



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

August 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,
August 30th in
observance of
Labor Day

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Meet Our Staff!



Please see page 8 to get to know
Jane Connolly, one of our
Reference Librarians!



@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 4 pm 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 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.

Community Events



The Friends of the Meriden Public Library will be at the following community events during August:

- ✦ **Meriden Puerto Rican Festival**—Hubbard Park—August 3 with the Bookmobile
- ✦ **National Night Out**—Hubbard Park—August 5 with the Bookmobile
- ✦ **Midstate Chamber Expo at the Farmers Market** — Meriden Green—August 9



**New Bookstore Hours:
*Effective September 2nd***

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

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:

Mary K. Willmott
Anonymous gift to the
Holocaust fund

*Truly
Grateful
for you.*



ADULTS | Featured August Program



August Event Spotlight



Rebellious Rhythms: Exploring Puerto Rican History Through Reggaetón

Flashback to 1868–1930s: El Grito de Lares to the Ponce Massacre

An introduction to Puerto Rico's early independence struggles and the island's colonial transition from Spain to U.S. governance, highlighting the birth of resistance movements and political repression.

Rebellious Rhythm: Exploring Puerto Rican History Through Reggaetón offers an innovative, accessible, and culturally rich educational experience designed to engage public audiences in critical conversations about history, identity, and community power. Through music, history, and creative activities, this series aims to broaden public knowledge, inspire civic dialogue, and empower participants to connect past struggles with present-day advocacy.



Tuesday, August 12th at 6pm
Meeting Room 3



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



ADULTS | August Programs

Hollywood Book Discussion: Marlon Brando

Are you interested in the Golden Age of Hollywood? Have you always wanted to learn more about the life of legendary leading man, Marlon Brando? If so, please join us for the second of two Hollywood Book Discussions occurring during Adult Summer Reading Program! We will be reading *The Contender: The Story of Marlon Brando* by William J. Mann. Limited copies will be available for pickup at the Visitor's Services Desk

Friday, August 1st 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 July book pick *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1943) by Betty Smith, as well as its 1945 movie adaptation.

Monday, August 4th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Hollywood Classic Film Screening #2: A Streetcar Named Desire

Do you enjoy classic Hollywood movies? If so, please join us for a viewing of the classic film *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951) featuring Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh.

Popcorn and soda will be provided during the movie.

Thursday, August 7th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Level up your Content

In this content creation workshop, you will learn :

- Speech Therapy Techniques for On-Camera Confidence
- Green Screening Techniques
- Masking for Multi-Character Videos
- Intro to Podcasting Setup & Execution
- 4K Quality Content Strategy
- Analytics Overview: Tips & Tricks to Go Viral

The Presenter, Dominican Jonn, is a Massachusetts-based content creator with verified social media presence and extensive community involvement.

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

●REC

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

ADULTS | August Programs

Tai Chi Demonstration & Activity

In this class, you will begin with loosening up exercises to physically relax the joint areas to allow for better energy flow. This is followed with a meridian cleansing Chi Kung routine to begin cultivating the chi. The rest of the class is Tai Chi form instruction in Cheng Man Ch'ings Yang Style, 37-Posture form.



Saturday, August 9th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Computación Básica: Cómo Empezar

Aprenda los conceptos básicos de cómo usar una computadora y practicar el uso del ratón.



Miercoles, el 13 de Agosto a las 6pm
Location: Sala 5

Adult Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party!

Our Hollywood-themed Adult Summer Reading Program is officially coming to end. Join us for a celebratory wrap up party, including tasty refreshments, fun games, and several glamorous prizes!

We hope to see you there!

Saturday, August 16th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Room 6



Note: Registration is required.

Monthly Craft Night - Decoupage Oyster Shell



Be reminded of summer all year long! Join us to decoupage oyster shells into beautiful trinket/jewelry holders. All supplies will be provided.

Tuesday, August 12th OR Thursday, August 14th at 6:30pm (Two sessions)
Location: Meeting Room 6

Tech Topics: Library Resources 101: Ebook and Audiobook Options

Explore the free ebook and audiobook options your library card unlocks. We will help you get started with both Hoopla and Internet Archive. Please bring your library card and email address, and favorite portable device with you.

Monday, August 18th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



Rebellious Rhythms : Exploring Puerto Rican History Through Reggaetón

The Criminalization of Puerto Ricans: 1940s–2000s – This session explores the systemic criminalization of Puerto Rican people on the island and in the diaspora, examining government surveillance, eugenics, cultural suppression, and the vilification of reggaetón.

Tuesday, August 19th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | August Programs

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, August 21st at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Fall into Focus: Create Your Fulfilling Life with Life Coach Jenn Hart

Do you feel like life is controlling you? Do you feel time slipping away? Does your ever-growing to-do list leave you wondering when you will finally get around to attaining your goals? Join Life Coach Jenn Hart for this engaging workshop to (re)discover yourself and achieve the life that YOU want to live- a life that is intentional, meaningful, and fulfilling, no matter the ups and downs!

Monday, August 25th at 1pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Classics Clique Movie

In this meeting, we will be watching the movie *The Color Purple* (1985).

Tuesday, August 26th at 5:30pm

Location: Meeting Room 6



Crash Course Cooking: Gelato!

Nothing beats ice cream in the summer heat! Join us and discover how to make homemade ice cream and gelato in this fun hands on program, then enjoy some of this homemade goodness with a special sundae that you crafted yourself from scratch!



Tuesday, August 26th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Rebellious Rhythms : Exploring Puerto Rican History Through Reggaetón

Reggaetón as a Political Tool: 2010 – Present

This final session examines how reggaetón has evolved into a powerful medium for social commentary and political protest, particularly in response to natural disasters, colonial austerity measures, and anti-government uprisings.

Tuesday, August 26th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Adult Jigsaw Puzzle Race

Join the Adult Jigsaw Puzzle Contest, race to complete a 300-piece puzzle, and compete for a prize! Depending on the number of participants, people will either compete on their own with their own individual puzzle, or participants will divide into groups of 2. The person/group who finishes first -- or who has the fewest number of loose pieces -- will win a prize. Registration strongly requested.

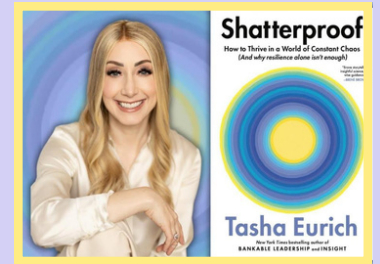


Thursday, August 28th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

ADULTS | Virtual Talks & Upcoming

August Virtual Author Talks



**The Stories, Science,
and History of Birds with
Smithsonian Biologist
Jay Falk**

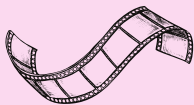
Tues, August 5th
2pm

**Returning to Romance
Through Food and Flirty
Fun in Fiction with Casey
McQuiston**

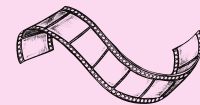
Weds, August 20th
7pm

**How to Thrive in a World of
Constant Chaos with
Organizational Psychologist
Dr. Tasha Eurich**

Thurs, August 28th
2pm



Hollywood's Greatest Scandals (and What They Reveal)



Join William J. Mann, professor of film and popular culture at CCSU and New York Times bestselling author of *Bogie & Bacall: The Surprising True Story of Hollywood's Greatest Love Affair*, *The Contender*, and *Kate: The Woman Who Was Hepburn*, as he dives into some of Hollywood's most fascinating scandals and what they tell us about the industry.

There will be a 30 minute Q & A session after the program.

****The author will also be available to sign copies of his books if you have your own personal copy to bring to the presentation.**



**Monday, August 11, 2025 at 2pm
Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



ADULTS | Upcoming & Meet the Staff

LEVEL UP YOUR CONTENT

In this content creation workshop, you will learn: Speech Therapy Techniques for On-Camera Confidence, Green Screening Techniques, Masking for Multi-Character Videos, Intro to Podcasting Setup & Execution, 4K Quality Content Strategy, Analytics Overview: Tips & Tricks to Go Viral

The Presenter, Dominican Jonn, is a Massachusetts-based content creator with verified social media presence and extensive community involvement.



Saturday, August 9th
1-4pm
Meeting Room 6



Meet the Staff



Jane Connolly has been a Reference Librarian at Meriden Public Library since 2016.

If she couldn't be a Librarian, she would move to France, find some cool job, and work on her French fluency.

Her favorite food is too many things to name, but if she had to choose, pizza or sushi.

If she could meet one famous person, it would be Joni Mitchell.

A fun fact about her is that she can tap dance.

If she could travel anywhere in the world, it would be Ireland or back to France.

Her favorite authors are Tana French & Sally Rooney .

Famous birthday twins: Hulk Hogan, Chris Hemsworth, & Viola Davis (August 11th)

CHILDREN | August Programs

STORYTIMES

Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10am

August 6th–August 13th

Wednesdays at 11am

August 6th–August 13th

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

August 6th–August 13th

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

Jedi Sensory Storytime

Saturday, August 2nd at 11am
Ages 2–11 | Registration Required

Embrace your inner yoda at this sensory friendly storytime. Come as you are to hear stories from a real Jedi Master. Fidget toys, headphones, and sunglasses will be available to Younglings attending this program. *For more Jedi events see our Featured News on page 14.*

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Signing Rocks ASL Storytime

Tuesday, August 5th at 11am
Ages 2–5 | Registration Required



Join SIGNING Basics® for an American Sign Language storytime. Kids will have fun learning ASL through storytelling and puppets during this storytime. This is an excellent event for all skill levels and siblings are welcome. *This program is generously funded through the Napier Foundation.*

Location: Children's Storytime Room



Meriden Public Schools

Mystery Reader

Thursdays at 6pm

August 7th–August 14th

Ages 5–11 | Registration Required



Join us for a storytime with different local educators as guest readers each week. We can't wait to see you here! *Proudly partnered with Meriden Public Schools.*

Location: Children's Storytime Room

CHILDREN | August Programs

AUGUST PROGRAMS

Signing Rocks ASL Bingo

Tuesday, August 5th at 12 noon
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Join SIGNING Basics® for an unforgettable ASL Bingo event! Learning various signs at this engaging game-filled program. This is an excellent class for beginners and intermediate learners. It can also be enjoyed by individuals that have more advanced skills. *Proudly partnered with SIGNING Basics®.*

Location: Room 6



Pom Pom Art

Wednesday, August 6th at 2pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Requested

Art never looked so plush. Children will use pom poms, glue, and cardboard to create a small picture. Templates will be available and children are welcome to create their own design.

Location: Children's Project Room



STEAM Paper Plate Marble Run

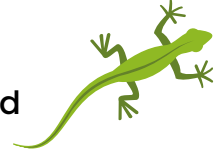
Thursday, August 7th at 6:30pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Requested

Can you beat the maze you create? Build a maze on a plate and test it out with different sized marbles.

Location: Children's Project Room

Giant beaded Lizard

Monday, August 11st at 2:30pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Come make a ginormous beaded lizard out of pool noodles!

Location: Room 6

Woven Flower Coaster Craft

Tuesday, August 12th at 6pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Unlock a new skill! Learn how to weave while creating a coaster sensation. Children will use string, cardboard, and yarn to weave their own creation.

Location: Children's Project Room

Pedestrian Safety for Elementary School with CT DOT

Wednesday, August 13th at 2pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Join the Connecticut Department of Transportation before school starts back up to learn about pedestrian safety for kindergarten through 5th grade students. Helpful tips for all ages will be provided and questions are welcome at this event. *Proudly partnered with Connecticut Department of Transportation.*

Location: Room 6

Summer Reading Finale: Backpack Keychains

Saturday, August 16th at 2pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Get ready to return to school by creating a unique backpack charm at this event!

Location: Children's Project Room

CHILDREN | August Programs

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Messy Makers

Once a month on Tuesday at 10:30am
August 12th
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Come get messy with us! We are making firework paintings this month.

Location: Children's Project Room

Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month
from 5pm to 6:30pm
August 5th & August 19th
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 Rooms 1+2+3

Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Friday at 1pm
Friday, August 8th at 1pm
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



Move and Groove with United Rhythms Dance Studio

Fridays at 10am
August 8th & August 15th
Ages 3-5 | Registration Required

Join United Rhythms Dance Studio at the library for an unforgettable summer experience filled with movement joy and creativity! Our dance program is designed to introduce your little ones to the world of dance while fostering their physical and mental well-being. *Proudly partnered with United Rhythm Dance Studio.*

Location: Community Room 1+2

Hip Hop with United Rhythms Dance Studio

Fridays at 10am
August 8th & August 15th
Ages 6-9 | Registration Required

Get ready for an exhilarating hip-hop dance class that will have your child grooving to upbeat tunes, making new friends, and expressing themselves through movement this summer. *Proudly partnered with United Rhythms Dance Studio.*

Location: Community Room 3

TEENS | August Programs



DIY Fidget

Friday, August 1st at 2:00pm



Come to the teen room to craft your own DIY fidget using Popsicle sticks, string and beads.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Advisory Board

Wednesday, August 6th at 5:00pm

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, August 6th at 6:00pm

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



Paper Airplane Competition

Thursday, August 7th at 3:00pm



Learn new techniques to build the best possible paper airplane. We will be testing your creations to see whose will fly the farthest and straightest!

Location: Teen Room

Level Up Your Content

Saturday, August 9th from 1 to 4:00pm

In this content creation workshop, you will learn :
Speech Therapy Techniques for On-Camera Confidence, Green Screening Techniques, Masking for Multi-Character Videos, Intro to Podcasting Setup & Execution, 4K Quality Content Strategy and Analytics Overview: Tips & Tricks to Go Viral

Location: Room 6

TEENS | August Programs

Lofi Hour

Monday, August 11th at 2:00pm



Spend a quiet hour in the Teen Library listening to Lo-Fi music while studying, reading or just recharging for the day.

Location: Teen Room

Pokémon Pom-Pom

Wednesday, August 13th at 3:00pm

Create an adorable version of your favorite Pokémon using yarn, cardboard and other materials.

Location: Teen Room

Dungeon Master Resource Builder

Thursday, August 14th from 4:30 to 6:00pm



During this two hour session you will make nearly everything you need for Dungeons & Dragons. Create your own resin dice, paint your own 3-D miniature and game boards and game pieces to bring your next Dungeons & Dragons session to life!

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Back to School Party

Saturday, August 16th at 3:00pm



Well, well, well...it's that time again! Come to the teen room to "celebrate" going back to school. We will be making DIY pins with Canva, packing tape and safety pins and complaining about summer coming to an end.

Location: Teen Room

Who's That Pokémon

Monday, August 18th at 2:00pm

Can you name them all? Compete to prove you are the Pokémon master and leave with bragging rights and a prize

Location: Teen Room

Monthly Movie: Tremors

Thursday, August 21st from 4 to 6:30pm

Come to the teen room for our monthly movie and some popcorn. This month we will be watching 'Tremors,' a monster horror film featuring a small town fighting back against 'graboids.'

Location: Teen Room

Level Up: Self Love

Wednesday, August 27th at 5:00pm



Level up your self love with Girls Inc. During this program you will learn to recognize your own value and the things you can do to treat yourself kinder.

Location: Teen Room

Gaming Perler Beads

Thursday, August 28th at 4:00pm

Come to the teen room to craft your favorite video game characters using perler beads.

Location: Teen Room

New Books!



FEATURED NEWS

Jedi at the Library

Saturday, August 2nd at 11am, 11:30am,
& 12 noon

Ages Vary | Registration Required

Jedi Guided Meditation at 11:30am

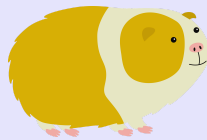
Ages 6-11

Learn to focus you center yourself the way a real Jedi Master does through breathing and calming postures.

Jedi Lightsaber Training at 12 noon Ages 6-11

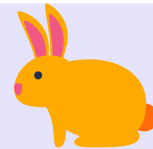
Calling all Younglings! Learn about the ways of the Force and how to wield a lightsaber from real Jedi Masters!

Location: Community Room 1+2+3



Farm Friends Petting Zoo with Xen's Critters

Thursday, August 14th at 6:30pm
All Ages | Registration Required



We are bringing the barnyard to the library! Pet bunnies, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, and more at this fun indoor petting zoo. All animals will be in playpens inside the library. An animal specialist from Xen's Critters will be available to answer questions. This program is generously funded through the Napier Foundation.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3



Attention Local Authors!

Mark
your
Calendar

The Meriden Public Library is hosting a book fair to highlight the work of local authors on **Saturday, November 22 from 1 to 4 pm**. This is a great chance to promote your work and trade ideas with fellow writers. Authors will have a table for book signing and will be responsible for providing their own payment mechanism. More information and applications are now available online at meridenlibrary.org and at the Visitors Service Desk. Applications will be accepted through September 15. Participants will be notified by September 30.



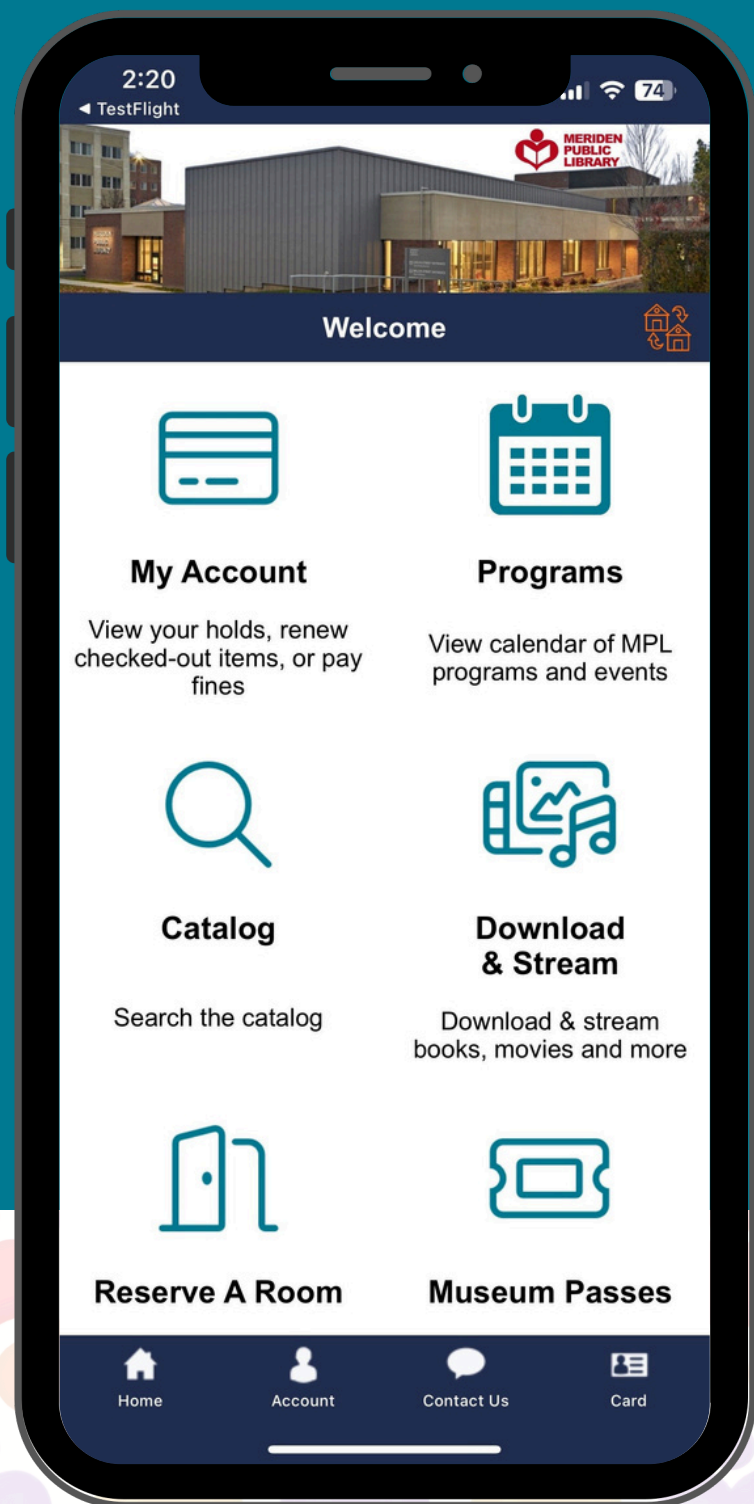
Mark your calendar, spread the word, and join us in November!



Introducing...

MPL at your fingertips!

Download our new mobile app



Access your digital library card, search for materials, place holds, renew items, register for programs, and more!

Go to the Apple or Android app store on your smart device and search: *Libraries Online*



Select Meriden Public Library and enter your active MPL card #

Access MPL at your fingertips!

Android



Apple



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



FRIENDS OF THE MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

AUGUST SALE CHILDRENS BOOKS BUY 1 GET 1



TEACHERS: Bring in your school badge
and get a bag of books for \$5
(We will supply the bag)

Friends of the Library Bookstore Located
on the side of the Meriden Library
105 Miller St, Meriden, CT

