

CHECK IT

A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

April 2003

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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!

SILHOUETTE ARTIST FUNDRAISER

Silhouette artist, Carol Lebeaux will be at the Portland Library on **Saturday, April 26th from 10:00-5:00**, to create skillful renderings of your family members to keep or to give as gifts. To make an appointment, you may call 860-342-4564 at any time. The original silhouette costs \$21 and you can have a duplicate cut for an additional \$5. Each rendering takes only five minutes. The artist will have mats and oval frames on hand for purchase. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Friends of The Portland Library to support the Library and its programs.

FOR HISTORY BUFFS...

Check out the new feature of *World Book Online*, linked from the library website, using the [link for Databases](#). **Surf the Ages** covers Ancient Times, The Middle Ages, and Modern Times. Each time period will link to dozens of e-zines, want ads, bookstores, and other types of simulated Web sites, written from the perspective of the time. Each site offers real history, imaginatively presented. You will need a browser version 4.0 or higher of either Netscape or Internet Explorer. As always, the library's online sources are available at the library, and through home or office Internet connections. Not an Internet aficionado? Please ask a librarian at the Information Desk for more information.



ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION

Join the adult book discussion held at the Library on **Thursday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** The discussion will be held in the Van Beynum Room of the Library. The featured title for April will be *Personal History* by Katherine Graham. 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.



APRIL'S ART DISPLAY

Accomplished local artist **Lois House** will be displaying her work at the Library throughout April. Because she likes to be outdoors, she is a 'plein air' painter, painting the New England countryside. Her paintings reveal her love of New England and its people. She is inspired by nature and tries to capture its beauty from the beached dory on the coast of Maine to the snow-covered roof of a Connecticut barn. Ms. House paints in watercolors. The show will run from April 5th through April 25th, 2003. A reception will be held on **Saturday, April 5th, from 2-4:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Portland Library. All are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY HOURS

The Library will be closed from Friday, April 18th through Sunday, April 20th. The Library will re-open on Monday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. 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!

SPRING TAG SALE

Spring is Here! 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 at 2:00 p.m.**, 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.

AMERICAN GIRLS' CLUB

An American Girls' Club event will be on held on **Thursday, April 17th, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Library for girls ages 7-12 years old. Participants will be discussing the **Addy** books, learning about the lives of women and girls in this period, making a craft, and playing some of the jump rope games that Addy might have enjoyed with her friends. Participants are asked to read at least two of the books in the series before the event. Multiple copies of these books will be available for loan throughout the month. **Registration is required for this event and begins on March 31st for Portland residents. Out of town families may register on Monday, April 1st if space permits.** Please call Miss Lauren at 342-6770 for information or to register.

ONE-ON-ONE STORYTIME FOR ONE YEAR OLDS!



Phone-in registration for the One-on-One story time for children ages 12-23 months and a parent or caregiver will begin on **Thursday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m.** Events will take place on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m., beginning on May 1st and continuing for 5 weeks. Events are intended to introduce toddlers to the Library and include story time, finger plays, movement activities, songs and free play. Please call Miss Lauren at the Library at 342-6770 for more information or to register.

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, April 17th at 6:30 p.m.** No registration is required for this event.

MUSEUM PASS

This month's featured museum is the **Lutz Children's Museum** located in Manchester, CT. The Lutz Museum is an educational experience for youngsters. There are live animals, displays and hands-on activities. There are many special events including storytelling, crafts, and demonstrations. The pass admits 2 adults/2 children from the same household. The pass applies to the museum only. The museum's hours:

Tuesday-Wednesday 2:00-5:00

Thursday-Friday 9:30-5:00

Saturday-Sunday 12:00-5:00

Closed on Mondays

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



NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS For Young People's Literature



The National Book Awards were established to recognize American literary works of exceptional merit. The Portland Library has the following titles that teens will enjoy reading.

Dancing on the Edge by Han Nolan

A young girl from a dysfunctional family creates for herself an alternative world which nearly results in her death but which ultimately leads her to reality.

Holes by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert. There he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

Kali discovers that the husband her parents have chosen for her is very seriously ill.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

True believer by Virginia Euwer Wolff

Living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, fifteen-year-old LaVaughn learns from old and new friends that life is what you make it.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

Descriptions taken from *Novelist*.