Message from the CEO

I feel very thankful to live and work in a community that supports its local library. This year, we opened a new branch on Stamford’s West Side in the Police Activities League Center. This wouldn’t have been possible without stable support from the City of Stamford. There are so many support services we provide that go beyond basic library service thanks to the generosity of this community. For example, we receive a $5,000 donation every year so the Bookmobile can visit parks on summer weekends. Since I check the statistics daily, I know that the circulation of children’s books goes up dramatically when we visit a park.

This past year, several partnering organizations (including the City and the Mayor’s Multicultural Council) donated to the library so we could give away copies of Darryl ‘DMC’ McDaniels’ (RUN DMC) latest children's book, Darryl’s Dream. Small and large gifts allow us to purchase books, provide early literacy programs and offer services for those who have recently arrived in Stamford.

Your gift helps make this library a great one! Please consider making a donation before the end of the year.

Thank you for your support.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

The Purple Bus Is Back In Business

Our Purple Bus is back on the road after a pandemic hiatus. The Purple Bus program began in 1997 with a vehicle donated by the Friends of the Ferguson Library. The bus brings schoolchildren to the library, some for the very first time. We're delighted to be up and running again.

Support for Sunday Hours

Many thanks to Judy Block for her generous gift to support Sunday hours. Her contribution will help underwrite the cost of providing service at the Main Library Sunday, December 11. Sundays are one of our busiest and most important days of the week and we are grateful for her donation. If you would like to help us provide Sunday hours at the library, please contact Linda Avellar at linda@fergusonlibrary.org, 203 351-8208.

Help Us Reach Our Year-End Goal. Give to Your Public Library!

Please remember the Ferguson Library in your year-end giving. Your donation of any amount helps keep books and all the things you love at the library free and available to everyone in the community.

Help us reach our year-end goal of $100,000! Donate securely at fergusonlibrary.org or pick up a donation envelope at any library location. Thank you for investing in your public library.

LEGENDARY CHEF JACQUES PÉPIN TO VISIT THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Ferguson Library’s Author Series is pleased to bring the iconic chef Jacques Pépin to the Main Library, DiMattia Building Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m. The French culinary master, author, artist and television personality will join us for an engaging chat about his New York Times bestseller, Art of the Chicken: A Master Chef’s Paintings, Stories and Recipes of the Humble Bird with Valerie Foster, former Food and Features Editor of The Advocate and a Fairfield County-based restaurant critic.

A 2 p.m. reception will precede the program. Tickets are $35 general admission and $30 for Friends members. All guests will receive a signed copy of Pépin’s book. The event is now full, but at press time, there is a waiting list.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: FERGUSON LIBRARY DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Ferguson Library Digital Archive is the first stop to check out all the wonderful materials we have covering Stamford history. You can browse through our various digitized collections like the Carl Lobozza photographs of historic Stamford. Explore what Stamford was like before the early 1960s in the Stamford Urban Renewal collection. The Rosalind Duncan collection highlights the fight to prevent the construction of I-95 through the city. Our latest collection features videos and publicity from the Director’s View Film Festival that brought the glitz and glamor of Hollywood to Stamford. Access the archive by visiting fergusonlibraryarchive.org. No library card necessary.
Friends Author Series: A Conversation with Chef Jacques Pépin
Sunday, December 4 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details.

Meet Humor Writer Jerry Zezima, Author of One for the Ageless
Wednesday, December 7 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.  
at HB
Humor columnist and writer Jerry Zezima will read from his latest book, One for the Ageless. How to Stay Young and Immature Even If You’re Really Old. Book sale and signing will follow presentation.

Classic Movie Matinees
Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB
Screenings of popular Christmas films from the Criterion Collection.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
December 9
After a divorced New York mother hires a nice old man to play Santa Claus at Macy’s, she is startled by his claim to be the genuine article. Not rated.

The Cheaters (1945)
December 16
An eccentric wealthy family facing bankruptcy schemes to steal an inheritance but a former actor they take in for Christmas complicates the plan. Not rated.

Gremlins (1984)
December 23
A young man inadvertently breaks three rules concerning his new pet and unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on a small town. Rated PG.

Scrooged (1988)
December 30

Family Programs
Kwanzaa: Community Gatherings
Tuesday, December 27, Thursday, December 29, & Saturday, December 31, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at SE
A multi-day celebration of Kwanzaa and its seven principles, where you will learn about the cultural holiday and join in lighting the candles. Additional activities include: on Dec. 27, a presentation of The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration, a documentary narrated by Maya Angelou; on Dec. 29, fun with craft-making; and on Dec. 31, recreation with Kwanzaa coloring sheets.

Kwanzaa: A Stamford Celebration
Wednesday, December 28 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard
A community celebration featuring Mayor Caroline Simmons and drummer and storyteller Gina Levon Simpson. Co-sponsored by Domus, the Ferguson Library South End Branch, the Mayor’s Multicultural Council, the Stamford Kwanzaa Association and Stamford Stands Against Racism.

Noon Year’s Eve Party
Saturday, December 31 from 11 a.m. to noon
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Here’s your chance to ring in the new year with us a few hours early. Ages 3 to 8 with accompanying family. RR.

Walk-In COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
Select Weekdays, December 1 to 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. See website for details.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
All ages welcome to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine and booster. Please bring insurance card and photo ID if you have them, but these are not necessary to receive the vaccine. No one will be turned away. Presented in partnership with Stamford Health and Griffin Health.

Affordable Care Act Insurance Enrollment
Mondays to Fridays, December 1 to 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
Representatives from Access Health CT are at the library to enroll members for 2023 individual and family health insurance plans. Enroll by December 16 to have coverage that begins January 1. Presented in partnership with Access Health CT.
**Let's Talk: Conversation Groups**
Registration not required. New students welcome. For meeting information, visit fergusonlibrary.org/lets-talk-events.

**Evening Sessions in Person**
*Tuesdays, December 6 & 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.*
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

**Fall Sessions via Zoom**
*Tuesdays, December 6 & 13*
New students: from noon to 12:30 p.m.
Basic: from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Low intermediate: from 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Advanced: from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
*Wednesdays, December 7 & 14*
High intermediate: from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**Art at the Ferguson: Celebrating Work Created Since 2020**
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Exhibit featuring works by local and regional artists. On view through January 19.
Co-sponsored by the Stamford Art Association.

**Women’s Self-Defense Workshop**
*Saturday, December 3 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.*
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Club Kung Fu of Stamford will lead a workshop focusing on setting boundaries, assessing the threat, and fighting back. 

**Documentary Screening: The Booksellers**
*Saturday, December 3 from 2 to 3:45 p.m.*
ML, Third Floor Technology Center

**Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry**
*Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE*
For more information, call 203 724-9111.

**Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation**
*Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from noon to 1 p.m.*
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to share and reflect.

**Introduction to Web Development:**
**HTML, CSS & JavaScript**
*Sunday, December 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.*
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn how to construct the layout of a website, understand basic design principles and styling with CSS, and add interactivity with JavaScript. Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard. 
Presented in collaboration with Synchrony Skills Academy.

**Tech Tips for Older Adults**
*Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at SE*
Free weekly help on smartphones, tablets, laptops and other devices with our experienced bilingual (English and Spanish) team.

**NEW LOCATION: Mah-Jongg Club**
*Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB*
Come out and play mah-jongg with us. Beginner to advanced players welcome.

**Notary Public Services**
*Wednesdays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at WMH*
Our notary public will be available to notarize your official documents for free. By appointment only. Call 203 351-8286.

**Death Cafe Stamford**
*Thursdays, December 8 & 22 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom*
A discussion about increasing the awareness of death to help people make the most of their finite lives. Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.

**Classical Concert with The Stamford Chorale**
*Sundays, December 11 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium*
An afternoon performance of choral classics by Fauré and Mozart.

**Kwanzaa Jazz Café**
*Thursdays, December 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at SE*
An evening of smooth jazz with guitarist GabeJazzo, a.k.a. Gabriel Mondesir. Refreshments will be served.

**Fun with Line Dancing**
*Friday, December 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at SE*
Bring your friends to learn some popular line dancing moves. No dance experience necessary.

**Lawyers in Libraries**
*Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.*
**ML, Second Floor Study Room**
Discuss your case with a volunteer attorney. To book a required 20-minute appointment, call 203 351-8221. Supported by the Connecticut Bar Association.

**Maximizing LinkedIn**
*Thursday, December 1 from 3 to 4 p.m.*
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn how to create a professional profile, connect with business professionals, search for jobs and career interests, and gather referrals and endorsements. Presented in partnership with Goodwill Career Centers.

**The Workplace Information Session**
*Wednesday, December 7 from noon to 7 p.m.*
ML, Second Floor Group Study Room
Discover how The Workplace can help you prepare for a career using one of its free programs, including training for the long-term unemployed, resources for those seeking re-entry into the workplace and services for young adults.

**Budgeting for the New Year**
*Saturday, December 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.*
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Everything you need to know about budgeting, cost-cutting, spending plans and long-term financial tools and strategies.

**FAFSA Information Session**
*Wednesday, December 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom*
Learn about the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) and how it can help you secure grants and/or loans for college. Presented in partnership with the CONNTAC Educational Opportunity Organization.

**Resume Writing 101**
*Thursday, December 15 from 3 to 4 p.m.*
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn how to create a professional profile that meets your job search needs and sets you apart from the competition. Experience with MS Word is highly recommended.

**TechXel Stamford Accelerator Series**
*Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. via Zoom*
For each session. Register by noon on the program date. Zoom invitations will be sent by 1 p.m.

**December 1 – Capital Tables and Valuation**
Charlotte Walker, Founder and President, TSF Management

**December 8 – Avoiding Pitfalls and Managing Software Development**
Matt Krieger, Vice President Technology, Cober, Inc.
FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

Book Shop News
Find that perfect holiday gift in the Book Shop. Whether it's music, movies or books, we have it! Stop by and browse at either of our locations—at the Main Library or Harry Bennett Branch. The Book Shop is open during library hours and features gently used books donated by the community. All proceeds support the library.

Mini-Golf at the Harry Bennett Branch
Fun for the whole family! Mini golf returns to the Harry Bennett Branch Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12, from 11 to 5 p.m. each day. Tickets are $5 per person. Under three plays for free. Refreshments at the “19th hole.” Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor, First County Bank.

Warm for the Winter Mitten Drive
Drop off new or clean, gently used gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for children (any age) and adults at any Ferguson Library location. All donations will be distributed to our neighbors through Person to Person. Donations will be accepted until Friday, January 6.

STAFF RECOMMENDS:
DIY for the Holidays

- **Knitting the National Parks:** 63 Easy-to-Follow Designs for Beautiful Beanies Inspired by the US National Parks by Nancy Bates

- **Pottery for Beginners:** Projects for Beautiful Ceramic Bowls, Mugs, Vases and More by Kara Leigh Ford

- **Zigzag Rope Sewing Projects:** 16 Home Accessories to Make with a Simple Stitch by Katherine Lile

- **Ultimate Illustrated Guide to Sewing Clothes** by Joi Mahon

- **The Eco-Christmas Craft Book:** 30 Stylish Festive Projects that Won't Hurt the Planet by Marianne Miall

- **Mister Rogers' Neighborhood:** Knitting the Neighborhood by Sixth & Spring Books

Missed one of our programs? Catch up whenever you have a chance. Many of our programs are available on our YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe.

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY
THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Linda Avellar, Editor
Beth Fitzpatrick, Communication & Marketing Coordinator
Barbara Aronica-Buck, Designer
Camilla Herrera, Communication & Marketing Specialist

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Alice Knapp, Chief Executive Officer

Main Library, DiMattia Building
One Public Library Plaza.
Stamford, CT 06904
203 964-1000
Monday through Thursday 10 to 8
Friday 10 to 6
Saturday 10 to 5
Sunday 1 to 5

Harry Bennett Branch
115 Vine Road 06905
203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 to 6
Wednesday 10 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

South End Branch
34 Woodland Avenue 06902
203 351-8280
Monday through Thursday 10 to 5:30
Saturday 10 to 2

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch
1143 Hope Street 06907
203 351-8285
Monday through Thursday 10 to 6
Tuesday 12 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

Bookmobile
Check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/locations-hours/bookmobile

The Friends Book Shops at the Ferguson Library
Main Library
Monday through Thursday 11 to 6
Friday & Saturday 11 to 5
Sunday 11 to 5
Harry Bennett Branch
Monday through Saturday 11 to 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 Thursday 10 to 7
Friday & Saturday 10 to 4
Sunday 1 to 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Wednesday 10 to 6 (walk-in only)
Saturday 10 to 4 (walk-in only)

Connect to the Ferguson
Facebook: Ferguson Library
YouTube: Ferguson Library
Twitter: Ferguson Library
Instagram: Ferguson Library
LinkedIn: Ferguson Library
Website: fergusonlibrary.org
Email: comments@fergusonlibrary.org

DECEMBER 2022

Support the library with a monthly gift. Donate at fergusonlibrary.org.
How to Contact and Follow Us
Main Library Borrowers Services: 203 351-8261
Main Library Adult Services/Reference Desk: 203 351-8231
Youth Services:
Main Library: 203 351-8242
Harry Bennett Branch: 203 351-8294
South End Branch: 203 351-8280
Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch: 203 351-8287

Check out our Youth Services page at fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids for information for kids, teens, parents and educators. You'll also find information about our digital books, movies and music, Linked Libraries, digital resources, Wi-Fi service for students in need, and more.

Visit our 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 southendbranch_lib
Facebook facebook.com/thefergusonlibrary
YouTube youtube.com/thefergusonlibrary

All library facilities will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for Christmas. The library will also be closed January 1 and 2 for New Year’s Day. Have a safe, happy holiday season.

Family Programs
Kwanzaa: Community Gatherings
Tuesday, December 27, Thursday, December 29, & Saturday, December 31, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at SE
A multi-day celebration of Kwanzaa and its seven principles, where you will learn about the cultural holiday and join in lighting the candles. Additional activities include: on Dec. 27, a presentation of The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration, a documentary narrated by Maya Angelou; on Dec. 29, fun with craft-making; and on Dec. 31, recreation with Kwanzaa coloring sheets.

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ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Here’s your chance to ring in the new year with us a few hours early. Ages 3 to 8 with accompanying family. RR.

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Screenings of popular Christmas films from the Criterion Collection.

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After a divorced New York mother hires a nice old man to play Santa Claus at Macy’s, she is startled by his claim to be the genuine article. Not rated.

The Cheaters (1945) December 16
An eccentric wealthy family facing bankruptcy schemes to steal an inheritance but a former actor they take in for Christmas complicates the plan. Not rated.

A young man inadvertently breaks three rules concerning his new pet and unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on a small town. Rated PG.

Scrooged (1988) December 30
A selfish, cynical TV executive is haunted by three spirits bearing lessons on Christmas Eve in this adaptation of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. Rated PG-13.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023
Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Picture Us Reading Book Club

Thursdays, December 1 & 15 from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. at HB

A picture book reading and discussion. Refreshments will be served. Ages 7 and older.

Babymile

Fridays, December 2 & 9 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A program geared for babies featuring traditional verses, bouncing rhymes, board books and more. For ages 18 months and younger with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Family Storytime

Saturday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 7 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A participatory storyline for the whole family that includes songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. For ages 18 months to 4 years with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Budding Bookworms

Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 10:30 a.m. via South End Branch Instagram

Bilingual storyline for ages 18 months to 4 years. New content every week.

Sing & Stomp

Tuesdays, December 6 & 27 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A song and dance party for ages 18 months to 4 years with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. Registration opens six days before each program date.

Curious Minds Story & Activity

Thursdays, December 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 11 a.m. to noon at SE

A Spanish-language experience featuring stories, music, movement and fun. Ages 1 to 4 with an accompanying caregiver.

Theatrical Show: The Tale of the Snow Princess

Saturday, December 10 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Curtain Call premieres The Tale of the Snow Princess, a theatrical adaptation of traditional stories and seasonal music presented in the style of Italian commedia dell'arte street theater. Audience participation encouraged. Ages 8 to 14. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Giant Games Night

Thursday, December 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace

An evening of fun with oversized versions of classic games like Connect 4, Jenga and more. Refreshments will be served. Grades 5 to 8. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Starry Skies Storytime & Craft

Saturday, December 17 from 11 a.m. to noon
ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Enjoy our favorite stories about the night sky, then make a constellation craft you can take home. Ages 3 to 8 with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Winter Crafts & Seasonal Singalong with Dr. Ev

Saturday, December 17 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at SE

All ages welcome for an afternoon of craft-making and holiday songs.

Build with Lego®

Tuesday, December 27 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Take on one of our building challenges and create anything you want using the library's Lego® collection. Lego® creations cannot be taken home. Grades K to 5. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Teen Book Discussion

Monday, December 12 from 7 to 8 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Ann M. Sexton Board Room

In Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh, we meet 14-year-old Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, and 13-year-old Max, an American boy, who are bound by a secret that sets them on the adventure of a lifetime. Refreshments will be served. Grades 6 to 12. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

FAFSA Information Session

Wednesday, December 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom

Learn about the Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) and how it can help you secure grants and/or loans for college. Grades 10 to 12. Presented in partnership with the CONNTEC Educational Opportunity Organization.

T-MAD Meeting

Wednesday, December 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Ann M. Sexton Board Room

Teens Making a Difference (T-MAD) advisory program. Learn about upcoming events, share reading suggestions and make a difference in the community. Participation in T-MAD counts as volunteer work. Grades 6 to 12. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.

Make Henna Designs

Wednesday, December 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Learn how to mix and create designs with henna, a special dye used in South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East as adornment for special occasions. Grades 6 to 12. Registration opens six days before the storyline date.