



# Check it out...

A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library



Susan Bransfield, First Selectman

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Cathy Probolus, Library Board Chairman

20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT 06480 \* (860) 342-6770 \* Fax (860) 342-6778 \* www.portland.lib.ct.us \*

## BEST BOOKS OF 2003!

2003 was a great year in publishing. We saw some blockbuster titles and new releases from blockbuster authors flying out the door. Here are some of the lesser known new titles and old favorites that we read or reread this year and really enjoyed.

**Gloria:** *Madam Secretary* by Madeleine Albright  
*Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

**Jan:** *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith

**Anne:** *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen

**Chris:** *Rain Fall* by Barry Eisler

**Lauren:** *A Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks  
*Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood

**Coral:** *Lamb in Love* by Carrie Brown  
*Angus and the Cat* by Marjorie Flack

**Patti:** *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

**Peggy:** *The Rich Part of Life* by Jim Kokoris

**Noreen:** *Journal of Solitude* by May Sarton

**Jacqui:** *Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown



## ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION



Join in the adult book discussion held at the Portland Library on **Thursday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m.** The discussion will be held in the Van Beynum Room of the Library. The featured title for January will be *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. "Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father,

## ART DISPLAYS



Local resident, **Douglas Welch**, will be displaying a collection of his drawings in the Mary Flood room at the Library throughout the month of January.

**Gabby Talnose** will be sharing her collection of snow globes in the display cases throughout the month for all to enjoy.

## RING IN THE NEW!

New members of the Board of Library Directors were sworn in during December. They are: Andy Bauer, Jim Tammara, and Laurie Kelley Stepping down after years of dedicated service on the board:

Eileen Burke, Sal Storo, Chris Kelley  
Cathy Probolus is the new Chair of the Board, Cindy McNickle is the Vice Chair and Regina Woltman continues on as the Secretary of the Board.

The new board will be reviewing the Portland Library Strategic Plan, which sets the course of library services through the year 2008. Your input to them and to the Library Director is welcome as we work together in delivering library services.





## A MOVIE FOR TEENS!

On **Tuesday, January 6th**, the Portland Library will be showing a movie for teens at **3:00 p.m.**

View this PG-13 rated comedy starring Johnnie Depp, Geoffrey Rush, and Orlando Bloom

**What's it about?...** For the roguish Captain Jack Sparrow, waters of the Caribbean are a playground where mystery abounds. But Jack's life capsizes after his nemesis, the Captain Barbossa, steals his ship, the Black Pearl, and kidnaps the Governor's daughter, Elizabeth Swann. Elizabeth's childhood friend, Will Turner, joins forces with Jack to commandeer the fastest ship in the British fleet, the HMS Interceptor, in a gallant attempt to rescue her and recapture the Black Pearl.

**Book passage for this viewing by telephoning the Library at 342-6770.**



## BEDTIME STORIES WITH MRS. APPLESAUCE

Popular storyteller, Mrs. Applesauce (Jacqui McMahan) has been delighting audiences of young and old with a series of bedtime story times for **children ages 3-5** and their parents or caregivers. No registration is required. The next story times will take place at 6:30 p.m. on:

January 15th  
February 19th  
March 18th



## FRIEND'S DONATION

The Friends of the Portland Library recently donated \$300.00 to the Children's Department for the purchase of new, age-appropriate, educational toys for use in the Library's One-on-One story time series. The One-on-One story time series takes place in the spring and the fall and is held for 4 consecutive weeks. The children, ages 12-24 months, and their parent or caregiver are introduced to the Library through books, finger plays, games and free play. Registration for the next series begins on **April 22nd**.



## NUTMEG VOTING In JANUARY!

Be first to vote in '04! If you are in grades 4-6 you can cast your vote for the Nutmeg Children's Book Award at the library, during the month of January. Students will vote on the same kind of machine their parents will use in November, when they vote for President of the United States. The NCBA encourages children in grades 4-6 to read quality literature, and to choose their favorite from a list of ten nominated titles. The nominees for 2004 are:

*The Wanderer*, by Creech;  
*Following Fake Man*, by Holmes;  
*Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues*, by Robinet;  
*Esperanza Rising*, by Ryan;  
*The Power of Un*, by Etchemendy;  
*The Kite Fighters*, by Park;  
*Gracie's Girl*, by Wittlinger;  
*The Year of Miss Agnes*, by Hill;  
*Babe and Me*, by Gutman,  
*Love, Ruby Lavender*, by Wiles.



So read up a storm and vote for your favorite! If you have any questions, please call Mrs. L. or Miss Lauren at 342-6770.

## WORKSHOP RESULTS

On December 8th, Assistant Director, Anne Calvert attended an **Internet Search Tools Update Workshop** at the Middletown Library Service Center.

The workshop was presented by Polly-Alida Farrington of PA Farrington Associates. Since it was an update, Farrington noted the current status of many well-known directories and familiar search engines. A major search tool is Yahoo, found at <http://www.yahoo.com>. An uncluttered Yahoo search page is <http://search.yahoo.com>. Yahoo started as a subject directory; web sites are selected by editors and listed by subject headings. It now partners with Google for search engine results. It contains many useful reference tools such as maps, news, people searching and shopping tools. Searching in other languages is now available so people can use the Internet in their native tongues. The Full Coverage section gathers together news articles, editorials, feature articles, media and web sites on current topics.



## LIBRARY HOURS

The Library will be closed on **Monday, January 19th** in honor of Martin Luther King's Birthday. The Library will re-open at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January. The Library's regular hours are **Monday-Thursday 10:00-9:00, and Friday & Saturday 10:00-5:00**