

Books for Babies

It's never too early for children to learn the joy of books! The Friends want to give every new Portland baby a free "Books for Babies" kit. Each kit contains

- o Touch and Feel Board Book
- o Books for Babies bib
- o Baby's First Library Card
- o Books for Babies brochure with Reading Tips
- o Raising a Reader, Raising a Writer brochure
- o Babies Love Books: a Guide for Grown-ups brochure
- o Bookmark with Reading Tips

To receive a free "Books for Babies" kit, please call Alison Harris at 342-0635.

To Reach the Library

General Information and Reference: (860) 342-6770
Fax: (860) 342-6778
Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org

Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open their Holiday Book Store featuring gift quality used books on Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Library.

The sale will feature coffee table books on art, travel and many other interesting topics, as well as children's holiday books. Many items are like new and would make great holiday gifts. The Portland Quilt note cards (at 5 for \$1.00) and the FPL "Readers are Leaders" t-shirts (in adult and children's sizes for \$5 each) will also be available for purchase. Santa will make a special appearance from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and will read *Twas the Night Before Christmas!* The sale will continue for the remainder of December in the Friends' Second Hand Prose Book Sale area during regular Library hours.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, including the Library's DVD collection, Museum Pass Program and a wide variety of children's, family and adult programs held throughout the year.

Check out FPL's new website at
www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org!!

2012 Membership Information Enclosed

Portland, CT 06480
President

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Portland, CT 06480

(860) 342-6770
Portland, CT 06480
20 Freestone Avenue
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FPL



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After the Flood: Portland Comes Through for FPL

"Did you hear that the basement of Brownstone School flooded on Friday?" This casual comment from a neighbor on Monday, July 11th was the first indication that The Friends of the Portland Library, who for many years have stored all of their donated books in the basement of Brownstone School, might have a problem.

Two hours later, FPL Executive Board Members were at Brownstone viewing the damage that resulted when more than five inches of rain fell in two hours on the afternoon of Friday, July 8th. Several feet of water had filled the basement of Brownstone School, destroying appliances, furniture and supplies used by the school cafeteria and Portland Youth Services.

In FPL's portion of the basement, the situation was equally bleak. Board Members were able to rescue some key FPL equipment like Book Sale signs, sign holders and a hand truck, but all 175 boxes of stored books were a complete loss, as were two book drop carts used to transport donated books from the main floor of Brownstone to the basement. Even more troubling, FPL had lost its storage space. Just three months before the Fall Book Sale, FPL had no books and nowhere to store any future donations.

The FPL Executive Board met on Monday, July 11th, the day we learned about the flooding. Board Member Phyllis Prokop immediately volunteered to allow FPL to temporarily store books in the basement of a new addition to her house. Once that critical issue was resolved, we decided to draft a press release seeking book donations. Finally, we scheduled three book intakes at the Portland Library to be held the last Saturdays of July, August and September.

That Friday the *Rivereast News Bulletin* ran a cover story, complete with photos of soggy boxes of books, describing FPL's situation. Library Director Janet Nocek sent our press release to the Friends of Connecticut Libraries. Within two days, we had offers of literally truckloads of books from Friends groups in Newtown, Darien, Salem and Simsbury. Although our space limitations did not allow us to accept books in such large quantities, we did accept generous donations of books from Russell Library in Middletown and libraries in Haddam and Tolland.

FPL held its first post-flood Library intake on July 30th. The response from Portland residents was overwhelming. Volunteers worked from 9:30 am until 6:00 pm sorting, packing and transporting massive quantities of donated books and audio visual materials. Our next intake took place on August 27th as Hurricane Irene was bearing down on Connecticut. Driving rain and the rush to make storm preparations did not deter Portland citizens from once again bringing countless boxes of donated materials to the Library. By our third and final Library intake on September 24th, we had the process of sorting, packing and transporting donated materials down to a science, and FPL had plenty of books to hold a substantial Fall Book Sale. The Fall Book Sale, held from October 21-23 at the Library, was a resounding success, raising more than \$2,500 to support Library programs.

So where do things stand now for FPL? Although the majority of FPL's old space in Brownstone will now be used for educational purposes, the Town has generously agreed to provide us with a small storage area in Brownstone and to outfit that area with appropriate shelving. We are grateful to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Paul Bengston (Director of Buildings and Grounds) for their help. We hope that this space will be ready in the near future. Because of the uncertainty as to exactly when the space will be available to us, FPL does not currently have any book intakes scheduled. We will use *Rivereast* articles, member emails and our new website (www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) to communicate the new intake schedule as soon as possible.

FPL is tremendously grateful for the support that we have received in the aftermath of the flood from Portland residents, Town government and libraries and Friends groups across the State. We hope that you will continue to support FPL and the Portland Library by sending in the enclosed membership form today.

What's Inside

- FPL's Annual Book Sale Raises \$2,500 2
- Selected Upcoming Library Events 2
- FPL Sponsors Artist Receptions 3
- Museum Pass Program 3

Selected Upcoming Library Events

Fly High in the Magic Tree House - Children in Grades 1 and up are invited to take a tour of the world in the *Magic Tree House*! Copies of each featured book are available for loan at the Library. Activities include a fun book discussion and a craft. **Mondays at 4:00 pm** on November 7, 21 and December 5.

Toddler Time (2 year old story time) - Stories, songs, games, rhymes, and other reading activities for both parents/caregivers and young children. **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** on November 2, 9, 16, 30, and December 7, 14.

Story Circle (Ages 3-5) - An appealing combination of new and familiar stories, songs, crafts, imaginative play, and movement activities. **Tuesdays at 10:30 am** on November 1, 8, 15, 29 and December 6, 13; **Thursdays at 1:00 pm** on November 3, 10, 17 and December 1, 8, 15.

Sleepy Time Stories (Ages 2-8) - Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed friend and settle in for cozy stories and lots of cuddles with Miss Judie! **Tuesdays at 6:30 pm** on November 1, 15, 29 and December 6, 13.

Family Movie: Wednesday, December 28 at 2pm - Bring the family to see *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, based on the 1938 novel of the same name by Richard and Florence Atwater. Be sure to read the book so you can compare it with the movie. Registration Required.

Extreme Gaming - Students in Grades 5 and up are invited to play board games, TV games and video games **LIVE** every other **Monday at 4:00 pm** at the Library. November 14 (*Angry Birds Live!*), November 28 (*Extreme Pictionary!*); December 12 (*A Minute to Win it!*). Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting: Thursday, November 17 at 4:00 pm. TAB is a teen-run group of dedicated students in Grades 6 and up. Members advise staff on book purchases, programming and teen issues. No registration required. **New members are always welcome!**

Monthly Book Discussion: Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 pm - *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson.

Movies in the Afternoon: Wednesdays at 1:00 pm - *Water for Elephants* on November 16 and *The Help* on December 14.

Organic Lawn Care: Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm - Hear a speaker from the Conn. Horticultural Society and view the 70 minute film *Chemical Reaction*. Free. Registration is requested.

Flute and Guitar Music: Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 pm - Sara Slocum, Daniel Keene and Dusty Boxer.

Knifty Knitters: Saturdays at 10 am - Join beginner and experienced knitters for a fun and informal get together. No registration required.

Visit the library to pick up a monthly newsletter or view the web page (www.portlandlibraryct.org) for more information on events and services offered at the Library. Also find Library events listed in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*. To register for programs, call the Library at 342-6770, or sign up online using the Calendar of Events.

FPL's Annual Book Sale Raises \$2,500

The Friends held another successful book sale during the weekend of October 21-23. The Annual Book Sale, which is FPL's largest fundraising event (other than the Membership Drive) raised more than \$2,500 this year. FPL's book sale is a much anticipated event for many area residents. It's a great opportunity to stock up on reading material for the upcoming long winter season.

In July we didn't think that we would have a book sale. When the Brownstone Intermediate School basement flooded, our entire inventory of collected books (175 boxes) was destroyed. We reached out to our community through the *Rivereast* and television news coverage seeking donations of gently used books, puzzles and audiovisual materials. As the saying goes, be careful what you wish for! The Friends received so many donations in such a short time that our temporary storage facility was filled to the rafters. In three short months, we collected more materials than we lost in the flood. This generosity made us realize how fortunate we are to live in such a caring community; the overwhelming support was more than we could ever have imagined.

As always, setting up the Annual Book Sale was a major challenge. Our small but eager group of volunteers worked in earnest Thursday afternoon and evening to move the books from our storage facility to the Library, where they were quickly loaded on to tables.

When the doors opened on Friday evening, a line of anxious buyers was waiting to search the tables for their favorite authors, discover a rare edition, or settle in with a classic. Sales were brisk throughout the weekend, and the Friends donated all remaining books, games, puzzles and audiovisual materials to other local charitable organizations, such as Connecticut Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries, Read to Grow, Portland Youth Services and local schools, who will use these materials to supplement their programs.

The Friends would not be able to run a successful Annual Book Sale without our volunteers. This year's volunteers included students from St. Mary's CCD program, PMS, PHS, Vinal Technical High School, Mercy and Xavier High Schools, the Teen Advisory Board, the Youth Action Council and staff from the Public Works Department and the Portland Library. Many thanks to Portland Fire Department Company #1 for the use of their tables and to Portland Library and BIS for the use of their facilities. Finally, we would like to thank the many Friends' members who spent countless hours organizing, planning and executing the event--especially Board Member Phyllis Prokop who, in addition to overseeing all aspects of the book sale weekend, allowed FPL to take over the basement of her home for three months.

Thank you so much for your support. Mark your calendars for our next Annual Book Sale in October, 2012!

FPL Sponsors Artist Receptions

An exhibit showcasing artwork of Portland School students in grades K through 12 was displayed in the Mary Flood Room during March and April. More than 200 students, parents and teachers attended the reception, which was held on March 10th. Members of the Wangunk Tribe displayed their artwork during the month of May. The reception on May 7th featured native Wangunk food provided by members of the tribe.

A June exhibit featured work by the talented students of Watercolor Creations in Cromwell. The opening reception was held on June 4th. Brownstone Art Guild opened its exhibit with a reception on September 17th, and the group's artwork was on display throughout September.

The art of Taylor and Drew Unikewicz, students at Portland High School, will be displayed in the Mary Flood Room throughout November and December. A reception was held on Saturday, November 5th.

Scheduled artist exhibits for 2012 include Portland Schools Youth Art Exhibit in March and the Watercolor Creation Student Show in June. Additional shows will be scheduled. Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates. FPL provides home-baked goods and beverages for all receptions.

Area artists interested in exhibiting their artwork in the Mary Flood Room are invited to contact Amy Giveans at the Portland Library at 342-6773.

Find Bargains at the Friends' Second Hand Prose Bookshop

When visiting the Library, be sure to browse the Friends' Second Hand Prose Book Sale area. We have mysteries, general fiction, non-fiction, romance, young adult and children's used books, as well as used DVDs and videos. Many items are like new and would make great gifts. Hardcover books sell for \$2.00 and trade paperbacks (such as those from Oprah Winfrey's book club selections) cost \$1.00. Paperbacks and books for children and young adults sell for \$0.50. DVDs cost \$2.00 and videos sell for \$1.00. We also sell discarded books from the Library's collection for only \$0.50 each. New treasures arrive each week! All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the Books for Babies Program, Artist Reception Program, and the purchase of computers and reference materials for the Library.

FPL Sponsors Family Shakespeare

For the third year in a row, FPL served as the organizing sponsor of Family Shakespeare, a program that brings a professional Shakespeare production to Portland. On August 6th, over 100 people gathered on the Portland Town Green to watch New England Shakespeare's excellent production of *Measure for Measure*.

Many thanks to Portland resident David Rintoul for the countless hours he spent raising money for this event and organizing every detail. Thanks also to the many Portland businesses that supported this program. FPL looks forward to working with David and town businesses to bring another Shakespeare production to Portland in 2012.

Museum Pass Program

Looking for family entertainment that won't cost an arm and a leg? Why not plan a day trip to a local museum or attraction? With Portland Library's Museum Pass Program, you can visit many of these local treasures for free or at significantly reduced admission. Here is a list of available passes:

Free Admission

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
Connecticut's Old State House
Connecticut State Park & Forest Recreation Areas
Florence Griswold Museum
Hill-Stead Museum
Imagine Nation Museum
KidCity: A Hands-on Children's Museum
Lutz Children's Museum
Mystic Seaport
New Britain Museum of American Art
Roaring Brook Nature Center
Wadsworth Atheneum

Reduced Admission

Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut)
Connecticut River Museum
Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater
The Mark Twain House and Museum
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center
Mystic Aquarium
New England Air Museum
Peabody Museum of Natural History
Roger Williams Park and Zoo

All passes are funded by the Friends of the Portland Library. Passes can be reserved online at www.portlandlibraryct.org or by phone (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library.