Message from the CEO

As part of our work with the architecture firm, HMA2, and ThirdWay Brand Trainers to reimage library facilities, Ferguson Library staff members have been on a listening tour. We want to learn how the library can better serve city agencies and nonprofits, and how our spaces can best meet community needs. It’s all part of a study of our buildings that will help us create a master plan for the next five to 10 years.

So, what’s next? Be on the lookout for a survey that will solicit your input, as well as a chance to look at draft plans and provide your feedback at your local branch. We want to hear from you as we develop priorities for the future.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

A Novel Affair Raises $230k for the Library

Thanks to everyone who helped make A Novel Affair 2023 a success! We raised $230,000 to support library services and collections, and we couldn’t have done it without all of you.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, ticket buyers, auction donors and everyone who came out to support the library.

Ferguson Library Stands Up for the Right to Read

Ferguson Library CEO Alice Knapp spoke recently with independent filmmaker Bob Greenberg to share how and why the Ferguson Library became a book sanctuary. As a book sanctuary, we are committed to collecting and protecting endangered books, making them accessible to the public, hosting book talks and conversations about diverse characters and stories, and educating others on the history of book banning and burning.

In this era of rising book challenges, this work to safeguard intellectual freedom is more important than ever.

You can see Alice’s interview on our YouTube channel.

All library facilities will be closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. We honor those who gave their lives in service of our country.

CrimeCONN Returns May 6

Love a good mystery? Don’t miss CrimeCONN, Saturday, May 6 at the Main Library. Presented by the Friends of the Ferguson Library and the Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter, this popular day-long mystery lovers’ conference will focus on exploring the future of crime writing.

This year we welcome The New York Times bestselling international thriller writer Joseph Finder as keynote speaker. Panelists include talented contemporary mystery writers and experts in criminal investigation, forensic science and the literary market.

Tickets are $60 per person and $45 for Mystery Writers of America and Friends members, seniors and students. Livestream registration is $25 per person. Visit fergusonlibrary.org/events to register.

Joe R. Sexton Lecture May 11

Author and historian, James M. Scott, will present the Joe R. Sexton Lecture May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Harry Bennett Branch to discuss his book, Black Snow: Curtis LeMay, the Firebombing of Tokyo, and the Road to the Atomic Bomb. Guests are invited to a pre-event reception at 6 p.m.

Scott is also the author of Rampage, which was named one of the Best Books of 2018 by the editors at Amazon, Kirkus and Military Times and was chosen as a finalist for the prestigious Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History by the New York Historical Society. His other works include Target Tokyo, a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist, The War Below, and The Attack on the Liberty.

Friends Author Series: Andrew McCarthy

Author and actor Andrew McCarthy will visit the library May 25 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his travel memoir, Walking with Sam: A Father, A Son, and Five Hundred Miles Across Spain. Here, he recounts the deep bonds he formed with his eldest son, who was about to leave the nest, while walking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. Tickets are $15 for Friends members, $25 for others (includes a Friends membership). Visit fergusonlibrary.org/events to register.
Asian Film Festival
Assorted dates in May
Screenings of films to celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.
Tokyo Godfathers (2003) Wednesday, May 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Easter Sunday (2022) Monday, May 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Moana (2016) Wednesday, May 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
In ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana’s island, she answers the ocean’s call to seek out Maui to set things right. Starring Auliʻi Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson. Rated PG.
Parasite (2019) Saturday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Greed and class discrimination threaten the newly formed symbiotic relationship between the wealthy Park family and the destitute Kim clan. Starring Song Kang-ho, Lee Sun-kyun, Cho Yeo-jeong, Choi Woo-shik, and Park So-dam. Rated R.
Crazy Rich Asians (2018) Saturday, May 27 from 2 to 4:15 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
American-born economics professor Rachel Chu travels with her boyfriend to Singapore for his best friend’s wedding only to get thrust into the lives of Asia’s rich and famous. Starring Constance Wu, Henry Golding and Michelle Yeoh. Rated PG-13.
Hero (2002) Sunday, May 28 from 2 to 3:45 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Oscar Movie Festival
Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Screenings of films honored with Oscars.
Turning Red (2022) May 5 Starring Rosalie Chiang, Sandra Oh and Ava Morse. Rated PG.

Walk-in COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
Tuesdays through Fridays, from 1 to 5 p.m. ML, Lower Level Community Area
Free COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. Insurance card and photo ID preferred but are not required to receive the vaccine. No one will be turned away. Presented in partnership with Stamford Health and Griffin Health.

Canasta Club
Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17 & 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Come out and play canasta with us. All levels welcome.

Conversations About Art: Spring Has Sprung
Wednesday, May 3 from 6 to 7 p.m at HB
Masterpieces that changed art history. Helane E. McKay, where they

Ballroom Dance Workshop
Wednesdays, May 3, 10 & 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Instructor Simone Assboeck will cover the basic steps of the sexy salsa and fast-paced hustle. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Attendance required for all sessions. RR.

Mah-Jongg Club
All levels welcome.
Thursdays, May 4, 11 & 25 at HB
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for experienced players; 2 to 4 p.m. for beginners.

Death Cafe
Thursday, May 4 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom
A discussion about the awareness of death to help people make the most of their finite lives. Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.

Make a Will for Free
Thursdays, May 4 & 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. ML, Second Floor Study Room
Create your will in as little as 15 minutes. No prior experience or preparation necessary. Must be a U.S. citizen, 18 or older, and have an email address. RR. Presented in partnership with Just In Case Estates.

Navigating Special Education
Thursday, May 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Authors Peggy S. Bud and Tamara L. Jacobson will discuss their book, Navigating Special Education: The Power of Building Positive Parent-Educator Relationships, where they provide information about the special education process. Book sale and signing. Also available via Zoom. RR to attend in person.
Let's Talk: Conversation Groups
Registration not required. New students welcome.

Spring Sessions via Zoom
Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
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.
Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Evening Sessions in Person
Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

U.S. Citizenship Course
Mondays and Thursdays, May 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 & 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Six-week study course for the U.S. Naturalization Test. Students must read, write and comprehend basic English. Applicants who are 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. To book a required 20-minute appointment, call 203 351-8228. For information, email yelena@fergusonlibrary.org.

CrimeCONN Mystery Lovers’ Conference
Saturday, May 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. Tickets: $60 per person, $45 for MWA and Friends members, seniors and students. Also available via Zoom at $25 per person. RR.

Knit & Needles Knitting Group
Mondays, May 8 & 22 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
Work on your own knitting and crocheting projects in the company of others. All levels welcome.

Health Check: Know Your Numbers
Monday, May 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Rotate
Free blood pressure and pre-diabetes screenings plus height and weight checks. Presented in partnership with the Stamford Department of Health.

Healing Drum Circle
Monday, May 8 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.

Civility in America Series: Joanne Lipman
Tuesday, May 9 at 6 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Award-winning newspaper journalist and editor Joanne Lipman will discuss her latest book Next! The Power of Reinvention in Life and Work. RR to attend in person; also available via Zoom. Presented in partnership with The Dienschneider Group and Hearst Media Group Connecticut.

Joe R. Sexton Lecture Series: James M. Scott
Thursday, May 11 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at HB
See cover for details. RR.
Generously supported by Meil Klugman and the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

Understanding Social Security
Wednesday, May 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
Learn how the program works and how to maximize self, spousal and survivor benefits.

ML, DiMattia Building
Third Floor Technology Center
Face masks preferred. RR for all classes.

Microsoft Word
Basic ▲
Thursday, May 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Learn how to navigate MS Word, create and save a document, and format text.
Intermediate ▲
Thursday, May 25 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Learn how to add images and tables to documents, use Styles to format a document, and edit the header and footer.

Tech Tips for Older Adults
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
An introduction to artificial intelligence and how it’s impacting our lives. Teens and adults.

Crafting with Crictu
Saturday, May 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Observe how the library’s Crictu, a smart cutting machine, works with an easy-to-use app to design and personalize custom cards, unique apparel and other everyday items. Teens and adults.

NEW! Game Nights at the Library
Tuesday, May 16 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
An introductory tabletop adventure playing the Dungeons and Dragons ruleset. Participants will band together to take on the roles of fantastical heroes who brave dangerous situations with swords, spells and wits. No experience necessary. Ages 18 and older. RR.
Tuesday, May 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Play a game from the library’s collection, bring your own, or learn how to play this month’s featured game, Wingspan. Teens and adults. RR.

Old Folks Acoustic Singalong
Saturday, May 20 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at WMM
An afternoon outdoors of toe-tapping, finger-snapping acoustic delights with Dr. Ev, who will take requests. Weather permitting.

Yale in the News:
The Weird and Wonderful Immune System
Tuesday, May 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
This grad student-driven initiative will explain the many ways the immune system protects us. Teens and adults.

Health Check: Know Your Numbers
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FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

Book Shop News
Special Harry Bennett donation event: The Harry Bennett Branch Book Shop will accept donations Saturday May 6 from 12 to 3 p.m. Please bring your bag or box of gently used books to the auditorium.

Both shops are featuring books for spring. Come see what we have for Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduation.

The Museum and Park Pass Program is Back
Do you know you can borrow passes for free or reduced admission to area museums, state parks and other attractions? Among the passes we offer: the Beardsley Zoo, the Danbury Railway Museum, and the Stamford Museum & Nature Center. You can also get free admission for two adults and four children to Dinosaur, Fort Trumbull and Gillette Castle state parks. For more information about these and other museum passes, stop by the library or visit fergusonlibrary.org/services/museum-park-passes.

Ferguson Library's Communication Department Wins Connecticut Press Club Award

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

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Barbara Aronica-Buck, Designer
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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
209 Vine Road 06905
203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 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, Wednesday & 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 1 to 5

Harry Bennett Branch
Monday through Saturday 10 to 5

Passport Services
Main Library Passport Office
Appointments take precedence and are recommended. For more information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8298.
Monday through Thursday 10 to 7
Friday 10 to 5
Saturday 10 to 4
Sunday 1 to 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Walk-in only
Monday & Wednesday 10 to 5
Saturday 10 to 4

p 203 964-1000
f 203 357-9098
w fergusonlibrary.org
e comments@fergusonlibrary.org

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

MAY 2023

Connect to the Ferguson
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/ther Fergusonlibrary
YouTube youtube.com/ther Fergusonlibrary

All library facilities will be closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day. We honor those who gave their lives in service of our country.

Asian Film Festival
Screenings of comedies, dramas and animated features that explore Asian themes. A celebration of National Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

Tokyo Godfathers (2003)
Wednesday, May 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Easter Sunday (2022)
Monday, May 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Moana (2016)
Wednesday, May 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
In ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches Moana's island, she answers the ocean's call to seek out Maui to set things right. Starring Auliʻi Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson. Rated PG.

Hero (2002)
Sunday, May 28 from 2 to 3:45 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

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

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

Bennett Babies
Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 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. RR.

Outdoor Family Storytimes
Bring a blanket and/or lawn chair to this themed storytime that features songs, fingerplays and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 4 with an accompanying caregiver. Weather permitting.

Budding Bookworms
Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 11 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at Latham Park

Family Storytime
A participatory storytime featuring songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 5 years with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

Cuentos y Cantos Bilingual Storytime
Fridays, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 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. RR.

Oscar Movie Festival: Turning Red
Friday, May 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Screening of the Oscar-nominated animated feature Turning Red, about a confident but dorky 13-year-old who keeps transforming into a giant red panda every time she gets too excited. Starring Rosalie Chiang, Sandra Oh and Ava Morse. Rated PG. Ages 8 and older.

Fun with Flower Fairies
Wednesday, May 10 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at WMH
Enjoy the outdoors while creating flower fairies using silk flowers, pipe cleaners, beads and your imagination. Weather permitting. Ages 8 and older with an accompanying caregiver.

TinkerCAD Workshop
Saturday, May 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Find out about TinkerCAD, the perfect software for learning the basics of 3D modeling. All levels welcome. Ages 8 to 13. RR.

We Love Parades Craft
Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Listen to stories about parades, then create your own musical instrument in time for the Memorial Day parade. Grades K to 5. RR.

Build with Lego®
Wednesday, May 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. at 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 an adult. RR.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Crafting with Cricut
Saturday, May 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Observe how the library’s Cricut, a smart cutting machine, works with an easy-to-use app to design and personalize custom cards, unique apparel and other everyday items. Ages 15 and older. RR.

T-MAD Meeting
Thursday, May 18 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at ML, Third Floor Auditorium
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.

NEW! Game Night at the Library
Tuesday, May 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Play a game from the library’s collection, bring your own, or learn how to play this month’s featured game. Wingspan. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

The Ferguson Library is offering volunteer hours to teens in grades 6 to 12 to write book reviews, which will be featured on the library’s Youth Instagram page and displayed at the library. Teens may submit up to two reviews each week at tinyurl.com/m523vnb7. For each review approved by a librarian, teens will earn one hour of volunteer credit. Posted reviews will be edited for clarity and will include the reviewer’s first name, last name initial and grade. Information for application. For information, contact 203 351-8242 or email ferglibraryyouth@gmail.com.