

Check it out...



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A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library January 2023



**The Library will be closed Saturday
December 31st and Monday January 2nd for
New Years!**

**The Library will be closed Monday January 16th
in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.**

NEW: Seed Library

A seed library is a place where community members can find free seeds and may donate their own saved seeds. Please consider donating leftover seeds to the library, to help build a Portland Library Seed Garden. The Seed Library is made possible with assistance from volunteer Melissa Kelley and supported through generous funding from the Peach Pit Foundation and the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. The grand opening of the Seed Library will take place February 2023, in time to plan for a spring garden.

Tuesday January 17th 6:00p.m. Taxes, Retirement Oh My!

Taxes have been a concern for many Americans for decades now. With rising deficits, debt on the federal, state and municipality level where does that leave the taxpayer? As we head towards retirement most Americans have squirreled away a fair amount of assets "tax-deferred". At this educational workshop you will learn how taxes can change the outcome of your retirement. **Registration Requested!**

**Saturday January 14th 10am-12pm
Friends' Read & Recycle
Donate gently used books, CDs, DVDs
and puzzles!**

Portland Library hours:

Monday — Thursday 10:00 am –8:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00am—3:00 pm

Curbside Pickup available

New! Contact-less checkout!

For many checkouts, you can use the **Meescan kiosk** near the copier to check out an item. Scan your card and items you wish to take out. Receipts are sent to your email. Note: DVDs need to be brought to the desk to be unlocked. Some items cannot be quick checked. In that case, a message onscreen to direct you to bring the items to the library staff. Try this new service and please let us know about your experience! Supported by an American Rescue Plan Act grant and Library Connection Inc.

Movie:

***Jerry & Marge Go Large*
January 11th at 1:00p.m.**



Wednesday January 25th 7:00 pm

**Winter Seed Sowing with Native Perennials
Garden Program with Master Gardener
Lynn Keller: co-sponsored by the
Portland River Valley Garden Club
in the Mary Flood Room**

When you're planting milkweed from seed, give them the period of stratification (exposure to cold, moist conditions) they need to encourage spring germination and ensure a good display of flowers the following summer. Bring an empty milk jug to bring home starter seeds. **Registration Required!**

**January 31, 2023 6:00pm
Zoom presentation from CHS
(Connecticut Historical Society)
Katharine Hepburn:
from Hartford to Hollywood
the life of a famous CT resident**

Youth Services News and Events

Winter Reading Challenge: Smitten with Mittens Monday, January 9—Friday, March 3

Portland Library's Winter Reading Challenge is back! This year's theme is inspired by Jan Brett's picture book version of the classic folk tale "The Mitten."

Visit the library on or after January 9 and get a mitten to color and hang on our bulletin board. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), we'll add a new winter animal to your mitten. Once you've added all eight animals from the story, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.

SPECIAL EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, January 25: Mitten PJ Storytime and Activities

Saturday, February 4: Take Your Child to the Library Day

Friday, February 10: Family Fort Night and Nocturnal Animal Hunt

Tuesday, February 21: Readers' Theater: *The Mitten*

Saturday, February 25: Wildlife in Winter program from White Memorial Conservation Center



Winter Storytimes

Registration is required and can be done through our website calendar at www.portlandlibraryct.org or by calling the library at 860-342-6770.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. , January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21 and 28

Join us in our Wagner Room for stories, songs, and rhymes that encourage literacy and social skills and help get your preschooler prepared for kindergarten. We will offer a craft related to the weekly theme at the end of the program that can be done at the library or brought home.

Storytime for Toddlers and Tots: Mother Goose on the Loose

Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m., January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22 , March 1

Mother Goose on the Loose, a fun-filled interactive session for our youngest patrons, uses rhymes, a story, songs, puppets, scarves, and more to stimulate the learning process of babies and toddlers. Two sessions will be offered each Wednesday to keep group sizes small and interactions personalized.

Youth Services News and Events

Family Craft Night: Mitten People

Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m.

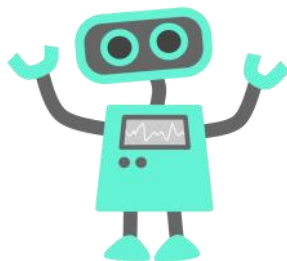
In keeping with our Smitten with Mittens Winter Reading Challenge theme, we will be making mitten people at family craft night this month. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision.



Registration is required and space is limited.

Tinkerlab Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. January 12, 19, 26

Have some fun with STEM in this drop-in program for kids in grades K-8. We'll have Keva Planks, Snap Circuits, Makey Makey kits, and Cue Robots available for you to play with and practice your engineering and coding skills.



The Mitten: PJ Storytime and Activity Night

Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Join Ms. Jenn for an evening of fun based on Jan Brett's book *The Mitten*. We'll do some crafts and activities, drink some hot cocoa and visit with a special guest from the story! **Registration required.**



January Teen Events

Monday, January 9 at 3:30 p.m.: Teen Advisory Group Meeting—Come share your thoughts with us on what you would like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more while enjoying some snacks and laughs with friends. You will earn community service hours for each meeting you attend. **Registration is required.**

**Monday, January 23 at 3:30 p.m.
National Pie Day Program**



Come make a hedgehog book craft and help us celebrate National Pie Day. We will be taste testing different kinds of pies and voting on our favorites.

**Friday, January 27 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.:
Teen Lock In**

It's time for our biannual Teen Library Lock-In! This event is just for students in grades 6 and up. After the library closes for the night, we'll get the party started with food, games, and surprises!

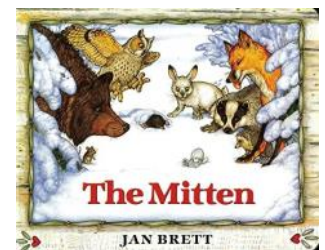
Space is extremely limited and registration is required.



New Storywalk at Riverfront Park: *The Mitten*

Our StoryWalk® at Riverfront Park has been updated with a new title! In keeping with our Winter Reading Challenge theme, this winter's featured book is *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. Take a stroll around Riverfront Park and read this folk tale about a lost mitten and the winter animals that find it.

The StoryWalk® concept was created as a way for people of all ages to combine physical activity with books and to help build children's interest in reading while encouraging healthy activity for all.



Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org



Instagram
@portlandlibraryct

More News...

In Person Book Clubs

Thursday January 5th @ 6:30p.m.
FTNBC (First Thursday Night Book Club) ***Klara & the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro**
Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. ***Klara and the Sun*** is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

Tuesday January 10th @ 1:00p.m.
Talk about Books (T. A. B.)
***The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan**
Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. "To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable." Forty years later the stories and history continue.

Tuesday January 17th @ 1:00p.m.
Mystery Lovers' Book Club
***Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby**
A Black father. A white father. Two murdered sons. A quest for vengeance. Ike Randolph has been out of jail for fifteen years, with not so much as a speeding ticket in all that time. But a Black man with cops at the door knows to be afraid. The last thing he expects to hear is that his son Isiah has been murdered, along with Isiah's white husband, Derek. Ike had never fully accepted his son but is devastated by his loss. Derek's father Buddy Lee was almost as ashamed of Derek for being gay as Derek was ashamed his father was a criminal. Ike and Buddy Lee, two ex-cons with little else in common other than a criminal past and a love for their dead sons, band together in their desperate desire for revenge.

Thank You

Donations:

Book

Marilyn Hale Brooks
Nancy Sawyer

Endowment

Portland Garden Club
MEI Facius Ellis

In memory of Phyllis Greene:

Janice Wendry
Anonymous

Library Meetings:

Friends of the Library

Monday January 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday January 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-6770
www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Janet Nocek
jnocek@portlandct.org
Website: portlandlibraryct.org

Mitten Tree: bring in Mittens and Gloves for Children or Adults to be distributed by the Portland Food Bank.



December Book Displays at the Library:

Debut Fiction,
Warm Comfort Foods
Martin Luther King Jr. tribute
and our favorite Staff Picks!

Copies of these Book Club books are available!