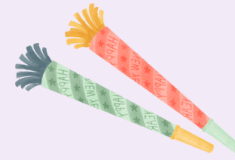
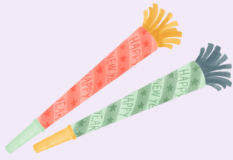




**MERIDEN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# January 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

**HAPPY LIBRARY CLOSED:**  
**NEW Wednesday, January 1st and**  
**YEAR! Monday, January 20th**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Teens: **Page 12-13**

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Please see page 7 to get to know **Tori Smith**, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Many Thanks to:

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:

Gary J. Cluen & Catherine Bysiewicz Cluen  
Sue Kahn Wolk in honor of Thomas Mottran

Jonal Laboratories, Inc.	Will Bailey	Blair Goodlin
Salon Nathaniel	Janis Franco	Ruth E. Kahn
Jim Lamoureux	Diane DeFelice	Lorraine Koncki
Alexis and Russ Burgess	Mario Cavallo	Susan Chappo
Arlene and Jim Hamelin	Jean Stajos	Teri Trenholm
Fred and Risa Zierler	Thomas J. Welsh	Irene Masse
Carol Leduc	Sally Kamerbeek	Karen Roesler



## 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

Many thanks to the **Meriden Foundation** for granting us \$20,000 to use for Library programming.



The Meriden Foundation

Many thanks to **Read to Grow** and **Joanne Grabinski** for their large donation of children books. These will be sold in the book store and used in the bookmobile. **2**

# The Friends of the Library NEWS

*Making Possibilities Happen*



As we begin another year, our 41st, we wish to thank all those who volunteered with the Friends during the past year: Judy Adamowicz, Marian Amodeo, Ann Biernacki, Tom Biernacki, Trudy Brady, Peter Burch, Alexis Burgess, Russ Burgess, Mario Cavallo, Susan Chappo, Sheryl Clay, Winnie Clay, Trudy Cotton, Jerry Dion, Joan Dion, Joan Edgerly, Rosanne Ford, William Glick, Blair Goodlin, Doug Greenwood, Arlene Hamelin, Janet Hiller, Sally Kamerbeek, Roger Kemp, Carol Leduc, Jan Levine, Jocelyn Linnekin, Irene Masse, Dan Metz, Karen Ohlmann, Norma Paggioli, Jean Poremski, Mariella Racco, Lou Racco, Frank W. Ridley, Karen Roesler, Casey Russo, David Skinnon, Jayme Solak, Gini Sonstrom, Jean Stajos, Terri Trenholm, Steve Volpini, , Fred Zierler, and Risa Zierler.

Without these people we could not do the work we do.

We also wish to thank the Library staff under the able direction of Becky Starr, and the Library Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Thomas J. Welsh. We work closely with both groups to accomplish the goals and objectives of our Library.

## Annual Meeting News

At our annual meeting, which was held on December 16, 2024, the following individuals were elected as officers for 2024.

**Frank W. Ridley**, President

**Marian Amodeo**, Vice President

**Alexis Burgess**, Secretary

**Ann Biernacki**, Treasurer

**Blair Goodlin**, Assistant Treasurer

**Dan Metz**, Assistant Treasurer

## 2024 Friend of the Year Award

We awarded the 2024 Friend of the Year award to Isabel Guzman. Isabel helped in so many ways during 2024. When the City of Meriden expressed concerns over the number of transactions in the Library accounts we had to switch to having all programs being paid from our accounts directly instead of reimbursing the Library when they paid for a program. Because many payments for programs need to be paid on short notice, we needed someone who was readily available to write checks. Isabel stepped up to do this (we still must sign the checks) She also keeps track of various funds, maintains lists for events, and has joined the Friends as a volunteer for a number of events. We



**3** are so thankful for all of her work.

# ADULTS | January Programs

## 2025 Adult Winter Reading Challenge


**JANUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 28**

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

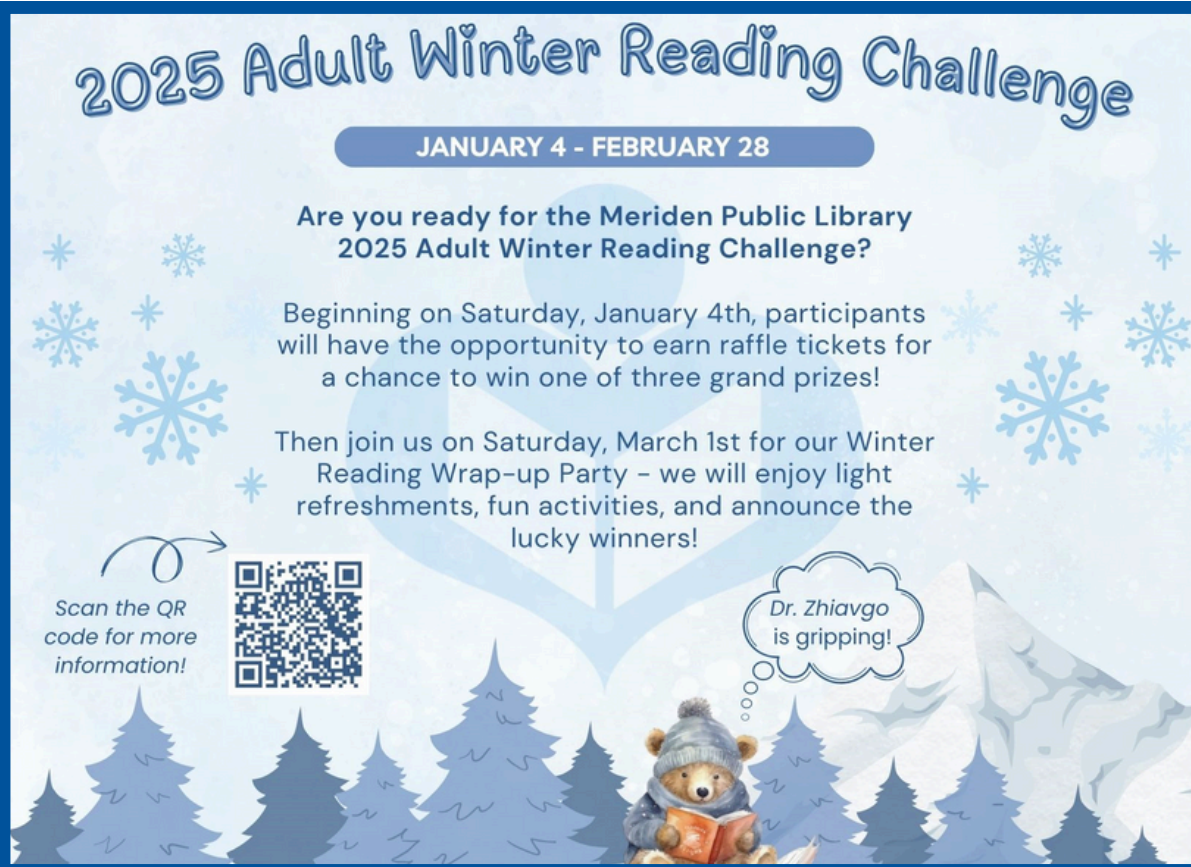
Beginning on Saturday, January 4th, participants will have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets for a chance to win one of three grand prizes!

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!



## January Event Spotlight



### Free Hip Hop Classes for Adults!

Get ready to groove with United Rhythms Dance Studio's Adult Hip Hop Classes starting in January! Perfect for beginners and those looking to have fun, these classes will help you move, express yourself, and build your confidence in a lively environment. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to dance, make new friends, and unleash your inner rhythm!



Sign up today!

**Thursdays, January 9, 16, & 23, 2025**

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

**Time: 5:30pm**



# ADULTS | January Programs

## Tech Topics:

### Email Decluttering and Organizing

In this session, you will identify the pattern of your digital clutter and determine which area of clutter you would like to clean up.

\*\*Please remember to bring your password and the cell phone registered to your email account.

**Monday, January 6th at 3pm**

**Location: Meeting Room 5**



### Write Your Way: Virtual Short Story Writing Workshop

Unlock the secrets of crafting compelling short stories in this immersive workshop designed for aspiring writers. From generating ideas and developing characters to crafting engaging plots and prose, this course provides the essential tools and techniques needed to bring your short stories to life.

Gabrielle Esposito holds a degree in Creative Writing from SUNY Geneseo. Her short stories have appeared in esteemed publications such as The Manhattanville Review, 34TH Parallel, and Gandy Dancer, among others. Notably, her story "The Way Home" earned second place in the 2023 Doro Boehme Fiction Editors' Prize and was nominated for the 2024 Best American Short Stories anthology.

**Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30pm**

**Location: VIRTUAL**



### What's Next? Book Club

*Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden

A literary sensation and runaway bestseller, this brilliant novel presents with seamless authenticity and exquisite lyricism the true confessions of one of Japan's most celebrated geisha.



**Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30pm**

**Location: Meeting Room 5**

### Chess Club

Come down to hang out and play casual and competitive chess with a CT Chess Association facilitator present.



**Wednesdays**

**January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 6pm**

**Location: Meeting Room 6**

### 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**

**January 8th & 22nd at 10am**

**Location: Adult Reading Area**



# ADULTS | January Programs

## Tips for Managing Weight: Optimizing Your Brain's Response to Food

Did you know that when it comes to weight loss, calories in and calories out is not the whole picture? Join us to learn about when a calorie is not just a calorie. . Come and learn how to optimize your brain's response to food for better weight management and to optimize wellbeing.

**Saturday, January 11th at 1pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**



## Monthly Adult Craft Night - Paper Bird Wood Sculpture

Join us this month to create a paper bird wood sculpture. This natural piece will bring tranquility to your home during the winter months ahead. .All supplies will be provided.

**Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**

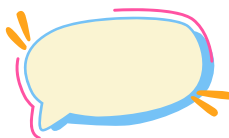


## Practice English Conversation

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.

**January 16th at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Tai Chi

In this class, you will begin with loosening up exercises to physically relax the joint areas to allow for better energy flow. This is followed with a meridian cleansing Chi Kung routine to begin cultivating the chi. The rest of the class is Tai Chi form instruction in Cheng Man Ch'ings Yang Style, 37-Posture form.

**Saturday, January 18th at 1pm**  
**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! Call Visitor Services to see if copies are available.

January Book: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

**Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Screening of Virtual Author Talk: "The Age of Magical Overthinking" with Bestselling Author Amanda Montell

For several years, we have been offering Virtual Author Talks on various topics. Come watch an author talk -- "The Age of Magical Overthinking: Notes on Modern Irrationality" with Author Amanda Montell -- LIVE on the big screen in our community meeting room!

**Thursday, January 23rd at 2pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**

# ADULTS | January Programs

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

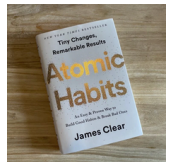
**Thursday, January 28th at 5:30pm**  
**Location: Meeting Rooms 1+2+3**



## Atomic Habits: Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results

For those interested in self-improvement and building better habits to achieve New Year's resolutions, join us for a discussion of the best-selling book *Atomic Habits* by James Clear, a practical guide that breaks down the science of habit formation and provides actionable strategies for creating positive change in your life.

**Thursday, January 30th at 3pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



## Read Around the World

This is a quarterly reading group featuring global literary fiction. We travel through books, getting a glimpse of different countries, cultures and customs. Our January selection is *Afterlives* by Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah. This is a hybrid program.

**Tuesday, January 28th at 6pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 6**



## A Psychedelic Generation Gap: How the Sixties Counterculture Changed America's Future



The 1960's were one of the most disorderly and divisive decades in history. The number of American young people aged 14 to 25 jumped 40 percent in the era, representing 20 percent of the population. The gulf between their parents, who suffered the hardships of the depression and the sacrifices of WWII, and these youths, growing up during a period of peaceful and rapid economic growth, revealed a tremendous gap in perspectives. Join John Cilio, as he steps back into the 60's when young people questioned the previous generation's authority and outlooks. They experimented with hallucinogens and other mind-altering drugs. Their scrutiny created a counterculture inspired by psychedelic music and lyrics that proved crucial to invigorating political ideas and common experiences.

7 **60's**

**Thursday, January 30th at 6pm**  
**Location: Meeting Room 5**



# ADULTS | Virtual Author Talks & Meet the Staff

## January Authors



**The Magic of Found Family:  
In Conversation with  
Author TJ Klune**

Weds, Jan. 15th  
7pm



**Notes on Modern  
Irrationality with Bestselling  
Author Amanda Montell**

Thurs, Jan. 23rd  
2pm



**An Inside Look at Working  
with a Literary Agent: A  
Conversation with Seth  
Fishman**

Tues, Jan 28th  
1pm

## Meet the Staff

**Tori Smith is a Library Clerk** and has been working at the Meriden Public Library since August 2023.

**If she couldn't be a clerk**, she would be a gaming live streamer or a traveling food critic.

**Her favorite TV shows are** *The Walking Dead*, *Survivor*, and *Game of Thrones*.

**The two movies she could watch over and over are** *The Amazing Spiderman 2* and *Ratatouille*.

**A fun fact about her is** that she can go to Taco Bell every day and not get tired of it.

**Her favorite authors are** Liv Constantine and Freida McFadden

**Famous birthday twins:** Melina Perez (former WWE wrestler) March 9th



# CHILDREN | January Storytimes

## Winter Storytimes

### Wiggle Worms

Mondays at 10:30am  
(No class January 20th & February 17th)  
January 13th–February 17th  
Wednesdays at 10:30am  
January 15th–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  
January 15th–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  
January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st  
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, January 18th & 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

## STEAM Stories

1st Thursday of every month at 6pm  
January 2nd  
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**

## Sensory Playtime

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month  
from 5pm to 6:30pm  
January 7th & January 21st  
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**

## Kid Art Club: Ink Tracing

Once a month on Thursday at 5:30pm  
January 16th  
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  
January 18th  
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**

## Messy Makers: Foam Painting

Once a month on Tuesday at 10:30am  
January 21st & February 11th  
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Come get messy with us! Each month we will try a new art technique! We'll provide aprons, but please come in clothes you don't mind getting messy!

**Location: Children's Project Room**

## Family Craft Night: Vehicles

Once a month on Thursday at 6pm  
January 23rd  
All Ages | Registration Required



Join us for a monthly family craft night that is sure to be a grand time. Each month is a different theme. 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**

# CHILDREN | January Programs

## Monthly Book Club

### Nutmeg Newts:

#### Chester Keen Cracks the Code

4th Tuesday of the month  
from 6pm to 6:45pm  
January 28th



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**

### Pint-Sized Scientists

Wednesday, January 8th at 10:30am  
Ages 2-5 | Registration Required

Join Miss Holly for some science fun! Each program will be hands-on, messy activities focused on different scientific topics. Siblings are welcome.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

### LEGO Volcanoes

Wednesday, January 8th at 6pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Create your own volcano made out of LEGO and then make it erupt with baking soda and vinegar!

**Location: Children's Project Room**

### Saturday Family Flick:

#### The Wild Robot (PG)

Saturday, January 11th at 2pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Requested

We can't wait to see you here! Stop by for a showing of *The Wild Robot* (rated PG) with the whole family. Please bring any items the family needs to make your viewing experience cozy. Snacks are not allowed in our Storytime Room.

**Location: Children's Storytime Room**

### Sensory Family Flick:

#### Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG)

Tuesday, January 14th at 6pm  
Ages 5-11 | Registration Required

Come as you are to our sensory friendly showing of *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (PG). We will lower the sound, put the subtitles on, and keep the lights on. Fidget toys will be available and everyone is welcome to walk, dance, and sing. Registration is required to best accommodate sensory requests.

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



### Drop-In Balloon Rockets

Saturday, January 18th at 2pm  
Ages 5-11 | Drop-In

3... 2... 1... Blast OFF! Create a balloon rocket out of a straw, paper fins, and a balloon. Test it to see how far it goes.

**Location: Children's Project Room**

# TEENS | January Programs

## **Fashion How To: Colors & Patterns**

Saturday, January 4th at 2pm



Learn how to apply color theory and pattern mixing to your outfits!

**Location: Teen Room**

## **Homework Help**

Mondays, January 6th & 27th 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**

## **Teen Advisory Board**

Wednesday, January 8th 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. Attendees will receive one hour of community service if in high school.

**Location: Teen Room**

## **Rainbow Roundtable**

Wednesday, January 8th at 6pm



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 Still Life**

Thursday, January 9th at 3:30pm



During this session we will be focusing on layering watercolor in a still life.

**Location: Teen Room**

# TEENS | January Programs

## YA Yabbies

Thursday, January 10th at 3:30pm

Join our discussion of historical fiction novel, *I Must Betray You*, by Ruta Sepetys. A gut-wrenching, startling window into communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.



Location: Teen Room

## College 101: Dormlife

Monday, January 13th at 3:30pm

Curious about college dorm life? Learn all about it during college 101 - from decorating to cooking to making friends.

Location: Teen Room

## New Year, New Vision

Wednesday, January 15th at 5:30pm

Excited for a new year and all it holds? Create your 2025 vision board with all your goals, hopes and wishes.



Location: Teen Room

## Take & Make: Origami Stars

Friday, January 17th from 2:30 to 4:30pm

Celebrate the new year by learning a new skill! Head to the teen room to grab a take & make kit to create origami stars.

Location: Teen Room

## Snowflake Suncatcher

Thursday, January 23rd at 5:30pm



Take your snowflakes to the next level! Using traditional paper snowflake designs and colorful paper, you will create a unique snowflake!

Location: Teen Room

## Yap and Snack

Friday, January 24th at 3:30pm

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

## Bad Art Night

Wednesday, January 29th at 5:30pm

Join us for a bad art night celebrating all things tacky, weird and ugly! The worse your creation, the better! Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any additional items to create your disasterpiece.

Location: Teen Room

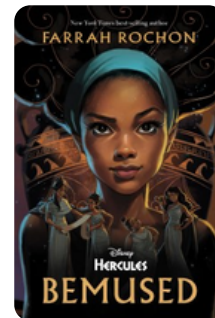
## DIY Bird Bookmark

Thursday, January 30th at 5:30pm

Do you love manga? Join the manga club to talk about your favorites, watch anime, meet fellow enthusiasts and work on fun projects!

Location: Teen Room

# JANUARY 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 \$65,000 or less.
- By appointment only. Must call VITA directly to schedule an appointment: **Call (860) 356-2000 or schedule an appointment**
- 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.

**MERIDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**NEW AT MPL**

**VIDEO GAMES!**

**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

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:





HAPPY  
*New Year*



**From Your Friends at the Meriden Public Library!**



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

