

Message from the CEO



Several years ago, the Ferguson Library received a generous donation in memory of long-time volunteer Harry Bloch. Knowing how Mr. Bloch loved history, the donor wanted to underwrite a program that would bring history alive for youth. This year's Harry Bloch Family History Program will do just that. Our guest speaker, Andrew Aydin, is a *New York Times* bestselling author, National Book Award winner, Robert F. Kennedy Book Award

Honoree, Printz Award winner, and I could go on.

Andrew is the creator and co-author of the graphic memoir series *March*, which chronicled the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis. When I saw Andrew Aydin speak about *March* and the sequel *Run: Book One*, I felt as if I were part of the civil rights movement. I encourage you to attend this virtual program, talk about the issues raised, then read *Run*. It will be available at our Back-to-School Book Giveaway, which begins September 18 at all our locations.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

Ferguson Receives Federal Grant to Enhance Service

The Ferguson Library has received a \$31,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to enhance access to library services. Part of the money will be used to purchase an annual service plan for the 25 hotspots that the library circulates to people in need of internet access (the current plan, purchased with state funding, is expiring). People can also borrow Chromebooks from the library.

Additional funding will be used to purchase self-check kiosks for the South End Branch and digital lockers for the Harry Bennett Branch. These will be situated outside so people can pick up materials even when the library is closed. We also plan to purchase air-purifying machines for small study rooms and meeting spaces, so those spaces can be safely used by the public.

★ The Main library is now open weekday evenings. See the back of *Focus* for NEW LIBRARY AND PASSPORT OFFICE HOURS.

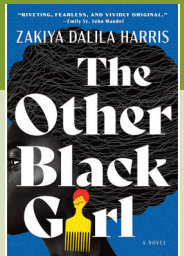
★ All library facilities will be closed Sunday, September 5 and Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

Ferguson Mobile Bike

Our librarians will be bringing books to local parks this fall with our new mobile bike. The project was generously supported by the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Domus and the Woodworkers Club of Norwalk.



NYT Bestselling Author Zakiya Dalila Harris



The Friends of the Ferguson Library, in partnership with Darien Library, presents Zakiya Dalila Harris, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Other Black Girl*, Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. *The Other Black Girl* is an electric debut about the tension that unfurls when two young Black women meet against the starkly white backdrop of New York City book publishing. It was named a *Good Morning America* and *People* Best Book of Summer and a Most Anticipated Book of 2021 by *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Entertainment Weekly* and the *BBC*.

Registration for the in-person event is full. Register for the waiting list at fergusonlibrary.org. The program will also be available on Zoom. The link is available on the calendar listing on our website. No need to register for the Zoom webinar.

The NEA Big Read Coming in October Toni Morrison's *Beloved*



The Ferguson Library has received a \$12,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to participate in a community-wide Big Read. We hope you'll join us in reading or re-reading Toni Morrison's classic novel, *Beloved*.

We kick off a month-long series of NEA Big Read programs October 2 with a book give-away and the first of three workshops to create a community quilt evoking the rich world of *Beloved*.

Our keynote address on October 7 features Swarthmore College President Valerie Smith, the author of *Toni Morrison: Writing the Moral Imagination*.

We'll also be holding discussions of *Beloved* at all our locations. Check our calendar for more information.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: PROQUEST ABI/INFORM COLLECTION

ProQuest's ABI/INFORM Collection provides researchers with a complete picture of companies and business trends from around the world. It features business and economics full-text journals and periodicals; dissertations, conference and working papers; country- and industry-focused reports; and newspapers and news content, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Economist* and the *Financial Times*. Subject coverage includes business, economic conditions, corporate strategies and more. You can find ABI/INFORM at fergusonlibrary.org under Research & Learn/A to Z Resources. You will need a valid Ferguson Library card.

ML Main Library, DiMattia Building, 203 351-8242
HB Harry Bennett, 203 351-8294
SE South End, 203 351-8283
WMH Weed Memorial & Hollander, 203 351-8287

RR Registration Required

at fergusonlibrary.org/events/.

For virtual programs, Zoom details will be sent to all registrants in advance of the program.



@ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth,
@harrybennettbranchys and
@southendbranch_lib.



[https://facebook.com/
TheFergusonLibrary/](https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/).



[https://www.youtube.com/c/
TheFergusonLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary).



@fergusonlib

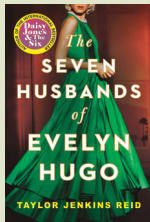
Book Discussions

If the discussion is presented on Zoom, login details for each discussion are on our online calendar. Registration is not required. Book discussions are open to all.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

Monday, Sept. 13
from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo: A Novel
by Taylor Jenkins Reid



Harry Bennett Branch

Monday, Sept. 13
from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom

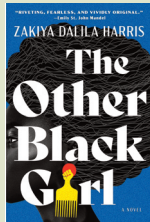
Miss Benson's Beetle
by Rachel Joyce



South End Branch

Monday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. at SE
(also on Zoom)

The Other Black Girl
by Zakiya Dalila Harris



Author Barry Woods in Conversation with Allan Houston

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Auditorium

Join Barry Woods for a conversation about his book, *Reasons Why Youth Don't Give a Damn Anymore!* Former NBA star Allan Houston will be with Barry to kick things off. Book sale and signing. **RR.**



NEW! Notary Services

Wednesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB

Our notary public will be available to notarize your paperwork for free. By appointment only. For information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8292.

Death Cafe Stamford

Thursdays, Sept. 2, 16 & 30
from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom

A discussion about increasing awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. With Sahara Farrugio, a licensed funeral director specializing in advanced planning. Zoom details are on our online calendar. *Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.*

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE

For information, call 203 724-9111.

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation

Tuesdays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28 at noon
ML, Third Floor Auditorium

A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to share and reflect. Appropriate for people who are new to meditation and those who have long-standing practices.

Lawyers in Libraries: Looking for Legal Advice?

Thursday, Sept. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room

If your case involves personal injury, landlord/tenant, immigration law, family law, employment, consumer rights, or other areas of law, you can meet with a volunteer attorney for 20 minutes regarding your case. Please bring any materials you may have with information about your case. Appointment and face masks required. To book a time, call 203 351-8221.

Lisa Jewell at Barrett Bookstore

Monday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.
6 Corbin Drive, Darien

Meet this #1 NYT bestselling author as she presents her newest book, *The Night She Disappeared*. Wine and light bites will be served. RSVP to pbbarrettbooks@gmail.com. Co-sponsored by the Ferguson Library and Darien Library.

(photo credit: The 1Point8)



BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE

Harry Bloch Family History Program
Andrew Aydin,
Co-author of
Run: Book One

Saturday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. via Zoom

Run: Book One tells the story of an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history through the eyes of the late Congressman John Lewis, one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Andrew Aydin was the Digital Director and Policy Advisor to the Georgia congressman, and his co-author for the bestselling *March* trilogy. Grades 6 and up. **RR.** This program is made possible through a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups for English Language Learners

Fall Sessions via Zoom

Registration not required. New students welcome. For meeting information, visit <https://fergusonlibrary.org/lets-talk-events/>

Tuesdays, Sept. 21 & 28

New students: Noon

Basic: 12:30 p.m.

Low intermediate: 3 p.m.

Advanced: 6 p.m.

Wednesdays, Sept. 22 & 29

High intermediate: 10 a.m.

Beginner: 3 p.m.

Registration Opens Sept. 20
U.S. Citizenship Course Fall 2021
Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.
beginning October 14 (no classes November 11 & 15)

ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Six-week study course for the U.S. naturalization test. Students must read, write and comprehend basic English. Applicants age 50 and older with 20 years of legal permanent residency or 55 and older with 15 years of legal permanent residency could be excused from the English literacy requirement. **RR.** Register in person at the Second Floor Information Desk at the Main Library, online, email at yelena@fergusonlibrary.org.

Business & Career

TechXel Stamford

Fairfield County's First Enterprise Accelerator

TechXel Stamford Accelerator Series

Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. via Zoom

Registration required for each session. **RR.** Register before NOON on the program date. Zoom invitations will be sent by 1 p.m.

Sept. 8: Leadership and Team Building

Scott C. Nevins, Principal, Bernstein Private Wealth Management

Sept. 15: Business Formation and Contracts

Kelly O'Donnell, Esq., Pullman & Comley, LLC

Sept. 22: Sales

Guy Sullivan, Founder, Silicon Parkway Ventures

Sept. 29: Patents and Trademarks

Wesley W. Whitmyer, Jr., Founder, Whitmyer IP Group

Stamford 1 Million Cups

Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 8 a.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Celebrate National Small Business Week. Join us for coffee and presentations from local small business owners. (Coffee and conversation from 7:45 to 8 a.m. on the Plaza.) **RR.**

Friends Author Series



The Friends of the Ferguson Library, in Partnership with Darien Library, Presents An Evening with Zakiya Dalila Harris, Author of *The Other Black Girl* Thursday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m.



ML, Third Floor Auditorium

(Also available via Zoom. Check our online calendar for the login.)

The Other Black Girl is a whip-smart, dynamic thriller and sly social commentary that is perfect for anyone who has ever felt manipulated, threatened or overlooked in the workplace. Book sale and signing.

Registration for the in-person event at the Main Library is full.

Register online for the waiting list.

Technology Classes

Main Library, DiMattia Building

Third Floor Technology Center.

Registration required for all classes.

Call 203 351-8221 or 8222 or register online at fergusonlibrary.org/events/.

Introduction to Web Building: HTML & CSS

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Learn how to create a basic website using HTML with text, images, and links. It will then cover how to use CSS to modify the format and design of the website. Must be familiar with Windows, using the internet, and be able to use a mouse and keyboard. No experience with HTML or CSS is necessary.

MICROSOFT EXCEL

Basic MS Excel

Saturday, Sept. 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to navigate MS Excel and basic skills like data entry and formulas. Must be familiar with Windows and be able to use a mouse and keyboard. No MS Excel experience is necessary.

Intermediate MS Excel

Saturday, Sept. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Learn how to use keyboard shortcuts, templates, and conditional formatting. Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard. Basic MS Excel experience is necessary.

MICROSOFT WORD

Basic MS Word

Thursday, Sept. 23 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to navigate MS Word and basic skills like text formatting. Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard. No MS Word experience is necessary.

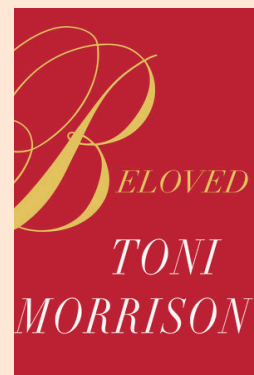
Intermediate MS Word

Thursday, Sept. 30 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to insert tables and images, using the header and footer, and using Styles in MS Word 2016. Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard. Basic MS Word experience is necessary.

NEA BIG READ

OCTOBER 2021



Beloved by Toni Morrison

Programs and book discussions throughout the month of October. For more information and the full schedule, visit fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read.

Beginning September 1, book giveaways at all locations and select Bookmobile stops while copies last.

SAVE THE DATES

The NEA Big Read Kick-off: Community Quilt Project

Saturday, October 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ML, First Floor Lobby

Create your square to add to the community quilt. All ages.

NEA Big Read Keynote Speaker: Valerie Smith, President of Swarthmore College

Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m. at ML

Valerie Smith, President of Swarthmore College, a Toni Morrison scholar and author of *Toni Morrison: Writing the Moral Imagination*. Copies of *Beloved* will be given to registered attendees. **RR.** (Also available via Zoom. Check our online calendar for the login.)



NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY



Book Shop News

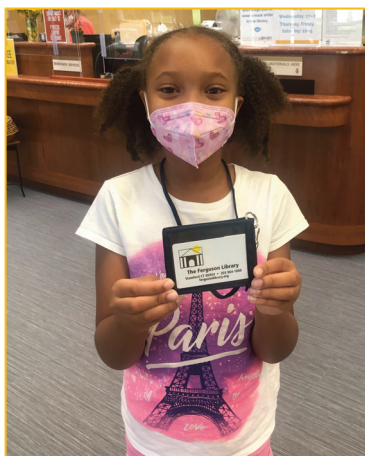
The Friends Book Shop now offers online shopping. You can check inventory and order books on their website, stamford-friendsbookshop.org, then come in to purchase. The Friends Book Shop is your community book shop! Shop in-store or online. All proceeds support the library.

NEW! Notary Services

Do you need official documents notarized? Our notary public is available at the Harry Bennett Branch to notarize your paperwork for free. Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., by appointment only. For information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8292.

September is Library Card Signup Month

Nine-year-old Olivia Wilson with her brand-new Ferguson Library card.



STAFF RECOMMENDS:

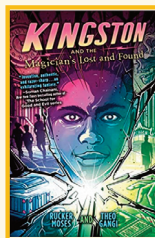
New Titles for Kids and Teens



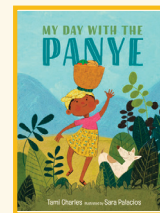
Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer
by Traci Sorell
(Ages 7 – 11)



The Elephant in the Room
by Holly Goldberg Sloan
(Ages 10 and up)



Kingston and the Magician's Lost and Found
by Rucker Moses and Theo Gangi
(Ages 10 and up)



My Day with the Panye
by Tami Charles
(Ages 5 – 9)



Angel of Greenwood
by Randi Pink
(Ages 12 and up)



Lemonade Code
by Jarod Pratt
(Ages 9 – 12)

Missed one of our programs? Not to worry – catch up whenever you have a chance. We are recording most of our virtual programs. You can find them on our YouTube channel.

Connect to the Ferguson



FERGUSON LIBRARY

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Linda Avellar, *Editor*
Barbara Aronica-Buck, *Designer*
Barbara Thomas, *Communication Specialist*
Camilla Herrera, *Marketing Specialist*

The Ferguson Library Board of Trustees

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Susana Vidan

Ex Officio

Alice Knapp, *Chief Executive Officer*

Main Library, DiMattia Building

One Public Library Plaza,
Stamford, CT 06904
203 964-1000
Monday through Thursday 10 – 8
Friday 10 – 6
Saturday 10 – 5
Sunday 1 – 5

Harry Bennett Branch

115 Vine Road 06905
203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &
Friday 10 – 5
Wednesday 10 – 7
Saturday 10 – 5

South End Branch

34 Woodland Avenue 06902
203 351-8280
Monday through Thursday 10 – 5:30
Saturday 10 – 2

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

1143 Hope Street 06907
203 351-8285
Monday & Thursday 10 – 6
Tuesday 12 – 7
Saturday 10 – 5

Bookmobile

Check our online calendar at
<https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/locations-hours/bookmobile>

The Friends Book Shops at the Ferguson Library

Main Library Book Shop

Monday through Thursday 11 – 6
Friday & Saturday 11 – 5
Sunday 1 – 5

Harry Bennett Branch Book Shop

Monday through Saturday 10 – 5

Passport Services

Appointments take precedence and are recommended. For more information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8298.

Main Library Passport Office

Monday through Wednesday 10 – 7
Thursday 10 – 8
Friday 10 – 5
Saturday 10 – 4
Sunday 1 – 5

Harry Bennett Passport Office

Saturday 1 – 4 (WALK-IN ONLY)

p 203 964-1000

f 203 357-9098

w fergusonlibrary.org

e comments@fergusonlibrary.org

SEPTEMBER 2021

Support the library with a monthly gift. Donate at fergusonlibrary.org.



FERGUSON LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2021

How to Contact and Follow Us



Main Library Borrowers Services: 203 351-8261

Main Library Adult Services/Reference Desk:

203 351-8231

Youth Services: 203 351-8242

Harry Bennett Branch: 203 351-8294

South End Branch: 203 351-8283

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch: 203 351-8287

F **YS Website** fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids for information for kids, teens, parents and educators. You'll find information about our digital books, movies and music, Linked Libraries, digital resources, Wi-Fi for students in need, and more.

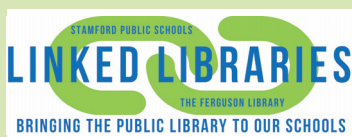
F **Online calendar** at fergusonlibrary.org/events/ for updates and pop-up programs and subscribe to our newsletter/weekly emails at fergusonlibrary.org/newsletters.

Instagram @ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @harrybennettbranchys and @southend-branch_lib.

Facebook [http://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/](https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/).

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary>.

All library facilities will be closed on Sunday, September 5, and Monday, September 6, for the Labor Day holiday.



Stamford students can use their school ID to access our many digital materials, even if they

don't have a Ferguson Library card. For access, enter 2111800+student ID number (no spaces). If you encounter any issues accessing our e-materials or databases, fill out the form at <https://fergusonlibrary.org/linked-libraries-contact-us-form/>.

Back-to-School Book Giveaway

Saturday, September 18 through

Thursday, September 30

Kids and teens: Kick off the new school year with free books! Drop by any of our branches and get two free books to add to your home library. While copies last. Grades Pre-K to 12. No registration needed.

Curbside pickup is still available by appointment.

Bringing History Alive

Harry Bloch Family History Program

Andrew Aydin,

Co-author of

Run: Book One

Saturday, September 18 at 2 p.m. via Zoom



Run: Book One tells the story of an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history through the eyes of the late Congressman John Lewis, one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Andrew Aydin was the Digital Director and Policy Advisor to the Georgia congressman, and his co-author for the bestselling *March* trilogy. Grades 6 and up. **RR**. (Note: Copies of *Run: Book One* will be available at our Back-to-School Book Giveaway while copies last.) *This program is made possible through a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.*

Author Barry Woods in Conversation with Allan Houston

Wednesday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Auditorium

Join Barry Woods in a conversation about the subject of his book, *Reasons Why Youth Don't Give a Damn Anymore!* Former NBA star Allan Houston will be with Barry to kick things off. For adults and teens, grades 6 to 12. Book sale and signing. **RR**.



Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

FERGUSON LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES SEPTEMBER 2021

ML Main Library, DiMattia Building • HB Harry Bennett • SE South End • WMH Weed Memorial & Hollander

RR-REGISTRATION REQUIRED at fergusonlibrary.org/events/ • For virtual programs, Zoom details will be included in registration confirmations.

The Ferguson Outdoors

Please note: These programs will take place, weather permitting.

Outdoor Family Storytimes

Bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs to these drop-in programs on the lawns of the Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch, the Harry Bennett Branch and at the outdoor plaza of the Main Library, DiMattia Building. For children up to age 4, with caregiver. **(Weather permitting)**

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

Thursdays, September 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Main Library, DiMattia Building - Outdoor Plaza

Tuesdays, September 14, 21 & 28 from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Harry Bennett Branch

Fridays, September 10, 17 & 24 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

crayons or markers, and scissors handy. (Don't forget to wear your favorite hat!) Grades 2 to 3. **RR.**



Crafternoons @ Home

Thursdays, September 9 & 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom



A picture book read-aloud and art project. Bring coloring supplies and have your imagination ready! Grades K-5. Families, parents and caregivers are encouraged to join. **RR.**

Back-to-School Book Giveaway

Saturday, September 18 through Thursday, September 30

Kids and teens: Kick off the new school year with free books! Drop by any of our branches and get two free books to add to your home library. Grades Pre-K to 12.

Teen Program

Creative Writing Club

Wednesdays, September 8 & 22 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom



Bring your imagination, paper and something to write with. We'll work on different writing prompts, then share our work. Grades 5 to 9. **RR.**



Children's Programs

Budding Bookworms via South End Branch Instagram



Tuesdays, September 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Storytime for ages 18 months to 4 years. New content every week. Watch on the South End Instagram at the scheduled time.

Sing & Stomp

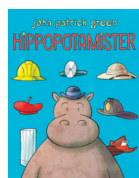
Mondays, September 13, 20 & 27 from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. via Zoom



A song and dance party! For 18 months to 4 years, with adult. **RR.**

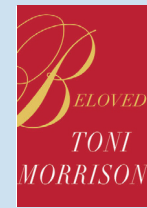
Book Bunch Club Discussion and Activity

Wednesday, September 22 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom



Read *Hippopotamister* by John Patrick Green and then join us for a fun discussion and activity. Please have blank paper, a writing implement,

NEA BIG READ October 2021



In addition to reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, the library will also host companion book discussions for children and teens. Our young reader's selections are *Sugar* by Jewell Parker Rhodes and *Crossing Ebenezer Creek* by Tonya Bolden. For more information and the full schedule, visit fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read.

SAVE THE DATES

The NEA Big Read Kick-off: Community Quilt Project

Saturday, October 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ML, First Floor Lobby

Create your square to add to the community quilt. All ages.

A Conversation with Jewell Parker Rhodes, Author of *Sugar*

Saturday, October 23 at 2 p.m. via Zoom

Grades 3 and up. **RR.**



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
BIG READ
Managed by Arts Midwest
arts.gov/neaBIGread