

April 2025

Official Newsletter of Meriden Public Library







REGULAR HOURS:

Monday: 9:30am to 5:00pm

Tuesday: 9:30am to 8:30pm

Wednesday: 9:30am to 8:30pm

Thursday: 9:30am to 8:30pm

Friday: 9:30am to 5:00pm

Saturday: 9:30am to 5:00pm



Closed: Friday, April 18th Good Friday

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Please see page 8 to get to know **Becky Starr**, our (soon-tobe retiring) Library Director!



Follow us! www.meridenlibrary.org

The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

Volunteers Needed!



We have volunteer opportunities available Wednesday evenings from 4-7pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. If you wish to join our expanding staff of fabulous volunteers, please contact Alexis Burgess at rrburgess16@gmail.com We also have space available for people who wish to become an occasional substitute.

How to Donate:



Now that the renovation/expansion is compete we are refocusing to raise funds for Library programming. It is still possible to be listed on the "Donor Plaque" for a donation of \$1,000 and we still have several rooms that can be named. Please contact Frank Ridley at 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.

Events:

Mark your calendars: Meriden Daffodil Festival

May 3-May 4, 2025

We will be there with the bookmobile. Stop by and say "hello"!





Bookstore Hours:

Monday: 10am to 4pm Tuesday: 10am to 4pm Wednesday: 10am to 7pm Thursday: 10am to 4pm Friday: 10am to 4pm Saturday: 10am to 2pm

BOOKSTORE SPECIAL

April 21st-26th

\$5.00 BAG OF BOOKS
ALL BOOKS, PUZZLES, CDS,
DVDS, AUDIO BOOKS

We provide the bags.

All other specials are discontinued during this sale.





The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen



We wish to thank those who have made a donation to Library programming, our Literary Libations event or the Holocaust Fund since our last update:

Close Harbor Seafood Rose Florist and Gifts Sherwin & Ruth Borsuk

Steam Train, Inc. Susan M. Bullock The Village Barn

Middlesex Community College Foundation on behalf of CCALC Patricia Kenney in memory of John O. Kenney



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



















April Event Spotlight



The Legacy of the Titanic

Join us for this engaging program on the infamous legacy of the Titanic. Attendees will receive a signed Titanic brochure, and the program includes some surprises, including a musical rarity from the Broadway musical Titanic!

Author & University of New Haven Practitioner in Residence (ret.) Stephen Spignesi writes extensively about popular culture and is considered a world authority on Stephen King, The Beatles, Robin Williams, Woody Allen, The Andy Griffith Show, ER, and other pop culture subjects and TV shows. He has written two books on the Titanic.



Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 2pm Location: Meeting Room 6



Adult Monthly Craft Night: Paper Forever Flowers

Welcome spring with some self-sustaining plant life! In this craft session, you will create some paper forever flowers - perfect home décor for those with or without a green thumb! All supplies will be provided.

Tuesday, April 1st at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Room 6



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
April 2nd & 16th at 10am
Location: Adult Reading Area



Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice speaking English in a fun and comfortable environment! *Some knowledge of English is recommended.* ¡Únete a nosotros para practicar inglés en un ambiente divertido y cómodo! *Se recomienda algún conocimiento de inglés.*

Thursday, April 3rd at 3pm **Location: Meeting Room 5**



Gentle Flow Yoga

Starting slowly with beginner stretches and gentle movements, attendees will then move into a modified flow through traditional yoga poses with the guidance of yoga instructor Aime Meacham. This hour long program includes sun salutation instruction, verbal and visual cueing, ending with a relaxing meditative savasana. All skill levels welcome, modifications provided. Participants should bring their own yoga mat or towel.

Saturday, April 5th at 1pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Tech Topics: Manage Your MPL Online Library Account

Join us to learn how to log in to your MPL online account, turn on your reading history, place holds, and complete advanced searches. *Make sure to bring your library card/library card number with you to this session.

Monday, April 7th at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5



Screening of Virtual Author Talk: "The Tree Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Trees" w/Matthew Fleming

We will have a special viewing of a nature talk, LIVE on the big screen. Join us as Smithsonian Horticulturalist Matthew Fleming, guides us through the secret world of trees as is revealed in the beautiful and absorbing guide to the giants of the plant world—The Tree Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Trees.

Tuesday, April 8th at 2pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Computación Básica: Cómo Empezar

Aprenda los conceptos básicos de cómo usar una computadora y praticar el uso del ratón. No se necesita experiencia de computación. Para más información o para inscribirse: (203) 630-4734 o bbelejack@meridenct.gov

Wednesday, April 9th at 6pm Location: Meeting Room 6

What's Next? Book Club

April: **The Housemaid** by Freida McFadden A New York Times, USA Today and Wall Street Journal bestseller and winner of a 2023 ITW Thriller Award. This unbelievably twisty read will have you glued to the pages late into the night.

Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30pm **Location: Meeting Room 5**



Intro to Cricut and Designing a Sticker

In this program we will explore the basics of the Cricut design space and the Cricut Explore Air 2 cutting machine. We will then use our new knowledge to create single color vinyl stickers! Bring in the object you'd like to stick your sticker to, or take them home with you and stick them later!

Thursday, April 10th at 6pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Learn How to Play the Ukulele

One instructor, 24 ukuleles, and a really good time! Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek Murray as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided or bring your own!

Saturday, April 12th at 2pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Read Around the World

Our April selection is *The Devotion of Suspect X* by Keigo Higashino. Are you a fan of James Patterson? Agatha Christie? Columbo? Join us to discuss the best-known work by Japan's master of detective fiction! Books available at the Visitors Services Desk. This is a hybrid program. Let us know if you want to attend online. For more information call 203-630-4734.

Tuesday, April 22nd at 6pm Location: Meeting Room 6

Holocaust Remembrance Day Event

Join us as we honor and remember all of the people that perished during the Holocaust and other genocides. There will be a candle lighting ceremony, and guest speaker, Mark Frydenberg, will present on his father and Holocaust survivor, Bernie Frydenberg.

Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Booktok Bookclub

Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram. Please note this book club often reads recently published books. Sufficient copies may not be available for all book club participants. April Book: **Sunrise of the Reaping** by Suzanne Collins

Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Room 5

Informed and In Charge with Girls Inc

Proudly partnered with Girls Inc. to cover personal awareness of identity, boundary setting, communication, exercising personal rights, and navigating interpersonal relationships with a special emphasis on healthy and safe relationship characteristics for the teens in your life.

Wednesday, April 23rd at 7pm Location: Meeting Room 6

Adult Monthly Craft Night: Paper Forever Flowers

Welcome spring with some self-sustaining plant life! In this craft session, you will create some paper forever flowers - perfect home décor for those with or without a green thumb! All supplies will be provided.

Thursday, April 24th at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Room 6



Central Connecticut Woodturners Pen Turning Workshop

Learn to turn your own pen using a lathe with the Central Connecticut Woodturners.

Saturday, April 26th from 10am to 2pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Matinee Monday: Happy Gilmore (1996)

A tepid hockey player takes up tournament golf to raise cash for his grandmother, who is about to lose her house.

Monday, April 28th from 1pm to 3pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



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 *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999).

Tuesday, April 29th at 5:30pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Life Hacks Series: Spring into Organization with Jessy Hart

Clutter got you down? Don't worry, you're not alone! Join our "Spring Into Organization" session for expert advice and practical solutions to the organizing challenges that are stressing you out. Whether you're tackling closet clutter, sorting through sentimental items, or setting up systems for long-term organization, we're here to help you every step of the way. Bring your questions and get ready to kick off the Spring Cleaning season with a clear, actionable plan to organize your life!



Saturday, April 26th from 1pm to 3pm Location: Meeting Room 6



ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff

April Authors



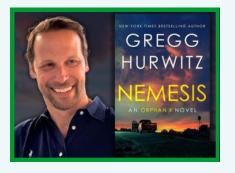
Wordsmith and Wonder: An Author Talk w/ Jodi Picoult

Weds, Apr. 2nd 7pm



The Stories, Science, and
History of Trees w/
Smithsonian Gardens
Greenhouse Horticulturalist
Matthew Fleming

Tues, Apr. 8th 2pm



The Thrill of Writing Action,
Adventure, and Suspense:
A Conversation w/
Bestselling Author Gregg
Hurwitz

Thurs, Apr. 24th 7pm

Meet the Staff



Becky Starr is the Library Director, and has been working at the Meriden Public Library for **28 years!**If the couldn't be a Librarian, the would be a Forencie.

If she couldn't be a Librarian, she would be **a Forensic Scientist**.

Her favorite TV shows are *British Detective Series, Project Runway*, and *CSI*.

The two movies she could watch over and over are **How the Grinch Stole Christmas and The Wizard of Oz.**

A fun fact about her is that **she is one of seven siblings**. Her favorite authors are **Patricia Cornwell, Harlan Coben, and many authors who write thriller novels.**

Famous birthday twins: **Harry S. Truman & Coca-Cola was invented May 8th**



CHILDREN | Monthly Meet-Ups

Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5pm to 6:30pm April 1st & April 15th Ages 0-11 | 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 best accommodate sensory requests. Proudly partnered with Social Sabby.

Location: Children's Project Room & Community Room 1+2+3



Kid Art Club: Salt Painting Galaxies

Once a month on Thursday at 5:30pm April 10th

Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Level up your art each month by learning new techniques with Mx. Paige and Miss Holly.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Family Craft Night: Spring

Once a month on Thursday at 6pm April 17th

All Ages | Registration Required

Join our monthly family craft night! Several themed craft stations will be available as well as fun themed music. All families are welcome. Some crafts may need parental assistance.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Monthly Book Club

Nutmeg Newts: Invisibles

4th Tuesday of the month from 6pm to 6:45pm April 22nd

Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Join us for our monthly book club the Nutmeg Newts! This 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. Stop by the Children's Department to borrow a copy of this month's pick. This month we are reading Has Anyone Seen Frenchie? by Leslie Connor.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Media Literacy with Girls Inc.

Once a month on Thursday at 5pm April 24th

Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

girls

Calling all girls! Learn how to be internet savvy during this cool learning series. Proudly partnered with Girls Inc.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Saturday at 10am April 26th

All Ages | Registration Requested



Have you seen our hydroponic garden, Sprout? Do you have questions on how hydroponics works? Stop by to ask Miss Holly questions and learn about our hydroponic garden.

Location: Hallway Hydroponic Garden

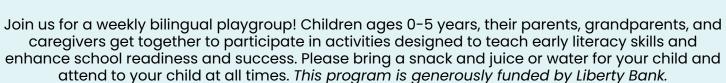
CHILDREN | April Events



Playgroup

Bebés Activos Bilingual Playgroup

Fridays 10am-12pm for Ages 0-5
April 4th, April 11th, & April 25th (No class on April 18th)
Registration Required



Location: Children's Storytime Room



Spring Storytimes

Wiggle Worms

Monday at 10:30am April 7th Wednesdays at 10:30am April 2nd &April 9th Ages 0-3 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for special storytime for ages 0-3. This storytime will be filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Family Storytime

Wednesdays at 6pm April 2nd & April 9th Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Melissa for a family storytime filled with music, stories, dancing, and more. This program is geared towards 2-5 year olds, but siblings are always welcome to join in. A craft will follow after the end of storytime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Spring Events

STEAM Recycled Disc Spinner

Thursday, April 3rd at 6pm Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

Make optical art while experimenting with kinetic energy! Children will get the chance to create a spinner, test how the colors mix, and how far it moves at this fun event.

Location: Community Room 2+3

Sensory Family Flick: The Wild Robot (PG)

Tuesday, April 8th at 6pm All Ages | Registration Required



Come as you are to our sensory friendly showing of The Wild Robot (PG). We will lower the sound, have the subtitles on, and keep the lights on. Registration is required to best accommodate sensory requests.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

CHILDREN | April Events

Musical Storytime with Julie Stepanek Murray

Saturday, April 12th at 11:30am Ages 2-5 | Registration Required



Join us for stories, songs and a small craft with Julie Stepanek Murray, an exceptional ukulele instructor. This event is generously funded through The Meriden Foundation.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Learn How to Play Ukulele

Saturday, April 12th at 1pm Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

One instructor, 24 ukuleles, and a really good time! Join Julie Stepanek Murray as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided or bring your own. This event is generously funded through The Meriden Foundation.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Perler Bead Peeps

Monday, April 14th at 2pm Ages 6-11 | Registration Requested



Make your spring holiday sing sweetly by creating Perler Bead chicks and bunnies out of Perler beads with us!

Location: Meeting Room 6

Hooked on Llamas: Country Quilt Llama Farm

Wednesday, April 16th at 10:30am All Ages | Registration Required

A llama in the library? How llamazing! During this program, children will have the opportunity to learn about llamas, hear a story, and pet a real life llama! This event is generously funded through the Meriden Foundation.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Messy Marvels

Wednesday, April 16th at 6pm All Ages | Registration Requested

Come get messy with us this spring break! We're making art with bubbles! Wear clothing you don't mind getting messy.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Disney Dance-Off

Thursday, April 17th at 2pm All Ages | Registration Requested



Dance the afternoon away with us at the library to Disney musical hits.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Saturday Family Flick: Sonic the Hedgehog 3

Saturday, April 19th from 2pm to 4pm All Ages | Registration Requested

We can't wait to see you here! Stop by for a showing of **Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)** with the whole family. Bring items to get cozy.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Earth Day Hydroponics Talk with Briana Gardener

Tuesday, April 22nd at 6pm All Ages | Registration Requested



Celebrate Earth Day by learning about hydroponics from expert horticulturalist Briana Gardner. Be ready to ask questions about this cool scientific process.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Drop-In Hand Flyer Craft

Saturday, April 26th at 1pm All Ages | Drop-In

Create a ribbon flyer that doesn't have to leave your hand to soar at this event.

Location: Children's Project Room

CHILDREN | Special Events



Easter Egg-Stravaganza!

Sunday, April 13th from 1pm to 3pm All Ages | Drop-in



Hop through the library to collect treats! Join the Meriden Parks and Recreation Department at the Meriden Public Library on Sunday, April 13th at 1pm for an Easter Egg-Stravaganza. Come down and take selfies with the Easter Bunny.

This program is sponsored by: Meriden Hills Baptist Church

Location: Meriden Public Library

Teddy Bear Clinic with Meriden Health Department

Wednesday, April 23rd from 4:30pm to 6pm Ages 3-8 | Registration Required

Join the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services for a Teddy Bear Clinic! Going to the doctor can make anyone feel anxious – especially children. To ease their fears, children will have a chance to play doctor with their favorite toy, providing it with the same care they will receive at the doctor's office. Children ages 3 and up will get a chance to play doctor and learn about medical equipment, such as the stethoscope and otoscope with staff from the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services.

At the end children can make their own x-ray of their hand with library staff.

Please bring your child's favorite bear (or other stuffed toy)!

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Tuesday, April 29th from 4pm to 8pm All Ages | Registration Requested



Celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros at Meriden Public Library for the first time ever! This event is a celebration of stories, imaginative play and activities children love. Join us for a revolving storytime with special guest readers, games, crafts, and giveaways. This event is open to everyone who loves stories and how families interact with them. This event is generously funded by Liberty Bank.

TEENS | April Programs



Crafty Critters: Upcycled Terrariums

Tuesday, April 1st at 3:30pm



Bring your friends and your cards and challenge each other to a duel. Celebrate warm weather by making your own upcycled terrarium.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Advisory Board

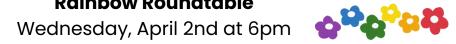
Wednesday, April 2nd at 5pm

Join the monthly Teen Advisory Board meeting to make sure your voice is heard! Share your ideas and opinions on how to improve your section of the library.

Location: Teen Room



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.

Location: Teen Room

Working 101: Resumes

Monday, April 7th at 3:30pm

Join Librarian Paige to learn the skills to put your resume together. We will cover what should and should not go on your resume.

Location: Teen Room



Black Out Poetry

Wednesday, April 9th at 4:30pm



Blackout poetry is created when you take a written piece of text from a book, newspaper, or magazine and redact words, in order to come up with your very own poetry!

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | April Programs

Perler Bead Frogs

Thursday, April 10th from 3pm to 4:30pm

Craft some froggy fun at this perler bead craft!
Create your own colorful frog or toad using perler bead peg boards and beads.

Location: Teen Room

Take & Make: Bookmarks

Monday, April 14th at 3:30pm

Come to the teen room to grab a take & make kit to create your own collaged bookmark.s

Location: Teen Room

World Art Day: Community Drawing Tuesday, April 15th from 1pm to 3pm

Celebrate World Art Day by adding to an art piece set up in the teen room! The finished art will be put on display on the teen shelves.

Location: Teen Room

Scratch Art Flowers

Wednesday, April 16th at 3:30pm

Create your favorite flowers by scratching away a dark layer on a surface to reveal a rainbow underneath.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Art Club: Shading Thursday, April 17th at 3:30pm



Join librarian Paige to learn the basics of shading! During this session we will be testing different methods for adding dimension to your art work

Location: Teen Room

Monthly Movie: The United Saturday, April 19th from 1pm to 2:30pm

This month we will be watching 'The United,' a 2012 movie where a legendary Egyptian football coach is brought back from retirement to train a team in Jordan to compete against France.

Location: Teen Room

Homework Help Monday, April 21st at 3:30pm



Head to the teen room for bi-weekly homework assistance.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Storytelling Tuesday, April 22nd at 3:30pm

Join Molly the therapy dog to practice your storytelling skills with animal themed picture books.

Location: Teen Room

Informed and In Charge with Girls Inc Wednesday, April 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30pm

Proudly partnered with Girls Inc. to teach personal awareness of identity, boundary setting, communication, exercising personal rights, and navigating interpersonal relationships with a special emphasis on healthy and safe relationship characteristics.

Location: Teen Room

Yap & Snack Friday, April 25th at 3:30pm

Let your frustrations out over snacks so you can start your weekend fresh!

Location: Teen Room

FEATURED NEWS







The Meriden Public Library partners with Human Resources Agency of New Britain to offer **VITA**, a FREE income tax assistance program.

This program offers:

Preparation and filing of annual tax returns by IRS-certified volunteers. All volunteers must be certified in Standards of Conduct (Ethics) and Current Tax Law along with other IRS required training. Training is updated annually.

Free of charge service to families and individuals whose total household income is \$67,000 or less.

By appointment only. Must call VITA directly to schedule an appointment:

<u>Call</u> (860) 356-2000 or schedule an appointment online

Appointments slots at the library are available on

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - January 25th through April 12th, 2025.

Be sure to bring all required paperwork to your appointment.



Since 1978, The Daffodil festival is Meriden's largest and most colorful community event, held during the peak season for daffodils to bloom.

With food, crafts, music, fireworks, amusements and a spectacular parade, the Meriden Daffodil Festival is a springtime funfest for all!



May 3-May 4, 2025



The MPL Bookmobile will be joining the festivities again this year.

Stop by and say "Hello"!



Friends of the Meriden Public Library

Membership / Renewal Application

NAME (please print):				
Additional Names (list others in	n household covered by th	is membership):		
Address:				
City:		State: ZIF	P code:	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:			
E-mail:		Cell Phone:		
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Thank you!				