

December 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: Thurs., Dec. 25th in observance of Christmas Day

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Please see page 7 to get to know

Lydia Holland, our Library

Manager of Youth & Community

Services!



Follow us! www.meridenlibrary.org

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.



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

Save the Date - Tickets on Sale Dec. 1!



LITERARY LIBATIONS

SIPPING FOR A CAUSE

Friday, March 20, 2026 6pm to 9pm at the Meriden Public Library

\$30 per person Tickets will not be sold at the door Must be 21 or older to attend Snow date: March 27, 2026



tickets online



ADULTS | Featured December Program



December Event Spotlight



Augusta Curtis Concert Band Winter Concert



The Augusta Curtis Concert Band will perform their winter concert at the MPL on Wednesday, December 10th.

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

> Wednesday, December 10th at 6pm Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Richard Towne Gary M. Dewey The Carousel Museum James B. Lamoreux Jonal Laboratories, Inc. Marian Amodeo Karen Roesler Rose Flowers and Gifts

Meriden Public Library Board of Trustees

Lisa Caulfield in honor of Gloria Mazzicato

Stephen & Ann Adamczyk Mahon, Quinn & Mahon, P.C. The Zoo in Forest Park American Clock & Watch Museum Brian T. & Catherine J. Mahon Sari L. & Dale F. Molesky

Mark Twain House & Museum Rebecca (Becky) Starr Bruce Patz in memory of Gloria Mazzicato

Rebecca Williams Mark D. Benigni Thomas J. Fazzino Barbara Zaniewski **Denise Sarrazin Hungerford Nature Center Mule Security & Electric** Paula Snedeker Stowe Center for Literary Activism East Side Veterinary Clinic I, LLC. Newport Art Museum

ADULTS | December Programs

Classics Clique Discussion

In this meeting, we will be discussing the November book pick *In Cold Blood* (1965) by Truman Capote, as well as its 1967 movie adaptation.

Monday, December 1st at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5



What's Next? Book Club

December Book: *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah

Kristin Hannah's powerful, heartbreaking novel that illuminates the intricate mother-daughter bond and explores the enduring links between the present and the past.

Wednesday, December 3rd 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, December 4th at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5



Tech Topics: Staying Safe When Shopping Online

Tis the season when many people are opting to purchase items online.

Come to this session of Tech Topics to learn more about keeping you and your information safe from scams and fraud.

Monday, December 8th at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5





Holiday Adult Monthly Craft Night - Canning Lid Christmas Tree

Get into the holiday spirit by creating your own stunning Canning Lid Holiday Tree. All supplies, festive music, and hot cocoa will be provided.

Thursday, December 11th at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Room 6



ADULTS | December Programs

Winter Ornaments

Paint and assemble your own set of 3D wood ornaments—snowman, mittens, and hot cocoa!

Customize with your choice of paint colors, then glue the layers to create gift-worthy, tree-ready winter decor.

Saturday, December 13th at 1pm Location: Meeting Room 6



Jane Austen: Book Discussion

Join us as we celebrate the 250th birthday of one of literature's most beloved authors—Jane Austen! Whether you're a devoted Austen fan or just curious about her enduring charm, there's something for everyone in this tribute to a literary icon.

This special program series invites fans new and old to explore the legacy of Austen's work. Part 1 of this 3-Part Program Series will be a discussion of three of Austen's shorter works: Lady Susan, The Watsons, & Sanditon.

Monday, December 15^h at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5



Jane Austen: Movie Night

Join us as we celebrate the 250th birthday of one of literature's most beloved authors—Jane Austen! Whether you're a devoted Austen fan or just curious about her enduring charm, there's something for everyone in this tribute to a literary icon.

This special program series invites fans new and old to explore the legacy of Austen's work. In Part 2 of this 3-Part Program Series, we will be screening the 2007 biopic Becoming Jane.

Tuesday, December 16th at 5:30pm Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Jane Austen: Trivia

Join us as we celebrate the 250th birthday of one of literature's most beloved authors—Jane Austen! Whether you're a devoted Austen fan or just curious about her enduring charm, there's something for everyone in this tribute to a literary icon.

This special program series invites fans new and old to explore the legacy of Austen's work. In Part 3 of this 3-Part Program Series, we will be testing your knowledge with Jane Austen trivia & tea party.

Wednesday, December 17th at 3pm Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | December Programs

Booktok Book Club

Join us for BookTok Book Club, where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms, including TikTok and Instagram. Share thoughts on your latest read or gather ideas for the next one!

Call Visitor Services to see if copies are available. Please note this book club often reads recently published books.

December Book: Rose in Chains by Julie Soto

Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30pm Location: Meeting Room 5



Basic One-on-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-on-one appointment with librarian Jane.

Individual 30-minute sessions will occur the third Thursday evening of every month; 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, December 18th Location: Meeting Room 5

Life Hacks: Time Management

Do you struggle with getting everything on your to do list done in a timely manner?

Join us for an informative session on personal time management, when we will go over tips and strategies to help you make the most of your time and efficiently get things done.

Monday, December 29th at 3pm 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 *The Seagull* (2018).

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



ADULTS | Virtual Talks & Meet the Staff

December Virtual Author Talks

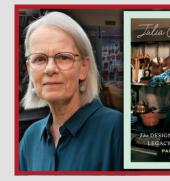


Scheming Wives and High-**Stakes Hilarity with Author** Sue Hincenbergs

> Tues, December 2nd 2pm







The Legacy of Julia Child's Kitchen w/Author and Smithsonian Curator Paula J. Johnson

> Tues, December 9th 2pm





Lydia Holland is the Library Manager of Youth & Community Services and has worked at the Meriden Public Library for 5 months. If she couldn't work in a library, she would be a preschool teacher (unless she was independently wealthy, in which case she would travel the world!)

Her favorite food is **bagels with cream cheese.**

If she could meet one famous person, it would be Taylor Swift.

A fun fact about her is that she has never successfully kept a hobby for longer than a month...unless reading counts as a hobby.

If she could travel anywhere in the world, it would be Scotland.

Her favorite authors are Amanda Foody, T. Kingfisher, and Grady Hendrix.

ADULTS | Upcoming Programs



Adult Winter Reading Challenge
January 5 - March 7, 2026



Read books, join programs, and complete fun activities to earn up to 20 raffle tickets.

Submit your tickets by 1pm on March 7, 2026 for a chance to win one of three grand prizes!

- Choose one of two reading paths in the **Winter Treasure Hunt** and earn **one raffle ticket for each completed prompt** (win a FREE book and a **bonus raffle ticket** for finishing <u>all five prompts</u>).
- Complete up to five activities—Book Review, Setting the Scene, Writing Prompt, Acrostic Poem, and Paper Bookmarks—to earn one raffle ticket each.
- Join the Classics Clique Long Winter Read as we tackle The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas through movie viewings and group discussions, earning one raffle ticket per program (earn a bonus raffle ticket for attending all 4 programs).
- Take part in special programs like **Bonus Adult Craft Night: Blackout Poetry** on January 29th, **Read Around the World** on February 17th, and the **Winter Reading Wrap-Up Party** on March 7th for **one raffle ticket each**.
- Complete the **2026 Adult Winter Reading Challenge Survey** at the end of the program to earn **one more raffle ticket!**



Featuring the iconic Les's ice cream stand! FOR SALE AT THE VISITOR SERVICES DESK!

\$10 FOR YEARS 2021-2025 \$5 FOR YEARS 1994-2020



MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Tween Art Club

Once a month on Thursday
December 11th
From 5pm to 5:45pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Join us each month to learning new techniques with Mx. Paige and Miss Holly. This month we will be experimenting with creating a winter scene using 3D paper diorama.

Location: Community Room 1

Messy Makers

Once a month on Tuesday
From 10:30am to 11:15am
December 16th
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 making Yarn Panting!

Location: Children's Project Room

Family Craft Night

Once a month on Thursdays From 6pm to 7pm December 18th 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. December's theme is Holiday Magic!

Location: Children's Library

Nutmeg Newts: Take Home Kit 4th Tuesday of every month December 23rd Ages 8-12 | Registration Required

Enjoy our book club as a kit this month! Kits will be available starting on November 25th through December 23rd. This book club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level. Stop by the children's department to borrow a copy of this month's pick. This month we are reading *Frizzy* by Claribel A. Ortega.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Hydroponic How To
Once a month on Saturday
From 11am to 11:30am
December 27th
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



STORYTIMES & PLAYGROUPS

Giggle & Groove Music & Movement Class

Monday, December 1st From 10:30am to 11am Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Calling all little mover and shakers! Sing, dance, and play in a joyful way. Stay after class is over to enjoy Busy Bees Playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room Sensory Playtime

Ist & 3rd Tuesday of every month From 5pm to 6:30pm December 2nd & December 16th 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

Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10:30am
December 3rd-December 17th
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 Storytime Stars

Wednesdays at 6pm December 3rd-December 17th

December 3rd-December 17th Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Melissa for a fun evening filled with stories, songs, dancing, and puppets. Stick around afterwards for a craft the whole family can enjoy. Siblings are always welcome.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Maripositas Y Amigos Bilingual Playgroup

Twice a month on Fridays
From 10:30am to 11:30am
December 5th & December 19th
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

Little Adventurer's Storytime: Snow

Monday, December 8th From 10:30am to 11am Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for a storytime adventure! This session we will be exploring books, music, and more revolving around Snow. Stay after for Busy Bees Playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Rockin' Readers

Friday, December 12th From 10:30am to 11am Ages 1-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Lydia for a storytime for little musicians! Put on your dancing shoes and join us for songs, dancing, instruments, and stories!

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Once Upon a Sign ASL Storytime

Monday, December 15th From 10:30am to 11am Ages 0-5 | Registration Required



Learn beginner American Sign Language at this revolving storytime. Miss Holly will teach basic signs throughout our story and songs. Stay after for Busy Bees Playtime.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

DECEMBER EVENTS

Magic Snowflake Art

Tuesday, December 2nd
From 10:30am to 11am
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required



Come to the library to make your own snowflake art using glue, salt, food coloring, and a little bit of magic!

Location: Children's Project room

A Wicked Good Party

Thursday, December 4th
From 6pm to 7pm
All Ages | Registration Requested

Defy gravity with us at our Wicked Good Party! Join us for crafts, activities, and more to celebrate the release of Wicked For Good.

Location: Tomie dePaola Children's Library

Pinecone Snails

Tuesday, December 9th
From 10:30am to 11am
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required



Choose your colored pinecone shell and antennae, then decorate a cute snail friend to keep you company!

Location: Children's Project Room

Wooden Gingerbread Houses

Thursday, December 11th
From 6:30pm to 7:15pm
Ages 3-11 | Registration Required

Get your crafting skills warmed up for this festive competition. Make your wooden gingerbread house sweet, scary or something in-between.

Location: Children's Project Room

Ping Pong Lanterns

Saturday, December 13th From 2:30pm to 3:30pm Ages 6-12 | Registration Required

Create a colorful mini lantern for yourself or someone else as a gift.

Location: Children's Project Room

Joy Blooms Winter Fun Concert

Saturday, December 20th From 3pm to 4pm All Ages | Registration Required

Why does everyone like Frosty the Snowman so much? Because he's so cool! Joy Blooms brings a program of music and movement for children and their families, to celebrate the Winter Season! This program is proudly sponsored by the Meriden Foundation.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

LEGO Free Build

Tuesday, December 23rd From 3pm to 4:30pm Ages 4-11 |Drop-In

Come chill before winter break and build some amazing Lego creations. Any finished creations will be put on display.

Location: Children's Project Room

Ornament Extravaganza!

Tuesday, December 23rd
From 6pm to 6:45pm
All Ages | Registration Requested



It's not too late to deck the halls! Stop by to make one of three different ornaments out of craft supplies at this event.

Location: Room 6

DECEMBER EVENTS

Jingle & Jam

Wednesday, December 24th From 11am to 12 noon All Ages | Registration Requested

Wear your dancing shoes and bring your best moves to shake those holiday wiggles out! Children will have the chance to make their own jingle ring to dance with!

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

Holiday Family Flick: The Muppet Christmas Carol (PG)

Friday, December 26th
From 11am to 1pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Enjoy a classic holiday movie with us! Join us for a viewing of **The Muppet Christmas Carol (PG)** this winter break! Bring items to be cozy during the movie.

Location: Room 6

Sensory Snow Play

Saturday, December 27th
From 2pm to 3pm
All Ages | Registration Requested

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow inside the library! Stop by the library to interact with several fun sensory stations all themed around playing in snow.

Location: Room 6

Rockin' In the New Year Storytime

Monday, December 29th
From 10:30am to 11am
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required



Join Miss Lydia and Miss Holly for a special New Year's themed storytime. It will be filled with music, dancing, stories, and fun.

Location: Room 6

KPop Demon Hunters Perler Beads

Monday, December 29th From 2pm to 3pm Ages 7-11 | Registration Required



We're Golden at the library! Create your favorite KPop Demon Hunter characters out of Perler Beads. Staff will iron your creations.

Location: Children's Project Room

Indoor "Snowball" Fight

Tuesday, December 30th
From 2pm to 3pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Snow-body has fun like us! Come as a family or team up when you get here to battle it out with "snowballs."

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

STEAM Snow Dough

Tuesday, December 30th
From 6pm to 6:45pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested



There's no dough like snow dough! Create, investigate, and play with snow dough during this fun event.

Location: Room 6

Noon Years Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31st From 10:30am to 12:30 pm All Ages | Registration Required

Ring in the new year early with us at the library with crafts, music, games, and a new years count down at 11:59am.
This event is best suited for families and all generations are welcome to participate.
We can't wait to celebrate 2026 with you!

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

TEENS | December Programs



Teen Advisory Board

Wednesday, December 3rd 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. Attendees will receive one hour of community service

Location: Teen Room

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, December 3rd 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



Indoor Snowball Fight

Thursday, December 4th at 4:30pm



Skip the cold and the damp mittens and get ready to battle it out with your friends in this indoor snowball fight.

Location: Community Room

DIY Picture Frames

Friday, December 5th at 3pm

Get ready for the gift giving season by making a DIY picture frame out of popsicle sticks, Perler beads, and more.

Location: Teen Room



Life 101: Finding Things To Do

Monday, December 8th at 3:30pm



Bored and not sure where to go or what to do? Learn all about local hangouts, events, and ideas for finding fun during the winter.

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | December Programs

Design Your Own Bag! Tuesday, December 9th at 3:30pm



Come to the teen room to create the perfect tote bag! We will be using fabric paint, stencils, and other supplies to create your new favorite accessory.

Location: Teen Room

Crafty Critters: Jar Lid Magnets Wednesday, December 10th at 5pm

Bring your favorite photos or pick fun designs from magazines and damaged books to decorate your very own magnets.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Art Club: Color Theory

Thursday, December 18th at 3:30pm

Come to this month's teen art club to learn all about the color wheel and color theory. We will be focusing on how to mix colors out of primary colors.

Location: Teen Room

Kit Kat Taste Test

Friday, December 19th at 3:30pm

How much do you love free candy? Enough to blind test mystery flavors? Come to the teen room if you think your taste buds can handle it

Location: Teen Room

Yap & Snack

Wooden Gingerbread Houses Thursday, December 11th at 4:30pm



Get your crafting skills warmed up for this festive competition. Make your wooden gingerbread house sweet, scary or something in-between. Your creations will be judged by a super-secret selection of librarians.

Location: Teen Room

New Music Monday Monday, December 22nd at 3:30pm



Come listen to December'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

Let your frustrations out over snacks so you can start

Sleighing All the Way Saturday, December 13th at 12pm

Are you already dreading the cold weather? Warm up in the teen room with hot cocoa, a movie, and a snowy craft. Cozy clothes required!

Location: Teen Room

your weekend fresh! Location: Teen Room

Friday, December 26th at 3:30pm

Yarn Darlings

Wednesday, December 17th at 4pm

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

Location: Teen Room

New Year Extravaganza with Furry Scaly Friends



Tuesday, December 30th at 1pm

It's a Teen New Year Extravaganza! Join Furry Scaly Friends for a critter hangout! Our hands-on cuddle sessions allow you to interact with various critters, from rabbits to snakes. *Proudly sponsored by the Meriden Health Foundation*.

Location: Teen Room

The Friends of The Meriden Public Library Presents

LITERARY LIBATIONS

SIPPING FOR A CAUSE

Friday, March 20, 2026 6pm to 9pm at the Meriden Public Library

Wine, craft beer, & spirits tasting Non-Alcoholic drinks & mocktails Refreshments Live Music by Inner Groove Raffles

Tickets for sale online or at the Friends Bookstore on December 1, 2025
105 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450

\$30 per person Tickets will not be sold at the door Must be 21 or older to attend Snow date: March 27, 2026

Scan here to buy tickets online













Friends of the Meriden Public Library

Membership / RenewalApplication/Donation

Name (Please Print):			
Additional Names (List o	thers in household covered b	y this membership):
City:	State:	Zip Co	ode:
Home Phone:	Work Pho	one:	
Cell Phone:	Email:		
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS	S (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 donat	ion to the WORLD WAR II HO	LOCAUST FUND:	
	Amount:		
() I wish to make a donat	ion to PROVIDE PROGRAMS:		
	Amount:		
() I wish to make an ADD	ITIONAL DONATION:		
	Amount:		
VOLUNTEER OPPORT	TUNITIES		
Indicate areas of interest	– Check as many areas as yo	ou desire	
Library Advocacy	Bookstore	Internet Sales	Newsletter
Membership	Book sorting	Any area where	needed
Please make checks pay	able to: Friends of the Library	(FOTL)	
Return to: Friends of the	Meriden Public Library, 105 M	1iller St., Meriden,	CT 06450
	effect of your membership fu will be proof of your mer	•	providing membership cards –