

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library August 2007

Summer Reading!!!

Don't stop now! It ain't over until it's over! Special event programming related to this year's summer reading program ends on August 9th, but summer READING doesn't have to! Participants have until August 29th to complete their 40 days of reading and collect their prizes! Don't miss these FABULOUS August events!

Pet Show & Disguise Contest:

Thursday, August 9th @ 6:00 pm

Families with children of all ages are invited to bring whomever, or whatever, they regard as the family pet to the **Town Green** for our 2nd annual pet show.

Every pet, whether, stuffed, fluffy, scaly, slimy, or just plain silly, will win a prize.

All ages welcome! Parents must accompany children and their pets. In case of rain, bring a stuffed pet into the Mary Flood Room at the Library for the show! Registration is required and is going on now. Please call the Library to register your pet. Registration forms must be completed in order for live pets to participate.



Participants in the **You Never Know @ Your Library** Summer Reading Program for teens/tweens can spend their hard earned *Mystery Dollars* at the 2nd Annual Finale Auction on **Tuesday, August 7th at 6:00 pm**. Registration is required. Please call the Library for more information or to register.

Children's Fall / Winter Program Flyers

Flyers for children's upcoming story time series and special events will be available in the Library in late August. Stop in and pick one up in the children's department!

Adult Book Discussion Group

The adult book discussion meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us on August 2nd to discuss *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. On September 6th the discussion title will be *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry.

Set in the late nineteenth century, *Lonesome Dove*, winner of the 1986 Pulitzer Prize, is the story of a cattle drive from Texas to Montana; a cattle drive that represents for everybody involved not only a daring, even a foolhardy, adventure, but a part of the American Dream -- the attempt to carve out a new life from the last remaining wilderness. Here is an epic of heroes and villains, honor and betrayal, heroism, loyalty, and love that embraces the West of long ago.

Multiple copies of this title will be available beginning at the August 2nd discussion. No registration is required to attend the discussion and new members are always welcome!

!! Reminder !!

Library Hours for Saturday during the month of August are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Library will be closed Saturday, September 1st through Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.



Scrapbook Workshop

Digital scrapbooking is a new way to get everyone to preserve their memories and tell their story! Dawn McDaniel will continue her workshops on **August 11th and 25th** from 10:00 am to 12 noon in the Mary Flood Room.

Everyone is welcome and men are especially encouraged to attend! To register for the workshops, visit the Information Desk, call 342-6770, or register online through the calendar of events on the library's webpage.

More News...

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 hear the author speak at the Hebron library on October 3rd, at 7:00 pm. Other programs will be announced soon.

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.

Determined to remain single and independent at the age of thirty-three, Lydia Jackson has created a comfortable life for herself in late nineteenth-century Plymouth, Massachusetts. When she meets Ralph Waldo Emerson, however, she is enchanted by his attention to her and quickly agrees to marry him. But marriage to such a famous man, even to one who's ideals she so fervently shares, is not at all what Lydia imagined. Living in Concord Mrs. Emerson encounters a life of great social demands and physical and emotional hardships.

By reading the letters of Lydia Emerson, the author has been able to infuse her fictional character with a voice that is at once authentic and convincing. While Lydia may be disillusioned by marriage and struggle to raise her children and find happiness, we are witness to an emotional growth and understanding at a time and place that continues to interest us.

Author Amy Belding Brown is a graduate of Bates College and received her master of fine arts degree from Vermont College. Her publication credits include *Yankee*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *American Way*. The wife of a United Church of Christ minister and mother of four, she is on the staff of the Orchard House museum in Concord and teaches at Worcester State College and other schools in central Massachusetts.

Multiple copies of this book are available and on display at the library now!

Featured Artist

Local artist Doug Welch will continue to display his art work in the Mary Flood Room during the month of August. His exhibit, entitled **Drawings and Photographs** showcases his most recent works.

The display cases currently feature items that will be auctioned to those who have participated in the teen summer reading program. Check out the great selection!

Sneak Preview of the Annual Report

For the fiscal year that ended June 30th, the number of children's fiction books borrowed was 50% higher than the previous year! All ages borrowed more books than they did in the previous year. Library patrons continued to enjoy audio books, large print books, and magazines. They also found a record number of films on DVDs and a great variety of music recordings.

Thanks to the Friends of the Portland Library for supplying a new CD music browser, DVD cases and the DVDs themselves. Individual donations to the Library's Memorial Fund and to the collection also provided for enhancements including many new books.

Appreciation is extended to all patrons of the Portland Library for helping to make this year a success!

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-1:00 pm

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

First Selectwoman:

Susan Bransfield

Library Director:

Janet Nocek

Library Board Co-Chairs:

Susan Alyson Young
Andrew Bauer