

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library September 2007

Feng Shui

On September 20th, at 7:00 pm, Feng Shui consultant Ned Farrell will provide information on how to bring harmony into your life using the principles of Feng Shui to arrange your surroundings. Ned is a Certified Feng Shui Advisor and the Director of the Connecticut Chapter of The International Feng Shui Guild. A past Peace Corps Volunteer, he works with clients throughout the United States. His consulting focuses on helping individuals and families get the most results out of their environment. Using slides and real-life stories, Ned introduces the concepts of Feng Shui, making it a fun, valuable, and accessible approach to making the best use of your environment.



Featured Artist

An exhibit of paintings by two local artists, Sue Hall and Bivenne Harvey Staiger will be on view in the Mary Flood Room from September 8th to the 28th. Most of the paintings will be watercolors, including landscapes, florals and collage work.

Sue Hall was an art teacher in the Portland school system for 25 years. She illustrated *The History of Portland* (text currently used in the elementary schools) in 1969. Mrs. Hall is a key member at Wesleyan Potters and a member of the Middletown Art Guild.

Bivenne Harvey Staiger is a member of, and Program Chair for, the Middletown Art Guild. She currently teaches beginning to intermediate watercolor at the Portland Senior Center.

The pottery of Portland Middle School art teacher Ann-Marie Szerecko will be featured in the display cases during the month of September. The theme for her collection is "What I Did on Summer Vacation".

Friends Book Sale

The Friends of Portland Library will hold their annual book sale on Saturday, October 27th and Sunday, October 28th. On Friday, October 26th, members of the Friends are invited to a preview sale. Not a member? Forms are available at the Library and on the Library's web site. You may even sign up on October 26th!

East of the River READS!



Mr. Emerson's Wife by Amy Belding Brown is the title of the "one-book" read this year. Residents of Andover, Bolton,

Colchester, Columbia, Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, and Portland are urged to read this title and to hear the author speak at the Hebron library on October 3rd, at 7:00 pm. Multiple copies of this book are now available.

This novel is based upon the actual life of Ralph Waldo Emerson's wife Lydia. It combines New England historical and literary interest with a love triangle that includes some of the greatest American 19th century minds.

There will also be a Bus Trip to Concord, Massachusetts, on Sunday, October 14th. The trip includes a visit to Orchard House which is the home of the Alcotts, including the writers Amos Bronson Alcott and Louisa May, author of *Little Women*. They were contemporaries and friends of the Emersons. The group will also visit the Concord Museum which holds many articles owned by the Emersons and by Henry David Thoreau, another character in the book. There will also be a visit to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. The bus leaves Glastonbury at 11:00 am and departs Concord at approximately 4:30 pm, arriving back in Glastonbury about 6:30 pm. The cost is \$45.00 per person and includes admissions. You may register at any participating library. Payment is due at the time of registration and must be received by Thursday, September 27th.

Children's Events

Preschool Story Time Series!

It's that time of year again! The big kids are all back at school, all are back on their schedules, moms are a little less harried...well almost!

Slow it down a notch with our no muss, no fuss, drop in story times for the preschool set.

Check out the schedule below and join us for weekly friends and fun. Enjoy!

Say, Say Oh Baby: Children ages 0-11 mos.

Wednesdays @ 10:15 a.m.

September 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 31,

Fun Ones: Children ages 11-23 mos.

Wednesdays @ 11:00 a.m.

September 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 31,

Toddler Time: Children ages 24-36 mos.

Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.

September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Story Garden: Children ages 3-5 years old.

Mondays @ 10:30 a.m.

September 17, 24, October 1, 15, 22, 29

Family Fun Story Time: All Ages!

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

September 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16*, 30

*see Family Event



Mother Goose visits the Library !

Dear old Mother Goose has a problem! Her book of Nursery Rhymes has been eaten up by a ravenous bookworm! Help! Families with children of all ages are welcome to come and meet Portland's very own *Mother Goose* and help her re-write her pages of rhymes on:

Tuesday, November 13th @ 6:30 p.m.

& Tuesday, November 27th @ 6:30 p.m.

No registration is required. Fun is required!

Drumming Circle!

Craig and Virginia Norton, otherwise known as *Playtivity*, will take you on a musical journey, playing rhythms from around the globe and helping us to create our own uplifting and meditative improvisations. Drumming instruments will be provided for all participants. Free tickets will be available at the Library beginning **September 17th.**

Summer's Over

Wow! This year's **Get a Clue @ Your Library** programs kept us busy. We hope that you enjoyed all our programs. To date, 285 children have earned tee shirts by reading or being read to for at least 20 days; 212 children have completed 40 days of reading and have earned a free book and a free dinner at Applebee's Restaurant. Congratulations to all who participated and earned prizes. A special thanks goes to the Friends of Portland Library for generously funding our programs & prizes.

YNK – You Never Know @ Your Library, the reading program designed for Tweens and Teens, was also very successful. Participants earned "Mystery Dollars" for reading, volunteering, blogging, and attending programs. Over 65 students used their "money" at the Auction Finale, where they bid on over 100 prizes donated by the Friends of the Library, the Dickerson family and several local businesses. Thank you, everyone who participated and donated.

Ninety-eight volunteers helped us throughout the summer, manning the prize table, helping at the Kickoff Picnic/Concert, the Live Clue mystery event, the tie-dye workshops, and the Pet Show Finale. Thank you so much for all your time and enthusiasm.



Family Day and Brownstone Festival

Once again, Portland Library will be participating in Family Day, held in conjunction with the Brownstone Festival. This year, Family Day will take place on **Saturday, September 15th** on the Town Green from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Thanks to the Friends of the Library for inviting the ever-popular book character, Curious George to attend. The Portland Junior Women's Club will be available to take your child's picture (for a small fee) with Curious George. The Brownstone Arts Association is sponsoring a Student Art Contest in the days leading up to the Brownstone Festival. The student art work will be on display at the Library during the week preceding the Festival. Stop by the Library to view the works of many of Portland's talented youth.

Book Groups and More!



Family Event!

It is going to be really **SCARY** to be a **CROW** in Portland this October! **The SCARECROWS** are coming!

Scarecrows will be invading the Library on **Tuesday evening, October 16th at 6:30 p.m.**

Families with children of all ages are invited to join us for a scarecrow making program. Each family will design and create their own scarecrow.

Stuffings and some accessories will be provided.

To make your scarecrow a true reflection of your family, bring an assortment of old clothing to dress your scarecrow. Storytelling and light refreshments will round out this delightful, seasonal ritual. Come and start a new Autumn tradition! Registration will begin on **October 1st.**

Nutmeg Book Groups

Voting for the 2008 Nutmeg Award (Connecticut's Children's Book Award) begins in January. Are you ready to cast your vote? **Children in grades 4 and up**, who have read at least 2 Nutmeg books, can make a difference by voting!

Join us throughout the fall and hear what your friends have to say as we discuss the Nutmeg nominees and get involved in the stories.

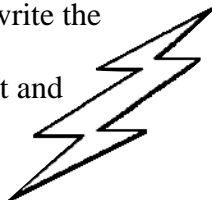
Nutmeg Nominee Discussion #1 **October 18th @ 4:00 p.m.**

This month we will be discussing **White Star: Dog on the Titanic** by Marty Crisp, **Escaping the Giant Wave** by Peg Kehret, and **Hatching Magic** by Ann Downer. Read one or read them all! Multiple copies will be available for loan at the Library. Registration is required and will begin on **September 17th.**

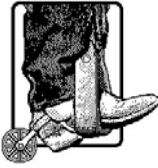
Nutmeg Nominee Discussion #2 **November 15th @ 2:00 p.m.**

Attention all Demigods in training! Don your toga and stop in for an afternoon visit with the Olympians as we discuss **The Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan! Try your hand at the only **Oracle Wheel** in town, design your own Greek vase, learn how to write the Greek alphabet and much more!

Registration is required for this event and will begin on **October 18th!**



Adult Book Discussion Group



The adult book discussion meets the first Thursday of each month. Please join us on **September 6th at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss **Lonesome Dove** by Larry McMurtry.

On October 4th, the discussion title will be **The Shadow of the Wind** by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. The Cemetery of Forgotten Books is a library tended by Barcelona's guild of rare-book dealers as a repository for books forgotten by the world, waiting for someone who will care about them again. Young Daniel visits the library and chooses a title. He so loves the book he has chosen, that he sets out to find the rest of the author's works. But before Daniel knows it, his seemingly innocent quest has opened a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets, an epic story of murder, magic, madness, and doomed love. Now, Daniel realizes that if he doesn't find out the truth, those closest to him may suffer horribly.

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

The Library Is Not Just for Homework

Librarians can recommend some reading just for fun! Magazines, graphic novels and books for all tastes – and ages- are offered. Book displays and booklists also provide suggestions. There is even a database available to you through the internet that you can search by your favorite author or reading genre to get more suggestions. (Visit www.iconn.org and choose "What do I read next?" from iConn resources) There's something for Mom, Dad and kids. Please visit or call the Library's Information Desk for more information.

Film Showings

Portland Library's "Movies in the Afternoon" shows resume on September 5th and will be held one Wednesday each month at 1:00 pm. Join us for big screen entertainment with films recently released on DVD. The first show will be **Miss Potter** based on the life of the creator of the beloved children's Beatrix Potter books. The Friends of Portland Library group provides the library with DVDs to borrow.

More News...

Changes, Changes...

Why are we no longer stamping your materials with due dates when you check them out?

The decision was made last year when the staffing level was reduced and only one staff person could be assigned to the circulation desk, including during busy afternoon hours and during program times that drew many people. To prevent long waiting lines, we looked for ways that would allow people to continue to borrow without limit, but would speed up the process. You now need to rely on the printed receipt showing your items and their due dates that you receive during checkout. The benefit to you is that, even though the library staffing was reduced again, by two part-time positions, during last year's budget process, the waiting time at the checkout desk is reduced. And many patrons appreciate that they now can read the information on the back of the paperback books! If you have questions about when your items are due, you may call the Library at 342-6770 or view your record using the library catalog, available through the library's web page www.portlandlibraryct.org. E-mail notification also is available.

If you are an e-mail user, a convenient reminder is available to you. When you borrow items, you can receive an alert two days before they are due and may generally renew online once if you choose. Please give your e-mail address to staff at the Information Desk if you wish to receive e-mail notification of due dates. Electronic notification is also used when items you have placed on hold become available.

Thanks to all our patrons who continue to borrow from the library and to return the borrowed materials responsibly.

New Large Print Books Available

Large Print books are easy on the eyes. Now the Portland Library is making it easier for you to find a variety of books to read in this format. You may borrow many titles that have been loaned from Middletown Library Service Center, a facility of the Connecticut State Library. Whether you like mysteries by Mosley, or McCrumb, or light reading by Nora Roberts, there is something for you. Find them shelved in the New Books area with the Large Print books that were added to the collection recently.

Net crimes & misdemeanors :

Outmaneuvering Web Spammers, Stalkers, and Con Artists

The Internet can be a connection to a world of information, but unfortunately, use of it may allow outside access to your personal information. Benefit from the experience of cybercrime expert J.A. Hitchcock. As someone who was stalked online, she became an expert and founded an organization that helps law enforcement find identity thieves and works to prevent such crimes from occurring to the rest of us. Her book, *Net Crimes & Misdemeanors: Outmaneuvering Web Spammers, Stalkers, and Con Artists*, provides easy to follow descriptions of effective methods for dealing with spam, scams, viruses, hack attacks, identity theft, and many other online dangers. Please request it at the Library or reserve from your home computer through the Library's catalog, available at the web page, www.portlandlibraryct.org.



The Library will be closed on Saturday, September 1st through Monday, September 3rd, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The usual hours resume on Tuesday, September 4th. The Library will resume operating hours of 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays beginning Sept. 8th.

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
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