



MARCH NEWSLETTER



Official newsletter of Meriden Public Library, March 2024



Make your voice heard:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPL2023-24>



PERMANENT LOCATION:
105 MILLER ST
MERIDEN, CT 06450

HOLIDAYS:

CLOSED FRIDAY, 3/29
in observance of
Good Friday



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.



[/meridenlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/meridenlibrary)

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105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT 06450 / (203) 630-4730



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



SAVE THE DATE
GALA 40TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC
JUNE 21, 2024 PBA FIELD



MARCH BOOK STORE SPECIAL

ALL CD'S

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 made a donation to Library programming or the Holocaust fund since our last update:

Jim Lamoureux

In Memory of Tonia Wright Buczek

Peter & Ellie Cohen Christian & Sarah Bourdon Irene G. Masse,
Kathleen A. Muzyczka Stonecastle Consulting Alice Meigs,
Tom & Lori Barton on behalf of Exposure (previously Web Solutions)

In Memory of Patricia Mencarini

Carmine and Marcia Trotta





NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS



Our thanks to ION Bank Foundation for their generous grant of \$3,000 to purchase hot spots and laptop computers for use in the Library.



Thank you also to:



Special March Program



Chinese New Year Performance with Phoenix Performing Arts

Come celebrate Chinese New Year with the Meriden Public Library and Phoenix Performing Arts Connecticut. Phoenix Performing Arts Connecticut (康州凤凰艺术团) is located in Hartford, Connecticut. It is a vibrant and dynamic performing troupe that has delivered premier quality of dancing, music, and martial arts since 2014. Their performances encompass both classical and modern Chinese dances, as well as dances of the ethnic minority groups including Dai, Korean, Miao, Mongolian, Tibetan, and Yi dance. They also perform Chinese instruments, Peking Opera, songs, and Martial Arts.



**Saturday, March 2nd
1-2 pm**



Featured March Programs

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



Introduction to Journal Writing

Do you yearn to build more mindfulness and intention into your life? Dive into the captivating world of journal writing with our upcoming workshop! Led by Jane Rossi, a seasoned instructor and lifelong journal-keeper. To get the most from the experience, please bring your favorite journal or notebook along with a pen.



Saturday, March 16th

10am-12 pm

Pysanka: Ukrainian Egg Decoration

Learn the history behind the beautiful Ukrainian tradition of Pysanka egg decoration. After a brief discussion of the craft and culture, Gloria Horbaty, president of the CT Ukrainian-American Historical Society, will demonstrate the traditional art of "writing" or decorating Easter eggs. This will be followed by traditional and refreshments of rugelach and babka from Elizabeth's bakery.



Saturday, March 9th

1:30-2:30 pm

Edible Wild Plants and Fungi of Spring

Learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of spring, from invasive bamboo shoots to the lemony tang of fresh wood sorrel, including some of the early edible fungi of the season. Join The 3 Foragers as they discuss the edible plants and fungi of spring, with their original photos and recipe ideas featured in an educational slideshow.



Thursday, March 14th

6:30-7:30 pm

Adult Arts & Crafts Night - Tape Resist Painting

Come join us as we make beautiful – and easy – artwork using a canvas, masking tape, and paint. Even if you don't consider yourself an artist, you will be pleasantly surprised with your finished canvas. Registration required.



Thursday, March 21st

6:00-7:00 pm

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Special March Events

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



"I love March as it gives me hope that new beginnings are always beautiful."

— Anamika Mishra

Winter Reading Book Discussion

Join us for the Winter Reading Book Discussion, where we will sip hot chocolate, discuss our favorite winter reads, and announce the lucky winners for the Winter Reading Challenge.



Saturday, March 16th
1:30–2:30 pm



Knit a Bookmark with the Stitching Coach

Participants will learn how to cast on, form a knit stitch, and bind off. Each participant will leave with a bookmark of their own. The Meriden Public Library will provide all the necessary supplies for this event.



Saturday, March 2nd
11 am – 12 pm



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 March. Call VITA to schedule your appointment.

March 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.*



Wednesdays, March 6 & 20th

10am-12pm

BookTok Book Club

March's pick is *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab.

Copies are available at Visitor Services.

eBook & audiobook available on Hoopla & Libby.



Wednesday, March 27th

6:30-8 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 February's book selection which is *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.



Monday, March 4th

3-4 pm

Matinee Monday: *The Searchers* (1956)

The Searchers (1956)

John Wayne stars with his son Patrick Wayne, Ward Bond and Natalie Wood in this classic Western about a Civil War veteran from Texas who will stop at nothing to find the men who murdered his family.



Monday, March 25th

11:30am-1:30pm

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



Thursdays, March 7th & 21st, 3-4 pm

What's Next? Book Club

Born Survivors is our selection for the March book discussion. It's a true story of 3 pregnant women who find themselves in concentration camps during the Third Reich. Their ability to somehow survive and bring life into the world should make for a great discussion.



Wednesday, March 13th

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 *If Beale Street Could Talk* (2018) based on March's book pick *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin.



Tuesday, March 26th

6-8 pm

Women Transforming the World

Join the CT Women's Hall of Fame for a discussion on women in STEM. Women have been transforming our world through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for centuries - yet they have historically been left out of the conversation and even discouraged from participating in these fields. Today only 25% of STEM jobs in the U.S. are held by women and more than two-thirds of young women feel they must work harder than men to be taken seriously in STEM. This program traces the roots of these issues and demonstrates the myriad ways Connecticut women in STEM have transformed our world.



Thursday, March 28th

11:30am-1:30pm

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.



/meridenlibrary

Follow us!

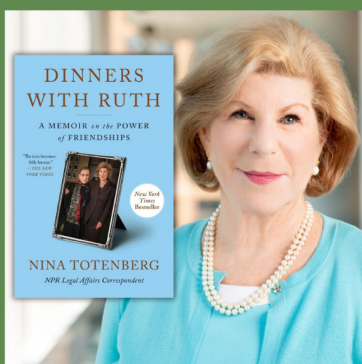
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March Author Events

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

Virtual March Author Talks



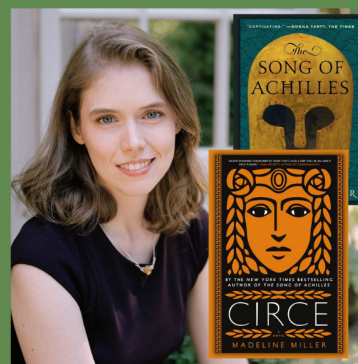
Dinners with Ruth

Wednesday, March 6th
4:00–5:00 pm ET



Murtagh

Thursday, March 14th
4:00–5:00 pm ET



*The Song of Achilles
& Circe*

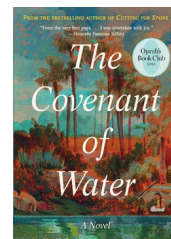
Thursday, March 21st
7:00–8:00 pm ET

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, March 5th
6-7 pm**



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Tomie dePaola Children's Library

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



Storytime Experiences

Joy Blooms: Rhyming Good Time!

Monday, March 4th at 10:30am
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required



Join Joy Blooms for a rhyming good time! Sing songs, read stories, and have fun while learning the early literacy skill of rhyming. This is the perfect opportunity to help your children develop their love of language and learning!

Location: **Meeting Room 3**

Bebés Activos

Fridays at 10am | March 1st-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 | March 6th-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 | March 6th-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, March 30th 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**

Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Storytime

Drop Off: Thursday, March 14th & Friday, March 15th
Storytime: Saturday, March 16th
All Ages | Registration Required

Drop off a stuffed animal friend at the library and come back Saturday morning to see what they've been up to! A storytime and a craft will follow on Saturday morning.

Location: **Children's Library**

March Programs

STEAM Paper Spinner

Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

STEAM has never been more fun! We can't wait to make STEAM Paper Spinners with you. Participants will use paper, cardboard, markers, scissors, glue, and string to make their own paper spinner.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Drop-In Suncatchers

Thursday, March 7th from 3:30pm to 5pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

Get ready for spring and more sunshine with a colorful suncatcher. Stop by anytime between 3:30pm and 5:00pm to color your own. Supplies are first come first serve.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Drop-In Paper Bag Kite

Saturday, March 9th from 11:30am to 2:30pm
All Ages | Drop-In

Make your very own kite at our drop-in program. Our participants will decorate paper bags with a variety of art supplies including paint dotters, streamers, and markers. Supplies are first come first serve. Registration is requested, but not required.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Cupcake Liner Flowers

Tuesday, March 12th at 6pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

We can't wait to see flowers in bloom! Join us for a fun craft where participants will make their own unique flowers using paper cupcake liners, scissors, a straw, glue, and pom-poms.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Healthy Toddler Meals 101 with ShopRite of Wallingford Registered Dietitian: Marisa McCoy MS, RD

Saturday, March 9th at 10am
Parents & Guardians | Drop-In



Are you struggling to find healthy meal inspiration for your toddler? You're not alone! Join ShopRite of Wallingford's registered dietitian Marisa McCoy MS, RD for tips and tricks on how to buy food for your little one.

This is an educational presentation for parents and guardians, but children are welcome.

Location: **Multi-Purpose Room 6**

Tomie dePaola Children's Library

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



3.14 Pi Day Party

Thursday, March 14th at 3:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required



Come celebrate Pi Day with us! Circles are everywhere in our lives. Join us for fun circumference-related crafts to celebrate 3.14.

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

Messy Makers

Monday, March 18th at 10:30am
Ages 1-5 | Registration Required

This month we're playing around with different kinds of paintbrushes made from household items. Kids will have fun creating different patterns and textures. We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

STEM Parachutes

Tuesday, March 19th at 6pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Get your science on at the library! Participants will get the chance to interact with a parachute, then build their own mini parachute and test it.

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

Marble Painting Planets

Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Design your own unique planet using special foam paint! Mix different colors together to create your own unique palette.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Monet Inspired Waterlilies

Thursday, March 21st at 3:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

We can't wait to make art with you! Participants will create their own unique painting using cardboard, paint, a spoon, paper, and tissue paper.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Night Skies - Mobile Planetarium Show

Saturday, March 23rd
All Ages | Registration Required
Session 1: 10:30am
Session 2: 11:30am
Session 3: 12:30pm
Session 4: 1:30pm



Curious about that star or constellation you saw last night? Learn all about it and much more with a visit to Starlab the mobile planetarium visiting the Meriden Public Library. This program is open to all ages. Patrons must register for all child and adult members participating.

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

Family Game Night

Wednesday, March 27th at 6:30pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

Come join us for a fun night of games. We'll have a variety of board games and oversized lawn games for all ages to enjoy. Registration Requested, but not required.

Location: **Project Room & Storytime Room**

STEM String Slime

Thursday, March 28th at 3:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Have fun with us using science! Participants will have a chance to make string slime at this event. Slime kits will be used to create this special slime.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Drop-In Seed Bombs

Saturday, March 30th from 2pm to 4pm
All Ages | Drop-In



We can't wait to see what you grow! Stop at this drop-in event to create seed bombs for your garden using recycled paper, water, and seeds. Registration is requested, but not required.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



Monthly Meet-Ups

Nutmeg Newts

Tuesdays | March 26th at 6 pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



The Nutmeg Newts 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. 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**

LEGO Block Party

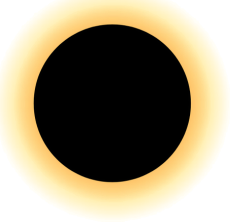
Saturdays | March 2nd from 10 am-2 pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

Imagination and creation combined! Join us once a month to make a LEGO creation to be put on display at the library.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Tomie dePaola Children's Library

April Break BIG EVENT Preview



Solar Eclipse Viewing Party at the Meriden Green

Monday, April 8th from 2:30 to 4pm
All Ages | Drop-In

Come celebrate the solar eclipse with us! We will have fun STEAM activities and limited eclipse glasses available for the viewing. Eclipse glasses are first come first served. Registration is requested, but not required.

In partnership with Meriden Parks and Recreation.

Location: **The Meriden Green (77 State Street)**
Rain Location: **Community Room 1+2+3**



Poetry Writing Workshop with Author Valerie Bolling

Wednesday, April 10th at 10:30am
Grades 2-8 | Registration Required

Learn how to write your own autobiographical poem from esteemed children's book author Valerie Bolling! Participants will leave with an autobiographical poem of their own creation! This is a hybrid event. Program participants will meet in-person and the author will be live on Zoom.

This program is generously funded by the Meriden Health Department.

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



Padawan Training

Saturday, April 13th
Grades 1-5 | Registration Required

Session 1: 10:30am
Session 2: 11:30am
Session 3: 12:30pm

The Saber Guild Padawan Training is geared towards younglings between the ages of 6 and 10 who are ready to start their Jedi training. Each trainee will be shown the basics of using the Force, and how to handle a lightsaber from a true Jedi Master. Sessions run from 20-35 minutes depending on the venue and class size, and younglings who complete the training will be awarded the rank of Padawan.

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

March Teen Programs



Rainbow Roundtable
Wednesday, March 6th
6 to 7pm

Teen Movie Matinees
Saturdays, March 2nd & 16th
1 to 2:30pm

Monthly Meetups

Beyond the Book Club
Friday, March 8th
3 to 4:30pm

Tabletop Club
Wednesday, March 13th
6 to 8pm



Trading Card Club
Tuesday, March 26th
6 to 7:30pm

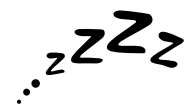
Manga Club
Wednesday, March 27th
6 to 7:30pm

Pysanka: Ukrainian Egg Decoration



Saturday, March 9th
1:30pm to 2:30pm

Learn the history behind the beautiful Ukrainian tradition of Pysanka egg decoration. After a brief discussion of the craft and culture, Gloria Horbaty, president of the CT Ukrainian-American Historical Society, will demonstrate the traditional art of "writing" or decorating Easter eggs.



Let's Talk About Sleep
Saturday, March 19th

11am to 12pm

Do you struggle with sleep issues? Do you have a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep? In this 90-minute program, we will discuss why we sleep and the different states of the sleep cycle.



March Teen Programs

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



Origami Sword Bookmark Monday, March 4th

3:30-4:30pm

Create a sword bookmark using origami techniques. Use your creation to mark the pages in your latest epic fantasy read!



Bubble Wrap Tree Painting Thursday, March 21st

3:30-4:30pm

Create a landscape using collaging techniques with recycled paper and books.

DIY Programs



Teen Crochet Club Thursday, March 7th and 21st

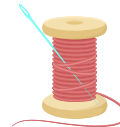
6-7pm

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

Landscape Collage Wednesday, March 20th

6-7pm

Create a landscape using collaging techniques with recycled paper and books.



Sewing 101 Friday, March 22nd

3:30-4:30pm

Learn the art of sewing to mend your clothes. This class will focus on repurposing and mending clothing based skills. Please bring an item of clothing you would like to mend!

Healthy Snacks for Teens Tuesday, March 19th

3:00 to 4:00 pm



Learn how to pick healthier snacks with ShopRite of Wallingford's registered dietitian Marisa McCoy! Programmer will bring food samples. Registration required. Please register below.

Nutmeg Newts Tuesday, March 26th

6:00 to 7:00 pm



The Nutmeg Newts 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. 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.



Lights Out CT Saturday, March 23rd

2:00 to 3:00 pm

Join Lights Out! Connecticut to learn how you can help reduce the impacts of light pollution on birds, fish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, plants - and humans!

Women Transforming the World Thursday, March 28th

6 to 7pm

Today only 25% of STEM jobs in the U.S. are held by women and more than two-thirds of young women feel they must work harder than men to be taken seriously in STEM. This program traces the roots of these issues and demonstrates the myriad ways Connecticut women in STEM have transformed our world.

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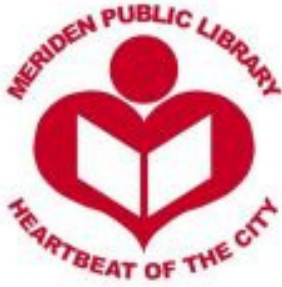


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Friends of the Meriden Public Library

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!