

# Check it out...



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**A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library April 2025**

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.**

The Library is closed on Friday, April 18th for Good Friday

## Adult Craft Night: Fairy Penguin Art Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Kat Owens is a plastic pollution researcher, artist and activist. She creates life-size portraits of animals harmed by plastic pollution by hand sewing film plastic onto canvas.

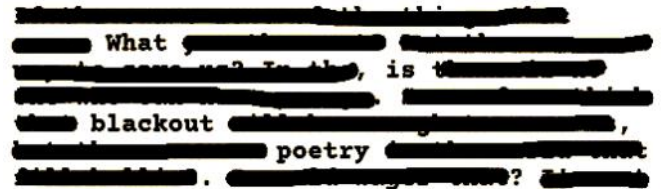


We'll celebrate Earth Day by using her craft kits to make our own individual works of art by hand sewing film plastic on canvas to create a Fairy Penguin.

Registration is required and space is limited.

## April is National Poetry Month

### Blackout Poetry Take Home Kits



Blackout poetry is created by blocking out words from a page of text to create your own poem. These artistic poems allow us to see the old, deconstruct it, and create something new.

Take home a kit and create your own new poem. Then bring it back to the library to be displayed along with others' poems for National Poetry Month.

## Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.

April 9th

*Conclave*

Runtime 120 minutes



## April is National Financial Literacy Month Foundations of Investing Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.

Building your investor IQ starts with understanding the basics. Whether you are new to investing or want a refresher, this presentation will help you learn about the importance of developing a strategy, the impact of asset allocation, and ideas for focusing on what you can control with your finances.



Presented by David O'Connell, a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Colchester.  
Registration encouraged but not required.

## Monthly Writers' Café

Saturday, April 19, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers!

## Special Film Screening - Americans With No Address

Monday, April 28 6:00 pm

This 2024 documentary for Fair Housing Month will be followed by a discussion led by Wallace Collins and Marjorie Barrett from Streetfire Ministries. This nonprofit will also be collecting personal hygiene items at the door.

Registration encouraged but not required.

# Youth Services News and Events

## Spring Storytimes

Registration is required and space is limited.



**Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5)**

**Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

**April 1, 8, 22, 29 (no program April 15)**

Songs, rhymes, and 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 2, 9, 23, 30 (no program April 16)**

Rhymes, songs, puppets, scarves and a story stimulate early pre-reading skills of babies and toddlers.

## Book Character Bunnies Hunt

Visit the library anytime in April and take part in our newest scavenger hunt! There are 12 bunnies dressed up as children's book characters.... Is your favorite among them? Once you've found all the bunnies, return your sheet to a library staff member and get a special prize.



## April Vacation Activities

### 3D Egg Painting And Spring BINGO with "A Fight Against"

**Monday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m.**

All ages welcome! Join us to kick off vacation week with a spring-themed craft project and several rounds of spring-themed BINGO. Cosponsored with Portland nonprofit group "A Fight Against." Registration is required and opens on Monday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.



## 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!**



## Furry Scaly Friends

**Thursday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m.**

Join us for a one-hour session packed with facts and info on a variety of critters that you can pet and hold. In addition to an axolotl that we can't wait to meet, visitors may include ferrets, guinea pigs, sugar gliders, rabbits, hedgehogs, a chinchilla, an opossum, tortoises, hermit crabs, tree frogs, snakes and more! Registration is required and opens on Monday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.



# Youth Services News and Events

## Family Craft Night:

### Fairy/Gnome Houses

Wednesday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Spring is here and we'll be crafting fairy/gnome houses to add to your indoor or outdoor garden! This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision.

Registration is required and opens on  
Monday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.



## Drop-In Days

Thursdays  
at 3:30 p.m.  
April 3, 10, 24  
Grades K-5



Drop in on Thursday afternoons for a variety of themed activities.

*April 3: Drop-In Crafting*

*April 10: Drop-in STEM Activities*

*April 24: Drop-In Lego Building*

No registration required.

## Teen Programs:

### Spring Egg Hunt

Monday, April 7 at 3:30 p.m.



Join us on the Town Green (weather pending) for a competitive teen egg hunt and then use the items found in your eggs to make a gingerbread house for a marshmallow Peep. In case of inclement weather, we will move inside to the library's

Wagner Room and ONLY make marshmallow Peep houses. Registration is required and open on Monday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

## LGBTQ+ Teen Game Night

Join QPlus every first and third Wednesday nights for tabletop gaming, snacks, games, crafts and more. Open to ages 13-18. Free snacks! All identities are welcome!

## 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 2025 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.

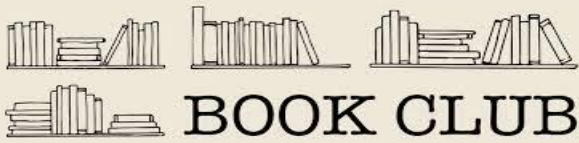


**Portland Library**  
[www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)



**Instagram**  
**@portlandlibraryct**

# More News...



## April Book Club Picks

**T.A.B. Talk about Books**  
Tuesday, April 1, 1:00 p.m.  
*Saturday Evening Girls Club*  
by June Healy

**1st Thursday Night Book Club**  
Thursday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.  
*A Woman Is No Man*  
by Etaf Rum

**Mystery Lovers Book Club**  
Tuesday, April 15, 1:00 p.m.  
*All Good People Here*  
by Ashley Flowers

# Thank You

## Donations:

### Books:

Carolyn Freeman  
Susan Young

### Memorial Fund:

Henry Strom in memory of Bob Muir



## 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!

## Knifty Knitters

Saturdays 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

The Knitters (and Crocheters) of Portland are open to new, adult members of all experience levels, beginning fiber artists welcome! Drop in at this weekly knitting circle where people share ideas, get helpful knitting tips and enjoy chatting with others who enjoy these creative hobbies.



## DID YOU KNOW?



**The library has a Ukulele and a Djembe Drum that can be borrowed.**

Borrowing a ukulele or djembe drum from the library offers a fantastic opportunity to explore new instruments without the commitment of buying them. With these instruments in hand, you can experiment with different sounds and rhythms, enriching your musical creativity.

## Museum Passes & Yard Games

Check out the latest on museums for art, nature, history, and fun! We have Connect 4, Jenga and Dice yard games available for a 3 day loan period.

Go to the library website and click on Library Museum Passes or call to reserve a pass or game. Reservations are recommended.

## Library Meetings:

### Friends of the Library

Monday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

### Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.

## To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue  
Portland, CT 06480  
860-342-6770  
Website: [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org)

## Library Director

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

## April Book Displays at the Library:

Funny fiction, Poetry, Earth Day, Books with Orange Covers, and our favorite Staff Picks!

