



CHECK IT

A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library



March 2003

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WHAT MAKES THE PORTLAND LIBRARY SO SPECIAL?

The Portland Library is a popular, vital community center and a credit to the community. According to a survey done by CONNECT library consortium, of 25 public libraries in the greater Hartford area,

Only one library loans materials at a higher rate: Portland loans 20.67 items per capita.

Only one library is visited more frequently. Last year, there were 109,768 visits made to the library.

In *Connecticut Magazine's* 2003 ratings of small towns, Portland is rated 6th of 33 towns in the same population category for Leisure/Culture. Library expenditures and usage are weighted "quite heavily" as factors in the Leisure/Culture category.

The Library draws people to Portland to attend meetings and to see the changing art exhibits. Last year, the library's meeting rooms were used over 1000 times, with a total meeting attendance of 16,898!

HELP FOR JOB HUNTERS!

From the computers at the Library, or from your home or office, you may find a variety of reliable, current sources for information and job listings. From the Library's online catalog, choose "Information Databases and Other Connecticut Libraries". Click on the large "iconn" button. Scroll to the bottom of the page (although you may want to go back! Lots of articles can be accessed from here) and click on the link for **Additional Research Resources**, choose Job Searching - CT. Some of the many useful items found here include:

- Connecticut's Fastest Growing Occupations
- Connecticut's Highest Paying Occupations
- Connecticut's Largest Employers
- Connecticut Department of Labor



ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION

Join the adult book discussion held at the Library on **Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m.** The discussion will be held in the Van Beynum Room of the Library. The featured title for March will be *Possession A Romance* by A.S. Byatt. A book that *Library Journal* called "a sumptuous brandy soaked Christmas fruitcake, dense with intrigue, beguiling characters, and a double-edged romance that bridges Victorian England and modern-day academia". Copies of the book for the discussion are available for loan at the Library. No registration is necessary; all are invited to attend the discussion. For more information, call the Library at 342-6770.

MARCH'S ART DISPLAY



March is Student Art Month at the Library. The children and young adults from Valley View, Gildersleeve, Portland Middle School and Portland High School will be displaying a selection of their work in the Mary Flood Room and in the display cases at the Library. In the presentation, the children express themselves through various media, including painting, drawings and pottery. The show will run from March 5th through March 27th, 2003. A reception will be held on **Wednesday, March 5th, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Portland Library. All are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY HOURS

The Library's regular hours are:
Monday through Thursday 10:00-9:00
Friday and Saturday 10:00-5:00
Closed on Sunday

Information and Programs For Chil-

APRIL VACATION EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

SPRING TAG SALE

Spring arrives in April! It's time to think about cleaning out closets and getting rid of all those mathams your children have collected. On Tuesday afternoon, **April 15th**, the Portland Library will be sponsoring its annual children's tag sale. We will provide tables and a space in the Mary Flood Room, as well as free publicity. There is no need to worry about April showers, just label your items, and bring them and a money box (with some change) to the library. Please remember that you may only sell items of interest to other children. Sellers may be as young as preschool age, *as long as they have adults with them*. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Lindenfelser at 342-6770.

Registration Dates!

An American Girl's Club event is also planned for the April vacation. More information on both of these events will be featured in the April newsletter. The registration date for both events will be **March 31st!**

BEDTIME STORIES

Popular storyteller, **Mrs. Applesauce**, will be hosting a spirited evening of stories and crafts for families with children ages 3-5 years old on **Thursday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m.** No registration is required for this event.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME REGISTRATION!

Phone in registration for the spring session of the preschool story time series is going on now. Preschool story times are for children ages 2, 3 and 4 years old. Programs will begin in March and continue for 8 weeks. Each program will include an age appropriate theme of stories, songs, finger plays, games, crafts and more!

KNIFTY KNITTERS

This informal group meets on **Saturday mornings from 10:00-12:00** at the Library. Led by several local craftswomen, this group welcomes knitters of all levels of expertise to its group. Whether you are a beginner in need of direction, an intermediate knitter who has lost her drive, or an expert who would like to help other like-minded people, this group is a great way to make new friends and keep your incentive up. People with no knitting background are also encouraged to join; needles, yarn and instruction will be provided free of charge!



MUSEUM PASS

This month's featured museum is the *Peabody Museum* located in New Haven, CT. The Peabody Museum is known for the Great Hall of Dinosaurs as well as the dioramas of animals that walk the earth today. Other exhibits include rocks, minerals, birds, and insects. Native American peoples are also featured. The pass admits 2 adults/2 children (3-17) for free.

The pass applies to the museum only. For special exhibits and events, the pass holder will be admitted at the member—discounted rate.

The museum's hours are:
Monday-Saturday 10:00-5:00
Sunday 12:00-5:00.

Please call the Library to reserve a pass. The museum pass program is sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library.



NUTMEG AWARD RESULTS

The Nutmeg Award winner state-wide and at the Portland Library's polls is ... *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo. The winner was followed in popularity by Laurie Anderson's *Fever 1793*, and Douglas Evans's *Elevator Family*. Ms. DiCamillo will receive the Nutmeg Children's Book Award in the spring at a special ceremony in her honor. *Fever 1793* was also the second choice at the library, followed, however, by Gail Levin's *Dave at Night*. Students who voted at Gildersleeve School also chose *Because of Winn-Dixie* as their favorite. Runners-up at the school were *Star in the Storm* by Joan Harlow and *Dave at Night*.

By the end of January, almost 200 Portland children had voted, either at the library or at Gildersleeve School. State-wide, 19,252 cast their ballots. Our students were part of something big!

Attention Artists!

If you are in 4th, 5th, or 6th grade, you may enter the Nutmeg poster contest. Use any media (except a computer) to make an 8 ½ by 11 inch poster using *Because of Winn-Dixie* as your theme. Make sure your poster has a one-inch border for framing purposes. You must include the book's title, author, the words "Nutmeg Children's Book Award," and "Winner 2003" on the poster. You must also sign your poster. The winning artist will present the framed poster to the author at the award ceremony in the spring. Of course, the winner will also receive an award. Entries must be handed in before March 31. Please talk to your school librarian or Mrs. Lindenfelser at the Portland Library, if you have any questions. The library's number is 342-6770.

