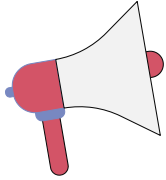




FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Official newsletter of Meriden Public Library, February 2024



Make Your Voice Heard!

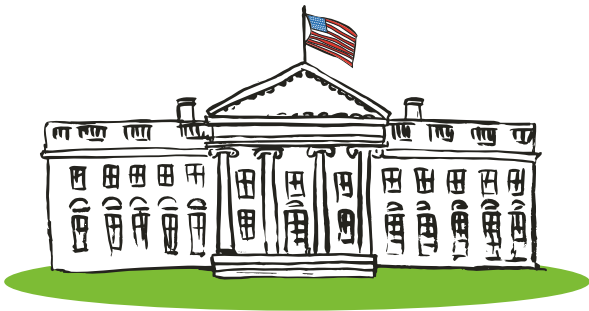
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPL2023-24>



PERMANENT LOCATION:
105 MILLER ST
MERIDEN, CT 06450

HOLIDAYS:

CLOSED MONDAY, 2/19
in observance of
President's Day



REGULAR HOURS:

Monday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Thursday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

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Be sure to regularly check our Facebook page or website for any weather-related closings that may require us to close the library or cancel a program.



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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS



Bookstore Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10 am to 4 pm

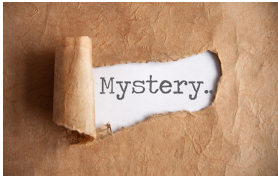
Wednesday: 10 am to 7 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR LIBRARY



Watch for special events which will occur during this year



February Book Store Special

COZY MYSTERIES
Buy One Get One Free
(Of equal or lesser value)



Donations

Now that the renovation/expansion is complete we will refocus to raise funds for Library programming. It is still possible to be listed on the "Donor Plaque" for a donation of \$1,000.00 and we still have several rooms that can be named. Please contact Frank Ridley Fridley@cox.net if you are interested in this opportunity.

Library Donors

We wish to thank those who have donated to library programming or the Holocaust fund since our last update:

Daniel J. Metz Jr.
Tom & Jane Brown
Marketing Graphics, LLC
David A. & Mary Kay Skinnon





NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS



Our thanks to the Cuno Foundation for their generous grant to assist us in making museum passes available to library patrons. For a complete list of passes available visit the Library website.



Special Adult Program Event

WINTER READING CHALLENGE



JANUARY 6TH-MARCH 9TH



- Sign-up in person by visiting our Information Desk where you will receive your folder containing the list of challenges, a Winter Reading Challenge Tracker, review sheets, and activity sheets.
- Anytime during the **January 6th-March 9th** timeframe, complete the challenges and bring your Winter Reading Challenge Tracker along with your completed challenge form (Review, Bingo, coloring sheet, etc.) to the Information Desk to receive a stamp and a raffle ticket for each completed challenge.
- Register to join us on **Saturday, March 16th** for a discussion and the drawing of winners! Reading challenge participants do not need to be in attendance in order to participate in prize drawing.

SIGN UP



Featured February Programs

To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>



Travels Through Mongolia with Marian Amodeo

Join Marian Amodeo as she takes you on a journey to Mongolia, land of the big sky, nomads, the Gobi Desert, and Genghis Khan. Learn about the people, the animals, the food, and the culture of this amazing country.

Thursday, February 22nd
6:30-8 pm



Connecticut's Black, Indigenous and Women of Color

Women inducted in the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame persevered to preserve their culture and ensure that minority groups receive an equal place in society. This program explores Connecticut women such as Fidelia Hoscott Fielding, who preserved the Mohegan-Pequot language for future generations, Ann Petry, who gave a voice to black writers, and Maria Sanchez, a strong advocate for the Puerto Rican community and the initiator of bilingual education in Hartford.

Saturday, February 24th
2-3:30 pm



Day of Tears

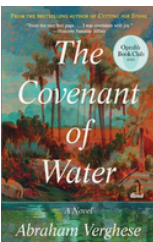
The multi-award-winning *Day of Tears* by Julius Lester is told from the voices of those sold on the auction block, the slave master, the slave seller, the innocent children, husbands, wives, and lovers who clung to one last desperate hope of staying together. *Day of Tears* is a powerful, very personal and highly emotional dramatization that leaves an indelible impression on the audience.

Saturday, February 17th
2-3:45 pm



Long Winter's Read: The Covenant of Water Book Discussion

Join us as we read Abraham Verghese's monumental family saga set in Kerala, India. We'll divide our discussion into two sessions, which you can attend either in-person at the library or via Zoom.



Tuesday, February 6th
6-7pm

Be sure to regularly check our Facebook page or website for any weather-related closings that may require us to close the library or cancel a program.



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Special February Events

To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>



"Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises."

— Charmaine J. Forde



VITA Free Tax Assistance

If you earned less than \$65,000 in 2023, you may be eligible for free tax preparation services including e-file and direct deposit! If you earned less than \$63,398 you may be eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)!

IN-PERSON APPOINTMENT: CALL (860) 356-2000 Appointments available through April 15, 2024
Si durante el año 2023 ganó menos de \$65,000 podría ser elegible para rendir su planilla de impuestos GRATIS incluyendo envío electrónico y deposito directo a su cuenta bancaria! Si Usted ganó menos de \$63,398 podría cumplir los requisitos para recibir un crédito por ingresos de trabajo (EITC).

POR CITA SOLAMENTE: LLAME al (860) 356-2000 Citas hasta el 15 de Abril del 2024

Occurring several dates in February. Call VITA to schedule your appointment.

Attend a focus group!



Meriden Public Library is thinking about its future. We are looking for people who are frequent or infrequent users of the library and are willing to help us think about ways we could improve our services.

FOUR CHANCES TO JOIN US

Attend the focus group that best describes your interest or needs

1. **Services for Latino Community - February 12th @ 1:00pm**
2. **Services for students/teens - February 12th @ 4pm**
3. **Services for library users & advocates - February 12th @ 6:30pm**
4. **Services for caregivers of young children - February 12th @ 6:30pm**

Must be a Meriden resident. Refreshments will be provided.

TO REGISTER CALL (203) 630-4734 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: MERIDENLIBRARY.ORG

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February Programs

To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>



Knit & Crochet Club

Join us at the Morning Knit & Crochet Club! All skill levels are welcome. Meets every first & third Wednesday of the month.

Note: this is not an instructional program, & materials are not provided.



Wednesday, February 7th & 21st
10am-12pm

Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice English in a fun and comfortable environment! This program presents an opportunity to practice your English conversational skills in a group with a certified TESOL teacher! Some knowledge of English is recommended.

LEARN ENGLISH

Thursday, February 1st, 15th & 29th, 3-4 pm

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 January's book selection which is *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams.



Monday, February 5th
3-4 pm

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! February Book: *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton

Copies are available at Visitor Services
eBook & audiobook available on Hoopla & Libby

Wednesday, February 28th
6:30-8 pm



What's Next? Book Club

Our book club will discuss, *The Personal Librarian*. It's an interesting look at J.P. Morgan's beginnings in building his new library, with a secretary who was a woman of color. This should prove to be a deep discussion.

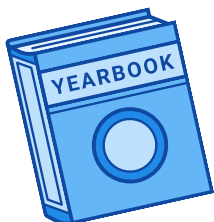
Wednesday, February 14th
6:30-7:30 pm

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 *Love in the Time of Cholera* (2007) based on February's book pick *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez.



Tuesday, February 27th
6-8 pm



NOW
OPEN

MERIDEN ROOM
HISTORICAL & GENEALOGY
COLLECTION

Now open for visits by appointment only!
To arrange your appointment, visit:
[MeridenLibrary.org/history-genealogy](https://www.meridenlibrary.org/history-genealogy)

The purpose of the Meriden Room Historical and Genealogy Collection is to collect, preserve, and make available for public use, materials relating to the history of the city of Meriden. Included in the collection is an assortment of newspaper articles, photos, yearbooks, city directories, genealogy books and magazines, maps, and more.



February Author Events

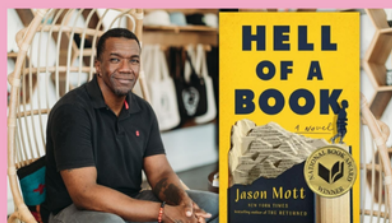
To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>

Virtual February Author Talks



Fangirl Down

Thursday, February 8th
8:00–9:00 pm ET



Hell of a Book

Tuesday, February 20th
4:00–5:00 pm ET

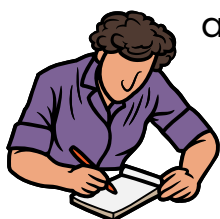


*Radical Candor: Be a
Kick-Ass Boss Without
Losing Your Humanity*

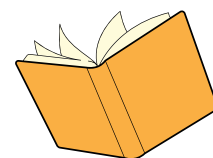
Wednesday, February 28th
2:00–3:00 pm ET

Author Presentation with Michael J. Tougias

Michael Tougias will present dramatic slides of the attack of a German U-boat on a freighter located in the Gulf of Mexico, in 1942. Tougias will use slides of the survivors and the rescue to make this an 'edge-of-your-seat' multi-media program for all ages. His book, "So Close To Home", is based on this incredible ordeal.



Saturday, February 10th
2–3:30 pm



Be sure to regularly check our Facebook page or website for any weather-related closings that may require us to close the library or cancel a program.



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Tomie dePaola Children's Library



To register for a program, call the Children's Desk at
(203) 630-4737, or sign up online!

Registration is now open and is required unless otherwise noted

National Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 3rd

Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, February 3rd from 9:30am-4:30pm
All Ages | Drop-in

Join us for a special winter themed scavenger hunt with a fun prize while supplies last.

Location: **Tomie dePaola Children's Library**

Lego Block Party

Saturday, February 3rd from 10am-2pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-in

Imagination and creation combined! Join us to make a LEGO creation to be put on display at the library. **This month's theme is robots!**

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Battlebots Demonstration with Team HUGE

Saturday, February 3rd from 12-4pm
All Ages | Drop-in

Join us on national Take Your Child to the Library Day for a Battlebots Demonstration with Team HUGE! There will be robots on display, a video reel of Battlebots in action, and activities for the whole family. Older children will even have the opportunity to drive a real robot! You won't want to miss this opportunity to see STEM in action!

Location: **Meeting Room 1+2+3**



Pre-School Programs

Joy Blooms: Fun Learning at the Library!

Monday, February 5th at 10:30am
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Get ready for a day of fun and learning at the Library! Join Joy Blooms for a children's musical performance and storytime event. Celebrate the endless opportunities for discovery and learning at the Library and pick out all the best books for you and your child!

Location: **Meeting Room 3**

Bebes Activos

Fridays at 10am | February 2nd-March 15th
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Join us for a weekly bilingual playgroup hosted by the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW)! Children ages 0-5 years, their parents, grandparents, and caregivers get together to participate in activities designed to teach early literacy skills and enhance school readiness and success.

Location: **Children's Storytime Room**



Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10:30am | February 7th-March 13th
Ages 1-3 | Registration Required

Join us for special storytime for your little wiggle worm. This storytime will be high energy and filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for playtime. Siblings are welcome.

Location: **Children's Storytime Room**



Family Storytime

Wednesdays at 6:30pm | February 7th-March 13th
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Melissa each week for a fun evening filled with stories, songs, and crafts. Siblings are welcome.

Location: **Children's Storytime Room**

Cuentacuentos: Bilingual Story Hour

Saturday, February 10th at 11am
All Ages | Registration Required

Cuentacuentos is a program for children and families. We listen to stories in English and Spanish, work on crafts, and meet new friends.

Location: **Children's Storytime & Project Room**

Be sure to regularly check our Facebook page or website for any weather-related closings that may require us to close the library or cancel a program.

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Tomie dePaola Children's Library

To register for a program, call the Children's Desk at
(203) 630-4737, or sign up online!

Registration is now open and is required unless otherwise noted

Book Bouquet Craft

Friday, February 2nd from 3:30-4:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

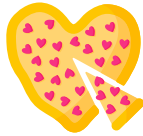


February is Library Lovers Month and what better way to celebrate than to create your very own book bouquet. All supplies are included.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Pizza Valentine Craft

Tuesday, February 6th at 6pm
Grades 5-11 | Registration Required



Join us for a cheesy craft that is sure to steal a pizza your kiddos heart. Participants will create a unique valentine. All supplies are included.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Light Up Valentines

Thursday, February 8th at 4pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required



Add some pizzazz to your valentines this year and create one that lights up with the touch of a button! We'll provide all supplies, including templates, or you can design your own.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

STEAM Secret Message Coding Bracelet

Saturday, February 10th from 2-4pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-in

Get your binary code on at this fun drop-in event! Participants will string beads onto string using binary code to create their own positive affirmations. All supplies are included.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Love Critter Puppets

Tuesday, February 13th at 6pm
Grade K-5 | Registration Required

Your kiddo will fall in love with the cute Valentine's critter they make with us! Participants will get to create their very own love bug. All supplies are included.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

STEM Catapults

Thursday, February 15th at 4pm
Grade K-5 | Registration Required

Create your own catapult using everyday household items. We'll start with a basic design that participants can then experiment with to help them go the distance.

Location: **Meeting Room 1+2+3**

Furry Scaly Friends

Saturday, February 17th
Session 1: 10-11am
Session 2: 11:30am-12:30pm
All Ages | Registration Required



Join Marisa from Furry Scaly Friends for an hour of hands-on animal fun and learning! Experience a variety of animal friends including: geckos, sugar gliders, prairie dogs, rabbits, hedgehogs, pacman frogs, chinchillas, fire skinks, tortoises, ferrets, axolotls, snakes, bearded dragons, and tarantulas! Space is limited.

Location: **Meeting Room 6**

STEAM: Fizzy Art

Tuesday, February 20th from 6-7pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required



Get fizzy with us! At this event our participants will use science to create art. Each kid will use liquid watercolors mixed with baking soda to paint watercolor paper and vinegar in a pipet to make an interesting design.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Nutmeg Newts

Tuesday, February 27th at 6pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



The Nutmeg Newts Book Club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level. This month we are reading **Leonard (My Life as a Cat) by Carlie Sorosiak**. Read the book on your own and then join us at the library for a fun discussion and related activity. We have limited copies of the book at our library. Stop by the children's department to borrow a copy of this month's pick.

Location: **Children's Storytime Room**

Leap Year Party

Thursday, February 29th from 3:30-4:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required



Come celebrate Leap Year with us! This day only happens once every four years. Spend the afternoon with us creating fun leap themed crafts, writing a leap year letter and more. All supplies are included.

Location: **Meeting Room 1+2+3**

Video Game Club

Thursdays from 5-7pm
Ages 8 and up | Drop-in Anytime!



Drop-in to the library on Thursday nights for video game club! We will be taking turns playing on the Nintendo Switch. Board games and coloring sheets will be provided while waiting for your turn! Parents must stay in the children's library. For seamless game play, no younger siblings in the storytime room.

Location: **Children's Storytime Room**



February Teen Programs

To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>



Monthly Meetups

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, February 7th
6 to 7pm

Beyond the Book Club

Friday, February 16th
3 to 4:30pm

Trading Card Club

Tuesday, February 27th
6 to 7:30pm

Teen Movie Matinees

Saturdays, February 3rd & 17th
1 to 2:30pm

Tabletop Club

Wednesday, February 21st
6 to 8pm

Manga Club

Wednesday, February 28th
6 to 7:30pm

DIY Programs

Romantic Bookmarks

Monday, February 12th

3:30 to 4:30 pm

Join us in making romantic bookmarks
for your beloved or even your bestie.

DIY Animal Snowglobe

Friday, February 23rd

3:30 to 4:30pm

Create a snow globe with a fabulous
animal! Add some sparkles and enjoy your
mesmerizing creation.



Wednesday, February 14th

Love Rocks

3 to 4:30pm

Celebrate Valentine's Day by painting a
rock with all the romantic tropes you
can think of!



Anti-Valentines Cookie

Decorating

6-7 pm

Hate Valentine's Day?

Come to the library and decorate some
cookies to reflect your anti-valentines
feelings!



Teen Crochet Club

Thursday, February 8th & 22nd

6-7pm

Learn how to make scarves, coasters,
granny squares, and more!
Supplies will be provided.



Thrifting 101

Thursday, February 1st

3:30 to 4:30 pm

Join librarian Paige to learn all about
thrifting! Learn local spots, how to find the
best deals and why thrifting is not only
worth it but important for the environment!

National Pizza Party Day!

Friday, February 9th

3:30 to 4:30pm

Come celebrate national pizza day with a pizza
party at the library!

Please register and let the librarian know of
any allergies in advance!



Overcooked 2: High Score Tournie

Tuesday, February 20th

2 to 4 pm

Think you've got what it takes to be top chef?
Prove your kitchen chops by beating out the
competition and getting the highest score in
Overcooked 2.



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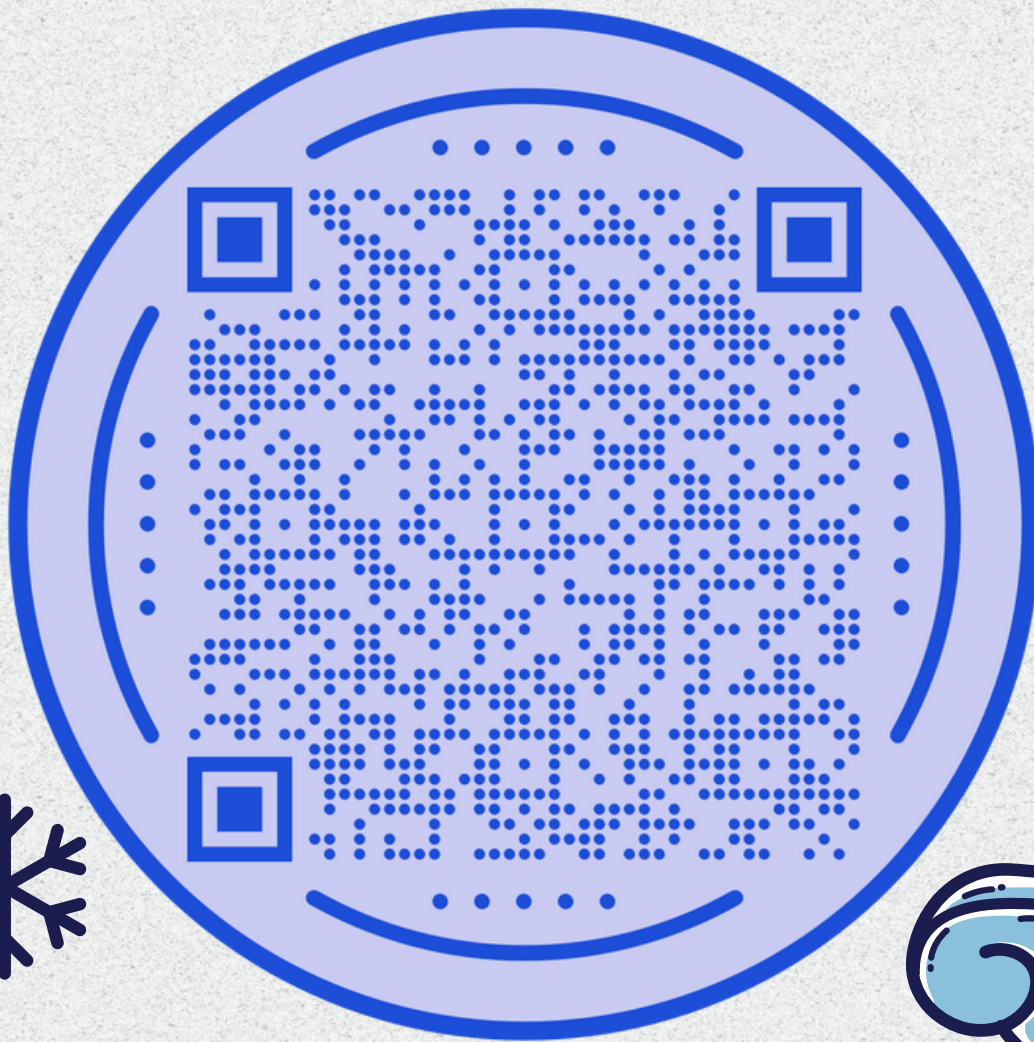
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Teen Winter Reading Challenge

Register via the QR link below or online!



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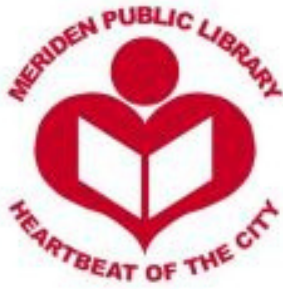


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Friends of the Meriden Public Library

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!