

March
2020

Friends of the Portage Library

Friends of the Portage Library Board

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**Spring Book Sale
scheduled for
April 29 and 30,
May 1 and 2, 2020**

**Winners of the Winter
membership prize
drawing:** Karl Kindschi,
Thomas Augustine, Rita
Ritacca, Lynn McCarthy,
Donna Elliot, Connie
Davis, Sue Conner, and
David Keppert.

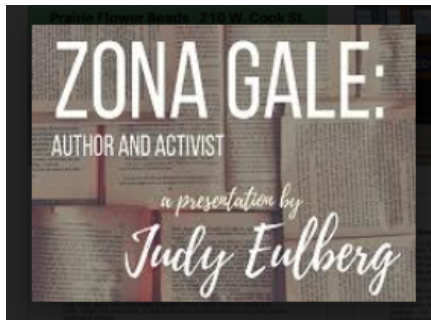
Celebrate Pi Day, March 14!



Join us in the Bidwell Room on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to celebrate PI Day. Slices of pie will be available for \$3 each. Whole pies can be purchased for \$14.

Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Pecan, and Pumpkin are just a few of the varieties of pie available. Last year's sale sold out early and brought in \$759 to support library programming.

Calls have gone out to last year's bakers, but donations are still welcome. To sign up to bake, or to request that a pie be set aside, e-mail Linda Floeter at lfloeter@portagelibrary.us.



There have been many popular programs at the library lately, including a hugely successful Instant Pot demonstration led by Deb Lechner and Susan Murlot, with 75 people attending.

An exciting program coming up is a presentation about Zona Gale given by Judy Fulberg on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. Zona Gale, who was born and spent much of her life in Portage, was a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

There will be an Adult Reading Club this summer, so stay tuned for more details.

For more information on upcoming adult programs at the library, be sure to check the library's website and Facebook page.

Adult Services have also been involved with the 2020 Census, offering space for the Census to provide information about census taker job opportunities to the community.

Tawnee Calhoun,
Adult Services Director

Community Rooms for Use

The library is striving to serve the Portage community in ways that it has never been served before. The Sanderson Room (12 capacity) and Bidwell Room (75 capacity) are available for larger groups, businesses or organizations to use. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to consider these community spaces for their next meeting. We want to remain relevant to your changing needs and adapt our thinking to reach you in practical ways.

One way we can improve our use at the Portage Public Library is to offer a 75" 4K Touchscreen Smartboard for community room meetings free of charge. Power Point presentations, Internet access and digital whiteboard features are ideal for business meetings. The Touchscreen Smartboard offers crisp, high-definition presentations, facilitates engaging discussions, and views videos and photos at near-perfect quality. We are, in fact, the only library in our system (including our system headquarters itself) that has this brand new model. And it is now available to the public!

To schedule a meeting in the Sanderson Room or the Bidwell Room, phone the Library at (608) 742-4959 and ask for Autumn, or e-mail apply@portagelibrary.us.

Debbie Bird, Portage Library Director

Portage Public Library
**MAKE A LEATHER
BRACELET CUFF**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th
from 1-2 PM
Prairie Flower Beads - 210 W. Cook St.



Adult Services is proud to offer free tax assistance to patrons provided by Goodwill of South-Central Wisconsin. Patrons are able to sign up for 30-minute appointments with Goodwill volunteers on Tuesday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Register the Friends of the Portage Free Library as your choice of organization to receive a portion of the purchase price for items purchased at smile.amazon.com. Once you have registered, return to Amazon Smile every time you shop.

Friends Membership goes from January to December. Please check the Friends page on the Portage Library website for more information, or send an email to portagelibraryfriends@gmail.com

From the Children's Department

There may be snow on the ground, but we are already planning for summer library fun! We are changing our summer programming name to, "Summer Library Club," to better reflect the programming and services we provide during the summer months and to better serve our families. We will still have LOTS of programs for children, birth to age 12, and family events, as well as a reading component where students will continue to earn incentives for reading. We are expanding our STEM programs and introducing a new book club for emerging readers. It is ALWAYS an exciting time in the Children's Department and this summer will be no exception!

Dawn Foster, Children's Services Librarian

From Teens and Tech

When it comes to teen programs, January was absolutely stellar; we did 10 programs with a total attendance of 215! This is the highest teen program attendance that January has ever seen, and rivals some of the highest months on record. Our success can be attributed to both the mixture of teen program types that have been offered (social-focused programs continue to be as popular as ever: video game and virtual reality programs, anime nights, comic & culture club, crafts, magic club, ...), as well as an extra concerted effort to get the word out at schools.

As far as technology, we've worked hard to ensure that we successfully integrate both our new Digital Display as well as our Aquos Smartboard in the library. When patrons enter the library through the main entrance, they see our Digital Display first. It's a very attractive, welcoming, and informative way of communicating information about upcoming library programs (funded by the Friends of the Portage Library!). Beyond this, Chris and others have used the Aquos Smartboard for library programs and presentations. We are the only library in the whole system that owns (and offers to the public) this amazing piece of technology. Even SCLS itself doesn't have the same new model (with certain functions) that we do. We are doing a great job of keeping our library absolutely cutting-edge!

Chris Baker, Teen Services

Accepting donations of hardcover books, paperbacks, and dvds.

Items should be in good condition

and may be dropped off

at the Circulation Desk in the Portage Library.

For further information, see the Portage Public Library Gifts and Restricted Funds Policy.

Coming: Free Summer Lunch Program

Summer 2020 will be the seventh year for the Free Summer Lunch Program, serving free, healthy lunches to children up to age 18 years. As in years past, the lunches will be served at three park sites throughout Portage and in the Bidwell Room of the Portage Public Library. For more information, including ways to volunteer for the Free Summer Lunch Program, contact Children's Services Librarian, Dawn Foster, 742-4959 ext 210 or at dfoster@portagelibrary.us