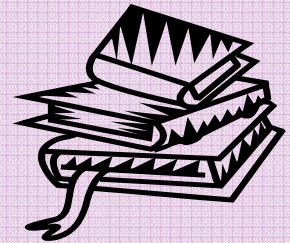


# Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

April 2006

## New Attraction in Museum Pass Program

The Portland Library has added The New Britain Museum of American Art to its list of Museum Passes. The pass allows for free admission for up to 4 people.

***New Britain Museum of American Art***  
***56 Lexington Street***  
***New Britain, CT 06052-1412***  
***Voice: 860-229-0257***



The New Britain Museum of American Art has worked for its first 100 years to build an internationally renowned collection of American Art and to develop educational programs for its audience. When the Chase Family Building officially opens April 9th, 2006, the Museum will have a café, a multipurpose room, an expanded gift shop, new galleries, and expanded parking. With particular strengths in colonial portraiture, the Hudson River School, American Impressionism, and the Ash Can School, not to mention the important mural series "The Arts of Life in America" by Thomas Hart Benton, the museum relies heavily on its permanent collection for exhibitions and for programming. It also displays a significant number of borrowed shows and works by emerging artists.

The Friends of the Portland Library supports this program. For more information contact the Library or inquire at the Information Desk.

## Let the Sunshine In!

Spring is here, and warmer weather will allow the installation of the long-awaited window missing from above the Library's main door.

The plywood, covering the hole left when the damaged window was removed last fall, will be replaced one spring day, hopefully during the month of April.

Please watch for a notice regarding this event, as it is possible that the Library will need to close briefly when the window is installed.

## Tasty Book Discussion Coming in May

Join in a discussion of *The Apprentice: My Life in the Kitchen* by Jacques Pepin on **Monday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.** Discussion Leader will be Susan Topping, Three Rivers Community Technical College.

*The Apprentice* is the poignant and sometimes funny tale of a boy's coming of age. Beyond that, it is the story of America's culinary awakening and the transformation of food from an afterthought to a national preoccupation.

For more information and to register, please contact the Library. Multiple copies of the book are available at the Library. These programs are free and open to the public and is one part of the Connecticut Humanities Council's Literature for a Lifetime.

## Festive Chocolate -Truffle Making

The Library will host this delicious program on Wednesday, April 26th from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Learn the basics of making truffles, compare various types of chocolates, methods, ingredients, & equipment. Of course, enjoy samples, too! The program is designed for adults and supervised teens; registration is required.

Maria Poirier Brandriff has been experimenting with fancy desserts and chocolate for many years. She has been a finalist in several cooking contests and has twice won the grand prize in the New Haven Register's cooking contest for her elaborate tortes.



# Kids' Page!

## Preschool Story Time -

### One-on-One Story Time

A series of weekly story times designed to introduce toddlers and their parents to the library and to give parents and children a fun and special one-on-one time together will be beginning in April. Children must be 12-23 months old to attend. A parent (or caregiver) is required to stay with the child during the program. Siblings may attend the program at the instructor's discretion.



Each program lasts approximately 30 minutes and includes stories, finger plays, nursery rhymes, songs and free play. The group meets weekly for six weeks on **Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** Register in

person or by telephone beginning **Thursday, April 13th after 10:00 a.m.** Session dates: **April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1**

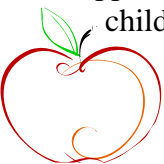
## SAY, SAY, OH BABY!

It's never too early to introduce your baby/toddler to books and the library. So, the Portland Library is pleased to announce "Say, Say, Oh Baby", a special program for children ages 0 to 18 months and their caregivers. This program will meet Wednesdays for the month of May from 10:30 a.m. to Noon, beginning on May 10. This is a drop-in program; registration is not required. A librarian will begin each session with 10 to 15 minutes of songs, bounces, and books. The remaining time is for caregivers and babies to play, interact, and enjoy. If you have any questions, please call the Library.



## Bedtime Stories

Mrs. Applesauce is back to entertain families with children ages 3-5 years old on **Thursday, April 27th 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!



## April Vacation Events

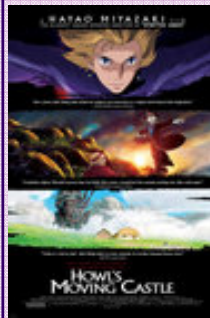
### A-Maisy-ing Events

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! Maisy will take visit the Library 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** was a 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. Refreshments 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...

## April 15th is Coming...

Don't be late! Use the IRS tax forms, instructions, schedules, and publications that 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.

If patrons want to get forms and publications for taxes, look at the Library's site:

<http://www.portlandct.org/taxforms.htm>.

## April Art Exhibit



The Portland Library presents "An Enlightenment", an art exhibition of watercolors by Janice Winicki Cross. Janice is a freelance artist and owner of J.C. Originals in Portland. Her show will run from April 1st to April 28th. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 2-4pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. All are welcome.



The Library display cases in the main area will showcase a collection of dolls belonging to Erica Lynn Pititto. Erica is a student at the Brownstone Intermediate School in grade 5.

## Movies at the Library!



Visit the library on selected Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. for big screen entertainment. Please call, 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, April 6th**. Items will be accepted from **3:00-6:00 p.m.** at the Brownstone Intermediate School.

## Knifty Knitters

Every **Saturday morning** from **10-Noon**, enjoy companionship as you knit. Instruction and guidance are available if needed. Older children and adults are welcome. No registration is required.

## Book Discussion



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 6th at 7:00 p.m. The group will be reading the classic book, **Rebecca** by Daphne du Maurier.

The story is told through the eyes of the young second wife of Maxim de Winter, owner of Manderley, a Cornish estate. Bit by bit, the character of Rebecca is built up in the mind of her successor, and the sinister figure of the housekeeper who had adored her, strengthens the conviction that her ghost haunts the place. No registration is required! The title for the May 4th book discussion is **Peace Like a River** by Leif Enger.

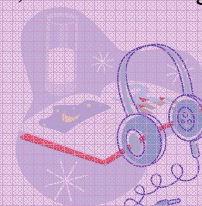
*April is National Poetry Month, an annual observance to pay tribute to American poets and the vital place of poetry in our lives. Spearheaded by the Academy of American Poets, this is the largest celebration of poetry in American history.*

## From the Desk of the Children's Librarian

### LISTEN AND READ

Do you know that the Portland Library Children's Room has a varied collection of books with audio-cassettes? These book and tape combos are a perfect way to encourage your child to develop both reading and listening skills simultaneously. Research has shown that audio books help students develop literacy skills since they can help clarify pronunciation, enable word recognition, and increase reading comprehension. Struggling students become more successful when they listen to a book being read and following along in the actual book.

Currently, these book/tape combos are located in red bins on the counters bordering the story time room in the Children's area. Although most of this collection consists of audiocassettes, we are adding book/CD combinations now.



# End Notes!

## Food-Related Books

*Double Shot* by Diane Mott Davidson  
FIC MYS DAV

Caterer and sleuth Goldy Bear Schulz is back again! This time she's suspected of murder when her ex "The Jerk" is released from jail and then found dead. Chock full of wonderful recipes including Double-Shot Chocolate Cake and Got-a-Hunch Brunch Rolls.

*Finding Betty Crocker: the Secret Life of America's First Lady of Food* by Susan Marks  
641.5973 MAR

Betty Crocker was "born" in the 1920's, a product of the advertising industry. This delightful tale chronicles her changing appearance as well as the country's shift from home-made to processed food. Includes recipes!

*Garlic and Sapphires: the Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise* by Ruth Reichl  
BIOG REICHL

In this entertaining memoir, the former restaurant critic for the New York Times dons elaborate disguises to remain anonymous as she visits various establishments in the Big Apple.

*Guy Food: Rachael Ray's Top 30 30-Minute Meals* by Rachael Ray  
641.555 RAY

This collection of greatest hits by cooking star Ray features simple recipes with big flavors, perfect for date nights, game nights, or just hanging out.

## Friends of the Portland Library

Friends of Portland Library held their annual meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board officers were elected: Joseph McQuade was re-elected as president. Stephanie Tatro, Treasurer; Michelle Grzejszczek, Secretary; Alison Harris, Vice-President. The President expressed appreciation to many new and continuing board members who make the Friends' activities possible: Alison Harrison, Terri Larson, Stephanie Tatro, Michelle Grzejszczek and the Read & Recycle team: Bob Casati, Nancy Goodrich, and Phyllis Greene. The Library Board and Director wish to offer a special thank you to the board members for their generous donation of time and talent.

April is Friends of the Library Month. The Library would like to thank all our Friends who contribute funds, time and talents to helping provide library improvements, programs, museum passes, and a wide variety of popular materials for our patrons to borrow. Please watch for a Library display of a poster listing all contributing members of Friends of Portland Library.



## Listen to the Audio Book Download Service

Portland Library cardholders can download audio books for free. The collection features popular fiction, BBC radio programs, audio book versions of blockbuster movies, 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. 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 available, users can place a hold and will receive email notification when it is ready for checkout. After 14 days, the items are automatically returned to the system and made available to others. The Library Connection Downloadable Audio Book Catalog can be accessed by visiting the Portland Library's homepage or by going directly to <http://libraryconnection.lib.overdrive.com>.

**The Portland Library  
Will Be Closed  
on Friday, April 14th!**

### 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

### Portland Library

20 Freestone Avenue  
Portland, CT 06480  
860-342-6770  
Fax: 860-342-6778  
[www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)

### First Selectwoman:

Susan Bransfield  
**Library Board Co-Chairs:**  
Andrew Bauer  
Cathy Probolus

### Library Director:

Janet Nocek