

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library April 2008

Featured Artists

The very special art work of students in Portland's seventh through twelfth grades will be featured in the Mary Flood Room and in the display cases located in the lobby of the Library from Wednesday, April 9th until Thursday, May 1st. The students' art work display coincides with Youth Art Month (YAM), an annual observance that emphasizes the value of art education for all children and encourages support for quality school art programs. Established in 1961, YAM provides a forum for acknowledging and developing skills that are not possible in other subjects.

There will be a reception in the Flood Room on April 9th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to honor the young artists and all are welcome to attend! The students proudly display their art work every year and it is one of our most popular artist events!



Film Features

Portland Library's monthly "Movies in the Afternoon" show will be held on April 16th at 2:00 pm. Join us one Wednesday a month for big screen entertainment with films recently released on DVD.

The selection for this month is *The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*, a film for the entire family to enjoy, starring Emily Watson, Alex Etel, Ben Chaplin, and Brian Cox. This magical motion picture is rooted in one of the most enduring and intriguing legends of our time. A young boy finds a mysterious enchanted egg, and what hatches from it, will set in motion an adventure that will take him on the journey of a lifetime as the sea creature of Scottish legend is born. *The Water Horse* is rated PG and is 111 minutes long.

The Friends of Portland Library group supports the library DVD collection. All films shown may be borrowed.



**National Library Week is
April 13th-19th, 2008**

Stop in the Library throughout the week and join in the celebration!

Book Donation Drop-off

When: Thursday, April 3rd, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Where: Brownstone Intermediate School on Main Street. Look for the sign out in front.

The Friends of the Library accepts gently used books, books on tape or CD, Videos, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games. Text books and magazines are not part of the read-and-recycle program. The all-volunteer Friends group thanks you for your donations which will benefit library programs and services!

Tax Return Forms

April 15th is fast approaching but it's not too late! A selection of income tax return forms and instructions are still available at the Library. If we don't have the form or publication you need and you don't have access to a computer, a staff member at the Information Desk can help you to locate and to print out most IRS or Connecticut State forms from the Internet.



Reading Blog

The Portland Library now has a link to a blog from its website, www.portlandlibraryct.org. Interested readers may comment on what they have been reading and read other readers' comments right from home, any time of the day or night! Find out the titles of popular books and see what others have to say about them. It's free and it's easy to blog! Questions? Ask at the Information Desk.

Children's Events



New Children's Librarian Hired!



Please join us in welcoming our new *Head of Library Youth Services Librarian*, Steven Fowler! Since obtaining his MLS (Masters in Library Science) in 2004, Steve has worked as a Media Specialist in Westbrook, CT and for the past three years, as Head Children's Librarian at the West Haven Public Library. He is also a member of the 2010 Teen Nutmeg Book Committee. Steve will begin work at the Library on April 21st. He has a particular interest in working with the schools and forming relationships that will encourage every child in Portland to use the Library! We look forward to introducing Steve to the Portland community and anticipate many new, *fantabulously fun* programs for our children and teens! Welcome Steve!

Ready to Read!

For children in Kindergarten and 1st grade, this fun and lively monthly program is designed to enhance the core components a child needs to learn to read.

Our last program in this 4 month series will take place on **Thursday, April 24th at 4:00 p.m.**



Our theme will be Ice Cream!

Registration is going on now.

* This event is a rescheduled date. The original date was April 10th. That date has been canceled.

Toddler Time

Children ages 0-2 1/2 years old

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., April 1, 8

Children and their parent or caregiver are encouraged to continue their exploration into language and sound with a fun interactive program.

Story Garden

Children ages 2 1/2-5 years old

Mondays at 10:30 a.m., April 7

With an appealing combination of new and familiar stories, songs, crafts, imaginative play, and movement activities, *Story Garden* is a sure-fire hit!

Family Fun Story Time

All Ages!

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., April 3, 10

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.

April Vacation Events

Movie Showing

Monday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m.

We will be showing an *enchanting* new movie on the BIG screen in the Mary Flood Room this evening.

Families with children of all ages are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided.

No registration is required.



Tea Party with Miss Spider!

Tuesday, April 15th at 10:30 a.m.

We love her so much we just had to invite her to tea!

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us for a special tea party and story time with Miss Spider.

So pull out your party clothes and join us for some tea time treats and lots of fun. Registration is required for this program. **Registration will begin on Monday, March 31st and is ongoing.**

Meet and Greet with Miss Spider

Tuesday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m.

Miss Spider will be making a special appearance this afternoon for an informal story time and photo session. **No registration is required.** All ages are invited to attend! (Don't forget your camera!)

Book Groups and More!

The Teen Scene!

Be proactive! If you are looking to help shape teen services at the Portland Library, join **TAB**, our new Teen Advisory Board!

Objective: To involve Portland teens in the Library and the community by including them in the planning of teen programs and the selection of young adult materials.

Qualifications: Teens in grades 6 and up.

Duties:

- Plan, publicize and participate in fun activities
- Recommend books and materials that you and your friends would like.
- Review and discuss books, CDs and movies.
- Share ideas about how to make the library more inviting to teens
- Assist in the planning of the new teen area.

Perks:

- Earn community service hours
- Looks great on job and college applications
- Gives you a voice in the community
- Keeps you up to date on fun teen activities
- Snacks!

Next Step: Applications for interested teens are available at the Library and on-line at www.portlandlibraryct.org. Applications need to be completed and sent into the Library by **May 12th**. The first meeting will take place on **Monday, May 19th at 3:00 p.m.** and continue meeting every 3rd Monday of the month with a break in July.

Call for Volunteers!

It's that time of year again! The Library's summer reading program is set to begin on Tuesday, June 17th! We need lots and lots of volunteers to provide weekly checkpoints, hand out prizes, help out at programs, and perform prep duties for various events. If you are going into **grade 5 and up** and would be interested in joining a fun and lively core of volunteers, then please join us for an informational session on **Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.** Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Downloadable Audio Books

Have you tried this library service? From the Library's website, you can link to Library Connection's Downloadable Audio Book Catalog where you can select titles for listening. You can have up to 7 titles checked out at any given time. You do not need to return a borrowed item. Once the lending period has elapsed, the title is automatically 'returned' to the library. Therefore, there are no late fees, ever! It's free, too. Recently acquired titles include *A Prisoner of Death* by Jeffrey Archer, *100 Ways to Create Wealth* by Steve Chandler, and *The Appeal* by John Grisham.

New Library Board Member

The Portland Library Board of Directors welcomes David Richardson, the newest member of the Board, who began his tenure at the March 27th meeting of the Library Board of Directors. A big thank you goes to resigning member John T. Steele for all his hard work during his time on the Board.

New DVDs!!

Portland Library is pleased to announce the addition of **Performance DVDs** to its collection! View concerts on DVD from the following performers:

The Beatles, Sarah Brightman, Eric Clapton, David Gilmour, Bon Jovi, Lyle Lovett, Joni Mitchell, Roby Orbison, The Original Three Tenors, Elvis Presley, Bruce Springsteen, Barbara Streisand, James Taylor, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and more!

Also new to the collection are several movies that received **Oscar nominations:**

Across the Universe, *American Gangster*, *Atonement*, *Away from Her*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Gone Baby Gone*, *In the Valley of Elah*, *Into the Wild*, *The Kite Runner*, *Michael Clayton*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Sicko*, and *La Vie en Rose*.

Stop at the Information Desk, call us, or visit the online catalog to place a hold on these popular titles! DVDs may be checked out for one week!



More News...

New in Non-Fiction

Here are just a few of the many titles in our New Non-fiction collection. New books circulate for three weeks and you may check out as many as you like!

Buying and Selling a Home from Kiplinger's Personal Finance

Learn the essential tools for buying and selling, regardless of your previous experience as a homeowner in this newly updated version .

Get a Hobby! by Tina Barseghian

This information packed guide offers 101 thoroughly absorbing diversions, from conventional to downright wacky that will satisfy every taste, talent, and timetable.

Hospital Stay Handbook by Jari Holland Buck

A guide to becoming a patient advocate by someone who spent over seven months by the side of her critically ill husband. Intended for any person desperate to help a loved one during hospitalization or a protracted illness.

The Kazdin Method for Parenting the Defiant Child

by Alan E. Kazdin, Ph.D.

A proven program by the president of the American Psychological Association. Includes a DVD featuring effective tips for common problems.

Nobody Does it Better... by Trish Deseine

The "French Martha Stewart" tells us why French home cooking is still the best in the world in this beautifully illustrated cookbook.

No Fear Home Improvement from Creative Homeowner
You'll love the step-by-step instructions and large detailed illustrations and diagrams in this informative guide.

Penny Pincher's\$ Almanac from Reader's Digest

Every page of this frugal handbook is packed with dollar stretching strategies to help you make the most of every cent you have.

Yarnplay at Home: Handknits for Colorful Living by Lisa Shobhana Mason

A wide variety of projects for every room in your home: blankets, washcloths, rugs, curtains, runners, pillows, and more.

Adult Book Discussion Group

The adult book discussion meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Please join us on April 3rd to discuss ***The Glass Castle: a Memoir*** by Jeannette Walls.

On May 1st, the discussion title will be ***The Alchemist*** by Paul Coelho. ***The Alchemist*** is the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain, he journeys to the markets of Tangiers and across the Egyptian desert to a fateful encounter with the alchemist. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts and following our dreams.

Multiple copies of this title will be available beginning at the April 3rd discussion. No registration is required to attend the discussion and new members are always welcome!

Thank You!

Memorial Fund donations were received from the following individuals during the month of February: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Giuliano.

Gift books and materials donations were gratefully received from: Mrs. Carolyn Freeman, Mr. Jeff Kyser, and Mr. John McNickle.

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
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