



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

April 2026

Official Newsletter of Meriden Public Library



April



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 3rd
in observance of
Good Friday.



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What's New?

We're Moving To A New Library Consortium!



Flip to page 8 to check out the new "What's New at MPL?" section and read more details about our upcoming move to the LCI Consortium!



@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 Saturday from 10 am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm in our Book Store. 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 a substitute.

How to Donate:



It is still possible to be listed on the "Donor Plaque" for a donation of \$1,000 (or more) and we still have several rooms that can be named. Please contact Frank Ridley at frankridley54@gmail.com if you are interested in these opportunities. 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). Your donations make programming possible at the Library! Also, as you make your estate planning please consider remembering us. We are able to answer any questions you may have.

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:

Stephen Aforismo
Marian Amodeo
Toby Amodeo
Susan Bullock
Susan Chappo
Jason DeVivo
Joan Edgerly

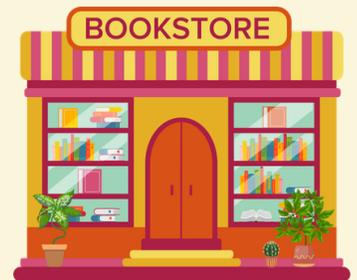
Rosanne Ford
Gallery 53
The Grog Shop
Hancock Pharmacy
ION Bank
Lisa Napoli
Mary Paluszewski
Connie Robbo

Karen and Annie Roesler

Rose Flowers and Gifts
Salon Nathaniel
Donald and Jeanne Smith
Paula Snedeker
Becky Starr
Thomas J. Welsh
Mark and Anita Zitko

Becky & Jerry Martorelli in memory of Virginia "Ginger Alwang
Beecher and Bennett Funeral Home
United Way of Meriden and Wallingford

2



Contact: 203-630-4763

Bookstore Hours:

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

BAG SALE!

Join us during the week of
April 20-25 for our semi-
annual bag sale!

This includes: books, puzzles,
CDs, DVDs, etc.

\$5.00 PER BAG!!

We provide the bag!

Note: Frequent buyer and other
promotions are discontinued
during this event.



Featured April Program & Friends News

April Event Spotlight

Holocaust Remembrance Day

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, Troy Paddock Professor of Modern European History at SCSU, will talk about the rise of Fascism and the lead up to the Holocaust.

Monday, April 13th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Thank you!

Thank you to all those who made **Literary Libations: Sipping For A Cause** a wonderful success.

Many thanks to our vendors-food and beverage - (especially the Grog Shop), musicians, volunteers, donors, and all who attended. The funds raised at this event will allow us to continue to support programming at the library.



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



ADULTS | April 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, April 1st & 15th at 10am
Location: Adult Reading Area



DMV at the Library Day!



Services offered: Real ID upgrades, driver's license: renewal and duplicates, non-driver ids: new/renewals/duplicates, accessibility parking permits, vehicle registration: renewals only, fines, tickets, & suspensions: resolution and payment, learners permit: duplicates only, and driver history reports.

All fees are applicable. We do not accept cash as it poses a potential safety risk for our staff.



Thursday, April 2nd from 10:00 am-2:00pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

Mandala Tote Bags

Make your own canvas tote bag decorated with mandala stencils and words of affirmation.

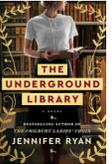
Saturday, April 4th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Room 6



What's Next? Book Club

April Book: *The Underground Library* by Jennifer Ryan

Wednesday, April 8th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

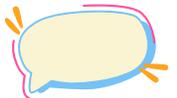


Practice English Conversation

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, April 9th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Tech Topics: Digital Decluttering

Join us for a digital Spring cleaning session where we will get rid of excess digital clutter in your online accounts and on your phone!

Librarians Angelina and Joanna will walk you through ways to eliminate unwanted digital files and emails, saving you space and helping to give you more peace of mind when trying to find your items online!

Monday, April 13th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | April Programs

Basic One-to-One Computer Classes with Jane

Do you struggle with using computers – such as with typing, operating a computer mouse, using an application such as Microsoft Word, saving a file, navigating a web browser to search online, and/or creating an email account? Learn all this and more in a relaxing atmosphere with a one-to-one appointment with librarian Jane. Individual 30-minute sessions will occur on April 16th; choose between a 5:30-6pm, 6:15-6:45pm, or 7-7:30pm time slot. Please call Jane at 203-630-4748 to register. Registration is required.

Thursday, April 16th
Location: Meeting Room 5



Booktok Book Club

April's book: *Half His Age* by Jennette McCurdy



Monday, April 22nd at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

To register for programs,
call 203-630-4734
or visit our website.



Adult Monthly Craft Night - Rustic Paper Bag Star

Add a new decorative element to your house by joining us to create a rustic paper bag star. Paint pens and stamps will be provided for personalization/embellishment of your star. All supplies will be provided.

Thursday, April 23rd at 6pm
Location: Meeting Room 6



Monday Matinee - The Visitor (2007)

This independent film stars Richard Jenkins, as he plays a widowed economics professor named Walter Vale, who unexpectedly finds a young couple (played by Haaz Sleiman and Black Panther's Danai Gurira) living in his apartment, and, he comes to learn that they're illegal immigrants. When Walter decides to let them stay, he forms a sweet relationship with Tarek, who is a Palestinian-Syrian djembe player, who teaches him how to play. It's a memorable film about healing from grief, along with bringing to light immigration issues in post-9/11 New York City.

Monday, April 27th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Classics Clique Movie

In this meeting, we will be watching the movie *The Secret Garden* (1993).

Tuesday, April 28th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



ADULTS | Virtual Talks & Staff Recommendations

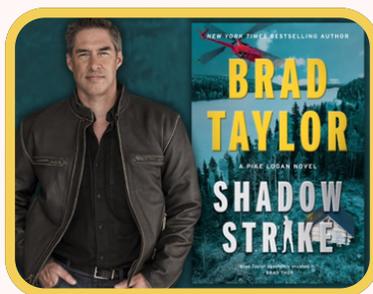


April Virtual Author Talks



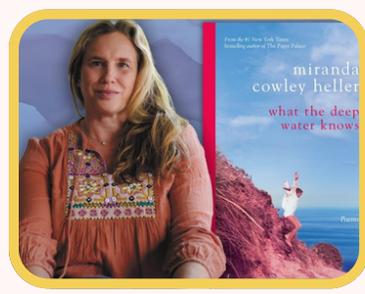
On a Mission: The History of US Women Astronauts with Smithsonian Curator Emerita Valerie Neal

Thurs., April 2nd
2pm



On Writing Action-Packed and Suspenseful Spycraft with Brad Taylor

Tues. April 14th
7pm



Lush Lyricism and Intimate Confessions with Miranda Cowley Heller

Weds., April 22nd
2pm



On Writing Beloved Characters and Powerful Portrayals of Resilience with Jason Reynolds

Thurs., April 30th
7pm

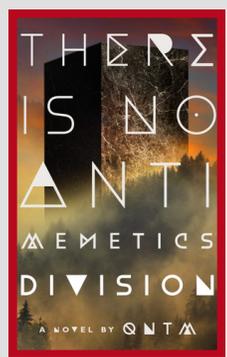


Staff Picks!



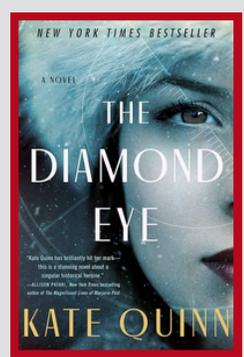
Angelina

Like Water for Chocolate
by Laura Esquivel



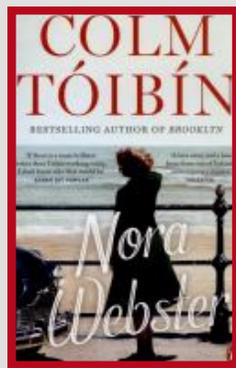
Kristin

There Is No Antimemetics Division
by qntm



Kathy

The Diamond Eye
by Kate Quinn



Barbara

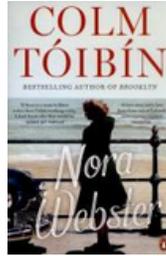
Nora Webster
by Colm Toibin



ADULTS | Upcoming Events

Read Around the World Book Group Goes to Ireland!

May's Read: *Nora Webster*
by Colm Tóibín



Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00pm
Location: Meeting Room 6



Punjabi Bhangra



Join Abhishek Sidhu, Bhangra instructor, at the Meriden Public Library for a Bhangra lesson and performance!

Bhangra is a type of traditional music of the Punjab region. It is a prominent form of entertainment and a traditional means of expressing joy, particularly during festive and celebratory occasions.

Saturday, May 9th at 1:00pm
Location: Meeting Room 6





MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY
&
HUMAN RESOURCES AGENCY OF
NEW BRITAIN, INC.

**2025
TAX SEASON**

**CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR
TUESDAY (5-8PM), THURSDAY (5-8PM) OR
SATURDAY (10AM-1PM)**

JANUARY 27TH-APRIL 11TH

#860 356-2000
PHONE OPENS ON 1/5

www.hranbct.org/VITA





We're Moving To A New Library Consortium!



Effective June 3, 2026, the Meriden Public Library will change from the LION consortium to the Library Connection, Inc. (LCI) consortium. **Some service interruptions will begin April 27, 2026.**

What does this mean for Meriden library users?



Where you are getting your holds is changing.

You will have access to 32 new Connecticut libraries and collections, including Berlin, Cheshire, Middletown, New Britain, and Southington.



Mobile app with a self checkout feature.

You can download a new mobile app that gives one-stop access to your library card. Place holds, register for programs, and even check out items yourself!



Enhanced Features

The change to LCI offers innovative features, such as a new user-friendly catalog, new delivery service, and integrated e-newsletter app.



Cost savings!

Savings on consortium fees allows our library to grow services and collections. Including curating our own e-book collection for Meriden cardholders!



No longer sharing a system with LION libraries.

Meriden cardholders will be removed from LION libraries, such as Wallingford, North Haven, and Hamden.

Holdings from Libby/Overdrive, saved reading history, or lists will not carry over to LCI. You can ask library staff about how to access your account to save your information!

Planning Ahead April 27, 2026-June 3, 2026



Getting our books back on Meriden Library shelves.

Effective April 27, 2026, LION will stop automatic renewals on Meriden items and for all items checked out by Meriden cardholders. In addition, holds will only be filled for Meriden cardholders when a Meriden item is available and the pickup location set to the Meriden Public Library.

This is to ensure as many Meriden items are returned to our shelves and non-Meriden checkouts are returned to their home libraries before our system change.

If there is an item at a LION library that you would like to check out, you can still go to other LION locations without interruption until **June 3, 2026.**

Remember: You can return your checked out items at any Connecticut library. **Meriden Public Library is fine free** for overdue books, DVDs, video games, and kits!

If you have overdue items that have been billed, please return them promptly so we can return items to their owning libraries.



After June 3, 2026

If your card is expired, due to expire, or you have lost your card, Meriden residents must update their card at the Meriden Public Library. **Not sure? Call 203-630-4731 to check the status of your card.**

Visit your favorite LION library with your valid Meriden Public Library card between June 3-June 30, 2026 to update your card in the LION system. Once your library card is updated you can resume checking out items at LION libraries.

After June 30, if you haven't updated your card, your record will be deleted from the LION system and you will have to re-register your Meriden library card.

COMING SOON

Every Page a Portal

Summer Reading 2026



Time travel is the ultimate adventure and every page is a portal to the past. With journeys crafted for every age, will you join us this summer to step back in time?

CHILDREN | April Programs

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Saturday

From 11am to 11:30am

April 4th

All Ages | Registration Requested

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

Location: Hallway Hydroponic Garden

Messy Makers

Once a month on Tuesday

From 10:30am to 11:00am

April 7th

Ages 2-5 | Registration Required



Come get messy with us! Each month we will try a new art technique! We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy! This month we are Bubble Wrap Painting!

Location: Children's Project Room

Family Craft Night

Once a month on Wednesday

From 6pm to 7pm

April 8th

All Ages | Registration Requested

We are taking over the Tomie dePaola Children's Library with our craft nights! Each month is a different theme. Several stations will be available as well as fun music. All families are welcome. Some crafts may need parental assistance. February's theme is Outrageous Oceans!

Location: Children's Library

Nutmeg Newts Book Club: Carrefour Curse Kit

4th Tuesday of every month

From 6pm to 6:45pm

Kits available through April 28th

Ages 8-12 | Registration Required

Enjoy our book club as a kit this month! Kits will be available starting on March 24th through April 28th. The Nutmeg Newts Book Club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level. This month we are reading The Carrefour Curse by Dianne K. Salerni. Read the book on your own and then enjoy the kit with discussion materials and activity. We have limited copies of the book at our library. Stop by the Children's 'Ask Me!' desk to pick up your kit.

Location: Take Home Kit



CHILDREN | April Programs

STORYTIMES & PLAYGROUPS

Once Upon a Sign

On Select Mondays from 10:30am to 11am

April 6th

Ages 0-5 | Registration Required



Learn American Sign Language with us! Miss Holly will teach signs for animals, shapes, colors, and more throughout our story and songs. Stay after for Busy Bees Playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10:30am

April 1st, April 8th & April 29th

Ages 0-3 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for special storytimes filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for Busy Bees Playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month

From 5pm to 6:30pm

April 7th & April 21st

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.

Proudly partnered with Social Sabby.

Location: Children's Storytime Room & Room 6

Maripositas Y Amigos Bilingual Playgroup

On Select Fridays

From 10:30am to 11:30am

April 10th & April 24th

Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Join us for our bilingual playgroup! Children and caregivers get together to participate in activities designed to teach early literacy skills. We look forward to learning with you!

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Bouncing Bunnies Spring Storytime

Wednesday, April 15th

From 10:30am to 11am

Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Bouncing bunnies, it's springtime! Celebrate spring arriving with special songs, dancing, stories, and more all revolving around bouncing bunnies.

Location: Library Courtyard

Growing Together with Meriden Early Start

Saturday, April 18th

From 10:30am to 12:30pm

Ages 0-5 | Registration Required



Growing Together is a fun and interactive parent and child workshop led by Meriden Early Start's Parent Ambassadors. Families will enjoy hands-on activities that build meaningful connections, and support early learning. Helpful resources and information about Meriden Early Start programs will also be available

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6

CHILDREN | April Programs

APRIL EVENTS

Easter Egg Slime

Saturday, April 4th from 2pm to 3pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Get egg-cited about slime! Create sparkly slime and take it home in a plastic egg. Come dressed for a mess.

Location: Library Courtyard



Daffodil Suncatchers

Sign up for one of two sessions:
Thursday, April 9th from 6pm to 7pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Friday, April 17th from 3pm to 4pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Celebrate spring by making a daffodil suncatcher. Make one to brighten up your home and another to help decorate the bookmobile for the Daffodil Festival.

Location: Children's Project Room

STEAM Seed Bomb Launcher

Monday, April 13th from 11am to 11:45am
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Launch your gardening game to new heights with a DIY seed bomb launcher. Create seed bombs and build your launcher at this fun science event. Children are welcome to test out their launcher before they take it home. Dress for a mess.

Location: Library Courtyard

DIY Terrariums

Tuesday, April 14th from 2pm to 3pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Build a tiny terrarium with us! Create the perfect place for a plant to live on your window sill. Add dirt, shiny stones, and a tiny animal to guard your plant while it grows. Come dressed for a mess.

Location: Library Courtyard

Giant Beaded Pool Noodle Flower

Wednesday, April 15th from 2pm to 3pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

You'll go daisy crazy at this fun event! Sting pool noodle pieces together to create a giant daisy.



Location: Room 6

Draw Your Own Pokemon

Wednesday, April 15th from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Join professional cartoonist Bill Hernandez to learn to draw your very own pokemon. Will it be a water type, grass type or fire type? You decide!

Location: Children's Project Room

Drop-In Friendship Bracelets

Thursday, April 16th from 2pm to 4pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Calling all Swifties! Stop by the library to listen to Taylor Swift music while making friendship bracelets worthy of the eras tour.



Location: Room 6

CHILDREN | April Programs

MORE APRIL EVENTS

Science Heroes: Adventure of the Missing Color

Thursday, April 16th from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 4-12 | Registration Required

"I need a volunteer!" That's your invitation to join Science Heroes as we experiment with the colorful science that's all around us – while exploring ways we can use S.T.E.M. to make our world better!

- Witness the water cycle in action with our Cloud in a Bottle™.
- Discover Bernoulli's Principle as we inflate the Air-mazing Airbag™ with a single breath!
- Experience the power of air pressure and energy with our Floating Eye™!

...and more!

Recommended for kids ages 4-12, but younger siblings are welcome.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Pint-Sized Scientists

Friday, April 20th from 10:30 am-11:00 am
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for some science fun! Each program will be hands-on, messy activities focused on different scientific topics. This month we are learning about how seeds germinate.

Location: Children's Project Room

Baby Rave

Wednesday, April 22nd from 10:30am to 11:15am
Ages 1-5 | Registration Required

Party likes it's 1990! Dance with us to fast music with fun lights! Ms. Lydia and Ms. Holly will DJ the party! Come dressed in your best dancing fit!

Location: Room 6

Recycled Robots

Wednesday, April 22nd from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 3-11 | Registration Required

Celebrate Earth Day! make a robot from a toilet paper tube, aluminum foil and other supplies!

Location: Children's Project Room

Sensory Family Flick: The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG)

Thursday, April 23rd from 6pm to 7:45pm
All Ages | Registration Required



Come as you are to our sensory friendly showing of The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG). Fidget toys will be available and everyone is welcome to walk, dance, and sing. Registration is required to best accommodate sensory requests.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Galaxy Art

Wednesday, April 29th from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 4-11 | Registration Required



Create your own galaxy using chalk pastels and your imagination.

Location: Children's Project Room

El día de los niños/El día de los libros | Day of the Child/Day of the Book

Thursday, April 30th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Celebrate Día at the Meriden Public Library! This event is a celebration of stories, imaginative play and activities children love. Join us for games, crafts, giveaways, and more.

Location: Children's Library

TEENS | April Programs

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, April 1st 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. This month we will be making a craft.

Location: Teen Room

Bunny Portraits

Thursday, April 2nd at 3:30pm



Celebrate spring by making your own bunny portrait with recycled materials like egg cartons and cardboard.



Location: Teen Room

Life 101: Mock Interviews

Monday, April 8th at 3:30pm

So you really want to get a job so you can buy takis and iced tea? Come to the teen room for mock interviews so that you can ace your next interview.

Location: Teen Room



Super Smash Bros Tournie

Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30pm



Think you've got what it takes to be the ultimate fighter? Prove your melee skills by beating out the competition and earn the title of reigning champion.

Location: Teen Room

STEM Paper Walking Horse

Thursday, April 9th at 3:30pm

Are you up to the challenge? Using paper, trial and error, and small adjustments you will create a walking paper horse!

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | April Programs

Soda Shop Sock Hop

Saturday, April 11th at 1pm



Head to the teen room for our latest themed day! Enjoy a variety of sodas, music and "drive-in" movie. Make sure to wear your best 1950's outfit.

Location: Teen Room

World Art Day

Wednesday, April 15th at 2pm

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

Location: Teen Room

Yarn Darlings

Wednesday, April 15th at 4pm



Make knit happen! And crochet too! Stop by to learn basic crochet and knitting skills or work on your own project. It doesn't matter if you are a lefty or a righty, we can help you!

Location: Teen Room

Teen Art Club: Disco Ball Painting

Thursday, April 16th at 3:30pm



Get into the creative groove and make your own dazzling disco ball using paint markers!

Location: Teen Room

New Music Mondays

Monday, April 20th at 3:30pm

Come listen to this month's recently released music or music that is new to you! Teens are welcome to give suggestions but they must be library appropriate.

Location: Teen Room

Manga Club

Tuesday, April 21st at 3:30pm



Do you love manga? Join the manga club to talk about your favorite manga, watch anime and meet like-minded folks. Attendees will get to check out any new manga additions before anyone else!

Location: Teen Room

Crafty Critters: Frog Felt Plushie

Thursday, April 23rd at 3:30pm



Head to the teen room to create your own adorable or creepy frog plushie! We will be using sewing techniques for this program.

Location: Teen Room

Yap & Snack

Friday, April 24th at 3:30pm

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

Location: Teen Room

STEM Water Filtration

Wednesday, April 29th at 4:30pm



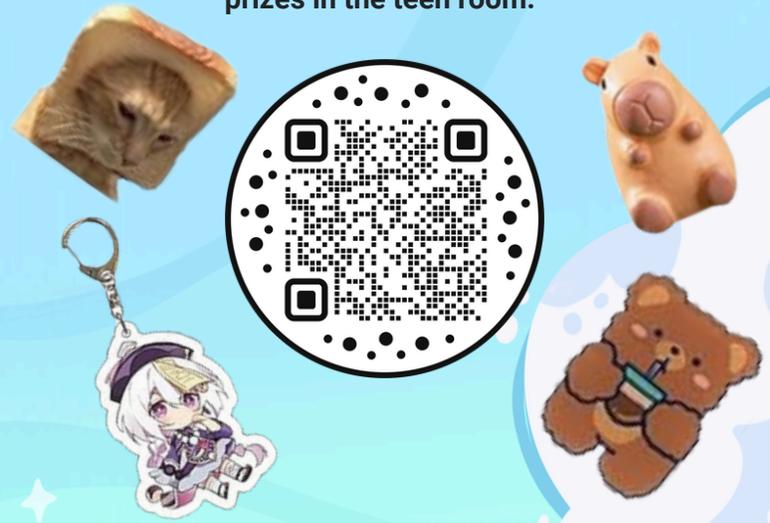
Using everyday materials like plastic bottles, rocks and coffee filters you will learn how to create clean water.

Location: Teen Room

DON'T FORGET TO DISCOVER YOUR STORY

Reading Rewards for Teens

Remember to log your reading to redeem cute prizes in the teen room.





**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

**Friends of the
Meriden Public
Library**

Membership / Renewal Application/Donation

Name (Please Print): _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS (Must select 1 level)

\$100.00 (or more) – Corporate

\$100.00 (or more) – Benefactor

\$40.00 – Patron

\$10.00 – Basic

DONATIONS

I wish to make a donation to the WORLD WAR II HOLOCAUST FUND:

Amount: _____

I wish to make a donation to PROVIDE PROGRAMS:

Amount: _____

I wish to make an ADDITIONAL DONATION:

Amount: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Library Advocacy Bookstore Internet Sales Newsletter

Membership Book sorting Any area where needed

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

Return to: Friends of the Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller St., 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 proof of your membership.

Thank you!