Did you know you can borrow baking equipment, sewing machines, even a ukulele and acoustic guitar from the library? The Ferguson Library’s Makerspace also has a microscope and we’re adding a Cricut machine to our collection for those of you who enjoy DIY projects. You can check out all these items with your Ferguson Library card.

We also offer Makerspace programs and workshops. Whether you work with electronics, yarn, words, music, fabric, video cameras, computer code or colored pencils, we’ve got something for you! For more information, visit our Makerspace page at fergusonlibrary.org/services-makerspace.

Support Your Library
Your Year-End Gift Makes a Difference

Please remember the Ferguson Library in your year-end giving. Your donation of any amount to the Ferguson Library Foundation (the fundraising arm of the library) helps keep books and all the things you love at the library free and available to everyone in the community.
Donate securely at fergusonlibrary.org or pick up a donation envelope at any library location.
Thank you for investing in your public library.

Save the Date: April 11
A Novel Affair

The Ferguson Library will hold its major fundraiser, A Novel Affair, Thursday, April 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the library.
A Novel Affair is the Ferguson Library’s signature benefit, raising funds to help support Stamford’s public library. Early registration opens February 12. We are pleased to honor Steven Frederick and the law firm of Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky for their service to the library and the Stamford community.
If you are interested in supporting the event as a sponsor, please contact Linda Avellar at lavellar@fergusonlibrary.org or by calling 203 351-8208.

Harry Bennett Branch Quiet Spaces

Need a quiet place to have a meeting or make a phone call? The Harry Bennett Branch has new soundproof spaces. The Zen Booth is equipped with a table, chairs and power, and is available for up to two hours at a time. Visit harrybennett.skedda.com/booking or call 203 351-8292 to make a reservation. The phone booth is available on a first come, first served basis.

Cookbook Author Lidia Bastianich

Just in time for the holidays! Join us December 14 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening with Emmy Award-winning public television host, bestselling cookbook author, and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich, who will discuss her new cookbook Lidia's From Our Family Table to Yours: More Than 100 Recipes Made with Love for All Occasions. Book sale and signing by Elm Street Books. Refreshments generously sponsored by Michelle and Michael Sabino. This event is free, but registration is required at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

Makerspace at the Library

Get free online access to America’s favorite source for product reviews and ratings. The Consumer Reports database provides clear, unbiased evaluations of a wide variety of household goods and appliances, cars, electronics, food and baby products. Additional content includes helpful articles on health and wellness, travel and personal finance, with full-text coverage extending from the current issue to a deep back file. To learn more, visit the Library’s A–Z Resources page on our website.

The library will be closed Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. All library facilities will also be closed on January 1. Have a safe, happy holiday season.

FOCUS ON
THE NEWSLETTER OF STAMFORD’S PUBLIC LIBRARY
DECEMBER 2023

Message from the CEO

We are partnering with the City of Stamford, the interfaith community, nonprofits and local businesses on the Kindness Project—Sparkling Citywide Random Acts of Kindness. Our Friends of the Ferguson Library have also accepted this challenge. What does it look like?
You can stop by any Ferguson Library branch to design a thank-you card for a teacher, a friend, or someone who has helped you out this past year. Or you can post an encouraging message for others to read.
Really, there are endless possibilities to perform random acts of kindness. Sometimes, the act is just being that person who listens. In the end, they are unexpected, selfless acts that positively affect the recipient’s mood or well-being. Even though there is no expectation of anything in return, I have found that after saying that thank you or listening extra hard, my own mood is just a little bit brighter.
—Alice Knapp, CEO

The library will be closed Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. All library facilities will also be closed on January 1. Have a safe, happy holiday season.
Welcome.

Details are on our online calendar. All are welcome.

**Barbie Viewing Party**

Friday, December 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Dress up in your pinkest pink for Barbie, the story of the most popular Barbie in Barbie Land. The best dressed will be featured on the library’s Instagram. Starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Issa Rae, America Ferrera and Kate McKinnon. Rated: PG-13. All ages.

**Mental Health & Wellness Series**

Presented in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine.

**Pastel Art Class**

Saturday, December 2 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Artist Kathleen Fay will lead a relaxing exploration of color, pattern and oil pastels in a beginner class for adults that will use the vibrant work of cat illustrator Laurel Burch as inspiration. RR.

**Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation**

Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 12 to 1 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A brief discussion about practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to reflect.

**Zumba Dance Party**

Saturdays, December 9 & 16 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Dance into fitness with instructor Pamela Arenas. RR.

**The Stamford Chorale Presents Song for Snow**

Sunday, December 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A festive holiday concert featuring works composed by women, including Florence Price and Rosephanye Powell.

**Senior Community Service Employment Program Information Session**

Wednesday, December 6 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at HB

Representatives of Associates for Training and Development (A4TD), a nonprofit that provides training and employment services to workers ages 55 and older, will talk about its Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), a work-based job training program that helps older job seekers obtain current employment skills to re-enter the workforce.

**Barney Viewing Party**

Friday, December 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

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Meet William J. Hennessey, Author of Fifth Avenue: From Washington Square to Marcus Garvey Park
Tuesday, December 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
Architectural historian William J. Hennessey will discuss his book, Fifth Avenue: From Washington Square to Marcus Garvey Park, an in-depth illustrated guide to the architecture along New York City’s fabled Fifth Avenue, from Greenwich Village and Midtown to the Upper East Side and Harlem. RR.

An Evening with TV Host and Cookbook Author Lidia Bastianich
Thursday, December 14 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. RR.

English Language Learners

Let’s Talk: Conversation Groups
Registration not required. New students welcome.
Fall Semester Sessions via Zoom
Tuesdays, December 5 & 12
- 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 6:45 p.m.
Wednesdays, December 6 & 13
- High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Evening Sessions in Person
Practice your conversational skills in a group.
Tuesdays, December 5 & 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Thursdays, December 7 & 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry
Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
For more information, call 203-724-9111.

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and UJA/JCC Greenwich: Shine a Light on Antisemitism
Tuesday, December 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Screening and discussion of the film The Devil’s Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes. Part of the national campaign to Shine a Light on Antisemitism. Latke reception to follow. RR.
Presented in partnership with UJA/JCC Greenwich, United Jewish Federation, and the Center for Jewish History.

Canasta Club
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
All levels welcome.

Meet Harrison, Stamford Health’s Therapy Dog
Wednesday, December 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB
Meet Harrison, Stamford Health’s first-ever facility therapy dog, during a presentation on the benefits of canine assisted therapy. Families, teens and adults. RR.
Presented in partnership with Stamford Health.

Mah-Jongg Club
Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Beginners welcome.
Get your Passport at the Library
Make sure your passport is up to date for summer travel. The Ferguson Library offers passport services at the Main Library and Harry Bennett Branch. Walk-in service is available, but appointments are recommended by calling 203 351-8298. Visit fergusonlibrary.org/services/passports for more information.

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

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

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Ex Officio
Alice Knapp,
Chief Executive Officer

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 Woodward 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

West Side Branch
245 Selleck Street
203 351-8242
Monday through Thursday 3 to 6

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

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

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 10 to 6
Saturday 10 to 4

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:
203 351-8221
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
West Side Branch: 203 351-8242

Family Holiday Movie: *The Polar Express*
Friday December 8 from 4 to 6 at HB
Dress in your coziest pajamas and enjoy hot chocolate while watching this holiday classic about a boy who takes a magical train ride to the North Pole on Christmas Eve and discovers what he needs to know about friendship, bravery and the spirit of the season. Starring Tom Hanks, Nona Gaye, Peter Scolari, Leslie Zemeckis and Eddie Deezen. Rated G. All ages.

**NEW! West Side Branch Youth Activities**

**Open Board Game Play**
*Wednesday, December 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at WS*
Play a classic board game like Monopoly, Scrabble, Chess, Checkers, Sorry, Jenga, Twister or UNO. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

**PAL Storytime**
*Saturday, December 16 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. at WS*
A participatory storytime for toddlers featuring traditional verses, songs, rhymes and storytelling. Ages 18 months to 3 years with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

**Craft Carnival**
*Saturday, December 16 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at WS*
A craft celebration where you can create snowpeople, holiday ornaments or whatever inspires you this holiday season. Grades 3 to 6. RR.

**Snow Zoo**
*Wednesday, December 20 from 4 to 5 p.m. at WS*
Meet animals like goats, chinchillas, guinea pigs, chickens, ducks, snakes or frogs that live at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center through the winter. All ages. RR.

**Kwanzaa: Community Gatherings**

**A Stamford Celebration**
*Wednesday, December 27 from 2 to 3 p.m.*
*Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard*
Community celebration in observance of the principle of Kujichagulia featuring Mayor Caroline Simmons. Activities include drumming, a presentation by a local artist and light snacks. All ages.

**A Celebration of the Principle of Nia**
*Saturday, December 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at SE*
Learn about the cultural holiday and the principle of Nia, join in the lighting of candles and enjoy African drumming, dancing, music, food and a cooking demonstration by Chef Giovanni Green. All ages.

**Noon Year’s Eve**
*Saturday, December 30 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.*
*ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium*
Ring in the new year with the whole family during our midday gathering. Ages 3 to 8 with families.

The library will be closed Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday. All library facilities will also be closed on January 1. Have a safe, happy holiday season.

fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids
fergusonlibrary.org/events
@ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @harrybennettbranchys,
@southendbranch_lib, @weedhollander and
@fergusonlibrarypassports
facebook.com/thefergusonlibrary
youtube.com/thefergusonlibrary

Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.
CHILDREN’S STORYTIMES
For storytimes, registration opens six days before each program date where registration is required.

Babytime
Friday, Dec. 1 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Songs, rhymes, stories and movement activities. Ages 2 and younger with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. RR.

Family Storytime
Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

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

Cuentos y Actividades: Spanish Story & Activity
Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 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.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Barbie Viewing Party
Friday, Dec. 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Dress up in your pinkest pink for Barbie, the story of the most popular Barbie in Barbie Land. The best dressed will be featured on the library’s Instagram. Starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Issa Rae, America Ferrera and Kate McKinnon. Rated: PG-13.

Preschool Movie Matinees
Tuesdays, Dec. 5 & 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Enjoy picture book videos of beloved children’s classics. Ages 18 months to 5 years.

Crafternoon: Snowperson Decoration
Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. at WMH

Be ready to use paint and glue to create a snowperson decoration to celebrate the winter season. Ages 8 to 14. RR.

Baby & Toddler Playgroup
Thursday, Dec. 7 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Kids play while caregivers meet and chat. Fun includes play time, a snack, a take-home craft and one-on-one support from a family and community engagement specialist from Sparkler, the child development app. Expectant parents welcome. Ages 5 and younger. RA. Presented in partnership with Sparkler.

Open Board Game Play
Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Play a classic board game like Monopoly, Scrabble, Chess, Checkers, Sorry, Jenga, Twister or UNO. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

Origami Hour: Holiday Season
Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB

The ancient art of Japanese paper folding, including techniques and designs that celebrate the holidays. Ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Club Kickoff
Thursday, Dec. 14 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Club launches with a discussion of your favorite Wimpy Kid stories and characters. Bring a copy of your favorite book or borrow one of ours. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

Spanish Baby and Toddler Playgroup: Grupo de Juego para Bebés y Niños Pequeños
Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.; sábado, 16 de dic. de 10:30 a 11:15 a.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Los niños juegan mientras los adultos platican. La diversión incluirá tiempo de juego, una merienda, una actividad para llevar a casa y el apoyo de uno-a uno de las especialistas de Sparkler. Para bebés y niños hasta 5 años de edad. Por favor avísenos sobre alergias alimentarias. (See Baby & Toddler Playgroup for English translation.) RR. Presentado en colaboración con Sparkler.

Building Bonanza
Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Dec. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Take on one of our challenges or create anything you want using Lego®. Keva planks and magnetic tiles. Creations cannot be taken home. Ages 5 and older; children ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Color in 3D with Quiver
Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Use iPads and the Quiver app to create an augmented reality coloring sheet that you can see in 3D. Ages 5 to 10; children ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Open Game Nights
Mondays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Play a game from the library’s collection or bring your own game to play with others. All ages; young children must be accompanied by an adult.

Craft Series: LED Cards
Thursday, Dec. 7 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Learn how to create a homemade LED Card for any occasion. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Meet Harrison, Stamford Health’s Therapy Dog
Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at HB

Meet Harrison, Stamford Health’s first-ever facility therapy dog, during a presentation on the benefits of canine assisted therapy. Families, teens and adults. RR. Presented in partnership with Stamford Health.

Game Night: Wingspan
Tuesday, Dec. 12 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 Wingspan. Teens and adults. RR.

Kwanzaa Clay Art
Friday, Dec. 15 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

An artist from the Clay Art Center in Port Chester will lead a class on creating a clay work of art inspired by the principles of Kwanzaa. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

T-MAD Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 21 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. ML, 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 a dessert treat will be served. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Pastel Art Class
Thursday, Dec. 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Artist Kathleen Fay will lead a relaxing exploration of color, pattern and oil pastels in a beginner class for teens that will use the vibrant work of cat illustrator Laurel Burch as inspiration. Part of the Mental Health & Wellness Series. RR. Presented in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine.