

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 \$3.00 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!

FPL also holds several targeted book sales in the Second Hand Prose Bookshop during regular library hours throughout the year. In February, when "Love is in the air" at the Portland Library, we offer hundreds of romance novels for sale. Our March Mystery Madness sale includes a large inventory of hardcover and paperback mystery books. In the spring, our Bookshop features a collection of gardening books, cookbooks, craft books, and travel books. During June and July, patrons can stock up on paperback books for their vacation reading at the annual Books for the Beach sale. September brings our reference book promotion for your back-to-school needs. There are dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases, encyclopedias, SparkNotes and many other reference books to choose from. The Holiday Book Store, which is held on the first Saturday in December, starts our month long sale of gift quality used books including coffee table books and children's holiday books. At various times throughout the year, we often have a large inventory of discarded Library books that we sell at discounted prices.

All proceeds from the Second Hand Prose Bookshop 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.

To Reach the Library

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

Mark Your Calendar!

In 2013, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 5
- Saturday, March 30
- Saturday, June 29
- Saturday, September 28

All collections will be held from 10 to noon in the Library's Mary Flood Room.

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
Florence Griswold Museum
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
Hill-Stead Museum
Imagine Nation Museum
KidCity: A Hands-on Children's Museum
Lutz Children's Museum
New Britain Museum of American Art
No Child Left Inside/State Parks & Forests Day Pass
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
Mystic Seaport
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, by phone (860-342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library.



Volume 22

2013 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2012

2012 – a Year of Quiet Change for FPL

The Friends had more than their share of drama in 2011. A freak July flood destroyed 175 boxes of donated books and left us with no storage space for almost a year. With the support of Portland residents, Town government and libraries and Friends groups across the State, FPL was able to pull off a very successful Fall Book Sale and continue our Second Hand Prose ongoing book store at the Library. Still, 2011 was a challenging year for our organization.

We are pleased to report that 2012 has been significantly less dramatic. Instead, this year has brought a series of quiet but important changes for FPL. These changes include a new venue for collecting books and other donated materials, a new method of distributing this newsletter, and two new projects funded by FPL.

For many years, FPL collected books and other donated materials at Brownstone Intermediate School on the first Thursday of every month. The collections took place from 3-6 pm (1-3 pm in summer) because that's when the school was open. We had a small group of dedicated volunteers who lugged donations to the Brownstone basement each month and then sorted and boxed them.

After the flood, we held a series of book collections on Saturday mornings in the Library's Mary Flood Room in an effort to quickly rebuild our inventory of donated materials before the Fall Book Sale. It soon became apparent that Saturday collections at the Library made a great deal of sense. Not only were Saturdays more convenient for our donors, but also for Board Members and community volunteers who could now help run the collections.

Accordingly, we will now hold four collections per year on Saturday mornings from 10 to noon at the Library. The collections for 2013 will be held on January 5, March 30, June 29 and September 28. FPL Board Members, their families and community volunteers will be at the library ready to unload cars, and sort and box the donations. As always, we welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books or self-help books, please. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales throughout the year. Proceeds from these sales benefit Portland Library and its programs.

You probably noticed that this newsletter did not arrive as a separate piece of mail in your mailbox, but instead as a supplement to the *Rivereast News Bulletin*. This method of delivery costs less and requires significantly less "assembly time" for our Board Members and volunteers. Perhaps more importantly, the change allows us to support a local business that has always supported FPL. Not only does the *Rivereast* print countless articles publicizing our organization's events and activities, but the newspaper also ran a cover story, complete with photos, following the July, 2011 flood. The publicity from that article allowed us to collect materials needed to run a successful Fall Book Sale and continue the Second Hand Prose book store. We are happy to return the favor by using the *Rivereast* to distribute our 4,800 newsletters.

In 2012, FPL financed two new projects:

- FPL joined with the Library Board to finance a complete overhaul of the Portland Library's Teen Area. New carpet, shelving and furniture give the area a new, up-to-date look and provide Portland's teens with a comfortable and functional place to call their own.
- FPL has also budgeted \$2,000 to purchase e-books for the Library. The FPL Board feels that it is important to support this new and popular technology. These particular e-books are for the exclusive use of Portland Library patrons. New titles are being added each week!

Of course, FPL continues to support many other Library programs. We purchase all of the Library's DVDs and Museum Passes. FPL also finances the Children's and Teen Summer Reading Program in addition to many other programs for children, adults and families throughout the year. We also purchase computers for the Library, run Artist Receptions and fund the Books for Babies program.

All of these programs are possible only because of the generous support of our members. With the tight Library budgets of recent years, FPL's role has become more crucial than ever. Please join FPL (or renew your membership) by sending in the enclosed membership form today. With your help, Portland Library will continue to serve as a vital resource for our community.

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

Supplement
to the
*Rivereast
News
Bulletin*

Selected Upcoming Library Events

Mystic Seaport Program: Monday, November 19, 3:00-4:00pm – Children in Grades K-6 are invited to join us for “**Life in a Seaport Town**”, a fun hands-on program comparing 19th century coastal living with life today. Learn about the dangerous and exciting work of 19th century whalers! **Registration required.**

Family Movie: *Brave* (2012, Rated PG), Tuesday, November 20, 3:00-4:00 pm - Set in the rugged and mysterious Highlands of Scotland, Disney Pixar’s *Brave* follows the heroic journey of Merida, a skilled archer and headstrong daughter of King Fergus and Queen Elinor. **Registration required.**

Readers’ Theater: Monday, November 26 & Monday, December 17, 3:30-5:00 pm - Reader’s Theater is an exciting way for children in Grades 2-3 to enjoy literature. At each session, we will read a story together, discuss it, make props, and in the final 15 minutes of the session, perform the story for parents, caregivers and friends. **Registration required.**

Generation Crafty: Thursday, December 13, 3:30-4:45 pm. Are you a crafter in Grades 5-7 with a can-do attitude and killer D.I.Y skills? Then come to the Library after school and GET CRAFTY during this monthly program! We will make a new and unique project every month. The catch this session is...all of our projects will include BOOKS! In December, we will make holiday ornaments out of books. So let your imaginations SOAR, but **register early** because **supplies are limited.** Contact the Library for 2013 dates and projects.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings: Thursday, November 15 & Thursday, December 20
TAB is a teen-run group of dedicated students in Grades 7 and up. Members advise staff on book purchases, programming, and teen issues. Meetings are held at the Library on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 4:30-5:30 pm. **New members are always welcome! Registration required.**

Movies in the Afternoon for Adults: 1:00 pm on selected Wednesdays
November 14 – *The Lucky One*
(2012, Rated PG-13) starring Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling
December 12 – *People Like Us*
(2012, Rated PG-13) starring Chris Pine and Elizabeth Banks

Movies in the Evening for Adults: 6:30 pm on selected Mondays
November 19 – *Moonrise Kingdom*
(2012, Rated PG-13) starring Bill Murray and Bruce Willis
December 17 – *Men in Black 3*
(2012, Rated PG-13) starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones

Monthly Book Discussion: First Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
Open to all. Call Library or check website for featured titles. Multiple copies of featured books available.

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 (860) 342-6770, or sign up online using the Calendar of Events.

FPL’s Annual Book Sale

The Friends held another successful book sale during the weekend of October 19-21. The Annual Book Sale, which is FPL’s largest fundraising event (other than the Membership Drive) raised more than \$1,800 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 long winter season.

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. Even though we only had two collection days this part year, we had plenty of books thanks to the generosity of our many donors.

When the doors opened on a rainy 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 steady 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, Mercy and Xavier High Schools, the Teen Advisory Board, 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.

Thank you so much for your support. Please mark your calendars for our 2013 collection dates (January 5, March 30, June 29 and September 28) and our next Annual Book Sale in October, 2013!

Upcoming Art Shows and Receptions

The Library’s Mary Flood Room will feature an exciting series of art shows during the coming months.

Richard Raicik of Portland will display his work during the month of November. He is an award winning, self-taught watercolor artist and is a member of many art groups, including the Connecticut Watercolor Society, the Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society and the Brownstone Art Guild. A reception, which was held on Saturday, November 3, was well-attended by Richard’s family, friends and fellow artists.

From December 6 to January 22, the Mary Flood Room will feature artwork by the members of the Art Guild of Middletown. The Guild fosters and encourages art and the development of visual artists in the Middletown area. A reception and holiday party will take place on Saturday, December 15 from 2-4 pm at the Library.

Stuart Noelte, longtime Portland High School art teacher, will present his show entitled *Hot Shots: Trains Along the Hudson and Mohawk* during the month of February. Stuart, who photographs trains in upstate New York along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, seeks to portray in his photos the heritage and melancholy of the trains, along with the urgency of the jobs they perform. A reception will be held on Saturday, February 2 (with a snow date of February 9) from 2-4 pm in the Mary Flood Room.

The Portland Schools Youth Art Exhibit will grace the Mary Flood Room during the months of March and April. The Exhibit will feature art by talented students from all five Portland Public Schools. A reception will be held for the students, their families, teachers and friends on Thursday, March 14 from 4-6 pm at the Library.

In May, the artwork of Kindred Spirits will be displayed at the Library. Kindred Spirits is a group of six local female artists who exhibit their work together. The show will include watercolor, oil and encaustic (hot wax) paintings, as well as fine hand knit items. Several of the artists specialize in plein air landscapes (landscapes painted on location). The reception for these talented ladies will take place on Saturday, May 4 from 2-4 pm in the Mary Flood Room.

Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates. The Friends provide home-baked goods and beverages for all receptions.

Area artists interested in exhibiting their artwork in the Mary Flood Room should contact Amy Giveans at the Portland Library at (860) 342-6773.

Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open their Holiday Book Store featuring gift quality used books on Saturday, December 1st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Second Hand Prose Book sale area of the Library.

The sale will feature coffee table books on art, travel, sports, movies and many other interesting topics, as well as children’s holiday books. Many items are like new and would make great gifts. So get an early start on your holiday shopping on December 1st! The sale will continue for the remainder of December 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.

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 (860) 342-0635.

Thank You!

FPL would like to thank First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield for her continual support of our organization over the past year. Thanks also to Paul Bengson (Director of Buildings and Grounds) and Rick Kelsey (Director of Public Works) and their employees for help in preparing our storage space at Brownstone Intermediate School and transporting book donations.