

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library May 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.

Memorial Day

Honoring those who died in
our Armed Services



Library closed Sat 5/24 & Mon 5/26

May is Mystery Month

**Mystery Author Talk with Katie Tietjen
Monday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.**

Katie Tietjen, a lifelong CT resident, is an award-winning writer, teacher, and school librarian. Her Edgar Award-nominated debut novel *Death in the Details* was inspired by the real-life mother of forensic science, Frances Glessner Lee.



Registration encouraged.

Adult Craft Night: Wire & Sea Glass Jewelry

Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m.

Local crafter Laurie-Lynne of Creative Girl Studios will teach different techniques to make wire wrapped sea glass jewelry. Each participant will leave with two completed pendant necklaces, a sachet bag and instruction sheet.



Registration is required
and space is limited.

Book Discussion

**They Called Us Enemy
Thursday, May 8, 6:00 p.m.**

This stunning graphic memoir recounts actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II.
For ages 10 to 110.

Co-sponsored by the town of
Portland's Committee on
Solidarity.

Registration is required.

Copies of the book are available
at the library, or instant access to
the ebook is available on Hoopla
to patrons with a Portland library
card.



**Wednesday Movie 1:00 p.m.
May 14th**

A Complete Unknown

Runtime 140 minutes



Monthly Writers' Café

Saturday, May 17, 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!

One Seed, One Community Project

Join us for the second year to learn how to grow nutritious food and save seeds. Stop by the library to get **sugar snap pea** seeds and growing instructions for one of 3 "levels" of gardener: Solo Gardener, Grow a Row, and Grow a Bed.

Seeds for our 2025 project provided through another generous donation from Fire Ring Farm of Portland.



Youth Services News and Events

Preschool Science Mini Session

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
May 6, 13, 20

Join us for a program that will introduce kids ages 3-5 to the wonders of science. We'll ask questions and make predictions as we do experiments that explore color, chemical reactions and more.

MAY 6: COLOR
MAY 13: ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS
MAY 20: SURFACE TENSION



Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited. To register, call the library at 860-342-6770 or register online at www.portlandlibraryct.org.

Toddlers and Tots Storytime Mini Session

Wednesdays at 10:15 or 11:15 a.m.
May 7, 14, 21

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.

Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited. To register, call the library at 860-342-6770 or register online at www.portlandlibraryct.org.



Read to a Therapy Dog

Saturday, May 3 and June 7
from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Devyn and Lucy from Middletown High School's animal ambassador program only have a few more monthly visits this school year! Kids between the ages of 3 and 12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to Lucy. 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

Family Craft Night:

Flower Fairies and Mod Podge Garden Pots

Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Our One Seed, One Community program is back for a second year and this year we're featuring sugar snap peas. At this Family Craft Night, we'll be using paper napkins and Mod Podge to create our own custom-designed pots and also making flower fairies. At the end of the program, everyone will get to take home a small baggie of dirt and some pea seeds generously donated by Portland's Fire Ring Farm to plant in your new pots.

Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited. To register, call the library at 860-342-6770 or register online at www.portlandlibraryct.org.



Adventures with Jack and Annie Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. May 8, 15, 22 Grades K-5

Calling all Magic Tree House fans in grades K-5! Each week, we'll go on a different adventure based on a Magic Tree House book. Activities will include crafts, simple recipes, and lots of fun!



Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited. To register, call the library at 860-342-6770 or register online at www.portlandlibraryct.org.



Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org

Teen Programs:

Serenity Stones: Mandala Rock Art Monday, May 12 at 3:30 p.m.

May is Mental Health Awareness month and we're honoring it with a relaxing afternoon of using the dot paint method to create mandalas and make our own serenity stones. We'll also have an "infused water" taste test! Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited.

LGBTQ+ Preteen Group *NEW Dates and Times*

Join QPlus every second and fourth Thursday afternoons from 4:00-6:00 for tabletop gaming, snacks, games, crafts and more. Open to ages 9-13. Free snacks! All identities are welcome!

Summer Reading Volunteer Training Thursday, June 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Students grades 7-up: we need you! Stop by the library or visit our website and sign up for our Summer Reading Volunteer program. Volunteers will not be able to sign up for volunteer shifts unless they have attended this or another mandatory training session.

2026 Nutmeg Books Announced!



The 2026 Nutmeg nominees were officially 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 e-books and audiobooks through the Libby and Hoopla links on our library website. The winners of the 2025 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 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

T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday, May 6, 1:00 p.m.

Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.

Things We Lost to the Water

by Eric Nguyen

Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday, May 20, 1:00 p.m.

The Stolen Coast

by Dwyer Murphy

Thank You

Donations:

Books:

Carolyn Freeman

Bruce Stevens

Memorial Fund:

Portland Garden Club

Endowment Fund:

Laura Sutkowski in memory of Helen Sutkowski



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.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?



Whether you want to try your hand at gardening or are looking for a new variety to enhance your garden, the Seed Library can help you prepare for spring planting, with a variety of free seeds! You may "borrow" seeds by taking a few packets. You are invited to share your leftover or saved seeds to grow the seed library.

Library Meetings:

Friends of the Library

Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

jbillingsley@portlandct.org

May Book Displays at the Library:

Mystery, Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage, Gardening, Books with Blue Covers, and our favorite Staff Picks!

