**South End Branch to Close for Renovation in March**

The Ferguson Library’s South End Branch will be closed during the month of March for renovation. The Bookmobile will be on site at the Lathon Wider Community Center to provide library service while the branch is closed. We expect to reopen in April with a new, updated facility. We can’t wait to show you around!

**Staff Recommends: African American Aesthetics**

- **Black Futures**  
  edited by Kimberly D. Drew and Jamae Windsor
- **Invisible Men: The Trailblazing Black Artists of Comic Books**  
  by Ken Qualls
- **Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance**  
  by Mark Whitaker
- **Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power**  
  edited by Mark Godfrey and Zohra Whitely
- **Beyond the Frame: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump**  
  by Lamine G. Bunch III

**Black Ink: Literary Legends on the Peril, Power, and Pleasure of Reading and Writing**  
edited by Stephanie Stokes Oliver

**Focus on Ferguson**

**The Heart of the Community**

**From the President’s Desk**

I’m writing this message after listening to President Biden’s inaugural address and his appeal for unity. He made a reference to the systemic racism that we have all witnessed and the monumental first of electing a woman of color as our vice-president. Last June, along with over 100 organizations in Stamford, The Ferguson Library signed a call to action: Stamford Stands Against Racism. While the call to action is prescriptive, it is also an exploration of systemic racism that begins by looking at history through a new lens. To this end, we have created a new Black History Month banner that features the Sankofa bird, which symbolizes moving forward, while looking back.

I invite you during this Black History Month to look to the past to understand how we arrived at this moment. This month, and throughout the year, The Ferguson Library has resources for this exploration beginning on the Everyday Democracy page of our website, fergusonlibrary.org/STamford-everyday-democracy.

–Alice Knupp, President

**A Novel Affair is April 15**

**Friends Author Series: February 16 The Henna Artist**

The Friends Author Series presents Alka Joshi on February 16 at 6 p.m. She’ll talk about her riveting debut novel, The Henna Artist, a story set in 1950s India about a young woman struggling to shape her own destiny in a world pivoting between the traditional and the modern. With her novel, Alka reimagines what life might have been like if her mother hadn’t been in an arranged marriage at 18 and instead been able to pursue the same independence and education that she always advocated for her daughter.

Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events. Once you register, you will receive the Zoom information.

**Civility in America**

Our Civility in America series continues virtually on February 3 at 6 p.m. with Janet Jensen, Founder and Executive Director of the Jensen Project. The Jensen Project is dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence and reducing exploitation. Then, on February 24 at 6 p.m., the Wisdom of Civility with Rick Slager, founder and CEO of Acacia Living, Inc., which provides healthcare options for seniors. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.

**February is Black History Month**

We will be celebrating Black History Month with a book and art display and a series of programs for children and adults, including a discussion of the book The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates on February 22 and community-wide storytelling and poetry program on February 27. (See our online calendar for details at fergusonlibrary.org.)

Look for a brochure with more information, including the history of Black History Month and the iconic Sankofa bird, which symbolizes moving forward while looking back. (See the beautiful banner outside the Main Library.)

**Black Freedom Struggle in the United States**

Our Civility in America series continues virtually on February 3 at 6 p.m. with Janet Jensen, Founder and Executive Director of the Jensen Project. The Jensen Project is dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence and reducing exploitation. Then, on February 24 at 6 p.m., the Wisdom of Civility with Rick Slager, founder and CEO of Acacia Living, Inc., which provides healthcare options for seniors. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.

**Support the Library with a monthly gift. Donate at fergusonlibrary.org.**
ZOOM Book Discussions

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation
Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 at noon via Zoom
A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, then a chance to share and reflect. Appropriate for people who are 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.

Coyotes & Coexistence Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom (postponed from an earlier date)
Join the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) for a special program about our local cousin to the wolf – the Eastern Coyote. Learn more about their biology and behavior and ways to reduce problems from occurring between people, pets and coyotes. RR.

Death Cafe Stamford Thursdays, February 11, 25 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 Farrugio, a licensed funeral 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. RR.

Remote Book-A-Librarian Reserve up to one hour with a librarian for information or technology assistance, including help with our virtual resources like e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming movies. To make an appointment, visit https://fergusonlibrary.org.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS
Zoom meeting details for each program are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

Classical Guitar Performance Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Enjoy an evening of beautiful music with Marc Mathelier, an international-ally-acclaimed classical guitarist.

South End Branch African and African American Authors Book Discussion Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. via Zoom
The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Community Storytellers & Poets Saturday, February 27 at 3 p.m. via Zoom
Inviting all novice and professional poets and storytellers to share stories and poems based on family and community. All ages. Registration required.

Additional Black History Month programs being scheduled. Please check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

FRIENDS VIRTUAL AUTHOR SERIES: An Evening with Alka Joshi
Tuesday, February 16 at 6 p.m. via Zoom Webinar
A touching tribute to the life her mother didn’t have the opportunity to lead, Alka Joshi’s debut novel, The Henna Artist is set in post-Raj 1950s Jaipur, about a young woman struggling to shape her own destiny in a world pivoting between the traditional and the modern. RR.

Back to Front Page
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 through 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 through Thursday: 10 – 5:30
- Saturday: 10 – 2

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/.

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
The South End Branch will be closed Friday, February 12 for Lincoln’s Birthday. (The Lathon Wider Community Center, which houses the branch, is closed that day.) All Ferguson Library facilities will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents’ Day.

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.

All programs are generously supported by the Friends of The Ferguson Library.
Children’s Programs

Sing & Stomp
Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 23 from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. via Zoom
A song and dance party! For 18 months to 3½ years with adult. RR. Registration for March Sing & Stomp classes opens February 12 at 11 a.m.

Budding Bookworms via South End Branch Instagram
Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 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, February 4, 18 at 4 p.m. via Zoom
Join us for a picture book read-aloud and an art project. Be sure to have coloring supplies and your imagination ready. Art supply bags are available for pickup at all library locations. Each bag contains all supplies needed for Crafternoon dates from February to May. One bag per child, please. Grades K to 5. RR. Registration opens two weeks before the date of each program, and will close at 11 a.m. the morning of the program.

Book Bunch Club Discussion and Activity
Wednesday, February 10 at 4 p.m. via Zoom
Are you a fan of Geronimo Stilton (or his sister, Thea)? Whether you’ve read only one book in the series – or have devoured many of them – you are invited to attend this series discussion and activity program. Please have blank paper, a writing utensil, and crayons or markers handy. Expect to have a mouse-tastic time! Grades 2 to 3. RR.

Kids’ Book Discussion
Tuesday, February 16 from 7 to 7:50 p.m. via Zoom
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson.

Take Your Child to the Library Day / Take the Library to Your Child Day
Saturday, February 6

Family Storytime
10:15 to 11 a.m. via Zoom
The whole family can drop in to this weekend storytime in celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day. Families with children ages 5 and under. RR.

Car Parade and Drive-Through Party!
Noon to 12:30 p.m. at HB
We’re celebrating Take Your Child to the Library Day by having a parade! Decorate your car, dress up in costume, turn on the music and drive by the Harry Bennett Branch to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Take Your Child to the Library Day! Make & Take bags will be available while supplies last. All ages.

Your Story Is Important with Author Supriya Kelkar
2 p.m. via Zoom
When author Supriya Kelkar was growing up, she never wrote stories about families who looked like hers. She will give tips on sharing your own important story. Ages 6 and up and their families. RR. Co-sponsored by India Cultural Center.

Teen Programs

T-MAD
Friday, February 5 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom
Meet with other teens to talk about books and learn what’s going on at the Library. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Creative Writing Club
Wednesdays, February 10, 24 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom
Bring your imagination, paper, and something to write with. We’ll work on different writing prompts, then share our work. Grades 5 to 9. RR.

Drop In and Draw
Thursday, February 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
Learn some drawing basics from artist Debra Hamuka-Falkenham, then work on a piece to enter the 2021 Teen Art Contest. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Teen Vision Board
Tuesday, February 23 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom
Let’s meet virtually and create a piece of art representing our hopes and dreams for 2021. Project materials will be available for pickup at all library locations beginning February 1, or you can use materials from home. If you use your own materials, you’ll need a large piece of construction paper or card stock, glue, scissors, and magazines or newspapers that you don’t mind cutting. Grades 6 to 12. RR.