

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library December 2021



Library Closings for December holidays:

The Library is closing Thursday December 23rd at 1:00p.m. The Library will be closed Friday December 24th through Sunday December 26th.

The Library is closing Thursday December 30th at 1:00p.m. The Library will be closed Friday December 31st through Sunday January 2nd.

Looking for holiday gifts for reasonable prices?

Look no further than
the Friends of the Portland Library
HOLIDAY BOOKSTORE
starting on December 6th!



We are pleased to announce that Middletown's Russell Library is joining our Library Connection group! On December 8, Russell's library items will be available to be borrowed along with 30 other member libraries of Library Connection. Loan rules for items borrowed at a library follow the rules of that library.

Welcome Russell Library!

Portland Library hours:

Monday — Thursday 10:00 am -7:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00am—3:00 pm

Curbside Pickup available
by prior arrangement

Tuesday, December 7th @ 6:00p.m.

A Native American Winter

Dr. Lucianne Lavin, presenter on Zoom.

Dr. Lavin is an anthropologist & archaeologist who has over 40 years of research & field experience in Northeastern archaeology & anthropology.

If you were a Native American living 500 (or 1000 or 5000) years ago, likely you would look forward to the winter season. Connecticut's indigenous communities were outdoor peoples who not only survived but thrived under adverse weather conditions. This presentation describes the traditional winter activities of Native American before the coming of European settlers to Connecticut.

Registration Requested!

To join remote meetings; access is through

Zoom: the ID is 8603426777

and the Passcode is Portland

Indoor Board Games. Fun games to be borrowed for 3 weeks.

The Board Games and the ever popular Yard Games (which can be used indoors too) were purchased through a grant from the Peach Pit Foundation and the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Thank you!

Youth Services News and Events

Online Storytimes

Weekly storytimes will move online for the winter session. Join us on Zoom to sing some songs, practice some counting rhymes, and listen to some great stories. A take-home craft will be available each week for anyone who wants to come pick one up. **Registration is required and can be done through our website calendar or by calling the library at 860-342-6770. We will send out a Zoom link each week in advance of the program.**



Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
December 7, 14, 21

Storytime for Toddlers and Tots:
Mother Goose on the Loose
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
December 1, 8, 15, 22

Christmas Family Storytime

Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Ring in the holidays with stories, songs and more during our Christmas Family storytime. At the end of the program, we will work together on a craft. Craft kits will be available for pickup before the program and a Zoom link will be sent within 24 hours of the event.

Registration is required and space is limited.



Homemade Holidays
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.
December 2, 9, 16

Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us for this popular holiday crafting program! We'll give you all of the supplies needed as well as a Zoom link to do the activities online with us.

Registration is required and space is limited.



Portland's Holiday Tree Lighting

Portland Parks & Recreation and Youth & Family Services would like to invite everyone to the annual Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Sunday, December 5th from 4-6pm at Brownstone Intermediate School.

The Portland High School band and chorus will perform classic holiday songs while we wait for Santa to arrive. One lucky child will win the chance to help Santa "flip the switch" and turn the lights on.

For any questions or additional information, please contact Nate at Parks & Recreation
nfoley@portlandct.org
(860) 342-6757

or Jesse at Youth & Family Services
jrevicki@portlandct.org
(860) 342-6758.



Youth Services News and Events

Coming Soon: Alien Invasion!

Winter Reading 2022

Visit the library in January and February 2022 and go on an intergalactic adventure! Each time you check out materials (up to once per day), your alien will advance to another planet. Visit all eight planets and win a prize!

Ever wonder what aliens do on their home planet? Local artist Pamela Hanks has created a number of mystery alien scenes for our bulletin boards. Color a square each time you visit the library and get one step closer to completing a picture that shows aliens in their natural habitat. Stay tuned for more alien fun this winter!



Family Craft Night: Snowman Scene

Wednesday, December 15
at 6:30 p.m.

Create a winter snowman scene using felt and glue instead of a needle and thread. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Supplies may be picked up in advance of the program and **a Zoom link for instruction will be sent within 24 hours of the event.**



Registration is required and space is limited.



**Portland
Library**

www.portlandlibraryct.org

Educational Resources for Kids

Portland Library subscribes to several databases to help both kids and adults keep learning throughout their lifetimes. You can find a complete list of our databases through the Online Resources page of our website.

Scholastic BookFlix: BookFlix engages young students, reinforces reading skills, and introduces early readers to a world of knowledge and exploration through pairing fiction and nonfiction readalouds.



Scholastic Go!:

Scholastic GO!® offers reliable

resources in a multitude of media.

Explore nonfiction texts, world newspapers, videos and more with this easy-to-navigate digital resource designed to strengthen content knowledge, vocabulary, and core proficiency skills.



Teens Wanted! (grades 6-up) Monday, December 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Interested in making a difference at your library and in your community? Join us on the first Monday of each month at our Teen Advisory Guild (TAG) as we brainstorm ideas for new programs, talk about books that we love, and enjoy some snacks and laughs with friends. You will earn community service hours for each meeting you attend.

Registration is required. This meeting will be in our large meeting room in the library.



WE WANT YOU

**Instagram
@portlandlibraryct**



More News...

In Person Book Clubs

Copies of all these books are available at the Library.

Thursday, December 9th at 1:00p.m.

T.A.B. (Talk about Books)

***Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney**

It's the last day of 1984, and 85-year-old Lillian Boxfish is about to take a walk. As she traverses a grittier Manhattan, a city anxious after an attack by a still-at-large subway vigilante, she encounters people in all stages of life—in surprising moments of generosity and grace. While she strolls, Lillian recalls a long and eventful life that included a brief reign as the highest-paid advertising woman in America—a career cut short by marriage, motherhood, divorce, and a breakdown.

Tuesday December 14th at 1:00p.m.

Mystery Lover's Book Club

***The Twelve Clues of Christmas* by Rhys Bowen**

It seems like a Christmas miracle when she manages to land a position as hostess to a posh holiday party in Tiddleton. The village should be like something out of *A Christmas Carol*, but as soon as she arrives things take a deadly turn when a neighborhood nuisance falls out of a tree. On her second day, another so-called accident results in a death—and there's yet another on her third, making Georgie wonder if there's something wicked happening in this winter wonderland...

**Thursday December 2nd at 7:00p.m.
Portland Forum**

***The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett**

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

**First Thursday Night Book Club: January 6th at 6:00p.m. Welcome back evening group!
Imagine Me Gone by Adam Haslett**

Thank You

Donations: Books

Carolyn Freeman

Nancy Sawyer

Paula Brown

In Memory of Karen L. (Kirsche) Miller

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Library Meetings:

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday December 16th at 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Janet Nocek

jnocek@portlandct.org

Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org



Displays at the Library
for December
Holiday fiction,
Holiday DVDs & CDs,
Holiday Baking and
our patron-favorite
staff picks!

Masks requirements:

Masks are required for library visits given the number of unvaccinated children visiting the library. Your safety remains our top priority and we will be revisiting policies as the situation changes. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.