



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

April 2024

Official Newsletter of Meriden Public Library



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

Meet Our Staff!



LIBRARY CLOSED: Friday, April 5th

Staff Development Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

Adult Programs: **Pages 3-7**

Children's Library: **Pages 8-9**

Teens: **Page 10-11**

Please see page 7 to get to know our Manager of Youth Services, Alyssa Johnson!



@meridenlibrary

Follow us!

www.meridenlibrary.org

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

The Friends of the Library NEWS

Making Possibilities Happen

Thank You to Our Donors!

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

Susan Bullock

Castle Craig Adult learning Center

North Italian Home Club Ladies Auxiliary in
memory of Tania Wright Buczek

Help Needed

The Friends of the Meriden Public Library is looking for a volunteer who is fluent in both Spanish and English to assist us in outreaching to the Spanish-speaking community. If interested, please contact Frank Ridley (President) fridley@cox.net or Alexis Burgess (Secretary and Book store Manager) rrburgess16@gmail.com

How to Donate:

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 and we still have several rooms that can be named.

Interested in this opportunity?

Please contact Frank Ridley at Fridley@cox.net

Bookstore Hours:

Monday: 10am to 4pm

Tuesday: 10am to 4pm

Wednesday: 10 am to 7pm

Thursday: 10am to 4pm

Friday: 10am to 4pm

Saturday: 10am to 2pm

April Store Specials:

*** April 15th-20th***

GIANT BAG SALE

\$5.00 PER BAG

We supply the bags!

**(ALL OTHER SPECIALS ARE
SUSPENDED DURING THIS SALE.)**

Save the Date

**THE FRIENDS OF THE MERIDEN
PUBLIC LIBRARY IS TURNING 40!**

Gala 40th Anniversary Picnic

June 21, 2024 | PBA Field

5-9 p.m.

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



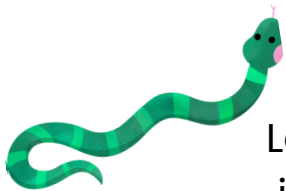
ion BANK™



Thank you!

★ ★ April Event Spotlight ★ ★

Connecticut Amphibians & Reptiles



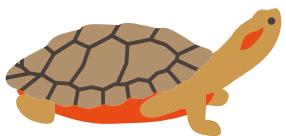
Learn about local amphibian and reptile populations, including current conservation challenges and local Citizen Science monitoring efforts tracking amphibians as an indicator species. This program includes a live amphibian and reptile encounter!

Presented by Mystic Aquarium. **SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Saturday, April 6th from 1:30 – 2:30 pm

All Ages | **Registration Required**

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



This program is made possible by the Meriden Foundation.

ADULTS | Featured Programs

Henna Pop-Up

Join artist Richa Soni as she creates stunning, professionally applied henna designs for you! Each design takes approximately 10-15 minutes to paint on. Registration is required as there is limited space and time.



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

We Are the Storytellers

Do you love to write? Join us in this exciting new 4-week creative writing program, in which writers will foster their creative writing skills through writing prompts and exercises. Covering short stories, poetry, digital storytelling, and more, writers will be able to share their work and collaborate with others in a relaxed workshop environment. All ages are welcome! Bring your written stories or just your imagination.

Saturdays, April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th at 11am
Location: Meeting Room 6



Custom Groove Concert

Custom Groove mixes great instrumental and vocal jazz tunes by the likes of Bob James, Spyro Gyra, and Chuck Mangione, with arrangements of classic pop songs and timeless standards. Please note this concert will be filmed for publicity.



Saturday, April 27th at 2pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Cinema Classics

Join fellow film enthusiasts as we explore a diverse selection of timeless classics; our selections will include award winners and feature influential actors and directors. Whether you're a casual viewer or a movie buff, Cinema Classics welcomes all to connect and celebrate the magic of cinema.

Cinema Classics takes place once a month on Thursdays. The movie will begin promptly at 5:30 pm in the Community Room. *Sabrina: 1954 · Comedy/Romance*
A chauffeur's daughter falls in love with the estate playboy, who views her as a kid...until she returns from two years in Paris a sophisticated woman.



Thursday, April 4th at 5:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3



ADULTS | Monthly Meetups & Book Clubs

Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice English in a fun and comfortable environment! Some knowledge of English is recommended.

¡Únete a nosotros para practicar hablando en inglés en un ambiente divertido y cómodo! Se recomienda algún conocimiento de inglés.

Thursdays, April 4 & 18 at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

What's Next? Book Club

We will discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*. This book continues to receive rave reviews from readers. A blind French girl and a German boy find their lives interwoven in unimaginable ways.

Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

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 the March book *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin as well as its 2018 movie adaptation.

Monday, April 1st at 3pm

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, April 3 & 17 at 10am

Location: Meeting Room 5

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! April Book: *The Half Burnt House* by Alex North
Copies are available at Visitor Services

Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

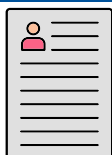
Classics Clique Movie

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 the movie *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967) based on April's book pick *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare.

Tuesday, April 30th at 6pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

ADULTS | Special Events



Resume Workshop



This workshop delivers the essential tools required to launch a successful job search. The workshop will provide an in-depth review of the elements required to prepare a comprehensive and professional resume.

Saturday, April 20th at 2pm

Location: Meeting Room 5



Yom HaShoah Ceremony



On Monday afternoon, May 6th from 3 to 4:30 PM, the Meriden Public Library will be sponsoring a program entitled "A Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and Other Genocides". The event will memorialize the heroes and victims of the World War II Holocaust (Yom HaShoah) as well as the victims of other genocidal atrocities since the early 1900's. We will hear from guest speaker Jeff Israel, a descendant of Holocaust survivors. Also, we will light electric memorial lights for each genocide mentioned, as well as candles featuring the persecution of peoples due to their faiths, ethnicities, political views and gender non-conforming. Funded by an endowment established by the former Temple B'nai Abraham, and administered by the Friends of the Meriden Library, the program is open to the public and free of charge. All are welcome.

Monday, May 6th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

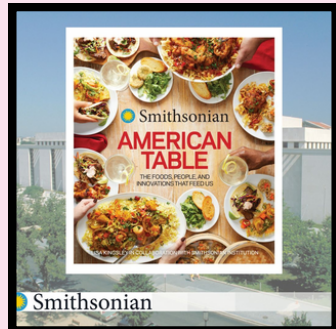
Minimize Aging by Drinking These Teas: A Tea Pairing



Did you know you can slow the aging process by drinking tea? Philip Parada, Certified Tea Master with the International Tea Masters Association and cofounder of Savvy Tea Gourmet of Madison, will share his unlikely life-long, compelling, and fascinating connection with tea, and provide samples of some not only healthy – but delicious! – Artisan teas.

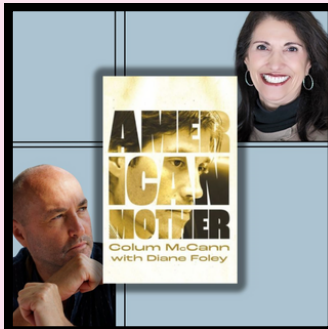
ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks

APRIL AUTHORS



The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us

Tuesday, April 2nd
2-3pm



From Murder to Atonement

Tuesday, April 9th
2-3pm



A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art

Wednesday, April 17th
8-9pm

Meet the Staff!



Alyssa Johnson is the Manager of Youth Services and has been a children's librarian for 9 years! You may know her as Miss Alyssa.

If she couldn't be a librarian: she would go to school for graphic design.

In her spare time she enjoys: spending time with her husband and two children, especially when they can escape to Vermont for the weekend.

Her favorite TV shows include: Gilmore Girls, Downton Abbey, Survivor and any historical documentary.

Two movies she could watch over and over again: Titanic (1998) and Little Women (1994) but, she mostly watches kids movies these days!

A fun fact about Alyssa: Her first job was as a library page at the Meriden Public Library when she was 16 years old!

CHILDREN | April Events

SPRING STORYTIME

Wiggle Worms

Wednesdays & Fridays at 10:30am
Ages 0-3 | Registration Required



This storytime will be high energy and filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for playtime.

Wednesdays: April 24th-May 29th
Fridays: April 26th-May 31st

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Family Storytime

Wednesdays, April 24th-May 29th at 6:30pm
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Melissa each week for a fun evening of stories, songs, and crafts.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Cuentacuentos: Bilingual Story Hour

Saturday, April 27th at 11:00am
sábado 27 de abril a las 11:00am
All Ages | Registration Required

In Cuentacuentos we listen to stories in English and Spanish, work on crafts, and more.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

STEAM Stories

Thursdays, April 18th & 25th at 3:30pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Required

Join us each week for stories and a fun STEAM related activity.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Poetry Storytime

Tuesday, April 16th at 7pm
All Ages | Registration Required

Join us for a special reading of the **Best Worst Poem Ever** by Lauren Stohler and a fun related activity.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Sensory Playtime

Tuesday, April 2nd & 16th at 5pm | All Ages | Registration Required



Join us for a sensory-friendly playtime where children and caregivers can interact with several stations of fun activities while socializing. Registration is required to arrange playgroups. **Proudly partnering with Social Sabby.**

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Family Craft Night: Perler Beads

Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:30pm | Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Create Perler bead keychains for yourself or as a gift. Templates will be available or you can design your own.

Location: Children's Project Room

Crafternoon: Decorate a Rhythm Box

Thursday, April 4th at 4pm | All Ages | Registration Required

Make your own musical instrument with us! Paint and decorate your own mini rhythm box (similar to a xylophone).

Location: Children's Project Room

Paper Bookmark Narwhals

Friday, April 19th at 3:30pm | Grades K-5 | Registration Required

We will use origami paper, markers, scissors, and glue to make a unique narwhal.

Location: Children's Project Room

Recycled Water Bottle Suncatchers

Monday, April 22nd at 3:30pm | Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Celebrate Earth Day with us! We will upcycle a water bottle into a suncatcher.

Location: Children's Project Room

Messy Makers: Ice Painting

Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:30am | Ages 1-5 | Registration Required

This month we're painting with ice cubes! We'll provide aprons, but please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy.

Location: Children's Project Room

Saturday Family Flicks: Trolls Band Together

Saturday, April 27th at 1pm | All Ages | Registration Required

Join us for a fun family feature **Trolls Band Together** (rated PG). Cozy up and bring something comfortable to sit on! Food is not allowed.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Pipe Cleaner Flowers

Tuesday, April 30th at 3:30pm | Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Create a beautiful bouquet of flowers including daffodils, daisies, hyacinths, and tulips.

Location: Children's Project Room

CHILDREN | April Events Continued

MONTHLY MEETUPS

Nutmeg Newts: The Beast and the Bethany

Tuesday, April 23rd at 6pm
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 Project Room

LEGO Block Party

Saturday, April 20th from 10am to 12pm
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

Family Craft Night: Egg Monsters

Wednesday, April 10th at 6:30pm
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Create a silly or scary monster with a variety of craft supplies including pipe cleaners, pom-poms, googly eyes and more! Let your imagination run wild!

Location: Children's Project Room



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: Meeting Room 1+2+3

SPRING BREAK (4/8 - 4/13)

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

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

Rain Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3

Pokémon Crafternoon

Tuesday, April 9th from 2pm to 6pm | All Ages | Drop-In

Gotta catch 'em all! Stop by to create fun Pokémon related crafts. All supplies are first come first served.

Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3

Poetry Writing 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: Meeting Room 1+2+3

Family Movie Matinee

Thursday, April 11th at 11am
All Ages | Drop-In

We will be watching **Migration (Rated PG)** an animated film that tells the story of a family of ducks dreaming of the perfect getaway vacation.

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6

STEM Surprise

Thursday, April 11th at 2pm
Grades 2-8 | Drop-In

Come try your hand at engineering, coding and much more. We'll have a variety of hi-tech and lo-tech toys out to explore different STEM concepts. All supplies are first come first served.

Location: Multi-Purpose Room 6



TEEN

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, April 3rd at 6pm
Location: Teen Room

College and Autism

Join Jeremy Farrell to learn the importance of deeper understandings in creating successful educational experiences for autistic college students.

Thursday, April 4th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

Teen Movie Matinees

Vote to pick which movie screens at the bi-weekly teen matinee.



Saturday, April 6th and 20th at 1pm
Location: Teen Room

SPRING BREAK (4/8 - 4/13)

New Music Monday

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

Monday, April 8th at 3:30pm
Location: Teen Room

Teen Crochet Club

Learn how to crochet granny squares, hats, coasters and scarves!



Tuesday, April 9th at 6pm
Location: Teen Room

Sci-Fi Double Feature

Bored during spring break? Come to a sci-fi dystopian double feature at the library!

Wednesday, April 10th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Room 1+2+3

Pet Portraits with Paige

Bring a photo of your pet and create their caricature with librarian Paige!



Thursday, April 11th at 1:30pm
Location: Teen Room

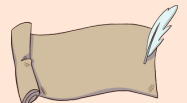
DIY Hanging Raincloud

Create a raincloud to hang in your room!

Thursday, April 11th at 6pm
Location: Teen Room

Fantasy Map Making

Learn how to make your own fantasy or treasure map using coffee, beans and other materials!



Friday, April 12th at 3pm
Location: Teen Room

Scrabble Tournament

Celebrate national Scrabble day with a teen Scrabble tournament!

Saturday, April 13th at 1pm
Location: Teen Room

TEEN

Black Out Poetry

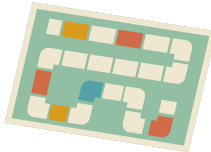
Create your own poem out of old book pages using black out poetry methods to celebrate Poetry month.

Tuesday, April 16th at 6pm
Location: Teen Room

Tabletop Club

Come play a couple rounds of your favorite board game and enjoy some snacks!

Wednesday, April 17th at 6pm
Location: Teen Room



Beyond the Book Club

Love reading but struggle to pick out or finish a book? Join Beyond the Book Club to read fantastic YA stories and discussions.

This month's options are As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow or Something More. Each meeting will involve discussion and voting for the next book.

Friday, April 19th at 3pm
Location: Teen Room

STEM Windmill

Learn all about wind generated power by making your own working windmill.



Monday, April 22nd at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

Nutmeg Newts

Join us for our all new monthly book club the Nutmeg Newts! The Nutmeg Newts Book Club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level.

This month we are reading The Beast and the Bethany Book 1 by Jack Meggitt-Phillips. 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.

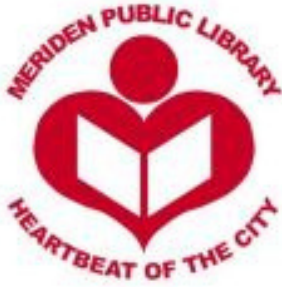
Tuesday, April 23rd at 6pm
Location: Storytime Room

Super Smash Bros Tournie

Kick-off your weekend with some fun with our Super Smash Bros. tournament. Whether you are an experienced Smash Bros. player or just beginning, feel free to stop by and have some fun!

Saturday, April 27th at 3:30pm
Location: Teen Room





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!