

Check it out...



© Seasmartini Graphics * www.ClipartOf.com/1064439

A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library February 2024

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

The Library will be closed Monday February 19th for Presidents Day.

Wednesday Movie @ 1pm
February 14th
The Haunting of Venice



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

**Saturday February 24 @ 1pm at the
Brownstone Intermediate School
Auditorium**

**Gallery of Portland: A Black History
Month Panel:**

The Portland Historical Society, Town Committee on Solidarity and Public Library present a panel discussion to commemorate and honor the Black community members of our town who have helped to shape our history. Registration is not required, but it is helpful to have your contact info in the event of a weather closure, so feel free to sign up for a reminder on the library event calendar. Please note that this event will be taking place at the Brownstone Intermediate School Auditorium (314 Main St, Portland, CT 06480)

**Artist Reception: Saturday February 10th
1-2:45pm**

The Artist Reception for Jennifer Hart is sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library. Jennifer's art will be on display throughout the month of February.
Jennifer Hart: *Snowpaintings*

In Jennifer's own words "Snowpaintings are an original style of painting created in snowstorms that begin with falling snow on canvas."



**Saturday February 17 @12:30pm
in the Van Beynum Room**

Monthly Writers' Cafe: Due to popular demand, the Portland Library will be hosting a monthly Writers' Cafe on the third Saturday of each month from 12:30-2pm, starting this February! The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time, (12:30-1:30pm), with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers! (1:30-2pm)

Hummingbirds March 13th 6pm
Medicare Basics Tuesday March 26th 6pm
Do your part to help the climate:
Composting information March 18th

Save the Date: Saturday March 23: 10-12
Read & Recycle
Get organized for the New Year!
Bring in your gently used books, DVDs, CDs and puzzles!

Youth Services News and Events

Winter Reading Challenge: Reading is Fun Any Way You Slice It Tuesday, January 2—Friday, March 1

Portland Library's Winter Reading Challenge is back!
This year's theme is based on one of our favorite foods: PIZZA!

Visit the library on or after January 2 and get a pizza tray to hang on our bulletin board. Each time you check out materials in January and February (up to once per day), we'll give you a slice to color and we'll add it to your pizza. Once you've added eight slices and have a full pizza, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize.



SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

Saturday, February 3: Take Your Child to the Library Day

Friday, February 9: Family Fort Night

Tuesday, February 20: Snow Day at the Library

Saturday, February 24: Jigsaw Puzzle Competition for Kids
and Adults



Winter Storytimes

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
February 6, 13, 27
(no program February 20)

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.
February 7, 14, 21, 28

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.



**Take Your Child
to the Library Day**
Saturday, February 3

**Animal Adoption Event with
Protectors of Animals**
10-2

Come meet some dogs and cats from the Protectors of Animals shelter and find out if they would be a good fit for your family. We'll also be collecting supplies for the shelter and have information on volunteer opportunities.

"Let's Play Library" with Bluey!

Drop in throughout the day for lots of Bluey-themed fun, from Keepy Uppy to a heeler headband craft to a scavenger hunt and photo ops.

Read with Therapy Dog Lucy!
10:30-12

Sign up for a 15-minute session to read with Lucy the therapy dog. Open to kids ages 6-12. Registration is required and space is limited.

Youth Services News and Events



Family Craft Night: Sock Snowmen

Thursday, February 8
at 6:30 p.m.

Do you want to build a snowman? We'll provide a sock for each member of your family so you can go home with an adorable family keepsake to display throughout the winter. 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.**

Elementary Programs



Let's Explore Italy
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.
Grades 3-5
February 1, 15, 29

Our winter reading theme this year is pizza so let's take the opportunity to explore the birthplace of pizza...Italy! We'll "paint" the Sistine Chapel like Michelangelo, make mini pizzas, make "exploding" volcanoes and draw our own Mona Lisas.

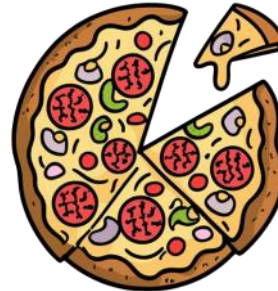
Turtle Power Teamwork
Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.
Grades K-2
February 8, 22

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles know that a hero's biggest superpower is teamwork. Get inspired by Raphael, Leonardo, Donatello, and Michelangelo as we work together to complete challenges and earn a new colored bandana each week.



Teen Events

Portland Pizza: Who's the GOAT?
Tuesday, February 27 at 3:30 p.m.



Portland has a lot of pizza restaurants...but which is the best? We'll sample slices from all of our local choices and decide who is the champion! **Registration is required and space is limited.**

Special Events in February

**Family Fort Night and
Hibernating Animal
Hunt**

Friday, February 9
from 5:30-6:30 p.m.



Join us after the library has closed to create our own cozy reading dens, enjoy a bear-themed snack, and search the library once the lights go out for some hibernating animals hiding in the book stacks! **Registration is required and space is limited.**

Snow Day!
Tuesday, February 20

Drop in during the day for a variety of snow day fun. Practice ice skating, have a snowball fight, create some winter-themed crafts, and sip on some hot cocoa. No registration is required.

Pizza and Puzzles
Jigsaw Puzzle Competition
Saturday, February 24 at
10:30 a.m.



Create a team with friends and family and register for our first jigsaw puzzle tournament! Teams may consist of 2-4 people who will compete to finish the same 500-piece puzzle in the least amount of time. **Space is limited to 7 teams so register early.**



Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org



Instagram
@portlandlibraryct

More News...



February Book Club Picks!

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday February 1st 6:30pm

We are not like Them

By Christine Pride

Jen and Riley have been best friends since kindergarten. As adults, they remain as close as sisters, though their lives have taken different directions. Jen married young, and after years of trying, is finally pregnant. Riley pursued her childhood dream of becoming a television journalist and is poised to become one of the first Black female anchors.

But the deep bond they share is severely tested when Jen's husband, a city police officer, is involved in the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager. Six months pregnant, Jen is in freefall as her future, her husband's freedom, and her friendship with Riley are thrown into uncertainty. Covering this career-making story, Riley wrestles with the implications of this tragic incident for her Black community, her ambitions, and her relationship with her lifelong friend.

T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday February 6th 1pm

First Ladies

by Marie Benedict

The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and recognized by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, Mary and Eleanor become fast friends confiding their secrets, hopes and dreams—and holding each other's hands through tragedy and triumph.

Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday February 20th 1pm

Down the River unto the Sea

by Walter Mosley

Joe King Oliver was one of the NYPD's finest investigators until he was framed for sexual assault by unknown enemies within the force. A decade has passed since his release from Rikers, and he now runs a private detective agency with the help of his teenage daughter. Physically and emotionally broken by the brutality he suffered while behind bars, King leads a solitary life, his work and his daughter the only lights. When he receives a letter from his accuser confessing that she was paid to frame him years ago, King decides to find out who wanted him gone and why.

Thank You

Donations: Book:

Jen McGuinness

Chris Edie

Carolyn Freeman

Portland Library Staff

in honor of Dave Kuzminski

Endowment:

Portland Library Staff :

Endowment Tree Leaf

in honor of Dave Kuzminski



Donate nonperishable food and new hats, mittens and scarfs to be delivered to the Portland Food Bank! Fill the shopping cart with love and caring for your neighbors!

Library Meetings:

Friends of the Library

Monday February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday February 15th at 7:00 p.m.

To Reach the Library

20 Freestone Avenue

Portland, CT 06480

860-342-6770

www.portlandlibraryct.org

Library Director

Jennifer Billingsley

jbillingsley@portlandct.org

Website: portlandlibraryct.org

February Book Displays at the Library:

Romance Fiction,
Chocolate, Candy & Sweets
Local Portland authors,
and our favorite Staff Picks!

