

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

Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 25 - Closing at 5pm

Thursday, November 26 through Saturday, November 28

Christmas

Thursday, December 24 - Closing at Noon

Friday, December 25

Saturday, December 26

New Year's

Thursday, December 31 - Closing at Noon

Friday, January 1

Thanks to All Our Supporters

The Portland Library and Friends of the Portland Library would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has donated generously to

- Portland Library Memorial Fund
- Portland Library Endowment Fund
- The Friends' 2009 Membership Drive
- The Friends' Read and Recycle Program

Thank you for everything you all do to make the Portland Library such a special place!

Buy a Friends T-Shirt!

Consider supporting the Friends by purchasing one of our brand new t-shirts. The t-shirts are white and have the FPL logo in burgundy on the front and say "Readers are Leaders" (also in burgundy) on the back. A shirt is displayed near the Second Hand Prose Book Sale area of the Library. Shirts are \$10 each and are available in Adult and Children's sizes. Please call Alison Harris at 342-0635 to purchase a t-shirt.

To Reach the Library

General Information and Reference: (860) 342-6770

Fax: (860) 342-6778

Website: www.portlandlibraryct.org

2009 Membership Information Enclosed

Resident
Portland, CT 06480

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




FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND LIBRARY

Volume 19, Number 2

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Keeping Pace with Changing Times: Board Member Sees Role of Library and FPL Evolve Over Decades

Terri Larson has served on FPL's Executive Board for more than 20 years, but her links to Portland Library go back much further. While serving as Portland's first ever "First Selectwoman" from 1975-1981, Terri oversaw the planning, financing and construction of the town's current library building.

Soon after Terri was elected, Mary Flood (then Librarian of Portland Library) marched into Terri's office with an old dusty book. The book contained the minutes from a Board of Selectmen's meeting held some time in the early twentieth century. At that meeting, the Board had approved the formation of a committee to oversee the planning and construction of a new, larger library. More than half a century later, that committee had never been formed, and the library continued to operate out of a small, cramped space in what was then the Town Hall building (now the Buck-Foreman building).

Terri set out to rectify this situation. From the beginning, the new Portland Library was ahead of its time. Instead of building a cookie-cutter library, the committee hired a library consultant who conducted an extensive survey on the uses and programs that the new building would need to accommodate, both short term and in the future. The building was then designed around these needs and was wired for future technology, even though personal computers were just in their infancy in the late 1970s. The new library took two years from planning to opening, cost \$2M and was dedicated in January, 1982.

In the ensuing 34 years since Terri was elected, she's seen changes in the role of the Portland Library in our town. The Library has become a more important part of the community, with a wide variety of town government, civic and business organizations holding their meetings and events at the Library. Terri feels that the Library has done a good job in keeping pace with changing times.

The role of FPL also has expanded significantly over the decades. Today, FPL pays the entire cost of the Library's DVD collection, Museum Pass Program, Books for Babies Program and Artist Reception Program. FPL also finances many children's, family and adult programs throughout the year, including providing significant support to the Children's Summer Reading Program.

All of these programs are possible only because of the generous support of our members. With significant cuts in the Library's budget in 2009, 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 the vibrant, active center of our community that Mary Flood and Terri Larson envisioned decades ago.

Another Successful Annual Book Sale for the Friends

Books, Books and more Books! The Friends held another very successful Annual Book Sale during the weekend of October 23-25, 2009. The Annual Book Sale, which is our largest fundraising event (other than our Membership Drive), raised approximately \$2,700 this year. Although slightly lower than last year's proceeds, given the current economy, we consider the results successful.

All the books, puzzles, videos, DVDs and CDs sold at the event were collected throughout the year, thanks to generous donations from the public. Our small but eager group of volunteers worked in earnest Thursday afternoon to get the sites ready. Under the direction of Phyllis Greene and Bob Casati, veteran book sale organizers, the books flew quickly from the truck on to the tables. (Continued on page 3)

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Selected Upcoming Library Events

Youth's Programs

November 19th at 3:00 pm. - Mohegan Tribe program for school-age children: learn about the history of the Tribe through artifacts, storytelling, music and dance. Registration required.

November 24th at 6:30 pm - The Teen Advisory Board presents a macabre evening of vampire tales and legends for teens in Grades 7 and up. This program is supported by a Healthy Community, Healthy Youth grant from the United Way. Registration required.

November 28th (time to be determined) – *New Moon* movie at Destinta theater for teens. Registration and participation in the November 24th discussion are required.

December 15th - (time to be determined) - *Winter Wonderland* by Rosalita's Puppets.

December 17th - Holiday program for children in Grade K and up. Watch for information in the Library's monthly newsletter and website.

Adult Programs

November 12th at 6:30 pm - *Be Bear Aware*. Master Wildlife Conservationist and bear enthusiast Felicia Ortner presents a program on black bears. Felicia dispels some myths associated with bears, provides natural history information, and shares the results of black bear research conducted by state wildlife biologists.

November 16th at 12:30 pm - Poetry Circle hosted by Sheila Murphy, award-winning poet, memoir writer, teacher and Portland resident. The first session features the poetry of Richard Wilbur, the second Poet Laureate of the United States. Wilbur, who lived in Portland in the 1960s, is one of America's greatest poets. Second session meets on Monday, December 7th at 12:30. No registration necessary.

November 18th at 1:00 pm – Movies in the Afternoon: *The Proposal* starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. Also, December 16th at 1:00 pm – movie to be announced.

December 3rd at 6:30 pm - Monthly Book Discussion. Visit the Library to borrow a copy of the book beginning November 6th.

December 5th at 2:00 pm – Friends of the Portland Library hosts a reception for photographer Lucy Guiliano.

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.

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. We've added four new passes in 2009 (see museums marked by *). 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 Athenaeum

Reduced Admission Passes:

Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut)
Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater
The Mark Twain House and Museum (BOGO)*
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 (342-6670) or by visiting Portland Library.

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 342-0635.

FPL Participates in Brownstone Festival

On Saturday September 12th, the Friends of the Portland Library held a bake sale and a children's book sale as part of Portland's annual Brownstone Festival. We also had some Portland Quilt note cards and our new FPL "Readers are Leaders" t-shirts for sale. The weather was a little damp this year, but many Portland residents still enjoyed the FPL booth as well as the rest of the Festival.

Thanks to the following FPL members who provided the wonderful treats for our bake sale:

Roberta Edwards	Sally Irons	Janet Poet
Maria Eiler	Sandy Lavoy	Violet Pozzetti
Lynsey Grzejszczak	Edna Liberty	Karen Storo

We really appreciate your support!

Friends Sponsor Artist Receptions

An exhibit showcasing artwork by seven members of Portland MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) was displayed in the Mary Flood Room throughout October. The exhibition opened on Saturday, October 3rd with a reception sponsored by the FPL Executive Board.

The FPL Executive Board will sponsor artist receptions in December and January. Lucy Guiliano's photography exhibit (featuring local architecture and landmarks) will open with a reception on Saturday, December 5th. The opening reception for Terry Grady's pointillism exhibit will be held on Saturday, January 9th. Terry, who is a member of FPL's Executive Board, recently exhibited his work at The Book Bower in Middletown. Both receptions will be held from 2-4 pm in the Mary Flood Room.

Six additional artist receptions are tentatively scheduled for 2010. The dates for these exhibits follow. Please check the Rivereast for information on the featured artists and reception times.

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Thursday, March 4, 2010 - Youth Art Month Reception

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Area artists interested in exhibiting their artwork in the Mary Flood Room are asked to contact Gail Pititto at the Portland Library at 342-6773. Many thanks to Gail Pititto and Maria Eiler for coordinating the exhibits and receptions.

Book Sale (Continued from page 1)

When the doors opened on Friday evening, a line of anxious buyers was patiently waiting to search the tables to select 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 UNESCO, through the coordination of UCONN student Spencer Young. The donation will support the organization Books for Bugesera in starting the first public library in Rwanda, Africa.

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 and St. Mary's CCD program, and staff from Portland Library and the Public Works Department. Many thanks to Portland Fire Department Company #1 and Company #3 for the use of their tables and Portland Library, Senior Center 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.

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 December 3rd. 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, and we look forward to seeing you all at our next Annual Book Sale in October, 2010!