



**MERIDEN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# February 2025

**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:**  
**Monday, February 17th**  
**Closing early at 12pm on**  
**Friday, Feb. 28th**

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Please see page 7 to get to know **Michelle Yanez**, one of our **Library Clerks** !



@meridenlibrary

**Follow us!**  
[www.meridenlibrary.org](http://www.meridenlibrary.org)

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

# The Friends of the Library NEWS

*Making Possibilities Happen*

## Volunteers Needed!



We have volunteer opportunities available Wednesday evenings from 4-7pm and Saturday from 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.

## Events:

**Literary Libations** tickets are now on sale! Help support a great cause and invest in the future of Meriden Public Library.

Tickets may be purchased at the Library's Visitor Services Desk, the Friends Bookstore, or online. Join us on 2/28 for a fun night with live music by Inner Groove, wine, craft beer, spirits, and refreshments! Attendees must be 21 or older.



## Bookstore Hours:

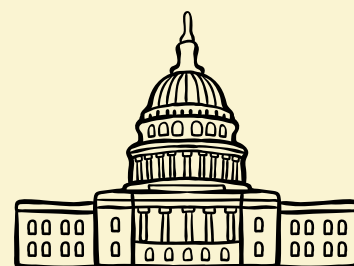
Monday: 10am to 4pm  
Tuesday: 10am to 4pm  
Wednesday: 10am to 7pm  
Thursday: 10am to 4pm  
Friday: 10am to 4pm  
Saturday: 10am to 2pm

## FEBRUARY BOOKSTORE SPECIAL

### **"PRESIDENTS AND POLITICIANS"**

**Buy One Get One Free**  
Of equal or lesser value

**Great Opportunity for History  
and Political Junkies!**



# The Friends of the Library NEWS

*Making Possibilities Happen*



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:

**Jayne & Michael Solak**  
**Fred & Risa Zierler**  
**Jean K. Ryan**  
**Sandy Goodyear**  
**Karen Roesler**  
**Mary E. Zysk**  
**Anita & Mark Zitko**  
**Terri Ann Trenholm**

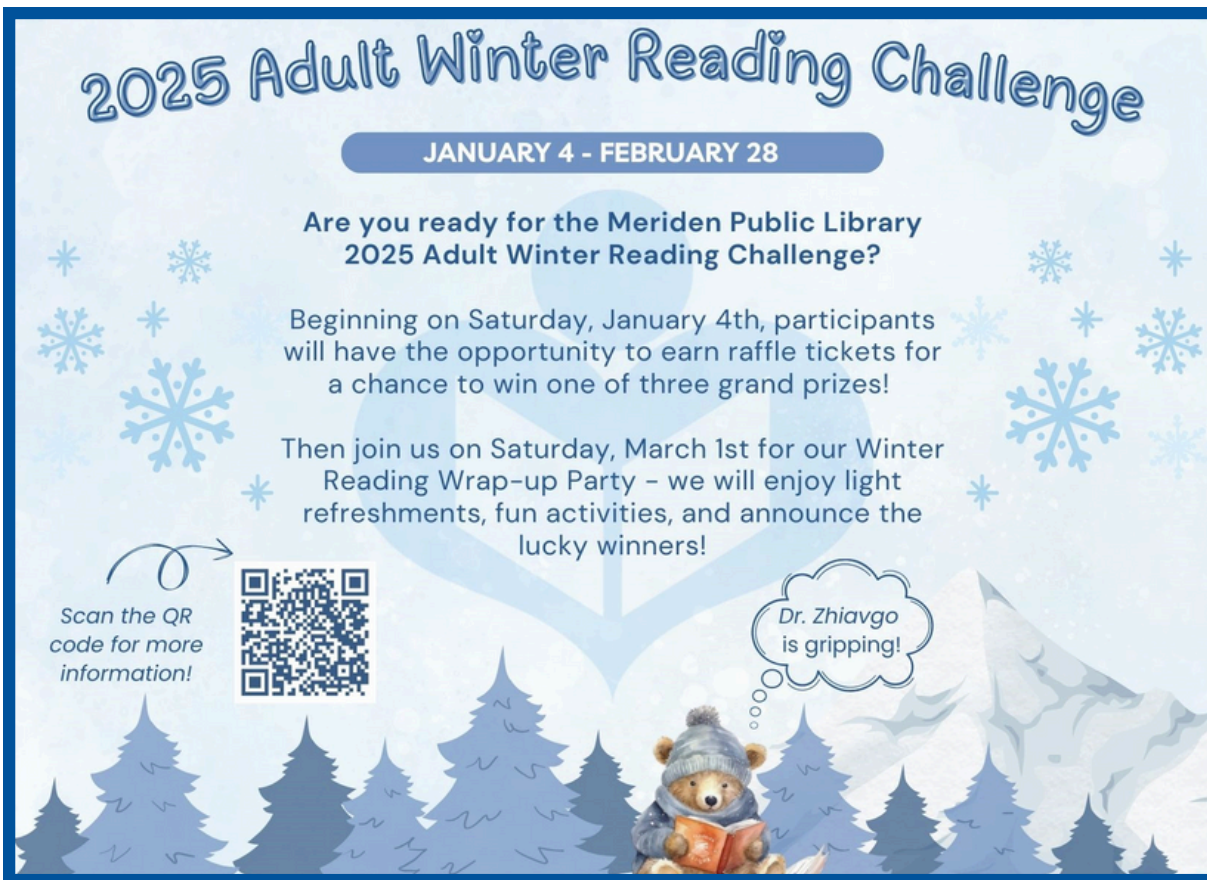
**Mary Willmott Allan & Rosemarie Harding**  
**Mariella & Luciano Racco**  
**Sue B. Hanson**  
**Kerry & Marilyn McEntee**  
**Patsy & Joan Papandrea**  
**Harriet Barone**  
**Susan Chappo**

**Susan M. Bullock**  
**Paula Snedeker**  
**Jean Stajos Michael & Shelley Barker**  
**Rosanne Ford**  
**Mary Paluszewski**  
**Thomas J. Welsh & Stephen Aforismo**  
**The Children's Museum**

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



# ADULTS | February Programs



**2025 Adult Winter Reading Challenge**


**JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 28**

Are you ready for the Meriden Public Library 2025 Adult Winter Reading Challenge?

Beginning on Saturday, January 4th, participants will have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets for a chance to win one of three grand prizes!

Then join us on Saturday, March 1st for our Winter Reading Wrap-up Party - we will enjoy light refreshments, fun activities, and announce the lucky winners!

Scan the QR code for more information!



Dr. Zhiavgo is gripping!

The poster features a winter scene with snowflakes, evergreen trees, and a bear wearing a hat and reading a book. A thought bubble above the bear says "Dr. Zhiavgo is gripping!".

## February Event Spotlight

### Crash Course Cooking: Pasta from Scratch

Join us for an exploration of food and cooking! Learn to make fresh pasta. In this program, you will get a lesson on making the dough, rolling it out, and get introduced to the hand crank pasta machines where you will roll out your pasta. You will learn some history on pasta in Italy and different types of noodles from all over the world, as well as some of the science behind dough making. Then you will prepare a simple tomato sauce, and finally boil the pasta. Everyone can either take the pasta home or enjoy it at the library.



**Thursday, February 27, 2025**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**  
**Time: 6pm**



# ADULTS | February Programs

## Classics Clique Discussion

In this meeting, we will be discussing Book One of the January/February book pick *Doctor Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, as well as the first part of the 1965 movie adaptation.

**Thursday, February 3rd at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Tech Topics: Basic Email Functions

In this session, you will be able to view received email and reply to a received email, forward an email. In addition, you will learn how to navigate between Sent folder and Inbox, delete a single email and recover from trash, and identify spam or junk emails.



**Monday, February 10th 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**  
**February 5th & 19th at 10am**  
**Location: Adult Reading Area**



## What's Next? Book Club

### *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

A captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask.

**February 12th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Winter Reading: Literary Cut-Ups

In this program, we will use phrases and images from newspapers/magazines related to participants' favorite book or most recent read. Those participants signed up for the 2025 Adult Winter Reading Challenge will earn an additional raffle ticket for attending this program.

**Thursday, February 6th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 2+3**

**5**



# ADULTS | February Programs

## 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.

**February 13th at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Adult Monthly Craft Nights - Cherry Blossom Canvas Painting

Join us to create a beautiful cherry blossom branch on canvas. This craft is geared toward beginners, and participants will be guided along as we paint this gorgeous sample of spring. All supplies will be provided.

**Thursday, February 13th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**



## Adult Coloring

Come drop in & color away your stress! Markers, colored pencils, and coloring sheets will be provided.

**Thursday, February 20th at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Roots of Popular Music with Jon Waterman

A Journey Through the "Roots of American Popular Music," is a program of songs and stories about the origins of the blues, rock and country music presented by singer and songwriter Jon Waterman. In the show, Jon is joined by Li Waterman on bass. The program, which also features an accompanying slideshow, explores some of the fascinating characters and events that are part of the history and the role of music in our lives.

**Saturday, February 22nd at 2pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



## Talks on the Road - Connecticut's Black, Indigenous and Women of Color

Women inducted in the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame persevered to preserve their culture and ensure that minority groups receive an equal place in society. Our newest Talk on the Road program explores Connecticut women such as Fidelia Hoscott Fielding, who preserved the Mohegan-Pequot language for future generations, Ann Petry, who gave a voice to black writers, and Maria Sanchez, a strong advocate for the Puerto Rican community and the initiator of bilingual education in Hartford.



**Saturday, February 15th at 2pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**

# ADULTS | February Programs

## Matinee Monday: Malcolm X (1992)

Often misunderstood, Malcolm X was one of the leading forces of the United States' Civil Rights Movement. He inspired many--and frightened many--but is destined to be remembered as one of the greatest men of his era. This riveting biography directed by Spike Lee and starring Denzel Washington in an Academy Award-nominated performance reveals the man at the center of a storm of change.

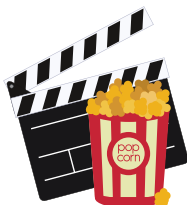


**February 24th at 1pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**

## 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 second half of the movie *Doctor Zhivago* (1965).

**Tuesday, February 25th at 5:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



## Life Hacks Series: Tax Tips with the CT Department of Revenue Services



Have questions about filing your taxes? Come to our Tax Tips program, given by staff from the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services! They will give you tax tips and reminders, a tour of the DRS website, a myconneCT (online filing service) demo, and show you how to identify and avoid fraud alerts.

**Wednesday, February 26th at 6pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**

## Booktok Book Club



**February Book: *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros**

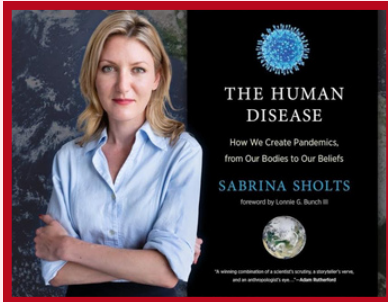
Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram.

Share thoughts on your latest read or gather ideas for the next one! Call Visitor Services to see if copies are available. Please note this book club often reads recently published books. Sufficient copies may not be available for all book club participants.

**Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**

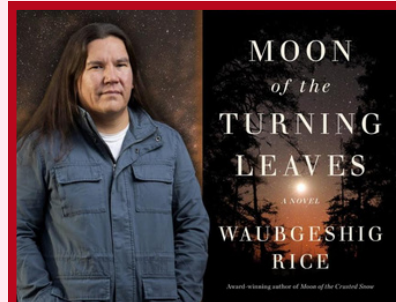
# ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff

## February Authors



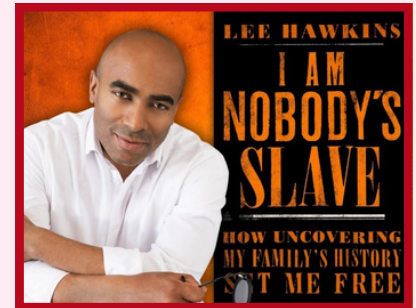
**How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs with Smithsonian Curator Sabrina Sholts**

Tues, Feb. 4th  
2pm



**Dystopian Tropes from an Indigenous Perspective: In Conversation with Waubgeshig Rice**

Tues, Feb. 11th  
7pm



**I Am Nobody's Slave: An Author Talk with Pulitzer Prize Finalist Lee Hawkins**

Tues, Feb. 18th  
2pm

## Meet the Staff



**Michelle Yanez** is a **Library Clerk** and has been working at the Meriden Public Library for **1 year**.

**If she couldn't be a clerk, she would** be Live Nation's tour marketing manager or event marketing specialist.

**Her favorite TV shows are** *King of the Hill*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, & *Reservation Dogs*.

**The two movies she could watch over and over** are *Split* & *Coraline*.

**A fun fact about her is that** she has a growing collection of CDs and Dr. Simi dolls.

**Her favorite authors are** Mary Doria Russell & Lewis Hancox.

**Famous birthday twins:** Maya Rudolph & Abe Cunningham (July 27)



# CHILDREN | February Storytimes

## Winter Storytimes

### Wiggle Worms

Mondays at 10:30am  
(No class February 17th)  
February 3rd–February 17th  
Wednesdays at 10:30am  
February 5th–February 19th  
Ages 0–3 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for special storytime for ages 0–3. This storytime will be filled with songs, puppets, dancing, and more. Stay after storytime is over for playtime.

**Location: Children’s Storytime Room**

### Family Storytime

Wednesdays at 6pm  
February 5th–February 19th  
Ages 2–5 | Registration Required



Join Miss Melissa for a family storytime filled with music, stories, dancing and more. This program is geared towards 2–5 year olds, but siblings are always welcome to join in. A craft will follow after the end of storytime.

**Location: Children’s Storytime Room**

### Bebés Activos Bilingual Playgroup

Fridays 10am–12pm for Ages 0–5  
February 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th  
Registration Required

Join us for a weekly bilingual playgroup! 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. Please bring a snack and juice or water for your child and attend to your child at all times. *This program is generously funded by Liberty Bank.*

**Location: Children’s Storytime Room**

## Specialty Storytimes



### Reading with ROAR

Saturday, February, 8th at 11am  
Ages 5–11 | Registration Requested



What could be better than practicing reading with a furry friend? A trained therapy dog will be here for kids to practice reading. To make sure everyone feels comfortable, we will start off with a story or two read by Miss Holly. Stop by from 11am to 12 noon for your chance to read with Evie the Labradoodle. *Proudly partnered with ROAR.*

**Location: Children’s Storytime Room**

# CHILDREN | Monthly Meet-Ups

## Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month  
from 5pm to 6:30pm  
February 4th & February 18th  
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  
February 6th  
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: Fizzy Paint

Once a month on Tuesday at 10:30am  
February 11th  
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Come get messy with us! We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## Family Craft Night: Happy Hearts

Once a month on Thursday at 6pm  
February 13th  
All Ages | Registration Required

Join our monthly family craft night! Several themed craft stations will be available as well as fun themed music. All families are welcome. Some crafts may need parental assistance.

**Location: Meeting Room 6**

## Kid Art Club: Charcoal Works

Once a month on Thursday at 5:30pm  
February 20th  
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Level up your art each month by learning new techniques with Mx. Paige and Miss Holly.

**Location: Meeting Room 6**



## Hydroponic How To

Once a month on Saturday at 10am  
February 22nd  
All Ages | Registration Requested

Have you seen our hydroponic garden, Sprout? Do you have questions on how hydroponics works? Stop by to ask Miss Holly questions and learn about our hydroponic garden.

**Location: Hallway Hydroponic Garden**

## Monthly Book Club

### Nutmeg Newts: Invisibles

4th Tuesday of the month  
from 6pm to 6:45pm  
February 25th  
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required



Join us for our monthly book club the Nutmeg Newts! This 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. Stop by the Children's Department to borrow a copy of this month's pick.

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

# CHILDREN | February Programs

## Drop-In Valentine's Friendship Bracelets

Saturday, February 8th at 2pm  
All Ages | Drop-In

Stop by the library with your besties or on your own to create fun Valentine's bracelets with us.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

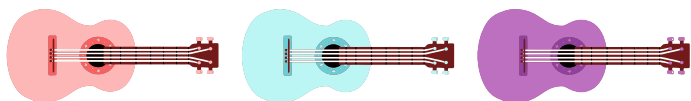


## Pajama Jams

Tuesday, February 11th at 6pm  
Ages 4-6 | Registration Required

Join us for a special musical storytime with Miss Holly! Children will get the chance to sing, dance, and play with musical instruments during a fun filled storytime. Participants are welcome to wear their comfy pajamas to rock out in. This event is best suited for children 4-6 and siblings are welcome to participate.

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**



## Signing Basics ASL Storytime

Saturday, January 11th at 2pm  
Saturday, February 15th at 11am  
Ages 2-6 | Registration Required



Join SIGNING Basics® for an American Sign Language storytime. Kids will have fun learning ASL through activities and games during this interactive event. All skill levels are encouraged to attend. Siblings are welcome. *This program is generously funded through a grant provided by the Meriden Health Department.*

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

## African American Artists from Connecticut with the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

Tuesday, February 18th at 3pm  
All Ages | Registration Requested

Learn about artists from history like 19th-century early photographer Augustus Washington, and still-life painter Charles Ethan Porter, as well as contemporary Connecticut author Valerie Bolling. Take home an art piece you create at this educational event. *This program is generously funded through a grant provided by the Meriden Health Department.*

**Location: Meeting Room 6**

## Drop-In Paper Heart Weaving

Saturday, February 22nd  
from 10am to 12 noon  
All Ages | Drop-In



February is Library Lovers Month! We want to celebrate with you at this drop in event. Children are invited to weave paper strips together to create a fun paper heart.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## Girls Inc. Media Literacy Class

Thursday, February 27th at 5pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required



Calling all girls! Learn how to be internet savvy during this cool learning series. This is the first date in a planned series. *Proudly partnered with Girls Inc.*

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

# TEENS | February Programs



## **College 101: Commuting**

Monday, February 3rd at 3:30pm

Curious about commuting to college? Learn all about it during college 101 - from why it can be beneficial to how to have a social life despite not living on campus!

**Location: Teen Room**

## **Teen Advisory Board**

Wednesday, February 5th at 5pm

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.

**Location: Teen Room**

## **Rainbow Roundtable**

Wednesday, February 5th at 6pm



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

**Location: Teen Room**

## **Teen Art Club: Watercolor Portrait**

Thursday, February 6th at 3:30pm

Join librarian Paige to learn how to use watercolor! During this session we will be using watercolor to complete a portrait.

**Location: Teen Room**



## **Homework Help**

Mondays, February 10th & 24th at 3:30pm

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**

# TEENS | February Programs

## Take & Make: Valentine Bracelets

Wednesday, February 12th from 5pm to 7pm

Celebrate Valentine's with with this take & make bracelet kit. Make a bracelet for your Valentine, a friend or yourself! Head to the teen room to grab a take & make kit to create a Valentine bracelet.

**Location: Teen Room**

## No Sew Heart Pillow

Thursday, February 13th at 5:30pm

Learn how to make a heart pillow with ZERO sewing!

**Location: Teen Room**

## Cookies & Cards

Friday, February 14th at 3:30pm

Celebrate Valentine's with cookies and cards during this crafting program. Everything you need to make the card of your dreams will be provided!

**Location: Teen Room**

## Teen Monthly Movie

Saturday, February 15th at 1pm

Enjoy some popcorn while watching 'A Walk to Remember' - A romance coming of age movie sure to pull at your heart strings.

**Location: Teen Room**

## Amistad: A Journey to Justice

Tuesday, February 18th at 3pm

Join the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History to investigate the dramatic 1839 story of 53 Africans, who were kidnapped from their homeland, enslaved, and fought a legal battle in the U.S. that allowed them to return home. *This program is generously funded through a grant provided by the Meriden Health Department.*

**Location: Room 5**

## Healthy Sexuality with Girls Inc.

Wednesday, February 19th from 4:30pm to 6pm

*Proudly partnered with Girls Inc. to teach personal awareness of identity, boundary setting, communication, exercising personal rights, and navigating interpersonal relationships with a special emphasis on healthy and safe relationship characteristics.*



**Location: Teen Room**

## Crafty Critters: Soda Tab Keychain

Thursday, February 20th at 4:30pm

Using soda tabs and beads, create a cool little dude keychain for your keys or backpack!.

**Location: Teen Room**

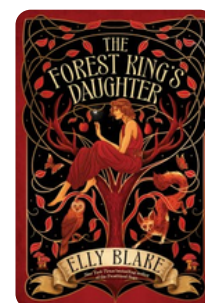
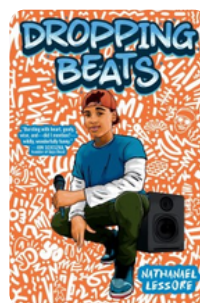
## Yap & Snack

Friday, February 21st at 3:30pm

Let your frustrations out over snacks so you can start your weekend fresh!

**Location: Teen Room**

## FEBRUARY RELEASES



# FEATURED NEWS



The Meriden Public Library partners with Human Resources Agency of New Britain to offer **VITA**, a FREE income tax assistance program.

This program offers:

Preparation and filing of annual tax returns by IRS-certified volunteers. All volunteers must be certified in Standards of Conduct (Ethics) and Current Tax Law along with other IRS required training. Training is updated annually.

Free of charge service to families and individuals whose total household income is \$67,000 or less.

By appointment only. Must call VITA directly to schedule an appointment:

**Call (860) 356-2000 or schedule an appointment online**

Appointments slots at the library are available on

**Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays - January 25th through April 12th, 2025.**

Be sure to bring all required paperwork to your appointment.



**MPL now has video games!**  
**Play Tetris Effect on your Nintendo Switch or Madden NFL 25 on your PS5.**  
**Loan periods are 14 days with a 2 game limit per patron.**  
**All video games are located near the Teen section.**  
**Check one (or two) out today!**



# SPECIAL EVENT

*This  
Month*

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 Inner Groove

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!