The Ferguson Library to Host Public Dialogue on
What Every American Should Know

Stamford, CT, October 4, 2016 – What are the things every American should know? The Aspen Institute Citizenship and American Identity Program, Ferguson Library, Stamford League of Women Voters and WNPR/Connecticut Public Broadcasting will host a public dialogue Wednesday, October 26 to explore local perspectives on American values and identity. David DesRoches, Education Reporter for WNPR, will moderate the conversation with Stamford Mayor David Martin; Anka Badurina, Skills Development Director at Neighbors Link; Michael Hyman, Executive Director of the Chester Addison Community Center; Earl Kim, Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools; Stephen Napier, Founder of Young Professionals Group for Inspirica; and Wendy Skratt, President of League of Women Voters of Stamford.

The event will take place at Ferguson Library’s DiMattia Building on Wednesday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The program is part of the “What Every American Should Know Library Series,” a public dialogue series by the Aspen Institute’s Citizenship and American Identity Program in partnership with libraries around the country. The series aims to bring critical local perspectives on American values and identity into the national dialogue. The Ferguson is one of seven libraries nationwide selected to take part in the project.

“What Every American Should Know” was created to explore how this country can cultivate a sense of shared destiny and common civic purpose in this age of increasing diversity and widening inequality. The Aspen Institute’s Citizenship and American Identity Program is inviting the American public and cultural leaders to build a crowd-sourced national list of facts and references every American should know in order to be civically and culturally literate. Individuals can submit Top 10 lists at www.WhatEveryAmericanShouldKnow.org. All submissions are then combined in to an aggregated national list.
“Now more than ever, a diversifying U.S. needs a shared base of knowledge,” said executive director of the Citizenship and American Identity Program, Eric Liu. “But a 21st century sense of civic and cultural literacy must be as intentionally inclusive as possible.”

“Stamford’s diversity is one of its strengths, and it will be fascinating to explore what our community feels are the most important things Americans should know in 2016,” said Alice Knapp, Ferguson Library President. “It is an honor to be part of this project which has both a national and local scope.”

The Ferguson Library is Stamford’s public library system, consisting of the Main Library, DiMattia Building; the Harry Bennett Branch; the Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch; the South End Branch and a traveling Bookmobile. It provides free and equal access to information, ideas, books and technology to educate and enrich the Stamford community.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

WNPR offers news, information and entertainment programming available to listeners on the FM dial, as well as online streaming and podcasting. WNPR has earned a reputation for award-winning journalism, having received eight Mark Twain Awards for Overall Station Excellence. A member of National Public Radio (NPR), American Public Media (APM), and Public Radio International (PRI), WNPR is one of the leading news stations in the public radio system.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 87 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted organizations.