

Check it out.....



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library

June 2005

Retirement Reception

Children's Librarian Coral Lindenfesler has announced her retirement after 16 years of service at the Portland Library. That is 16 years of summer reading, 16 years of story times, 16 years of building a solid children's book collection. Will she miss it? "YES!" was her enthusiastic answer.

As of July 1st Mrs. Lemonsqueezer (as she is affectionately known) will be hanging up her nametag and heading to the Cape to enjoy the new home she and her husband built last year. As a children's librarian in a public library she hasn't been able to spend a lot of time in the Cape during the summer—it being the busiest time of year at the library. She looks forward to "goofing off" for the first time in—you guessed it—16 summers! She also plans on continuing her study of the Japanese language and taking more art classes, specifically pastels.

In the past, Coral chaired both the Selection and Steering Committees of the Nutmeg Children's Book Award and chaired the Capitol Region Library Council's Children's Roundtable. Upon reflecting on her tenure, she's most proud of her activities with the Nutmeg awards, the development of the children's book discussions, the development of the children's collections, and her matching abilities in finding the perfect book for each child.

Coral received an AB from Radcliffe College and a Masters in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University. While her children were young, Coral substituted in the Guilford Schools as well as volunteered in the school libraries and in the outdoor education program. She began her library career in the Brattleboro Public Library.

A reception will be held in Mrs. Lindenfesler's honor on **Thursday, June 23rd from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** at the Portland Library. Light refreshments will be provided by the Library Board of Directors. Anyone, child or adult, who wishes to say good bye and good luck to this very special lady is invited to drop in.

Books for the Beach



The Friends of the Portland Library's annual "Books for the Beach" paperback book sale will take place at the Library from Tuesday, June 28th through Thursday, June 30th during normal Library hours. All books will be a quarter. A \$1.00 a bag sale will take place all day on Thursday, June 30th. This sale is open to the public!

Chess Club!

Is Chess your game?

You can become a charter member of the new Portland Library Chess Club. The club will meet on **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM**, beginning June 7, in the Wagner Room.



Lloyd Glasson will facilitate this group. At this time, the club is open to all players who are familiar with at least the basic moves of the game. Please register at the Information Desk or call 342-6770.

Library Hours

Monday– Thursday
10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

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
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First Selectwoman:
Susan Bransfield
Library Board
Chairwoman:
Cathy Probolus
Library Director:
Janet Nocek

Museum Passes

Museum Passes - Brighten Your Summer Days

Looking for dinosaur bones or Impressionist paintings or other indoor exploring? You and your family can visit area museums for little or no charge, thanks to the Friends of the Library museum pass program. Museum passes are checked out to you just like books and videos. Now, you can see the available dates for museum passes and make reservations right from the web at <http://www.portlandlibraryct.org/museumpasses.htm>! All you need is your library card number and a PIN/Password. Of course, you can still telephone or stop in at the Library and a staff member will reserve the pass for you.

List of Museums and Attractions:

American Clock and Watch Museum
Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut
Connecticut River Museum
Dinosaur State Park
Florence Griswold Museum
Lutz Children's Museum
Maritime Aquarium and Imax
Mashantucket Pequot Museum

Mystic Aquarium
Mystic Seaport
New England Air Museum
New England Carousel
Peabody Museum
Roaring Brook Nature Center
Roger Williams Park and Zoo
Science Center of Connecticut
Wadsworth Atheneum

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make an online reservation?

When a list of the museums appears, click on the graphic for the desired museum.

You will then select a date to use the pass. You will need your Library Card Number and your PIN/Password in order to reserve a pass. If you have not changed it, the automatically assigned PIN is "CHANGME". If you have changed it and you don't remember your PIN/Password, please contact the Portland Library.

How far in advance may I reserve a pass?

Passes may be reserved up to one month in advance.

What does the pass allow me to do?

The passes allow for a set number of people to attend the museum for a reduced rate or for free admission. Each museum, zoo, or aquarium sets forth its own conditions.

How do I pick up the pass?

You may pick up your pass at the Information Desk after 9:00 am on the day of your reservation (The Library opens at 10:00 am so please ring the Library's bell between 9:00 am and 10:00 am). Your pass may be available after 4:00 pm on the day prior to your trip. If you desire the pass the day prior to your visit, please telephone ahead to ensure availability. You must be 18 or over with a library card in good standing to check out a museum pass.

How do I cancel a reservation?

If you reserve a pass and change your plans, please contact the Library in advance to cancel your reservation.

When does the museum pass need to be returned?

The pass must be returned by midnight of the the reservation day (the day of your visit to the museum). Other patrons may be waiting to use it and a \$10.00 per day fine will be charged for late passes. Please contact the Library if you have any questions.

The Friends of the Portland Library funds the museum passes. We suggest that you check in the Travel section of the library for additional information when planning your trip.

Summer Reading Stuff...

Don't Let Summer

Melt Away Kids' Reading Skills

When school lets out for the summer, one of the last things on most students' minds is reading. However, reading during the summer is especially important so that students don't undo the progress they've made over the previous school year. Studies show that children who continue to read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall. To encourage summer reading, the Portland Library offers reading incentive programs for children of all ages. In addition, in a joint effort of the schools and the public library, suggested reading lists are distributed to the students at the end of the school year. The Portland Library has multiple copies of each title and also has additional copies of the lists.

Freedom to Read!



The 2005 Teen Summer Reading Program, *Freedom to Read*, will feature many new and exciting events this year! Along with weekly prize drawings, there will be a poetry reading, book talks on the new Nutmeg titles, and several book discussion groups. The program will climax with a Reader's Reception (a.k.a., a huge party!) on **August 19th**. Participants must be in 5th grade or higher to join. Students fill out review forms for each book that they read and return them to the Library to enter the weekly prize drawings. Other weekly incentives will be offered throughout the summer. Please inquire at the Information Desk for more information. Some of the events incorporated into this program are

Freedom for Teens to Talk Books

On *Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. - July 5, 12, 26 and August 2nd*-Teens will preview the 2005 Nutmeg Books and have a chance to discuss the other books they've been reading during the summer. A poetry reading will take place during the July 26th program and book discussions for *Hoot* and *Things Not Seen* will be featured on July 12th and August 2nd. Multiple copies of these books will be available for loan at the Library.

This summer the Portland Library will be excavating some good books during this year's children's summer reading club, **We Dig Summer Reading!** Just sign up in the Children's Department. **Registration begins on Thursday, June 30th and is ongoing.**

Here are just some of the exciting events we have in store for you!

Trucks, Trucks, and *More Trucks!*

Join us in the Library parking lot on the following dates from **10:30-Noon** and explore and learn about...

Friday, July 8: Three vehicles including a roller, Portland Public Works

Friday, July 15: Men in Blue...Portland Police cruisers.

Friday, July 22: Fire trucks and more...Portland Volunteer Fire Dept.

Friday, July 29: RESCUE! Portland emergency vehicles will be on hand.

Saturday, August 5: 'East of the River' antique fire trucks. Cellar Savers Museum.

Off to Oz

Monday, July 11th. 10:30 a.m.

Children ages 4-7 years old are invited to join Maddie Riselle, on a musical adventure with *Dorothy* and experience some of the magic of Oz. Be swept up in a twister, toss around a witch's hat, and see what the great OZ has in store for you. Come and have fun and be sure to bring along your imagination! Children may come in costume!

Art in Motion

Thursday, July 14th. 10:30 a.m.

Julia Delapp, the early childhood music director for Arts In Motion in Willimantic, will be here to perform a musical story hour **for children ages 2 and up and their parent or caregiver**. Using illustrated songbooks, her guitar, and a variety of rhythm instruments such as castanets, egg shakers, and drums, Ms. Delapp will weave storytelling throughout her songs in a soft, yet playful approach.

The Fossil Hunter

Monday, July 18th. 10:30 a.m.

Children going into grades 1 and up may join Walter Heinz, a.k.a *The Fossil Hunter* for a fun and educational presentation on collecting fossils. Come and learn how fossils are formed and techniques for gathering, and view his extensive collection including a T-Rex tooth, a Wooley Mammoth molar, and more. Participants will receive their own genuine fossil shark teeth as a souvenir.

End Notes

Children's Room

Have you stopped by the children's preschool area lately? An ongoing project is transforming the area into a colorful, more inviting space for youngsters. A Three-Bears mural will be attached to the wooden slats on one wall, and the artist is painting depictions of beloved characters such as Jack in the Beanstalk and Rapunzel on other surfaces. The enhancement is a memorial to author/illustrator Arlene Dubanevich, whose husband Jay Seeley gave a generous gift to the library. Local artist, Kathleen Steele is performing the art work, including many special little characters hidden in the painting. You will have to look at the book *Pigs in Hiding* by Ms. Dubanevich to realize that these characters are a tribute to the late illustrator's work.

Movies for Adults

This summer, active adults are invited to join us in the air-conditioned Mary Flood Room for "Movies in the Afternoon". The library will show films one afternoon each week, on a Wednesday or Thursday, beginning July 14. Watch for an announcement of show dates and peruse a list of titles at the library or on the library's web site. All films have been purchased through donations by the Friends of Portland Library or by fine money collected for overdue videos.

Art Display

The Portland Library presents the art of the Middletown Art Guild. The Guild, consisting of a number of artists, will display their works from June 4th through June 29th. A reception will be held for the members and their families on Saturday, **June 4th from 2-4pm**. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library. The public is most welcomed.

The Library's display cases in our main area will be filled with "Hippos" belonging to Tommy Blanchard. We invite you to come in and see this fun and unusual collection.

Adult Book Discussion

Join the adult book discussion held at the Portland Library on **Thursday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m.** The discussion will be held in the Van Beynum Room of the Library. The featured title for June will be

Time and Again
by Jack Finney

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 contact the Library for more information about this program.

A note from the Director...

Inquiring minds want to know: what do all those people *do* at the library?

The Library staff members work together and individually to provide a variety of library services. When you walk into the library you see the finished product: staff greet you and books and recordings wait on organized shelves for you. This and much more is all made possible by the performance of much work behind the scenes. The staff that you see at the public service desks all have specific responsibilities and tasks to perform when "off desk". In addition to performing the tasks that you are familiar with, of checking items in and out, and reshelving them, the staff also is occupied with adding hundreds of new items each week that are processed and entered into the computer database. Information staff provide many services including Internet sign-ups and classes in using the computers. From helping parents to help their children attain success in school, to selecting the right items to meet the needs of students in Portland's schools, to coordinating meetings and programs, and developing new programs for all ages, the staff of Portland Library are challenged and rewarded by bringing many services to our patrons. Staff members attend training sessions regularly and take part in meetings of the library's computer network group, thereby preparing to offer the best in current service options. Children's librarians attended workshops on introducing parents to methods for helping pre-school children get ready for reading. To sum it up, the library employs people with different areas of expertise and supports continuing improvement of staff skills, in order to bring the best possible services to you.