



# Check it Out



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman

December 2004

Cathy Probolus, Library Board Chairwoman

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## HISTORY COMES ALIVE AT PORTLAND LIBRARY!

Award winning author Stephen B. Goddard will provide an exciting program on his book *Race to the Sky: the Wright Brothers versus the United States Government*. This book is a finalist for 2004 Connecticut Book Awards, to be announced on December 5. Steve Goddard is a Hartford attorney whose first book on transportation was highlighted on NPR's "Fresh Air". Check out Steve's historical website at [www.historywire.com](http://www.historywire.com). Information on the author's books is available at [www.stephengoddard.com](http://www.stephengoddard.com).

The program will include a slide show and will take place on **December 9 at 7 pm at Portland Library**. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Registration is requested. Call 342-6770.

## ART EXHIBIT

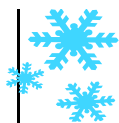
The Portland Library presents the art of Imlah Studios. Rachel and Don Imlah, both artists, will have a combined exhibit.

Rachel, a painter and photographer, is inspired by the seasons of life to compose images. She has had a varied career not only as an artist but also as a teacher of art, cartoon editor and cartoonist for two university newspapers. Rachel is very well known for her beautiful florals and has been awarded first prize at several exhibitions.

Don, of American Indian ancestry, was raised by his Cheyenne Indian grandmother. As a young man, he had learned many Indian crafts using wood, leather and bone. He has exhibited his works across America. His current works include duck decoys of wood, bone/antler carvings and Mandalas and dream catchers.

The wood decoys and scrimshaw carvings of Don Imlah will be exhibited in both of the Library's display cases. They will be on exhibit for the month of December.

**Their exhibit will run from December 6th through December 30th. A reception will be held in the Mary Flood Room on Saturday, December 6, 2004 from 2:00-4:00 pm.** Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. The public is welcome.



## The Season for Giving Food For Fines

Library patrons who have overdue fines can pay them off by making donations of food at the Library. Food donations may be used to pay overdue fines. The food may not be used to pay for lost items. In determining how much food to donate, we ask that donors be guided by "the spirit of the season".

**Donations will be accepted at the Library from December 1st to December 31st.** Only non-perishable food will be accepted. Suggested items that can be used for holiday food baskets: stuffing mix, canned yams, cranberry and apple sauces and juices are especially welcome. Monetary donations are also welcome. All donations will be given to the Portland Food Bank.

## The Mitten Tree

Warm someone's hands and hearts by donating to our annual Mitten Tree. Each year our tree is decorated with beautiful mittens, scarves, hats, gloves, socks and slipper-socks donated by library patrons. **We will accept all items through December 22nd.** All gifts will be given to the Portland Food Bank for Christmas distribution. Once again, we are asking for your generosity. Thank you.

## HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Phone in registration for all of the Library's holiday programs begins **Monday, November 29th!**

### MERRINESS & MISTLETOE!


Children ages 2-5 years old are invited to attend a special holiday story time with Miss Lauren on either **Monday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.** or **Tuesday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m.** We will be reading stories, singing carols, and making a holiday craft to take home.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Children in grades 1 and up are invited to join Mrs. Lindenfelser on **Wednesday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m.** for a holiday event complete with stories, crafts and songs.



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the end of another year approaches, the library director and staff wish to thank all of our patrons and all who provided support through donation and volunteering. Thanks to First Selectwoman, Susan Bransfield, for her continuing support of the library. Individual donors will be listed in the newsletter of the Friends of Portland Library, Winter edition.

### Donations to the Memorial Fund allowed for these recent purchases:

- A public address system with a microphone, now available for use during library programs.
- A “boom box” for use during children’s story time programs.
- New books on compact disc.

### Some of the items purchased by The Friends of Portland Library:

- All new DVDs including “Keeping Fit in your Fifties” “Degas, the Art of the Dance” and many feature films and children’s titles
- A colorful rug used to brighten up children’s story times. The rug provides a fun way to learn the ABCs and numbers!
- Magical performances for children
- A presentation by a consumer advocate
- New reference books on countries
- Coming soon: a new computer for children’s use
- An author visit and book signing, on December 9.

## Highlights of Annual Report 2003-2004

Visits to the library-111,550. That is 12 visits per capita. The average visit per capita in Connecticut libraries was 5.9 during the previous year. There were 225 programs, with an attendance of 4,423. Number of items borrowed from the library’s collection: 156,214



## ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION

Join the adult book discussion held at the Portland Library on **Thursday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.** The discussion will be held in the Van Beynum Room of the Library. The featured title for December will be *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* by Brady Udall. 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.



Please send your concerns, comments, or requests regarding library services to the Library Director,

**Janet Nocek**

Phone: (860) 342-6770  
email: [jnocek@portlandct.org](mailto:jnocek@portlandct.org)

## MUSEUM PASSES

Looking for things to do during school vacation? Why not borrow one of the Library's Museum Passes? The Portland Library has passes to 18 museums, aquariums, and zoos in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The passes check out just like books. Depending on the attraction, a family admission is free or at a reduced rate. Passes may be reserved up to one month in advance. Reserve it yourself at [www.portlandlibraryct.org/museumpasses.htm](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org/museumpasses.htm) or telephone the Library at 342-6770. The Friends of the Portland Library supports the Museum Pass program.

The **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Model Train Show** is going on now at the Connecticut River Museum. This interactive, extensive design by artist, Steve Cryan, will have at least 5 trains running. This year features a logging railroad, water-powered mill, shipyard, fishing village and a large dairy farm. You won't believe the details! The museum is open daily, Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00-5:00. The Library pass for the Connecticut River Museum admits 2 adults and their children.

## FUNDRAISER

The Friends of the Portland Library will be selling a ‘Book Lover’s Calendar’ throughout the holiday season. These page-a-day calendars have short synopses of different books for each day of the year. They are available at the Library for only \$8.00. Buy several for easy gift giving!

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

On **Saturday, December 11th, the Silk City Barbershop Chorus** will be performing from 3 – 4 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center. The program will include traditional barbershop tunes, show tunes, doo-wop and a sing-a-long of holiday favorites. The Board of the Friends of the Portland Library will have its traditional array of cookies and punch for all to enjoy before the show, starting at 2:30 p.m. Put it on your calendar now, so you won't miss this holiday entertainment during the hectic season. Take some time out for yourself and your family to just sit back and enjoy!

## LIBRARY HOURS

The Portland Library will be closing at noon on **Thursday, December 23rd** and remaining closed through **Sunday, December 26th** for the holidays. The Library will re-open on **Monday, December 27th at 10:00 a.m.** The Library will also be closed on **Friday, December 31st** and will remain closed through **Sunday, January 2nd** in honor of the New Year’s holiday. The Library will re-open on **Monday, January 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**

The Library’s regular hours are:

**Monday-Thursday 10:00-9:00**  
**Friday and Saturday 10:00-5:00**  
**Closed on Sunday**

