

Upcoming Art Shows and Receptions

The Library's Mary Flood Room will be home to an exciting series of art shows during the coming months.

December: Art Guild of Middletown

Reception: Saturday, December 8 from 2-4 pm

February: Steven Wells, Portland Watercolor Artist

Reception: Saturday, February 9 from 2-4 pm (Snow Date: February 16)

April: Youth Art Month Exhibit featuring the art of talented students from all five Portland schools.

Reception: Wednesday, March 27 from 4-6 pm

May: Ann-Marie Szerejko, Portland Middle School Art Teacher and Ceramic Artist

June: Paula Slym and Amanda Rasch, Mother and Daughter Artists

Reception: Saturday, June 1 from 2-4 pm

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 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.

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 Catherine Probolus at 860-342-4461 for more information. Help us support Portland Library!



Follow us on Facebook!

@portlandctfriends

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

- *Touch and Feel* Board Book
- Welcome packet for Portland Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program
- Baby's First Library Card
- *Books for Babies* brochure and bookmark with Reading Tips
- *Raising a Reader, Raising a Writer* brochure
- *Babies Love Books: A Guide for Grown-ups* brochure

To receive a free "Books for Babies" kit, please contact:

- Jennifer Renk, Supervisor of Youth Services
Portland Library, 860-342-6770
- Town Clerk's Office, Portland Town Hall
33 East Main Street, 860-342-6743
- Marilyn White at atwmsw@sbcglobal.net.

Many thanks to Portland Town Clerk Ryan Curley for helping FPL distribute the kits to Portland families!

Team Effort *(cont. from p.3)*

Community Center on the evening of Monday, August 13th. More than 20 young people from toddlers to teens attended the program along with many adult family members. The kids made bookmarks and then "Miss Jen" described each of the books, which included titles such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Cardboard Kingdom*, *The Bad Guys*, *Eva's Treetop Festival* and *First Rule of Punk*.

Each child chose two books to take home, and the evening ended with a Make Your Own Sundae bar, which was a huge hit with all attendees. FPL funded the cost of the craft project and the refreshments.

FPL is so pleased that we were able to help facilitate the grant that made this project possible, and we hope to pursue other grants in the future that will help Portland Library strengthen our community.

This project illustrates the great things that can be achieved when different constituencies within our Town work together to solve a problem. A giant "Thank You" to Eversource Energy and everyone in Portland who helped make this project a resounding success!



FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND LIBRARY

Volume 28

2019 Membership Information Enclosed

Fall 2018

FPL Funds Programs for Children, Teens and Families

In 2018, The Friends of the Portland Library budgeted \$22,000 for Library programs that benefit Portland citizens of all ages. From infants to seniors, FPL seeks to enrich the lives of all Portland residents. 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 welcome packet for the Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, 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 4 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 Imagine Nation, Lutz Children's Museum, Children's Museum in West Hartford and KidCity. Nature lovers can select from passes to Beardsley Zoo, Roger Williams Zoo, Mystic Aquarium and Roaring Brook Nature Center. Families who wish to explore Connecticut's rich history can choose from passes to Mystic Seaport, Mark Twain House and Mattatuck Museum. And, since it's never too early to instill a love of art in a child, why not plan a family trip to The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Wadsworth Atheneum, New Britain Museum of American Art or Florence Griswold Museum? See the article on page 3 for a full list of available passes.

FPL funds the entire cost of the Library's Summer Reading Programs, along with a wide variety of programs for children, teens and families held throughout the year. This year's offerings have included a drumming circle, ukulele classes, magic shows, and programs on Siberian Huskies, cooking, music, art and several fun science programs. FPL also pays for the program supplies, craft materials and snacks for the Library's Story Time programs and all programs for children and teens. And FPL funds the full cost of important software that promotes literacy in young children. All told, FPL budgets approximately \$9,100 for these fun and educational programs.

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 impressive DVD collection (\$8,000 budgeted for 2018), Artist Receptions and adult programs on such diverse topics as the Appalachian Trail and Chocolate Truffles. 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

Supplement
to the
*Rivereast
News
Bulletin*

Library Provides Access to Valuable Resources 24/7

Visit Portland Library on any given day, and you'll find a beehive of activity. There are Story Times, Movies in the Afternoon (or Evening), special programs for children, teens and adults, Book Club discussions and weekly gatherings of knitting enthusiasts. But did you know that, even when Portland Library is closed, you can access a world of resources from the Library's website? Here are some examples of the things you can do from home or from anywhere on your mobile device:

- Borrow Movies, Music, Audiobooks, Ebooks, Comics and TV Shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, phone or television;
- Access Book Flix, a high quality and fun early literacy program;
- Take any of 500 online Continuing Education Courses;
- Access Job Assistance Resources;
- Study more than 100 Languages;
- Take a practice Driving Permit Test;
- Read 60 online popular Magazines;
- Find Consumer Reports Ratings for products;
- Register for Library Programs; and
- Print a Museum Pass!

For all this and much more, go to portlandlibraryct.org. To keep up with all the latest news and events from Portland Library, sign up for Email Blasts at the website by selecting the "Contact Us!" Option. You can also follow the Library on Facebook by searching "Portland Library Connecticut."

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 19-21. 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, non-fiction, 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 and children's holiday books, which begins on **Saturday, December 1st**. 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.

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 2018 Summer Reading Program. The Program, which was centered around the theme *Libraries Rock!*, 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 read for 170,402 minutes, while adults read more than 140,000 pages!

For the third 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 2018-2019 school year. Also, in lieu of traditional prizes, many of Portland's young readers chose to send craft supplies and other small items to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

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, the Brownstone scholarships, items donated to CCMC, book prizes and coupons, program supplies and refreshments. A big "Thank You" to our FPL members for making all this possible and to Jen Renk and Beth Kauczka of Portland Library for planning and running these fun and creative programs!

Mark Your Calendar!

In 2018, FPL will collect gently used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and games on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 12
- Saturday, April 6
- Saturday, June 29
- Saturday, September 28

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!

Visit Santa & Support FPL

Once again this Christmas season, Santa Norm and Mrs. Merry Claus (otherwise known as Portland resident Norman Ward and Andover resident Dianne Grenier) will donate their appearance fees to FPL and Andover Friends of the Library. Last year, FPL received almost \$2,600 from Norm and Dianne, making them FPL's largest contributors.

Highlights of Santa and Mrs. Claus's 2018 appearance schedule include stops at the Governor's Residence, the Bushnell and Wolf Pack Hockey. In addition, they will make two appearances at Portland Library on Tuesday, December 18. A list of appearances can be found at FPL's website (friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) or visit Mrs. Merry Claus on Facebook to see photos of Santa and Mrs. Claus and follow their travels throughout Connecticut.

Team Effort Brings Books to Chatham Court Community

When Jennifer Renk and Marilyn White learned that transportation to the library is often a problem for children living in Chatham Court, Portland's public housing community, they knew that they had to find a way to bring books to the community's young people. Jennifer is the Supervisor of Youth Services for the Portland Library, and Marilyn is an FPL Executive Board Member and retired reading consultant who has a special passion for children's literacy.

At about the same time, Eversource Community Specialist Patricia Bandzes reached out to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield looking for a worthwhile project for Eversource Energy to support in Portland. A few days later, Marilyn applied for a \$1,500 grant in the name of FPL to purchase books for the children of Chatham Court. Eversource Energy quickly approved FPL's grant application, and Jennifer Renk soon had the money she needed to purchase 150 high quality books for age groups from birth to teens.

Lauren Incognito of the Portland Housing Authority helped connect the Library to the families of Chatham Court, and, together, Lauren and Jennifer planned a fun event to distribute the books.

Children lined up an hour before the event, which was held in the Chatham Court (**Team Effort Cont. on p. 4**)

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 Haven Museum
No Child Left Inside/State Parks & Forests Day Pass
Wadsworth Atheneum

Reduced Admission

Children's Museum (formerly Science Center of Conn.)
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
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 home from the Library's website.