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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

January 2009

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Free digital books are available online at <http://www.portlandlibraryct.org>!

New DVDs

The Friends of the Portland Library contributed \$10,000 to the purchase of DVDs for the Library during 2008. Thank you Friends!

Here is a selection of some of the newest titles:

Another Cinderella Story
Awake
Baby Mama
The Fall
The Forbidden Kingdom
Forgetting Sarah Marshall
Iron Man
Lars and the Real Girl
The Love Guru
The Other Boleyn Girl
Smart People
The Visitor
Young @ Heart



DVDs circulate for one week and may be renewed if they are not on hold for another patron.

The Library will be closed on Monday, January 19th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.



Special Discussion of *The Last Lecture*

Join us for a special book discussion on Thursday, February 19th, at 6:30 pm. The title will be *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. This program is part of the Literature for a Lifetime series sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A literature scholar will be in attendance to facilitate the discussion.

Carnegie Mellon professor Randy Pausch's "last lecture" took on new meaning when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The lecture he gave, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams," wasn't about dying, but instead it was about the importance of overcoming obstacles and seizing every moment. It was about *living*. In *The Last Lecture*, Pausch has combined the humor, inspiration and intelligence that made his lecture such a phenomenon. This is a book that will be shared for generations to come.

Multiple copies of this title are available. No registration is required to attend the discussion and all are welcome!

Second-Hand Prose Book Shop

The members of the Friends of the Library would like to remind you that they sponsor an ongoing book sale in the Library throughout the year.

You'll find an assortment of gently used books and videos for sale at very reasonable prices. The collection includes items for adults and children. Visit the sale during regular library hours.

Library Youth Services' Events

American Girl: Meet Samantha

The girls are back! We know it has been a while but this series truly NEVER goes out of style! A *new* monthly series will be offered for children in **grades 2 and up**, focusing on the very popular *American Girl Series*. Each month, we will explore the life of a different girl in the series, learning about her role in the community, the games she liked to play, the food she ate, and the issues that affected her.

Participants are asked to read at least one of the books from the featured girl's series before each program. Multiple copies of the books will be available for loan each month.

The first program will take place on **Monday, January 26th from 4:00-5:00 pm.**

We will be meeting *Samantha!*

Participants are invited to bring their dolls and come dressed to impress as we enjoy a *Victorian Tea Party* and make a craft from Samantha's period in history.

Registration is required and is going on now. Please call the Library at 342-6770 or visit us online at www.portlandlibraryct.org to register.

Ready to Read

Ready to Read is a program series for children in *kindergarten through 2nd grade* who have made the transition into reading. This fun and lively monthly program is designed to enhance the core components a child needs to learn to read. We will be reading more advanced picture books, playing literacy-oriented games, creating a craft, and making a snack together.

Events will take place at 4:00 pm:

Thursday, January 22nd ~ Theme: Pizza!

Thursday, February 19th ~ Theme: Chocolate!

Registration is required and is going on now.

Please call the Library at 342-6770 or visit us online at www.portlandlibraryct.org to register.

Wintery Weekend Crafts

Drop in to the Portland Library every Saturday in February between **1:00-2:30 pm** and enjoy a fun, **FREE!**, drop-in, winter craft program that every member of the family will love!

Programs will be held on **February 7, 14, 21, 28.** Come to one or come to them all!

All ages are welcome.

No registration is required!

Drop-in Story Times begin in January!

Toddler Time: *Children ages 0-24 mos.*

Tuesdays @ 10:30 am January 20, 27, and February 3, 10

Toddlers are encouraged to continue their exploration of language and sound with a fun interactive program. We combine the best in children's literature with songs, games, rhymes, and other reading-related activities. (Program length: 45 minutes, including time for free play)

Silly Snowflakes: *Children ages 3-5 years old.*

Fridays @ 10:30 am January 23, 30, and February 6, 13

With an appealing combination of new and familiar stories, songs, crafts, imaginative play, and movement activities, *Silly Snowflakes* broadens children's horizons while reinforcing the pleasures of reading to encourage lifelong readers. (Program length: 45 minutes)

Family Fun Story Time: *All Ages!*

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm January 21, 28, and February 4, 11, 18

Designed for families to enjoy together, *Family Fun Story Time* features picture books, songs, rhymes, music and movement, and simple crafts based on a weekly theme. (Program length: 45 minutes)

Library Youth Services Department News

Prince Caspian After-Hours Movie

You spend a **LOT** of time rustling around in your closet trying to get into Narnia...
You have read all of the Narnia books in and OUT of order...
You wouldn't touch Turkish Delight with a ten foot pole...
You saw the **FANTASTIC** play at the BIS twice, and now you are ready for more!!!!

On **Friday, February 13th from 5:00-8:00 pm** the Portland Library will welcome all Narnia fans, in grades 5 and up, for a movie event featuring the latest film in the *Chronicle of Narnia* series, *Prince Caspian*. In addition to the movie, there will be trivia games, popcorn, and cool prizes! Registration is required and is going on now. Please call the Library at 342-6770 or visit us online at www.portlandlibraryct.org to register.

Please Note:

In case of inclement weather, this program will be canceled and rescheduled for **Friday, February 20th, from 5:00-8:00 pm.**

February Vacation Events

Fur, Feathers, Skin, and Scales

Tuesday, February 17th at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm

The Lutz Children's Museum will be visiting the Library during February vacation for a special presentation of their popular *Fur, Feathers, Skin and Scales* program.

Families with children of all ages are welcome to attend. Shows will take place at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm.

Registration is required and is going on now.

The Teen Zone

TAB

The next meeting for TAB is scheduled for **Monday, January 12th at 3:00 pm.**

We will be discussing programming ideas for the new year.

The Teen Advisory Board is a group of local teens in grades 6-12 who help to provide the "teen voice" to the selection of the Library's teen books, music and programming. New members are always welcome. Please contact the Youth Services Department at the Library for more information.

Staff Pick of the Month

What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell
"Judy Blundell gifts us with living, breathing pictures of the loss of innocence, first love and the choice between truths and lies. This coming of age story will stick with the reader long after the mystery is solved."

What I Saw and How I Lied is the 2008 recipient of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Nutmeg Voting

There is still time to read a Nutmeg nominee or two! Voting for this year's Nutmeg Award Winner will take place at our school and public libraries this month.

The Portland Library has multiple copies of this year's nominees available for loan. You must have read at least two Nutmeg nominees and be in grades 4 - 8 to vote! Special thanks goes out to **Dale Benoit** and **Jack Sterry** for making Nutmeg voting such a great experience!

More News...

Movie Time!

Join us on Wednesday, January 21st, at 1:00 pm for big screen entertainment in the Mary Flood Room! *Baby Mama* is the selection for this month. Registration is not required. All are welcome!

Board of Directors Public Meeting

The Portland Library Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, January 22nd, at 7:00 pm in the Van Beynum Room of the Library.

The Library Board is a town commission which reports to the Board of Selectmen and is responsible for the policies that govern the internal operation and services of the library. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, meetings are open to the public. Library Board members are representatives of the community and are eager to hear from library users.

New Free Database Information

Did you miss the *CNN Late Edition* with Wolf Blitzer? Or *Face the Nation* with Bob Schieffer? Or the *O'Reilly Factor* on FOX News?



Would you like to read a full transcript of these shows? All you need is a valid library card and a computer. Go to www.iCONN.org and choose advanced search. General OneFile is the database you are looking for. General OneFile is a comprehensive periodical resource that puts information from thousands of journals and other sources at your fingertips. New titles are constantly being added. www.iCONN.org is a State of Connecticut sponsored web site, offering free information to all Connecticut residents with a valid library card from any public library. Please visit or call the Information Desk for assistance with the databases or for answers to any questions you might have.

Book Donation Drop-off

The next Friends' Read & Recycle book donation drop-off will be on Thursday, January 8th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Brownstone Intermediate School on Main Street. Look for the sign out in front!

The Friends of the Library group 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 Friends organize the donations at the BIS and prepare them for the ongoing sale in the Library and for other sales throughout the year. The all-volunteer Friends group thanks you for your donations which will benefit library programs and services!

Thank You!!

A special thank you to all those who have made contributions recently.

Adopt an Author: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Strom



Art Sales: Ms. Ann-Marie Szerejko

Endowment Fund: Middlesex Aero Modelers

Endowment Fund in memory of Mark Bucheri: Law & Larson Attorneys at Law, Ms. Pamela Tyrol

Memorial Fund in memory of Marion Flood: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Catrone

Memorial Fund in memory of Patrick Rodgers: Mr. Bob Soll and Mrs. Harriet Dorfman, The Paley's

Library Hours

Mon. - Wed. 10 am - 8 pm
Thur. 12 pm - 8 pm
Fri. & Sat. 10 am - 5 pm

Library Closings

Mon., Jan. 19th, CLOSED
In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Library Meetings

Friends of the Library Executive Board: Monday, Jan. 5th

Library Board of Directors:
Thursday, Jan. 22nd

To Reach the Library

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Library Director

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Library Board Chair

Susan Alyson Young