting events in conjunction with this program!

**Transform your Clothes:** Make your SRP t-shirt an expression of YOU! We will be tie-dying, fringing, squirting, and **transforming** all evening long!

**Transform your Fear:** An after hours event full of pizza, music, and SCREAMING!

**Transform your Game:** Are you a guitar hero? Do you dance like a diva? Come and show us during our evening gaming explosion! **More events coming soon! We will let you know, when we know!**

# Book Groups and More!

## The Teen Scene!

**Be proactive!** If you are looking to help shape teen services at the Portland Library, join **TAB**, our new Teen Advisory Board!

**Qualifications:** Teens in grades 6 and up.

### Duties:

- Plan, publicize and participate in fun activities
- Recommend books and materials that you and your friends would like.
- Review and discuss books, CDs and movies.
- Share ideas about how to make the library more inviting to teens.
- Assist in the planning of the new teen area.

**Next Step:** Applications for interested teens are available at the Library and on-line at [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org). Applications need to be completed and sent into the Library by **May 12th**. The first meeting will take place on **Monday, May 19th at 3:00 p.m.** and continue meeting every 3rd Monday of the month with a break in July.

## Call for Volunteers!

It's that time of year again! **The Library's summer reading program** is set to begin on Monday, June 16th! We need lots and lots of volunteers to provide weekly checkpoints, hand out prizes, help out at programs, and perform prep duties for various events. If you are going into **grade 5 and up** and would be interested in joining a fun and lively core of volunteers, then please join us for an informational session on **Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.** Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Calling all Bug Collectors!

If you or someone you know is a collector of bugs, butterflies, or any manner of creepy crawlers and would like to display them at the Portland Library in either July or August, please contact us now!

We are looking for professional or amateur collections of anything related to bugs to fill our display cases during the summer! Please contact the Children's Department at the Library at 342-6770 for more information!

## IRS Stimulus Payment

Do you qualify for an Economic Stimulus Payment? If you filed a 2007 federal tax return then your rebate will arrive in early May. If you normally don't have to file taxes because of your income level, this year you need to file Form 1040A to get a Stimulus Payment. This includes people who receive at least \$3,000 in earnings and/or benefits from Social Security, VA disability or a Retired Railroad Worker's pension. By law, the IRS cannot issue any economic stimulus payments after Dec. 31, 2008. If you didn't make the April 15 deadline, you automatically have until **October 15** to file a tax return solely to receive an economic stimulus payment. You do not have to file a form to be granted an extension. However, you must file by October 15 so the IRS can process your return and issue a stimulus payment before the end of the year. **Ask for tax forms at the Information Desk.**



## No Child Left Inside!

Once again, the Portland Library has a Day Pass valid from April 19th through October 6, 2008 to Connecticut Parks and Forests as part of the State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection's initiative, "No Child Left Inside!" The library pass can be used to cover the cost of parking at state parks and forests where there is an established parking charge. Parking fees are charged at all four state park beaches on Long Island Sound, as well as several inland parks. The pass can also be used to cover the admission fee for two adults and four children at state historical sites and exhibit centers at Dinosaur, Fort Trumbull, and Gillette Castle State Parks. It is not valid for groups or for vehicles carrying more than 12 passengers.

In addition to the pass, many activities have been created as The Great Park Pursuit, The Connecticut State Parks Family Adventure. Teams participate in a variety of outdoor activities at some of Connecticut's most beautiful parks and forests while competing for fabulous outdoor prize packages. For more information look at the DEP's website <http://www.nochildleftinside.org>.

This pass can be reserved up to one month in advance by contacting the Library at 342-6770.

# More News...

## New Do-It-Yourself Titles

Here are some new books to help you with your spring projects, both inside and out. All books circulate for three weeks and can be renewed if not on hold for another patron. If the title you are looking for is checked out, you may place a hold by calling the Information Desk or by going to our online catalog.

*1001 Ideas for Floors* by Emma Callery

*1001 Ideas for Outdoor Spaces* by Brett Martin

*Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings: Plan, Design, Build* by John D. Wagner

*Build Your Own Custom Closet* by Black and Decker

*The Complete Guide to Custom Shelves and Built-Ins* by Black and Decker

*Decks 1-2-3: Expert Advice from the Home Depot*

*DIY Guide to Appliances: Installing and Maintaining Your Major Appliances* Steven Willson

*No-Fear Home Improvement* by Fran J. Donegan

*Ultimate Guide to Bathrooms: Plan, Remodel, Build* by Creative Homeowner

## Film Features

Portland Library's "Movies in the Afternoon" show this month will be held on Wednesday, May 21st at 1:00 pm. Join us one Wednesday a month for big screen entertainment with films recently released on DVD.

The selection for this month is *The Kite Runner*. In a divided country on the verge of war, two childhood friends are about to be torn apart forever. It's a glorious afternoon in Kabul and the skies are bursting with the exhilarating joy of a kite-fighting tournament. But in the aftermath of the day's victory, one boy's fearful act of betrayal will mark their lives forever and set in motion an epic quest for redemption.

*The Kite Runner* is rated PG-13 and is 122 minutes long. No registration is required to attend film showings and refreshments are usually served!

The Friends of Portland Library group supports the library DVD collection. All films shown may be borrowed.

## Adult Book Discussion Group

The adult book discussion meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us on May 1st to discuss *The Alchemist* by Paul Coehlo.

On June 5th, the discussion title will be *The Tender Bar: a Memoir* by J. R. Moehringer.

A Pulitzer-Prize winning writer for the Los Angeles Times, Moehringer grew up fatherless in pub-heavy Manhasset, New York, in a ramshackle house crammed with cousins and ruled by an eccentric, unkind grandfather. Desperate for a paternal figure, he settles on his Uncle Charlie, and subsequently, Uncle Charlie's place of employment at a bar called Dickens that soon takes center stage in his life. This is a fast-moving, insightful, and often comical tale of a dysfunctional but tightly knit community by a first-rate writer.

Multiple copies of this title will be available beginning at the May 1st discussion. No registration is required to attend and new members are always welcome!

## Thank You!

Memorial Fund donations were received from the following individuals during the month of March: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Giuliano and Jillian and Nicole McDermott.

Gift books and materials donations were gratefully received from: Mrs. Carolyn Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rosenbaum, and Ms. Nan Zimmer.

An Endowment Fund donation was also received from Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Flood.

### Library Hours

Monday– Wednesday  
10:00 am-8:00 pm  
Thursday 12 pm-8:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm

### Contact Information

Questions or concerns about the library may be directed to  
Janet Nocek  
jnocek@portlandct.org

### Portland Library

20 Freestone Avenue  
Portland, CT 06480  
860-342-6770  
Fax: 860-342-6778  
www.portlandlibraryct.org

### First Selectwoman:

Susan Bransfield

### Library Director:

Janet Nocek

### Library Board Co-Chairs:

Susan Alyson Young  
Andrew Bauer