

FPL's Book Sale Raises More Than \$1,200

The Friends held another successful book sale during the weekend of October 23-25, and raised more than \$1,200 to support Library programs. The Fall Book Sale is 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 in recent years, it's always a good idea to have a good supply of reading material on hand!

We received a large quantity of high quality 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 Goodwill Industries who will use these materials to support their programs.

The Friends would not be able to run a successful Fall Book Sale without the support of our volunteers. This year's volunteers included students from St. Mary's CCD program and students from Portland Middle School and Portland High School. 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. Staff from the Public Works Department and the Portland Library help us throughout the year. 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 2016 collection dates (January 16, April 2, June 25, and September 24) and our next Fall Book Sale in October, 2016!

To Reach the Library

General Information and Reference: (860) 342-6770

Fax: (860) 342-6778

Website: 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.

Throughout November, longtime Portland High School art teacher **Stu Noelte** will display his railroad photography in the Mary Flood Room. This show entitled *Hot Shots II* is a follow up to Stu's very successful 2013 show, and will attempt to capture some of the flavor of modern railroads in eastern upstate New York and western Massachusetts. Large trains containing autos, oil, ethanol and plain old trash are featured as well as regional Amtrak trains. A reception, which was held on Saturday, November 7, was very well-attended by Stu's friends, fellow artists and train enthusiasts.

Richard Raicik of Portland will present his show entitled *Summer to Winter* in the Mary Flood Room during the month of December. He is an award winning, self-taught watercolor artist and is a member of many art groups, including the Connecticut Watercolor Society, Middletown Art Guild, and the Lyme, Clinton and Essex Art Associations. A reception will be held at the Library on Saturday, December 12 from 2-4 pm.

Members of the **Art Guild of Middletown** will exhibit their artwork in the Mary Flood Room during the month of January. The Guild fosters and encourages art and the development of visual artists in the Middletown area. A reception will be held on Saturday, January 9 (with a snow date of January 16) from 2-4 pm at the Library.

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 17 from 4-6 pm at the Library.

Please check the *Rivereast News Bulletin* for further information regarding featured artists and reception dates. All receptions are sponsored by The Friends of the Portland Library. 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 860-342-6773.

FPL FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND LIBRARY

Volume 25

2016 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2015

FPL Funds Programs for Portland Citizens of All Ages

In 2015, The Friends of the Portland Library budgeted more than \$32,000 for Library programs that benefit Portland citizens of all ages. From infants to seniors, FPL seeks to enrich the lives of all Portland residents through our funding of the Library's DVD collection, Museum Pass Program, a variety of educational and cultural programs for children, teens and adults and much more. Through its work, FPL helps to strengthen Portland Library's role as a center of community, learning, and entertainment for our Town.

We are especially proud of a series of community programs sponsored by FPL at the Library this year. The inaugural program featured an Easter Cake Decorating Demonstration by Linda Rumsey-Dolega, a graduate of the renowned Culinary Institute of America and former Portland resident. Next came a series of four lectures co-sponsored with the Portland Historical Society. In April, Bob McDougall presented a fascinating talk entitled Portland History 101. This was followed in June by an entertaining and informative program on The Gildersleeve Shipyards led by Rick Gildersleeve, a descendent of Portland's shipbuilding family. Then, in September, George Gilbert led a lively discussion on Oscar Hedstrom, Portland resident and founder of the legendary Indian Motorcycle. Finally, in November, Claire Frisbie presented an interesting program entitled "Precious Pieces of Portland." All of these programs were very well-attended, and several even approached the Mary Flood Room's capacity of 100 people! FPL provided refreshments and door prizes for each program.

FPL looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Portland Historical Society in 2016 with six more programs that will delve further into our Town's rich history. FPL also will sponsor a slate of additional community programs in 2016 on a variety of topics including organic gardening. All programs will be advertised in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and at the Library.

While broadening our reach with these new community programs, FPL has continued its support of vital ongoing Library programs. Once again this year, FPL funded the entire cost of the Library's Summer Reading Programs for children, teens and adults, along with a wide variety of programs for all ages held throughout the year. This year's offerings included programs on hula hooping, book publishing, Sengalese dancing and drumming, juggling and magic, Frisbees, music/storytelling and cookie decorating. FPL also pays for the program supplies and refreshments for all Library programs including the Monthly Adult Book Discussions and the Library's Story Time programs. All told, FPL budgets approximately \$10,000 for these fun and educational programs.

The Library's Museum Pass Program allows residents to visit many local museums and attractions for free or at significantly reduced admission. From The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art to the newly renovated Wadsworth Atheneum, from the Beardsley Zoo to Mystic Seaport, the Museum Pass Program offers something for patrons of all ages. The program 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.

Of course, FPL continues to support many other Library programs for patrons of all ages. We fund the entire cost of Portland Library's impressive DVD collection at a cost of approximately \$12,000 per year. FPL purchases e-books, software and reference materials (collectively, \$6,000 budgeted for 2015). 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 vital resource for Portland residents of all ages.

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, games and playtime with new friends. **Tuesdays 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 Lauren's favorite stories, songs, and games every week. **Mondays at 1:00 pm.**

- **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.**

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 2016 Summer Reading theme is "On Your Mark, Get, Set, Read!" and will focus on fitness, nutrition, and exercise. 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 6 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. Open to all. Call Library or check website for featured titles. Multiple copies of featured books will be 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 paper 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* and *The Middletown Press*. 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 featuring gift quality used books on Saturday, December 5th 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 more. Many items are like new and would make great gifts. So get an early start on your holiday shopping on December 5th! 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 Alison Harris at 860-342-0635 for more information. Help us support Portland Library!

Mark Your Calendar!

In 2016, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 16
- Saturday, April 2
- Saturday, June 25
- Saturday, September 24

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 Cathy Probolus at 860-342-4461 or jprobolus@sbcglobal.net.

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. 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 software and reference materials 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's Old State House
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 River Museum
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.