From the President’s Desk

Like many of us, I’m happy to leave 2020 behind and am looking forward with hope to 2021. For many years, I have written in January about how the Library can help with your New Year’s resolutions, but as we end 2020, it struck me that we have spent this year learning new skills, trying new exercise routines, cooking new dishes, and attending virtual meet-ups. There is much we have learned this year that we will take into 2021. You and your friends and neighbors have flocked to the Library’s virtual programs, especially our Author Talks. While I’m looking forward to in-person events again, I know there will continue to be a virtual component to many of our programs, making it easier for you to watch from home or on your schedule. We have found that you enjoyed computer workshops and were able to accommodate a bigger audience than any in-person workshop could have allowed. Last spring, within hours of losing our physical buildings, we added virtual chat (in real time). Now that we are open, we still offer this service, making it easier for you to get assistance when you need it. These examples are just a sampling of how library services are changing in ways to make them more convenient and accessible for you.

Alison Knapp, President

The Heart of the Community

There’s Still Time to Give to Library’s Annual Appeal

If you’ve already made a donation 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. Thank you for supporting your public library. Donate at fergusonlibrary.org.

A Novel Affair is April 15

A Novel Affair, the Library’s spring fundraiser, is April 15! At this point, we are planning a virtual event, and will celebrate our delayed 10th anniversary as we come together to support Stamford’s public library. We’re delighted to honor Tom Cassone for his long-standing service to the Library and the Stamford community. Many thanks to our sponsors to date: Morrison: Friends of The Ferguson Library; St. Green Realty Corp. Lafont: Melvina Callion; First County Bank; Bald- win: Judith Block, Jane Carlin & Benjamin Gifford; Commonwealth Bancard & Hennessey; Garden Homes; Management; Stamford Health; Steinbeck: David & Andrea Cohen; Lee P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home; Konica Minolta; Debbie & Robert Neiman; UConn Stamford; United Services of America/Allianzco; Andrew & Ruby Whitinger-Allamce: The Ashforth Company/A.P. Construction; Sam and Emily Gordon; Stephen Perry & Susan Tolke.

If you would like to join us as a sponsor, please contact Linda Avellard at 203 351-8209/ lindal@fergusonlibrary.org. Attendance is free and open to all. We welcome donations. Look for registration information soon.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Library will be closed New Year’s Day, Friday, January 1. All library facilities will be open regular hours Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Staff Recommends: Living Your Best Life

Better, Not Perfect: A Reader’s Guide to Maximum Sustainable Goodness by Max H. Bazerman

The Little Book of Life Skills: Deal With Dinner, Manage Your Email, Make a Graceful Exit, and 152 Other Expert Tricks by Erin Zammert Ruddy

Dress Your Best Life: How to Use Fashion Psychology to Take Your Look – and Your Life – to the Next Level by Dessen Karen

Happiness Becomes You: A Guide to Changing Your Life for Good by Tina Turner

Limitless: Upgrade Your Brain, Learn Anything Faster, and Unlock Your Exceptional Life by Jim Kwik

Focus on Ferguson

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

Book discussions are presented live on Zoom. Registration is 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 participated in that discussion group before.

Weed Memorial & Hollander programs

Monday, January 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

Harry Bennett Branch
Monday, January 11 from 7 to 8 p.m.
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

South End Branch African American Authors Book Discussion
Monday, January 25 at 7 p.m.
God Loves Haiti by Dimitry Elias Léger

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/services/book-a-librarian/

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation
Tuesdays, January 5, 12, 19 & 26 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/8480527453 to join the Zoom meeting.

Create Your Own Vision Board for 2021
Thursday, January 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom
Let’s gather virtually to set our intentions for 2021. We will create vision boards for the upcoming year in hopes of manifesting a brighter 2021. Materials can be picked up at your selected library location starting January 2, or you can use materials from home. If you use your own materials, you will need a large piece of construction paper or card stock, glue, scissors, and magazines or newspapers that you don’t mind cutting up. RR

Ask the Educators: Peggy Bud and Tamara Jacobson
The 5 Cs of Communication: How to Make Your Point and Build a Partnership
Monday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Tips for parents to effectively communicate with teachers and other school officials. Parents will learn:
• The 5 Cs of Effective Communication
• Key Attributes of Effective Communication
• The Importance of Listening
RR, Co-sponsored by Fairfield County (CT) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated.

Healthy Housekeeping for 2021
Wednesday, January 13 at 6 p.m. via Zoom Webinar
Join us for this presentation: Healthy housekeeping and COVID-19. Learn cleaning tips for personal and home safety, best cleaning methods (including for high-touch areas and electronics) and routines that benefit children and adults. Presenter: Mary Ellen Welch, Healthy Homes Extension Educator, University of Connecticut. RR

Coogan’s & Coexistence
Wednesday, January 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom
Join the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) for a special program about our local cousin to the wolf — the Eastern Coyote. Coyotes are one of the most successful carnivores in North America because of their ability to thrive in the face of human-caused changes to the environment. A WCC wildlife outreach specialist will discuss coyote behavior and ecology in suburban landscapes where people and coyotes coexist. Learn more about their biology and behavior and ways to reduce problems from occurring between people, pets and coyotes. RR

How to Get Organized and Stay That Way
Tuesday, January 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom
Join professional organizer Ronni Eisengerg as she shares tips on how to get organized in the new year and stay that way in 2021 and beyond. RR

Conversations About Art: Carel Fabritius and His Teacher, Rembrandt
Thursday, January 14 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom
Helane E. March Rheingold, docent at the Neuberger Museum of Art, instructor at Learning in Retirement and an arts enrichment facilitator at the Stamford Public High Schools, will lead the discussion. RR

From Soul Food to Soulful Eating
Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Jump start your health for a better life. View the popular documentary Soul Food Junkies and then join us for a panel discussion offering practical advice and resources to make healthy food and lifestyle changes. Panelists: Pete Novajosky, Farm Manager of Fairgate Farm; Lelieth Latchman, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist (CDECS). (Watch Soul Food Junkies by using our Kanopy streaming service or check out an Express DVD copy) RR, Co-sponsored by Fairfield County (CT) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated.

Stamford One Million Cups
Wednesday, January 6 at 9 a.m. via Zoom
2020 was a year of challenges, but 2021 could be the year of opportunity. Join us at our first virtual Town Hall to discuss New Year’s resolutions for your business. RR

Death Cafe Stamford
Thursday, January 28 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.

I-Develop Community Conversations
Thursday, January 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
I-Develop is a framework for thinking about neighborhoods and how they contribute to our quality of life. The goal of the program is to support community engagement and democratic discourse in Stamford, CT. RR.

Business & Career

Venture Expert Talks
Thursdays from 5 to 6:15 p.m. via Zoom
RR for each session.
January 14: Team Building
Douglas Campbell, The Success Coach
January 21: Business Formation and Contracts
Kelly O’Donnell, Esq., Pullman & Comley, LLC
January 28: Sales/Acquire Leads, Close Sales and Retain Customers
Goy Sullivan, founder, Silicon Parkway Ventures

Ferguson Library’s Professional Speakers Group Presents
Lunch & Learn Effective Communication Series: Individual Communication Skills
Wednesday, January 20, February 3 at Noon via Zoom
RSVPs required in advance of the program. RR for each session.
January 20: How to Create a Bio that Opens Doors and Closes Sales
With Helena Escalante
January 27: Upping Your Professional Image Virtually
With Peggy Bud, interviewed by Heather Hansen-O’Neill
February 3: Linkedln Personal Branding and You
With Sandra Long, in Conversation with Mary Abkowitz

Technology

Catch up on Ferguson Library technology classes by visiting our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/c/thefergusonlibrary. There are lots of classes available, including Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, an Intro to Web Building: HTML & CSS, and more.

Friends of the Ferguson Library’s Facebook Group, @ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth.
Follow us on Facebook at https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary.
Check out the Library’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary.

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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 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/.

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The Youth Services Digital Library
Visit https://fergusonlibrary.org/remotesources-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/.

All programs are generously supported by the Friends of The Ferguson Library.
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 to 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, January 5, 12, 19 & 26 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, January 5, 12, 19 & 26 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.

Book Bunch Club Discussion and Activity
Wednesday, January 13 at 4 p.m.
Read A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold and then join us via Zoom to discuss and do a fun activity. Grades 2 to 3. RR.

Kids’ Book Discussion
Tuesday, January 19 from 7 to 7:50 p.m.
The Great Treehouse War by Lisa Graff. After Winnie’s life falls apart due to her parents’ divorce, she decides the only solution is to move into a treehouse between her parents’ houses and stay there until they will listen to her. When her friends move in, there are demands from ten children and ten sets of parents all determined to bring this arrangement to an end! Grades 4 to 6. RR.

Crafternoons @ Home
Thursday, January 21 at 4 p.m.
Join us for a picture book read-aloud and an art project. Be sure to have coloring supplies and your imagination ready. Registration opens January 7. Grades K to 5. RR.

Teen Programs

Creative Writing Club
Wednesday, January 6 from 5 to 6 p.m.
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.

T-MAD
Friday, January 8 from 4 to 5 p.m.
Meet with other teens to talk about books and learn what’s going on at the Library. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

The Art and Science of Chocolate Chip Cookies
Wednesday, January 20 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Register for the program and come to the Main Library to pick up an information sheet and a copy of Bake Like a Pro by Falynn Koch. Then, read about chocolate chip cookies, gather your baking ingredients, warm up your oven and then join the Zoom meeting. Grades 5 to 8. RR.

What Should I Read Next? for Tweens
Tuesday, January 26 from 7 to 7:45 p.m.
Talk about your favorite books and get recommendations for new titles. Grades 5 to 9. RR.