Message from the CEO

As we begin 2024, I always enjoy discussing priorities or resolutions for the next 12 months. In this new year, I can’t think of anything more important than a robust discussion around intellectual freedom: freedom of expression, speech, the press and the companion right to privacy. At a recent listening session held by Connecticut state representatives, we learned that Connecticut is one of 11 states that have seen challenges of more than 100 book titles this year.

This problem is not far away. It is here. The impacts are chilling for those of us working on the front lines, and even more so for members of the public who find these challenged titles relevant to their lives. As a book sanctuary library, this year we resolve to do everything we can to protect challenged books and promote vigorous discussion about your right to read.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

Commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.

The library will celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with screenings of the award-winning biopic Selma on Monday, January 15 at the Main Library and Harry Bennett Branch. The film chronicles Dr. King’s campaign to secure equal voting rights through an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. Check our calendar for details and other MLK programs.

Support for Sunday Hours

Many thanks to Judy Block for her generous gift to support Sunday hours. Her contribution will help underwrite the cost of providing service at the Main Library Sunday, January 7. Sundays are one of our busiest and most important days of the week and we are grateful for her donation.

If you would like to help us provide Sunday hours at the library, please contact Linda Avellar at linda@fergusonlibrary.org, 203 351-8208.

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. The library will honor Steven Frederick and Wofsey Rosen, Kewsikin & Kuriansky for their service to the library and the Stamford community.

A Novel Affair is the Ferguson Library’s signature benefit, raising funds to help support Stamford’s public library. Early registration opens February 12.

Thank you to our major sponsors to date: Morrison: Friends of the Ferguson Library; Du Bois: George Family; Pitney Bowes; Lahiri: Judith Block; Garden Homes Management; Silver Golub & Teitell. The Herbert And Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation; Baldwin: Abate & Abate, LLC; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey; Andrea & David Cohen; KPMG; Stamford Health.

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

Save the Date: February 8
Dr. Tanisha C. Ford

Don’t miss the award-winning author Dr. Tanisha C. Ford at the Main Library February 8 at 6:30 p.m. She will discuss her book. Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money, and Power Behind the Civil Rights Movement, the definitive story of Mollie Moon, the stylish founder of the National Urban League Guild.


Book sale and signing by Elm Street Books. This event is free but registration is required at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

There’s Still Time to Give to Our Annual Appeal

If you’ve already donated to the Library’s Annual Appeal, Thank You! If not, there is still time to help. Your donation of any amount helps keep books and vital services like technology training, English-language learning and children’s early literacy programs free and available to all. You can make a secure online donation at fergusonlibrary.org. Thank you for supporting your public library.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: Kanopy

Calling all film lovers! Did you know that your Ferguson Library card gives you free access to thousands of critically acclaimed documentaries, independent and foreign films, the Great Courses, classic cinema and children’s movies? The Kanopy streaming service can be used on all your favorite devices. Each month you’ll receive 15 tickets to redeem for great content of your choice plus unlimited streaming from the Kanopy Kids collection. To start watching, sign up at kanopy.com/en/fergusonlibrary.
Mental Health & Wellness Series
Presented in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine.

Community Mindfulness Project:
Meditation
Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 12 to 1 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
A brief discussion about practice, a guided meditation and a chance to reflect.

Suicide Prevention Workshops:
Question, Persuade, Refer
Tuesday, January 16 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. and Monday, January 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Presentation of Question, Persuade, Refer, a bystander intervention training program designed to teach how to step in and help someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. Participants will learn to recognize early warning signs, identify if someone needs help and how to take action. Presented in partnership with the Stamford Department of Health and Human Services.

Ballroom Dance Workshop
Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31 & February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Dance like a pro with instructor Simone Assboeck, who will cover the basics of the salsa and the hustle. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Attendance required for all sessions. Presented in partnership with the Stamford Department of Health and Human Services.

Book Discussions
If the discussion is held remotely, login details are on our online calendar. All are welcome.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch Book Discussion
Monday, January 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
These Precious Days by Ann Patchett

Spanish Book Discussion
Thursday, January 11 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
La luz negra de María Gainza

Silent Book Club
Saturday, January 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. at HB
Read the book of your choice in the quiet company of others. Presented in partnership with the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

Social Justice Book Discussion
Wednesday, January 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion
Wednesday, January 17 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
Neuromancer by William Gibson. Teens and adults.

South End Branch African & African American Authors Book Discussion
Monday, January 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom
All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle

Short Story Book Discussion
Wednesday, January 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
White Dancing Elephants by Chaya

Family Program: Three Kings Day Celebration & Singalong
Friday, January 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at SE
A celebration featuring musical performances by neighborhood youth and a singalong with friends and neighbors. Snacks will be served. All ages. Presented in partnership with Nosotras.

National Federation for the Blind Outreach Sessions
Thursdays, January 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and January 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Bring your lunch to hear from members of the Stamford-based National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut (NFBC), an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. They will talk about their work on improving the lives of blind and visually impaired people in the state. The January 25 session will also include a workshop by the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books on accessing materials for the blind and visually impaired. Presented in partnership with the Stamford MLK Committee.

Documentary Screening: Owned: A Tale of Two Americas
Saturday, January 13 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at SE
Directed by Giorgio Angelini, this PBS documentary exposes how the American housing policy market has been manipulated for years in discriminatory ways. Presented in partnership with the Stamford MLK Committee.

Screening Commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.: Selma
Monday, January 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at HB

Friday Matinee: Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves
Friday, January 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Art at the Ferguson: Connecting Nature and People
On display through January 25.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Juried show of works by local and regional artists. Presented in partnership with the Stamford Art Association.
Access Health CT Insurance Enrollment
Mondays to Fridays, January 2 to 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
Representatives from Access Health CT will enroll members for 2024 individual and family health insurance plans. Presented in partnership with Access Health CT.

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry
Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE
For more information, call 203 724-9111.

Canasta Club
Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
All levels welcome.

Find Your Next Read with NoveList
Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at HB
Learn how to use this free database to get book recommendations based on reading preferences. Bring a smartphone or tablet, and a library card.

Mah-Jongg Club
Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Beginners welcome.

Death Café
Thursday, January 4 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Google Meet
A discussion about the awareness of death.

Knit & Needles Knitting Group
Mondays, January 8 & 22 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
All levels welcome.

Open Game Nights
Mondays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult.

English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups
Registration not required. New students welcome.
Wednesday Semester Sessions via Zoom
Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30
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.
Wednesday, January 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
Practice your conversational skills in a group.
Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Thursdays, January 11, 18 & 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB

Healing Drum Circle
Monday, January 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SE
A meditative gathering dedicated to healing the wounds of racism.

Game Night: Ticket to Ride
Tuesday, January 9 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 Ticket to Ride. Teens and adults. RR.

Make a Will for Free
Thursday, January 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Create a will in 15 minutes. Must be a U.S. citizen, 18 or older, and have an email address. RR.
Presented in partnership with Just In Case Estates.

Dungeons & Dragons
Thursdays, January 11 & 25 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, January 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Community Area
Join an imaginary band of heroes who brave dangerous situations. January 13 session for beginners only. Ages 18 and older. RR.

Personal Finance & Budgeting
Thursday, January 18 from 4 to 5 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn how to make informed and effective decisions regarding personal finances and money management. RR.

Lawyers in Libraries
Thursday, January 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.
ML, Second Floor Study Room
Discuss your case with an attorney.

Business & Career

TechXel Stamford Accelerator Series
Thursday, January 11, 18 & 25 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.

January 11 Leadership & Team Building
David Lyons, Principal, Den Corporate Advisors

January 18 Patents & Trademarks
Wesley W. Whitmyer Jr., Founder, Whitmyer IP Group

January 25 Business Formation & Contracts
Russell Anderson, Esq., Pullman & Comley

Maximizing LinkedIn
Thursday, January 25 from 3 to 4 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn how to create a profile, connect with business professionals, search for jobs, and gather referrals and endorsements from co-workers and supervisors. RR.
Presented in partnership with Goodwill Careers.


Using a Sewing Machine 101
Tuesday, January 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Learn the basic parts of a lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. RR.

Save the Dates
Art at the Ferguson Opening Reception:
Symphony of Colors
Thursday, February 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Lunar New Year
Sunday, February 4 from 1 to 3 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
The commemoration of the year of the dragon will include dance, music and a drumming performance. Snacks will be served. RA.
2024 Literary Competition is Open

Entries for the Stamford Literary Competition are due February 9. The Literary Competition celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to Stamford students in grades 3 to 12. You can find the entry link at fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events.

Mini-Golf February 10 and 11

Fun for the whole family! Mini-golf returns to the Harry Bennett Branch Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are $5 per person, per round. Ages 3 and younger play for free. Refreshments at the “19th hole.” Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor First County Bank. Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

Book Shop News

Don’t miss the Friends’ winter sale! Everything in both shops is 40% off through January 21. Friends members take an additional 10% off. All proceeds support the library.

Passport Day at Your Organization

We can bring passport services to your company or organization. Our passport team is available Monday through Friday to come to your location for the day. We offer photo and photocopy services along with the U.S. passport application process. and can provide instructions for your website. If you’re interested contact Leida Lugo at llugo@fergusonlibrary.org.

Missed one of our programs? Subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

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

2024 Literary Competition Now Accepting Entries
The Stamford Literary Competition celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to students who live and attend school in Stamford, and are in grades 3 to 12. Entries are due no later than Friday, February 9. Visit fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events for guidelines, categories, requirements and the entry form.

Action Movies
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
Friday, January 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Puss in Boots discovers that his passion for adventure has taken its toll: He has burned through eight of his nine lives. He sets out on an epic journey to restore them by finding the mythical Last Wish. Starring Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Harvey Guillén and Florence Pugh. Rated PG. All ages.

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves
Friday, January 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Screening of Selma
Monday, January 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at HB
Monday, January 15 from 3 to 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Selma, the 2014 award-winning biopic, chronicles Dr. King’s campaign to secure equal voting rights through an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. Starring David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo and Oprah Winfrey. Rated PG-13. Teens and adults. RR.

Book Bunch Club: Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King
Saturday, January 20 from 2 to 3:15 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Book Bunch Club is back! We will read and discuss the picture book by Jean Marzollo and do an activity based on the book. Snacks will be served. Grades 2 to 3. RR.

Family Program: Three Kings Day Celebration & Singalong
Friday, January 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at SE
A celebration featuring musical performances by neighborhood youth and a singalong with friends and neighbors. Snacks will be served. All ages. Presented in partnership with Nosotras.

Family Craft
Saturday, January 13 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at SE
Help us celebrate Dr. King by creating a scroll depicting his six principles of nonviolence. All ages.

Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.

All library facilities will be closed Monday, January 1 for New Year’s Day. On Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Main Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The branches will operate on their regular schedules.
CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES
For storytimes, registration opens six days before each program date where registration is required.

Cuentos y Actividades: Spanish Story & Activity
Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 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.

Family Storytime
Saturday, January 6 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Wednesday, January 17 & 31 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Wednesday, January 24 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
A participatory storytime featuring songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 5 years with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

Wee Ones @ Weed Storytime
Mondays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Songs, stories, rhymes and movement activities. Ages 2 and younger with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

¿Como Se Dice? How Do You Say That?
Bilingual Storytime
Thursday, January 11 from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. at WMH
Join Señora Addy and Librarian Mari for stories, songs and movement activities in Spanish and English. Ages 2 to 5. RR.

Picture Book Club
Wednesday, January 17 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at HB
Reading and discussion of Nacho’s Nachos: The Story Behind the World’s Favorite Snack by Sandra Nickel. Snacks will be served. Ages 7 and older. RR.

Babytime
Fridays, January 19 & 26 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.

DIY Winter Terrariums
Friday, January 12 from 4 to 5 p.m. at HB
Use mason jars, tiny trees and small figurines to create a wintertime terrarium. Ages 10 and older. RR.

Preschool Movie Matinees
Tuesdays, January 16, 23 & 30 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.

Chess Club
Saturday, January 20 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Saturday, January 27 from 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Learn everything there is to know about this game of skill and strategy from instructor Alex Eydelman. Beginners welcome. Ages 7 and older. RR.

Make Paper Lanterns
Tuesday, January 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. at HB
Help us create paper lanterns to decorate the auditorium for the Japanese New Year celebration January 27. Lanterns may be collected the following week. Grades K to 6.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Open Game Nights
Mondays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 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; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Interpersonal Communication Workshop
Tuesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6 & 13 from 4 and 5:30 p.m. at WS
A six session workshop that will help teens build effective listening and speaking skills while understanding their personal communication styles. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Game Night: Ticket to Ride
Tuesday, January 9 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 Ticket to Ride. Teens and adults. RR.

TinkerCAD Workshop
Saturday, January 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
Find out about TinkerCAD, the perfect software for learning the basics of 3D modeling. All levels welcome. Grades 5 to 12. RR.

Paint & Sip Jr.
Saturday, January 6 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
A relaxing afternoon of juice-sipping and painting winter scenes. Ages 5 and older; ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Crafternoon: Cardinal Handprint Art
Tuesday, January 9 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. at WMH
Use paint and glue to create winter scenes featuring cardinals made with handprints. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

Paint & Sip
Monday, January 15 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Lower Level Makerspace
An afternoon of painting and soda-sipping with our friends from Pinot’s Palette. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion:
Neuromancer
Thursday, January 17 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
In this cyberpunk novel by William Gibson, we meet Case, the sharpest data thief in the matrix until he crossed the wrong people, who banished him from cyberspace. Now a mysterious new employer has recruited him for a last-chance run at a powerful artificial intelligence. Teens and adults.

Ballroom Dance Workshop
Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31 & February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Dance like a pro with instructor Simone Assboeck, who will cover the basics of the salsa and the hustle. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Attendance required for all sessions. Teens and adults. RR.

Hatha Yoga
Saturday, January 20 from 2 to 3 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Instructor Ngan Nguyen will lead a yoga class exclusively for teens in the Hatha style. Part of the Mental Health & Wellness Series. RR.

T-MAD Meeting
Thursday, January 25 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Rotary 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 will be served. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Using a Sewing Machine 101
Saturday, January 27 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Learn about the lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. RR.

Banned Book Discussion: Ana on the Edge
by A. J. Sass
Wednesday, January 31 from 4 to 5 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Twelve-year-old figure skating champion Ana isn’t a frilly dress kid, and has doubts about the princess theme for next season’s program. Then Ana meets Haydn, a transgender boy, and their thoughts about the princess program and gender identity soon take center stage. Ana on the Edge was challenged by the Texas Legislature and a number of school districts. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

For more information, visit: fergusonlibrary.org/events