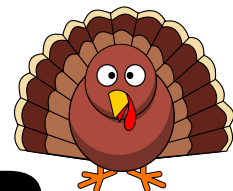




NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Official newsletter of Meriden Public Library, November 2023

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Meriden Mall location is permanently closed, and our newly renovated Meriden Public Library at 105 Miller Street is now open!

PERMANENT LOCATION:
105 MILLER ST
MERIDEN, CT 06450

HOLIDAYS:

CLOSED FRIDAY, 11/10
in observance of
Veterans Day



CLOSED THURSDAY, 11/23
in observance of
Thanksgiving 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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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

Thank you, Constellation Community Champions Program! Through the work of library director, Becky Starr, we will be receiving a \$500.00 grant to be used in the courtyard renovation project. Thank you, Becky.

Thank you, Marian Amodeo! Marian is hard at work writing grant requests to various groups to help fund library programs. If you know of a foundation or group that would like to participate, please let Marian or Frank Ridley know.

Unsung Hero award!!! Russ Burgess, in addition to being a great volunteer for the Friends, is quietly refurbishing all the room doors on the second floor of the library. Thank you, Russ!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Casa di Roma is sponsoring a fundraiser to benefit the Friends of the Library on November 9th from 11am to 9pm (see flyer in this newsletter). Please stop by and get some great food. A portion of the day's funds will go to the Friends. This is the third year that Casa di Roma has done this. We are truly thankful!!!

BOOKSTORE

HOLIDAY SPECIAL: NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31!

All Holiday books, CDs, and DVDs (Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa): Buy One, Get One Free (of equal or lesser value)

MEETING

This month's meeting of the Friends will be Tuesday, November 21st at 4:30 pm in Meeting Room 1.

Donations

Now that the renovation/expansion is complete, we will refocus to raise funds for library programming. You can mail your gift to the library or drop it off in the bookstore. Additionally, you can donate by going to the Friends webpage, <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library>, scrolling down to Thank You to Our "Friends," and clicking on the Helping the Library Friends drop-down button directly below it.

Library Donors

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

Susan M. Bullock
Paula A. Snedeker



Still Available

It is still possible to be listed on the "donor plaque" for a gift of \$1,000.00, and we also still have several rooms that can be named. Please contact Frank Ridley (fridley@cox.net) for more information.



What to Do with Thanksgiving Leftovers: Cooking Demo with Kashia Diaz

Join us for a special cooking demo! Right in time for the holidays, this program will feature a live cooking demonstration, take-home recipes, and yummy food for all. Menu: turkey stir fry and stovetop peach cobbler with homemade pumpkin spice ice cream.

Kashia owns KD Gastronomy Consulting, LLC, which supports food pantries and food hubs by creating simple, healthy, and delicious meals to feed underserved populations. She also founded My City Kitchen, a 501(c)(3) public charity organization. Currently, Kashia serves as manager at Bridgeport Rescue Mission while running her own business. She sees the world through a food lens - everything she does has food culture at its core.

Saturday, November 11th
3-4:30 pm



Book Tasting

Looking for your next great read? Join Shayne, Wanda, Brooke, Kathy, Doreen, and Barbara for our first-ever "book tasting"—an afternoon of fun and conversation. You'll move from table to table and genre to genre as you sample authors and titles available from the library. Enjoy light refreshments and seasonal treats as you peruse a great variety of books.

Saturday, November 18th
1:30-3:30 pm



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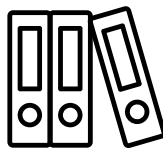
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Meriden Room Historical & Genealogy Collection: Open Archives

The Meriden Room Historical & Genealogy Collection is now open! Join us for an overview of the collection, an activity, and a peek at the archives & storage items of the library. See items that showcase the history of our city including historic photos, magazines, newspapers, letters, and more.

Space is limited. Registration required.

**Wednesday, November 15th
1-2:30pm OR 6-7:30pm**



YuleFest

Come celebrate as we kick off the holiday season with our annual Meriden YuleFest. Colony Street will be filled with vendors, food trucks, and entertainment, and of course Santa comes to town via train. The bookmobile will be parked in its usual spot with program flyers, information, and goodies for the whole family.

**Saturday, November 25th
12-7 pm**



A poster for the Meriden Room Historical & Genealogy Collection. At the top is a red banner with the text "NOW OPEN". Below this, the title "MERIDEN ROOM HISTORICAL & GENEALOGY COLLECTION" is written in a serif font. Underneath the title, it says "Now open for visits by appointment only!" followed by "To arrange your appointment, visit: MeridenLibrary.org/history-genealogy". At the bottom, a paragraph describes the purpose of the collection: "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." The word "MERIDEN" is printed in large, faint letters at the very bottom. The background of the poster features a collage of historical images, including maps, photographs of buildings, and documents.



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How to Save Money When Shopping for Food

UConn's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is committed to serving the community by providing free nutrition education programming to the community. We hope to see you at our conversation discussing ways to save money when shopping for food.

Tuesday, November 14th
6:30–7:30 pm



• A Pleasant Pairing: Tea and Chocolate

• In this fun, educational one-hour workshop, Kim Larkin of Klassic Kreationz will teach participants about the health benefits of dark chocolate and quality teas, along with ways to incorporate them into their lifestyle. She will pair three teas with three different varieties of chocolate, and each person will receive a tea-aroma tasting wheel. Among other topics, Kim will discuss the history of both tea and chocolate and its pioneers, as well as how to create a "proper cuppa."

• **Thursday, November 16th, 6–7:15 pm**



November Virtual Author Talks



John Stamos
If You Would Have Told Me
(a memoir)

- Three-time Emmy nominee
- 40-year career as an actor and producer in TV & film, as well as on Broadway
- Skilled musician, collaborating with The Beach Boys

Wednesday, November 1st
at 8 pm EDT



Tiffany Aliche,
aka "The Budgetnista"
Get Good with Money
and *Made Whole*

- *New York Times* bestselling author
- Invented 10-step formula for attaining both financial security & peace of mind
- Has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Black Enterprise*, and other publications

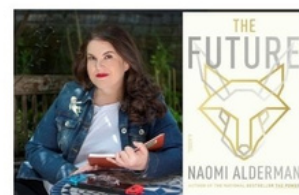
Thursday, November 9th
at 2 pm EST



Joy Harjo
Catching the Light
(a memoir)

- Was appointed U.S. Poet Laureate in 2019, the first Native American to hold the position
- Has won numerous writing awards

Thursday, November 16th
at 4 pm EST



Naomi Alderman
The Future

- Bestselling author of *The Power*, a science fiction novel that the *NYT*, the *WSJ*, and others chose as one of the best books of 2017
- *The Power* has been translated into more than 30 languages

Thursday, November 30th
at 3 pm EST



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Featured November Programs



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

QPR Suicide Prevention Training

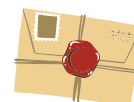
Join Elizabeth DeMerchant of the Meriden Health Department for a FREE in-person QPR Suicide Prevention Training class. You'll learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis, as well as how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Participants will obtain certification as a QPR Gatekeeper upon completing the training.



Thursday, November 2nd, 11am-12pm

"This Business of Fighting: A Human Face on WWII," with Arnie Pritchard

A few years ago, Arnie Pritchard, a storyteller who also has a Ph.D. in history from Yale, inherited the World War II army footlocker of his father, Anton (Tony) Pritchard. It contains hundreds of letters and other family papers from Tony's service in the Army and in the United Nations' refugee program in postwar Europe. From these letters Arnie created a story, portraying a young man dealing with everything from raw fear to his role as a leader, to his exposure to a world both wider and more brutal than he had known prior.



**Tuesday, November 7th
6:30-8 pm**

Traditional Woodworking, with Rick Liegl

Rick Liegl is a woodworker who collects and works with antique tools. The wood for his chairs, benches, spoons, and bowls all comes from locally sourced trees, very much the way woodwork was done in the 1800s and before.

Rick will demonstrate his carving, share his interesting collection of tools, answer questions, and explain how this type of traditional woodworking can create useful crafts that can last for hundreds of years.



**Thursday, November 9th
6:30-7:30 pm**

Learn to Cope with Stress

In this 90-minute program, you will learn strategies to cope with stress in a more balanced way.

You will learn simple techniques that can move you from a stressed state of mind to a calmer one.

**Tuesday, November 21st
10-11:30am and 6-7:30pm**



Civil War Pathways

This is a fully-illustrated introductory story of the Civil War era presented by Kelvin Cole, with a special focus on Connecticut's role in the war. The story includes the Amistad case (New Haven), Connecticut's State Heroine Prudence Crandall (Canterbury), as well as Harriet Beecher Stowe (Litchfield) and her controversial novel, **Uncle Tom's Cabin**, and finally Connecticut's own John Brown (Torrington) and the Abolitionist Movement that took place here. All of it will be woven into a general discussion of the Civil War times and how Connecticut was a formative part of it all.

**Saturday, November 11th
11am-12pm**



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November Programs

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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.

Wednesday, November 1st & 15th
10am-12pm



Spanish Conversation Hour

Join us for a fun, relaxing conversation hour to practice your Spanish. This program is recommended for those who have some knowledge of Spanish.

Ages 12 and up.

Wednesday, November 1st, 8th, & 15th
4-5 pm



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, November 2nd & 16th, 3-4 pm



What's Next? Book Club: "The Address"

Our wonderful book club will discuss *The Address*, by Fiona Davis. It's a quality piece of historical fiction, centering on the history of NYC's famous Dakota.

Wednesday, November 8th
6:30-7:30 pm



Classics Clique Book Club, Meeting #1

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 the October book pick, *The Turn of the Screw*, by Henry James, as well as its movie adaptation, *The Innocents* (1961).

Monday, November 6th
3-4 pm



Classics Clique Book Club, Meeting #2

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, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* (2019), based on November's book pick of the same name by Shirley Jackson.

Tuesday, November 28th
6-8 pm



Twice-a-Month Tuesday Craft Night #1: Gratitude Tree

It's easy to twist a paper bag, forming a trunk and branches! Write something for which you are grateful on an autumn-colored leaf and affix it to your tree. Just in time for Thanksgiving!

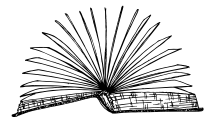
Tuesday, November 7th
6-7 pm



Twice-a-Month Tuesday Craft Night #2: Folded Book Holiday Tree

We will fold old book pages to form a holiday tree. Then we will decorate the tree with baubles and pom-poms. Join us for some pre-holiday fun!

Tuesday, November 28th
6-7 pm



Coloring Club!

Join us to relax and unwind by coloring various designs! All coloring supplies will be provided.

Thursday, November 9th & 30th
3-4 pm



Book Discussion: "Rena's Promise"

We will discuss *Rena's Promise*, by Rena Kornreich Gelissen. This story involves time spent at Auschwitz and centers on the relationship between two sisters.

Tuesday, November 14th
3-4 pm



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Castle Craig Adult Learning Center (CCALC)

October Events



Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller St, Meriden, CT 06450

All classes meet from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Wednesday, November 1st

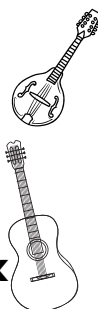
"**Jackknife**" (movie)



Presenter: Richard Couture, Meriden native, Vietnam veteran, & an extra in the film

Monday, November 6th

"Acoustic Blend: Crossing Musical Boundaries"



Presenters: Judy Handler & Mark Levesque, performing husband-and-wife duo

Wednesday, November 8th

"Photography as Art"

Presenter: Paul Ott, longtime photographer



Tuesday, November 14th

"Native American Artifact Collections & Repatriation"



Presenter: Nicholas Bellantoni, Ph.D., emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist

Wednesday, November 15th

"Show & Tell: Who is it? Where is it? What is it?"



*Please note: this event will meet at the **Meriden Historical Society***

Presenter: Sherwin Borsuk, President, Meriden Historical Society

Thursday, November 16th

"Book Discussion III: **White Trash: The 400-Year Untold Story of Class in America**, by Nancy Isenberg"

Presenter: Steve Volpini



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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

Storytime

Rhyme Time

Tuesday Nov 7th at 10:30 am | Ages 0-12 mos.

Registration Required.

This storytime is your baby's introduction to the library! Join us for songs, stories, and rhymes with repetition for baby's growing mind. Stay after storytime is over for baby playtime. Siblings are welcome.

Wiggle Worms

Wednesday, Nov 1 & 8 at 10:30 am | Ages 1-3 yrs.

Registration Required.

Join us for a 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.

Family Storytime

Wednesday, Nov 1 at 6:30 pm | Ages 0-5 yrs.

Registration Required.

Join Miss Melissa each week for stories, songs, and crafts. Siblings are welcome.

Preschool Storytime

Friday, Nov 3 at 10:30 am | Ages 3-5 yrs.

Registration Required.

This storytime is filled with songs, stories, puppets, and fun activities to develop your child's love of reading. Stay after storytime is over for playtime. Siblings are welcome.

LEGO Block Party

Saturday, Nov 18 from 10am-2pm | **Drop-In**

Grades K-5 | Children's Program Room

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

Drop in Painted Polar Bear Craft

Thursday, Nov 24 from 10 am - 12:30 pm | **Drop In**

Grades K-5 | Children's Project Room

Make an un-bear-ably cute craft with us! Participants will use construction paper, white paint, scissors, and a fork to create their very own polar bear.

Tech Time

Thursday, Nov 2 & 30 at 6:30 pm | **Drop-In**

Grades K-5 | Children's Program Room

Experiment and explore robots and other tech toys at the library!

Paths to Autistic Empowerment with Jeremy K. Farrell

Saturday, Nov 4 at 2:00 pm

All Ages | Multi-Purpose Room 6

Registration Required.

Learn about open communication and self advocacy! Jeremy K. Farrell is a passionate Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Advocate and a proud person on the spectrum himself. He has been working with children with developmental disabilities, specializing in autism, since the age of 15. Since graduating from SCSU, he has run social skills groups for teens and kids on the spectrum and worked with autism-focused organizations to provide recreational resources to their clients.

Yarn Pumpkin Craft

Tuesday, Nov 7 at 6:30 pm

Grades 1-5 | Children's Program Room

Registration Required.

Join us for a festive fall craft! Participants will create their very own yarn pumpkin using a balloon, cling wrap, yarn, glue, and pipe cleaners. Some dry time at home is required after craft assembly.

Community Connections: Make a Paracord Bracelet for Soldiers

Saturday, Nov 11 from 10 am - 12 pm

Ages 7 to adult | Multi-Purpose Room 5

Drop In

Help our active duty service members by creating paracord bracelets they can use while out on duty. Instructions will be provided. All finished bracelets will be sent out to Soldiers' Angels, a non-profit group that will send them out in care packages for soldiers.

Pumpkin Suncatcher

Thursday, Nov 16 at 10:30 am & 4:00 pm

Grades 1-5 | Children's Project Room

Registration Required

Happy fall, y'all! Join us to make a unique pumpkin suncatcher using contact paper, construction paper, and tissue paper.



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November Teen Programs

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



Monthly Meetups

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, November 1st
6 to 7pm

Teen Movie Matinees

Saturdays, November 11th & 18th
1 to 2:30pm

Beyond the Book Club

Friday, November 17th
3 to 4:30pm

Tabletop Club

Wednesday, November 22nd
6 to 8pm

Trading Card Club

Tuesday, November 28th
6 to 7:30pm

Manga Club

Wednesday, November 29th
6 to 7:30pm

DIY Programs

Button Keychain

Thursday, November 9th
3 to 4pm

Create a fun, colorful keychain out of a variety of buttons and beads in this DIY workshop. Hang your creation from your backpack, lanyard, or actual keyring!

Zip-Tie Halo Crown

Tuesday, November 14th
3:30 to 4:30pm

Using a headband, zip-ties, and paint, create your own halo crown!

Book Hedgehog

Wednesday, November 15th
6:30 to 8pm

Join us for an afternoon of recycling books into cute hedgehogs. These crafted creatures are perfect for fall!



Chunky Scarf

Saturday, November 25th
1 to 3pm

Winter will be here before we know it. Come visit the Teen Room and make your own chunky scarf!

Nature Printmaking

Tuesday, November 28th
3:30 to 5pm

Using leaves, twigs, and flowers, create your own print of the nature around us. Water soluble ink will be used to transfer the image of nature's materials.

Skill Series: Resume 102

Friday, November 3rd
2 to 4:30pm

Join Librarian Paige in the second session of this skill series dedicated to resumes. Please bring a draft of your resume to edit and refine.

History of "Quinnetukut" Beading Lecture and Workshop

Wednesday, November 8th
3 to 4:30pm

Learn about the history of "Quinnetukut" along with Native beading techniques from an Indigenous beading artist to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.



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Friends of the Meriden Public Library



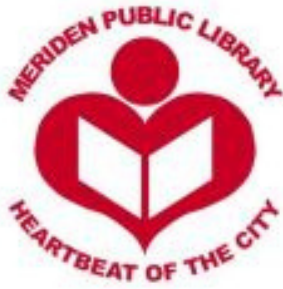
Casa di Roma Fundraiser

**Thursday, November 9, 2023
11:00 AM to 9:00 PM
103 Main Street, South Meriden
203-235-0905**

10% of the proceeds from your lunch or dinner order will benefit our organization. No need to show anything when you make your purchase, but please feel free to mention the Friends of the Library!

Won't you join us to help this worthy cause!
Thanks so much for your support!!





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!