

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Thursday
12:00PM – 8:00PM
Friday and Saturday
10:00AM – 5:00PM

Holiday Closings

Veteran's Day

Closed Thursday, November 11

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 24 - Closing at 5 pm

Closed Thursday, November 25
through Saturday, November 27

Christmas

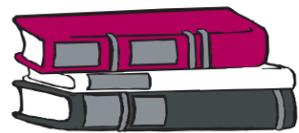
Thursday, December 23 - Closing at 5 pm

Closed Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25

New Year's

Thursday, December 30 - Closing at 5 pm

Closed Friday, December 31 and Saturday, January 1



Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open their Holiday Book Store featuring gift quality used books on Saturday, December 4th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Library.

The sale will feature coffee table books on photography, 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 \$10 each) will also be available for purchase. Santa will make a special appearance! All items will be available 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, such as the Books for Babies Program, Artist Reception Program and a wide variety of children's, family and adult programs held throughout the year.

To Reach the Library

General Information and Reference: (860) 342-6770

Fax: (860) 342-6778

Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org

2011 Membership Information Enclosed

Resident
Portland, CT 06480

Friends of the Portland Library
20 Freestone Avenue
Portland, CT 06480
(860) 342-6770



FPL FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND LIBRARY

Volume 20, Number 1

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FPL Supports Art and Culture in Portland

When it comes to art and culture, no one will confuse Portland, Connecticut with New York, London or Paris. But there are many opportunities for local residents to experience art and culture 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 several excellent Connecticut 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 the 152 acre Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, you can experience paintings by Degas, Cassatt, Whistler and Monet and wonderful ceramics and furniture, all set in the Pope family's comfortable and livable home. The New Britain Museum of American Art, the first museum dedicated strictly to American Art, now has a collection of over 10,000 pieces that spans from John Trumbull to Georgia O'Keefe and beyond. Finally, you can visit the home of American Impressionism and the famous Lyme Art Colony at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. Passes can be reserved online at www.portlandlibraryct.org, by phone (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library.

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. Recent shows include works by the students of Watercolor Creations (an art school in Cromwell), members of Brownstone Arts (a local artists' group) and the photographer Carolyn Astle. FPL sponsors an Artist Reception for each art show, and beverages and homemade baked goods are always served. Please check the *Rivereast* or the Library's website for information on featured artists and reception dates and times.

FPL funds the entire cost of Portland Library's impressive DVD collection. From *The Pirates of Penzance* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*, from *La Boheme* to *Phantom of the Opera*, from *Pride and Prejudice* to *Lawrence of Arabia*, the Library's collection contains something for everyone.

FPL finances many children's, family and adult programs throughout the year. In 2010, FPL has funded Library programs on memoir writing, puppetry, hula dancing, marine biology, magic, Mark Twain, doodling, basketball and music. We also have funded both the Children's and Adult Summer Reading Programs. For the past two years, FPL also has served as the organizing sponsor of Family Shakespeare, a program that brings a professional Shakespeare production to Portland each August.

All of these programs are possible only because of the generous support of our members. With significant cuts to the Library's budget 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.

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 *Shake, Rattle and Read* Board Book (various titles)
- o Books for Babies bib
- o Baby's First Library Card
- o *The ABCs for Developing Your Child's Mind* brochure
- 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.

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Find Bargains at the Friends' Second Hand Prose Bookshop

When visiting the Library, take an opportunity 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. 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 Library's Museum Pass Program, the Children's Summer Reading Program, and the Library's DVD collection.

FPL Sponsors Family Shakespeare

For the second 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 28th, over 100 people gathered on the Portland Town Green to watch New England Shakespeare's excellent production of *Twelfth Night*.

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 2011.

FPL Sponsors Artist Receptions

An exhibit showcasing artwork by members of the Brownstone Art Guild was displayed in the Mary Flood Room throughout September. A reception was held on Saturday, September 11th. Photographer Carolyn Astle exhibited her work at the Library during the month of October. Her exhibit opened with a reception on Saturday, October 2nd. Both receptions were sponsored by the FPL Executive Board.

The FPL Executive Board will sponsor an artist reception on Saturday, November, 13th highlighting the work of local watercolorist Richard Raicik. An award winning artist, his works include landscapes, seascapes and abstracts, along with some portraits. Richard has exhibited at juried shows throughout Connecticut. The reception will be held from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Library's Mary Flood Room. As always, home-baked goods and beverages will be served.

Scheduled artist exhibits for 2011 include:

March and April: Portland Schools Youth Art Exhibit. Reception will be held on Thursday, March 3rd.

June: Watercolor Creations Student Show. Reception will be held on Saturday, June 4th.

Additional shows will be scheduled for February, May, September, October, and November. Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates.

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.

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 River Museum
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
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)
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, by phone (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library.

Selected Upcoming Library Events

Saturday, November 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm – Artist Reception for local watercolor artist Richard Raicik. Richard's work will be displayed in the Mary Flood Room during the months of November and December.

Wednesday, November 17th at 1:00 pm – Movies in the Afternoon: *The Kids Are All Right*. Also, December 15th at 1:00 pm – *Eat, Pray and Love*.

Thursday, November 18th from 3:00 to 5:30 pm – Dinner and a Movie: *How to Train Your Dragon*. Open to readers Grade 3 and up. Please register and read at least one of the *Dragon* books before the event. Pizza will be served.

Friday, November 19th at 3:00 pm – *Wingmasters*: Visit with LIVE birds of prey and wildlife rehabilitators dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey. Children in Kindergarten and up are welcome. Registration required.

Saturday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm – Monthly Book Discussion: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Visit the Library to borrow a copy of the book.

Thursday, December 9th at 6:30 pm – Family Holiday Program: *Winter Wonders* presented by Jackson Gillman, the Stand-up Chameleon. Heartwarming celebration of the season, holidays and the human spirit. Registration required.

Tuesday, December 14th at 10:30 am – *Merriness and Mistletoe*: Children age 2-5 and a parent/caregiver are invited to join us for an informal holiday story time! We will get into the spirit of the season with holiday stories, crafts, songs and activities. Registration required.

Thursday, December 16th at 4:00 pm – *Holi-Daze*: Children in Kindergarten and up are invited to get their MERRY on during this afterschool holiday event. We will learn the story of the *Christmas Spider* and make inspired ornaments to decorate our homes. Registration required.

Saturday Mornings, 10 am - *Knifty Knitters*: 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 \$3,000

The Friends held another very successful book sale during the weekend of October 22-24. The Annual Book Sale, which is our largest fundraising event (other than our Membership Drive), raised almost \$3,000 this year. This is a \$300 increase from 2009.

We made some changes this year. Instead of holding the book sale at both the Library and the Senior Center, we consolidated the operation to just one location--the Library. The unexpected closure of the Library's main entrance due to the sidewalk improvement project required a last minute change in our set up. Yet, the sale went very smoothly, and we truly appreciate everyone's patience with this issue. Also, in FPL's continuing effort to "go green," all members who came on Friday night received an FPL logo recyclable bag to carry their selections home. We hope to see these bags around town as our members shop and visit the Library in support of our other events.

As always, setting up the Annual Book Sale was our first challenge. Our small but eager group of volunteers worked in earnest Thursday afternoon to get the Library ready for the sale. Under the direction of Phyllis Greene and Bob Casati, veteran book sale organizers, the books flew quickly from the truck on to the tables.

When the doors opened on a chilly Friday evening, a line of anxious buyers was patiently waiting to search the tables for their favorite authors, or discover a rare edition, or settle in with a classic. Sales were brisk throughout the weekend, and the Friends donated all remaining books and tapes to Connecticut Easter Seals.

The Friends would not be able to run a successful Annual Book Sale without the help of a veritable army of volunteers. This year's volunteers included students from PMS, PHS, Xavier High School, Mercy High School and St. Mary's CCD program, and staff from the Portland Library and the Public Works Department. Many thanks to Portland Fire Department Companies #1 and #2 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.

All the books, puzzles, videos, DVDs and CDs sold at the event were collected throughout the year, thanks to generous donations from Portland residents. The Friends are already making plans for next year's Annual Book Sale. We eagerly await your donations and will be holding our next collection on Thursday, December 2nd. The "Read and Recycle" events are held on the first Thursday of each month at BIS from 3-6 pm (July and August, 1-3 pm). Thank you so much for your support. Mark your calendars for our next Annual Book Sale in October, 2011!