Message from the CEO

Join us this month as we learn more about Black history. Our many programs include a conversation about the memoir Chasing Me to My Grave by the late Winfred Rembert, and an evening with DaMaris Hill, who will talk about her new book of narrative in verse, Breath Better Spent: Living Black Girlhood. We are also pleased to present a special month-long art exhibit at the Main Library, Black Health and Wellness Matters. These programs are co-sponsored by the Stamford NAACP.

Join us for the ongoing StoryWalk® at the South End Branch, featuring the picture book, Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport, and Saturdays throughout the month for a National African American Read-In. You can find details about all our Black History Month programs in our calendar. —Alice Knapp, CEO

All library facilities will be closed Monday, February 21 for Presidents Day.

Our Director of Administrative Services Prepares for Budget Season

Director of Administrative Services Cheryl Harper is busy this time of year. In addition to overseeing operations at the Ferguson Library, she is responsible for preparing the library’s budget for the upcoming year. The operating budget was submitted to the city in January and now goes before the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives.

“We take our role as stewards of the city’s money very seriously,” Harper said. “Every dollar the city gives us allows us to turn around and provide important services for the people of Stamford.”

Fairfield County’s Giving Day Is February 24

Please support the library on February 24, Fairfield County’s Giving Day. It’s a 24-hour online fundraiser for Fairfield County nonprofits that do so much good in our community. Your support helps us buy books, offer children’s storytimes and keep our Bookmobile on the road. Donate on February 24 at fcgives.org. Thank you!

DIGITAL LIBRARY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY ONLINE

Educators and students alike will learn a lot from the user-friendly African-American History database. Its resources include a wide selection of primary sources, including documents, news articles, court decisions and public speeches. Also found here are timelines; maps and graphs; videos and slideshows; and biographies of trailblazing figures in science, government, activism and the arts. Looking for something specific? Check out the Topic Centers to dig deep into a particular subject, era or movement. Curriculum Tools are also offered to those engaged in academic research. You can find this resource under Research & Learn/A to Z Resources on our website. Once prompted, log in using your library card number.

Friends Author Series February 23

Alafair Burke and Erica Katz

Join us February 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library for an evening with Alafair Burke, New York Times bestselling author of Find Me, a mystery about long-buried secrets and the power of female friendships; and Erica Katz, author of Fake, a page-turning debut novel about sex and power in the halls of corporate America. Book sale and signing to follow. Registration required to attend in person. To register, visit fergusonlibrary.org/events. This program will also be offered via Zoom.

A Novel Affair

April 7, 2022

Registration is open for A Novel Affair, the Library’s major fundraiser, to be held at the library on April 7. We’re delighted to honor longtime Friends of the Ferguson Library member Ann Sexton for her service to the library and the Stamford community. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.


If you would like to join us as a sponsor, please contact Linda Avellar at 203 351-8208/ linda@fergusonlibrary.org.

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**Tax Assistance**

Tax counselors from AARP will offer tax help for basic federal and Connecticut state income tax returns at the Harry Bennett Branch.

**By Appointment Only.**

**HB, February 2 to April 13**

Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For an appointment, visit tinyurl.com/aarptaxhb; for more information, call 203 351-8292

For a list of documents required for tax filing and information on how to file online through SimplifyCT Virtual VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), visit our Income Tax Resources page at fergusonlibrary.org/services/income-tax-resources.

**Civilty in America Series**

**ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium**

**RR registration required** to attend in person; also available via Zoom.

Sponsored by The Dilenschneider Group, Hearst Media Group in Connecticut and the Ferguson Library.

- **Indra Nooyi**, Former Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo and Author of *My Life in Full: Work, Family, and Our Future*  
  **Monday, February 7 at 6 p.m.**
  
  This memoir offers insight and a call-to-action from one of the world’s most-admired business leaders on how our society can blend work and family—and advance women—in the 21st century. Book sale and signing.

- **Andrew Roberts**, Author of *The Last King of America: The Misunderstood Reign of George III*  
  **Tuesday, February 22 at 6 p.m.**
  
  A deft and nuanced portrayal of the much-maligned monarch that outlines the king’s accomplishments, which have been almost universally forgotten. Book sale and signing.

**Let's Talk: Conversation Groups for English Language Learners**

**Winter Sessions via Zoom**

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

- **Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22**
  
  **New students: noon**
  
  - **Basic:** 12:30 p.m.
  - **Low Intermediate:** 3 p.m.
  - **Advanced:** 6 p.m.

- **Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23**
  
  **High Intermediate:** 10 a.m.
  
  **Beginner:** 3 p.m.

**Book Discussions**

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

**Book Discussion Series: Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla Saad**

**Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

from 6 to 8 p.m. via Zoom

A five-week program to facilitate the journey to anti-racism. **RR.**

Co-sponsored by Domus, Everyday Democracy, Ferguson Library South End Branch, First Congregational Church Stamford, Friends of the Ferguson Library, Stamford Stands Against Racism.

**Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch**

**Monday, February 7 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**

*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

**Spanish Book Discussion**

**Thursday, February 10 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.**

**ML, Third Floor Board Room**

Corazón tan blanco por Javier Marias

**Harry Bennett Branch**

**Monday, February 14 from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom**

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

**Family Program:**

**Lunar New Year Celebration**

**Sunday, February 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium**

Come celebrate Lunar New Year. The Year of the Tiger, with an afternoon of festivities including an acrobatic performance, and Tae Kwon Do and Wing Tsun demonstrations. All ages welcome. **RR** to attend in person; also available via Zoom.

*Presented in partnership with Traditional Martial Arts and Club Kung Fu.*

**Financial Literacy**

**Budgeting 101**

**Tuesday, February 15 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**ML, Third Floor Technology Center**

Everything you need to know about budgeting, cost-cutting, spending plans and long-term financial tools and strategies. **RR.**

**English Language Learners**

**2022 READING CHALLENGE**

Grab a copy of our challenge list and join us in exploring new book genres, subjects and themes to be entered into a drawing for a literary prize. This challenge is for speed readers and slower readers alike. Whether you read a book a week or one every month—e-books and audiobooks count—there will be a prize drawing for those who finish reading 12 books from the list and another drawing for those who finish 52 books. The challenge ends mid-December 2022. More information, including the challenge list, can be found at fergusonlibrary.readsquared.com.

**Friends Author Series: An Evening with Alafair Burke, Author of Find Me, and Erica Katz, Author of Fake.**

**Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

**ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium**

Join us for an evening with Alafair Burke, author of *Find Me*, a twisty mystery about long-buried secrets and the power of female friendships; and Erica Katz, author of *Fake*, a buzz-worthy, page-turning debut novel about sex and power in the halls of corporate America. Book sale and signing. **RR** to attend in person; also available via Zoom.

**Proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours is required to attend library programs in the Main Library Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium.**
**Technology**

Main Library, DiMattia Building  
Third Floor Technology Center  
unless otherwise noted.  
**RR** for all classes.  
▲ Must be familiar with Windows and be able to use a mouse and keyboard.  
■ Basic experience in MS PowerPoint is necessary.  
● Basic experience in MS Excel is necessary.  
◆ Experience with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint are necessary.

**Microsoft PowerPoint**  
Basic Microsoft PowerPoint ▲  
Saturday, February 5 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom  
Learn how to navigate MS PowerPoint, create and save your presentations, design slide shows, and insert images and text. No experience in MS PowerPoint necessary.  

Intermediate Microsoft PowerPoint ▲◆  
Saturday, February 12 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
Dig deeper into the features of MS PowerPoint by learning how transitions and animations make your presentations pop and using the Presenter View to your best advantage.  

Intermediate Microsoft Excel ▲◆  
Thursday, February 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. via Zoom  
Learn how to work with the data you have entered, how to use sort and filter data, and use conditional formatting for quicker analysis of data. You will also learn how to use keyboard shortcuts and templates to become more efficient.  

Microsoft Office Suite Integrated ▲◆  
Thursday, February 17 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
The different parts of Microsoft’s Office Suite can be more powerful and productive when used together. This class will teach you how to stylishly add Excel charts and tables to Word documents and PowerPoint presentations, and how to use mail merge to create letters and labels.  

**Algorithm and Blues** ▲  
Saturday, February 26 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.  
Computer algorithms have a tremendous yet invisible effect on our lives. So what are they, how do they work, and how do they change the way we live? RR.

**Business & Career**

**Stamford 1 Million Cups**  
Wednesday, February 2 at 8 a.m. via Zoom  
Presenters: Austin Cooper, CEO of Delores Digital, and Jocelyn King, CEO of Virgil. RR.

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

**February 2**  
Patents and Trademarks  
Wesley W. Whitmyer Jr., Founder, Whitmyer IP Group  

**February 9**  
Marketing  
Brenda Lewis, Principal, Transactions Marketing, Inc. (TMI)  

**February 16**  
Social Media  
Giulia Gambale, Founder, She So Social, and Co-Founder, Agents of Branding  

**February 23**  
Cybersecurity  
Sergio Pedro, Cyber Pro on Cybersecurity  

**Community Mindfulness Project:**  
**Meditation**  
Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22 at noon  
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium  
A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to share and reflect.

**Notary Services**  
Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB  
Our notary public will be available to notarize your official documents for free. By appointment only. Call 203 351-8292.

**Death Cafe Stamford**  
Thursdays, February 3 & 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom  
A discussion about increasing awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. With Sahara Faggugio, a licensed funeral director specializing in advanced planning. Note: Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.

**Lawyers in Libraries:**  
**Looking for Legal Advice?**  
Thursday, February 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.  
ML, Second Floor Study Room  
Meet with a volunteer attorney for 20 minutes regarding your case. Please bring relevant materials and documents. Appointment and face masks required. To book a time, call 203 351-8221. Supported by the Connecticut Bar Association.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS**

*Co-sponsored by Stamford NAACP*  

A StoryWalk® Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday  
Through February 28 at SE  
Learn about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at this outdoor trail display of the book Martin’s Big Words by Doreen Rappaport. All ages welcome.

**National African American Read-In**  
Saturdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom  
Join us for this groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to come together to read books about the African American experience. Check our online calendar for presenter information. All ages welcome.

*The Life and Art of Winfred Rembert*  
Sunday, February 6 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom  
A conversation between Erin Kelly, who co-wrote the memoir Chasing Me to My Grave by the late Winfred Rembert, and Rembert’s wife and daughter, Patsy and Lillian Rembert. RR.

*Art Opening: Black Health and Wellness Matters*  
Saturday, February 12 from 2 to 5 p.m.  
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium  
Opening celebration with music, art and poetry. Art exhibit on view through March 4.

*Author Talk: DaMaris Hill*  
Thursday, February 24 at 7 p.m. via Zoom  
Author DaMaris Hill talks about her new book of narrative in verse, Breath Better Spent: Living Black Girlhood, a personal and historical look at the experience of Black girlhood. RR.

**South End Branch African & African American Authors Book Discussion**  
Monday, February 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom  
An African American Cookbook: Exploring Black History and Culture Through Traditional Food by Phoebe Bailey. Guest speaker: Rev. Edward Bailey, senior pastor of Bethel AME Church, Lancaster, PA.
FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

Book Shop News
We're celebrating Valentine's Day and Black History Month in the Book Shop this month. Stop by and browse a great selection of titles on these and other subjects. And stay tuned for more information on our upcoming Bag Sale in March. All Book Shop proceeds support the library.

2022 Literary Competition
Entries are due February 11 for the 37th annual Stamford Literary Competition. The contest is open to Stamford students in grades 3 to 12. Enter online at fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events.

Friends Books for Babies Program Still Going Strong
Caitlin and Pete Stellato were all set to take their newborn son, Casey, home from Stamford Hospital, when they received a gift copy of Read to Your Bunny by Rosemary Wells. “It's a super sweet little book,” said Caitlin, a preschool art teacher. “It was one of those nice surprises. We were already so happy but to have this as a send-off made the day extra special.”

Caitlin didn’t know it then but she joined a long-established club of new mothers who received a board book as a parting gift from the hospital, all made possible by Books for Babies, a signature program of the Friends of the Ferguson Library. The Friends launched the program in 1986 and it soon became a national model. Each year, the Friends organization gives about 2,000 books to Stamford newborns.

STAFF RECOMMENDS:
Marking Black History Month with Memoirs by Extraordinary Individuals

Unbound: My Story of Liberation and the Birth of the Me Too Movement by Tarana Burke
Generations by Lucille Clifton
Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter by Kerri K. Greenidge
My Remarkable Journey by Katherine G. Johnson
A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Street to the Stars by Hakeem M. Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz
Unprotected by Billy Porter
Chasing Me To My Grave: An Artist’s Memoir of the Jim Crow South by Winfred Rembert

Connect to the Ferguson

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.

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

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Barbara Aronica-Buck, Designer
Barbara Thomas, Communication Specialist
Camilla Herrera, Marketing Specialist

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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
203 351-8261
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 & Thursday 10 to 6
Tuesday 12 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

Bookmobile
Check our online calendar at https://www.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 1 to 5

Harry Bennett Branch
Monday through Saturday 10 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 10 to 5
Saturday 10 to 4
Sunday 1 to 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Saturday 10 to 4 (WALK-IN ONLY)

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 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/c/TheFergusonLibrary

The library will be closed Monday, February 21 in observance of Presidents Day.

Curbside pickup is still available by appointment.

Stamford students can use their student 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 fergusonlibrary.org/linked-libraries-contact-us-form

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

Proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test within 72 hours is required to attend library programs in the Main Library Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium.

2022 Literary Competition Deadline for Entries is February 11
The Literary Competition celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to Stamford students in grades 3 to 12. We are accepting only online entries this year at fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events.

Black History Month Programs

A StoryWalk® Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday
Continuing through February 28 at SE
Learn about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at this outdoor trail display of the book Martin’s Big Words by Doreen Rappaport. All ages welcome.

National African American Read-In

Saturdays, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom
Join us for this groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to come together to read books about the African American experience. Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools, and Stamford Board of Education members Jennienne Burke, Andy George and Fritz G. Chery will lead these weekly storytimes. Check our online calendar for presenter dates. All ages welcome.

Registration is Open: A Novel Affair
Thursday, April 7 from 6 to 9 p.m.
Main Library, DiMattia Building
Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
An evening of food and festivities to benefit the Ferguson Library and to honor Ann Sexton for her service to the library and the Stamford community. Tickets available at ibidmobile.net/fpl/reservations.
Children’s Programs

Follow us on Instagram @ferglibraryyouth for story times, songs, fingerplays and more.

Budding Bookworms

Tuesdays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 10:30 a.m. via South End Branch

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

Outdoor Family Storytimes

Thursdays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at WMH

Bring a blanket and/or lawn chair to these drop-in programs on the lawn. Up to age 4, with a caregiver, weather permitting.

Sing & Stomp

Mondays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. via Zoom

A song and dance party. For 8 months to 4 years. New content every week.

Crafternoons @ Home

Wednesday, February 16 from 4 to 4:45 p.m. via Zoom

A picture book story circle and art project. Bring coloring supplies and have your imagination ready. For grades K to 5. Families, parents and caregivers are welcome. RR.

Kids Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 22 from 7 to 7:45 p.m. via Zoom

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson. In a world full of differences, Haley, Esteban, Tiago, Holly, Amari and Ashton find common bonds in the A.R.T.T. room (A Room To Talk), where they meet for an hour every Friday at 2 p.m. to share their stories and connect with each other without a teacher present. What they say in the room, stays in the room. Grades 4 to 6. RR.

The Amazing Math Wizards

Saturday, February 26 from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom

Celebrate the 11th annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with the Amazing Math Wizards, who will take children and families on an exciting musical journey through Story Land using puppets and lots of audience participation. You’ll be surprised how many super fun math skills you learn along the way! For ages 4 to 10 and their families. Generously supported by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, a recipient of support from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Book Bunch Club Discussion and Activity

Wednesday, February 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom

Read The Chicken Squad by Doreen Cronin and then join us for a fun discussion and activity. Please have blank paper, a writing utensil, crayons or markers, and scissors handy. Grades 2 to 3. RR.

Teen Programs

Creative Writing Club

Wednesday, February 9 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom

Bring your imagination, paper and writing tools. We’ll work on different writing prompts, then share our work. Grades 5 to 9. RR.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Sunday, February 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Come celebrate Lunar New Year 2022. The Year of the Tiger, with an afternoon of festivities including an acrobatic performance, and Tae Kwon Do and Wing Tsun demonstrations. All ages welcome. RR to attend in person; also available via Zoom. Presented in partnership with Traditional Martial Arts and Club Kung Fu.

Blind Date with a Book

Monday, February 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. ML, Lower Level Teen Area

Are you looking for more books to love this Valentine’s Day? Join our discussion of great books then cuddle up for some quiet reading in the Teen Room. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Art Café

Wednesday, February 23 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom

Join us with your own supplies to draw, paint, write, knit, and create with us. You can share ideas with each other or work on your own—the sky is the limit. Grades 5 to 9. RR.

Manga Meetup

Thursday, February 24 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Share your knowledge of graphic novels and Manga with Teen Librarian Steve Zampino, who will also let you know about some books and series that might interest you. Here’s your chance to make requests for your favorites. Grades 6 to 12. RR.