

Message from the CEO



September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Your library card is not only your ticket to check out books and movies, but also offers access to our many databases. Discover your ancestors with Ancestry.com or learn a language with Pronunciator. We also circulate museum passes, rolling pins, telescopes and even sewing machines. Do you want to learn to play the ukulele? Check one out at the library for your first couple of lessons to see if you really like it.

Speaking of trying new things, stop by September 9 during Arts & Crafts on Bedford for our MakeFest, a celebration of makers and creativity. Play a retro video game or make a custom button. And don't miss the Friends book sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. outside the library. If you don't have a library card, it's the perfect day to get one. You might just want to check out a book or two during your visit.

—Alice Knapp, CEO

The library will be closed Sunday, September 3 and Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day holiday.

Read a Challenged Book

One of our roles as a book sanctuary library is to collect and protect endangered books. With book bans and challenges on the rise nationwide, standing up for the freedom to read is more important than ever. Intellectual freedom is the cornerstone of our democracy and one of the Ferguson Library's foundational principles.

We have created a special collection of banned and challenged books to ensure our community has access to these materials, some of which are award winners and classic literature.

Take a look at the challenged book display at the Main Library and make up your own mind about what you want to read. We have additional copies of the books on display if you would like to borrow one.



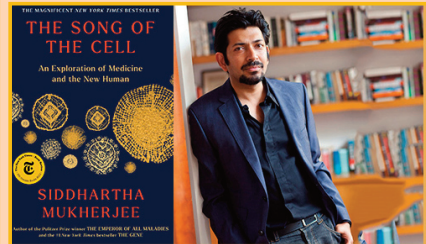
Library Receives Mental Health Awareness Grant



The University of Massachusetts Network of the National Library of Medicine has awarded the Ferguson Library a \$9,400 grant to curate a series of programs and resources promoting mental health awareness. Starting this fall, we

will be offering a Mental Health & Wellness Series, including programs such as art therapy, stress management, yoga, meditation and more. Look for new books in our collection on the subject of mental health and keep an eye on our calendar and weekly e-newsletter for more information.

Friends Author Series Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee



Meet Pulitzer Prize-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee September 12. He will discuss his book *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human*, the story of how

scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using that knowledge to create new humans. The conversation will be moderated by Dr. Siobhan Dolan, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Stamford Health.

A reception will be held at 6 p.m., followed by the program from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for general admission, \$25 for Friends members. General admission tickets include a Friends membership through December 2023. All guests will receive a copy of *The Song of the Cell*. Book sale and signing by Elm Street Books. Register online.

Presented in partnership with Stamford Health.

Save the date: On October 5 we welcome back famed chef Jacques Pépin, who will talk about his new book, *Cooking My Way*.

Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Memorial Lecture

Richard A. Robinson, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, will discuss the elements of leadership and what it takes to be a respected and productive leader at the Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Memorial Lecture Saturday, September 30 at 1 p.m. at the Main Library. Register online.

Library's Passport Office Celebrates 25 Years of Service

We make it easy to get a passport. The Passport Office at the Main Library is open seven days a week by appointment and on a walk-in basis. We also offer passport services at the Harry Bennett Branch Wednesday, Friday and Saturday on a walk-in basis only. We take photos, too! Please check the passport page on our website for hours or call 203 351-8298 for more information.

DIGITAL LIBRARY: Ancestry.com

Discover fascinating details about the lives of your ancestors with Ancestry.com library edition. Easily search birth, death, marriage, probate, military and immigration records, and use the downloadable charts and forms to organize your research. *Ancestry.com* now features the recently released 1950 U.S. Census and is constantly adding great new content from international genealogical sources. It is available for use on-site at any Ferguson Library location.

ML Main Library, DiMattia Building, 203 351-8221
HB Harry Bennett, 203 351-8292
SE South End, 203 351-8280
WMH Weed Memorial & Hollander, 203 351-8286

RR Registration Required or **RA** Registration
Appreciated at fergusonlibrary.org/events



@ferglibrary, @ferglibraryyouth,
@harrybennettbranchys, southendbranch_lib,
@weedhollander and @fergusonlibrarypassports



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@fergusonlib



Our programs are generously supported
by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

Book Discussions

If the discussion is held via Zoom, login details are on our online calendar. All are welcome.

Silent Book Club

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at HB

Read the book of your choice in the quiet company of others. **RR.**

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch Book Discussion

Monday, Sept. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom

Dinners with *Ruth* by Nina Totenberg

Harry Bennett Branch Book Discussion

Monday, Sept. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka

Social Justice Book Discussion

Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB

Heartland by Sarah Smarsh

Spanish Book Discussion

Thursday, Sept. 14 from 5 to 6 p.m.

ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Album de familia de Gabriela Alemán

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom

Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie

South End Branch African & African American Authors Book Discussion

Monday, Sept. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at SE and via Zoom

The First Male by Lee Hayes

Short Story Book Discussion

Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Zoom

If You See Me, Don't Say Hi by Neel Patel

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB

Try to outlast your friends during this tournament featuring gaming icons in their latest showdown. Prizes will be awarded; controllers will be provided. Ages 18 and older. **RR.**

Friends Author Series: Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, Author of *Song of the Cell*

Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. **RR.**

Mental Health & Wellness Series

Presented in partnership with the Network of the National Library of Medicine.



Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation

Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 12 to 1 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A brief discussion about meditation practice, a guided meditation, and a chance to share and reflect.

Lunchtime Yoga

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Yoga instructor Ngan Nguyen will lead a class in the Hatha style. **RR.**

Ballroom Dance Workshop

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 20, 27 & October 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Learn the basics of the hustle and the salsa. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Attendance required for all sessions. **RR.**

Zumba Dance Party

Saturdays, Sept. 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Dance yourself into fitness with instructor Pamela Arenas. **RR.**

Managing Back-to-School Stress

Monday, Sept. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom

Social worker Tracey Masella will offer parents advice on how to help children manage stress and anxiety as they head back to school. **RR.**

Access Mental Health Resources

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 3 to 4 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Learn how to find trustworthy mental health information and resources at the library. **RR.**

Hispanic American Heritage Month

Screening of *The Book of Life*

Friday, Sept. 15 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

In the animated *The Book of Life*, Manolo embarks on an adventure that spans three fantastic worlds. Starring Diego Luna, Zoe Saldana and Channing Tatum. Rated PG. Ages 6 and older.

Bilingual Music, Movement & Stories

Saturdays, Sept. 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at SE

Meet members of the community while grooving to the sounds of music. Ages 2 to 8.

Crisol Acuarela and Grupo Quetzal Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 24 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Bilingual presentations and performances representing various Latin American countries. All ages. **RR.**

An Evening with Juan David Corrales

Friday, Sept. 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at SE

A concert performance by pianist and soloist Juan David Corrales.

MakeFest 2023

A celebration of makers and creativity

STEM Storytime

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Stories and activities that introduce science, technology, engineering and math. After the stories, take a selfie with our throwback instant camera. Ages 4 and older, with families. **RA.**

Make a Custom Button

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ML, First Floor Lobby

Make a statement with a custom button that expresses your sense of style. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Retro Video Gaming

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Play retro games like Donkey Kong, Tetris, Pac-Man, Missile Command, Galaga and many more. Teens and adults.

Unleash Your Creativity

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 12 to 1 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Artist, writer, coach and TEDx speaker Alfonsina Betancourt will share new strategies on how to unleash your creativity. Teens and adults.

Give Ballroom a Whirl

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Lessons that will get you on the dance floor in no time. Teens and adults.

Drop-In STEM Craft

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Join the maker movement by making a STEM craft with us. Ages 4 and older, with families.

Role-Playing Tabletop Game

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Community Area

Join a band of fantastical heroes who brave dangerous situations. Ages 18 and older. **RR.**

Documentary Screening:

Handmade Nation

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Handmade Nation: The Rise of DIY Art, Craft and Design explores the world of modern crafting, where people turn from the digital world to make things by hand, forging a new economy and lifestyle. Teens and adults.

Art at the Ferguson: *Summer in the City*

On display through Sept. 21

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Presented in partnership with the Stamford Art Association.

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE

For more information, call 203 724-9111.

Canasta Club

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB

All levels welcome.

Watch with Kanopy

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at HB

Learn about this free app to watch movies and TV shows. Bring a smartphone or tablet.

English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups

Registration not required. New students welcome.

Fall Semester Sessions via Zoom

Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 & 26

New students: from 12 to 12:30 p.m.

High beginner: from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

Low intermediate: from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Advanced: from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesdays, Sept. 13, 20 & 27

High intermediate: from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Beginner: from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Evening Sessions in Person

Practice your conversational skills in a group.

Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 & 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Community Area

Thursdays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB

Mah-Jongg Club

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

Beginners welcome Thursday, Sept. 7.

Death Cafe

Thursday, Sept. 7 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom
A discussion about the awareness of death.

Knit & Needles Knitting Group

Mondays, Sept. 11 & 18 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at HB
All levels welcome.

Health Check: Know Your Numbers

Monday, Sept. 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Rotary Room

Free blood pressure, pre-diabetes screenings and height and weight checks.

Presented in partnership with the Stamford Department of Health.

Open Game Nights

Mondays, Sept. 11, 18 & 25 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

All ages.

Healing Drum Circle

Monday, Sept. 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SE

A meditative gathering dedicated to healing the wounds of racism.

Game Night: Munchkin

Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Play a game from the library's collection, bring your own, or learn how to play Munchkin. Teens and adults. **RR.**

Dungeons & Dragons

Thursdays, Sept. 14 & 28 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Community Area

Join an imaginary band of heroes who brave dangerous situations with swords, spells and wits. Beginners welcome. Ages 18 and older. **RR.**

Classic Movie Matinees

Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. at HB

Sept. 15: Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

Sept. 22: The Outsiders (1983)

Sept. 29: Rebel Without a Cause (1955)

Friday Film Fest

Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Sept. 15: Rudy (1993)

Sept. 22: Friday Night Lights (2004)

Sept. 29: Remember the Titans (2000)

Technology

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Face masks preferred.

RR for all classes.

▲ *Must be familiar with Windows and able to use a mouse and keyboard*

■ *No experience with MS Word necessary*

● *Basic experience with MS Word necessary*

Microsoft Word

Basic ▲■

Thursday, Sept. 7 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to navigate MS Word, create and save a document, and format text.

Intermediate ▲●

Thursday, Sept. 14 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Learn how to add images and tables to documents, use Styles to format a document, and edit the header and footer.

Tech Tips for Older Adults

Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 12 to 3 p.m. at SE

Free weekly help on smartphones, tablets, laptops and other devices with our experienced bilingual (English and Spanish) team.

Old Folkies Acoustic Singalong

Saturday, Sept. 16 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH
Afternoon of acoustic delights with Dr. Ev.

Public Library Tour

Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 10 to 10:30 a.m.

ML, First Floor Lobby

A staff member-led tour of all the library resources available to you. **RR.**

Make a Will for Free

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Create your will in as little as 15 minutes. Must be a U.S. citizen, 18 or older, and have an email address. **RR.**

Presented in partnership with Just In Case Estates.

Lawyers in Libraries

Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6 to 8 p.m.

ML, Second Floor Study Room

Discuss your case with a volunteer attorney. To book a required 20-minute appointment, call 203 351-8221.

Supported by the Connecticut Bar Association.

Mayor's Literacy Initiative Kickoff

Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

A celebration of literacy featuring bingo, crafts, a book giveaway and readings by special guests. All ages.

Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Memorial Lecture with Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson

Saturday, Sept. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Richard A. Robinson, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, will discuss the elements of leadership and what it takes to be a respected and productive leader. Teens and adults. **RR.**



Business & Career

Open Lab: Resume Assistance

Thursdays, Sept. 7 & 14 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Job seekers are invited to use our technology lab for one-on-one help creating, formatting and proofreading a resume. Bring a written or digital copy of your resume. Teens and adults. **RA.**

TechXel Stamford Accelerator Series

Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. via Zoom

RR for each session.

Register by 12 p.m. on program date. Zoom invitations will be sent by 1 p.m.

Sept. 7 Leadership & Team Building

David Lyons, Principal, Den Corporate Advisors

Sept. 14 Business Formation & Contracts

Russell Anderson, Esq., Pullman & Comley

Sept. 21 Patents & Trademarks

Wesley W. Whitmyer Jr., Founder, Whitmyer IP Group

Sept. 28 Positioning & Strategic Marketing

Brenda Lewis, Principal, Transactions Marketing, Inc.

Author Talks

Meet Barbara Butcher, Author of

What the Dead Know

Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

An evening with the former Chief of Staff of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Barbara Butcher, who will discuss her book with moderator, Michelle Clark, Medicolegal Death Investigator for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Connecticut. **RR.**

Meet Michael Harriot, Author of *Black AF History*

Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Michael Harriot will discuss his latest book *Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America*. The conversation will be moderated by Alvin Hall, financial educator, broadcaster and author of *Driving the Green Book*. **RR.**

Conversation with Writer, Activist and TV Personality Kevin Powell

Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Kevin Powell will discuss his book *The Kevin Powell Reader: Essential Writings and Conversations*. Makeda Mays Green will moderate the conversation. Teens and adults. **RR.**

How Hip-Hop Shaped American Culture with Dr. Patrick Rivers

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

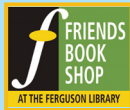
Patrick Rivers, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Music Department of the University of New Haven, will discuss the impact of hip-hop on music, media and technology. **RR.**

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY



Friends Volunteer Appreciation Event September 26

Are you a Friends member or volunteer? We want to say thank you! Please come to a special appreciation event Tuesday, September 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Harry Bennett Branch. Enjoy good food and meet others who are passionate about the library.



Arts & Crafts on Bedford

Start your holiday shopping early! Stop by the Book Shop table at Arts & Crafts on Bedford Saturday, September 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They'll be selling beautiful arts, crafts, gardening and kids' books outside the Main Library during this annual street festival.

Bag Sale

Don't miss the Bag Sale Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, October 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Harry Bennett Branch. Fill a bag with books for \$15. Includes all books and media.

Art Exhibit Opens October 3

Our fall art exhibit, *Connecting Nature and People*, launches October 3 at 6 p.m. with an opening reception at the Main Library. The juried show, curated by the Stamford Art Association, features works by local and regional artists. The exhibit will be on view through January 18, 2024. Pictured: *Growing* by Franklin Silva



Missed one of our programs? Catch up whenever you have a chance. Many of our programs are available on our YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe.

FERGUSON LIBRARY

THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Linda Avellar, *Editor*
Beth Fitzpatrick, *Communication & Marketing Coordinator*
Barbara Aronica-Buck, *Designer*
Camilla Herrera, *Communication & Marketing Specialist*

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Main Library, DiMattia Building
One Public Library Plaza
203 964-1000
Monday through Thursday 10 to 8
Friday 10 to 6
Saturday 10 to 5
Sunday 1 to 5

Harry Bennett Branch
115 Vine Road
203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10 to 6
Wednesday 10 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

South End Branch
34 Woodland Avenue
203 351-8280
Monday through Thursday 10 to 5:30
Saturday 10 to 2

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch
1143 Hope Street
203 351-8285
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 to 6
Tuesday 12 to 7
Saturday 10 to 5

Bookmobile
Check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/locations-hours/bookmobile

Friends Book Shops at the Ferguson Library
Main Library
Monday through Thursday 11 to 6
Friday & Saturday 11 to 5
Sunday 1 to 5

Harry Bennett Branch
Monday through Saturday 10 to 5

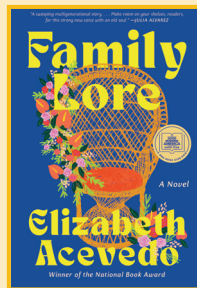
Passport Services
Main Library Passport Office
Appointments take precedence and are recommended. For more information or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8298. Monday through Thursday 10 to 7
Friday 10 to 5
Saturday 10 to 4
Sunday 1 to 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Walk-in only
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10 to 4

p 203 964-1000
f 203 357-9098
w fergusonlibrary.org
e comments@fergusonlibrary.org

STAFF RECOMMENDS:

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month



Family Lore
by Elizabeth Acevedo

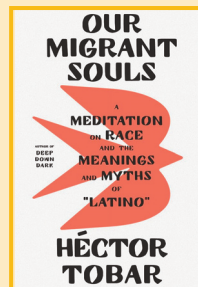
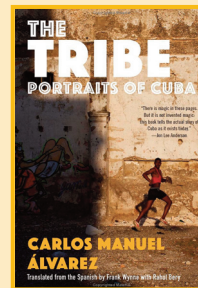
The Tribe: Portraits of Cuba
by Carlos Manuel Álvarez

The Boy Who Reached for the Stars
by Elio Morillo

The Dominican Kitchen: Homestyle Recipes That Celebrate the Flavors, Traditions, and Culture of the Dominican Republic
by Vanessa Mota

Las Madres
by Esmeralda Santiago

Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of "Latino"
by Héctor Tobar



Connect to the Ferguson



SEPTEMBER 2023

Support the library with a monthly gift. Donate at fergusonlibrary.org.



FERGUSON LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2023

How to Contact and Follow Us



Main Library Borrowers Services: 203 351-8261

Main Library Adult Services/Reference Desk:

203 351-8221

Youth Services:

Main Library: 203 351-8242



Harry Bennett Branch: 203 351-8294

South End Branch: 203 351-8280

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch: 203 351-8287

F Check out our Youth Services page at fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids for information for kids, teens, parents and educators. You'll also find information about our digital books, movies and music, Linked Libraries, digital resources.

F Visit our 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, @southendbranch_lib, @weedhollander and @fergusonlibrarypassports

 Facebook facebook.com/thefergusonlibrary

 YouTube youtube.com/thefergusonlibrary

Family Programs

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Screening of *The Book of Life*

Friday, Sept. 15 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

In the animated *The Book of Life*, Manolo embarks on an adventure that spans three fantastic worlds. Starring Diego Luna, Zoe Saldaña and Channing Tatum. Rated PG. Ages 6 and older.

Bilingual Music, Movement & Stories

Saturdays, Sept. 23 & 30 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at SE

Meet members of the community while grooving to the sounds of music. Ages 2 to 8.

Crisol Acuarela and Grupo Quetzal Celebration

Sunday, Sept. 24 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Bilingual presentations and performances representing various Latin American countries. All ages. RR.

Mayor's Literacy Initiative Kickoff

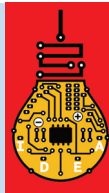
Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

A celebration of literacy featuring bingo, crafts, a book giveaway and readings by special guests. All ages.

MakeFest 2023

A celebration of makers and creativity



STEM Storytime

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Stories and activities that introduce science, technology, engineering and math to help prepare the makers and coders of the future. After the stories, take a selfie with our throwback instant camera. Ages 4 and older, with families. RA.

Make a Custom Button

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

ML, First Floor Lobby

Make a statement with a custom button that expresses your sense of style. Create your own design or choose from materials provided by the library. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Retro Video Gaming

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Makerspace

Have a bit of 8-bit fun playing retro games like Donkey Kong, Tetris, Pac-Man, Missile Command, Galaga and many more. Teens and adults.

Unleash Your Creativity

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 12 to 1 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

Artist, writer, coach and TEDx speaker Alfonsina Betancourt will share new strategies on how to unleash your creativity. Teens and adults.



Give Ballroom a Whirl

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Dance instructor Simone Assboeck will offer lessons that will get you on the dance floor in no time. Teens and adults.

Drop-In STEM Craft

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room

Join the maker movement by making a STEM craft with us. Ages 4 and older, with families.

Documentary Screening: *Handmade Nation*

Saturday, Sept. 9 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Handmade Nation: The Rise of DIY Art, Craft and Design explores the world of modern crafting, where people turn from the digital world to make things by hand, forging a new economy and lifestyle. Teens and adults.

Back-to-School Book Giveaway

Tuesday, Sept. 5 through Saturday, Sept. 30

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 supplies last. Grades pre-K to 12.

The library will be closed Sunday, Sept. 3 and Monday, Sept. 4 for the Labor Day holiday.



Our programs are generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

FERGUSON LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES SEPTEMBER 2023

ML Main Library, DiMattia Building • HB Harry Bennett • SE South End • WMH Weed Memorial & Hollander

RR=REGISTRATION REQUIRED or RA=REGISTRATION APPRECIATED at fergusonlibrary.org/events

CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES

For storytimes, registration opens six days before each program date where registration is required.

Cuentos y Actividades: Spanish Story & Activity

Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at SE

A Spanish-language experience featuring stories, music, movement and fun. Ages 1 to 4 with an accompanying caregiver.

Bennett Babies

Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 & 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at HB

Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies up to 18 months old with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. **RR.**

Afternoon Storytime

Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 4:30 to 5 p.m. at HB

Listen to stories and sing songs while building early literacy skills. Ages 2 to 6 with an accompanying caregiver. **RR.**

Cuentos y Cantos Bilingual Storytime

Fridays, Sept. 15, 22 & 29 from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at HB

Interactive readings, songs and activities in English and Spanish. Ages 2 to 5 with an accompanying caregiver. **RR.**

Family Storytime

Wednesdays, Sept. 20 & 27 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
A participatory storytime featuring songs, fingerplays, stories and movement activities. Ages 18 months to 5 years with an accompanying caregiver. **RR.**

Picture Book Club

Wednesday, Sept. 20 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at HB

Reading and discussion of *Whoosh!* Lonnie Johnson's *Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions* by Chris Barton and *Pop!*: *The Invention of Bubble Gum* by Meghan McCarthy. Snacks will be served. Ages 7 and older. **RR.**

Babytime

Fridays, Sept. 22 & 29 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies up to 18 months old with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. **RR.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

NEW! Baby & Toddler Playgroup by Sparkler

Thursday, Sept. 7 from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Kids play while caregivers meet and chat. Fun will include play time, a snack, a

take-home craft and one-on-one support from a family and community engagement specialist from Sparkler, the child development app. Expectant parents welcome. Please alert us to allergies. Ages 5 and younger **RA.**

Preschool Movie Matinees

Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19 & 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Enjoy picture book videos of beloved children's classics. Ages 18 months to 5 years.

Decorate Cupcakes

Saturday, Sept. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. at HB

Bring your imagination and your sweet tooth to decorate cupcakes however you like. Supplies, including cupcakes, will be provided. Ages 5 to 13. **RR.**

Graphic Novel Book Discussion:

Zita the Spacegirl

Monday, Sept. 25 from 4 to 5 p.m. at HB

When Zita opens a portal to another world and her best friend is abducted, she sets out on a journey to rescue her. Book copies are available at the branch. Snacks will be served. Grades 4 to 6. **RR.**

TEEN PROGRAMS

Open Lab: Resume Assistance

Thursdays, Sept. 7 & 14 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Job seekers are invited to use our technology lab for one-on-one help creating, formatting and proofreading a resume. Bring a written or digital copy of your resume. Teens and adults. **RA.**

Open Game Nights

Mondays, Sept. 11, 18 & 25 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center
Play a game from the library's collection or bring your own game to play with others. All ages.

Game Night: Munchkin

Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, First Floor New Materials Room
Play a game from the library's collection, bring your own, or learn how to play this month's featured game, Munchkin. Teens and adults. **RR.**

T-MAD Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 14 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Teens Making a Difference (T-MAD) advisory program, where you can learn about upcoming events, share reading suggestions and make a difference in the community. Participation counts as volunteer work. Pizza and other snacks will be served. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

The Art of Face Painting

Saturday, Sept. 16 from 12 to 2 p.m. at SE

Learn how to paint faces with artist Rene Soto. This program offers teens the creative skills to entertain children at community events and parties. Ages 12 to 17. **RR.**

Film Club: *Percy Jackson & The Olympians, The Lightning Thief*

Saturday, Sept. 16 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at HB

Screening and discussion of the film adaptation, where a teenager discovers he's the descendant of a Greek god and sets out to settle an ongoing battle between the gods. Starring Logan Lerman, Brandon T. Jackson, Alexandra Daddario, Jake Abel and Sean Bean. Snacks will be served. Rated PG.

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion: *Ancillary Justice* by Ann Leckie

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom

A soldier known as Breq, once the Justice of Toren, a starship with an artificial intelligence linking thousands of soldiers in the service of the Radch empire, draws closer to completing a quest. Teens and adults.

Banned Book Discussion:

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

ML, Third Floor Technology Center

In this Newbery Medal-winning book, Bod Owens is adopted and raised by the supernatural occupants of a graveyard after his family is murdered. The graphic novel adaptation of the book was challenged but successfully defended in 2015. Drinks and snacks will be served. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

Craft Series: Rock Painting

Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 5 to 6 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Teen Area

Design your own small work of art using paint to transform a smooth rock. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

Conversation with Writer, Activist and TV Personality Kevin Powell

Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Kevin Powell will discuss his book *The Kevin Powell Reader: Essential Writings and Conversations*. Makeda Mays Green will moderate the conversation. Teens and adults. **RR.**

Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Memorial Lecture with Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson

Saturday, Sept. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Richard A. Robinson, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, will discuss the elements of leadership and what it takes to be a respected and productive leader. Teens and adults. **RR.**