

## FPL's Book Sale Raises More Than \$2,000

Portland was buzzing with excitement and plenty of activity on Friday, October 25. Along with the costumed trick-or-treaters enjoying Portland's Halloween Downtown event, book enthusiasts lined up at the Library for FPL's Annual Book Sale.

The Friends held another successful book sale that weekend (October 25-27), and raised more than \$2,000 to support Library programs. The Annual Book Sale, which is FPL's largest fundraising event (other than the Membership Drive), is a much anticipated event for many area residents. It's a great opportunity to stock up on reading material for the upcoming long winter season. With blizzards, a hurricane, a tropical storm and extended power outages over the past few years, it's always a good idea to have a good supply of reading material on hand!

We received a large quantity of donated materials at our four Read & Recycle collection 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 move the books from our storage facility to the Library, where they were quickly loaded on to tables.

Sales were steady throughout the weekend, and the Friends donated all remaining books, games, puzzles and audiovisual materials to other local charitable organizations, such as Connecticut Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries and local schools, who will use these materials to supplement their programs.

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

Thank you so much for your support. Please mark your calendars for our 2014 collection dates (January 11, March 29, June 28, and September 27) and our next Annual Book Sale in October, 2014!

### To Reach the Library

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

Robert Pagini will present his photography show entitled *Connecticut's Secret Beauty* from November 1 until approximately December 10. Bob's photos of Connecticut landscapes have been featured in many brochures, mailings, magazines and books published by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Bob hopes that his photographs of local landscapes will promote conservation of undeveloped lands in Connecticut. A reception was held on Saturday, November 2 at the Library.

From December 16 to January 22, the Mary Flood Room will feature artwork by the members of the Art Guild of Middletown. The Guild fosters and encourages art and the development of visual artists in the Middletown area. The Art Guild will sponsor a reception and holiday party on Saturday, December 21 from 2-4 pm at the Library.

Portland High School's most talented student artists will display their work in the Mary Flood Room from February 3 to March 3. The PHS Portfolio Art Show will include watercolors, acrylics, oils, pastels, pencil drawings, charcoal drawings and scratchboard works. A reception date will be announced in the Library newsletter and in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

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 for the students, their families, teachers and friends on Thursday, March 13 from 4-6 pm at the Library.

In May, the artwork of Paula Slym will be displayed at the Library. Paula is a self-taught artist who specializes in acrylics and watercolors. She is a member of both the Art Guild of Middletown and the Glastonbury Art Guild. A reception will take place on Saturday, May 3 from 2-4 pm in the Mary Flood Room.

Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates. The Friends provide home-baked goods and beverages for the receptions.

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

# FPL FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND LIBRARY

Volume 23

2014 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2013

## FPL Funds Programs for Children, Teens and Families

In 2012, The Friends of the Portland Library channeled more than \$35,000 into Library programs that benefit Portland citizens of all ages. From infants to seniors, FPL seeks to enrich the lives of all Portland residents. We are especially proud, however, of the contributions that our organization makes to Library programs supporting children, teens and families. Through these programs, we hope to foster in Portland's young people a love of learning, community and libraries that will last a lifetime.

FPL's "Books for Babies" program targets Portland's tiniest citizens. Through this program, every new Portland baby can receive a free kit that includes a Touch and Feel board book, a Books for Babies bib, a Babies First Library Card, and brochures that provide families with tips on how to raise a child who loves reading and writing. See the article on page 3 for further information.

The Library's Museum Pass Program (funded entirely by the Friends) allows families to visit many local museums and attractions for free or at significantly reduced admission. For families with younger children, we offer passes to the Imagine Nation Museum, the Lutz Museum and KidCity. Nature lovers can select from passes to the Beardsley Zoo, the Roger Williams Zoo, the Mystic Aquarium and the Roaring Brook Nature Center. Families who wish to explore Connecticut's rich history can choose from passes to Mystic Seaport, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, the Mark Twain House and Museum and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center. And, since it's never too early to instill a love of art in a child, why not plan a family trip to the Wadsworth Atheneum, the New Britain Museum of American Art or the Florence Griswold Museum? See the article on page 3 for a full list of available passes.

This year, FPL funded the entire cost of the Library's Summer Reading Program, along with a wide variety of children's and family programs held throughout the year. This year's programs have included magic shows, family music concerts, a visit by a local author, animal shows and environmental programs. FPL also pays for the program supplies, craft materials and snacks for the Library's Story Time programs and all programs for children's and teens. We fund hundreds of "prize" books for Summer Reading Program participants who reach their reading goals. All told, FPL budgets approximately \$8,500 for these fun and educational programs.

It is especially important that Portland's teens feel at home at the Library. To this end, FPL joined with the Library Board last year to finance a complete overhaul of the Library's Teen Area. New carpet, shelving and furniture give the area a fresh, up-to-date look and provide Portland's teens with a comfortable, welcoming and functional place to call their own. FPL's contribution to the project totaled approximately \$8,000.

Last, but certainly not least, 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.

Of course, FPL continues to support many other Library programs for patrons of all ages. We fund the Library's entire DVD collection (\$12,000 budgeted for 2013) and purchase e-books, software and reference materials (collectively, \$6,000 budgeted for 2013). FPL funds Artist Receptions and adult programs on such diverse topics as vampires, coupons and laughter. We also provide prizes for the Adult Summer Reading Program and refreshments for adult programs held throughout the year.

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 vital resource for Portland residents of all ages.

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

Supplement  
to the  
*Rivereast  
News  
Bulletin*

## Selected Upcoming Library Events

**Fun with Folding: Monday, November 25, 3:30-4:30 pm** – Learn some new origami skills in this program for children in Grades 4-6. We'll show you how to make a variety of items, from a simple crane to a ninja star to the Star Wars characters from the Origami Yoda books. No experience necessary! **Registration required.**

**Cupcake Party: Tuesday, November 26, 3:30-4:30 pm** – Children in Grades K-3 are invited to join us for some Thanksgiving stories and yummy cupcake decorating fun. Choose from a Thanksgiving or fall design, or create your own! Each child will get two cupcakes—one to eat and one to bring home. **Registration required.**

**Family Story Time: Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 pm** - Families with children of all ages will enjoy hearing the story of *The Christmas Spider* and making a special ornament to take home. **Registration required.**

**Preschool Story Time: Wednesday, December 11, 10:30 am** - Children ages 2 and up and their parent or caregiver are welcome to join us for stories and holiday fun! **Registration required.**

**Real Kids, Real Challenges, Real SCIENCE: Wednesday, December 18, 4:00-5:00 pm** - Compete against your friends to see who can build a catapult that will shoot a marshmallow the farthest and most accurately in this hands-on program for children in Grades 2-4. **Registration required.**

**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 3rd Thursday of each month from 3:30-4:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 16. (No December meeting.) **New members are always welcome! Registration required.**

**Resume and Cover Letter Workshop: Saturday, December 7, 12:30-2:30 pm** - Jeff Thierfeld is back to provide expert advice for jobseekers. Question and answer session will follow a Power Point presentation.

**Hypnotherapy for Stress Relief: Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 pm** - Just in time for the holidays! Licensed hypnotherapist Elizabeth Lupacchino presents ways to reduce stress through hypnosis. **Registration required.**

**Movies in the Afternoon for Adults: 1:00 pm on selected Wednesdays**  
**December 11 – *Angels Sing*** (2013, Rated PG). Holiday movie starring Harry Connick, Jr.

**Movies in the Evening for Adults: 6:30 pm on selected Mondays**  
**December 16 – *Red 2*** (2013, Rated PG-13) starring Bruce Willis and Helen Mirren

**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 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 newsletter or view the web page ([www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://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 (860) 342-6770, or sign up online using the Calendar of Events.

## Holiday Book Store

The Friends of the Portland Library will open their Holiday Book Store on Saturday, December 7th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Second Hand Prose Book sale area of the Library.

The sale will feature a variety of coffee table books, puzzles and DVDs. Many items are like new and would make great gifts. So get an early start on your holiday shopping on December 7th! The sale will continue for the remainder of 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 FPL President Phyllis Prokop at 860-342-3460 or [phylprokop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phylprokop@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Help us support Portland Library!

## Mark Your Calendar!

In 2014, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 11
- Saturday, March 29
- Saturday, June 28
- Saturday, September 27

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 Books for Babies bib
- 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 Phyllis Prokop at 860-342-3460 or [phylprokop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phylprokop@sbcglobal.net).

## 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's Beardsley Zoo  
Connecticut's Old State House  
Florence Griswold Museum  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center  
Hill-Stead Museum  
Imagine Nation Museum  
KidCity: A Hands-on Children's Museum  
Lutz Children's Museum  
New Britain Museum of American Art  
No Child Left Inside/State Parks & Forests Day Pass  
Wadsworth Atheneum

### Reduced Admission

Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Connecticut)  
Connecticut River Museum  
Maritime Aquarium and Imax Theater  
The Mark Twain House and Museum  
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center  
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](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org), by phone (342-6770) or by visiting Portland Library.

## 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 and videos. 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. DVDs cost \$3.00 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!

FPL also holds several targeted book sales in the Second Hand Prose Bookshop during regular library hours throughout the year. In February, when "Love is in the Air" at the Portland Library, we offer hundreds of romance novels for sale. Our Bookshop features a collection of gardening books, cookbooks, craft books, and travel books in the spring. 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 coffee table books 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 computers and reference materials for the Library.