The Passport Office is Open

Our Passport Office is open by appointment and on a walk-in basis. Appointments take precedence, so we suggest making an appointment if you can.

Main Library Passport Office hours:
Monday – Wednesday 11 – 6; Thursday 11 – 8; Friday 11-5; Saturday 11-4.
Harry Bennett Passport Office hours: Saturday 1 – 4
For more information, or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8298.

The Heart of the Community

From the President’s Desk

The days are getting shorter and, once again, we are encouraged to stay home. If you are like me, you may be tired of the content available from commercial streaming services and main stream media. The Ferguson Library can offer several alternatives, including books and e-books recommended by our staff. Just go to the Books, Movies and More page on our website for great suggestions. For pre-school through high school recommendations, visit Youth Recommended Reads off our Youth Page.

Over the years, we have recorded many of our programs and have added more content since the pandemic. Our Civic Lectures, recent CrimeCONN Express series, MakerFest programs and much more are all available on our YouTube page. You can even read a book with your young child while one of our librarians reads it aloud.

My favorite on YouTube is the South End 50th Anniversary playlist. Once again, I can watch this special event and listen to the inspirational words of Newbery Award winner Jerry Craft. Of course, we have his latest book, Class Act.

Alice Knapp, President

Support for Sunday Hours

Many thanks to Judy Block for her generous support of Sunday hours at the Library. Her gift helps underwrite the cost of providing service at the Main Library Sunday, December 13. Sundays are one of our most important days of the week and we are grateful for her support. If you would like to help us provide Sunday hours at the Library, please contact Linda Avellar at linda@fergusonlibrary.org, 203 351-8208.

The Ferguson in the Community

We love getting out into the community. The South End Branch recently partnered with the Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF) to give away free books to kids. So much fun to see kids take home books!

Help Us Reach Our Year-End Goal

Support Your Public Library!

Please remember The Ferguson Library in your year-end giving. Your donation of any amount helps keep books and all the things you love at the library free and available to all.

Please help us reach our year-end goal of $50,000! Thank you for investing in your public library.

A Salute to Beethoven

Join Stamford Symphony violinist and music educator Gabriel Schaff Wednesday, December 16 at 6 p.m. for the last of three lectures on the life and music of Beethoven in this 250th anniversary year of his birth. This lecture will cover the last dozen years of the great composer’s life, a time that juxtaposed his widespread popularity with the personal tragedy of his deafness. The program will include a short biographical history, highlighted with musical excerpts.

The Beethoven series is made possible through a partnership with the Stamford Symphony. If you missed the first two programs, they are available on the Library’s YouTube page.

Library Pen Pals

Kids, we miss you! Even though we might not see you in the Library every day, we’d love to hear what you’ve been doing while staying safe at home. Please send letters to: The Ferguson Library, Youth Services Department One Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06904

We can’t wait to hear from you!

Novelist Plus

Need a book recommendation? Novelist Plus can suggest titles based on genre, or let you browse fiction and nonfiction for all ages. Are you a fan of mysteries or graphic novels, or want to see the best of Canadian Fiction? They’ve got you covered. Novelist also has a Title Read-alikes feature, which can give you a list of books similar to ones you liked. It’s a great way to discover new books. You can find Novelist on the A to Z database page off the Research page of our website.
**ZOOM Book Discussions**

Book discussions are presented live on Zoom. Registration is not required. Zoom meeting details for each discussion are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event. Book discussions are open to all, whether or not you have previously registered to attend the program.

**Remote Book-A-Librarian**

Remote Book-A-Librarian

Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/event. Zoom details will be sent to all registrants in advance of the program.

**Documentary Film Screening and Discussion**

**Documentary Screenings: Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools**

**Two screening times available.**

Saturday, December 5 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools is a feature length documentary which takes a close look at the educational, judicial and societal disparities facing Black girls.

Prior viewing of the documentary is recommended before attending the December 9 Fireside Chat with Monique W. Morris, Ed.D.

**Discussion: Fireside Chat with Monique W. Morris, Ed.D.**

Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom Webinar

Antonia Thompson of Stamford Restorative Justice Project in conversation with Dr. Morris. Dr. Morris is the author of Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools and Executive Producer/Co-writer of the documentary film. (Separate registration required.)

In partnership with Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, Stamford Youth Services Bureau’s Restorative Justice Project and Stamford Everyday Democracy.

**Community Mindfulness Project Meditation**

**Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at noon via Zoom**

A brief discussion about the meditation practice, a guided meditation, and then a chance to share and reflect. Appropriate for anyone who is new to meditation and those who have long-standing practices. Please log on at least 5 minutes early at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84840527453 to join the Zoom meeting.

**Death Cafe Stamford**

**Thursdays, December 3, 17 & 31 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom**

Discuss death in a group-directed discussion. The objective is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. With Sahara Farrugia, a licensed social director specializing in advanced planning. For Zoom meeting details, visit fergusonlibrary.org/event.

**Note:** Death Cafe is a discussion group, not grief support or counseling.

**Lawyers in Libraries: Looking for Legal Advice?**

**Thursday, December 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

**MLC Second Floor Study Room – Masks and Appointments Required**

Looking for legal advice? If your case involves personal injury, landlord/tenant, immigration law, family law, employment, consumer rights, or other areas of law, you can meet with a volunteer attorney for 20 minutes regarding your case. To book an appointment, call 203 351-8221. Please bring any materials you may have with information about your case.

**Virtual Vibes: Smooth Jazz and Old School Funk with Al Thomas and Friends**

**Thursday, December 17, from 7 to 8:45 p.m. via Zoom**

Relax your mind and body with an evening of soothing music and fellowship.

No registration required.

**7 to 7:30 p.m. – 50th Anniversary Signature Drink Contest**

Create and demonstrate your signature drink, recipe for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the South End Branch. 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. – Smooth jazz and old school funk with Al Thomas and Friends. Registration is not required.

Zoom meeting details are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event.

**Kwanzaa Celebration Kick Off**

**Saturday, December 26 at 1 p.m. via Zoom**

Sanofla, Looking Back to Move Forward. Grab-and-go Kwanzaa craft. Pick up your supply bag for the craft from December 12 – 23 at the Main Library or South End Branch, and then make and share at the Kwanzaa Celebration. All ages. Registration is not required. Zoom meeting details are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event.

**Business & Career**

**TechXl Stamford**

**Advisory Boards and Governance**

**Thursday, December 3 from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. via Zoom**

Ed Casere, Pleiad Capital Management. RR.

**Stamford One Million Cups**

**Wednesday, December 2 from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. via Zoom**

Re-entrepreneuring entrepreneurs in a virtual world. Presenters: Abhi Singh, Founder of Cloudability and Tim Fo, Founder and CEO of Baru Inc. RR.

**Conversations with Our EIR**

**Monday, December 7 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

The goals of these sessions are to launch and support small businesses, strengthen the local entrepreneurial community, share insights, practice pitches and learn from our Entrepreneurs-in-Residence, Doug Campbell and Steven Semaya. RR. Sponsored by CT Next.

**Friends Virtual Author Series: Meet Bestselling Author David Nicholls**

**Tuesday, December 15 at 5 p.m. via Zoom Webinar**

The bestselling author of the novels, One Day and Us will be talking about his newest book, Sweet Sorrow, a bitter-sweet and brilliantly funny coming-of-age tale about the heart-stopping thrill of first love – and how just one summer can forever change a life. RR.

**Kwanzaa Celebration Kick Off**

**Saturday, December 26 at 1 p.m. via Zoom**

Sanofla, Looking Back to Move Forward. Grab-and-go Kwanzaa craft. Pick up your supply bag for the craft from December 12 – 23 at the Main Library or South End Branch, and then make and share at the Kwanzaa Celebration. All ages. Registration is not required. Zoom meeting details are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event.

**Technology**

**Live-streaming classes will remain online in January but you can catch up on our technology classes by visiting our YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/thergufsonlibrary. There are lots of classes available, including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, an Intro to Web Building, HTML & CSS, and more.**

**Spanish Language Program**

**Creado a Nuestros Hijos Durante la Pandemia**

**Miércoles 2 de Diciembre a las 7 p.m. a través de Zoom**

Georgette Harrison, LPC del Child Guidance Center of Southern CT provee información sobre cómo ayudar a nuestros hijos a adaptarse a la “nueva normalidad” durante Covid19. Aprenda estrategias para identificar el estrés y la ansiedad en los niños, y cómo los padres pueden ayudar. Además, aprenda cómo saber cuando su hijo puede beneficiarse de ayuda profesional. La registración es obligatoria. Regístrese en línea: https://ch1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WHO_2bkSLEMjRrqOYM96F_d_4Q. Co-auspiciado por el Child Guidance Center de Southern CT.

**Let’s Talk: Conversation Groups for English Language Learners**

**Fall Session via Zoom**

Registration not required. New students welcome. For meeting information, visit https://www.fergusonlibrary.org/events-talk/events.

**Tuesdays, December 1, 8 & 15**

New students: 11 a.m.

Basic: 12:30 p.m.

Low intermediate: 3 p.m.

Advanced: 6 p.m.

**Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16**

Virtual vocabulary games: 2:30 p.m.

Beginner: 4 p.m.

High intermediate: 5:30 p.m.

**Russian–English Language Exchange Group**

**Sundays, December 6 & 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. via Zoom**

Language practice for Russian and English speakers and learners at intermediate and advanced levels. Participants should install the Duolingo app, create a free account and register for the program on Duolingo prior to each meeting. They will receive free “tickets” from Duolingo. RR. To register contact Susan Benthall at sbenthall.duolingo@gmail.com. If additional information is needed, call 203 351-8228 or email yelenaf@fergusonlibrary.org.

Co-sponsored by Duolingo.

**DIY Bookmaking Kit**

Make a handmade journal to keep or as a gift. Sign up for a take-home DIY bookmaking kit, complete with materials and instructions. RR. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/event from Monday, December 7 through Friday, December 11.

**English Language Learners**

**Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!**
All library facilities are open. Masks required to enter a library building. To read our Reopening Guidelines, visit https://fergusonlibrary.org/reopening-guidelines/.

We are quarantining books for 3 days. When you return items, they will still be on your record for that period, but we will check them in using the date they were returned. We are not charging late fees at this time.

**Main Library**
- Monday – Wednesday 11 – 6
- Thursday 11 – 8
- Friday and Saturday 11 – 5
- Sunday 1 – 5

**Harry Bennett Branch**
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12 – 5
- Wednesday 12 – 7
- Saturday 1 – 5

**Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch**
- Monday and Thursday 10 – 3
- Tuesday 12 – 7
- Saturday 12 – 5

**South End Branch**
- Monday – Thursday 10 – 5:30
- Saturday 10 – 2

**How to Contact Us**

**Phone Service**
Need help? Call us during our hours of operation.
- Main Library Borrowers Services: 203 351-8261
- Main Library Adult Services/Reference Desk: 203 351-8231
- Youth Services: 203 351-8242
- Harry Bennett Branch: 203 351-8294
- Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch: 203 351-8287
- South End Branch: 203 351-8283

**Virtual Chat**
Chat online with a librarian Monday 9 – 7; Tuesday & Wednesday 9 – 6; Thursday 9 – 8; Friday 9 – 5; Saturday 9:30 – 5; Sunday 1 – 5 at https://fergusonlibrary.org/virtual-chat/.

**HOLIDAY HOURS**
All library facilities will be closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. On New Year’s Eve, December 31, the Main Library, Harry Bennett Branch and South End Branch will close at 5 p.m. The Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch will close at 3 p.m.

All library facilities will be closed New Year’s Day. Have a safe, happy holiday season.

**The Youth Services Digital Library**
Visit https://fergusonlibrary.org/remote-resources-for-youth/ for information about our digital books, movies and music, Linked Libraries, digital resources, Wi-Fi service for students in need, and more. Check out these as well:
- The Library’s YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary
- Instagram @ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @harrybennettbranchys and @southendbranch_lib.
- Facebook and Facebook Live https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/.

Please check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/ for updates and pop-up programs and subscribe to our newsletter/weekly emails at http://fergusonlibrary.org/news/#toggle-id-1.

Stamford students can use their school ID to access our many digital materials, even if they don’t have a Ferguson Library card. For access, enter 2111800+student ID number (no spaces). If you encounter any issues accessing our e-materials or databases, fill out the form at https://fergusonlibrary.org/linked-libraries-contact-us-form/.
Library Pen Pals

Kids, we miss you! Even though we might not see you in the Library every day, we’d love to hear what you’ve been doing while staying safe at home—what you’ve been reading, what games you’ve been playing, new hobbies, etc. To encourage a connection with the Library along with building literacy and writing skills, kids in grades K – 5 can now be pen pals with the Youth Services staff. Write to us and we’ll write back! Make sure to include your return address and please send letters to:
The Ferguson Library
Youth Services Department
One Public Library Plaza
Stamford, CT 06904
We can’t wait to hear from you!

Children's Programs

Sing & Stomp

Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.
A song and dance party! For 18 months to 3½ years with adult. RR.

Budding Bookworms via South End Branch Instagram

Tuesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10:30 a.m.
Storytime for ages 18 months to 4 years. New content every week. Watch on the South End Instagram at the scheduled time.

Crafternoons @ Home

Thursdays, Dec. 3 & 17 at 4 p.m.
Join the Ferguson Librarians on Zoom for an afternoon of stories and art creation. Note: Supply bags for crafts will be available for pickup in the Library. Registration will close at 11 a.m. the morning of the program to ensure registrants have adequate time to obtain a craft supply bag (available at all library locations). Grades K – 5. RR.

Crafternoons @ Home (December Break Sessions)

Monday – Wednesday, Dec. 28, 29 & 30 from 12 to 12:45 p.m.
Take a brain break and join us for a picture book read-aloud and an art project. Be sure to have paper, coloring supplies (a pen or pencil will work just fine) and your imagination ready! Families, parents, and caregivers are encouraged to join as well. Grades K to 5. RR.

Family Programs

Beethoven Demystified: Blazing a Path to Romanticism and Beyond: Beethoven’s Final Period

Wednesdays, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m.
The last 12 years of the great composer’s life—a time that juxtaposed his widespread popular success with the personal tragedy of his deafness. Stamford Symphony violinist and educator Gabriel Schaff will present a short biographical history, highlighted with musical excerpts. In partnership with the Stamford Symphony.

Kwanzaa Celebration Kick Off

Saturday, Dec. 26 at 1 p.m.
Sankofa, Looking Back to Move Forward. Grab-and-go Kwanzaa craft. Pick up your supply bag for the craft from December 12 – 23 at the Main Library or South End Branch, and then make and share at the Kwanzaa Celebration. All ages. Registration is not required. Zoom meeting details are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

Noon Year’s Eve Party

Thursday, Dec. 31 at 11:30 a.m.
It can be tough to make it all the way till midnight, so ring in the new year with us a few hours early! Ages 3 to 8. Families welcome. Bags containing party supplies will be available for pickup in the library beginning on Monday, December 14. Registration will close at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30 to ensure that registrants have adequate time to obtain a party supply bag (available at all library locations). RR.

Spanish Language Program

Criando a Nuestros Hijos Durante la Pandemia

Miércoles 2 de Diciembre a las 7 p.m.
Georgette Harrison, LPC del Child Guidance Center of Southern CT proveerá información sobre cómo ayudar a nuestros hijos a adaptarse a la “nueva normalidad” durante Covid19. Aprenda estrategias para identificar el estrés y la ansiedad en los niños, y cómo los padres pueden ayudar. Además, aprenda cómo saber cuando su hijo puede beneficiarse de ayuda profesional. La registración es obligatoria. Regístrate en línea: https://chc1.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2bkSLEmjRqrqOYM96f_d_4Q. Co-auspiciado por el Child Guidance Center of Southern CT.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!