

# Check it out...



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## A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library April 2024

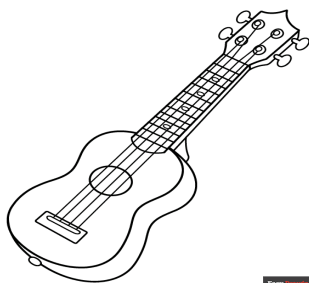
### Portland Library hours:

**Monday — Thursday 10:00 am — 8:00 pm**

**Friday 10:00 am — 5:00 pm**

**Saturday 10:00am — 3:00 pm**

**Curbside Pickup available**



Easy Peasy Ukulele

### Ukulele Classes!

Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. **April 9, 16, 23, & 30.**

Interested in learning to play the ukulele? We are working with the amazing staff at Conn Valley School of Music and Dance to offer four weeks of free, 45 minute, beginner lessons for ages 11 and up and adults of all ages! Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from the library. By the time the program ends, you'll know how to play at least a few beginning songs.

**Registration is required and space is limited.**

### Wednesday Movie @ 1pm

**April 10th**

**Wonka**



### Join Portland's One Seed,

**One Community Project** to learn how to grow nutritious food and save seeds. Stop by the library to check out seeds and growing instructions for one of 3 "levels" of gardener; Solo Gardener, Grow a Row, and Grow a Bed. Seeds for our 2024 project provided through a generous donation from Fire Ring Farm of Portland.



### Celebrate National Library Week this April with the Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program April 1 - 30

To participate start at the Portland Library and show us your library card to pick up your Passport and collect your first stamp. Then take your Passport along as you visit as many of the participating public libraries in our state throughout April and have your passport stamped. Visit at least five libraries and then hand in your passport back in here at Portland Library (due back to us by 5pm on Friday May 10) for the chance to win a prize from the CT Library Association!

### Wednesday April 24 6:00 p.m.

John Root, Naturalist & Educator

### Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials

Come learn about how to attract all these pollinators helpful to the health of your garden!

Registration Requested!

### Saturday April 27 at 12:30 p.m.

### Portland Seed Library

**Do you have some leftover seeds?**

**Donations are welcome! And a fun volunteer opportunity awaits for enthusiastic gardeners!**

Portland Library's Seed Library is seeking seed donations for the Spring and Summer gardening seasons and is looking for your help to sort and re package donations for distribution.

### Saturday April 20th @12:30pm

### in the Van Beynum Room

**Monthly Writers' Cafe:** Due to popular demand, the Portland Library will be hosting a monthly Writers' Cafe on the third Saturday of each month from 12:30-2pm, starting in February! The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time, (12:30-1:30pm), with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers! (1:30-2pm)

# Youth Services News and Events



## Spring Storytimes

Registration for spring storytimes began on Monday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. Space is still available in our 11:30 preschool program on Tuesdays. Waiting lists are available for all other programs.

**Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) Tuesdays at 10:30 or 11:30 a.m.**  
**April 2, 16, 23, 30 (no program April 9)**

Join Miss Jenn to sing songs, practice some counting rhymes, and listen to great stories that will help get your preschooler ready for kindergarten.

**Storytime For Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose (ages 0-2)**  
**Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m.**  
**April 3, 17, 24, May 1 (no program April 10)**

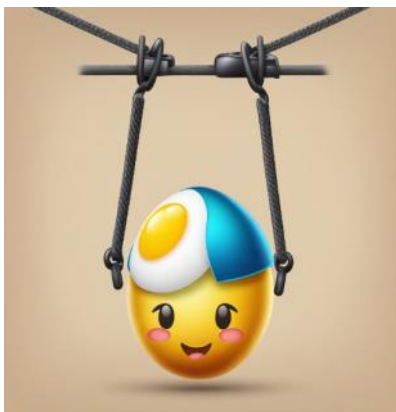
Join Ms. Patty in this interactive session where there will be a story, rhymes, songs, puppets, scarves and more to stimulate early pre-reading skills of babies and toddlers. Two sessions will be offered each Wednesday to help keep our group sizes small.

## Egg-cellent Adventures

Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.  
April 4, 18, 25  
Grades K-2

Come join the fun while we explore the wonders of the incredible edible egg. We'll test an egg's strength, find ways to transport them safely on a zip line, hunt for them and even see if we can make one bounce.

**Registration is required and space is limited.**



## Read to a Therapy Dog

**Saturday, April 6 and May 4**  
**from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

We are pleased to announce a partnership with Middletown High School's animal ambassador program. Each month, we will be hosting a therapy animal at the library. Kids between the ages of 6 and 12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy. Register through our website at [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or by calling 860-342-6770.

### **BENEFITS:**

- Boosts Reading Confidence
- Reduces Stress and Anxiety
- Makes Reading Fun
- Promotes Emotional Connection and Comfort

# Youth Services News and Events

## April Vacation Activities

### Matchbox Madness

Tuesday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Grades preK-2

Design your very own race car!  
Use permanent markers to add racing stripes, smiley faces, or whatever suits your fancy before testing it out on our race track.

Registration is required and space is limited.



### Family PJ Storytime

Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Throw on some pajamas, grab a special stuffed friend, and help us celebrate Week of the Young Child by joining us for a special evening storytime and craft activity.

### Nintendo Switch Drop In Play

Thursday, April 11

from 2:00-4:00

The library recently acquired a Nintendo Switch for programming. Kids in grades 2-5 are welcome to join us for drop-in gaming including Mario Kart Deluxe 8. No registration is required for this event.



## April is National Poetry Month!

Stop in the children's department and pick up a variety of titles to share with your child this month!



## Teen Events

### Chopped: Taco Edition!

Monday, April 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Join Food Explorers for a round of Chopped! You'll be making tacos as a team, and working together you'll choose from an assortment of delicious and fresh ingredients to make your tasty taco recipe. All ingredients are nut free but may contain dairy, eggs, or gluten. **Registration is required and space is limited.**

### LGBTQ+ Dungeons and Dragons Sessions (Ages 13-19)



Wednesday, April 3 @ 6PM: Learn the basics of D&D and create your own character. We'll have 3D printed icons you can custom design.

Wednesday, April 17 @ 6PM: Put your new character and skills to the test as we work together to succeed on our first game quest. Registration is recommended, but not required.

## Nutmeg Voting



NUTMEG VOTING begins this year on **April 1st!** Finish up those titles because **YOUR OPINION MATTERS!** This is the only book award in the state where KIDS pick the winner. Let your favorite authors know how much you like their work by voting on your favorites!

Stop into the library to vote on the 2024 Nutmeg Nominees by April 30th. Nominees have been divided into four categories: Elementary (Grades 2-3), Intermediate (Grades 4-6), Middle School (Grades 7-8), and High School (Grades 9-12). Visit the Portland Library website for a complete list of nominees.

Winners will be announced on May 15th and next year's nominees will be announced on May 1st.

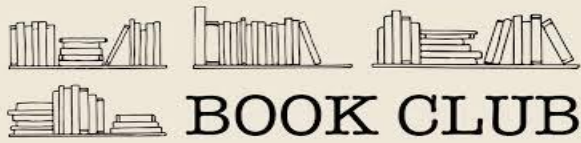


Portland Library



Instagram  
@portlandlibraryct

# More News...



## April Book Club Picks!

### 1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday April 4th 6:30pm

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

By Mohain Hamid

At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. He begins to tell the story of a man named Changez, who is living an immigrant's dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by an elite valuation firm. He thrives on the energy of New York, and his budding romance with elegant, beautiful Erica promises entry into Manhattan society at the same exalted level once occupied by his own family back in Lahore. But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned, and his relationship with Erica shifting.

### T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday April 2nd 1pm

*Lessons in Chemistry*

by Bonnie Garmus

NY Times best seller

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking proves revolutionary. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

### Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday April 16th 1pm

*Get Shorty*

by Elmore Leonard

Mob-connected loanshark Chili Palmer is sick of the Miami grind—plus his "friends" have a bad habit of dying there. So when he chases a deadbeat client out to Hollywood, Chili figures he might like to stay. This town with its dreammakers, glitter, hucksters, and liars—plus gorgeous, partially clad would-be starlets everywhere you look—seems ideal for an enterprising criminal with a taste for the cinematic. Besides, Chili's got an idea for a killer movie—thought it could very possibly kill him to get it made.

# Thank You

### Donations: Book:

*Carolyn Freeman book*

*Dorian Hill magazine*

*Fuch's Financial cash donation*

### In memory of Madalyn Sue Gouin:

*Marion Morrell*



Donate nonperishable food and new hats, mittens and scarfs to be delivered to the Portland Food Bank! Fill the shopping cart with love and caring for your neighbors!

### Library Meetings:

#### Friends of the Library

Monday April 8th at 7:00 p.m.

#### Library Board of Directors:

Thursday April 18th at 7:00 p.m.

#### To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

[www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)

#### Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

[jbillingsley@portlandct.org](mailto:jbillingsley@portlandct.org)

Website: [portlandlibraryct.org](http://portlandlibraryct.org)

### April Book Displays at the Library:

Thrillers,  
Favorite Cookbooks,  
Poetry Month books,  
Local Portland authors,  
and our favorite Staff Picks!

