Message from the CEO

Several years ago, the Ferguson Library received a generous donation in memory of long-time volunteer Harry Bloch. Knowing how Mr. Bloch loved history, the donor wanted to underwrite a program that would bring history alive for youth. This year’s Harry Bloch Family History Program will do just that. Our guest speaker, Andrew Aydin, is a New York Times bestselling author, National Book Award winner, Robert F. Kennedy Book Award Honoree, Printz Award winner, and I could go on.

Andrew is the creator and co-author of the graphic memoir series March, which chronicled the life of Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis. When I saw Andrew Aydin speak about March and the sequel Run: Book One, I felt as if I were part of the civil rights movement. I encourage you to attend this virtual program, talk about the issues raised, then read Run. It will be available at our Back-to-School Book Giveaway, which begins September 18 at all our locations.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

Ferguson Mobile Bike

Our librarians will be bringing books to local parks this fall with our new mobile bike. The project was generously supported by the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Domus and the Woodworkers Club of Norwalk.

Ferguson Receives Federal Grant to Enhance Service

The Ferguson Library has received a $31,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to enhance access to library services. Part of the money will be used to purchase an annual service plan for the 25 hotspots that the library circulates to people in need of internet access (the current plan, purchased with state funding, is expiring). People can also borrow Chromebooks from the library.

Additional funding will be used to purchase self-check kiosks for the South End Branch and digital lockers for the Harry Bennett Branch. These will be situated outside so people can pick up materials even when the library is closed. We also plan to purchase air-purifying machines for small study rooms and meeting spaces, so those spaces can be safely used by the public.

★ The Main library is now open weekday evenings. See the back of Focus for NEW LIBRARY AND PASSPORT OFFICE HOURS. ★ All library facilities will be closed Sunday, September 5 and Monday, September 6 for the Labor Day holiday.

NYT Bestselling Author Zakiya Dalila Harris

The Friends of the Ferguson Library, in partnership with Darien Library, presents Zakiya Dalila Harris, New York Times bestselling author of The Other Black Girl, Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. The Other Black Girl is an electric debut about the tension that unfurls when two young Black women meet against the starkly white backdrop of New York City book publishing. It was named a Good Morning America and People Best Book of Summer and a Most Anticipated Book of 2021 by Time, The Washington Post, Harper’s Bazaar, Entertainment Weekly and the BBC.

Registration for the in-person event is full. Register for the waiting list at fergusonlibrary.org. The program will also be available on Zoom. The link is available on the calendar listing on our website. No need to register for the Zoom webinar.

The NEA Big Read Coming in October Toni Morrison’s Beloved

The Ferguson Library has received a $12,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to participate in a community-wide Big Read. We hope you’ll join us in reading or re-reading Toni Morrison’s classic novel, Beloved.

We kick off a month-long series of NEA Big Read programs October 2 with a book give-away and the first of three workshops to create a community quilt evoking the rich world of Beloved.

Our keynote address on October 7 features Swarthmore College President Valerie Smith, the author of Toni Morrison: Writing the Moral Imagination.

We’ll also be holding discussions of Beloved at all our locations. Check our calendar for more information.
Registration Required at fergusonlibrary.org/events/. For virtual programs, Zoom details will be sent to all registrants in advance of the program.

@ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @harrybennettbranchys and @southendbranch_lib.

https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/

https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary.

@fergusonlib

Book Discussions

If the discussion is presented on Zoom, login details for each discussion are on our online calendar. Registration is not required. Book discussions are open to all.

NEW! Notary Services

Wednesdays, Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB

Our notary public will be available to notarize your paperwork for free. By appointment only. For information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8292.

Death Cafe Stamford

Thursdays, Sept. 2, 16 & 30 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom

A discussion about increasing 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. Zoom details are on our online calendar. Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE

For information, call 203 724-9111.

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation

Tuesdays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28 at noon ML, Third Floor Auditorium

A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to share and reflect. Appropriate for people who are new to meditation and those who have long-standing practices.

Lawyers in Libraries: Looking for Legal Advice?

Thursday, Sept. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. ML, Second Floor Study Room

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. Please bring any materials you may have with information about your case. Appointment and face masks required. To book a time, call 203 351-8221.

Let’s Talk: Conversation Groups for English Language Learners

Fall Sessions via Zoom

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

Tuesdays, Sept. 21 & 28

New students: Noon

Basic: 12:30 p.m.

Low Intermediate: 3 p.m.

Advanced: 6 p.m.

Wednesdays, Sept. 22 & 29

High Intermediate: 10 a.m.

Beginner: 3 p.m.

Registration Opens Sept. 20

U.S. Citizenship Course Fall 2021

Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. beginning October 14 (no classes November 11 & 15)

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Six-week study course for the U.S. naturalization test. Students must read, write and comprehend basic English. Applicants age 50 and older with 20 years of legal permanent residency or 55 and older with 15 years of legal permanent residency could be excused from the English literacy requirement. RR. Register in person at the Second Floor Information Desk at the Main Library, online, email at yelena@fergusonlibrary.org.

Author Barry Woods in Conversation with Allan Houston

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Auditorium

Join Barry Woods for a conversation about his book, Reasons Why Youth Don’t Give a Damn Anymore! Former NBA star Allan Houston will be with Barry to kick things off. Book sale and signing. RR.

Lisa Jewell at Barrett Bookstore

Monday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

6 Corbin Drive, Darien

Meet this #1 NYT bestselling author as she presents her newest book, The Night She Disappeared. Wine and light bites will be served. RSVP to pbbarrettbooks@gmail.com. Co-sponsored by the Ferguson Library and Darien Library.

BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE

Harry Bloch Family History Program Andrew Aydin, Co-author of Run: Book One

Saturday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m. via Zoom

Run: Book One tells the story of an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history through the eyes of the late Congressman John Lewis, one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Andrew Aydin was the Digital Director and Policy Advisor to the Georgia congressman, and his co-author for the bestselling March trilogy. Grades 6 and up. RR. This program is made possible through a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

Author Barry Woods in Conversation with Allan Houston

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m.

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Join Barry Woods for a conversation about his book, Reasons Why Youth Don’t Give a Damn Anymore! Former NBA star Allan Houston will be with Barry to kick things off. Book sale and signing. RR.
Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.
NEW! Notary Services

Do you need official documents notarized? Our notary public is available at the Harry Bennett Branch to notarize your paperwork for free. Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m., by appointment only. For information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8292.

September is Library Card Signup Month


Missed one of our programs? Not to worry – catch up whenever you have a chance. We are recording most of our virtual programs. You can find them on our YouTube channel.
**How to Contact and Follow Us**

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  
South End Branch: 203 351-8283  
Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch: 203 351-8287

YS Website fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids

for information for kids, teens, parents and educators. You’ll find information about our digital books, movies and music, Linked Libraries, digital resources, Wi-Fi for students in need, and more.

**Online calendar** at fergusonlibrary.org/events/ for updates and pop-up programs and subscribe to our newsletter/weekly emails at fergusonlibrary.org/newsletters.

**Instagram** @ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth, @harrybennettbranchys and @southend-branch_lib.


**YouTube** [https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary).

**Back-to-School Book Giveaway**

**Saturday, September 18 through Thursday, September 30**

**Kids and teens:** Kick off the new school year with free books! Drop by any of our branches and get two free books to add to your home library. While copies last. Grades Pre-K to 12. No registration needed.

Curbside pickup is still available by appointment.

**Bringing History Alive**

**Harry Bloch Family History Program**

**Andrew Aydin,**  
Co-author of  
**Run: Book One**

**Saturday, September 18 at 2 p.m. via Zoom**

*Run: Book One* tells the story of an often overlooked chapter of civil rights history through the eyes of the late Congressman John Lewis, one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Andrew Aydin was the Digital Director and Policy Advisor to the Georgia congressman, and his co-author for the bestselling *March* trilogy. Grades 6 and up. **RR.** (Note: Copies of *Run: Book One* will be available at our Back-to-School Book Giveaway while copies last.) This program is made possible through a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

**Author Barry Woods in Conversation with Allan Houston**

**Wednesday, September 22 at 5:30 p.m.**

**ML, Third Floor Auditorium**

Join Barry Woods in a conversation about the subject of his book, *Reasons Why Youth Don’t Give a Damn Anymore!* Former NBA star Allan Houston will be with Barry to kick things off. For adults and teens, grades 6 to 12. Book sale and signing. **RR.**

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/](https://fergusonlibrary.org/linked-libraries-contact-us-form/).

*Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.*
As a helpful assistant, I am not able to directly read or transcribe images or scanned documents. However, if you describe the content of the document, I would be able to provide a plain text representation of it for you.