

Upcoming Art Shows and Receptions

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

November: Art Guild of Middletown. Reception was held on November 4.

February: Paula Slym Lee & Amanda Rasch, mother and daughter artists. Reception: Saturday, February 3 from 2-4 pm (Snow Date: February 10)

April: Youth Art Month Exhibit featuring the art of talented students from all five Portland schools. Reception: Wednesday, March 28 from 4-6 pm

May: Ann-Marie Szerejko (PMS art teacher) and Stu Noelte (PHS art teacher). The show will highlight Ann-Marie's pottery and Stu's paintings and photography.

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 FPL. The Friends provide home-baked goods and beverages for the receptions.

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!

To Reach the Library

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

FPL's Book Sale Raises \$1,032 for the Library

The Friends held their Fall Book Sale during the weekend of October 20-22 and raised \$1,032 to support Library programs.

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 Goodwill Industries in Middletown.

The Friends would not be able to run a successful Fall Book Sale without the support of our volunteers. This year's volunteers included many FPL members and several students from Portland High School. 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.

Thank you so much for your support. Please mark your calendar for our 2018 Read & Recycle collections on January 13, April 7, June 30 and September 29!

Mark Your Calendar!

In 2018, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 13
- Saturday, April 7
- Saturday, June 30
- Saturday, September 29

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!



Volume 27

2018 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2017

FPL Funds Reading Program for All Ages

The Portland Library was a busy place this summer with hundreds of children, teens and adults participating in the Library's 2017 Summer Reading Program. The Program, which was centered around the theme *Build a Better World*, featured a full slate of fun and educational events throughout the summer. FPL is very pleased that, through the generous support of our many loyal members, we were once again able to pay the full cost of these events, plus the cost of all prizes, materials and refreshments for the Program.

During the summer, preschoolers explored the world of nature as they learned about bees and planted their own seed garden at the Library. Children in Grades 3-5 enhanced their knowledge of world geography and cultures as they tracked down jewel thieves in a program entitled *Where in the World*. And children and families enjoyed a series of evening events on raptors, music, comedy, the science of bubbles and even a Disc Dog Frisbee Show. Adult events included a West African-inspired drum circle and programs on beekeeping and kitchen gardens. A Paul Newman Film Festival rounded out the summer's adult activities.

Of course, the centerpiece of the Summer Reading Program was books, and plenty of reading was going on in Portland this summer. Children in the Program read for 206,165 minutes, while adults read more than 86,000 pages. And all that reading truly helped to Build a Better World because for every 250 pages read by an adult, FPL donated one book to Books for Eastern Congo, a charity that works with local communities to provide books to the children and youth of Eastern Congo. Portland's young readers could also choose to send books to Africa in lieu of more traditional prizes. All told, FPL purchased 600 books for this worthwhile charity.

Reading Program participants received photos, letters and drawings from the children in Africa, all of which made an impact on Portland readers at a personal level. This connection motivated Program participants, both children and adults, to read more in order to earn more books for the children served by Books for Eastern Congo.

Thanks to the generous donations from its more than 300 members, FPL has been able to continue its support of many other important Library programs in 2017. In addition to the Summer Reading Programs, FPL pays for a wide variety of events for all ages held throughout the year. FPL also funds supplies and refreshments for all Library programs including the Monthly Adult Book Discussions, Movies in the Afternoon and Evening and the Library's Story Time programs. All told, FPL budgeted \$10,000 for children, teen and adult programs in 2017.

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 Portland Library's impressive DVD collection at a cost of approximately \$8,000 per year. FPL purchases educational software for the Library 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 Jenn'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: Pick up your welcome packet at the Library for this important early literacy program.

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 2018 Summer Reading theme is Libraries Rock and will focus on music. 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.

Mystery Book Club: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm. Open to all. Call Library or check website for featured titles. Multiple copies of featured books will be available.

Tech Talks with Kevin: 2:00 pm on selected Tuesdays (typically the third Tuesday of the month).

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. Library events are also listed in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

Visit Santa & Support FPL

Once again this Christmas season, Santa Norm and Mrs. Merry Claus (otherwise known as Portland resident Norman Ward and Andover resident Dianne Grenier) will donate their appearance fees to FPL and Andover Friends of the Library. Last year, FPL received \$2,000 from Norm and Dianne, making them FPL's largest contributors.

Highlights of Santa and Mrs. Claus's 2017 appearance schedule include stops at the Governor's Residence, the Bushnell and Wolf Pack Hockey. In addition, they will make two appearances at Portland Library on Wednesday, December 20. A list of appearances can be found at FPL's website (friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) or visit Mrs. Merry Claus on Facebook to see photos of Santa and Mrs. Claus and follow their travels throughout Connecticut.

Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open their Holiday Book Store featuring gift quality used books on Saturday, December 2nd 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.

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 Welcome packet for Portland Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program
- o Baby's First Library Card
- o *Books for Babies* brochure and bookmark with Reading Tips
- o *Raising a Reader, Raising a Writer* brochure
- o *Babies Love Books: A Guide for Grown-ups* brochure

To receive a free "Books for Babies" kit, please contact:

- o Jennifer Renk, Supervisor of Youth Services
Portland Library
- o Town Clerk's Office, Portland Town Hall
33 East Main Street
- o Marilyn White at 860-342-1820
or atwmsw@sbcglobal.net.

Many thanks to Portland Town Clerk Ryan Curley for helping FPL distribute the kits to Portland families!

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 cost \$1.00. DVDs, paperbacks, books for children and young adults, and discarded books from the Library's collection all sell for only \$0.50 each. New treasures arrive each week!

FPL also holds several targeted book sales in the Book Sale area 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.

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

Connecticut River Museum
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 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.