

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library May 2024

Portland Library hours:

Monday — Thursday 10:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

Curbside Pickup available



Memorial Day

Honoring those who died in our
Armed Services

Library closed Sat 5/25 & Mon 5/27

Thursday May 9, 6:30 p.m.

Bird-Friendly Gardening

Jen McGuinness, Portland resident, local author, organic gardener and Frau Zinnie Blogger will talk about her newly published book, *Bird-Friendly Gardening*, just in time for Spring and World Bird Migratory Day (May 11th). Come hear about her new book on how to attract a lot of our feathered friends to our gardens!

Registration Encouraged!

Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.

May 8th

The Color Purple



Join Portland's One Seed,

One Community Project to learn how to grow nutritious food and save seeds. Stop by the library to get green bean 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.



Wednesday May 8, 6:30 p.m.

Red Sox vs. Yankees: The Greatest Rivalry in Sports

Marty Gitlin, sportswriter, baseball beat writer and book author

Welcome to the most intense rivalry in American sports - maybe the world. This fun program features videos of the biggest moments of the rivalry from well over a century, as well as trivia questions for the patrons to ponder.

Wear your baseball swag if you have it! Registration Requested!

Thursday May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Black Bears in Connecticut

Paul Colburn, Master Wildlife Conservationist
This presentation focuses on the history of black bears in Connecticut, an overview of black bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction and practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our black bear population. Black bear artifacts will be shared with the audience.

Registration Requested!

Saturday May 18, 12:30 p.m.

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. 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)

Coming Soon....

Take Great Photos With Your Smartphone

Saturday June 1st

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Youth Services News and Events

Drop-in Playdates and Parachute Play

Storytimes ended at the end of April, but we will continue to offer some drop-in programs during the month of May. No registration is required for these programs, which are geared for kids between the ages of 0-5.

Drop-in Playdates
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
May 8, 15, 22, 29



Parachute Play
Tuesdays
at 10:30 a.m.
May 14, 28



Spring Into
Garden Crafting!
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.
May 9, 16, 23
Grades K-5

Join us for three weeks of spring-themed garden crafts! Register for one or all of the programs listed below.

May 9: Design a paper bouquet for a mom or other special someone!

May 16: Craft a custom sprout house from sponges and then watch your microgreens grow!
(Held in partnership with Fire Ring Farms)

May 23: Design your own fairy house and landscape.

Registration is required for EACH PROGRAM and space is limited.



Read to a Therapy Dog

Saturday, May 4 and June 1
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 3 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 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

May the Fourth Be With You: Paint Your Own 3D Figure



Join us on Saturday, May 4, between 1:00-2:30 p.m. to paint a Star Wars™-inspired character!

Open to kids in grades 2-6.

Registration is required and space is limited!

Family Craft Night: Bean Planting and Clay Pot Painting

Thursday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m.



Come start your own bean plant from seed and paint a pot to house your bean once it begins to sprout.

This project is being offered in conjunction with the One Seed, One Community Project, which encourages community members to learn about gardening by each growing the same type of native plants.

Beans and planting materials have been generously donated by Fire Ring Farms.



Portland Library

Teen Events

Sweater Cat Beds Monday, May 20 at 3:30 p.m.



June 4 is National Hug Your Cat Day, and we're celebrating by making cat beds to keep or donate to a local shelter. Bring a sweater if you have one, or we can provide one for you.

Registration is required and space is limited.

LGBTQ+ Social Group (Ages 13-19)

Join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for snacks, drop-in crafts and social time with QPlus staff and peers. No registration required; just drop in and join us!

Summer Reading Volunteer Training Thursday, June 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Students grades 7-up: we need you! Stop by the library and sign up for our Summer Reading Volunteer program. Volunteers will be expected to attend a training session on **Thursday, June 6 at 3:30 p.m.**



2025 Nutmeg Books

The 2025 Nutmeg nominees were announced on May 1. A complete list of nominees is available on our website at:

www.portlandlibraryct.org

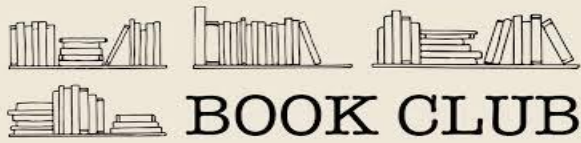
We have several copies of each book at the library, and many are available to borrow as downloadable e-books through the Libby and Hoopla links on our library website. The winners of the 2024 Nutmeg Awards will be announced on May 15.

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite from a list of ten (fifteen elementary) nominated titles. The award is jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL). Nominees are selected by a committee of students, school librarians and public librarians around the state.



Instagram
@portlandlibraryct

More News...



May Book Club Picks!

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday May 2, 6:30 p.m.

Everything I Never Told You

by Celeste Ng

Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet.

So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing.

T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday May 7, 1:00 p.m.

The Museum of Ordinary People

by Mike Gayle

Still reeling from the sudden death of her mother, Jess is about to do the hardest thing she's ever done: empty her childhood home so that it can be sold. As she sorts through a lifetime of memories, everything comes to a halt when she comes across something she just can't part with: an old set of encyclopedias. In the process of finding the books a new home, Jess discovers an unusual archive of letters, photographs, and curious housed in a warehouse and known as the Museum of Ordinary People. Irresistibly drawn, she becomes the museum's unofficial custodian, along with the warehouse's mysterious owner. As they delve into the history of objects in their care, they not only unravel heart-stirring stories that span generations and continents, but also unearth long-buried secrets that lie closer to home.

Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday May 14, 1:00 p.m.

Bent Road

by Lori Roy

For twenty years, Celia Scott has watched her husband, Arthur, hide from the secrets surrounding his sister Eve's death. As a young man, Arthur fled his small Kansas hometown, moved to Detroit, married Celia, and never looked back. But when the 1967 riots frighten him even more than his past, he convinces Celia to pack up their family and return to the road he grew up on, Bent Road, and that same small town where Eve mysteriously died. Celia grapples with loneliness and the brutality of life and death on a farm. And then a local girl disappears, catapulting the family headlong into a dead man's curve...

Thank You

Donations: Book:

Carolyn Freeman—Book

Bruce Stevens—Book

In memory of Madalyn Sue Gouin:

Felicia Grzejszczak



Ongoing Food Drive

Donate nonperishable food 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 May 6, 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday May 16, 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

jbillingsley@portlandct.org

Website: portlandlibraryct.org

May Book Displays at the Library:

Mystery, Baseball,
Container Gardening,
Local Portland authors,
and our favorite Staff Picks!

