

Check it out...



A Monthly Publication of the Portland Library December 2023

Portland Library hours:

Monday — Thursday 10:00 am — 8:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am — 5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00am — 3:00 pm

HAPPY
Holidays!

The Library will be closed from Saturday December 23rd through Monday December 25 for the Christmas Holiday, with normal hours resuming Tuesday December 26th.

The Library will be closed from Saturday December 30th through Monday January 1st for the New Year, with normal hours resuming Tuesday January 2nd.

Wednesday Movie @ 1pm
December 13th
What's Love Got to Do with It



The Artist Reception for Steve Wells is Saturday December 9th 1-3 sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library. Steve's art will be on display throughout the month of December.

STEVEN WELLS, Portland, CT

"I'm a life-long resident of Portland and have been drawing and "Painting the Town" for many years. My early interest in art was nurtured by my mother Lois Wells, an accomplished artist. Most of my paintings are of the familiar and not so familiar sights around town for which I have won several awards. The challenge of using watercolors as a medium adds to my enjoyment when creating a painting."

Holiday Movie with a dash of Hot Cocoa:
Wednesday December 20th at 1pm



Check out our display cases and get a jump on your holiday shopping with some beautiful handmade items, during our silent auction. The library's display cases feature a selection of amazing works that the members of the Knifty Knitters have generously knit & donated for the Friends of the Portland Library to auction off to benefit the library.

The end of the Knifty Knitters auction, supporting the Friends of the Portland Library, is fast approaching!

Place your bid between now and December 1st at 4:30pm. All winners will be contacted on Saturday December 2nd. Thank you to the Knifty Knitters, our Friends group and our amazing library staff member Chris Edie who all worked together to made this auction possible!

Another Retirement!

Gloria Schultz joined the Portland Library staff in 1999 as a Library Assistant, when EVERYONE was reading Harry Potter books. She completed her Masters of Library Science Degree and was promoted to Librarian in 2004 when *The Da Vinci Code* was SOO popular and then promoted to Technical Services Manager in 2011 when *Fifty Shades of Grey* captured our attention. Ever the devotee of the Dewey Decimal System, Gloria plans to spend her retirement visiting other libraries and organizing their nonfiction shelves! She reminds us all to "always support your local library."

Welcome to our new staff member, Elena Kubica, a Portland resident and the new Technical Services Manager at the library. She was formerly with the Woodbridge Town Library where she served as the Head of their Technical services department.

Youth Services News and Events



Fall/Winter Storytimes

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

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.
December 5, 12, 19

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.
December 6, 13, 20

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.



Crafty Thursdays
Thursdays
at 3:30 p.m.
December 7, 14

Kids in grades K-5 are invited to join us for some no-rules creative crafting in the Wagner Room. There will be plenty of fun supplies and the only limit on what you can create is your own imagination! This is a drop-in program and no registration is required.

Family Craft Night:
Gingerbread Houses
Thursday, December 14 at
6:30 p.m.



Use your imagination to create a unique and tasty house to bring home with you using graham crackers, frosting and other delicious supplies. 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.**



Celebrate Hanukkah!
Monday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m.

You are invited to celebrate Hanukkah in this program led by Portland residents Barbara Sequenzia and Liz Hibino. Whether you actively celebrate Hanukkah or just want to learn more about this holiday, you are invited to join us for stories, songs, games and some delicious latkes. This program is geared towards kids in grades K-5, but all are welcome. **Registration is required.**

Youth Services News and Events



Nailed It or Failed It!: Holiday Edition

**Monday, December 18 at 3:30 p.m.
Grades 6-up**

Come and recreate 3 different marshmallow pop creations. Will your attempt win you the title of...“Nailed It” or “Failed It”?

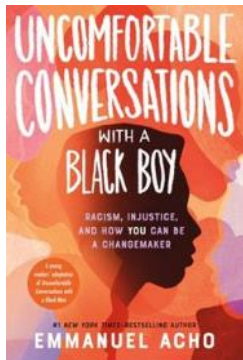
Registration is required and space is limited.

Meet and Greet with the Snow Sisters Thursday, December 28 at 11:00 a.m.

Calling all fans of Elsa and Anna!

The Snow Sisters will be visiting the Portland Library for a morning of songs, games, crafts and plenty of photo opportunities.

Registration is required and space is limited.



Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy Saturday, December 2 at 12pm

Following the success of the Portland Solidarity Committee’s book discussion of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* earlier this fall, we will be hosting a discussion specifically for readers age 8-18. Thanks to support from CT Humanities, a limited number of print copies of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy* are available for readers to keep; print and audio copies are also available to check out at the library and through Hoopla. We are privileged to have moderator Rich Hollant returning to host this discussion. **Registration is requested, but not required.**



Storytime with Santa Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for holiday stories, songs, crafts and a special visit from Santa!

Registration is required and space is limited.



**Thanks to
Portland
artist Ola
Rucz for
our latest
winter
window
design!**

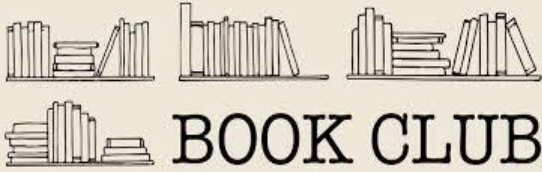


Portland Library
www.portlandlibraryct.org



Instagram
[@portlandlibraryct](https://www.instagram.com/portlandlibraryct)

More News...



December Book Club Picks!

1st Thursday Night Book Club

Thursday December 7th 6:30pm

One by One

By Ruth Ware

Getting snowed in at a luxurious, rustic ski chalet high in the French Alps doesn't sound like the worst problem in the world. Especially when there's a breathtaking vista, a full-service chef and housekeeper, a cozy fire to keep you warm, and others to keep you company. Unless that company happens to be eight coworkers... each with something to gain, something to lose, and something to hide.

T.A.B. Talk about Books

Tuesday December 5th 1pm

Anne of Green Gables

by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley has never known a real home. Since her parents' deaths, she's bounced around to foster homes and orphanages. When she is sent by mistake to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert at the snug white farmhouse called Green Gables, she wants to stay forever. But Anne is not the sturdy boy Matthew and Marilla were expecting. She's a mischievous, talkative red-headed girl with a fierce temper, who tumbles into one scrape after another.

Mystery Lovers Book Club

Tuesday December 19th 1pm

Twisted Tea Christmas

by Laura Childs

Theodosia Browning and her tea sommelier, Drayton Conneley, are catering a Victorian Christmas party at a swanky mansion in downtown Charleston. Drucilla Heyward, the hostess, is one of the wealthiest women in town. As the champagne flows and the tea steeps, Drucilla is so pleased with the reception by her partygoers that she reveals her secret plan to Theodosia. The Grande Dame has brought the cream of Charleston society together to reveal that she is planning to give her wealth away to various charitable organizations. However, before she can make the announcement, Theodosia finds her crumpled unconscious in the hallway.

Thank You

Donations: Book:

*Paula Brown in memory of
Karen L. (Kirsche) Miller*

Carolyn Freeman

Susan Orenstein & Scott Seder

in memory of Hymie Paley,

Reva Paley Youth Book Fund



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 December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Library Board of Directors:

Thursday December 21st 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

December Book

Displays

at the Library:

Holiday Fiction,

Local Portland authors,

Favorite Desserts

and our favorite Staff Picks!

