



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

May 2024

Official Newsletter of Meriden Public Library



REGULAR HOURS:

Monday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm
Thursday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm
Friday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

LIBRARY CLOSED: Monday, May 27th

Memorial Day

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Meet Our Staff!



Please see page 7 to get to know our Visitor Services Clerk, Brooke Benigni!



@meridenlibrary

Follow us!

www.meridenlibrary.org

105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT 06450 | (203) 630-4730

The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

Many thanks to all those who made our recent book sale a success! We also thank the volunteers who helped set up the sale and who worked during the sale.

The next monthly meeting of the Friends will be Tuesday, May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

As part of the survey associated with updating the Library strategic plan, respondents were asked if they wished to join the Friends. Approximately 500 people responded that they did. We have contacted each of these individuals and several have already joined us. THANK YOU! If you have not yet responded to our contact, there is still time and we welcome your membership. If you did not respond to the survey, but still wish to join the Friends, you may do so by completing the application included in this newsletter.

How to Donate:

Now that the renovation/expansion is complete we will refocus to raise funds for Library programming. It is still possible to be listed on the "Donor Plaque" for a donation of \$1,000.00 and we still have several rooms that can be named. **Please contact Frank Ridley Fridley@cox.net if you are interested in this opportunity.**

In addition, donations in any amount can be made to the Library through the Friends by either visiting our website or by sending your donation (payable to the Friends) to the Library. As you make your estate planning please consider remembering us. We are able to answer any questions you may have.

Bookstore Hours:

Monday: 10am to 4pm

Tuesday: 10am to 4pm

Wednesday: 10 am to 7pm

Thursday: 10am to 4pm

Friday: 10am to 4pm

Saturday: 10am to 2pm

Flagpole Dedication:



We are thankful to the Meriden Parks and Recreation Department for installing the new flag pole in front of the Library. (See above picture). This is dedicated to Larry Kibner who was a long time member of the Friends and advocate for the Library.

Save the Date

**THE FRIENDS OF THE MERIDEN
PUBLIC LIBRARY IS TURNING 40!**

Gala 40th Anniversary Picnic

June 21, 2024 | PBA Field

5-9 p.m.

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The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

The Meriden Public Library's programs and services are generously funded by the following organizations:



The Meriden Foundation



Meriden Health
Department

JAMES H. NAPIER
FOUNDATION



ion BANK™



Thank you!

May Event Spotlight

Take Great Photos with your Smartphone

Everything necessary for taking great smartphone pictures will be addressed, including:

Learning how to use the camera controls on your specific smartphone, Basic photographic theory, Discussing and, if desired, installing other smartphone camera apps, Suggestions for hand-holding your camera, Specific steps to follow when taking a picture, Useful accessories for your smartphone camera, and, how to compose your photographs to produce truly wonderful results



Saturday, May 18th from 1-4pm
Teens & Adults | **Registration Required**
Location: **Meeting Room 6**

ADULTS | Featured Programs

Women and Money

This informative session will include discussions about: charting a financial course, women's economic outlook and reasons for optimism, potential financial challenges e.g. longer life and earning disparity, taking charge of your own financial future, overcoming unexpected obstacles, and more!

Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Cinema Classics

Cinema Classics takes place once a month on Thursdays. The movie will begin promptly at 5:30 pm in the Community Room. *Sunset Boulevard*: 1950 · Noir/Comedy · 1h 55m
Screen gem about an aging silent-film star who has faded into Hollywood obscurity and enlists a down-on-his-luck, opportunistic young screenwriter to aid her comeback, but her maniacal ego turns the challenge into an uphill battle.

Thursday, May 16th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3



Festivals of India

Join Sarada for a brief history and legends of important festivals celebrated by the Indian diaspora. Participate in a community dance with Dandia sticks and create a collage incorporating festival themes. **Generously funded by the Napier Foundation.**

Wednesday, May 8th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Connecticut Blue Trail System Talk w/Mark Wantroba & Lyndsey Gress

Spring is finally upon us, and many of us want to be outside! Do you like to be out in nature? Do you like to hike? Join us as avid hiker, naturalist, and photographer duo Mark Wantroba & Lyndsey Gress – back for a second time! – talk about the Connecticut Blue Trail Hiking System.

Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 5



Historic Meriden

Since its inception over 300 years ago, Meriden has influenced the world in a variety of aspects, from manufacturing to sports and from art to politics. Join Meriden historian, Justin Piccirillo, as he takes you on an astounding journey into the origins of our community and through milestone events which shaped its legacy.

Saturday, May 11th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



ADULTS | Monthly Meetups & Book Clubs

Knit & Crochet Club

Join us at the Meriden Public Library for the Knit & Crochet Club! Bring your project (supplies not provided by the Meriden Public Library) and join with others who also love to knit and crochet and craft together!

Wednesdays, May 1st and 15th at 10am

Location: Adult Reading Area



Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice English in a fun and comfortable environment! Some knowledge of English is recommended.

¡Únete a nosotros para practicar hablando en inglés en un ambiente divertido y cómodo! Se recomienda algún conocimiento de inglés.



Thursdays, May 2nd & 16th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

Classics Clique Discussion

This club is for people who love classics, or who just want to try reading more of them. There will be a group book to read every month, as well as a viewing of the movie adaptation. In this meeting, we will be discussing the April book *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare as well as its 1967 movie adaptation.



Monday, May 6th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

What's Next? Book Club

We will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah. Thirteen-year-old Leni, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship, has little choice but to go along, daring to hope that life in Alaska promises her family a better future.

Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Booktok Book Club

Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram. Share thoughts on your latest read or gather ideas for the next one! May Book: *Vampires of El Norte* by Isabel Canas. Copies are available at Visitor Services. The ebook is available on Palace Project.

Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Classics Clique Movie

This club is for people who love classics, or who just want to try reading more of them. There will be a group book to read every month, as well as a viewing of the movie adaptation. In this meeting, we will be watching the movie *Emma* (2020) based on May's book pick *Emma* by Jane Austen.

Tuesday, May 28th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

ADULTS | Special Events



Yom HaShoah Ceremony



On Monday afternoon, May 6th from 3 to 4:30 PM, the Meriden Public Library will be sponsoring a program entitled "A Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and Other Genocides". The event will memorialize the heroes and victims of the World War II Holocaust (Yom HaShoah) as well as the victims of other genocidal atrocities since the early 1900's. We will hear from guest speaker Jeff Israel, a descendant of Holocaust survivors. Also, we will light electric memorial lights for each genocide mentioned, as well as candles featuring the persecution of peoples due to their faiths, ethnicities, political views and gender non-conforming. Funded by an endowment established by the former Temple B'nai Abraham, and administered by the Friends of the Meriden Library, the program is open to the public and free of charge. All are welcome.

Monday, May 6th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Tech Topics: Email Basics 1



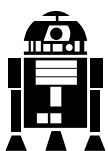
Participants are introduced to basic email functions, such as composing, replying, and exploring common email folders. They will also receive tips for password retention. Please note that many online applications require an email address as a form of contact information.

Monday, May 20th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

Matinee Monday: Star Wars the Empire Strikes Back (1980)

Luke Skywalker and the Rebel Alliance continue their star wars with the evil Empire of Darth Vader in the second film to be released in George Lucas's sci-fi series.

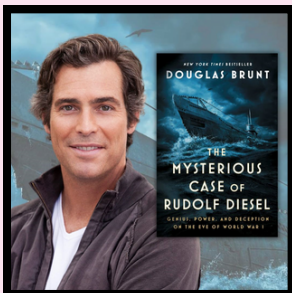


Monday, May 20th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff!

MAY AUTHORS



Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I

Wednesday, May 1st
3pm



A Murder Mystery, Family Story, & Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere

Wednesday, May 8th
7pm



Asian American Representation in Literature

Tuesday, May 21st
7pm

Meet the Staff!



Brooke Benigni is a Visitor Services Clerk and has been working in public libraries for TWO years!

- **If she couldn't be a Visitor Services Clerk:** I would probably be a Disney Princess at Walt Disney World or a cafe/bookshop owner living my best hobbit life.
- **In her spare time she enjoys:** Reading romantasy/fantasy, playing Animal Crossing, getting milkshakes, Harry Potter movie marathons, screaming along to Taylor Swift, and weekend getaways to Vermont.
- **Her favorite TV shows include:** Game of Thrones, Bridgerton, Golden Girls, and anything on the Game Show Network
- **Two movies she could watch over and over again:** Twilight and Tangled
- **A fun fact about Brooke:** Aside from reading, I love making playlists! My longest created playlist currently consists of 271 songs and is at about 16 hours and 35 minutes long.
- **Her favorite series/author:** *A Court of Thorns and Roses* for Series, *Song of Achilles* for stand alone, and anything by author Sarah J. Maas

CHILDREN

SPRING STORYTIME

WIGGLE WORMS

Wednesdays & Fridays at 10:30am

Wednesdays: May 1st–May 29th

Fridays: May 3rd–May 31st

Ages 0–3 | Registration Required

This storytime will be high energy and filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

FAMILY STORYTIME

Wednesdays, May 1st–May 29th at 6:30pm

Ages 0–5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Melissa each week for a fun evening of stories, songs, and crafts.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

STEAM STORIES

Thursdays, May 2nd–May 30th at 3:30pm

Ages 6–11 | Registration Required

Join us each week for stories and a fun STEAM related activity.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

CUENTACUENTOS: BILINGUAL STORY HOUR

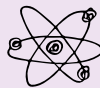
Saturday, May 11th at 11:00am

sábado 11 de mayo a las 11:00am

All Ages | Registration Required

In Cuentacuentos we listen to stories in English and Spanish, work on crafts, and more.

Location: Children's Storytime Room



POOL NOODLE LIGHT SABER

Friday, May 3rd at 3:30pm

Ages 7–11 | Registration Required

This is the May! Celebrate Star Wars Day early with us! Create your very own pool noodle light saber. Participants will use part of a pool noodle, duck tape, scissors, and stickers at this event.

Location: Children's Project Room

DROP-IN AIR DRY CLAY BEAN MOSAICS

Saturday, May 11th at 2pm

All Ages | Registration Recommended

Create a fun, spring mosaic using air dry clay and beans. We can't wait to see what you create! Projects will need some dry time at home before it can be displayed.

Location: Children's Project Room

KINDNESS ROCKS FAMILY EVENT

Tuesday, May 14th at 5:30pm

All Ages | Registration Recommended

Join us for a rocking good time. Create a kindness rock at this event to give to someone special or to keep for yourself. Participants will be working with rocks, paint, and paint brushes to create something positive. Please wear something you don't mind getting messy.

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6

FLAPPING BUTTERFLY CRAFT

Friday, May 17th at 3:30pm

Grades K–5 | Registration Required

Paper butterflies will take flight during this fun craft! Participants will use paper, markers, scissors, tape, and straws to create a lovely flapping friend.

Location: Children's Project Room



CHILDREN

MONTHLY MEETUPS

SENSORY PLAYTIME

Tuesday, May 7th & 21st at 5pm
All Ages | Registration Required



Join us for a sensory-friendly playtime where children and caregivers can interact with several stations of fun activities while socializing. Registration is required to arrange playgroups. **Proudly partnering with Social Sabby.**

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6

LEGO BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, May 18th from 10am to 12pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-in

Imagination and creation combined! Join us once a month to make a LEGO creation to be put on display at the library.

Location: Children's Project Room

NUTMEG NEWS WILDERLORE: THE ACCIDENTAL APPRENTICE

Tuesday, May 28th at 6pm
Ages 8-12 | Registration Required

The Nutmeg News Book Club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level.

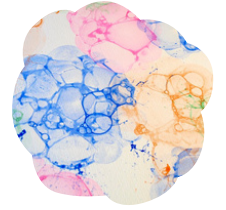


Read the book on your own and then join us at the library for a fun discussion and related activity. We have limited copies of the book at our library. Stop by the children's department to borrow a copy of this month's pick.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

MESSY MAKERS: BUBBLE PAINTING

Tuesday, May 21st at 10:30am
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required



Come get messy with us! This month we're painting with bubbles! We'll provide aprons but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

Location: Children's Project Room

STEM TURTLE EGG HATCH

Friday, May 24th at 3:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required



We can't wait to see you here! Participants will use science to hatch a turtle out of a baking soda egg during this fun activity. One baking soda egg will be provided per kid.

Location: Children's Project Room

MAGIC MARVELS

Tuesday, May 30th at 6:30pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



In this exciting and interactive course, young magicians will learn the fundamentals of magic and develop their skills in performing captivating tricks from local magician, David Wyskiel!

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6

CHECK OUT OUR NEW HYDROPONIC GARDEN!

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Meriden for donating a hydroponic garden to the Tomie dePaola children's library! We're growing: basil, cherry tomatoes, dill, lettuce, oregano, and thyme. You can view the garden in the library's main hallway.



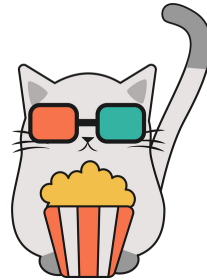
TEENS

TEEN MOVIE MATINEE

Vote to pick which movie screens at the biweekly Teen Movie Matinee. Vote in person the day of and enjoy some snacks!

Saturday, May 4th & May 18th at 1pm

Location: Teen Room



FESTIVALS OF INDIA

Join Sarada for a brief history and legends of important festivals celebrated by the Indian diaspora. Participate in a community dance with Dandia sticks and create a collage incorporating festival themes. **Generously funded by the Napier Foundation.**

Wednesday, May 8th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3



JAMES H. NAPIER
FOUNDATION



BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Love reading but struggle to pick out or finish a book? Join Beyond the Book Club to read fantastic YA stories and discussions. This month's options are *Kween* or *Today, Tonight, Tomorrow*. Each meeting will involve discussion and voting for the next book.

Friday, May 10th at 3pm

Location: Teen Room

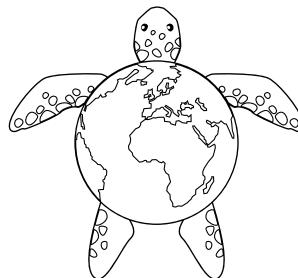


PAPER MACHE TURTLES

Create a turtle out of recycled paper to celebrate world turtle day!

Thursday, May 23rd at 3pm

Location: Teen Room



MONTHLY MEETUPS

RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE

The Rainbow Roundtable is a LGBTQIA+ oriented club where we talk about what we are reading, watching, and listening to that's LGBTQIA+ related. Come hang out in a welcoming environment with like-minded folks!

Wednesday, May 1st at 6pm

Location: Teen Room

NEW MUSIC MONDAY

Discover this month's newest music in the teen room!

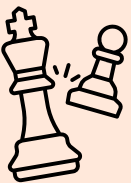


Monday, May 6th at 3:30pm

Location: Teen Room

TABLETOP CLUB

Come play a couple rounds of your favorite board game and enjoy some snacks!



Wednesday, May 8th at 6pm

Location: Teen Room

TEEN CROCHET CLUB

Learn how to make scarves, hats, coasters, and more! All supplies will be provided.



Thursday, May 16th at 6pm

Location: Teen Room

ALL AGES | Summer Reading 2024



Get ready for a summer of fun!

Registration opens **Friday, May 10th.**

Summer reading challenges begin **Saturday, June 22nd.**

Summer Reading For Children

Little Sprouts: A Family Reading Program for Ages 0-5

Help us grow our garden of readers! For every 5 books read together as a family, each child will earn a plant to place in the reading garden and take a turn at an earth-friendly game. 30 books read together will complete the game and earns you 6 entries toward a family prize basket.



Planet Patrol: For Students Entering Grades K-6

Which path will you choose to save planet earth? Each child will get to choose their path: Air Patrol, Land Patrol, or Water Patrol. For every 100 minutes each patroller reads, they will earn an animal to advance their patrol to be the ultimate planet protector. 600 minutes of reading will complete your mission and earn you 6 entries toward a prize of your choice. Keep reading! 1600 minutes of reading qualifies you for a chance to win a Kindle Fire!



Summer Reading For Teens

Earn a virtual prize ticket for every 100 minutes of reading you complete during the summer reading challenge. 600 minutes of reading will complete the challenge and earn you 6 entries toward a prize of your choice. Complete other world conscious challenges for additional prize tickets!



Summer Reading For Adults

When it comes to living a sustainable lifestyle there are many choices we can make that reduce our impact on the planet. Complete earth friendly challenges on your summer reading BINGO card for the opportunity to win one of several themed gift baskets!





Friends of the Meriden Public Library

Membership / Renewal Application

NAME (please print): _____

Additional Names (list others in household covered by this membership):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

\$100.00 (or more) - CORPORATE

\$100.00 (or more) - BENEFACTOR

\$40.00 - PATRON

\$10.00 - BASIC

I WISH TO DONATE TO THE WORLD WAR II HOLOCAUST FUND:

AMOUNT: _____

I WISH TO DONATE TO LIBRARY PROGRAMMING:

AMOUNT: _____

I WISH TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION:

AMOUNT: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Indicate areas of interest - Check as many areas as you desire

_____ Library Advocacy

_____ Book Sorting

_____ Internet Sales

_____ Newsletter

_____ Membership

_____ Bookstore

_____ Any Area Where Needed

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Library (FOTL)

Return to: Friends of the Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT 06450

In order to maximize the effect of your membership funds, we will not be providing membership cards; your cancelled check will be your proof of membership.

Thank you!