



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

May 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: Saturday, May 24th
AND Monday, May 26th
Memorial Day

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Meet Our Staff!



Please see page 8 to get to know **Jessica**, one of our **Library Clerks!**



@meridenlibrary

Follow us!

www.meridenlibrary.org

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

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 complete 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 frankridley54@gmail.com 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 3rd and 4th

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



Thank you to everyone who supported our Bag of Books sale in April! The proceeds will help to support various library programs this year.



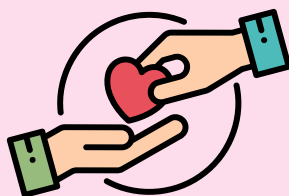
The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

THANK
YOU

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:

Kerry Johnson
Napier Foundation
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Suzio Concrete Company



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



ADULTS | May Programs



May Event Spotlight

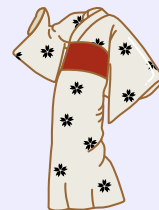


A Year in Kimono

Sono Kimono is proud to give this hour long presentation on “A Year in Kimono”, which starts with the history of kimono from its origins to modern day fashion. It will then be followed by a dressing workshop. Participants will get to experience dressing themselves in yukata, the cotton summer kimono popular at festivals and celebrations. Robyn Mortiboys of Sono Kimono, and member of Japan Society of Fairfield County, will be leading this fun and interactive presentation.



Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 1pm
Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



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 pick *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1955) by Patricia Highsmith, as well as its 1999 movie adaptation.

Monday, May 5th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Naloxone/QPR Suicide Prevention Training

This community training is an essential part of overdose and suicide prevention education where participants will learn: how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help, signs & symptoms of an overdose, what Narcan is and how to administer it, and local resources and support. All attendees will receive a certification as a QPR Gatekeeper, Naloxone kit, and other prevention resources.

Tuesday, May 6th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



To register, call 203-630-4734 or visit meridenlibrary.org

ADULTS | May Programs

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 7th & 21st at 10am

Location: Adult Reading Area



The Kenn Morr Band

The Kenn Morr Band will be performing at the Meriden Public Library on May 10th! Their latest release, "Still Shining," was recorded at Sandy Brook Studios in Colebrook, CT. The album features eleven new songs penned by Morr, highlighted by the cohesive playing of the Kenn Morr Band.

Monday, May 10th at 1pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Computación Básica: Correo Electrónico (Email)

Aprenda los conceptos básicos para enviar y recibir correo electrónico. Programa en español. Para más información o para inscribirse: (203) 630-4734 o bbelejack@meridenct.gov

Wednesday, May 7th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Matinee Monday: The Karate Kid (1984)

A bullied teen learns self-defense and self-confidence from a sage handyman.

Monday, May 12th at 1pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Life Hacks: Travel Planning on a Budget

Working on planning a summer trip? Booked one already? Haven't started planning anything yet? No worries! In this presentation, we will discuss how to travel and make the most of it while on a budget. Whether you are in the preliminary stages of planning or want to make sure you have everything covered, this program will provide you tips and strategies, which you can then use to help make the most of your time and money while on vacation!



Thursday, May 8th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | May Programs

Connecticut Cryptids

Join author Patrick Scalisi and artist Valerie Ruby-Omen for a talk about their book, *Connecticut Cryptids*. Pat and Val have done extensive research on creature folklore from throughout the state. They'll explain the concepts of "cryptozoology" and "cryptids," followed by a live storytelling session. There will also be time for questions and a chance to purchase signed books and prints from the creators.



Thursday, May 15th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Adult Monthly Craft Night: Northern Lights CD Painting



Join us to create the beautiful northern lights on an upcycled CD! All supplies will be included.

Tuesday, May 13th & May 22nd at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

What's Next? Book Club

May: ***Open and Shut*** by David Rosenfelt
Whether dueling with new forensics or the local old boys' network, irreverent defense attorney Andy Carpenter always leaves them awed with his biting wit and winning game plan. But the fun stops the day Andy's dad, Paterson, New Jersey's legendary ex-D.A., drops dead in front of him at a game in Yankee Stadium. The shocks pile on as he discovers his dad left him with two unexpected legacies: a fortune of \$22 million that Andy never knew existed... and a murder case with enough racial tinder to burn down City Hall.

Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



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, May 15th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Tech Topics: File Types & Saving Files

Join us for this session to understand file formats and what they are used for, how to save a document as a pdf, and how to name and save a document to a specific place.

Monday, May 19th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | May Programs

Leisure Hour: Adult Puzzles

Drop in to work on a puzzle and compete for a prize! If there are under 4 people, each patron will compete on their own with their own individual puzzle. If there are 4 or more people, participants will divide into groups of 2. The patron/group who finishes first will win a prize.

Thursday, May 22nd at 2pm
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 *A Room With A View* (1985).

Tuesday, May 27th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



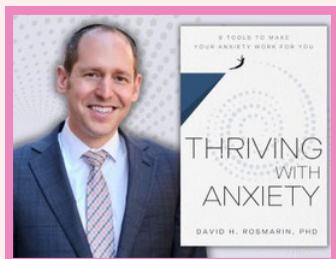
Booktok Bookclub: The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram. Call Visitor Services to see if copies are available. Please note this book club often reads recently published books. Sufficient copies may not be available for all book club participants.

Wednesday, May 28th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



May Virtual Author Talks



How to Use Anxiety to Thrive w/Dr. David H. Rosmarin

Weds, May 7th
2pm



On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller w/Author Liann Zhang

Weds, May 14th
7pm



How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us w/ Author Rachelle Bergstein

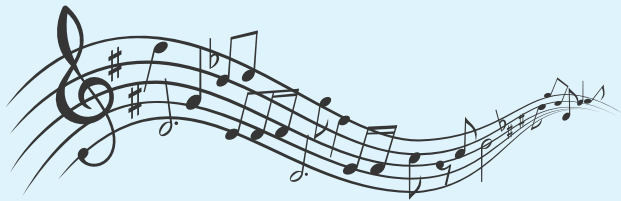
Weds, May 21st
2pm

ADULTS | Upcoming & Meet the Staff

Augusta Curtis Concert Band Summer Concert

The Augusta Curtis Concert Band will perform their summer concert at the MPL on
Wednesday, June 11th at 6pm.

The band is made up approximately 40 local amateur musicians. The concert includes a full range of contemporary and classical music that fits the summer season.



Meet the Staff



Jessica Jones is a **Library Clerk I**, and has been working at the Meriden Public Library for **3 months**.

If she couldn't be a Librarian, **she would be Camera Operator**.

Her favorite TV shows are ***Bob's Burgers*, *Sailor Moon*, and *Degrassi***.

The two movies she could watch over and over are ***"The Princess and the Frog"* and Queen Latifah's *"The Last Holiday"***.

A fun fact about her is that **she has the same name as Marvel's comic book character "Jessica Jones"**.

Her favorite authors are **Rachel Renée Russel & Naoko Takeuchi**.

Famous birthday twins: **John Cena & Dev Patel (April 23)**

CHILDREN | Monthly Meet-Ups

Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month
from 5pm to 6:30pm
May 6th & May 20th
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 & Meeting Room 6

Messy Makers: Marble Painting

Once a month on Tuesday at 10:30am
May 13th
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Come get messy with us! We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

Location: Children's Project Room



Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Tuesday at 6pm
May 13th
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.

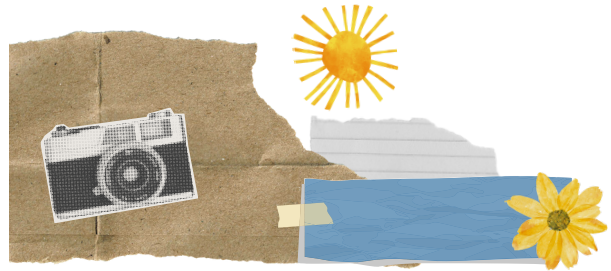
Location: Hallway Hydroponic Garden

Kid Art Club: Mixed Media

Once a month on Thursday at 5:30pm
May 15th
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



Media Literacy with Girls Inc.

Once a month on Thursday at 5pm
May 22nd
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



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

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Family Craft Night: Outer Space

Once a month on Thursday at 6pm
May 29th
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

CHILDREN | May Events

Spring Storytimes

Wiggle Worms

Mondays at 10:30am
May 5th-19th
Wednesdays at 10:30am
May 7th-21st
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
May 7th-21st
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

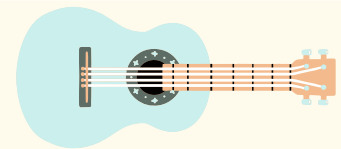
Specialty Storytimes

Pajama Jams

Thursday, May 8th at 6pm
Ages 4-6 | Registration Required

Join us for a special musical storytime with Miss Holly! Children will get the chance to sing, dance, and play with musical instruments during a fun filled storytime. Participants are welcome to wear their comfy pajamas to rock out in. This event is best suited for children 4-6 and siblings are welcome to participate.

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Mystery Reader Storytime

Thursday, May 22nd from 6pm to 6:30pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Stop by the library for a special storytime with a local educator as guest reader. This event is best suited for children ages 5-years-old and older with siblings welcome. *Proudly partnering with Meriden Public Schools.*

Location: Children's Storytime Room



CHILDREN | May Events

Monthly Book Club

Nutmeg Newts Book Club

4th Tuesday of the month
from 6pm to 6:45pm
May 27th

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 **The Canyon's Edge** by Dusti Bowling.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Spring Events

STEAM Paper Airplanes

Thursday, May 1st at 6pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Flying paper never looked so good! Stop by the library to create a control paper airplane and then fold one of your own to test it against the control. We can't wait to see you here! This event is best suited to children ages 6 years old and older.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Decorate a Rhythm Box

Saturday, May 3rd from 2pm to 4pm
Ages 3-11 | Drop-In

Decorate your very own rhythm box and create some fun music after it has dried.

Location: Children's Project Room

Paracord Bracelets for Soldiers

Thursday, May 15th at 4pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Make something in honor of Memorial Day at this event! Help our active duty service members by creating paracord bracelets they can use while out on duty. Instructions will be provided. All finished bracelets will be sent out to Soldier's Angels, a non-profit group that will send them out in care packages for soldiers.

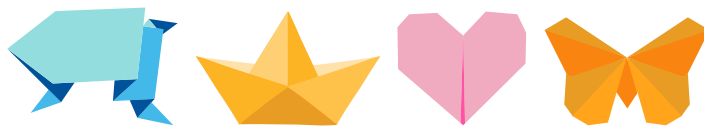
Location: Room 6

Folktales & Origami for Kids & Tweens

Saturday, May 17th at 1pm
Ages 8-13 | Registration Required

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with us! Motoko regales families with delightful folktales from her native Japan, combined with hands-on origami activities. Motoko's step-by-step instructions make the ancient Japanese art fun and accessible. *This event is generously funded through The Meriden Foundation.*

Location: Room 5



Tin Foil Boat Challenge

Wednesday, May 28th at 6pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Brainstorm and build your own boat using only aluminum foil. Will your boat be able to withstand the weight of its cargo?

Location: Children's Project Room

TEENS | May Programs



Game Night: Uno No Mercy Thursday, May 1st at 5pm



Come to the teen room to play a few round of Uno where there are no friends or alliances...no mercy!

Location: Teen Room

Working 101: Seasonal Jobs Monday, May 5th at 3:30pm

Join Librarian Paige to learn all about seasonal jobs, just in time for summer jobs!

Location: Teen Room



Teen Advisory Board Wednesday, May 7th 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 Wednesday, May 7th at 6pm

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



DIY Fairy House Thursday, May 8th from 4:30-6pm



Come to the teen room for a magical adventure! Create your own whimsical fairy house using repurposed materials.

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | May Programs

Take & Make: Mother's Day Cards

Friday, May 9th from 2:30 to 4:30pm

Come to the teen room to grab a take & make kit to create a card for Mother's Day.

Location: Teen Room

Crafty Critters: Magazine Basket

Wednesday, May 14th from 4:30 to 6pm

Come to the teen room to learn the basics of basket weaving using magazines.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Art Club: Charcoal Drawing

Thursday, May 15th at 3:30pm

Join librarian Paige to use the skills you have learned during other sessions to create a charcoal drawing!

Location: Teen Room

Monthly Movie: Umma

Saturday, May 17th at 1pm

This month we will be watching 'Umma,' a supernatural horror film that follows Amanda and her daughter who are being haunted by Amanda's mother's ghost.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Storytelling

Tuesday, May 20th at 3:30pm

Join Molly the therapy dog to practice your storytelling skills with disability awareness picture books.

Location: Teen Room

Informed and In Charge with Girls Inc

Wednesday, May 21st at 5:30pm

Proudly partnered with Girls Inc. to teach personal awareness of identity, boundary setting, communication, exercising personal rights, and navigating interpersonal relationships.

Location: Teen Room

Bubble Art Flowers

Thursday, May 22nd at 3:30pm



Come to the teen room to experiment with different colors to make your own bubble art flowers.

Location: Teen Room

Yap & Snack

Friday, May 23rd at 3:30pm

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

Location: Teen Room

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

**This summer, we are all about puzzles
and games!**

Join the Meriden Public Library to celebrate
Leveling Up at Your Library.

*Be prepared to level up as we have an
enchancing lineup of performers,
captivating crafts, and exhilarating gaming
programs that will both entertain and
empower us to learn and grow! Complete
challenges to earn mini prizes and raffle
entries for grand prizes!*



FEATURED NEWS

2025 Adult Summer Reading Challenge Coming Soon!

★ Climb the Hollywood Ladder ★

JUNE 21 - August 15, 2025

Early Bird Registration begins on June 16, 2025.

**This will allow you to get signed up and take a look at
the challenge before it officially starts on June 21, 2025!**



Join our Summer Reading Challenge and rise through the ranks of Old Hollywood stardom! Complete reading challenges and attend programs to move up the Hollywood Ladder—from humble extra to legendary icon. The more you participate, the more you shine and the better your chances to win a prize!



FEATURED NEWS

Level Up at Your Library



**NOW FEATURING A PRIZE STORE!
WE GOT THE LOOT!**



Level Up at your Library this summer! Join us for a fantastical summer of crafts, science, reading, performers, and more! We have two programs for our children ages 0-11!

♥ Tic-Tac-Toe Travelers: A Family Reading Program for Ages 0-5

Readers! Help us win the biggest board game you have ever seen! Read together as a family for each child to take a turn at giant board games in the library, and chances to win prizes!

🌟 Shelf Questers: For Students Entering Grades K-6

Do you have what it takes to go on a shelf quest to level up your reading? Each child will get the chance to help keep video game baddies from destroying the library. Each quester will have the chance to earn Library Dollars, chances to win prizes, and more!

Learn about the Gold Award from a Gold Award Girl Scout!



Through this program, Girl Scouts will learn about the Gold Award and begin planning for their own through a presentation and vision board activity. Additionally, they will see a real example at the Library courtyard to inspire them to think about the difference they can make.

**Tuesday May 27th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 6**



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!