

## Book Sales *(cont. from Page 2)*

and children's holiday books, which this year begins on **Monday, December 2nd**. During **June and July**, patrons can stock up on paperback books for their vacation reading at the annual **Books for the Beach** sale. 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 FPL book sales benefit programs funded by the Friends, including DVD purchases, the Museum Pass Program, Books for Babies Program, Artist Reception Program, and the purchase of software for the Library.

## Books for Holiday Baskets

As part of our commitment to encourage a love of reading in young people, FPL funds the purchase of books for holiday gift baskets given to families served by the Portland Food Bank. Each year, FPL provides hundreds of high-quality, age appropriate books for infants, children and teens. In this small way, FPL is proud to support the efforts of Ruth Maio (Director of the Portland Food Bank) as she works tirelessly to make Portland a stronger community.

## We Love Our Library Staff!

Portland Library is blessed with a top-notch staff. Every staff member is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. In recognition of our Library employees' hard work, FPL funds a luncheon each June for all Library staff and provides homemade baked goods every day for a week. In addition, and more importantly, each staff member selects a book, audiobook or DVD that has meaning to her, and FPL pays to add that item to the Library's collection. In this way, FPL can celebrate our wonderful staff and add to the Library's collection all at the same time!

## 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 Maureen Muir at 860-980-4087 or mltsherman@gmail.com for more information. Help us support Portland Library!

## Summer Readers Give Back

The Portland Library was a busy place this summer with hundreds of children, teens and adults participating in the Library's 2019 Summer Reading Program. The Program, which centered around the theme *A Universe of Stories!*, featured a full slate of family and multi-generational events that kept everyone motivated and connected all summer long.

Of course, the centerpiece of the Summer Reading Program was books, and plenty of reading was going on in Portland this summer. Children and teens in the Program (388 in total including 62 teens) read for 226,128 minutes. That's a 56,000 minute increase over 2018! Twenty three dedicated teen volunteers helped run the program, collectively logging 432 service hours. At the end of the summer, the volunteers were treated to a pizza party in appreciation of their hard work.

As for the adults, 57 patrons participated in the Summer Reading Program, reading a total of 145,000 pages. Four patrons read over 10,000 pages each!

For the fourth straight year, our Summer Reading Program participants were "reading for a cause." For every 250 pages read by an adult, FPL donated money toward funding instrument rental scholarships for two deserving Brownstone Intermediate School students for the 2019-2020 school year. Brownstone Music Teacher Sharon Fuller reports that one of the students comes to her every morning to talk about his/her instrument. Ms. Fuller writes "Please make sure your summer adults realize how much your donation means to Brownstone students." Also, in lieu of traditional prizes, many of Portland's young readers chose to send 200 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste to Columbus House, a Red Cross family shelter.

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 the Library's Summer Reading Program. Our funding covered the cost of all events, which this year included a drumming circle, a live animal show, a stuffed animal workshop, an astronaut training camp, "Science Tellers" (a program that combines science and storytelling), as well as programs on American Sign Language and didgeridoos. FPL also paid for the Brownstone scholarships, items donated to the Red Cross shelter, book prizes and coupons, program supplies and refreshments. A big "Thank You" to our FPL members for making all this possible and to Jenn Renk and Beth Kauczka of Portland Library for planning and running these fun and creative programs!



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## FPL Supports Art and Culture in Portland

Are you looking to add some art and culture to your life? Local residents can experience both by taking advantage of various Library programs funded by the Friends of the Portland Library. For example, you can pick up Museum Passes at the Portland Library that provide free admission to five excellent art museums. You also can view an art show or attend one of FPL's Artist Receptions in the Library's Mary Flood Room. Perhaps you could choose a DVD of your favorite opera, Broadway show or classic movie from the Library's extensive DVD collection. Or attend one of the many FPL-funded art, music or literature programs offered for adults or children at the Library.

FPL's Museum Pass Program provides free admission to four outstanding Connecticut art museums. Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum, America's oldest public art museum, boasts an impressive collection of European, American and Contemporary art, along with an extensive Costume and Textile Collection. At Waterbury's Mattatuck Museum, you can explore the unique connection between art and regional history revealed in the museum's permanent fine art collection and diverse special exhibitions. The New Britain Museum of American Art, the first museum dedicated strictly to American Art, has a collection of over 10,000 pieces that spans from John Trumbull to Georgia O'Keefe and beyond. Or you can visit the home of American Impressionism and the famous Lyme Art Colony at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme.

FPL's fifth art museum, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, is located just one hour north of Portland in Amherst, Massachusetts. The Carle is the only full-scale museum in the United States that collects, preserves, presents and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from around the world. The pass provides free admission for two adults and up to four children per visit. FPL's Museum Pass Program is funded entirely by the Friends at a cost of \$2,300 per year. See the article on Page 3 for a full list of available passes.

The Library's Mary Flood Room not only serves as the main venue for Town meetings and community groups, but also as the home of art shows by talented local artists. 2019 shows have included works by

- renowned Portland watercolor artist, Steven Wells;
- talented students and art teachers from all five Portland Schools; and
- Paula Slym and Amanda Rasch, Portland mother and daughter artists.

FPL sponsors an Artist Reception for each art show, and beverages and homemade baked goods are always served. See the article on Page 3 for a description of upcoming shows.

FPL funds the entire cost of Portland Library's impressive DVD collection (movies and television series) with a budget of \$8,000 per year. From *Anna Karenina* to *Anne of Green Gables*, from *Great Opera Arias* to performances from *The Grand Ole Opry*, from *Swan Lake* to *Duck Soup*, the Library's collection contains something for everyone.

FPL finances many children's, family and adult programs throughout the year. In 2019, FPL has funded a paint party, a drumming circle, a book discussion of the memoir *Educated*, a Magnificent Monster puppet show, and a program led by a professional organizer, as well as programs on magic, llamas, acrobatics, UFOs, American Sign Language and the science of sound. We also fund the full cost of the Children's, Teen and Adult Summer Reading Programs (see article on Page 4) as well as provide refreshments, supplies and prizes for children, teen and adult programs held throughout the year. All told, FPL budgeted \$10,000 for these programs in 2019.

All of these programs are possible only because of the generous support of our members. With tight Library budgets in 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 art and culture in our community.

Check out FPL's website at  
[www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org)

Supplement  
to the  
*Rivereast  
News  
Bulletin*

## FPL Supports Portland's Youngest Readers

It's never too early for children to learn the joy of books! That's why The Friends support these four early literacy programs that help get Portland's youngest readers off to the best start possible.

**Books for Babies:** Each new Portland baby can receive 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; or  
o Marilyn White at [atwmsw@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:atwmsw@sbcbglobal.net).

Many thanks to FPL Executive Board Member Marilyn White, Portland Town Clerk Ryan Curley and the Library's Jennifer Renk for helping FPL distribute more than 120 kits to Portland families in the past two years!

**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** is a national reading initiative that encourages parents and caregivers to read aloud daily to their children from birth to age 5.

Patrons can stop by the reference desk, write their child's first name on a green star for the Library's 1,000 Books

tree and take an introductory packet to get them started. As the child reaches "book milestones," the star changes color to track progress, and he or she earns prizes such as a bookmark and stamper, a journal and crayons, a tote bag and a free book. Graduates of the program receive a t-shirt and photo taken for the Library's Facebook page. Currently 61 children participate in the program and 7 have graduated!

**BookFlix** is an online literacy resource that pairs classic video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks to build a love of reading and learning. This software reinforces early reading skills and introduces children to a world of knowledge and exploration. BookFlix software can be accessed through the Library's website ([portlandlibraryct.org](http://portlandlibraryct.org)).

**Library Storytimes:** Miss Jenn and Miss Patty lead three story time sessions per year in winter (January through February), spring (March through April) and fall (September through October). Story time programs are divided into three age groups: Bouncy Babies (Birth to 24 months), Stories for Twos (ages 2-36 months) and Story Garden (ages 3-5 years). These programs help develop early literacy and social skills through stories, songs, games and activities. Miss Jenn and Miss Patty schedule drop-in playdates for weeks when Storytimes are not in session so families can continue their child's socialization patterns and library routines.

FPL pays the full cost of Books for Babies kits, 1,000 Books program prizes and the BookFlix software. We also pay for craft and activity supplies for the Library's Storytime programs. Thanks to our members for helping us help Portland's "littlest" readers!

## FPL Book Sales - All Year Long!

Many of you may have recently attended the Friends' **Fall Book Sale**, which took place at the Library from October 18-20. It's our signature event of the year, and we are so grateful to the hundreds of members and area residents who come out to support FPL, as well as the dozens of volunteers who help make this major undertaking possible.

But you can buy quality books at bargain prices every day in the Friends' Second Hand Prose Book Sale area of the Library. We have mysteries, general fiction, nonfiction, romance, young adult and children's used books and sometimes 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, mass market 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 throughout the year. Next up is the **Holiday Book Store**, our month-long sale of gift quality used books including adult (**cont. on Page 4**)

## Mark Your Calendar!

In 2020, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 11
- Saturday, March 28
- Saturday, June 27
- Saturday, September 26

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, VHS videos or magazines, please. Thank you for your support!

## 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  
Mattatuck Museum  
New Britain Museum of American Art  
**New England Carousel Museum & Museum of Fire History +**  
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  
Lutz Children's Museum  
Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater  
The Mark Twain House and Museum  
**Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame +**  
Mystic Aquarium  
Mystic Seaport  
New England Air Museum  
Peabody Museum of Natural History  
Roaring Brook Nature Center  
Roger Williams Park and Zoo

### + New Pass for 2019

All passes are funded by the Friends of the Portland Library. Passes can be reserved online at [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org), by phone (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library. Many passes can be printed at home from the Library's website.



Follow us on Facebook!  
[@portlandctfriends](https://www.facebook.com/portlandctfriends)

## Upcoming Art Shows and Receptions

The Library's Mary Flood Room will be home to several exciting art shows in 2020.

**April:** Youth Art Month Exhibit featuring the art of talented students from all five Portland schools. Reception: Wednesday, March 26 from 4-6 pm

**May:** Doug Welch & Charlie Shaw, Mixed Media. Reception: TBD

**June:** Paula Slym & Amanda Rasch, Mother & Daughter Artists Reception: Saturday, May 30 from 2-4 pm.

**Fall 2020:** Brownstone Arts, Portland watercolor artist Steven Wells, and the Art Guild of Middletown will return to the Mary Flood Room for shows next Fall. Show and reception dates TBD.

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 note, however, that the Library is not currently scheduling shows during the early months of 2020 due to a pending renovation project.

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.

## Adult Programs at the Library

Many of the programs at the Portland Library focus on children, teens and families, but there are plenty of adult-oriented activities too, including these monthly programs:

**Thursday Night Book Club** - First Thursday at 6:30 pm. Jeff Kyser, a longtime volunteer, leads the Library's longest-running book club, which reads a variety of popular and classic novels.

**Lunch & Learn** - Second Tuesday at Noon. JJ Smith, a former educator, selects a book and facilitates this thoughtful book discussion. Light snacks and beverages are served.

**Mystery Lovers Book Club** - Fourth Tuesday at 1 pm. Started three years ago by Reference Librarian Beth Kauczka, this club has focused on mysteries throughout the decades (1930-2010), mysteries set in foreign countries, and during the past year, books/authors that members recommend and love.

**Movies in the Afternoon** - Selected Wednesdays at 1 pm

**Movies in the Evening** - Selected Mondays at 6:30 pm

**Tech Talk with Kevin** - Third Tuesday at 2 pm. Portland's Town Hall tech guru helps patrons navigate the world of modern technology.

**Knifty Knitters** - Saturdays at 10 am. Join beginner and experienced knitters for a fun and informal get together.

In addition to these regularly scheduled programs, Portland Library holds adult-oriented events throughout the year. FPL funds many of these events and purchases the DVDs and snacks for Movies in the Afternoon and Evening.