A Novel Affair Registration Opens February 15

A Novel Affair is just two months away! Early registration opens February 15 for the library’s major fundraiser, to be held Thursday, April 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Main Library. We’re delighted to honor Polly O’Brien Morrow and Pitney Bowes for their service to the Ferguson Library and the Stamford community. Tickets are $135 and are available at benefitoffice.org/fpl. After March 30, tickets are $150. The Junior Professional price (age 35 and younger) is $75.

Thank you to our major sponsors to date:

Morrison: Friends of the Ferguson Library
Du Bois: Pitney Bowes
Lahiri: Judith Block; Ellen Bromley & Tom Gizicki; First County Bank;
Amy & Andrew George
Baldwin: Abate & Abate, LLC; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessy; Connecticut Public; Amy & Tony Downer; The Dilenschneider Group; Garden Homes Management; Harman;
Michael & Jennifer Hyman; KPMG; Point72; Stamford Health; Wells Fargo Advisors

For sponsorship information, contact Linda Avellar at linda@fergusonlibrary.org or 203 351-8208.

Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) 2023 highlights the theme of Black Resistance. Through our BHM programs, children, teens and adults will explore critical chapters in America’s racial history with an array of diverse cultural and family events.

Don’t miss the art exhibition Black Resilience: Love & Legacy, which opens February 1 at the Main Library. This show, curated by Jean Benoit, is dedicated to recognizing black excellence, reflecting on the community’s historic struggles, and celebrating its many achievements. A reception celebrating this exhibit of works by local artists will be held February 19 at 2 p.m. The show will be on display through February 24.

On February 27 at 6:30 p.m., author Alvin Hall comes to the Main Library to discuss his personal road trip through the history of Black resistance as described in his memoir Driving the Green Book.

On a lighter note, the public is invited to dance and sing to covers of popular Motown and R&B hits when the Old School 203 Band performs at the Main Library on Sunday, February 5 at 4 p.m.

We will also host several youth-focused programs including a BHM Musical Storytime featuring Orchestra Lumos on Saturday, February 11 at 11 a.m. The branches will host BHM storytimes, read-ins, book discussions and craft-making events throughout the month.

To register, visit fergusonlibrary.org/events.

Message from the CEO

“All those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.” So said the founder of Black History Month Carter G. Woodson.

As we celebrate Black History Month in February, we will be offering many special programs and book recommendations honoring the contributions made by Black Americans to U.S. history (details in this newsletter).

Last year, as a staff, we met daily to share what we had learned about Black history. We discussed great musicians and writers as well as Black farmers, famous inventors, the Black Panthers, the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, and much more. We came out of these discussions able to understand one another a little bit better.

This year, as we continue our own education, we are pleased to offer an exhibit on Black history at the Main Library. Please stop by and take part in this enriching Black History Month experience.

―Alice Knapp, CEO

Mini-Golf Is Back!

Fun for the whole family! Mini-Golf returns to the Harry Bennett Branch Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Tickets are $5 per person, per round. Ages three and younger play for free. Refreshments at the “19th hole.” Registration preferred at fergusonlibrary.org/events; walk-ins welcome. Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor, First County Bank.

Fairfield County’s Giving Day February 23

Please support the Ferguson Library on February 23, 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 23 at fcgives.org. Thank you!
Book History Month Programs

A StoryWalk® Celebrating the Legacy of Playwright August Wilson

A display through February 15
Jachie Robinson Park of Fame, West Main Street at Richmond Hill Avenue

Learn about August Wilson at this outdoor display of the picture book Feed Your Mind: The Story of August Wilson by Jen Bryant. All ages welcome. Presented in partnership with the Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, Inc. and Superior Barbershop.

Documentary Series: Making Black America

Saturday, February 4 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at SE

Screening of the final episode of the PBS documentary series Making Black America: Through the Grapevine, hosted, produced and written by Henry Louis Gates Jr. This four-part series chronicles the vast social networks and organizations created by and for Black people.

Black Resilience: Love & Legacy Art Opening

Saturday, February 4 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Opening celebration of exhibit of works by local artists. The show, curated by Jean Benoit, is dedicated to recognizing black excellence, reflecting on the community’s historic struggles, and celebrating its many achievements. On display through February 24.

Musical Performance by the Old School 203 Band

Sunday, February 5 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Sing and dance along with the Old School 203 Band as they perform Motown and R&B classics by artists like Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, James Brown and more. All ages welcome. RR.

Musical Storytime with Orchestra Luminos, a Take Your Child to the Library Day Event

Saturday, February 11 from 11 to 11:30 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A morning of music and storytelling featuring an interpretation by Orchestra Luminos of Ready to Fly: How Sylvia Townsend Became the Bookmobile Ballerina by Lea Lyon and A. LaFaye. All ages welcome. RR.

National African American Read-In

Saturday, February 11 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at SE

Youth and civic leaders will lead a storytime as part of a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to come together to read books about the African American experience. Event includes a cooking demonstration and tasting. All ages welcome.

Black History Month Book Discussion

Thursday, February 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom; login details are on our online calendar. Race Matters by Cornel West

A Cultural Black History Celebration

Saturday, February 25 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at SE

An afternoon of music and art that highlight the struggles, challenges and resilience of Black people. Refreshments will be served. All ages welcome.

Craft a Quilt

Saturday, February 25 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level MakeSpace

Join us as we share books by artist Faith Ringgold and look at images of the quilts of Gee’s Bend and others from the Gullah Museum SC to inspire you to create a mixed media story quilt image. Grades K to 3. RR.

A Conversation with Alvin Hall, Author of Driving the Green Book

Monday, February 27 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Alvin Hall will discuss his new book Driving the Green Book: A Road Trip Through the Living History of Black Resistance, where he describes his travels using The Negro Motorist Green Book, the definitive manual to businesses where Black travelers could safely rest, eat and sleep from 1936 to 1967, as his guide. The conversation will be moderated by Janée Woods Weber, an activist, advocate, facilitator, trainer for social justice issues, and Hall’s fellow traveler. RR.

South End African & African American Authors Book Discussion

Monday, February 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom; login details are on our online calendar.

Freeman by Leonard Pitts, Jr.

Mah-Jongg Club

 Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Come out and play mah-jongg with us. Players of all levels welcome.

Death Cafe

Thursday, February 2 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.

Ballroom Dance Workshop

Thursday, February 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Final session of a four-part workshop covering the basic steps of the sultry rumba and high-spirited swing. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Registration is full but check the waiting list. RR.

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
For more information, call 203 724-9111.

Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 12 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.

Financial Literacy
Understanding Personal Credit
Saturday, February 4 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn about the price of credit, how a credit score is calculated and the difference between good and bad credit. RR.

AARP Tax Assistance

Mondays and Wednesdays, February 1 to April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HB
Trained tax counselors from AARP will offer help with basic federal and Connecticut state income tax returns. Bring all 2022 tax required documents for tax filing and how to file online through SimplifyCT Virtual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, visit our Income Tax Resources page at fergusonlibrary.org/services/income-tax-resources.

American Authors Book Discussion

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
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Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 12 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.
English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups
Registration not required. New students welcome. For meeting information, visit fergusonlibrary.org/lets-talk-events.

Winter Sessions via Zoom
Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15 & 22
High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28
New students: from 12 to 12:30 p.m.
High beginner: 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.

Evening Sessions in Person
Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 8:30 to 8 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Technology

Main Library, DiMattia Building
Third Floor Technology Center
Face masks preferred

▲ Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard
■ No prior experience with MS Excel necessary
● Basic experience with MS Excel necessary
▼ Basic experience with MS PowerPoint necessary

Microsoft Excel
Basic Microsoft Excel ▲ ■
Wednesday, February 1 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Learn how to create and save a spreadsheet, enter data, and write formulas. RR.  

Intermediate Microsoft Excel ▲ ●
Wednesday, February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Learn how to work with entered data, sort and filter data, use conditional formatting for data analysis, and apply keyboard shortcuts and templates. RR.  

Using Pivot Tables ▲ ●
Wednesday, February 15 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Learn how to dig deeper into Excel data and quickly summarize and analyze large quantities of data. RR.  

New Social Media: Mastodon & Discord ▲
Saturday, February 11 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Learn about Mastodon and Discord, what makes them different, and how to begin using them. RR.  

Microsoft PowerPoint Animations ▲ ◊
Thursday, February 23 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Learn how to use animations available in MS PowerPoint to make slideshows more dynamic and memorable. RR.  

Tech Tips for Older Adults
Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at SE
Free weekly help with smartphones, tablets, laptops and other devices with our experienced bilingual (English and Spanish) team.  

Family Programs

Friends of the Ferguson Library Mini-Golf
Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at HB
All ages are invited to putt their way through the Harry Bennett Branch as it is transformed into a miniature golf course. Tickets are $5 per person, per round. Ages three and younger play for free. Refreshments at the “19th hole.” Registration preferred at fergusonlibrary.org/events; walk-ins welcome. Presented by First County Bank.

Celebrate Lunar New Year
Sunday, February 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
The celebration of the year of the rabbit will include dance, music, martial arts demonstrations anda drumming performance. Presented in partnership with Master Na’s Traditional Martial Arts and Club Kung Fu.

Business & Career

Certified Nursing Assistant Information Session
Tuesday, February 21 from 5 to 7 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn what it takes to become certified in providing direct care to patients, as part of a larger care team, through the Healthcare Career ConneCT Program. RR. Supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRF0128 awarded to the State of Connecticut by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Young Adult Career Opportunities
Wednesday, February 22 from 1 to 7 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
Learn about The WorkPlace’s CareerHub, a free program that offers skills training and job search and placement services to young adults ages 16 to 24. Workshops to be held at 4 and 6 p.m. Presented in partnership with The WorkPlace.

TechXel Stamford Accelerator Series
Thursday from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. via Zoom RR for each session.
Register by 12 p.m. on program date. Zoom invitations will be sent by 1 p.m.

February 2 Positioning & Marketing
Brenda Lewis, Principal, Transactions Marketing, Inc.

February 9 The Sales-Centric CEO
Scott C. Nevins, Principal, Bernstein Private Wealth Management

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

February 23 Cybersecurity
Andre McGregor, Founder and CEO, Force Metrics.ai

TEDxFergusonLibrary 2023: Renewal
Saturday, February 25 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Join us for the return of TEDxFerguson Library 2023, a series of informative talks by local speakers on diverse topics, all centered around the theme of renewal. Event will feature TED Talks videos and live speakers with presentations intended to spark deep discussion in small groups. RR. This independent TEDx event is operated under a license from TED. Co-sponsored by Connecticut Public.

Walk-In COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
Select weekdays through February 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. See website for details. Presented in partnership with Stamford Health and Griffin Health.

NEW! Healing Drum Circle
Monday, February 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SE
A meditative gathering dedicated to healing the wounds of racism and supporting equity activism. Facilitated by Evelyn Avoglia.

Lawyers in Libraries
Thursday, February 23 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 203 351-8231.

Supported by the Connecticut Bar Association.
DIGITAL LIBRARY: UDACITY

Hoping to advance your career by developing new skills for the workplace? Are you interested in personal development and enrichment? The library’s Udemy database of video courses can help. With nearly 20,000 online courses for various interests and skill levels, you can select from such areas as data science and web design, finance and accounting, and project management. The database also includes language learning courses, music and art lessons, photography classes, and more. For free access, a Google or Microsoft account is needed and users must be connected to Wi-Fi or a wired network in Connecticut. You can find this resource under Research & Learn/A to Z Resources on our website.

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.

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

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

Black History Month Programs

A StoryWalk® Celebrating the Legacy of Playwright August Wilson
On display through February 15
Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, West Main Street at Richmond Hill Avenue
Learn about August Wilson at this outdoor display of the picture book Feed Your Mind: The Story of August Wilson by Jen Bryant. All ages welcome. Presented in partnership with the Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, Inc. and Superior Barbershop.

Musical Performance by the Old School 203 Band
Sunday, February 5 from 3 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Sing and dance along with the Old School 203 Band as they perform Motown and R&B classics by artists like Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, James Brown and more. All ages welcome. RR.

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Saturday, February 25 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Join us as we share books by artist Faith Ringgold and look at images of the quilts of Gee’s Bend and others from the Gullah Museum SC to inspire you to create a mixed media story quilt image. Grades K to 3. RR.

2023 Literary Competition
Deadline for Entries
February 10
The Stamford Literary Competition celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to students in grades 3 to 12. Visit fergusonlibrary.org/friends/literary-competition for guidelines, categories, requirements and the online entry form.

Black History Month Programs

Family Programs

Friends of the Ferguson Library Mini-Golf
Saturday, February 11, and Sunday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at HB
All ages are invited to putt their way through the Harry Bennett Branch as it is transformed into a miniature golf course. Tickets are $5 per person, per round; pay at check-in. Ages three and younger play for free. Refreshments served at the 19th hole. Registration preferred at fergusonlibrary.org/events; walk-ins welcome. Presented by First County Bank.

Celebrate Lunar New Year
Sunday, February 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
The commemoration of the year of the rabbit will include dance, music, martial arts demonstrations and a drumming performance. Presented in partnership with Master Na’s Traditional Martial Arts and Club Kung Fu.

Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.
**CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES**

*Registration opens six days before the program date where registration is required.*

**Family Storytime**
A participatory storytime for the whole family that includes songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 5 years with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. RR.

**Budding Bookworms**
Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. via South End Branch Instagram
Bilingual storytime for ages 18 months to 4 years. New content every week.

**Sing & Stomp**
Tuesdays, February 7, 14 & 28 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. RR.

**Harry's Bookworms**
Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at HB
Storytime featuring interactive readings, songs, fingerplays, rhymes and other activities. Ages 3 to 5 with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. RR.

**Curious Minds Story & Activity**
Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at SE
A Spanish-language experience featuring stories, music, movement and fun. Ages 1 to 4 with an accompanying caregiver.

**Babytime**
Fridays, February 3, 10 & 24 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies up to 18 months old with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. RR.

**Cuentos y Cantos Bilingual Storytime**
Fridays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at HB
Storytime featuring interactive readings, songs, and activities in English and Spanish. Ages 2 to 5 with an accompanying caregiver. No walk-ins. RR.

**Bennett Babies**
Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at HB
Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies up to 18 months old with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. No walk-ins. RR.

**TinkerCAD for Beginners**
Saturday, February 4 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Find out about TinkerCAD, the perfect software for learning the basics of 3D modeling. Ages 9 to 13. RR.

**Build with Lego®**
Friday, February 17 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. Ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by a caregiver. RR.

**Intermediate Chess Club**
Saturdays, February 18 & 25 from 10:30 to 12 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Now that you know the moves of the game, here’s your chance to test your knowledge against other players. Ages 7 and older. RR.

**Theatrical Show: Hail to the Chiefs, a Presidential Visit**
Saturday, February 18 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
A fun fact-filled musical introduction to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln during a trip to a museum on Presidents Day. Ages 9 to 13. RR.

**Frogs: Fact or Fiction**
Thursday, February 23 from 7 to 7:45 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Ever wonder if you could hop like a frog? Are frogs really poisonous? We will take an in-depth look at what makes these awesome amphibians so special. Grades 4 to 7. RR.

**Mindful Meditation**
Friday, February 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Relieve stress and learn to relax by embracing mindfulness and meditation. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

**Young Adult Career Opportunities**
Wednesday, February 22 from 1 to 7 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
Learn about The WorkPlace’s CareerHub, a free program that offers skills training and job search and placement services to young adults ages 16 to 24. Workshops to be held at 4 and 6 p.m. Presented in partnership with The WorkPlace.

**T-MAD Meeting**
Thursday, February 22 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Teens Making a Difference (T-MAD) advisory program, where you can learn about upcoming events, share reading suggestions and make a difference in the community. Participation counts as volunteer work. Pizza and other refreshments will be served. Grades 6 to 12. RR.