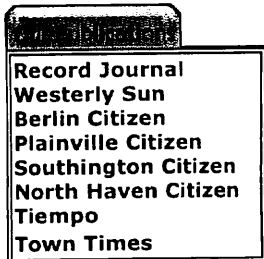


interest in history.


"We're American people," Harry Athorne said. "We love our history."

"It's nice to know that the library offers these cultural things," Betty Leidy, of Meriden, said. The next event in The Friends of Meriden Public Library's bicentennial celebration series will be "Meriden's Sesquicentennial Parade", co-sponsored by Fischer's Fine Foods. The program will be held at 2 p.m. March 19 at the library.



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Last updated: Tuesday, February 7, 2006

Weather for Meriden

 Mostly Cloudy
 Time: 12:00 pm
 Temp: 38
 RealFeel Temp: 36
 Humidity: 42
 Winds: NW at 8 mph


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The Reveres stop at the city library

By Amanda Falcone, Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — Those in the Silver City learned about a historical figure who owned a silver shop Sunday at the kickoff event for a series of programs celebrating the city's bicentennial sponsored by the Friends of the Meriden Public Library. For an hour, it was 1806 in Meriden, and many ventured to the library to meet and speak with Paul and Rachel Revere. Lee K. Riethmiller and Jessa S. Piaia, dressed in 18th century clothing, played the couple and talked to the crowd about the their life, as well as educating them about the American Revolution.



Character re-enactors Lee K. Riethmiller and Jessa S. Piaia perform as Paul and Rachel Revere at the Meriden Public Library Sunday. (Dave Zajac / Record-Journal)

"Paul and Rachel Revere Ride Again, Meet Noted Patriot Couple!" also allowed the audience time to ask questions.

Riethmiller is founder and director of the Intercontinental Foreign Language Program at Harvard Square in Cambridge, Mass. Piaia studied performance at London's Oval House Theatre and works in the anthropology department at Harvard University. She performs historical reenactments throughout New England.

Sunday, addressing the crowd as the patriotic couple, Riethmiller and Piaia spoke about how Paul and Rachel Revere met, about the Revere family and about Paul Revere's midnight ride and other historical events, such as the Boston Tea Party.

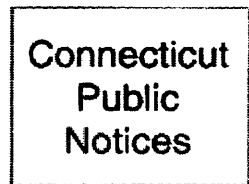
Paul Revere is most noted for his role as a messenger in 1775. On a borrowed horse, Brown Beauty, Revere warned colonists that "the regulars," or British soldiers, were coming during his midnight ride.

Riethmiller and Piaia also led the crowd in the singing of "Sail Away Ladies."

Nancy Manning, a teacher at Highland School in Wallingford, attended the program to prepare for a project her fifth-grade class will do in May.

"I'm here to get a little background information — the little tidbits," she said. "This was a little bit of research."

Manning's class will hold Patriot Idol this spring, a project that will allow the students to portray historical figures. The students will vote on how well their peers portray America's Revolutionary War heroes, she said. Harry and Loretta Athorne, of Meriden, went to the program Sunday because of their



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