Message from the CEO

At the Ferguson Library, we take the critical role public libraries play in our democracy very seriously. It is one of the reasons we have taken such a strong stand against book challenges and bans. We believe you have the right to read (or not read) what you want and we strive to represent multiple views in our collections and programs.

It is important that we fight back not only against book challenges but also disinformation—about current events and our history. In this era, with social media and AI, it is even more important to learn how to evaluate our sources and think with a critical mind.

One of our most cherished rights is the right to vote. I’m pleased to share that as part of the community-wide commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington (see related article) we are hosting an exhibit entitled Who Can Vote? A Brief History of Voting Rights in the United States. This exhibit, combined with other special programs this month, gives us an opportunity to reflect on our past and march with hope toward the future.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

Support for Sunday Hours

Many thanks to the Batkin family for supporting Sunday hours at the Main Library on August 20. Sundays are one of our busiest and most important days of the week. If you are interested in helping us provide Sunday service, please contact Linda Avellar 203 351-8208 or linda@fergusonlibrary.org.

Find Your Voice this Summer

There’s still time to sign the kids up for our Summer Learning Club, Find Your Voice! We’re making it easy to read with lots of incentives and fun activities. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org or on the READsquared app from Apple Store or Google Play. Teens can register for their own Summer Learning Club, too.

Find Your Voice is also the theme for our Adult Summer Reading Program. Pick up a Bingo card at the library and participate in our Adult Challenge, with a chance to win a special prize. Check our calendar for information on all our summer programs.

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington

It’s been 60 years since the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, largely remembered for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial. The Ferguson Library will pay tribute to this milestone from August 13 to August 28 with programming for all ages that commemorates the day when a quarter of a million people rallied to demand an end to segregation as well as fair wages and economic justice, voting rights and civil rights protections.

The highlights include an opening ceremony August 13 that will feature an interfaith panel discussion, music by the Union Baptist Church Choir, and a screening of the restored 1964 documentary, The March.

The ongoing exhibit Who Can Vote? A Brief History of Voting Rights in the United States will be on view at the Main Library while the reproduction of 1963 Lincoln Memorial Program will be displayed at the Main Library and the Harry Bennett and South End branches.


Presented in partnership with 100 Black Men of Stamford; Fairfield County (CT) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut; the Mayor’s Multicultural Council; Stamford Community; and Stamford NAACP.

Free Notary Services at the Library

Notary services are available by appointment at the Main Library Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 203 351-8221 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome. Weekend service is available by appointment only. The notary desk at the Main Library is located in the lower level.

Notary services are available at the Harry Bennett and Weed Memorial & Hollander branches by appointment only. Call 203 351-8290.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: Mergent Intellect

Mergent Intellect is a global business database that provides detailed, up-to-date information on millions of public and private companies. Researchers, marketers and job seekers can access a treasure trove of company intelligence along with industry profiles, key business ratios and demographic census data. In partnership with Dun & Bradstreet, this authoritative tool also includes new U.S. business listings by state and a residential people search. To get started, find Mergent Intellect on the library’s A-Z Resources page.
Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
Presented in partnership with 100 Black Men of Stamford; Fairfield County (CT) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut; the Mayor’s Multicultural Council; Stamford Community; and Stamford NAACP.

Exhibit: Who Can Vote? A Brief History of Voting Rights in the United States
On display through August 21
ML, First Floor
A display that examines voting rights with an emphasis on the role of the U.S. Constitution and the interplay between the states and federal government in determining who has been allowed to vote through history.

Opening Ceremony
Sunday, August 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Celebration will feature a panel discussion led by local faith leaders, a performance by the Union Baptist Church Choir, and a screening of the digitally restored James Blue 1964 documentary, The March. RR.

1963 Lincoln Memorial Program
On display Monday, August 14 through Friday, August 28
ML, First Floor Lobby, HB and SE
Display of the original March on Washington program.

Reflection Room: Eyes on the Prize
Monday, August 14 through Saturday, August 26 during library hours
ML, Third Floor Rotary Room, and HB
Continuous screening of the PBS documentary, Eyes on the Prize, the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched the civil rights movement.

Screening & Family Discussion: March On! by Christine King Farris
Saturday, August 19 from 12 to 2 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Saturday, August 26 from 12 to 2 p.m. at SE
Viewing of the animated video March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World, based on the 2008 picture book by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sister. Here she gives a firsthand witness account of the March on Washington. Discussion to follow. All ages. RR.

Documentary Screening: The March: The Story of the Greatest March in American History
Monday, August 28 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Old Folks Acoustic Singalong
Saturday, August 19 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH
Afternoon of acoustic delights with Dr. Ev, who will perform a special program of music celebrating the anniversary of the March on Washington.

Make History Your Own
Wednesday, August 23 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Saturday, August 26 from 12 to 2 p.m. at SE
Build your own African American history book using stickers that depict dozens of courageous fighters for civil and equal rights as well as inspirational pioneers in government, science and technology, business, the arts and more. All ages. RR.

Closing Ceremony
Sunday, August 27 from 3 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
The Blues and Beyond, a cross-cultural program that teaches history through the lens of music, presents a performance by keyboardist Eric Finland and a presentation by The Blues and Beyond’s Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor. Community youth will also recite poetry. All ages. RR.

Film professor and historian, Dr. Harry Benshoff, will discuss how representations of LGBTQ+ people on film and TV evolved through the 20th century by focusing on key films and figures and defining sociocultural touchstones. RR.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
Friday, August 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at SE
Commemoration includes readings and presentations by speakers who will reflect on fighting slavery’s legacy of racism through transformative education. Presented in partnership with the UNESCO Center for Global Friendship.
**Technology**

**Tech Tips for Older Adults**
Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 12 to 3 p.m. at SE
Free weekly help on smartphones, tablets, laptops and other devices with our experienced bilingual (English and Spanish) team.

**Let's Talk: Conversation Groups**
Registration not required. New students welcome.

**Summer Sessions via Zoom**
Tuesdays, August 1, 8 & 15
New students: from 12 to 12:30 p.m.
High beginner: from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.
Low intermediate: from 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Advanced: from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays, August 2, 9 & 16**
High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**Evening Sessions in Person**
Tuesdays, August 1, 8 & 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Thursdays, August 3, 10 & 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at HB

**Easy English for Beginners: Side by Side Part 1**
Thursday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn language and life skills by reading, speaking and writing. RR.

**Fun & Games**
**Game Night: Azul**
Tuesday, August 8 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, Azul. Teens and adults. RR.

**Dungeons & Dragons**
Thursdays, August 10 & 24 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Be part of an imaginary band of heroes who brave dangerous situations with swords, spells and wits while playing Dungeons & Dragons. New players welcome. Ages 18 and older. RR.

**Trivia Night: Pop Culture 1980s to 2000s**
Thursday, August 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Take a jog down memory lane while testing your knowledge playing Decades of Trivia, created by host David Plaue. Ages 21 and older.

**GameDevCT Mixer**
Saturday, August 26 from 2 to 5 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Annual showcase for game developers to demo their work and attendees to test the games. Ages 18 and older.

**Art at the Ferguson: Summer in the City**
On display through September 21
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Juried shows of works by local and regional artists.
Presented in partnership with the Stamford Art Association.

**Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry**
Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
For more information, call 203-724-9111.

**Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation**
Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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. Teens and adults.

**Canasta Club**
Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Come out and play canasta with us. All levels welcome.

**Learn a Language with Pronunciator**
Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at HB
Learn how to use this free app for people who want to hold a conversation in another language. Bring a smartphone or tablet.

**Mah-Jongg Club**
Thursdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB

**Business & Career**

**Excel for Business Part 1: Human Resource Management**
Thursday, August 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn about employee and salary information, vacation days, absences, start dates and more. RR.

**Death Cafe**
Thursday, August 3 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.

**Knit & Needles Knitting Group**
Mondays, August 7 & 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at HB
Work on your own knitting or crocheting project in the company of others. All levels welcome.

**Health Check: Know Your Numbers**
Monday, August 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
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, August 14 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.

**Raising Chickens in Your Backyard**
Saturday, August 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Master gardener and farmer, Mark Gostkiewics, will share what is needed to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens while using sustainable and organic practices. Teens and adults. RR.

**Women's Self-Defense Workshop**
Sunday, August 20 from 3 to 4:30 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. Teens and adults. RR.

**Public Library Tour**
Wednesday, August 30 from 6 to 8 p.m.
ML, First Floor Lobby
A staff member-led tour of all the library resources available to you. RR.

**Lawyers in Libraries**
Thursday, August 31 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.
Don’t miss the big sale this month! Everything in both shops is 40 percent off from August 1 to August 15. It’s a great time to grab a few more beach reads or stock up on picture books for the kids. All proceeds benefit the library.

Get Tech Help
Need technology assistance? Have an issue with your laptop or a new device? The Ferguson Library’s Digital Navigators are here to help. We have dedicated team members who can assist with all kinds of tech issues from filling out a job application and accessing government services online to learning how to take pictures on your phone. Digital Navigators are available by appointment only. Call 203 351-8221 or sign up at fergusonlibrary.org/digital-navigators.

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 Ferguson Library

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

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Main Library, DiMattia Building
One Public Library Plaza
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
203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 to 6
Wednesday 10 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

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

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch
1143 Hope Street
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
Wednesday, Friday & 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.
Summer Learning Clubs
The Kids and Teen Summer Learning Clubs, Find Your Voice, continue through the end of summer. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org, or on the Readsquared app, available on Apple Store or Google Play.

Family Programs
End of Summer Fair: Bomba Music & Dance Workshop
Saturday, August 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB
Celebration includes face painting, lawn games, refreshments, a selfie station and a workshop about Puerto Rican bomba music, where you’ll learn about its rhythm styles, traditional, hand-crafted instruments and costumes, typical storytelling songs and basic dance steps.

Concert for Peace: Find Your Voice
Sunday, August 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Enjoy music and dancing during this performance featuring Kala Farnham, Connecticut State Troubadour; the Bokandeye African American Dance Theater company; singer-songwriter Nathaly Palacios; composer and pianist Paco Godoy; and INTEMPO Youth Ensemble. All ages. RA.

Community Giveback Day
Saturday, August 19 from 12 to 4 p.m. at SE
Live music, kids’ activities, gift bags, free books, health and wellness information, and a special reading by Mayor Caroline Simmons. All ages.
Presented in partnership with the Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut. Co-sponsored by Power Health Tours and Organized Youth.

Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
Presented in partnership with 100 Black Men of Stamford; Fairfield County (CT) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated; the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut; the Mayor’s Multicultural Council; Stamford Community; and Stamford NAACP.

Screening & Family Discussion: March On! by Christine King Farris
King Farris
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ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Saturday, August 26 from 12 to 2 p.m. at SE
Viewing of the animated video March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World, based on the 2008 picture book by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s sister. Here she gives a firsthand witness account of the March on Washington. Discussion to follow. All ages. RR.

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Build your own African American history book using stickers that depict dozens of courageous fighters for civil and equal rights as well as inspirational pioneers in government, science and technology, business, the arts and more. All ages. RR.

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The Blues and Beyond, a cross-cultural program that teaches history through the lens of music, presents a performance by keyboardist Eric Finland and a presentation by The Blues and Beyond’s Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor. Community youth will also recite poetry. All ages. RR.

Documentary Screening: The March: The Story of the Greatest March in American History
Monday, August 28 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
KIDS SUMMER LEARNING CLUB

For storytimes, registration opens six days before each program date where registration is required.

Outdoor Family Storytimes
Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at Latham Park
Mondays, August 7 and 14 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at Commons Park
Themed storytime that features songs, fingerplays and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 4 with an accompanying caregiver, weather permitting.

Build with Lego
Tuesdays, August 1, 8 & 15 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Do one of our building challenges and create anything you want using the library’s Lego® collection. Creations cannot be taken home. Grades K to 5. Ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Family Storytime
Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
A participatory storytime featuring songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 5 years with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

Cuentos y Actividades:
Spanish Story & Activity
Thursdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 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, August 4, 11, 18 & 25 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.

Storytime by Concordia Conservatory Musical Adventures
Wednesday, August 9 from 3 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
Music faculty from the conservatory will lead a special reading of picture book classics about music, sounds and songs. Books include Animal Music by Harriet Ziefert and Music Is by Lloyd Moss. Ages 3 and older, with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

Color in 3D with Quiver
Thursday, August 10 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Use our iPads and the Quiver app to create an augmented reality coloring sheet that you can see in 3D. Ages 5 to 10; ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Creature Features
Tuesday, August 22 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Meet animals up close to learn why they are grouped based on shared features and the characteristics each group has in common. Ages 5 and older. Ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Presented in partnership with the White Memorial Conservation Center.

Game Night: Azul
Tuesday, August 8 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, Azul. Teens and adults. RR.

Red Cross Babysitter Training & Certification
Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Earn Red Cross Babysitter Certification during this day-long program, where a Red Cross instructor will teach what it takes to become a babysitter, from finding babysitting jobs to taking care of a sick child. Participants must attend the full day to earn certification. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Raising Chickens in Your Backyard
Saturday, August 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Master gardener and farmer, Mark Gostkiewics, will share what is needed to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens while using sustainable and organic practices. Teens and adults. RR.

Women’s Self-Defense Workshop
Sunday, August 20 from 3 to 4:30 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. Teens and adults. RR.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Summer Wellness
Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation
Tuesdays, August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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. Teens and adults.

Lunchtime Yoga
Wednesdays, August 2, 9 & 16 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Yoga instructor Ngan Nguyen will lead a lunchtime class in the Hatha style. Teens and adults. RR.

Zumba Dance Party
Saturday, August 5 & 12 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Dance yourself into fitness with instructor Pamela Arenas. Teens and adults. RR.

TEEN SUMMER LEARNING CLUB

T-MAD Meeting
Thursday, August 10 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. 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.

End of Summer Cruise
Sunday, August 13 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Bocuzzi Park, 200 Southfield Avenue
Celebrate the end of summer on a two-hour sail of Long Island Sound aboard the SoundWaters schooner, where you’ll learn about sailing and the Sound’s marine ecology. The schooner sails from Bocuzzi Park. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

16 Handles Taste-Off
Wednesday, August 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Sample all of the frozen yogurt flavors currently available at 16 Handles and vote for your favorites. RR.

End of Summer Cruise
Sunday, August 13 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Bocuzzi Park, 200 Southfield Avenue
Celebrate the end of summer on a two-hour sail of Long Island Sound aboard the SoundWaters schooner, where you’ll learn about sailing and the Sound’s marine ecology. The schooner sails from Bocuzzi Park. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

16 Handles Taste-Off
Wednesday, August 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Sample all of the frozen yogurt flavors currently available at 16 Handles and vote for your favorites. RR.