



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

January 2026

Official Newsletter of Meriden Public Library



*Happy
New Year!*



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., Jan. 1st
in observance of
New Year's Day and
Mon. Jan. 19th in observance
of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from the Friends: **Page 2-3**

Adult Programs: **Pages 4-9**

Children's Library: **Pages 10-13**

Teens: **Pages 14-15**

Literary Libations Save the Date: **Page 16**

Meet Our Staff!



Please see page 7 to get to know
Debbie Hazen, our **Business
Operations Technician**!



@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!

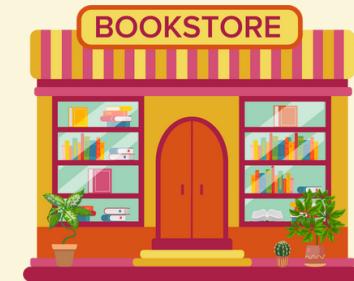


We have volunteer opportunities available Saturday from 10 am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm in our Book Store. If you wish to join our expanding staff of fabulous volunteers please contact Alexis Burgess at rrburgess16@gmail.com We also have space available for people who wish to become an occasional substitute.

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



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:

Hartford Symphony Orchestra

Alexis Burgess

Patricia Kenney

Luciano & Mariella Racco

Allan & Rosemarie Harding

Anita & Mark Zitko

Fred & Risa Zierler

Daisy & Britt Hall

Marcia & Carmine Trotta

Mary K. Wilmott

Dan Metz

Barbara & Lawrence Kendzior

Arlene Hamelin

Jayne Solak

Kerry Johnson

Paige Gardner

Liz Nawrocki

Becky Starr

Jean Stajos

Sue B. Hanson

Norma Paggioli

Ruth E. Kahn

Janis Franco

The Friends of the Library

NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

Annual Meeting



The Friends of the Meriden Public Library held its annual meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025.

The following were elected officers for 2026:

Frank W. Ridley, President; Marian Amodeo, Vice President; Alexis Burgess, Secretary; Ann Biernacki, Treasurer; and Blair Goodlin, Assistant Treasurer.

Winnie Clay and Mariella Racco were honored with the “Friend of the Year” award for their various activities including the years they have spent on planning and securing food for our events.

The Grog Shop was given a “Community Partnership” award for co-sponsoring our Literary Libations, Sipping for a Cause event.

The Budget for 2026 was passed.

The President gave his annual report. Copies are available in the Friends of the Library Bookstore.



We wish to thank all those who made 2025 such a great success. Thank you to the Library staff, The Library Board of Trustees, and all our customers and donors. We especially wish to thank our loyal and dedicated volunteers. They are listed here in order of their years of service:

Mario Cavallo, Frank W. Ridley, Joan Edgerly, Joan Dion, Janet Hiller, Peter Burch, Jerry Dion, Steve Volpini, Fred Zierler, Susan Chappo, David Skinner, Norma Paggioli, Roger Kemp, Risa Zierler, Winnie Clay, Sheryl Clay, Mariella Racco, Irene Masse, Dan Metz, Alexis Burgess, Russ Burgess, Gini Sonstrom, Sally Kamerbeek, Marian Amodeo, Ann Biernacki, Karen Roesler, Carol Leduc, Terri Trenholm, Casey Russo, Jean Stajos, Joselyn Linnekin, Jayme Solak, Trudy Brady, Arlene Hamelin, Blair Goodlin, Karen Ohlmann, Jean Poremski, Margot Conroy, Kaylee Finnigan, Becky Starr, John Emery Istvan, Kerry Johnson, Jason DeViva, Brittany Hause, Isabel Guzman, Giovanna Gardner, and Stella Clarke

ADULTS | Featured January Program

January Event Spotlight

A History of Huskies Hoops: Legacy of Greatness

Celebrate the history and greatness of the UConn basketball teams with this fun, lively and enlightening presentation hosted by award-winning sportswriter and author Marty Gitlin. Take a journey from the beginning of the men's and women's programs to the present with video highlights of their greatest teams, players, and games from the mid-20th twentieth century to today. Marty will talk about and show the moments these incredible teams turned dreams into national championships, as well as those whose seasons ended in disappointment. The best of the best will be featured here, including legendary coaches Jim Calhoun and Geno Auriemma and superstars such as Art Quimby, Walt Dropo, Diana Taurasi, Rebecca Lobo, Richard Hamilton, Sue Bird, Ray Allen, Kemba Walker, Emeka Okafor, Maya Moore and Paige Bueckers. The presentation will also feature fun trivia questions for patrons to ponder and answer, as well as a Q&A following. This is an ideal program for any UConn basketball fan - men's, women's or both!

So join in on the fun!



**Saturday, January 24th at 1pm
Meeting Room 6**



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



The Meriden Foundation



**Meriden Health
Department**



ADULTS | January Programs

3 Kings Day Celebration



Join us for an afternoon of music, refreshments, and gifts for children ages 8 and under.

TOY DRIVE: The Meriden Public Library is collecting new toys until Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026.

This event is sponsored by The Carrero Family, with music by The Cardona family.

Sunday, January 4th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Classics Clique Discussion

In this meeting, we will be discussing the December book pick *The Seagull* (1896) by Anton Chekhov, as well as its 2018 movie adaptation.

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



Adult Monthly Craft Night - 2026 Desktop Calendars

Ring in the new year with your own customized desktop calendar! Choose from stickers, pressed flowers, and other embellishments. Calendars will be provided.
Please note earlier start time of 6pm.

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



Tech Topics: Digital Decluttering

Start the new year off right by getting rid of excess digital clutter in your online accounts and on your phone! In this session, we 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 quickly!

Monday, January 12th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



What's Next? Book Club

January Book: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

A charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.



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

Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice speaking English in a fun and comfortable environment! *Some knowledge of English is recommended.* ¡Únete a nosotros para practicar inglés en un ambiente divertido y cómodo! *Se recomienda algún conocimiento de inglés.*

Thursday, January 15th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5



ADULTS | January Programs

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, January 15th
Location: Meeting Room 5



FREE Pop-Up Community Naloxone Training

Elizabeth from the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services will be providing free pop-up Naloxone training. This is a drop in style training that takes less than 10 minutes! Participants will learn:

- Signs and symptoms of an overdose
- What Naloxone is and how to administer it
- Local resources and support

All attendees will get a Narcan kit and other prevention resources.

Tuesday, January 20th at 10:30am
Location: Meeting Room 5



Gentle Flow Yoga

Starting slowly with beginner stretches and gentle movements, attendees will then move into a modified flow through traditional yoga poses with the guidance of yoga instructor Aime Meacham. This hour long program includes sun salutation instruction, verbal and visual cueing, ending with a relaxing meditative savasana. All skill levels welcome, modifications provided. Participants should bring their own yoga mat or towel.

Saturday, January 24th at 2pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



Matinee Monday : Fruitvale Station (2013)

Drama centered on the tragic shooting of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old Bay Area father who was gunned down by a BART subway officer on New Year's Day in 2009, and whose murder shocked the nation after being captured on camera by his fellow passengers.

Monday, January 26th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



ADULTS | January Programs

Life Hacks: The Let Them Theory

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion of *The Let Them Theory* by Mel Robbins. This bestselling book offers readers a new perspective on decision-making, boundaries, and personal growth, along with practical tools and real-world advice. Don't miss this chance to dive into the key ideas and share your insights with fellow readers.

Monday, January 26th 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 part 1 of the movie *The Count of Monte Cristo* (2024).

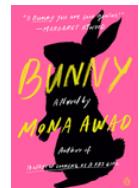
Tuesday, January 27th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



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.

January Book: *Bunny* By Mona Awad



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

Blackout Poetry

Join us for a bonus adult craft, where we will be doing Blackout Poetry. This creative process allows anyone to create art and poetry without the pressure of a blank page.

All supplies will be provided. If you are participating in Adult Winter Reading, you will earn a raffle ticket for attending this program.



Thursday, January 29th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

Frost, Etch and Paint Pint Glasses

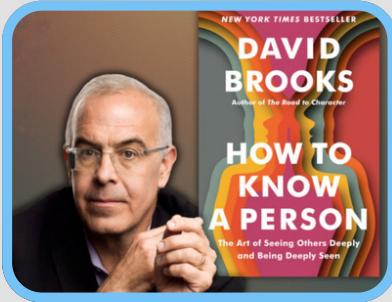
Join us for a crafting event that is sure to quench that thirst for creativity. Come down and learn how to "frost etch" and paint glasses in this special program designed for even the most novice of crafters. All supplies are provided.



Saturday, January 31st at 1pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

ADULTS | Virtual Talks & Meet the Staff

January Virtual Author Talks



How to Know A Person with Author David Brooks

Tues, January 13th
2pm

The Connection Cure with Author Julia Hotz

Tues, January 20th
2pm

The God of the Woods with Author Liz Moore

Weds, January 28th
7pm

Meet the Staff



Debbie Hazen is the **Business Operations Technician** and has worked at the Meriden Public Library for **5 months**.

If she couldn't work in a library, **she would love to be independently wealthy**.

Her favorite food is **pizza**.

If she could meet one famous person, it would be **Claudette Colvin**.

A fun fact about her is that she **makes legos to relax**.

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

Her favorite authors are **Stephen King and Anne Rice**.

Famous birthday twins: **Whitney Houston and Gillian Anderson (August 9th)**

ADULTS | Digital Media Lab & Upcoming Programs

Digital Media Lab

We're officially open! The Digital Media Lab opened with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, November 19 and is now accepting appointments.

In the new year, we will be hosting small workshops to learn how to record your own podcast, create music, edit videos, and more!

You don't have to wait for a class to explore the Digital Media Lab. Lab use is by appointment only, during which you can explore our software and practice your skills! Visit www.meridenlibrary.org/digital-media-lab

to learn more.

Read Around the World Book Group

READ AROUND THE WORLD BOOK GROUP GOES TO IRAQ!

This is a quarterly reading group featuring global literary fiction. We travel through books, getting a glimpse of different countries, cultures and customs.

Our February selection is ***The President's Garden*** by Muhsin al-Ramli.

Tuesday, February 17th at 6pm
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



CHILDREN | January Programs

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Tinker Time

Wednesdays at 6pm

January 7th-January 28th

Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



Come try your hand at a different hands-on building challenge each week with Miss Melissa. Sometimes we'll be hi-tech, sometimes lo-tech, but it will always be a fun time filled with exploration and creativity.

Location: Children's Project Room

Messy Makers

Once a month on Tuesday

From 10:30am to 11:15am

January 13th

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 Car Painting!

Location: Children's Project Room

Tween Art Club

Once a month on Thursday

From 5pm to 5:45pm

January 15th

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 shadows.

Location: Community Room 1

Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Saturday

From 11am to 11:30am

January 24th

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

Nutmeg Newts Book Club

4th Tuesday of every month

From 6pm to 6:45pm

January 27th

Ages 8-12 | Registration Required



Our monthly book club is back! Join the Nutmeg Newts book club for fun reads. This book club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level. Read the book on your own and then join us at the library for a fun discussion and related activity. Stop by the children's department to borrow a copy of this month's pick *Trex* by Christyne Morrell.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Family Craft Night

Once a month on Thursdays

From 6pm to 7pm

January 29th

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 Snowy Delights!

Location: Children's Library

CHILDREN | January Programs

STORYTIMES & PLAYGROUPS

Giggle & Groove

Music & Movement Class

From 10:30am to 11am

Monday, January 5th

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

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month

From 5pm to 6:30pm

January 6th & January 20th

Ages 0-11 | Registration Required



Join us for a sensory-friendly playtime where children and caregivers can interact with several stations of fun activities while socializing. *Proudly partnered with Social Sabby.*

Location: Children's Storytime Room & Room 6

Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10:30am

January 7th-January 28th

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

Rockin' Readers

Select Fridays from 10:30am to 11am

January 9th & January 23rd

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

Little Adventurer's Storytime: Yetis

From 10:30am to 11am

Monday, January 12th

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

Mariposas Y Amigos

Bilingual Playgroup

Twice a month on Fridays

From 10:30am to 11:30am

January 16th & January 30th

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

Once Upon a Sign ASL Storytime

Monday, January 26th

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



CHILDREN | January Programs

DECEMBER EVENTS

Make Your Own Cannoli with MY CT Productions

Saturday, January 3rd
From 2:30pm to 4pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



Join us for an exploration of food and cooking! This January, we're making a delicious dessert - air fried cannoli! Non-air fried options are available if needed. This program is for kids ages 5-11 and their grown-up. Food will be served at this program and potential allergens could be included. Please contact the library if you have any questions about ingredients used in this program. *This program is proudly sponsored by The Meriden Health Department.*

Location: Community Room 1+2

Pocket Pet Cozy Craft

Thursday, January 8th
from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Required

Make a cozy home for a pocket pet at this fun event. Participants will use a tiny tin, fabric, paper, glue, and other craft supplies to create the perfect pocket pet environment. Children will get to pick out a pocket pet to go inside the home they make.

Location: Children's Project Room

STEAM DIY Bouncy Balls

Tuesday, January 13th
from 6pm to 7pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Required

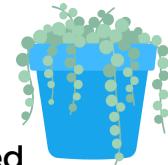


Create a bouncy ball unique to you at this fun event. Participants will use scientific reaction to create a bouncy ball. Stick around to test out how far and how tall your bouncy ball can go.

Location: Children's Project Room

Beaded Plant Craft

Thursday, January 15th
from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Create a plant that never needs to be watered during this fun craft! Children will string beads on wire and arrange them in a miniature pot to create a plant like no other. Glue, foam, and small beads will be utilized at this event.

Location: Children's Project Room

Northern Lights Art

Saturday, January 17th
From 2:30pm to 3:30pm
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Create a beautiful aurora borealis using chalk pastels.

Location: Children's Project Room

Glove Monster Craft

Thursday, January 22nd
From 6pm to 7pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Create a cute fuzzy wuzzy monster at this fun event. Participants will use a glove, stuffing, needle, thread, and glue to create a joyful cozy friend.

Location: Children's Project Room

Saturday Family Flick: Elio (PG)

Saturday, January 24th
from 2pm to 3:30pm
All Ages | Registration Requested

We can't wait to see you here! Stop by for a showing of **Elio (PG)** with the whole family. Please bring any items the family needs to make your viewing experience cozy. Snacks are not allowed in our Storytime Room.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

YOUTH SERVICES | Featured Event



PLAYFUL ENGINEERS

**Saturday, February 7th
Sessions at 10am & 11am**

All Ages | Registration Requested
Community Room 1+2+3

Discover, Play, and Build with Us All Day!

Join us all day for a special
scavenger hunt, building activities,
and more!

THE PROGRAM IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
THE MERIDEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

TEENS | January Programs



Make Your Own Cannoli

Saturday, January 3rd at 1pm



Join us for an exploration of food and cooking! This January, we're making a delicious dessert – air-fried cannoli! Non-air-fried options are available if needed.

Location: Room 1+2

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, January 7th at 6pm

The Rainbow Roundtable is a LGBTQIA+ oriented club where we talk about what we are reading, watching, and listening to that's LGBTQIA+ related. This month we will be making a craft.

Location: Teen Room



New Year, New Vision

Friday, January 9th at 3pm



Excited for a new year and all its possibilities? Come to the teen room to create your 2026 vision board. Bring your goals, hopes, and wishes for the year along with a few photos to add to your creation.

Location: Teen Room

Life 101: Mock Interviews

Monday, January 12th 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



90's Night for Teens!

Wednesday, January 14th at 5:30pm



Talk to the hand, cause this night's too rad to miss! Don't be a scrub and head to the teen room for a night of music and themed crafts.

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | January Programs

Teen Art Club: Cartoon Yourself

Thursday, January 15th at 3:30pm



Head to the teen room to create a cartoon version of yourself for this month's teen art club! We will cover exaggeration, line weight, and more.

Location: Teen Room

Monthly Movie: Alita Battle Angel

Saturday, January 17th at 1pm

This month we will be watching "Alita: Battle Angel" a post-apocalyptic sci-fi movie that follows a resurrected teen cyborg with amnesia as she learns to navigate the harsh world of Scrapyard.

Location: Teen Room

Manga Club

Tuesday, January 20th 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

Yarn Darlings

Wednesday, January 21st 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

Make Your Own Sock Monkey

Thursday, January 22nd at 4:30pm

Head to the teen room to make your own sock monkey using socks, stuffing, and crafting supplies.

Location: Teen Room

A History of Huskies Hoops

Saturday, January 24th at 1pm



Celebrate the history and greatness of the UConn basketball teams with this fun, lively and enlightening presentation hosted by award-winning sportswriter and author Marty Gitlin.

Location: Room 6

New Music Mondays

Monday, January 26th at 3:30pm

Come listen to January'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

Crafty Critters: Glow in the Dark Moon Jellyfish

Wednesday, January 28th at 4:30pm



Create your own version of a moon jellyfish to hang in your room. We will be using glow in the dark paint, ribbon and more to create these ethereal sea creatures.

Location: Teen Room

Yap & Snack

Friday, January 30th at 4:30pm

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

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.



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



SPONSORED BY:

