

FPL's Book Sale Raises \$1,255 for the Library

The Friends held another successful book sale during the weekend of October 21-23, and raised \$1,255 to support Library programs. We also received several very generous membership donations during the sale.

We collected a large quantity of high quality donated materials at our four Read & Recycle events this year, so setting up the Book Sale was quite a challenge. Our small but eager group of volunteers worked in earnest Thursday afternoon and evening to unpack thousands of books on to tables.

The Fall Book Sale is a great opportunity to stock up on reading material for the upcoming long winter season, and sales were steady throughout the weekend. The Friends donated the remaining books to Easter Seals/Goodwill Industries who will use these materials to supplement their programs.

The Friends would not be able to run a successful Fall Book Sale without the support of our volunteers. This year's volunteers included a number of students from Portland High School and University High School of Science & Engineering in Hartford. Many thanks to Portland Fire Department Company #1 for the use of their tables and to Portland Library and Brownstone Intermediate School for the use of their facilities. Extra special thanks to Susan Bransfield for her unending support of our organization and the Library. And special kudos to the staff of Portland's Public Works Department who move hundreds of boxes of books for us throughout the year. 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 2017 collection dates (January 21, March 25, June 30 and September 23) and our next Fall Book Sale in October, 2017!

To Reach the Library

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

Upcoming Art Shows and Receptions

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

The month of December will bring a very special exhibit to our Library entitled **"What I Love About Portland!"** Students from all five of Portland's Public Schools will display their paintings and drawings depicting their favorite thing about their hometown. What a fitting ending to Portland's 175th Anniversary celebration! A reception will be held for the students, their families, teachers and friends on Tuesday, December 6 from 4-6 pm.

Members of the **Art Guild of Middletown** will exhibit their artwork in the Mary Flood Room during the month of January. The Guild fosters and encourages art and the development of visual artists in the Middletown area. A reception will be held on Saturday, January 7 (with a snow date of January 14) from 2-4 pm at the Library.

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 at the Library on Wednesday, March 22 from 4-6 pm at the Library.

The Town of Portland is lucky to have four talented and enthusiastic art teachers in its schools. During the month of May, **Portland's Art Teachers** (Patricia Allen, Lindsay Bonaldo, Stu Noelte and Ann-Marie Szerejko) will display their own work in the Mary Flood Room. A reception date will be announced in the Library newsletter and in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

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

Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates. All receptions are sponsored by The Friends of the Portland Library. The Friends provide home-baked goods and beverages for the receptions.



Volume 26

2017 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2016

Santa & Mrs. Claus Support FPL

The Friends of the Portland Library is very fortunate to have more than 300 individuals, families and local businesses who faithfully donate to our organization year after year. We are so grateful for every one of these members who support FPL not only with their monetary donations, but also by donating to our quarterly Read & Recycle Collections and purchasing books and DVDS at our book sales.

Two of our members support FPL in an unusual and wonderful way—by bringing Christmas joy to thousands of children and adults throughout Connecticut. For 10 years, Norman Ward of Portland and Dianne Grenier of Andover have made appearances as Santa and Mrs. Merry Claus in every corner of the state. Many of their appearances are for non-profit or civic organizations. But Santa and Mrs. Claus also make many appearances at various business events and, when they do, they ask that in lieu of charging a fee, the business make a donation to FPL and Friends of the Andover Library. The two Friends groups evenly split the donations received. In the past year, FPL has received more than \$1,300 in donations from Santa and Mrs. Claus's appearances.

Norm has lived in Portland for 40 years, while Dianne has made her home in Andover for 30 years. Both are very active in their communities. When asked why they choose to donate their appearance fees to the Friends groups, Norm and Dianne are in complete agreement. They want to give back to their towns and support their local libraries and all the wonderful programs and services they provide.

During November and December of 2016, Norm and Dianne will make more than 50 appearances throughout the state, sometimes doing two or three events in a single day. Some of their favorite events include weekly visits to Middlesex Hospital's Cancer Center, Breakfast with Santa at the Bushnell, riding the Zambonis between periods at Hartford Wolfpack games and annual events at Andover Public Library celebrating Christmas and Dr. Seuss's Birthday. They also make yearly appearances at the Governor's Residence and on WILL radio's call-in show as well as at elderly housing developments, nursing homes, historical societies and park and recreation events. Visit Mrs. Merry Claus on Facebook to see photos of Santa and Mrs. Claus and a full list of this season's events.

We are thrilled that Santa and Mrs. Merry Claus will make two appearances at the Portland Library during this holiday season. Please check The Rivereast or the Library's website (www.portlandlibraryct.org) for program details.

Thanks to Norm, Dianne and all of our other loyal members, FPL has been able to continue its support of vital ongoing Library programs. Once again this year, FPL funded the entire cost of the Library's Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults, along with a wide variety of programs for all ages held throughout the year. FPL also pays for the program supplies and refreshments for all Library programs including the Monthly Adult Book Discussions and the Library's Story Time programs. All told, FPL budgets approximately \$10,000 for these fun and educational programs.

FPL also supports many other Library programs for patrons of all ages. The Library's Museum Pass Program allows residents to visit many local museums and attractions for free or at significantly reduced cost and is funded entirely by the Friends at a cost of \$2,500 per year. See the Article on page 3 for a full list of available passes. FPL also funds the entire cost of Portland Library's impressive DVD collection at a cost of approximately \$12,000 in 2016.. FPL purchases e-books, software and reference materials (collectively, \$6,000 budgeted for 2016). And each December, FPL buys hundreds of high quality books for holiday gift baskets given to families served by the Portland Food Bank. We also run the Books for Babies program for Portland's tiniest residents and elegant receptions for local artists in the Mary Flood Room.

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 center of community, learning and entertainment for our Town in the years ahead.

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

Supplement
to the
*Rivereast
News
Bulletin*

Ongoing Programs at the Library...

Story Times: The Children's Department runs three story time sessions per year in winter (January through February), spring (March through April) and fall (September through October, with a mini-story time session or drop-in playtime series running in November and early December). Storytime programs are divided into four age groups:

- **Bouncy Babies** (Birth to 24 months): This introduction to story time provides important bonding time and early literacy skills through stories, songs and playtime with new friends. **Thursdays at 10:30 am.**
- **Stories for Twos** (Ages 24-36 months): Laugh, create, and connect with new and old friends, while listening to stories and enjoying related activities. **Wednesdays at 10:30 am.**
- **Story Garden** (Ages 3-5): Children share some of Miss Lauren's favorite stories, songs, and games every week. **Tuesdays at 10:30 am.**
- **Family Story Time** (Pre-K-Grade 2): Play with your children while enjoying a variety of language and art enrichment activities for your family to share together. Younger siblings are always welcome. **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.**

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: The Library will launch this early literacy initiative in early 2017. Details to follow....

Elementary Programs: The Youth Services department hosts programs for children in Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5 during fall, winter, and spring sessions. Programs vary but usually have a focused theme and strive to incorporate popular books and literacy skills as well as activities that incorporate science, art, technology and more.

Summer Reading: The 2017 Summer Reading theme is *"Build a Better World!"* and will focus on architecture, building and construction. Look for programs for babies, kids and teens in May.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings: 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 **second Monday of each month from 3:30-4:30 pm. New members are always welcome!**

Movies in the Afternoon for Adults: 1:00 pm on selected Wednesdays (monthly).

Movies in the Evening for Adults: 6:30 pm on selected Mondays (monthly).

Lunch & Learn: Noon on selected Tuesdays (monthly). Join a book discussion or attend a special event. In addition to lively discussion, dessert and beverages will be provided.

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 will be 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 paper 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* and *The Middletown Press*. To register for programs, call the Library at (860) 342-6770, or sign up online using the Calendar of Events.

Holiday Book Store

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

Join Us!

Want to help support Portland Library? Join FPL's Executive Board! We are looking for new members with fresh ideas and a bit of free time. The Board meets once a month and runs FPL's book sales (including the Second Hand Prose Bookshop ongoing book sale), Read & Recycle Book Collections and Artist Receptions. We also decide how money raised through our Membership Drive and book sales is allocated. Contact Catherine Probolus at 860-342-4461 for more information. Help us support Portland Library!

Mark Your Calendar!

In 2017, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 21
- Saturday, March 25
- Saturday, June 24
- Saturday, September 23

The collections will be held from 10 to Noon in the Library's Mary Flood Room. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition. We cannot accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books or magazines, please. Thank you for your support!

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 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 contact Marilyn White at 860-342-1820 or atwmsw@sbcglobal.net.

Museum Pass Program

Looking for family entertainment that won't cost an arm and a leg? With Portland Library's Museum Pass Program, you can visit many local museums or attractions for free or at significantly reduced admission. Here is a list of available passes:

Free Admission

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
Florence Griswold Museum
KidCity: A Hands-on Children's Museum
Lutz Children's Museum
New Britain Museum of American Art
New Haven Museum
No Child Left Inside/State Parks & Forests Day Pass
Wadsworth Atheneum

Reduced Admission

Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut)
Connecticut River Museum
Connecticut Science Center (discount coupons)
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
Imagine Nation Museum
Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater
The Mark Twain House and Museum
Mystic Aquarium
Mystic Seaport
New England Air Museum
Peabody Museum of Natural History
Roaring Brook Nature Center
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 (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library. Many passes can be printed at the Library's website.

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. 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 and DVDs cost \$2.00. 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. During June and July, patrons can stock up on paperback books for their vacation reading at the annual Books for the Beach sale. The Holiday Book Store, which is held on the first Saturday in December, starts our month long sale of gift quality used books including adult 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 software for the Library.