

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

March 2006

24/7 Audio Book Download Service:

Listening to Books Just Got Easier

Beginning on March 1st, Portland Library cardholders can download fellow CT resident Mark Twain's classics and more -- for free. Twenty-three libraries, in collaboration with Library Connection, launched a digital audio book site that allows their patrons to checkout and download audio books from home.

The collection features popular fiction from Nora Roberts, Margaret Atwood, and Michael Crichton; BBC radio programs, such as *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*; and audio book versions of blockbuster movies such as *King Kong* and *Sideways*. The downloadable audio book collection also includes business, biography, self-improvement, foreign language learning, and other non-fiction genres.



The audio books can be downloaded to Windows® PCs and laptops, Pocket PCs, and can be transferred to WMA/MP3 players. Many of the titles may also be burned to CD for listening in the car and on CD players. To check out materials, patrons browse the collection, select a title, and then enter a valid library card number to download the digital book. If a title is not immediately available, users can place a hold and will receive an email notification when it is ready for checkout. After 14 days, the digital audio books are automatically returned to the system and made available to others. The collection also includes 100 "Always Available" titles from Blackstone Audiobooks. This group of titles allows an unlimited number of patrons to check out a book at the same time. With no waiting lists or holds for these titles, there is always a book to check out. The Library Connection Downloadable Audio Book Catalog can be accessed by visiting the Portland Library's homepage <http://www.portlandlibraryct.org> and clicking on the link or by going directly to <http://libraryconnection.lib.overdrive.com>.

Literature for a Lifetime

The Portland Library will be offering a series of scholar-led book discussions throughout the spring. Our first discussion will take place on **March 20th at 7:00 p.m.** and will feature *Girl in Hyacinth Blue* by Susan Vreeland.



Susan Topping from Three Rivers Community Technical College will be here to facilitate the discussion. She will be offering insight into the underlying workings of the novel and helping us to "explore the infinite variety of human thought and experience that is contained in our literature." Ms. Topping was born and educated in Northern England. She was trained as a professional dancer at the Rambert School of Ballet in London and went on to graduate *Summa Cum Laude* from Hunter College. This program is being sponsored by the Connecticut Humanities Council and by donations to the Portland Library Memorial Fund. Books will be available to borrow from the Library. Registration is required and is going on now.

Warning!

Online predators have been using a popular teen site to hook up with teens. Due to proven risks to minors on the myspace.com web site, the Portland Library is discouraging use of that site. Anyone who visits the site may have their internet privileges suspended. Unfortunately, the Library cannot guarantee a safe Internet experience, nor can any software stop someone from getting to sites where children may be at risk.

Parents can help to make their child's internet experience safe by discussing the risks and going over internet safety rules. Concerned parents may find safety tips at the library or from the following online brochure produced by the American Library Association at www.ala.org/ala/alsc/greatwebsites/greatsitesbrochure.pdf

Kids' Pages!

Preschool Story Time Registration

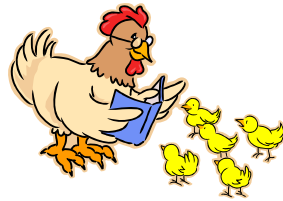
There are still available spaces in Preschool Story Times for children ages 2, 3, 4 and 5 years old. Each session runs for 6 weeks. These programs feature small class size, incorporation of the American Library Association's 'Ready to Read' initiative components, modeling of pre-reading fundamentals, and of course...age-appropriate stories, crafts, games, music, rhymes.

Story Time for 2 year olds are on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Story Time for 3-5 year olds are on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

* Please note that there will no longer be a separate story time for 3, 4 and 5 year olds.

Children may attend with a parent or alone.



Bedtime Stories

Mrs. Applesauce is back to entertain families with children ages 3-5 years old on

Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

We will be making a craft project to take home and listening to some new and unique stories. No registration is required!

Writing Group

If you love to write and are in grades 5-8, this is your chance to join an exclusive writing group of your peers led by the **fabulous**, Evelyn Eddy. The group meets on one Monday afternoon a month from 3:15-4:15 p.m. Meetings consist of shared reading of each individual's work and structured, guided criticism of the works. There is still room available. Please call the Library at 342-6770.

Looking for New Picture Books?

Have you noticed that the **new!** picture book shelf at the Library is looking a little thin lately? Wondering where all the new books are? Well here is your answer! The new picture books will no longer be labeled **new!** They will only be placed on the **new!** shelf until they have been checked out for the first time. When they are returned they will be shelved in their permanent alphabetical home. Ta Da!

April Vacation Events

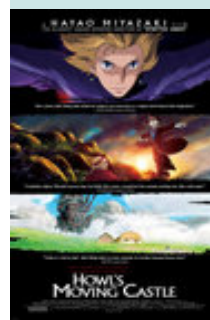
A-Maisy-ing Events

Come and join everyone's favorite mouse, **Maisy!** We will be reading stories featuring Maisy and her friends, making an adorable craft, and welcoming Maisy herself for a visit after the storytime! Events will take place on **Tuesday, April 18th at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** These events will take place in the Wagner room at the Library. No registration is required. All ages are welcome.



HOWLS MOVING CASTLE!

Please join us for a showing of Hayao Miyazaki's newly released anime blockbuster *Howls Moving Castle* on the big screen at the Library. Come and see



the film that critics are calling, "Totally in a class by itself."

"*Howl's Moving Castle* is an early contender for Best Animated Feature Oscar." This program will be held on **Wednesday, April 19th at 10:30 a.m.** and is for families with children of all ages. This film is rated PG, parental guidance is suggested. No registration is required. Refresh-

ments will be provided.

Manga Workshop with Tom Hart

Manga, comics, cartoons, graphic novels...whatever you call them, they are all the rage right now! More and more kids are learning to tell stories and explore their worlds with this unique art form which is a combination of words and pictures. The Portland Library will host a **Manga Workshop** on **Thursday, April 20th from 1-3:30 p.m. for children ages 9 and up.** This workshop will introduce attendees to Manga, (mahng-gah) *the Japanese term for comics*, and cartooning basics. Kids will begin by learning professional techniques, creating their own characters, and working towards their own single page comic during the workshop. Attendees will go home with their own comic page created with professional drawing materials. Due to the nature of the program, space and supplies are limited. Registration is required and will begin on **April 3rd.**

More...

Judy Moody Book Group

Children in grades 2-4 that are looking for a great new read are encouraged to join Ms. Lauren for a foray into the world of Judy Moody!

Participants may read any of the books in the Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald, including the new book about her younger brother entitled, *Stink the Incredible Shrinking Kid*. Children must have read at least one book to participate. After the discussion we will be making Mood-o-Meters and using them in a game of charades, making ME collages and sharing a Judy-inspired snack. This program will take place on **Thursday, March 16th at 4:00 p.m.** Copies of the books in this series are available for loan at the Library while supplies last. Registration is required and is going on now. Please call the Library at 342-6770 to register.



Movies at the Library!

Visit the library on selected Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. for big screen entertainment. Please call or visit the library, or check the web page, to find out the dates and titles for these free movie showings. Funding from the Friends of Portland Library and other donations make this program possible.

Read and Recycle

Don't forget the Friends of the Library's Read and Recycle collection on **Thursday, March 2nd**. Items will be accepted from **3:00-6:00 p.m.** at the Brownstone Intermediate School.

Adult Book Discussion Group

Join your friends and neighbors at the next meeting of the Portland Library's book group. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. The group will be reading the classic book, *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. Multiple copies are available for loan at the Library. No registration is required!

Knifty Knitters

Whether you are an experienced knitter or a beginner, this group is for you. Come and join this eclectic group of craftswomen every **Saturday morning** from **10-Noon** and enjoy companionship as you knit, instruction if you are learning, and guidance if you are not sure how to proceed with your project. Older children and adults are welcome. No registration is required.



From the Desk of the Children's Librarian, Debbie Martin

Nutmeg Voting Results

To me, the Connecticut's Nutmeg Children's Book Awards remind me of the Academy Awards. For both the Oscars and the Nutmegs, the people involved in the business are the ones who vote for their favorites. The Oscars are decided. For the Nutmeg Awards, it's the children who have read at least one of the nominated titles that get to vote for their favorites. This year for the first time, there are two different categories, intermediate (for grades 4 through 6) and teen (for grades 7 and 8).

Across the state, 21,577 intermediate graders and 7,280 teens voted for their favorites. The state's intermediate grade winner is *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. Connecticut's teen winner is *Hoot* by Carl Hiaassen. (Locally, 86 students voted at the Portland Library (51 intermediate students and 35

teen level). The library's intermediate level winner is *Once Upon a Marigold* by Jean Ferris. *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman, *Soldier Boys* by Dean Hughes, *Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements, and *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson, all tied for first place in the Library's teen voting category.

The 2007 nominated books are here and waiting to be read. Check them out!

Summer Reading 2006

Although there is still snow on the ground as I write this, the Children's staff is busily planning a fun, activity-filled summer reading program for the library. This year's theme is pets --- *Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales*. Look for more information as we get closer to summer.

End Notes!

Tax Forms at the Library

IRS tax forms, instructions, schedules, and publications are available in the Reference area. The IRS' CD-ROM of forms and instructions has been installed on several workstations. This is useful, if you can not find the form you are seeking.

Notebooks of forms will be available that patrons can use to photocopy the pages they need; ask for them at the Information Desk.

If patrons want to get forms and publications for taxes, look at the Library's site, www.portlandct.org/taxforms.htm. Federal tax information is at <http://www.irs.gov>. The Connecticut Department of Revenue's website is <http://www.ct.gov/drs>.

If you seek other states' tax forms, use <http://www.taxsites.com/state.html>. There are links to individual states' tax forms.

Art Exhibit

The Portland Library presents the Art of Portland. Each March the students of Portland exhibit their arts and crafts at the Portland Library. All schools, Valley View, Gildersleeve, Brownstone Intermediate and Portland Senior High, have some representation. The show will be up from March 8th through March 28th. There will be a reception for the students and their parents on **Wednesday, March 8th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. The public is welcome!

Friends of the Portland Library

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Portland Library will be held on Monday, March 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library. All members of the Friends of the Portland Library are encouraged to attend. The Agenda is available at the Library's information desk and on the Library's public bulletin board.

Book-a-Trip

Thanks to the Friends of the Portland Library, the Portland Library offers Museum Passes for our patrons. These passes may be reserved up to one month in advance, and may be checked out by adults (18 and older) on a valid library card from public libraries in Connecticut. This Museum Pass Program allows you and your family or guests to enjoy some of the treasures of our area either for free or at a reduced fee. You can make your own reservation online at <http://www.portlandlibraryct.org/museumpasses.htm>. Please contact the Library for additional details.

Featuring: The Mystic Seaport Pass

This pass admits 1 family (2 adults and 3 children 18 and under). Founded in 1929, Mystic Seaport today is our country's leading maritime museum, guardian of the largest collections of boats and sea-related photography in the world. This institution annually serves over a million visitors from around the globe.

Available Passes: American Clock and Watch Museum, Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut, Connecticut River Museum, Dinosaur State Park, Florence Griswold Museum, Lutz Children's Museum, Maritime Aquarium, Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, New England Air Museum, New England Carousel Museum, Peabody Museum, Roger Williams Park and Zoo, Science Center of Connecticut/Roaring Brook Nature Center, and Wadsworth Atheneum.

Library Hours

Monday– Thursday
10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Contact Information

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

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