



Happy New Year!

# Friends' News

January  
2012

A Newsletter of the Friends  
of the Portsmouth Public Library



## Our next guest speaker **Colin Sargent**



Colin Sargent is a playwright and author of three books of poetry. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he has been awarded the Maine individual artist fellowship in literature and earned a Stonecoast MFA in creative writing. His screenplay *Montebello Ice* is under option at Gideon Films. The Portland, Maine resident is founding editor and publisher of award-winning *Portland Magazine* as well as a board member of the literacy organization *Maine Reads*. *Museum of Human Beings* is his first novel. According to *Publishers Weekly*, "Playwright Sargent's debut novel is a stylish look at the fate of Sacagawea's baby son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau... An impressively rounded portrait of the laid-back, introspective, nomadic Baptiste, this novel will satisfy fans of American history." "Spellbinding"--starred review in *Library Journal*. We are very excited about welcoming Mr. Sargent into our FOPPL January meeting. You don't want to miss this one!



## REMEMBER

The next meeting  
will be  
**January 22,**  
from 2-4pm  
at the  
**Churchland  
Library**

### Book Sale Dates

Feb. 3 & 4  
Mar. 2 & 3  
Apr. 6 & 7

Fridays  
12pm-6pm

Saturdays  
10am-4pm

IT'S TIME TO RENEW FOPPL MEMBERSHIPS

# Renew Now

## FRIENDS OFFICERS

### President

Jeanne M. Larcombe

### Vice President

Elsie Ackerman

### Secretary

Edie Carmichael

### Treasurer

Rich Dorson

### Wilson Room Coordinator

Edie Carmichael

### Web Site Manager and Membership Chair

Linda Thorson

### Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Hines

### Book Nook Manager

Amy Boswell

### Book Pickup

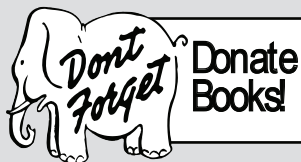
One Guy & A Truck  
Stormy Thorson  
686 - 8034

### Bulk Mail Coordinator

Rose Mary Rakowski

### Newsletter

Mary Hester



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT JEANNE LARCOMBE

### A Happy New Year!

This January of 2012 brings us good news from our main library as opposed to the January 2010 news of our main library fire.

- Good news! The arsonist received ten (10) years behind bars for the arson and fifteen (15) years for aggravated sexual battery. He will serve the terms consecutively.

- Definite good news! The process of renovating/restoring the main library began on December 19, 2011. The proposed work is quite extensive, but according to our library director, the contractor will finish in 90 days.

- Good news! The Friends regained access to our sale area in July and resumed our monthly book sale in August. We changed the schedule for the sales so that they are on the first Friday and Saturday of each month. This change allows our sale event to coincide with all events occurring up and down high street. As a result, the proceeds from our sales have definitely increased. We also changed the Friday sale hours to 12PM to 6PM.

- More good news! The Local History Room is now open by appointment only with our star historian Edie Carmichael once again in charge of the room.

Our January meeting promises to be busy with an already full agenda. Members will vote on our budget for 2012, which includes giving the library a check for \$5,000, the election/re-election of officers, and the approval of updates to our by-laws.

FOPPL hopes all members had a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and wish each of you only the best for 2012.

We hope to see you at the January 22 meeting at the Churchland branch at 2PM, when our speaker will be Colin Sargent speaking on his book *Museum of Human Beings*.

“Public libraries have been a mainstay of my life. They represent an individual’s right to acquire knowledge; they are the sinews that bind civilized societies the world over. Without libraries, I would be a pauper intellectually and spiritually.”  
James Michener



## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR TODD D. ELLIOTT, MLIS

The past couple of months have seen a flurry of activity at the Portsmouth Public Library. Earning its place at the top of the list are the renovations which are now underway at the Main Library, which began on December 19. Spacemakers, Inc. are hard at work as I write this and the sounds of construction are like music to this library director's ears.

We recently welcomed Mr. Trevor Jones as a new manager assigned to the Main Library. Trevor comes to us from the New York Public Library system and he is very excited about the building project. Find his first article within the pages of this newsletter. He is currently dividing his time between Main and the branches, so you will see him around.

October 27-28, our city played host to the Virginia Library Association 2011 Annual Conference for the second consecutive year. This year saw a higher attendance to the conference, as 510 of our colleagues around the state registered for "Nature is a Language, Can You Read? Literacy and Sustainability in Virginia's Libraries." It was my privilege to serve again as local arrangements chair for the conference committee, but the real credit goes to our library staff and the assistance of other city departments. Several library staff took on additional responsibilities, and this has given Portsmouth Public Library an opportunity to shine. Special thanks go out to: Trish Taylor – with local arrangements assistance; to Angela Staten, Helena

Wynn, Kathy Faulks, Mary Goodman, and Rosa Slaughter along with Library Board members Joy Young, Preston

Vaughan, and Skip Jordan who all helped stuff 600 conference bags and/or sorted documents for registration.

2012 will see the conference return to Williamsburg, but we have had so many affirmative responses from attendees about our downtown and our wonderful city staff – I can't help but feel that the positive vibes generated in 2010 resulted in the additional 100 folks in 2011!

Staff in-service took place on December 8. Thanks to Mary Hodges for chairing this program – it is so important to offer training and information together so that customer service is consistent. We appreciate the patience of our patrons, many of whom take advantage of Telemessaging, our automated phone service (757-397-5265 or 757-393-4265) or the online catalog available from our website.

Second Tuesday Forum series continues into 2012 with great programs in the coming months, starting with the Friends-sponsored January 10 event featuring guest speaker Charlotte Potter, glass studio manager from the Chrysler Museum. Following will be collector and historian Therbia Parker on "Black Memorabilia and the Black Experience in America" on February 14, and wrapping the season with author Paul Clancy presenting "Ironclad: The Epic Battle, Calamitous Loss, and Historic Recovery of the USS Monitor" on March 13. All forums are free and open to the public. Complimentary beverages are provided by the Commodore Theatre and lunch may

be ordered from the regular menu. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Interested in going? Call 393-8759 for more information.

Food for Fines ran for two weeks in November this year and continues to be a great way to get some of our patrons' library cards back in good standing while helping the less fortunate here at home. William Arthur Ward said "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." Is there a better time to show our community how much they mean to us than during this holiday season? In that same spirit, I want to thank our library customers, staff, Friends, and trustees who make this such a terrific place to work!

# DID YOU KNOW?

**Our Law Library offers online access to hundreds of legal forms through LawDepot. At the library website, go to Online Resources and select LawDepot. There will be a prompt to create a profile just for you, but remember: you need your Portsmouth Public Library card to get started. Available inside or outside the library. Try it today.**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

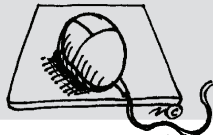
BY RACHEL ENRICH

Children's is gearing up for the Winter Reading Program in February. The program is for preschool children and their parents. All you have to do is sign up and READ READ

READ with your child. More details will be available at your local branch or online at [www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org](http://www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org)



## Tech Talk



BY CLINT RUDY

The library hosted the first official meeting of the newly organized Virginia SirsiDynix User Group in October at the Churchland Branch. This statewide group was formed to allow for the exchange of information and ideas for using the library automated system from SirsiDynix. Special thanks to LeoNard Thompson, Churchland Branch Manager, Trish Taylor, Acquisitions/Cataloging Librarian, and Maria Hitchings, MicroComputer Analyst II, for their invaluable assistance with making this meeting a success.

### Looking Ahead:

- Access to eBooks and downloadable audiobooks through a subscription to Overdrive. This subscription will allow anyone to use the barcode number from a library card for the Portsmouth Public Library to access a collection of electronic books and audiobooks from a computer, e-reader, or other portable electronic device.
- Implementation of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) at the Main Library. This will be the final phase of the RFID Project and includes RFID Antennas at the Circulation Desk as well as a Self Checkout unit, which accepts credit/debit card payments.

Please check the Library's web page for additional information: [www.PortsmouthPublicLibrary.org](http://www.PortsmouthPublicLibrary.org)

## Inside The Book Nook



BY AMY K. BOSWELL

Happy New Year! Can you believe it's 2012? Have you made any New Year's resolutions? I prefer to call them goals. One of my goals for 2012 is to open the Book Nook every day that the library is open, even if only for 2-4 hours. We have welcomed several new volunteers in the last few months, but we are always in need of help.

The holidays were a busy time at the Book Nook, we received lots of great donations and introduced gift certificates. Sales were brisk the week before Christmas. We also received a large donation of practically brand new children's books. Stop by soon - you never know what you will find on our shelves.

So if one of your New Year's goals is to volunteer, give me a call or text at 757-373-3686, or email me at [amykboswell@gmail.com](mailto:amykboswell@gmail.com).



## NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

### MAIN LIBRARY

TREVOR JONES

2011 has been quite a year of tumultuous transformation and renewal for Portsmouth Public Library—and so too for me as well!

Allow me to introduce myself—I have the privilege of being selected as the downtown Portsmouth Main Library's new manager. I'm delighted to be joining the staff of Portsmouth Public Library and assisting patrons in any way I can in the coming months. Happily, I can report work has begun on the extensive renovations at Main, brought to us by general contractor, Spacemakers. I will very often be on site to observe and report Main's progress—watch this column for new developments!

Finally, I would just like to mention patrons can attend the Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library's Book Sale, January 6th and January 7th to support the library's future endeavors. Come on by and say hello! Also, Main's wonderful and storied Local History Room is open, by appointment, Thursday & Fridays, 10am-4pm.

2012 promises to be a very big year for Portsmouth Public Library—I'm very excited for Main Library's potential to make it even bigger!

### LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

BY EDIE CHARMICHAEL

An entire year has passed since the fire at the main library last Christmas day. Hard to believe! We do have some good news though! The Friends were allowed back into our sale area in July and were able to have an August book sale. And now, we have finally been allowed to re-open the local history room on an appointment only basis. After all these months of not being allowed to either work in or open the room, I am relearning where everything is and trying to coordinate all that is needed to get the room back up and running. Hopefully, as the year progresses, we may expand our open hours.

I look forward to the return of all our loyal volunteers who should be expecting notifications and special requests. Call the library at 757-393-8501, Ext. 39 or email at [localhistory@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:localhistory@portsmouthva.gov) for appointments or questions. Volunteers, please call and let us know when to expect you and what ideas you have for areas of research. When you arrive at the library (side entrance) call the number above so we may open the door for you.

**“A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge.”**

**George R. R. Martin**



## **NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES**

### **CHURCHLAND BRANCH NEWS**

BY LEONARD THOMPSON

The year 2012 has been declared the International Year of Cooperatives by the United Nations General Assembly, it is the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac, and could mark the end of the world by some accounts. Well, this year the Churchland Branch is anticipating positive changes of apocalyptic proportions!

This year will mark the beginning of another innovative technological library service to better serve our patrons. Beginning February 1, the Churchland Branch online reservation system will 'go live' and patrons will be able to request reservations up to 6 months in advance. We are encouraging patrons to sign-up for an Information Session for guidance in using the online calendar and filling out the online application. The sessions are being held on three different dates (all will contain the same introduction). Please contact the Branch at 686-2538 and anyone can sign you up for your selected session. Space is limited.

We have also expanded our adult and family centered programming calendar. On the third Wednesday of each month, our Portsmouth Local History Program Series will hold presentations, discussions, and signings about different historical aspects of our community. January 18th, we will welcome historian and archivist, Marcus Robbins, who will be discussing the history of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

The Civil War 150 Legacy Project brought to us by local historian and curator, Corey Thornton, with the Library of Virginia, will visit the Branch on January 28th. If you have original materials such as diaries, letters, military service related papers, sketches, photographs and manuscript maps pertaining to Civil War era Portsmouth, you can come and have them digitally scanned! Please contact Corey at 393-8591, as appointments are encouraged and a limited number of walk-ins will be accommodated, as scheduling allows.

In addition, our Origami for All – Fold & Play Program for all ages and skill levels returns, held the fourth Wednesday of each month. Bring patterns to share, ones that stump you, or start from the beginning and learn all about this newly trending craft from scratch. Plus, our Family Movie Night comes back every third Tuesday of each month, with all the latest family favorites all can enjoy.

Later in the year, we are excited to finally kick off our Chess @ Churchland program in the spring, and also the "Sights & Sounds Art and Music Series", which will be held the first Saturday of each month, celebrating local untapped artistic talent. Please visit [www.PortsmouthPublicLibrary.org](http://www.PortsmouthPublicLibrary.org) for further information about all of the aforementioned events and services.

### **MANOR BRANCH NEWS**

BY MARY GOODMAN

New signs were recently installed. The bolder print has made it easier for patrons to identify the different areas of the facility and collection.

The Teen Book Club participants are enthusiastic and attendance continues to rise. The December book was *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner, the first of a sci-fi trilogy. The featured book for January is *Vote for Larry* by Janet Tashjian—an interesting book for an election year! The Rotary Club has generously funded the purchase of the books for the Teen Book Club.

Congratulations to Library Associate Jackie Anas for receiving her 25-year City Employee Service Award at a ceremony held on December 9th in Council Chambers. Jackie has worked at all four locations beginning part time at the Churchland Branch. She has been at the Manor Branch for seventeen years and orders the children's materials, conducts preschool storytime, monitors the Teen Book Club and continues to provide customer service with a smile!

February celebrates Black History Month and we thank the Friends for providing the branch with money to order bookmarks and other items to give to our patrons to honor this observance.

**“In a library we are surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends.”**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Miscellaneous

## SECOND TUESDAY FORUM SERIES:

2012 Season



### THE SECOND TUESDAY FORUM SERIES

is sponsored by the Portsmouth Public Library and funded by grants from the Portsmouth Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, and Portsmouth General Hospital Foundation. All forums are free and open to the public. Reservations are not needed to attend. Complimentary beverages are provided by the Commodore Theatre and lunch may be ordered from the regular menu. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. For directions and more information, call the Portsmouth Public Library at 393-8759.



**January 10, 2012**

### ***Chrysler Museum Glass Studio Opening***

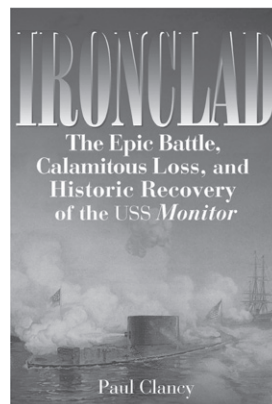
**Charlotte Potter,**  
Studio Manager



**February 14, 2012**

### ***Black Memorabilia and the Black Experience in America***

**Therbia Parker,**  
Collector & Historian



**March 13, 2012**

### ***Ironclad: The Epic Battle, Calamitous Loss, and Historic Recovery of the USS Monitor***

**Paul Clancy,**  
Virginian-Pilot

# Miscellaneous

By Janie Bryant  
The Virginian-Pilot  
© November 2, 2011

## PORTSMOUTH

Tyrone D. Taylor, found guilty of the Christmas 2010 arson of the Portsmouth Public Library's main branch, was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday, according to state court records.

Circuit Judge Johnny E. Morrison found Taylor, 35, guilty Aug. 9 after hearing evidence that included a recording of a police interview. Taylor, who was homeless, told police he was angry that he was kicked out of the library and that he snapped that morning. The downtown library has been closed since the fire.

Taylor was given the maximum sentence. In September, he was sentenced to serve 15 years in prison for the Jan. 3 sexual assault of a woman.



## THE PICKUP TRUCK

The 'Pickup Truck' guy and his truck are on hiatus for a while. Stormy is a bit "under the weather" and not able to continue his book pickups at this time. We ask all donors to please email [jarcombe@msn.com](mailto:jarcombe@msn.com) to arrange possible pickups. Please put "friends book donation" in the subject line to avoid your message being deleted.

All donations must be in SMALL boxes or sturdy bags and easily accessible. We will not pickup books from basements or attics or in large heavy boxes (we're not as strong as Stormy!).

We cannot use Reader's Digest condensed books, encyclopedias, or National Geographic magazines.

Magazines such as Architectural Digest, Vogue, Martha Stewart, current issues of Time/Newsweek/USA Today, Good Housekeeping, Simple Living, and NY Times Magazine are usable.

Many Thanks!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### Help Us By Renewing or Becoming a Member

(Dues form on last page of this newsletter)



of the Portsmouth Public Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 1296  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23705

**LIBRARY HOURS**

**Main Library** (757) 393-8501  
Mon-Thurs 10:00am-6:00pm  
Fri-Sat 10:00am-5:00pm  
Sunday Closed  
On Fridays the Law Library and the Children's Department are closed.

**Churchland** (757) 686-2538  
Mon-Wed 10:00am-8:00pm  
Thursday 10:00am-6:00pm  
Fri-Sat 10:00am-5:00pm  
Sunday Closed

**Cradock** (757) 393-8759  
Mon-Thurs 10:00am-5:30pm  
Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Friday & Sunday Closed

**Manor Branch** (757) 465-2916  
Mon-Thurs 10:00am-6:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm  
Friday & Sunday Closed

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Permit No. 3292

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Membership Form** Use this form below for gift memberships, getting others to join, or for donations. All moneys go to our Library, all workers are volunteers. NOTE: Renewal bills go out each January, do not renew if you are already a member until you receive your bill. Donations are always welcome anytime.

**Yes, sign me up! ★ ★ ★**

I want to be a Friend of the Portsmouth Library.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**★ Check one: (dues structure effective Jan 2006) ★**

- Individual Membership (yearly) ..... \$ 10.00
- Family Membership (yearly) ..... \$ 20.00
- Bookworm (sustaining) ..... \$ 25.00+
- Literary Lion (sustaining) ..... \$ 50.00+
- Collector (sustaining) ..... \$ 150.00+
- Curator (sustaining) ..... \$ 250.00+
- Patron (sustaining) ..... \$ 500.00+
- Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I will notify my Corporation to send matching funds.

**Would you like to participate in any of the following Friends activities?**

- Membership development
- Book sales
- Newsletter
- Advocacy

**Make checks payable to:**

Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1296, Portsmouth, VA 23705  
[www.friendsofportsmouthlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofportsmouthlibrary.org)

