

# Check it out...



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## A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library March 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.**



### Adult Craft Night: Irish Calligraphy Monday, March 17, 6:00 p.m.

Learn Irish Calligraphy which is also known as the Uncial style. Calligrapher, Debby Reelitz, will teach the basics, provide guidelines and lettering samples and guide you through a project.

Registration is required and opens on Monday, Mar. 3 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited.



### Medicare Basics

**Monday, March 24, 6:00 p.m.**

If you're considering retirement or want to make a change to your existing Medicare policy, this program will provide understanding of **Medicare Basics** which is essential for making informed decisions about your healthcare coverage.

**Registration is required.**



### March Art Exhibit Reception Youth Art Month

**Thursday, March 20, 4:00 p.m.**  
(Snow Date: March 27)

The visual arts instructors for the Portland Public Schools are pleased to present an art show showcasing the work of the Grade 8 - 12 students in celebration of Youth Art Month. Please come support the visual arts program in our schools and meet the student artists at this opening reception hosted by the Friends of the Portland Library. The exhibit runs March 20 - April 19.



**Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.**

**March 12th**

*Wicked (2024)*

Runtime 160 minutes



### Saturday, March 29, 10:00 to 12:00 Friends of the Portland Library Read & Recycle

Bring in your gently used books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, and games!

All proceeds from FPL sales benefit the library.



### Monthly Writers' Café

**Saturday, Mar. 15, 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!

# 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.

March 11, 18, 25, 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.

March 12, 19, 26, 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.



## Health Care Heroes Storytime

Saturday, March 29  
at 11:00 a.m.

- For children age 3 to age 10
- A Middlesex Health “health care hero” will read a story featuring a health care provider of color
- Youth in attendance get to play surgeon for a day through an interactive activity
- Youth in attendance receive a free book that features diverse health care characters

Portland Library is proud to partner with the Greater Middletown for Equity in Medical Career Opportunities Coalition (GMEMCO) to host this story time.

## Animal Adoption Event with Protectors of Animals Saturday, March 8 from 10-2

Protectors of Animals had a highly successful event at the Portland Library last year so they agreed to return with some of their favorite canines this year! Come find out if they would be a good fit for your family. We'll also be collecting supplies for the shelter and have information on volunteer opportunities. Don't miss out on their local pizza raffle! No registration is needed for this event.



## Winter Reading Wrapup

The Portland community blew through our Winter Reading challenge goals, filling our 99 quilt squares with popsicle sticks each time they came to visit. If you haven't completed your quilt square, you have until March 1 to come do so and win a small prize.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this program a success, including the Portland Library staff, the Friends of the Portland Library for funding the program supplies and prizes, and Portland's kids and teens.



# Youth Services News and Events

## Family Craft Night: Sock Bunnies

Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a hopping good time as we make adorable sock bunnies together! You'll transform simple socks into cute, cuddly bunnies with just a few supplies. No sewing skills required! 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 3 at 10:00 a.m.



## Van Gogh with the Flow Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. March 13, 20, 27 Grades K-5

March is Youth Art Month and we're inviting elementary school students to explore a variety of art techniques with us!

### *March 13: Art Interrupted*

*Learn about some masterpieces that were left unfinished and complete them yourselves.*

### *March 20: Glow in the Dark Art*

### *March 27: Van Gogh Sunflowers*

Registration for this program is required and opens on Monday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m.

## Teen Programs: Edible Birdhouses

Monday, March 24 at 3:30 p.m.



You are invited to come build an architectural feast for your feathered friends. We'll use seeds, fruits, and more to come up with our own masterpieces. Space is limited. Registration is required and opens on Monday, March 3 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!

## Shamrock Scavenger Hunt

Friday, March 14

Drop in to the library throughout the day and enjoy a shamrock scavenger hunt and a leprechaun-inspired craft. No registration is required.



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



**Instagram**  
[@portlandlibraryct](https://www.instagram.com/portlandlibraryct)



# More News...



## March Book Club Picks

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

Tuesday, March 4, 1:00 p.m.

*West with Giraffes*

by Lynda Rutledge

### 1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.

*Other Birds*

by Sarah Addison Allen

### Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 p.m.

*Death in the Details*

by Katie Tietjen

# Thank You

## Donations:

### Books:

Carolyn Freeman

Dorian Hill—magazine

## Memorial Fund:

Henry Strom



## 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?

Universal  
Class

Do you want to learn a  
new skill?

Earn your CEUs?

Train for a new job?

Find it in Universal Class!

Go to the Online Resources page on the library's website and locate Universal Class. Click on the Universal Class image and browse the selection of over 600 online courses on accredited skill training for job seekers as well as amazing and fun learning opportunities for casual lifelong learners.

## 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, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

### Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, March 20, 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)

## March Book Displays at the Library:

Historical fiction, Women's History Month, Books with Green Covers, and our favorite Staff Picks!

