

Message from the CEO



I have recently had several conversations with avid e-book readers who are disappointed in our offerings. In some cases, the complaint was that a series was incomplete, or it had to do with the wait times for a new bestseller. The e-book model for libraries is very different from collecting physical items. We can purchase a book at a substantial discount, and it stays on our shelves.

We purchase multiple copies of the bestsellers to try to keep the wait times low. For e-materials, libraries can't purchase these titles, they must lease them. Bestsellers are only available at a high cost (\$65 to \$109 for a new title), with a limited use (26 borrows and then we need to lease the title again if we want it in the collection). It is almost impossible to maintain a popular series, so the titles early in the series are often missing. What can you do? Please let us know when you cannot find a book that you want. We want to meet your needs. Just as important, let your state representatives know that this is an area of concern. There may be legislation to help address this situation.

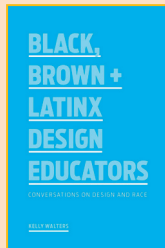
—Alice Knapp, CEO

Celebrating Black History Month

The Ferguson Library highlights African Americans' rich cultural heritage and legacy of achievement with a series of compelling programs this month. The library's winter art exhibit, *Symphony of Colors*, which opens February 1, features works by local and regional artists of color. Author Kelly Walters will read excerpts from her book *Black, Brown + Latinx Design Educators: Conversations on Design and Race* during the reception.

On February 8, we welcome award-winning author Dr. Tanisha C. Ford, professor of history at The Graduate Center, CUNY, to the Main Library. She will discuss her book, *Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money, and Power Behind the Civil Rights Movement*, the definitive story of Mollie Moon, the stylish founder of the National Urban League Guild.

To register and for details on all our Black History Month programs, visit our calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/events.



A Novel Affair Registration Opens February 12



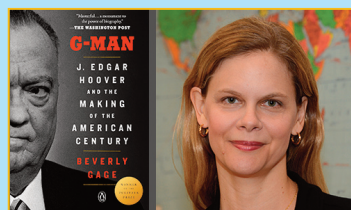
A Novel Affair is just two months away! Early registration opens February 12 for the library's major fundraiser, to be held Thursday, April 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Main Library. We're delighted to honor Steven Frederick and the law firm of Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, LLP for their service to the Ferguson Library and the Stamford community. Tickets are \$150 until March 15, then \$175. The Junior Professional price (age 35 and younger) is \$75. Visit fergusonlibrary.org to register.

Thank you to our major sponsors to date:

Morrison: Friends of the Ferguson Library. **Du Bois:** George Family; Pitney Bowes; Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky, LLP. **Lahiri:** Judith Block; Ellen Bromley & Thomas Gizicki; Garden Homes Management; Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation; Leon N. Lapine Charitable Residuary Trust; Silver Golub & Teitell. **Baldwin:** Abate & Abate, LLC; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey; Andrea & David Cohen; Connecticut Public; First County Bank; KPMG; Stamford Health; The Ashforth Company/A.P. Construction.

For sponsorship information, contact Linda Avellar at linda@fergusonlibrary.org or 203 351-8208.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Beverly Gage to Speak at Library February 22



Beverly Gage, winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century*, will speak Thursday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Her talk kicks off a new Pulitzer Prize Winner Series generously

supported by Ann and Timothy Duffy.

G-Man also won other awards and was named a Best Book of 2022 by *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* and others. Gage is a professor of 20th-century U.S. history at Yale and is also the author of *The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in its First Age of Terror*.

A light reception will open the presentation; book sale and signing hosted by Elm Street Books. Register online.

All library facilities will be closed Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

Harry Bloch History Program: The Blues and Beyond

The Blues and Beyond, a cross-cultural program that tells the story of African Americans from slavery to the present day through music and narration, will return to the library February 18 at 2 p.m. to present a performance by a trio of musicians and a presentation by the program's Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor. Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events.

This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

Mini-Golf at the Harry Bennett Branch

Mini-golf returns to the Harry Bennett Branch Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, February 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$5 per person, per round. Ages 3 and younger play for free. Snacks at the "19th hole." Many thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Title Sponsor, First County Bank. Register at fergusonlibrary.org/events.



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
WS West Side Branch, 203 351-8242


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

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

 facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary

 youtube.com/c/TheFergusonLibrary

 @fergusonlib

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

Book Discussions

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

The New Yorker Magazine Discussion
Wednesdays, February 7 & 21 from 1:30 and 3 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams **RR**.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch Book Discussion
Monday, February 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. via Zoom
The Orphan Collector by Ellen Marie Wiseman

Spanish Book Discussion
Thursday, February 8 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
Sabiduría familiar por Elizabeth Acevedo

Club de Lectura La Tertulia
Sunday, February 11 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room
2666 por Roberto Bolaño

Harry Bennett Branch Book Discussion
Monday, February 12 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
The Spectacular by Fiona Davis

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom
Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler.
Teens and adults.

Social Justice Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 21 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Silent Book Club
Saturday, February 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. at HB
Read the book of your choice in the quiet company of others. **RR**.

South End Branch African & African American Authors Book Discussion
Monday, February 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom
Let Us Descend by Jesmyn Ward

Short Story Book Discussion
Wednesday, February 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
The Collected Schizophrenias by Esmé Weijun Wang

Black History Month Programs: Celebrating African Americans and the Arts

Art at the Ferguson Opening Reception: Symphony of Colors
Thursday, February 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
Juried show of works by local and regional artists of color. Reception will include a reading of excerpts by author Kelly Walters from her book *Black, Brown + Latinx Design Educators: Conversations on Design and Race*. On display through March 21.
Presented in partnership with the Stamford Art Association.

Digital Scavenger Hunt
Fridays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 3 to 4 p.m. at HB

Learn how to use library resources and databases to find information about Black historical figures. Prizes will be awarded; laptops provided. Teens and adults.

Family Movie: The Princess and the Frog
Friday, February 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Disney classic from 2009 starring Anika Noni Rose, Keith David, Oprah Winfrey, Michael-Leon Wooley and Bruno Campos. Rated G. All ages.

National African American Read-In
Saturday, February 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at SE
Author Dorothy Ghorzo and members of Heart & Purpose, Inc. will lead a storytime as part of a national effort to encourage communities to gather and read books about the African American experience. Event includes a rock painting activity for the branch's kindness rock garden. Snacks will be served. All ages.
Presented in partnership with Heart & Purpose, Inc.

An Evening with Dr. Tanisha C. Ford, author of Our Secret Society
Thursday, February 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. **RR**.

The History of Slavery in New England
Thursday, February 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
Professor and author Justene Hill Edwards will explore the complex history of slavery and how the experiences of enslaved people in New England shaped their fight for freedom into the 19th century. **RR**.

Mah-Jongg Club
Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at HB
Beginners welcome.

Death Café
Thursday, February 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Google Meet
A discussion about the awareness of death.

AARP Tax Assistance
Saturdays, February 3 to April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at WMH
Mondays and Wednesdays, February 5 to April 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at HB
Trained tax counselors from AARP will offer help with basic federal and Connecticut state income tax returns. Bring all 2022 tax documents and a copy of your 2021 tax returns. For more information, including a list of required documents for tax filing and how to file online through SimplifyCT Virtual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, visit our Income Tax Resources page at fergusonlibrary.org/services/income-tax-resources

Family Movie: Black Panther
Friday, February 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB
Marvel hit from 2018 starring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Martin Freeman and Daniel Kaluuya. Rated PG-13. Teens and adults.

Harry Bloch History Program: The Blues and Beyond
Sunday, February 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
See cover for details. **RR**.
This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.

Movies for Kids
Tuesday, February 20 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at SE
School vacation screenings of *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*, *Garrett's Gift* and *The Journey of Henry "Box" Brown*, short animated films that celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., Garrett Morgan and Henry Brown. Ages 4 to 9.

Social Justice Book Discussion: The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
Wednesday, February 21 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB and via Microsoft Teams
In *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, the author argues that the U.S. criminal justice system is used as a contemporary system of racial control even as it adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series: Yvette Cole
Saturday, February 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at HB
Meet first-time author and kindergarten teacher, Yvette Cole, who will read from her debut picture book *Harriet's Dinner Party*. Book sale and signing. All ages. **RR**.

Make History Your Own
Saturday, February 24 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at WS
Build your own African American history book using stickers that depict dozens of courageous fighters for civil and equal rights as well as inspirational pioneers in government, science and technology, business, the arts and more. All ages. **RR**.

Sisters in Crime Book Fair
Saturday, February 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at HB
Meet some of Connecticut's best-known crime writers, who will sell and sign their books. Part of the Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series. **RR**.
Presented in partnership with *Sisters in Crime-Connecticut*.

Celebrate Lunar New Year
Sunday, February 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.
ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium
The commemoration of the Year of the Dragon will include dance, music and a drumming performance. Snacks will be served. All ages. **RA**.

Memoir Writing Workshop
Saturdays, February 3, 10 & 17 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
ML, Technology Center
Author Gabi Coatsworth will help you get started on writing your memoir. Bring paper and a writing instrument. All levels welcome. Attendance required for all three sessions. **RR**.

Mental Health & Wellness Series

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

Combo Yoga with Mark Covello

Saturdays, February 3, 10, 17 & 24 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at SE

This adult class, combining Hatha and Kundalini yoga, is designed to get your energy flowing. All levels welcome.

Community Mindfulness Project: Meditation

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 12 to 1 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

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

Ballroom Dance Workshop: Final Session

Wednesday, February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Dance like a pro with instructor Simone Assboeck, who will cover the basics of the rumba and swing. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Teens and adults. **RR.**

Suicide Prevention Workshop:

Question, Persuade, Refer

Wednesday, February 21 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Presentation of *Question, Persuade, Refer*, a bystander intervention training program designed to teach how to step in and help someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. **RR.**

Presented in partnership with the Stamford Department of Health and Human Services.

Knit & Needles Knitting Group

Mondays, February 5 & 26 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at WMH

All levels welcome.

Open Game Nights

Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Person-to-Person Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at SE

For more information, call 203 724-9111.

Canasta Club

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

All levels welcome.

Introduction to ChatGPT

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 3 to 4 p.m. at HB

A hands-on demonstration of ChatGPT as well as a discussion on the limits of this dynamic tool. Teens and adults.

Play Dungeons & Dragons

Thursdays, February 8 & 22 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

ML, Community Area

Join an imaginary band of heroes who brave dangerous situations. Ages 18 and older. **RR.**

Valentine's Day Movie: *The Notebook*

Friday, February 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

Classic 2004 romance starring Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams, James Garner, Gena Rowlands and James Marsden. Rated PG-13.

An Evening of Love Songs with

Juan David Corrales

Friday, February 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at SE

A Valentine's Day celebration of music. Snacks will be served.

English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups

Winter Evening Sessions in Person

Practice your conversational skills in a group.

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. at HB

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

ML, Lower Level Community Area

Winter Semester Sessions via Zoom

Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27

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, February 7, 14, 21 & 28

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

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

Easy English for Beginners: *Side by Side*

Mondays and Thursdays, February 12, 15, 22, 26 & 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

Learn language and life skills by reading, speaking and writing. **RR.**

Friends of the Ferguson Library Mini-Golf

Saturday, February 10, and Sunday, February 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at HB

See cover for details. **RR.**

Presented in partnership with First County Bank.

Using a Sewing Machine 101

Saturday, February 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

Learn about the lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. **RR.**

Valentine's Day Card Workshop

Saturday, February 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Community Area

Make a Valentine's Day card using a variety of decorative papers and designs. Ages 16 and older. **RR.**

Healing Drum Circle

Monday, February 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at SE

A meditative gathering dedicated to healing the wounds of racism.

Game Night: Takenoko

Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, New Materials Room

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

Origami Hour

Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB

Learn different folding techniques, including classic and contemporary designs that celebrate Valentine's Day. All experience levels welcome. Ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. **RR.**

Make a Will for Free

Thursday, February 15 from 4 to 6 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

Create a will in 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.

Business & Career

TechXel Stamford Venture Expert Series

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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.

February 1 Positioning & Strategic Marketing

Brenda Lewis, Founder and Principal, Transactions Marketing Inc.

February 8 Social Media

Giulia Gambale, Founder, She So Social, and Co-Founder, Agents of Branding

February 15 Sales

Eric Knaus, Founder, Entreprisitive

February 22 Cybersecurity

Janine Darling, Founder and CEO, STASH Cybersecurity

February 29 Software Development

Best Practices

Seizo Mazer, Founder, Founder, Language Learning Software Development Best Practices

First-Time Homebuyer Information Session

Tuesday, February 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Mortgage experts discuss credit ratings, market affordability and getting pre-approved. **RR.**

Presented in partnership with M&T Bank, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Housing Defense Fund.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Series: Beverly Gage, Author of *G-Man*

Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

See cover for details. **RR.**

Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series: Charlie Trantanella

Saturday, February 24 from 1 to 2 p.m. at HB

Charlie Trantanella will discuss his latest book *Sister Christian Has Left the Building*, a collection of 12 stories that document his childhood in Stamford in the 1980s. **RR.**

Club de Lectura La Tertulia: Lectura de Poesia

Sunday, February 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Ann M. Sexton Board Room

Open mic readings of Latin American poetry.

What Does Intellectual Freedom Mean to You?

Monday, February 26 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

A conversation on intellectual freedom with Summer Lopez, Chief Program Officer, Free Expression at PEN America, and John Chrastka, Executive Director, EveryLibrary. Moderated by Alice Knapp, CEO of the Ferguson Library. Also available via Zoom. **RR.**

Panel Discussion: The Truth About Puppy Mills

Thursday, February 29 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. via

Microsoft Teams

Panelists will discuss what you need to know about puppy mills, why you should care, what you can do about it and how Connecticut still allows the retail sale of puppy mill puppies. **RR.**

Lawyers in Libraries

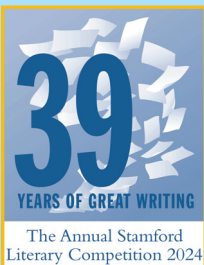
Thursday, February 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

ML, Study Room

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

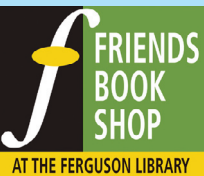
Presented in partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association.

FRIENDS OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY



2024 Literary Competition is Open

Entries for the Stamford Literary Competition are due February 9. It celebrates excellence in student writing and is open to students in grades 3 to 12 who live or attend school in Stamford. You can find the link to our online entry form at fergusonlibrary.org/friends/events.



Book Shop News

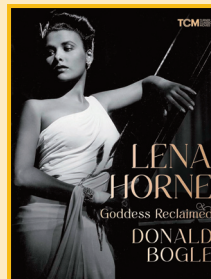
Take a chance on a "Blind Date with a Book" this month. The Book Shop is selling individually gift-wrapped books with clues on the front. Genres include romance, mystery, popular fiction and more. It's the perfect gift for someone who loves surprises!

Getting creative at our Building Bonanza program.



STAFF RECOMMENDS:

Black History Month



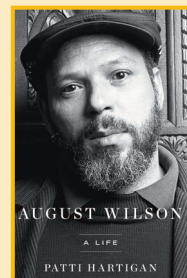
Lena Horne: Goddess Reclaimed
by Donald Bogle

The New Brownies' Book: A Love Letter to Black Families
by Karida L. Brown and Charly Palmer

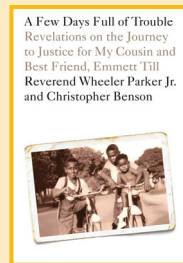


The Art of Ruth E Carter: Costuming Black History and the Afrofuture
by Ruth E. Carter

August Wilson: A Life
by Patti Hartigan



A Few Days Full of Trouble: Revelations on the Journey to Justice for My Cousin and Best Friend, Emmett Till
by Wheeler Parker Jr. and Christopher Benson



To Free the Captives: A Plea for the American Soul
by Tracy K. Smith



Missed one of our programs? Subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on



THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Linda Avellar, *Editor*
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

West Side Branch
245 Selleck Street
203 351-8242
Monday through Thursday 3 to 6

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

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

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 10 to 6
Saturday 10 to 4

FEBRUARY 2024

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

FERGUSON LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2024

How to Contact 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

West Side Branch: 203 351-8242

Family Programs

Celebrate Lunar New Year

Sunday, February 4 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

The commemoration of the Year of the Dragon will include dance, music and a drumming performance. Snacks will be served. All ages. **RA.**



Friends of the Ferguson Library Mini-Golf

Saturday, February 10, and Sunday, February 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at HB

All ages are invited to putt their way through the indoor mini-golf course at the Harry Bennett Branch. Tickets are \$5 per person, per round; pay at check-in. Ages 3 and younger play for free. Snacks available at the "19th hole." **RR.**

Presented in partnership with First County Bank.



Harry Bloch History Program:

Afternoon Concert with The Blues and Beyond

Sunday, February 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

The Blues and Beyond, a cross-cultural program that tells the story of African Americans from slavery to the present day through music and narration, will return to the library February 18 at 2 p.m. to present a performance by a trio of musicians and a presentation by the program's Director of Narration and Masterclass Artists, Adam Taylor. **RR.**

This program is made possible by a generous donation by Louise Stern in memory of her brother, Harry Bloch.



fergusonlibrary.org/services/kids
fergusonlibrary.org/events

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[@southendbranch_lib](https://www.instagram.com/southendbranch_lib), [@weedhollander](https://www.instagram.com/weedhollander) and
[@fergusonlibrarypassports](https://www.instagram.com/fergusonlibrarypassports)

[facebook.com/thefergusonlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/thefergusonlibrary)

[youtube.com/thefergusonlibrary](https://www.youtube.com/thefergusonlibrary)

All library facilities will be closed Monday, February 19 for Presidents Day.

Black History Month Programs:

Celebrating African Americans and the Arts

Family Movie: *The Princess and the Frog*

Friday, February 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

In this 2009 Disney classic, Tiana dreams of one day opening a fine restaurant, but her dream takes a slight detour when she meets Prince Naveen, who has been turned into a frog by evil Dr. Facilier. Starring Anika Noni Rose, Keith David, Oprah Winfrey, Michael-Leon Wooley and Bruno Campos. Rated G. All ages.

Digital Scavenger Hunt

Fridays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 from 3 to 4 p.m. at HB

Join a digital scavenger hunt to find information about Black historical figures using library resources and databases. Prizes will be awarded; laptops provided. Teens and adults.

National African American Read-In

Saturday, February 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at SE

Author Dorothy Ghorzo and members of Heart & Purpose, Inc. will lead a storytime as part of a national effort to encourage communities to gather and read books about the African American experience. Event includes a rock painting activity for the branch's kindness rock garden. Snacks will be served. All ages. Presented in partnership with Heart & Purpose.

Family Movie: *Black Panther*

Friday, February 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. at HB

T'Challa, heir to the hidden but advanced kingdom of Wakanda, must confront a challenger from his country's past to lead his people into the future in this 2018 Marvel hit. Starring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Martin Freeman and Daniel Kaluuya. Rated PG-13. Teens and adults.

Movies for Kids

Tuesday, February 20 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at SE

School vacation screenings of *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*, *Garrett's Gift* and *The Journey of Henry "Box" Brown*, short animated films that celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., Garrett Morgan and Henry Brown. Ages 4 to 9.

Harry Bennett Branch Local Author Series: Yvette Cole

Saturday, February 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at HB

Meet first-time author and kindergarten teacher, Yvette Cole, who will read from her debut picture book *Harriet's Dinner Party*. Book sale and signing. All ages. **RR.**

Make History Your Own

Saturday, February 24 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at WS

Build your own African American history book using stickers that depict dozens of courageous fighters for civil and equal rights as well as inspirational pioneers in government, science and technology, business, the arts and more. All ages. **RR.**



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

FERGUSON LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2024

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

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. If Stamford Public Schools are closed or delayed for inclement weather, the Main Library's Babytime and Family Storytime will be cancelled.

Cuentos y Actividades: Spanish Story & Activity
Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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.

Babytime

Fridays, February 2, 9 & 23 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Songs, rhymes, stories and more for babies ages 18 months and younger with an accompanying caregiver. Siblings welcome. RR.

Wee Ones @ Weed Storytime

Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at WMH

Songs, stories, rhymes and movement activities. Ages 2 and younger with an accompanying caregiver. RR.

Family Storytime

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 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.

¿Como Se Dice? How Do You Say That?

Bilingual Storytime

Thursday, February 8 from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. at WMH

Join Señora Addy and Librarian Mari for stories, songs and movement activities in Spanish and English. Ages 2 to 5. RR.

Picture Book Club

Wednesday, February 14 from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at HB

Reading and discussion of *Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better* by Glenda Armand. Snacks will be served. Ages 7 and older. RR.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Why Knot Knit? After-School Knitting Club

Monday, February 5 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH

Group knitting session for all levels. Beginners will learn to cast on and do a simple stitch. Bring your own knitting needles; we will provide yarn if needed. If you need to borrow needles, email mallen@fergusonlibrary.org. Ages 8 to 14. RR.

Preschool Movie Matinees

Tuesdays, February 6, 13 & 27 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.

Crafternoon: Origami Hearts

Tuesday, February 6 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at WMH

Learn how to fold origami hearts and boxes that you can fill with little treats. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

Take Your Child to the Library Day Programs

Bilingual Storytime

Saturday, February 3 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at SE

Crafts, songs and picture book readings. All ages.

Reading & Rhythm Storytime and Concert

Saturday, February 3 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ML, New Materials Room

Orchestra Lumos and Music Together of Fairfield County will present an interactive concert where everyone can sing, dance, move, play and enjoy orchestral music while building literacy and social/emotional skills. All ages.

Lunar New Year Paper Lantern Craft

Saturday, February 3 from 2 to 3 p.m. ML, Makerspace

Enjoy snacks and music while making your own paper lantern to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Ages 5 and older; ages 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Crafternoon: Valentine's Day Cards

Tuesday, February 13 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. at HB

Create heart-shaped, animal-themed Valentine's Day cards. Ages 5 and older.

Origami Hour

Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at HB

Learn different folding techniques, including classic and contemporary designs that celebrate Valentine's Day. All experience levels are welcome. Ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. RR.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Club

Saturday, February 17 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

ML, New Materials Room

Discussion and read-aloud activities featuring *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (Book 1) and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (Book 2). Please bring your copy of either book or borrow one of ours. Grades 3 to 8. RR.

TinkerCAD Workshop

Tuesday, February 20 from 2 to 3 p.m.

ML, Makerspace

Find out about TinkerCAD, the perfect software for learning the basics of 3D modeling. All levels welcome. Grades 3 to 6. RR.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Open Game Nights

Mondays, February 5, 12 & 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

Play a game from the library's collection or bring your own game to play with others. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Introduction to ChatGPT

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 3 to 4 p.m. at HB

A hands-on demonstration of ChatGPT as well as a discussion on the limits of this dynamic tool. Teens and adults.

Ballroom Dance Workshop

Wednesday, February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Final session learning the basics of the rumba and swing. Singles welcome; partners will be rotated. No prior dance experience necessary. Teens and adults. Part of the Mental Health &

Wellness Series. RR.

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

Craft Series: Diamond Painting

Thursday, February 8 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ML, Makerspace

An afternoon of diamond painting to create animal-themed, diamond-coated coasters and magnets. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Using a Sewing Machine 101

Saturday, February 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Technology Center

Learn about the lockstitch sewing machine and how to sew a variety of stitches. No experience necessary. Teens and adults. RR.

Valentine's Day Card Workshop

Saturday, February 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

ML, Community Area

Make a Valentine's Day card using a variety of decorative papers and designs. Ages 16 and older. RR.

Game Night: Takenoko

Tuesday, February 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

ML, New Materials Room

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

Make Friendship Bracelets

Wednesday, February 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ML, Makerspace

Make personalized bracelets to exchange with friends and family or wear to the library's *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* event February 16. Beads and letters will be provided. Grades 4 to 12. RR.

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Book Discussion: *Parable of the Sower*

Wednesday, February 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom

Set in a post-apocalyptic Earth heavily affected by climate change and social inequality, this speculative fiction novel by Octavia E. Butler, centers on 18-year-old Lauren Olamina and her growing awareness of the impact that the world around her will have on her future. Teens and adults.

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Movie Celebration

Friday, February 16 from 12 to 4 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Dress up in your favorite Taylor Swift look to exchange friendship bracelets and dance and sing along to the *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* movie. Rated PG-13. Ages 8 and older. RR.

T-MAD Meeting

Wednesday, February 21 from 4:30 to 6 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 will be served. Grades 6 to 12. RR.

Food Explorers: Make Energy Bites

Friday, February 23 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ML, Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium

Learn about nutrition and cooking while working as a team to prepare nutritious and yummy energy bites. RR.