



**MERIDEN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

December 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:

Weds, Dec 25th

**Closing at 3pm on Tues, Dec 24th
and 4pm on Tues, Dec 31st**

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Meet Our Staff!



Please see page 7 to get to know **Kristin Silvia**, one of our **Community Service** librarians!



@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 Wednesday evenings from 4-7pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm. 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 Fridley@cox.net 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.

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:

Mystic Seaport Museum
Donald H. and Jeanne G. Smith
Marcia and Carmine Trotta
Liz Nawrocki



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

Thank you to Paul Gradwell for his large and generous donation of books to our book store.

BOOK STORE NEWS

December special

All Holiday items (Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza)

Books, DVD's CD's and puzzles

Buy One Get One Free
(of equal or lesser value)



holiday
CHEER

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



Thank you!

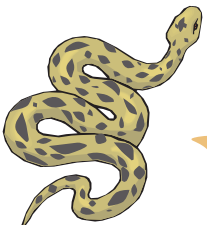
December Event Spotlight

De-Stress with Furry Scaly Friends

We know that the holiday season can get stressful! Let Furry Scaly Friends help you de-stress with an unforgettable, hands-on experience. Get up close and personal with our amazing critters, pet them, take stunning photos, and even have the opportunity to hold a few in your hands.

Join us for an afternoon you'll never forget!

Saturday, December 7th at 2pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



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ADULTS | December Programs

Classics Clique Discussion

In this meeting, we will be discussing the November book *To Have and Have Not* by Ernest Hemingway as well as its 1944 movie adaptation.



Monday, December 2nd at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

Yak & Wrap Holiday Workshop

Do you struggle with wrapping holiday presents every year? Do your wrapped presents look like you fought with a roll of wrapping paper and lost? Come on in to socialize, enjoy some delicious apple cider, holiday tunes, and get into the holiday spirit with others.

If you already have small to medium personal gifts ready to wrap, feel free to bring 3-4 of them to wrap during the workshop! Even if you haven't bought presents yet, you will have the opportunity to practice your gift-wrapping skills. Feel free to bring in a roll of gift wrapping paper and additional wrapping supplies; the Library will supply scissors, tape, and gift tags.

Thursday, November 7th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3



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
December 4th & 18th at 10am
Location: Adult Reading Area

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.



Thursdays
December 5th & 19th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

The Strategic Significance of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

The Strategic Significance of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor will not dwell on the attack itself as opposed to the why? Why did the Japanese attack a sleeping U.S. Pacific Fleet in Hawaii? Mark Albertson is the historical research editor at Army Aviation magazine and has authored six books.



Tuesday, December 10th at 6pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

ADULTS | December Programs

What's Next? Book Club

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson - In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives 19-year-old Cussy Carter, who joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project. She becomes a librarian, riding on her faithful mule to deliver reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

Adult Monthly Craft Night - Glitter Jars



Join us to create glitter jar for mindfulness, a helpful tool for this busy season! All supplies will be provided.

Thursday, December 12th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 6

18th Century Chocolate Making

Witness the art of chocolate-making as it was in the 18th century! Pewter Pot Chocolates will demonstrate the traditional methods of transforming the humble cacao bean into a rich, indulgent treat, using authentic tools and techniques of the era. From roasting and grinding to refining this treasured delicacy, you'll experience the full journey of chocolate as it once delighted the palates of our ancestors.



Saturday, December 14th at 1pm
Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Tech Topics



In this session, you will discuss and apply strategies to help save phone memory and battery. Please bring your charged cell phone to this session.

Monday, December 16th at 3pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

Augusta Curtis Concert Band Winter Concert



The Augusta Curtis Concert Band will perform their winter concert at the MPL on Tuesday, December 17th.

The band is made up approximately 40 local amateur musicians. The concert includes a full range of contemporary and classical music that fits the winter season.

Tuesday, December 17th at 6pm
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!

December's book: ***An Honest Lie*** by Tarryn Fisher

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30pm
Location: Meeting Room 5

ADULTS | December Programs

Cinema Classics



Christmas in Connecticut: 1945 ·

Comedy/Romance · 1h 42m

The columnist for a national housekeeping magazine, as part of a promotional stunt, welcomes a returning war hero into her country estate, the only problem is she's a klutz in the kitchen, where she's never been at home on the range.

Thursday, December 19th at 5:30pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Personalized Mandala Canvas Tote Bags



Join nature artist Denise Smith for a fun craft experience.

Create your own canvas tote bag decorated with a mandala stencil and words of affirmation.

Saturday, December 21st at 1pm

Location: Meeting Room 6

Matinee Monday: Jingle All the Way (1996)



Frenetic holiday fare about an absentminded father (Arnold Schwarzenegger) who frantically tries to find a popular toy on Christmas Eve. Sinbad. The cast features former "SNL" regulars Phil Hartman, James Belushi and Laraine Newman.

Monday, December 23rd at 1pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Classics Clique Movie



In this meeting, we will be watching the movie *Little Women* (2019) based on December's book pick *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

Thursday, December 26th at 5:30pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3

Classics Clique Discussion



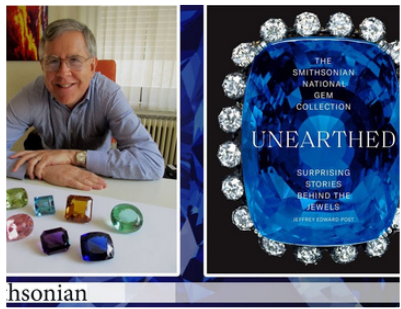
In this meeting, we will be discussing the December book *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott as well as its 2019 movie adaptation.

Friday, December 27th at 3pm

Location: Meeting Room 5

ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff

December Authors



Uneearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post

Weds, Dec 4th
2pm



On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave

Weds, Dec 11th
2pm

Meet the Staff



Kristin Silvia is a **Community Service Librarian** and has been working at the Meriden Public Library since August!

If she couldn't be a librarian, she would be an editor of YA fiction.

Her favorite TV shows are *Doctor Who*, *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood*, and *Killing Eve*.

The two movies she could watch over and over are *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Repo! the Genetic Opera*.

A fun fact about her is that she taught herself to crochet back in college and she loves making gifts for her friends and family.

Her favorite authors are Victoria Schwab and Maggie Stiefvater.

Famous birthday twins: Robin Williams, Benedict Cumberbatch (July 21)

CHILDREN | Monthly Meetups

Nutmeg Newts: Take Home Kit

November 26th through December 17th

Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

With the holiday season in full swing, our book club will be available as a kit this month. Kits will include a craft, questions for family discussion, and a fun extra surprise! This book club is for children with a 4th through 6th grade reading level. Stop by the Children's Information Desk to borrow a copy of this month's pick **Wayward Creatures by Danya Lorentz** and pick up your kit starting November 26th.

Location: Children's Information Desk

Sensory Playtime

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month
from 5pm to 6:30pm

December 3rd & December 17th

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 is required to best accommodate sensory requests. *Proudly partnered with Social Sabby.*

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

STEAM Stories

1st Thursday of every month at 6pm

December 5th

Ages 6-11 | Registration Required

Join us monthly for science and art-based stories and fun STEAM-related activities afterward. Older siblings are welcome to join in.

Location: Children's Storytime Room & Children's Project Room

Messy Makers

Once a month on Tuesday at 10:30am

December 10th

Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Come get messy with us! This month we're trying out **watercolor salt painting** to make winter scenes. We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

Location: Children's Project Room

Family Craft Night

Once a month on Thursday at 6pm

December 19th

All Ages | Registration Required

Join us for a monthly family craft night that is sure to be a grand time. This month's theme is **Holiday Magic!** Several craft stations will be available as well as fun-themed music. All families are welcome though some crafts may need parental assistance.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Scavenger Hunt



Ugly Holiday Sweater Scavenger Hunt Extravaganza

December 1st through December 31st

All Ages | Drop-In

Can you find all the cozy festive items hidden around the Children's Library this December? Stop by the Children's Information Desk to pick up a scavenger hunt sheet this month.

Location: Children's Library

CHILDREN | Winter Programs

Marbled Bookmarks

Wednesday, December 4th at 6pm
Ages 5-11 | Drop-In

Need a last-minute holiday gift? Come create a marbled bookmark for all the book lovers in your life. We'll use special paint to make the swirly marble designs so come in clothes you don't mind getting a little messy.

Location: Children's Project Room

Gingerbread Fairy House Craft

Tuesday, December 10th at 6pm
Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

Create a home fit for a winter fairy at this event. Children will get to create a gingerbread-themed fairy house out of upcycled materials including half of a plastic jar, paper, glue, and other festive items. Siblings are welcome.

Location: Children's Project Room

Kid Art Club

Thursday, December 12th at 5:30pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Join us to learn how to apply color in your art. This session focuses on color mixing and kids will have a chance to paint a gingerbread house on watercolor paper.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Signing Rocks the Holidays

Saturday, December 14th at 11am
Ages 7-11 | Registration Required

Join Signing Basics for our popular "Signing ROCKS! the Holidays" event that will get you excited about learning American Sign Language (ASL). Our Signing Holiday event will engage you through games and activities that are fun to play. *This program is generously funded through a grant provided by Meriden Health Department.*

Location: Meeting Room 5



Family Glow Party

Saturday, December 21st at 1pm
All Ages | Registration Requested

Celebrate this holiday season with a glowing good time! Join us for glowing-themed crafts, dancing, and activities at this family-friendly event.

Location: Community Room 1+2+3



CHILDREN | Winter Programs

Reading Gumball Machine Naming Contest

Monday, December 1st through December 31st
All Ages | Drop-In

Calling all kids! We need help naming our beloved Reading Gumball Machine and we couldn't think of a better group of people to name it than you. Stop by the Children's Information Desk to submit a name with our staff. We will collect names throughout December. Voting on names will begin in January.

Location: Children's Information Desk

Specialty Storytimes

Joy Blooms: Holiday Sing Along

Monday, December 16th at 10:30am
Ages 0-5 | Registration Required

Get ready for a festive, fun-filled holiday concert with Joy! Featuring a lively mix of original songs and holiday classics, Joy's interactive family show will have everyone singing along and celebrating the season. Let's keep the bells ringing and our hearts singing as we come together to welcome the New Year! *This program is generously funded through a grant provided by Meriden Health Department.*

Location: Community Room 3

New Year's Rocks Storytime

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

Rock in the New Year in style! Join Miss Holly for a special New Year's themed storytime filled with music, dancing, puppets, and more. Siblings are welcome.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Mystery Take and Make Kits

Monday, December 16th through December 31st while supplies last.
All Ages | Drop-In

Did you miss an event this year and hoped to make the project still? Well, you're in luck! Your library staff made craft kits especially for you to take home and make over the holiday break. Stop by our Children's Information Desk to pick up a kit while supplies last. Kits will be labeled with extra supplies needed to complete the task at home.

Location: Children's Information Desk



CHILDREN | Winter Break Wonders

Bluey Family Party

Monday, December 23rd
from 2pm to 4pm

All Ages | Registration Requested

G'day, friends! Join us for a fun Bluey-themed party including crafts and music. We can't wait to see you here!

Location: Meeting Room 6

Holiday Dance Party

Tuesday, December 24th at 11am
All Ages | Registration Requested

Rock around the holiday tree at this fun dancing event. Children are welcome to wear their dancing shoes and show us their best moves while listening to holiday tunes from around the world.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Minecraft Perler Beads

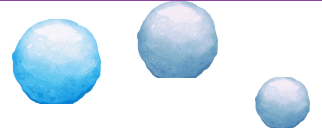
Thursday, December 26th at 2pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Requested

Craft some 8-bit fun at this Perler bead event. Children are invited to make their favorite Minecraft item using Perler beads and peg boards. Some patterns will be offered and we encourage children to use their imagination to build as well. Staff will iron their creation to take home.

Location: Meeting Room 6

STEAM Catapult

Snowball Launcher



Friday, December 27th at 10:30am
Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

Join us for a fun "snowball" fight! Kids are welcome to build a catapult out of popsicle sticks, rubber bands, and a spoon at this event. They are welcome to test out their creation with pom poms and measure how far it fly.

Location: Meeting Room 6

Saturday Family Flick:

Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)

Friday, December 28th at 10:30am
All Ages | Registration Requested

Stop by for a showing of Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG) with the whole family. You are welcome to bring items to make your viewing experience cozy. Food is not allowed in our storytime room.

Location: Children's Storytime Room

Rocking in the New Year

Family Party



Tuesday, December 31st
from 10:30am to 12:30pm

All Ages | Registration Requested

Join us for a rockin' good time! Ring in the new year early at the library with crafts, music, games, and a New Year's countdown at 11:59am. We can't wait to see you here!

Location: Community Room 1+2+3

TEENS | Monthly Meetups

Homework Help

Mondays, December 2nd & 16th at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested

Head to the teen room for bi-weekly homework assistance. Focus will be placed on catching up on assignments and learning which resources can help with school work.

Location: Teen Room

Fashion How To: Layering

Tuesday, December 3rd at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



Confused about how to stay warm and fashionable? Attend this new series to learn all about layering for winter without sacrificing your style.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Advisory Board

Wednesday, December 4th at 5pm

12-18 | Registration Requested

Join the monthly Teen Advisory Board meeting to make sure your voice is heard! Share your ideas and opinions on how to improve your section of the library. Attendees will receive one hour of community service if in high school.

Location: Teen Room

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, December 4th at 6pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



The rainbow roundtable is a LGBTQIA+ oriented club where we talk about what we are reading, watching, listening to and concerned about that's LGBTQIA+ related.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Art Club:

Watercolor Basics

Thursday, December 12th at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Required

Join librarian Paige to learn how to use watercolor. This session will focus on application techniques and how to make a background.

Location: Teen Room

Teen Vent Session

Friday, December 27th at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



Let your frustrations out over snacks so you can start your weekend fresh. This month we will be focusing on mental health frustrations.

Location: Teen Room

TEENS | December Programs

Repurpose: Wacky Candles

Thursday, December 5th
at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Required



Learn how to rework old candles using warm water and some patience!

Location: Teen Room

Sleighting all the Way:

Winter Hangout

Saturday, December 7th
from 12-2pm

12-18 | Registration Required

Warm up in the teen room with hot cocoa, a movie and a snowy craft. Cozy clothes required!

Location: Teen Room

Take & Make: Holiday Cards

Wednesday, December 11th
from 5-7pm

12-18 | Take Home

Ready to celebrate the holidays? Head to the teen room to grab a take & make kit to make your own holiday cards. Cards can be returned to the library for donation to spread some cheer around the community!

Location: Teen Room

Queer Quetzals

Friday, December 13th
at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



Join our discussion of holiday romance, 'How to Excavate a Heart' by Jake Maia Arlow.

Location: Teen Room

Graphic Godzilla

Wednesday, December 18th
at 6pm

12-18 | Registration Requested

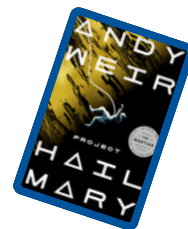
Join our discussion of the fantasy romance graphic novel, "Maelstrom: A Prince of Evil", by Lorian Merriman.

Location: Teen Room

YA Yabbies

Thursday, December 19th
at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



Join our discussion of sci-fi thriller 'Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir.

Location: Teen Room

Pom Pom Penguins

Friday, December 20th
at 3:30pm

12-18 | Registration Requested

Celebrate winter by crafting some fluffy penguins out of pom poms and hot glue!

Location: Teen Room

New Years Party

Monday, December 30th
from 1-3pm

12-18 | Registration Requested



Celebrate the end of 2024 with trivia, snacks, crafts and music!

Location: Teen Room

FEATURED NEWS

2024

Winter ORNAMENTS

FOR SALE AT THE VISITOR SERVICES DESK

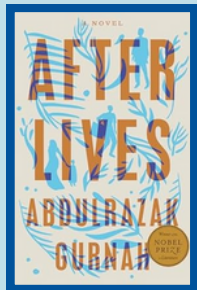


\$10 FOR YEARS 2021-2024
\$5 FOR YEARS 1994-2020

PAYMENTS BY CASH OR CHECK ONLY. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY".



READ AROUND THE WORLD 2025



Start the New Year right with the Read Around the World Book Group.
Our first stop: Africa, with *Afterlives* by Abdulrazak Gurnah,
winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Tuesday, January 28 at 6 p.m. in Room 6

This is a hybrid program.

If you wish to attend virtually, contact us for a Zoom link.

Books will be available at the Visitors Services Desk.

For more information: Barbara Belejack (bbelejack@meridenct.gov)
(203) 630-4734

FEATURED NEWS

The Friends of The Meriden Public Library Presents

LITERARY LIBATIONS

Sipping for a Cause

Friday, February 28, 2025

6pm to 9pm

at the Meriden Public Library

Wine, craft beer, & spirits tasting

Refreshments

Live Music by The Sky Dog Band

Raffles

Tickets on Sale at the
Friends Bookstore on
December 2, 2024
105 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450

\$25 per person

Tickets will not be sold at the door

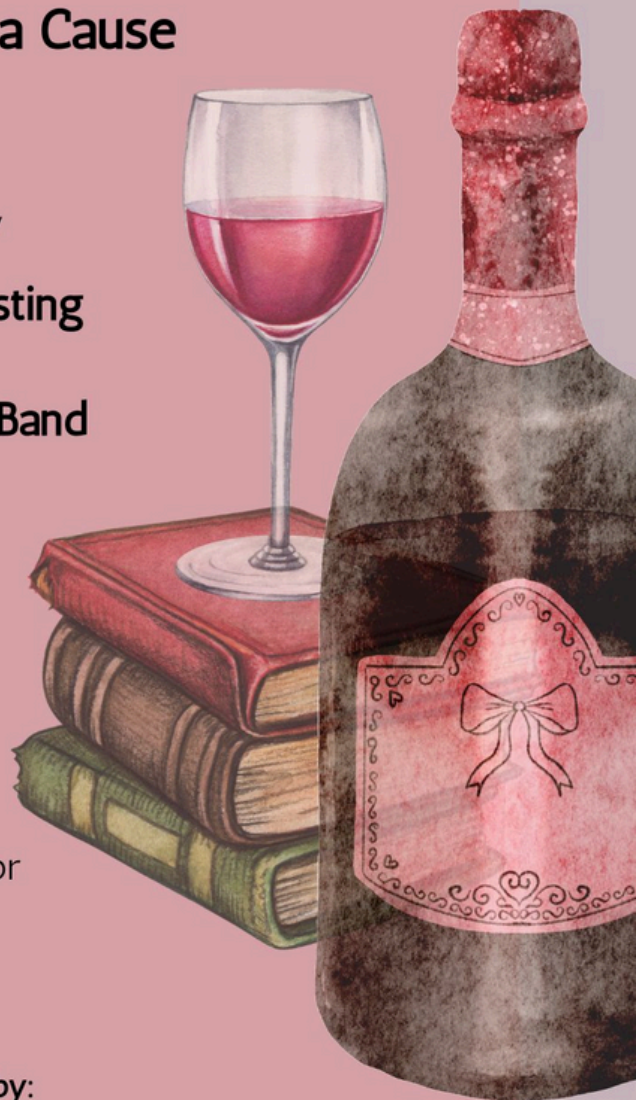
Must be 21 or older to attend

Snow date: March 7, 2025

Scan here to buy
tickets online



Sponsored by:





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!