

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library December 2007

Featured Artist

Pat Mizener will be our featured artist during the month of December. She specializes in watercolor and pastel pet portraits and her work can be seen in the Mary Flood Room during regular library hours.

Portland residents Robert and Sandra Bosco, of Stained Glass Creations, will be displaying their 3-D stained glass art, including sun catchers, in the display cases during the month of December.

Film Showings

Portland Library's "Movies in the Afternoon" show this month will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at 1:00 pm. Join us one Wednesday a month for big screen entertainment with films recently released on DVD. The selection for this month is the comedy, *License to Wed*. John Krasinski and Mandy Moore play a young couple about to be married. They go through a grueling preparation course by their priest, played by Robin Williams, who is determined to make their lives miserable.

The Friends of Portland Library group provides the library with DVDs to borrow.

The Library will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th in observance of Christmas.

The Library will be open on New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31st, from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm.

The Library will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day.



Food for Fines

During the month of December, you may pay overdue fines with non-perishable food items that will be given to the Portland Food Bank.

Please bring your donations to the circulation desk so that your fines may be cancelled. We ask that your donation reflect the spirit of the season. A special thanks to Portland Country Market for the use of a shopping cart.



I Heard It Instead!

Too busy this holiday season to read a book? Why not listen to one instead? Your hands will be free to clean your house, make and wrap gifts, or drive to Grandma's house! Downloadable Audio Books and Adobe eBooks are available for your enjoyment. With a valid Portland library card, you can browse and search hundreds of great titles and download them to your computer, transfer them to a portable device, or burn them on to a CD for your listening pleasure anywhere, anytime. Just go to the Library's website, www.portlandlibraryct.org and click on the free audio books download link.

This service is intended for home use. While you may browse this collection and checkout titles within the library, you will not be able to download the files to a library's computer.

Here are some recent additions to the collection:

Blood Brothers by Nora Roberts
The Chase by Clive Cussler
T Is for Trespass by Sue Grafton
Then She Found Me by Elinor Lipman
Tipperary by Frank Delaney
Watchman by Ian Rankin
Whole New Light by Sandra Brown

Children's Events

Ready to Read!

'Ready to Read' is a new program series for children in *kindergarten and 1st grade* making 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 and snack together.

Registration is required and will begin on *December 10th* for the first event. Registration for subsequent programs will take place during the previous month's event. The first event will take place on **January 10th from 4:00-5:00 p.m.**

Event themes for our first two meetings are:

Thursday, January 10th: Theme: Snow!

Thursday, February 14th: Theme: Chocolate!



Come Play with Me!

Our story time sessions will start again in January. In the meantime, the children's storytelling room will be open for an informal, drop-in playgroup every **Wednesday morning from 10:30-12:00 Noon** throughout December and into early January when story times resume.

Gift Giving Suggestions

Looking for the perfect gift for that child or teen on your list? Look no further! Here are some suggestions.

Children ages 0-3

Orange, Pear, Apple by Emily Gravett

Pip and Squeak by Ian Schoenherr

Children ages 3-8

Russell's Christmas Magic by Rob Scotton

Wolf's Coming by Joe Kulka

Children ages 8-12

Judy Moody & Stink: The Holly Joliday

by Megan McDonald

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Great Joy by Kate DiCamillo

Teen

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott

Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt

Drop in Story Times begin in January!

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

Wednesdays @ 10:15 a.m. January 16, 23, 30, and
February 6, 13, 20

Lapsits introduce the sounds and rhythms of language to our youngest library users. Nursery rhymes, songs, and the simplest of stories build a foundation for a lifelong love of books and reading. Parents / Caregivers attend these story times with their infants.

(Program length: 30 minutes, includes free playtime)

Fun Ones: *Children ages 11-23 mos.*

Wednesdays @ 11:00 a.m. January 16, 23, 30, and
February 6, 13, 20

Young children and their caregivers will enjoy this lively program of songs, rhymes, movement, play, and read-a-louds. (Program length: 30 minutes, includes free playtime!)

Toddler Time: *Children ages 24-36 mos.*

Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m. January 15, 22, 29, and
February 5, 12, 19

Toddlers are encouraged to continue their exploration into 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, includes free playtime!)

Story Garden :*Children ages 3-5 years old.*

Mondays @ 10:30 a.m. January 14, 28, and
February 4, 11, 25

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

Family Fun Story Time: *All Ages!*

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m. January 15, 22, 29, and
February 5, 12, 19

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)

Book Groups and More!



Holiday Programs for Children & Families!

Deck the Halls with the Opera Express

Saturday, December 8th @ 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate the holidays with Opera Express as they perform seasonal favorites, complete with traditional carols, Hanukkah songs, and maybe a few surprises! Designed for families with children of all ages and guaranteed to add some musical cheer to your holiday! Free tickets are available at the Library now.

Merriness & Mistletoe

Monday, December 10th @ 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 3-5 years old are invited to join us for a special holiday event. Make a gift for someone special, learn about different holiday traditions, and spread some holiday cheer! No registration is required.

Merry Makers, Preschool Holiday Event

Tuesday, December 11th @ 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers are invited to 'get into the holiday spirit' during a *Merry Makers* story time event! Sing, dance, listen to stories, make a craft, ENJOY the holidays together! No registration is required! Just drop in!

Family Holiday Program

Tuesday, December 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Families with children of all ages are invited to come together for a family storytelling event. We will enjoy holiday stories, make a craft, and share some treats of the season. No registration is required.

Free Crafting Event!

Thursday, December 27th. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are cleaning out our craft drawers. Finally! We have lots of odds and ends, and left over materials from a year's worth of crafts which will be available for use during our free crafting event. Children of all ages are encouraged to bring a little creativity and a lot of imagination to the Library throughout the afternoon and spend some time creating a unique project. It's "out with the old and in with the new" as we get ready for a fun-filled 2008. Drop-in.



Spiderwick Event

Thursday, January 31st @ 4:00 p.m.

Children in grades 3 and up are invited to join us as we forage into the world of the fairies, pixies, sprites and goblins created by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi.

Although we cannot guarantee that these magical creatures will even allow this event to take place, we have planned an abundance of **SPLENDID** activities to enchant and intrigue, as we anxiously await the February release of the Spiderwick movie. Participants should read at least 1 of the books from the Spiderwick series before the program!

Multiple copies of the books will be available for loan at the Library in January.

Registration is required for this event and will begin on **January 7th**.



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 in January. The Portland Library has multiple copies of this year's nominees available for loan. You must read at least two Nutmeg nominees and be in grades 4 and up to vote! The holiday school break is a great time to catch up on your reading! Here are the nominees that got our votes:

Mrs. Martin,
Children's Librarian at Portland Library:
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Ms. Lauren,
Asst. Children's Librarian at Portland Library:
Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret

Mrs. Des Rosiers-Berman, Media Specialist at BIS:
Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park

Mrs. Radziewicz, Media Specialist at Gildersleeve:
Jackie's Wild Seattle by Will Hobbs
What will your pick be?

*To all of our BIG and little Library Friends!
May you all have a happy, healthy, and
Magnificently Magical Holiday
and a Happy, Happy New Year!
-Mrs. Martin & Ms. Lauren*



More News...

What 's New in Non-Fiction

Come in and browse the new adult non-fiction collection! Here are a few of the many titles you'll find:

The 50 Best Sites in Astronomy and How to See Them by Fred Schaaf

Ani's Raw Food Kitchen by Ani Phyo

The Curious Shopper's Guide to New York City by Pamela Keech

Curry Cuisine: Fragrant Dishes from India, Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia

How to Photograph Absolutely Everything by Tom Ang

Mommy Millionaire: How I Turned My Kitchen Table Idea into a Million Dollars and How You Can, Too! by Kim Lavine

The Mindful Way Through Depression: Freeing Yourself from Chronic Depression by Mark Williams, et al.

Senior's Rights: Your Guide to Living Life to the Fullest by Brette McWhorter Sember

Supercapitalism by Robert Reich

Thank You!

A special thank you is extended by the Library Board and Library Director to all who support the Library through their gifts of materials, funds and volunteer time.

Donations to the Portland Library Memorial Fund and Endowment Fund will now be listed on a regular basis in the newsletter and on the Library's website.

Memorial Fund donations received during October:

Bivenne Harvey Staiger and Sue Hall donated a portion of revenue from art sold during their exhibit in September.

Gift books and donations were gratefully received from:

Lloyd Glasson
Michele Grzejszczak

Memoir Writing Group Reception

Sat., December 1st from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

A reception for the Portland Library Memoir Writing Group will be held in the Library to mark the occasion of the Group's newly published work, *Echoes: a Book of Memoir*. Come meet the authors and celebrate with them and their families. The public is invited to attend. Copies of the booklet are available for a \$5.00 donation to the Portland Library Memorial Fund. This Fund supports programs and improvements to the Library facility.

Adult Book Discussion Group

The adult book discussion meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us on December 6th to discuss *Celestial Navigation* by Anne Tyler.

On January 3rd, the discussion title will be *The Secret of Lost Things* by Sheridan Hay. In this charming novel about the eccentricities and passions of booksellers and collectors, a captivating young Australian woman takes a job at a vast, chaotic emporium of used and rare books in New York City and finds herself caught up in the search for a lost Melville manuscript.

Multiple copies of this title will be available beginning at the December 6th discussion. No registration is required to attend the discussion and new members are always welcome!

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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