Message from the CEO

I have recently had several conversations with avid e-book readers who are disappointed in our offerings. In some cases, the complaint was that a series was incomplete, or it had to do with the wait times for a new bestseller. The e-book model for libraries is very different from collecting physical items. We can purchase a book at a substantial discount, and it stays on our shelves. We purchase multiple copies of the bestsellers to try to keep the wait times low. For e-materials, libraries can’t purchase these titles, they must lease them. Bestsellers are only available at a high cost ($65 to $109 for a new title), with a limited use (26 borrows and then we need to lease the title again if we want it in the collection). It is almost impossible to maintain a popular series, so the titles early in the series are often missing. What can you do? Please let us know when you cannot find a book that you want. We want to meet your needs. Just as important, let your state representatives know that this is an area of concern. There may be legislation to help address this situation.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

Celebrating Black History Month

The Ferguson Library highlights African Americans’ rich cultural heritage and legacy of achievement with a series of compelling programs this month. The library’s winter art exhibit, Symphony of Colors, which opens February 1, features works by local and regional artists of color. Author Kelly Walters will read excerpts from her book Black Brown + Latinx Design Educators: Conversations on Design and Race during the reception.

On February 8, we welcome award-winning author Dr. Tanisha C. Ford, professor of history at The Graduate Center, CUNY, to the Main Library. 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.

To register and for details on all our Black History Month programs, visit our calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

Harry Bloch History Program: The Blues and Beyond

The Blues and Beyond, a cross-cultural program that tells the story of African Americans from slavery to the present day through music and narration, will return to the library February 18 at 2 p.m. to present a performance by a trio of musicians and a presentation by the program’s Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor. Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

A Novel Affair Registration Opens February 12

A Novel Affair is just two months away! Early registration opens February 12 for the library’s major fundraiser, to be held Thursday, April 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Main Library. We’re delighted to honor Steven Frederick and the law firm of Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, LLP for their service to the Ferguson Library and the Stamford community. Tickets are $150 until March 15, then $175. The Junior Professional price (age 35 and younger) is $75. Visit fergusonlibrary.org to register.

Thank you to our major sponsors to date:

Morrison: Friends of the Ferguson Library, Du Bois: George Family; Pitney Bowes; Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, LLP; Lahiri: Judith Block; Ellen Bromiley & Thomas Gizincki; Garden Homes Management; Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation; Leon N. Lapine Charitable Residuary Trust; Silver Golub & Teitell; Baldwin: Abate & Abate, LLC; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey; Andrea & David Cohen; Connecticut Public; First County Bank; KPMG; Stamford Health; The Ashforth Company/A.P. Construction.

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

Pulitzer Prize Winner Beverly Gage to Speak at Library February 22

Beverly Gage, winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century, will speak Thursday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Her talk kicks off a new Pulitzer Prize Winner Series generously supported by Ann and Timothy Duffy.

G-Man also won other awards and was named a Best Book of 2022 by The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The New York Times and others. Gage is a professor of 20th-century U.S. history at Yale and is also the author of The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in its First Age of Terror.

A light reception will open the presentation; book sale and signing hosted by Elm Street Books. Register online.

Mini-Golf at the Harry Bennett Branch

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. Snacks at the “19th hole.” Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor, First County Bank. Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events.
Appreciated at fergusonlibrary.org/events

RR
HB
ML

Wednesday, February 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Short Story Book Discussion

Monday, February 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom
American Authors Book Discussion

Saturday, February 24 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Silent Book Club

Wednesday, February 14 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion

Sunday, February 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Club de Lectura La Tertulia

ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Sabiduría familiar por Elizabeth Acevedo

Club de Lectura La Tertulia
Sunday, February 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
2666 por Roberto Bolanó

Harry Bennett Branch Book Discussion
Monday, February 12 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
The Spectacular by Fiona Davis

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler. Teens and adults.

Social Justice Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 21 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams RR.
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the 21st Century by Michelle Alexander

Silent Book Club
Saturday, February 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. at HB
Read the book of your choice in the quiet company of others. RR.

South End Branch African & African American Authors Book Discussion
Monday, February 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom
Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward

Short Story Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
The Collected Schizophrenias by Esme Weijun Wang

Black History Month Programs: Celebrating African Americans and the Arts
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

Digital Scavenger Hunt
Fridays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 3 to 4 p.m. at HB
Learn how to use library resources and databases to find information about African American history. Prizes will be awarded: laptops provided. Teens and adults.

Family Movie: The Princess and the Frog
Friday, February 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Disney classic from 2009 starring Anika Noni Rose, Keith David, Oprah Winfrey, Michael-Leon Wooley and Bruno Campos. Rated G. All ages.

National African American Read-In
Saturday, February 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
at SE
Author Dorothy Ghirozo and members of Heart & Purpose, Inc. will lead a storytime as part of a national effort to encourage communities to gather and read books about the African American experience. Event includes a rock painting activity for the branch’s kindness rock garden. Snacks will be served. All ages. Presented in partnership with Heart & Purpose, Inc.

An Evening with Dr. Tanisha C. Ford, author of Our Secret Society
Thursday, February 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. RR.

The History of Slavery in New England
Thursday, February 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
via Zoom
Professor and author Justene Hill Edwards will explore the complex history of slavery and how the experiences of enslaved people in New England shaped their fight for freedom into the 19th century. RR.

Mah-Jongg Club
Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Beginners welcome.

Death Café
Thursday, February 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Google Meet
A discussion about the awareness of death.

AARP Tax Assistance
Saturdays, February 3 to April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at WMH
Mondays and Wednesdays, February 5 to April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HB
Trained tax counselors from AARP will offer help with both federal and Connecticut state income tax returns. Bring all 2022 tax documents and a copy of your 2021 tax returns. For more information, including a list of 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

Sisters in Crime Book Fair
Saturday, February 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at HB
Meet some of Connecticut’s best-known crime writers, who will sell and sign their books. Part of the Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series. RR. Presented in partnership with Sisters in Crime-Connecticut.

Celebrate Lunar New Year
Sunday, February 4 from 2 to 4 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. All ages. RA.

Memoir Writing Workshop
Saturdays, February 3, 10 & 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
ML, Technology Center
Author Gabi Coatsworth will help you get started on writing your memoir. Bring paper and a writing instrument. All levels welcome. Attendance required for all three sessions. RR.

Harry Bloch History Program: The Blues and Beyond
Sunday, February 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. via Zoom
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. RR.
This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

Movies for Kids
Tuesday, February 20 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
at SE

Social Justice Book Discussion:
The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
Wednesday, February 21 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams RR.
In The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, the author argues that the U.S. criminal justice system is used as a contemporary system of racial control even as it adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series: Yvette Cole
Saturday, February 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
at HB
Meet first-time author and kindergarten teacher, Yvette Cole, who will read from her debut picture book Harriet’s Dinner Party. Book sale and signing. All ages. RR.

Make History Your Own
Saturday, February 24 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
at WS
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 and the arts and more. All ages. RR.

Income Tax Assistance, visit our Income fi
required documents for tax

state income tax returns. Bring all 2022 tax

Trained tax counselors from AARP will offer help with both federal and Connecticut state income tax returns. Bring all 2022 tax documents and a copy of your 2021 tax returns. For more information, including a list of 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

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

Let’s Talk: Conversation Groups

Winter Evening Sessions in Person
Practice your conversational skills in a group. Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB. Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at SE. ML, Lower Level Community Area

Winter Semester Sessions via Zoom
Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27. New students: from 12 to 12:30 p.m. High beginner: from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Low intermediate: from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Advanced: from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28. High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Easy English for Beginners: Side by Side
Mondays and Thursdays, February 12, 15, 22, 26 & 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See cover for details. Presented in partnership with First County Bank.

Using a Sewing Machine 101
Saturday, February 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Learn about the lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. RR.

Valentine’s Day Card Workshop
Saturday, February 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ML, Community Area. Make a Valentine’s Day card using a variety of decorative papers and designs. Ages 16 and older. RR.

Healing Drum Circle
February 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SE. A meditative gathering dedicated to healing the wounds of racism.

Game Night: Takenoko
Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. ML, New Materials Room. Play a game from the library’s collection, bring your own, or learn how to play Takenoko. Teens and adults. RR.

Origami Hour
Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB. Learn different folding techniques, including classic and contemporary designs that celebrate Valentine’s Day. All experience levels welcome. Ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Make a Will for Free
Thursday, February 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. ML, 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.

Business & Career

TechXel Stamford Venture Expert Series
Thursday, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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 1 Positioning & Strategic Marketing
Brenda Lewis, Founder and Principal. Transactions Marketing Inc.

February 8 Social Media
Giulia Gambale, Founder, She So Social, and Co-Founder, Agents of Branding.

February 15 Sales
Eric Knaus, Founder, Entrepreneur

February 22 Cybersecurity
Janine Darling, Founder and CEO, STASH Cybersecurity.

February 29 Software Development

First-Time Homebuyer Information Session
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Series: Beverly Gage, Author of G-Man
Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium. See cover for details. RR.

Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series: Charlie Trantanella
Saturday, February 24 from 1 to 2 p.m. at HB. Charlie Trantanella will discuss his latest book Sister Christian Has Left the Building, a collection of 12 stories that document his childhood in Stamford in the 1980s. RR.

Club de Lectura La Tertulia: Lectura de Poesía
Sunday, February 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room. Open mic readings of Latin American poetry.

What Does Intellectual Freedom Mean to You?
Monday, February 26 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium. A conversation on intellectual freedom with Summer Lopez, Chief Program Officer, Free Expression at PEN America, and John Christakos, Executive Director, EveryLibrary. Moderated by Alice Knapp, CEO of the Ferguson Library. Also available via Zoom. RR.

Panel Discussion: The Truth About Puppy Mills
Thursday, February 29 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Panelists will discuss what you need to know about puppy mills. why you should care, what you can do about it and how Connecticut still allows the retail sale of puppy mill puppies. RR.

Lawyers in Libraries
Thursday, February 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. ML, Study Room. Discuss your case with an attorney. To book a reserved appointment, call 203 351-8221. Presented in partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association.
2024 Literary Competition is Open

Entries for the Stamford Literary Competition are due February 9. It celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to students in grades 3 to 12 who live or attend school in Stamford. You can find the link to our online entry form at fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events.

Book Shop News

Take a chance on a “Blind Date with a Book” this month. The Book Shop is selling individually gift-wrapped books with clues on the front. Genres include romance, mystery, popular fiction and more. It’s the perfect gift for someone who loves surprises!

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.
Harry Bloch History Program: Afternoon Concert with The Blues and Beyond  
Sunday, February 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium  
The story of African Americans from slavery to the present day through music and narration, will return to the library February 18 at 2 p.m. to present a performance by a trio of musicians and a presentation by the library's Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor.  
This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.  
RR.
**CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES**
For storytimes, registration opens six days before each program date where registration is required. If Stamford Public Schools are closed or delayed for inclement weather, the Main Library's Babytime and Family Storytime will be cancelled.

**Cuentos y Actividades: Spanish Story & Activity Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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 2, 9 & 23 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.**
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies ages 18 months and younger with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. **RR.**

**Wee Ones @ Weed Storytime Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.**
At WS, Weed Memorial & Hollander Library
Stories, songs, rhymes and movement activities. Ages 2 and younger with an accompanying caregiver. **RR.**

**Family Storytime**
**Wednesday, February 14 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.**

**¿Cómo Se Dice? How Do You Say That? Thursday, February 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 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, February 14 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at HB**
Reading and discussion of Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better by Glenda Armand. Snacks will be served. Ages 7 and older. **RR.**

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

**Why Knot Knit? After-School Knitting Club Monday, February 5 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH**
Group knitting session for all levels. Beginners will learn to cast on and do a simple stitch. Bring your own knitting needles; we will provide yarn if needed. If you need to borrow needles, email mailen@fergusonlibrary.org. Ages 8 to 14. **RR.**

**Preschool Movie Matinees**
**Tuesday, February 6, 13 & 27 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: Origami Hearts Tuesday, February 6 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH**
Learn how to fold origami hearts and boxes that you can fill with little treats. Grades 3 to 8. **RR.**

**Take Your Child to the Library Day Programs**

**Bilingual Storytime Saturday, February 3 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at SE**
Crafts, songs and picture book readings. All ages.

**Reading & Rhythm Storytime and Concert Saturday, February 3 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at ML, New Materials Room**
Orchestra Luminos and Music Together of Fairfield County will present an interactive concert where everyone can sing, dance, move, play and enjoy orchestral music while building literacy and social/emotional skills. All ages.

**Lunar New Year Paper Lantern Craft Saturday, February 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, Makerspace**
Enjoy snacks and music while making your own paper lantern to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Ages 5 and older; ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. **RR.**

**Crafternoon: Valentine's Day Cards Tuesday, February 13 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at HB**
Create heart-shaped, animal-themed Valentine's Day cards. Ages 5 and older.

**Origami Hour Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB**
Learn different folding techniques, including classic and contemporary designs that celebrate Valentine's Day. All experience levels are welcome. Ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **RR.**

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Club Saturday, February 17 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at ML, New Materials Room**
Discussion and read-aloud activities featuring Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Book 1) and Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (Book 2). Please bring your copy of either book or borrow one of ours. Grades 3 to 6. **RR.**

**TinkerCAD Workshop Tuesday, February 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ML, Makerspace**
Find out about TinkerCAD, the perfect software for learning the basics of 3D modeling. All levels welcome. Grades 3 to 6. **RR.**

**TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Open Game Nights Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at ML, 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.

**Introduction to ChatGPT Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. at HB**
A hands-on demonstration of ChatGPT as well as a discussion on the limits of this dynamic tool. Teens and adults.

**Ballroom Dance Workshop Wednesday, February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Final session learning the basics of the rumba and swing. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Teens and adults. Part of the Mental Health & Wellness Series. **RR.**

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

**Craft Series: Diamond Painting Thursday, February 8 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at ML, Makerspace**
An afternoon of diamond painting to create animal-themed, diamond-coated coasters and magnets. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

**Using a Sewing Machine 101 Saturday, February 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at ML, Technology Center**
Learn about the lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. **RR.**

**Valentine's Day Card Workshop Saturday, February 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at ML, Community Area**
Make a Valentine's Day card using a variety of decorative papers and designs. Ages 16 and older. **RR.**

**Game Night: Takenoko Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at ML, New Materials Room**
Play a game from the library's collection. bring your own, or learn how to play Takenoko. Teens and adults. **RR.**

**Make Friendship Bracelets Wednesday, February 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at ML, Makerspace**
Make personalized bracelets to exchange with friends and family or wear to the library's Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour event February 16. Beads and letters will be provided. Grades 4 to 12. **RR.**

**Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion: Parable of the Sower Wednesday, February 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom**
Set in a post-apocalyptic Earth heavily affected by climate change and social inequality, this speculative fiction novel by Octavia E. Butler, centers on 18-year-old Lauren Olamina and her growing awareness of the impact that the world around her will have on her future. Teens and adults.

**Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Movie Celebration Friday, February 16 from 12 to 4 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium**

**T-MAD Meeting Wednesday, February 21 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at 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 will be served. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

**Food Explorers: Make Energy Bites Friday, February 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium**
Learn about nutrition and cooking while working as a team to prepare nutritious and yummy energy bites. **RR.**