



**MERIDEN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# July 2024

## 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



**LIBRARY CLOSED:**  
**Thursday, July 4th**

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### Meet Our Staff!



**Please see page 7 to get to  
know our Teen Librarian,  
Paige Gardner!**



@meridenlibrary



**Follow us!**

[www.meridenlibrary.org](http://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 Wednesday evenings from 4-7pm and Saturday from 10a.m. to 2pm. If you wish to join our expanding staff of fabulous volunteers, please contact Alexis Burgess at [rrburgess16@gmail.com](mailto: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 [Fridley@cox.net](mailto:Fridley@cox.net) if you are interested in these opportunities. In addition, donations in any amount can be made to the Library through the Friends by either visiting our website or by sending your donation (payable to the Friends) to the Library. 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 7pm  
Thursday: 10am to 4pm  
Friday: 10am to 4pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm



We wish to thank those who have made a donation to Library programming or the Holocaust fund since our last update:

**Marc Nemeth**

**Ruth E. Kahn**

## JULY BOOKSTORE SPECIAL

### All merchandise

(Books, CD's, DVD's, Puzzles)

**Buy One Get One Free**

Of equal or lesser value



# The Friends of the Library NEWS

*Making Possibilities Happen*

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



The Meriden Foundation



Meriden Health  
Department

JAMES H. NAPIER  
FOUNDATION



ion BANK™



*Thank you!*

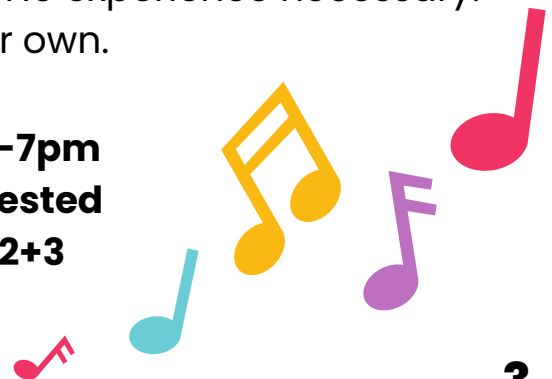
## July Event Spotlight

### Learn How to Play the Ukulele!

One instructor, 24 ukuleles, and a really good time!

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided, or bring your own.

**Wednesday, July 24th from 6–7pm**  
**For Adults | Registration Requested**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



# ADULTS | Featured Programs

## Matinee Monday: Planet of the Apes (1968)

Astronauts crash-land on a planet where the human inhabitants are mute savages who are despised, preyed upon and enslaved by a race of highly civilized and intelligent apes. The film was an Oscar winner for its simian makeup. Rod Serling and Michael Wilson adapted the script from a novel by Pierre Boulle. The film spawned a number of sequels and a short-lived TV series and was remade in 2001. The movie series was rebooted in 2011.

**Monday, July 1st at pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



## Miniature Clay Succulent Garden

In this fun and fast paced workshop, each participant will create their very own polymer clay permanent succulent garden. Each participant will learn how to create 3 different realistic faux plants, and "plant" them in a flower pot. The creations will be so realistic that you may be tempted to water them. **Generously funded by the Meriden Foundation.**

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



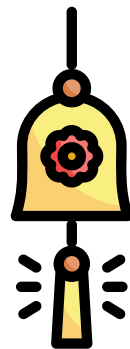
## Monthly Adult Craft Night - Mason Jar Wind Chimes

Create a mason jar wind chime using colorful glass beads.

Please bring a clean recycled jar (8-12 ounces).

Other supplies will be provided.

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



## Tech Topics: Intro to Mouse and Keyboard

Come to the library for this interactive introduction to the basics of operating a mouse. Practice your typing skills and learn keyboard shortcuts in a relaxed environment. This class is for beginners and requires some basic computer experience. **Technology resources are generously funded by Ion Bank.**

**Tuesday, July 22nd at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**





# ADULTS | Monthly Meetups & Book Clubs

## Classics Clique Discussion

In this meeting, we will be discussing the June book *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov as well as its 1962 movie adaptation.

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



## Read Around the World

This is a brand new quarterly reading group featuring global literary fiction. Our July selection is *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, set in Naples, Italy.

**Tuesday, July 9th at 6pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**



## Booktok Book Club

Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram.

July Book: *Emily Wilde's Map of the Otherlands* by Heather Fawcett

Copies are available at Visitor Services ebook and audiobook available on Libby and Palace Project

**Wednesday, July 24th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Knit & Crochet Club

Join us at the Meriden Public Library for the Knit & Crochet Club! Bring your project (supplies not provided by the Meriden Public Library) and join with others who also love to knit and crochet and craft together!



**Wednesdays, July 3rd and 17th at 10am**  
**Location: Adult Reading Area**

## Cinema Classics

The movie will begin promptly at 5:30 pm in the Community Room.

**The Wild One:** 1953 · Crime/Thriller · 1h 19m  
Marlon Brando stars as the flamboyant hoodlum leader of a motorcycle gang that, along with rival bikers, besieges and terrorizes a small town.

**Thursday, July 18th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



## Classics Clique Movie

In this meeting, we will be watching the movie *On the Road* (2012) based on July's book pick *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac.

**Tuesday, July 30th at 6pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



# ADULTS | Special Events

## Community Clean-Up at Meriden Green

Help keep you community beautiful and clean! Join us for a clean-up at the City Green. Families are welcome to meet and all supplies will be provided. Meet the clean up crew at the band shell. Lunch will also be provided to all who participate. Youth will have a chance to earn their neighborhood clean-up badge through Beanstack at this event. Proudly partnered with Meriden Parks and Recreation and Ball Headz.



**Thursday, July 18th from 11am-1pm**  
**Location: Meriden Green Bandshell**



## Summer Reading Book Discussion

Book Discussion of "The Year of Less: How I Stopped Shopping, Gave Away My Belongings, and Discovered Life Is Worth More Than Anything You Can Buy in a Store" by Cait Flanders. Blending Cait's compelling story with inspiring insight and practical guidance, "The Year of Less" will leave you questioning what you're holding on to in your own life--and, quite possibly, lead you to find your own path of less.



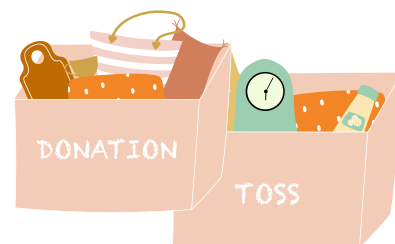
**Thursday, July 25th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Decluttering 101

A clean and tidy home can improve sleep, boost mood, and promote relaxation. In this class, you will learn several different decluttering methods and find one that works best for you!

**Saturday, July 27th from 2-3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**



# ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff!

## JULY AUTHORS



**A Visit to Deckawoo Drive w/Mercy Watson and Kate DiCamillo (PreK-2nd Grade)**

Tuesday, July 9th  
2pm



**Surviving the Summer with The Last Kids on Earth and Max Brallier (3rd-6th Grade)**

Tuesday, July 16th  
2pm



**Learning the Power of Poetry with Bestselling Author Elizabeth Acevedo (9th-12th)**

Tuesday, July 23rd  
2pm



**Graphic Novels are Life! Telling Your Own Story in a Graphic Novel w/Dan Santat (5th-8th Grade)**

Tuesday, July 30th  
2pm

## Meet the Staff!



**Paige Gardner** is the teen librarian and has been working at the Meriden Public Library for a year this month!

**If they couldn't be a librarian** they would own a bookstore cat café or run an animal sanctuary. Sorry teens, they would never be an art teacher (all the credit to those who do).

**Their favorite TV shows are** Lost, Twin Peaks, Walking Dead and Z Nation. They also love anime, but will not give the teens any ammunition.

**The two movies they could watch over and over** are Mad Max: Fury Road and the Tremors movies.

**A fun fact about them is** that they have 7 cat tattoos.

**Their favorite authors are** Hugh Howey and Andrew Joseph White for YA books. They adore any own voices story, especially with queer and neurodivergent representation.

# CHILDREN | July Programs

## Weekly Classes

**Weekly registration is required**



### Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays at 10am or 11am

Ages 0-3

July 3rd-August 14th

Join Miss Holly for a 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

Thursdays at 6pm for Ages 0-5

July 11th-August 15th (No Class July 4th)

Join Miss Alyssa for a fun evening of stories, songs, dancing, and more.

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

### Lil Coquíes Bilingual Storytime

Fridays at 10:30am for Ages 0-5

July 5th-August 16th

Join Miss Katerina for Lil Coquíes bilingual storytime filled with music, stories, and Spanish language discovery for your little one! Siblings are welcome.

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

## Monthly Meet-Up



### Sensory Playtime

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month

July 2nd & July 16th from 5pm to 6:30pm

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 closes one week before an event. *Proudly partnered with Social Sabby.*

**Location: Children's Project Room & Community Room 1+2+3**

### Fireworks Salt Painting

Tuesday, July 2nd at 2:30pm | Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

Create your own beautiful fireworks art using glue, salt, and watercolor paint.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

### Aquarium Sensory Jars

Tuesday, July 9th at 2:30pm | Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Create your own aquarium sensory jar! Participants will choose from a variety of options including glitter, shells, plastic critters, and pebbles.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

### Sphero Race Heroes

Tuesday, July 9th at 6pm | Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Join us for a Sphero robot race! We will have an obstacle course and an all-out race! We can't wait to see you here! Each participant will need to have a device they can download the Sphero app on ahead of time.

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

### Connecticut Weather Talks with WFSB-TV3 News Meteorologist Jill Giliardi

Wednesday, July 10th at 6pm | Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

WFSB Meteorologist Jill Gilardi is talking weather with us! She will talk about how weather impacts our environment in Connecticut and take a few questions from the children. Afterwards, children are invited to visit the weather tracker outside of building to see the instruments meteorologists use to read the weather on the tracker.

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

### Move and Groove with United Rhythms Dance Studio

Monday, July 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th at 10:30am

Ages 2-6 | Registration Required

Join United Rhythms Dance Studio for a moving and grooving time this summer! This dance program will explore building basic dance skills while keeping their minds and bodies active! This fun class for your little one will include dance activities utilizing props and creative play to engaging music. Adults are encouraged to participate along with their child. *Proudly partnered with United Rhythms.*

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





# CHILDREN | July Programs

## Redwoods Storytime

Thursday, July 11th at 4pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

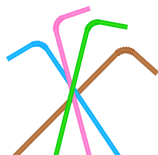


Compare redwoods and the amazing habitat they live in with our forest found here in Connecticut. Participants will have the opportunity to write a thank you note to trees using acorn ink. *This program was generously funded through a grant provided by the Napier Foundation.*

**Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6**

## Straw Mosaic Art

Thursday, July 11th at 6:30pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

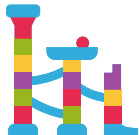


Create a beautiful mosaic out of upcycled straw pieces, paper, and tacky glue.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## LEGO Marble Maze Challenge

Wednesday, July 17th at 2:30pm  
Ages 8-11 | Registration Requested



Design and build your own tabletop LEGO maze. Test your design by navigating a ball through your maze, and then try everyone else's design.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## Seasonal Flavors with New Britain ROOTS

Wednesday, July 17th at 6pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



Make your own seasoning and sample it on popcorn. Learn all about seasonal flavors using ingredients from our hydroponic garden and more. *This program was generously funded through a grant provided by the Napier Foundation.*

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

## Saturday Family Flicks: Wish (Rated PG)

Saturday, July 20th at 1pm  
All Ages | Registration Requested



Join us for a fun family feature **Wish**! Cozy up and bring something comfortable to sit on.

**Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6**

## Media Literacy with ACES Learning Specialist Kimberly Cellini

Tuesday, July 23rd at 6pm  
Parents & Guardians  
Registration Required



This program will empower adults with the knowledge and confidence to guide young children in navigating the digital landscape responsibly. Strategies will be taught on managing screen time, setting age-appropriate boundaries, promoting tech use balance, fostering positive online behaviors, and more. *Funded by the OEC through the Governor's Education Emergency Relief Fund in partnership with NEAT, the RESC Alliance, and All Our Kin.*

**Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6**

## Learn How to Play Ukulele

Wednesday, July 24th at 5pm  
Ages 7-12 | Registration Required



One instructor, 24 ukuleles, and a really good time! Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. *This program was generously funded through a grant provided by the Napier Foundation.*

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

## DIY Kaleidoscope Craft

Thursday, July 25th at 6:30pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



We can't wait to see the kaleidoscope you create out of upcycled materials and beads.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## Recycled Flower Craft

Tuesday, July 30th from 10am to 12 noon  
Ages 5-11 | Drop-In



Create beautiful flowers out of recycled materials and craft supplies. Use one of our designs or create your own!

**Location: Children's Project Room**

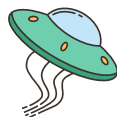
# TEENS

## Recycled UFO

Celebrate World UFO day by making your own UFO out of recycled materials. Make the aliens proud!

**Tuesday, July 2 at 2pm**

**Location: Room 6**



## Trash Sailors!

This hand-drawn co-op action game allows you to make a raft out of trash and fight monsters.

**Monday, July 8 at 2-4pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

## 10 Minutes to Save the Planet

Using a climate action simulator, teens will identify ways to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

**Tuesday, July 9th at 3:45pm**

**Location: Community Room**

## Seasonal Flavors

Make your own popcorn seasoning using ingredients from our hydroponic garden!

**Tuesday, July 17 at 6:30pm**

**Location: Community Room**

## Learn How to Play Ukulele

Join Julie to learn how to play the ukulele.

**Wednesday, July 24 at 4pm**

**Location: Community Room**



## Teen Movie Matinee

Vote to pick which movie screens at the biweekly Teen Movie Matinee. Vote in-person the day of and enjoy some snacks!

**Saturdays, July 13 & 27 at 1pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

## Sustainable Local Eats

Learn about local produce and create your own healthy snack out of them!

**Thursday, July 25 at 11:30am**

**Location: Room 6**

## Signing Rocks

Learn about ASL through fun games and activities while learning various signs. All levels are welcome!

**Friday, July 26 at 12pm**

**Location: Room 6**

## Book Nook

Craft a book nook from your favorite read, genre or movie!

**Tuesday, July 30 at 2-4pm**

**Location: Room 6**

10

## MONTHLY MEETUPS

### Rainbow Roundtable

The Rainbow Roundtable is a LGBTQIA+ oriented club where we talk about what we are reading, watching, and listening to that's LGBTQIA+ related. Come hang out in a welcoming environment with like-minded folks!

**Wednesday, July 10 at 6pm**

**Location: Teen Room**



### YA Yabbies Book Club

Join YA Yabbies to read fantastic YA. This month we will be reading *Something More*.

**Friday, July 12 at 3pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

### New Music Monday

Discover this month's newest music in the teen room!

**Monday, July 15 at 3:30pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

### Graphic Godzilla

Join our graphic novel club! This month we will be reading *The Prince and the Dressmaker*.

**Tuesday, July 16 at 3pm**

**Location: Teen Room**



### Tabletop Club

Come play a couple rounds of your favorite board games!

**Wednesday, July 17 at 6pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

### Teen Gardening Club

Learn how to garden in this monthly meetup!

**Tuesday, July 23 at 6-8pm**

**Location: Teen Room**



### Queer Quetzals Book Club

Join our book club focused on queer stories! This month we will be reading *She Gets The Girl*.

**Wednesday, July 24 at 6pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

### Manga Club

Join the manga club to talk about all things manga!

**Wednesday, July 31 at 6pm**

**Location: Teen Room**

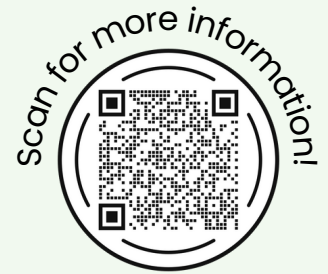
# More Special Events!

## Summer Reading For children, teens, and Adults



### Read. Renew. Repeat.

Summer challenges have officially begun! Join this fun-filled program occurring **June 22nd–August 17th!**



## Attention Local Authors!



### READ LOCAL @ THE MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY!

The Meriden Public Library is planning a book fair to highlight the work of local authors on Saturday, November 30 from 1 to 4 p.m. (Shop Local Saturday!) This is a great chance to promote your work and trade ideas with fellow writers. Authors will have their own table for book signing and sales. They can come in to set up starting at noon. They will be responsible for providing their own payment mechanism.

Applications are available on the library website and at the Visitors Service Desk.

Applications will be accepted through September 15. Prospective participants will be notified the week of September 30. For more information, check the library website or call: (203) 630-4734.





# 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!