

# Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library December 2011

## Safe Lawn Care

Would you like information regarding ways to conserve the health of the soil and water in your family's environment while developing an attractive landscape for your home?

Two specialists in organic lawn care will be sharing their expertise during a program presented by the Connecticut Horticultural Society and Portland Library.

View the film *Chemical Reaction* narrated by Paul Tukey. Mr. Tukey has been featured in thousands of media outlets from *Good Morning America* in the U.S., to the CBC in Canada, as well as *National Geographic*, *Reader's Digest* and the *New York Times*, which called him "The godfather of the natural lawn care movement." The film is a companion to Mr. Tukey's book, *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*.

For more information on the film, visit <http://www.safelawns.org/chemical-reaction>. Following the 70 minute film, a question and answer session will be led by Scott Reil.

Mr. Reil is a Connecticut Accredited Nurseryman with over fifteen years experience in the ornamental horticulture industry. Mr. Reil has advocated for organic gardening to protect the health of gardeners and their families and pets. He has lectured all over the Northeast to audiences ranging from fine garden centers, to the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the Master Gardener Program, and has maintained a blog as "the helpful gardener." **The free program will take place Dec. 6th in the Mary Flood Room. The film begins at 7:00 pm. Doors are open at 6:30 pm.**

Refreshments will be provided. Registration is requested. For more information view The Connecticut Horticultural Society web site <http://www.cthort.org/>.



## Holiday Hours



**Christmas Eve ~ Closed**  
Saturday, December 24th  
**Christmas**  
Monday, December 26th

**New Year's Eve ~ Closed**  
Saturday, December 31st  
**New Year's Day ~ Closed**  
Monday, January 2, 2012

## Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open its Holiday Book Store featuring gift quality used books on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Mary Flood Room. Santa will make a special appearance from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and will read *Twas The Night Before Christmas*. The sale features coffee table books as well as children's holiday books. Many items are like new and would make great holiday gifts. The Portland Quilt Note Cards are available at 5 for \$1.00. The FPL "Readers are Leaders" t-shirts are \$5 each. All of these items will be available throughout December in the Friends' Second Hand Prose Book Sale area during regular library hours. All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the Library's Museum Pass Program, children's programs, and the Library's DVD collection.



## Food and Fuel for Fines

Help us to fill up our cart or our bank! The Library is accepting donations from Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 through Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Pay overdue library fines with non-perishable food items that will be given to the Portland Food Bank and or make monetary donations for the Portland Fuel Bank. Please bring your donations to the Circulation Desk so that your fines may be cancelled. These donations may not be used to pay for missing items.

# Services, News, and Events for Children



## Preschool Story Times

**Registration for the Winter Session is going on now.**

*\*\*Be sure to register as all sessions have been at capacity.*

Toddler Time: 2 year old story times  
Combining the best in children's literature, songs, games, rhymes, and other reading activities, this program is intended for both the parent/caregiver and the young child.

**Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Story Circle: 3-5 year old story times

With an appealing combination of new and familiar stories, songs, crafts, imaginative play, and movement activities, *Story Circle* broadens children's horizons while reinforcing the pleasures of reading to encourage lifelong readers.

**Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28

**Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.**

January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23 March 1

Sleepy Time Stories: Ages 2-8

Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed friend and settle in for cozy stories and lots of cuddles with Miss Judie!

**Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21\*, 28

*\* denotes a special TBA event*



## Family Movie

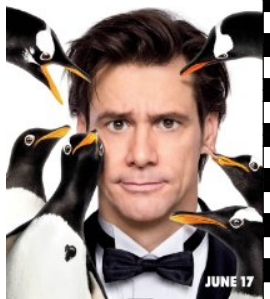
Families with children of all ages are invited to join us for a movie on the BIG screen in the Mary Flood Room, **Wednesday, December 28th at 2:00 p.m.**

We will be enjoying *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, based on the popular book of the same title by Richard Atwater.

"Mr. Popper is a driven businessman who inherits six penguins that turn his swanky New York City apartment into a snowy winter wonderland and the rest of his life into chaos!" This film is rated PG.

**Registration is Required.**

JIM CARRÉ  
**MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS**



## Ready to Read

Thursdays, January 12th,  
February 9th, March 8th and April  
12th from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**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, and creating a craft.

**Registration is required for this 4 week series.**



## Reader's Theatre

**Mondays, January 23rd, 30th, and February 6th from 3:30p.m.-5:00p.m.**

**Back by popular demand!**

Children in grades 2-4 are invited to join in a fun new program at the Portland Library. Reader's Theatre is an exciting way for children to enjoy literature. We will read a different story together each week, discuss it, read through the script of the story, make props, and in the final 15 minutes of the session, the children will perform the story for their parents, caregivers and friends.

**Registration is required for this 3 week series.**

## Nutmeg Book Award

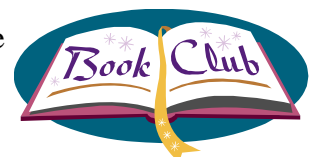
*Chosen by Connecticut's Youth*

## Book Discussion

Tuesday, January 17th at 4:00 p.m.

It's January which means that it is **VOTING TIME** for Connecticut's own, *Nutmeg Award*.

If you are as excited about 2012 titles as we are, you will want to be here this afternoon as we discuss our favorites and make predictions for the winners! Both the Intermediate and the Teen Lists will be discussed. Registration is not required for this event, just drop in! Children in grades 4 and up are welcome to attend.



# Youth Services News and Events for Teens



## (Teen Advisory Board)

The next Portland Library Teen Advisory Board Meeting will be on

**Thursday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m.**

TAB is a teen-run group of dedicated students in grades 6 and up. Members advise staff on book purchases, programming, and teen issues.

**Registration is required for this event.**

**New members are always welcome!**

### 2012 Meeting Dates

Thursdays, January 26th, February 23rd, March 29th and April 26th from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

## Get Your CRAFT ON!

Are you a crafter in grades 5-7, with a can do attitude and killer D.I.Y skills? Then come to the Library after school on **Mondays, January 9th, February 13th, March 12th and April 9th from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** and GET CRAFTY! We will be trying a new and unique project every month, including: felting, jewelry making, and much more, but supplies **ARE** limited. **Registration is required.**



## X-treme Gaming!

The Teen Department is inviting students in **grades 5 and up** to go **UN-PLUGGED** and get **UN-GLUED** to those video screens every other

**Monday at 4:00 p.m.** at the Library.

We will be taking board games, TV games, and video games and playing them **LIVE!** **Our last event will be held on:**

**Monday, December 12th: A Minute to Win it! (Holiday Edition)**

**Registration is required** and is going on now.

## Read the Book... See the Movie!

Book to Movie After School Specials for teens in grades 7 and up! Join us after school, once a month for a showing of a popular movie adapted from a teen book. Read the book, then come see the movie at the Library. After the movie we will have a short discussion comparing the two. Multiple copies of the featured books will be available for loan at the Library.

**Registration is required.**

*(Some movies will be PG-13. If you are under 13 years old, you will need to have a signed permission slip to get into the movie. Permission slips are available in the Teen Department at the Library.)*

**Thursday, January 19th from**

**2:45-4:30 p.m.**

Book Title: *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan

Movie title: *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, Columbia Pictures, PG-13



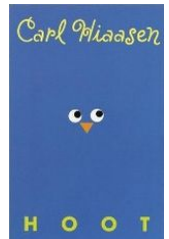
A comedy about two teens thrust together for one hilarious, sleepless night of adventure in a world of mix tapes, late-night living, and, live, loud music. Nick frequents New York's indie rock scene nursing a broken heart and Norah is questioning all of her assumptions about the world. Though they have nothing in common except for their taste in music, their chance encounter leads to an all-night quest to find a legendary band's secret show and ends up becoming the first date that could change both their lives.

**Thursday, February 16th, from 2:45-4:30 p.m.**

Book Title: *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

Movie Title: *Hoot*, New Line Cinema, PG.

The story of a young man who moves from Montana to Florida with his family, where he's compelled to engage in a fight to protect a population of endangered owls, and that of a tough girl at his school named Beatrice who has some connection with the barefoot boy, who has some connection with vandalism at the construction site. When they realize that a population of endangered burrowing owls is threatened by new construction the kids decide to take on crooked politicians and bumbling cops in the hope of saving their new friends.



## Flute & Guitar Music

Sara Slocum, flutist; Dan Keene, guitarist; and Dusty Boxer, guitarist present a program of music by Lawes, Telemann, Giuliani, Diabelli, Carulli, Falla and more. The program will be held at the Portland Library, Mary Flood Room on Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome.

# More News...

## Monthly Book Discussion

All are welcome to attend the adult book discussion held one Thursday each month at 6:30 pm. Titles are available to borrow.

**Thursday, December 1st at 6:30 pm**

*Montana 1948* by Larry Watson.



**Thursday, January 5th, 2012 at 6:30 pm**

*City of Thieves* by David Benioff.

"During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, two young men are arrested for looting and instead of being executed are given the opportunity to save their lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. Insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story."



## Art on Display

Enjoy the artwork produced by two sisters, Taylor and Drew Unikewicz during their joint exhibit. Taylor

Unikewicz is a senior at Portland High School is hoping to attend the University of Hartford, majoring in architectural engineering. Taylor likes painting black and white portraits but also likes to use bold colors in her paintings. Drew Unikewicz attends Portland High School where she is in her senior year. Drew enjoys all facets of art and is hoping to major in Art Therapy at Albertus Magnus College. Drew's paintings cover a wide span of various types of art. Their work will be on display in the Mary Flood Room through December 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Movies in the Afternoons

**Wednesday, December 14th, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Showing: *The Help*, 2011, directed by Tate Taylor;**

Starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis, & Bryce Dallas Howard;  
Walt Disney Pictures; rated PG-13; 145 minutes

Set in 1960's Mississippi, Skeeter is a southern society girl who is determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives and a small Mississippi town upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent families. Aibileen, Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community. Soon more women come forward to tell their stories, and they have a lot to say. No reservations necessary; refreshments available. The Friends of Portland Library supports the Library's DVD collection.



**Portland Library is a leader in the current Neighbor to Neighbor Community Rewards for Connecticut Energy Challenge, which earns funds to support energy conservation. For more information, Visit <http://ctenergychallenge.com/blog>.** Other winners include The Portland Garden Club and the CERT team, who also provided programs and information that have encouraged residents to sign up for energy conservation programs and services. The Library is a proud partner of the Portland Clean Energy Task Force.

## Recent Donations

The Library would like to thank all those who have made contributions recently.

**Gift books:** E. Evelyn Eddy, Carolyn Freeman, Jean Brookes, Jack Hetzel, Sandra Boisselle, Darcy Giglio, & George Scheer.

**Endowment Fund:** Gerald & Eileen Burke.

## Library Hours

Mon. - Wed. 10 am - 8 pm

Thurs. - 12 noon - 8 pm

Fri. - 10 am - 5 pm

Sat. - 10 am - 5 pm

## Library Closings:

**Christmas Eve ~**

**Closed**

Saturday, December 24th

**Christmas**

Monday, December 26th

**New Year's Eve ~ Closed**

Saturday, December 31st

**New Year's Day ~ Closed**

Monday, January 2, 2012



## Library Meetings

Library Board of Directors:

Thurs., Dec. 15th, 7:00 pm

Friends of the Portland Library:

Mon., Dec. 5th, 7:00 pm

## To Reach the Library

860-342-6770

[www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)

## Library Director

Janet Nocek

[jnocek@portlandct.org](mailto:jnocek@portlandct.org)