



Focus on Ferguson

The Heart of the Community

THE NEWSLETTER OF STAMFORD'S PUBLIC LIBRARY • MAY 2021

From the President's Desk A Special Message from A Novel Affair Honoree Tom Cassone



A lot of the public discourse over the past several weeks has focused on the meaning of the word "infrastructure." Is it just concrete, steel and asphalt things, like roads and bridges? Does it include transportation things like railways and airports? Is it only made up of brick and mortar like housing and buildings? Is "infrastructure" just hard stuff or is it also internet and Wi-Fi? Is it energy? Education?

And does infrastructure include people?

And where do all of these things, roads, bridges, education, energy, people and the rest rank in setting priorities for our reemergence from the scourge of this pandemic?

These are fine discussions to have. Sometimes the issues being considered in these discussions have been partisan, sometimes philosophical, sometimes practical and earnest, and sometimes all of the above. But clearly, we need them all.

We need foundations and buildings, roads and bridges. We need internet and Wi-Fi.

We need education and we absolutely need people. There is one place where all these things converge. Where everything that fits under the umbrella of any and all notions of infrastructure, are represented.

And that place is the library.

The public library. We provide buildings of brick and mortar to house endless resources and within which to gather, or to read or study.

We provide education through the open and free use of books and art and articles and programs.

We provide these things along with internet access and Wi-Fi and online services to countless Stamford residents, from infants and school age children to UConn students, business people, immigrants, and job seekers, right up to our senior population, and every person in between.

And metaphorically at least, we provide roads, bridges, and foundations. Roads to adventure and imagination. Through our books and resources, we provide bridges to history and into the future, and a solid foundation for all of the above.

So, thank you very much for this honor but thank you much more for all of your dedication to this fine and indispensable institution, and the infrastructure of our community, the Ferguson Library.

The Joe R. Sexton Lecture Series May 13

We are pleased to host Maurice Isserman, author of *The Winter Army: The World War II Odyssey of the 10th Mountain Division, America's Elite Alpine Warriors* Thursday, May 13 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Maurice Isserman is the author of 10 books on a variety of topics.



Registration required. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.

The Joe R. Sexton Lecture Series is generously funded with a gift from a friend of Mr. Sexton's and the Friends of the Ferguson Library.

The Library will be closed Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.

A Novel Affair. Raises \$228,000 for the Library

Thanks to everyone who helped make A Novel Affair 2021 a success! We raised \$228,000 to support library services and collections, and we couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you to our generous sponsors, cocktail kit purchasers, auction donors and everyone who tuned into the event to support the library. We look forward to returning to an in-person event next year! If you missed the show, you can watch it on our YouTube channel.

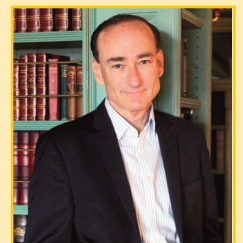
South End Branch Grand Opening May 22

Stop by and visit our newly renovated South End Branch, located in the Lathon Wider Community Center. The space has a fresh new feel with an updated information desk, new carpet, and colorful, flexible furniture throughout. The project was generously funded by grants from the Stamford Rotary Club, First County Bank Foundation, CT Next, and general support from the community. Join us May 22 at noon for our grand opening. We look forward to greeting you!



Friends Author Series May 20 Chris Bohjalian

We're thrilled to host bestselling author Chris Bohjalian Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m. This virtual author event is presented by the Friends in partnership with Darien Library. Chris Bohjalian will talk about his newest book, *Hour of the Witch*, set in 17th century New England on the eve of the Salem Witch Trials. It's a timely historical novel about love, fear, feminine power, and the distrust of those in positions of power. In conversation with Cristina Alger, author of *Girls Like Us*. Registration required. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.



DIGITAL LIBRARY

Science Reference Center

Whether you're looking for information about endangered species or nuclear reactors, Science Reference Center can help you find it. This database has full-text source material from science periodicals, reference books and encyclopedias covering topics such as biology, chemistry, earth and space science, environmental science, health and medicine, mathematics, physics, technology, and wildlife. You can access Science Reference Center through A to Z Databases on the Research page of our website. (If prompted for an ID, enter your Ferguson Library card number.)



RR Registration Required

Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/event/. Zoom details will be sent to all registrants in advance of the program.



Please check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/ for updates and pop-up programs and subscribe to our newsletter/weekly emails at <https://fergusonlibrary.org/news/#toggle-id-1>.



Follow us on Instagram @ferglibrary, @ferglibrariyyouth, @harrybennettbranchys and @southendbranch_lib.



Follow us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/>.



Check out the Library's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/>

Everyone age 2 and up is required to wear a mask during their visit. To read our guidelines, visit <https://fergusonlibrary.org/reopening-guidelines/>.

Family Programs

Family Concert and Craft for Mothers and Caregivers Saturday, May 8 at 11 a.m. via Zoom

Nekita Waller has been entertaining audiences since her debut on stage at the Apollo Theater as a child. She has been named Connecticut's 17th State Troubadour. No registration required. Zoom details are on our online calendar. Generously supported by Connecticut Humanities.

South End Branch Grand Opening Saturday, May 22 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the South End Branch

Come celebrate the newly renovated South End Branch. Ribbon cutting at noon. Ice cream party and much more. All ages. Details coming soon.

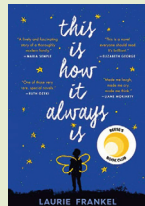
Haitian Flag Day Celebration Saturday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Sharing the history and meaning of celebrating Haitian Flag Day. Join us for a concert for the whole family. No registration required. Zoom details are on our online calendar.

ZOOM Book Discussions

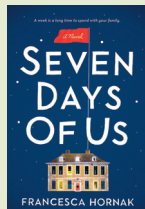
Book discussions are presented live on Zoom. Registration is not required. Zoom meeting details for each discussion are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/. Book discussions are open to all.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch



**Monday, May 3
from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
This is How it Always Is
by Laurie Frankel

Harry Bennett Branch



**Monday, May 10
from 7 to 8 p.m.**
Seven Days of Us by Francesca Hornak

South End Branch African and African American Authors Book Discussion

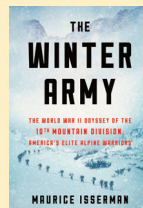


**Monday, May 24
at 7 p.m.**
My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies by Resmaa Menakem

The Joe R. Sexton Lecture Series Maurice Isserman, Author of *The Winter Army: The World War II Odyssey of the 10th Mountain Division, America's Elite Alpine Warriors*

Thursday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Maurice Isserman is the author of 10 books on a variety of topics, including three books on the history of mountaineering: *Fallen Giants*, *Continental Divide*, and *The Winter Army*. **RR.** The Joe R. Sexton Lecture Series is generously funded with a gift from a friend of Mr. Sexton's and the Friends of the Ferguson Library.



English Language Learners

Let's Talk: Conversation Groups for English Language Learners Spring Session via Zoom

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

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

New students: 11 a.m.

Basic: 12:30 p.m.

Low intermediate: 3 p.m.

Advanced: 6 p.m.

Wednesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

Virtual vocabulary games: 2:30 p.m.

Beginner: 4 p.m.

High intermediate: 5:30 p.m.

U.S. Citizenship Course

**Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m.
May 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27
via Zoom**

Continuing: 6-week study course for the U.S. Naturalization test. Classes are held twice a week. Students must read, write and comprehend basic English. **RR.**

Registration also available by email at yelena@fergusonlibrary.org, by phone at 203 351-8228, or in person at the Second Floor Reference Desk at the Main Library.

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation

**Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 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. Zoom details are on our online calendar.

Death Cafe Stamford

Thursdays, May 6, 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom

The objective of this discussion group 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. Zoom details are on our online calendar. *Death Cafe is not grief support or counseling.*

Business & Career

STAMFORD 1 MILLION CUPS

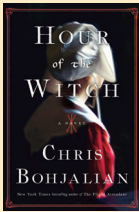


Stamford 1 Million Cups
Wednesday, May 5 at 9 a.m.
via Zoom

Spotlighting local entrepreneurs on their journey to success. Presenters: Michael S. Noonan. Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, ScopeBug; Adam D. Greene. CEO & Founder, Klaatch. **RR.**

The Friends of The Ferguson Library in Partnership with Darien Library Present An Evening with Chris Bohjalian

Thursday, May 20 at 6 p.m. via Zoom



Join us for an evening with Chris Bohjalian, author of *Hour of the Witch*, in conversation with Cristina Alger, author of *Girls Like Us*. Bohjalian's new book, set on the eve of the Salem Witch Trials, is a timely historical novel about love, fear, feminine power, and the distrust of those in positions of power. **RR.**



Technology



Live-streaming classes will resume soon but you can catch up on our technology classes by visiting our YouTube channel. Many classes are available, including Microsoft Office, an Intro to Web Building: HTML & CSS, and more.

SAVE THE DATE

An Evening with Broadway's Daniel C. Levine and Bryan Perri
Monday, June 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom



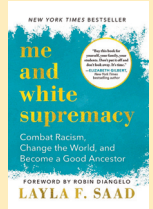
Learn how high school students can best prepare for a career on the stage and in the arts. Discussion about straight characters playing LGBTQ roles, and about the challenges theaters will face post pandemic. With Broadway veterans and husbands, Artistic Director, Daniel C. Levine and Music Director, Bryan Perri. We'll also be getting the dish on some exciting projects that Daniel and Bryan are currently working on! Moderated by Joe Belisle from the Lighthouse LGBTQ Youth Group at Kids In Crisis. For teens and adults. No registration required. Zoom details are on our online calendar. Co-sponsored by Lighthouse, a Program of Kids In Crisis.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Book Discussion Series: *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla Saad
Tuesdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom

A six-week reflection group to facilitate the journey to anti-racism. Co-sponsored by First Congregational Church Stamford, Ferguson Library South End Branch, Friends of the Ferguson Library, Stamford Stands Against Racism, Domus and Everyday Democracy. **RR.**

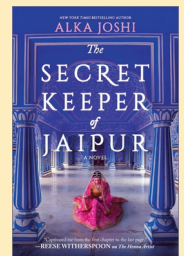


CCX2 CRIMECONN EXPRESS 2

CrimeCONN Express 2: Break Out of the (COVID) Box
Thursdays, June 3, 10, 17 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

This series is focused on the writing craft, the reading adventure, and how to expand your creative minds, loosen those writing muscles and discover new horizons. Speakers include Scott Adlerberg, Cara Black, Juliet Games, Timothy Hallinan, Caroline Kepnes, Ross Klavan, Brad Parks, Luanne Rice, Johnny Temple and Kate White. **RR.** Register online at <https://fergusonlibrary.org/crimeconn-express/>.

Friends Virtual Author Series: An Evening with Alka Joshi
June 29 at 6 p.m. via Zoom



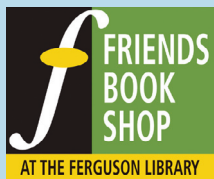
The author will be talking about her new book, *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur*, the sequel to *The Henna Artist*. **RR.**

Coming Soon: Summer Reading Clubs!



All our programs are generously supported by the Friends of The Ferguson Library

Friends of The Ferguson Library



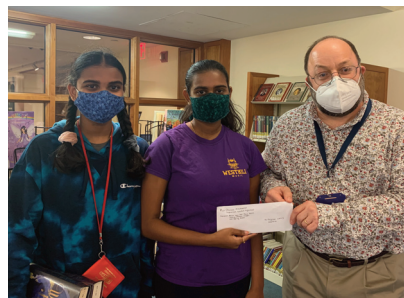
Book Shop News

The annual Collectible Sale is back this year on Saturday, May 1 from 10:30 – 4:30 at the Harry Bennett Branch. The sale includes vintage publications from the 20th century and earlier; classics; illustrated, out-of-print and signed books; rare memorabilia and collections, too.

Don't miss the Bag Sale June 12 and 13. Fill a bag with all the books you can carry for \$10! The sale starts outdoors as part of Arts & Crafts on Bedford and will finish inside the Main Library lobby on Sunday.

The Book Shop is also launching its online shop with a beach reading promo. Stay tuned!

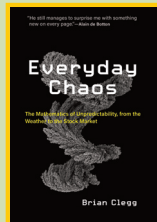
Teen Raises Money for the Library



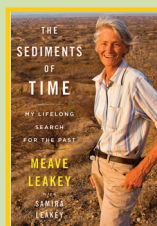
Westhill High School sophomore Dharana Alilaikannan (center) raised \$260 for the library through a coding class she offered during spring break. She and her sister, Tanisha, a seventh grader at Scofield Magnet Middle School (left), have been avid library users since they were small. Dharana presented the donation to teen librarian Steve Zampino.

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. Be sure to subscribe.

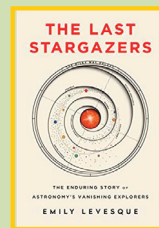
Staff Recommends: *The Elements of Scientific Study*



*Everyday Chaos:
The Mathematics of Unpredictability, from
the Weather to the Stock Market*
by Brian Clegg



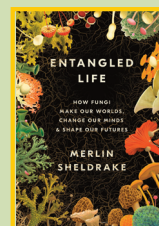
*The Last Stargazers:
The Enduring Story of Astronomy's
Vanishing Explorers*
by Emily Levesque



*The Sediments of Time:
My Lifelong Search for the Past*
by Meave Leakey with Samira Leakey



*Entangled Life:
How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change
Our Minds & Shape Our Futures*
by Merlin Sheldrake



*The Bird Way:
A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work,
Play, Parent, and Think*
by Jennifer Ackerman

Connect to The Ferguson



THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

phone 203 964-1000 • fax 203 357-9098

fergusonlibrary.org • email: comments@fergusonlibrary.org

MAY 2021

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Alice Knapp, *President*

Main Library, DiMattia Building
One Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06904
203 964-1000
Monday through Wednesday 11 – 6
Thursday 11 – 8
Friday & Saturday 11 – 5
Sunday 1 – 5

Harry Bennett Branch
115 Vine Road 06905, 203 351-8291
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 12 – 5
Wednesday 12 – 7
Saturday 1 – 5

South End Branch
34 Woodland Avenue 06902, 203 351-8280
Monday through Thursday 10 – 5:30
Saturday 10 – 2

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch
1143 Hope Street 06907, 203 351-8285
Monday & Thursday 10 – 3
Tuesday 12 – 7
Saturday 12 – 5

Bookmobile
Check our online calendar at
fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

**The Friends Book Shops at
The Ferguson Library**

Main Library Book Shop
Monday through Thursday 11 – 6
Friday & Saturday 11 – 5
Sunday 1 – 5

Harry Bennett Branch Book Shop
Monday through Friday 12 – 5
Saturday 1 – 5

Passport Services
By appointment and limited walk-in.
Call 203 351-8298 for information.

Main Library Passport Office
Monday through Wednesday 11 – 5
Thursday 11 – 7
Friday 11 – 4
Saturday 11 – 4
Sunday 1 – 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Saturday 1 – 4

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



THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES MAY 2021

Masks are required for everyone ages 2 and up in our buildings. To read our COVID-19 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

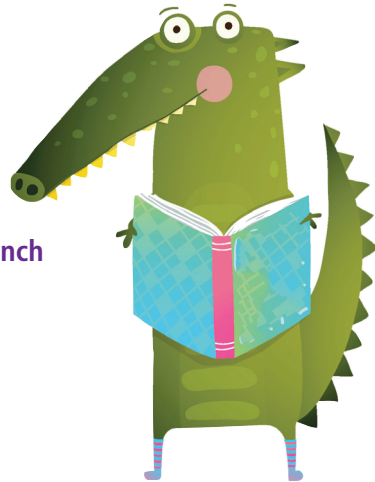
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12 – 5
Wednesday 12 – 7
Saturday 1 – 5

South End Branch

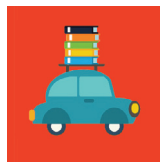
Monday – Thursday 10 – 5:30
Saturday 10 – 2

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

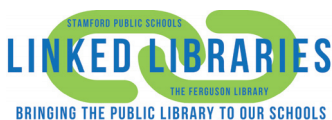
Monday and Thursday 10 – 3
Tuesday 12 – 7
Saturday 12 – 5



The library will be closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.



Curbside Pickup Available by Appointment



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/>.

Passport Services

Our Passport Office is open by appointment and on a walk-in basis. Appointments take precedence, so we suggest making an appointment if you can. For more information, or to make an appointment, call 203 351-8298. **Main Library Passport Office hours:** Monday – Wednesday 11 – 5; Thursday 11 – 7; Friday 11 – 4; Saturday 11 – 4; Sunday 1 – 4. **Harry Bennett Passport Office hours:** Saturday 1 – 4.



The Youth Services Digital Library

Visit <https://fergusonlibrary.org/remote-resources-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/>.

Please check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/ for updates and pop-up programs and subscribe to our newsletter/weekly emails at <http://fergusonlibrary.org/news/#toggle-id-1>.



All programs are generously supported by the Friends of The Ferguson Library.

THE FERGUSON LIBRARY YOUTH SERVICES MAY 2021

RR Registration Required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/event/. Zoom details will be sent to all registrants in advance of the program.

Children's Programs

Sing & Stomp

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25
10:15 to 10:45 a.m. via Zoom



A song and dance party! For 18 months to 3½ years with adult. **RR.**

Budding Bookworms via South End Branch Instagram

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25 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, May 5 at 4 p.m. via Zoom



Read *Stink and the Ultimate Thumb-Wrestling Smackdown*

by Megan McDonald and then join us for a discussion and fun activity. Please have blank paper, a writing utensil, and crayons or markers handy. Grades 2 to 3. **RR.**

Crafternoons @ Home

Thursdays, May 6, 20 at 4 p.m. via Zoom



Join us for a picture book read-aloud and an art project. Be sure to have coloring supplies and your imagination ready. Art supply bags are available for pickup at all library locations. Each bag contains all supplies needed for Crafternoon dates through May. One bag per child, please. Bags are available on a first come first serve basis. Grades K to 5. **RR.** Registration opens two weeks before the date of each program, and will close at 11 a.m. the morning of the program.

Kids' Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 18 from 7 to 7:50 p.m. via Zoom



Looking for suggestions for something new to read? We'll share a selection of our favorite books, and we'd love to hear what you've read recently and loved. Grades 4 to 6. **RR.**

Teen Programs

Teen Book Discussion

Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom



Kent State by Deborah Wiles. On the anniversary of this tragedy, join us for a discussion of this new novel that explores how it became possible for American troops to fire on American students protesting on an Ohio college campus in 1970. Please read the book ahead of time. The library has copies available in book, e-book, and audiobook formats. Ages 14 and up. **RR.**

Creative Writing Club

Wednesday, May 5 from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom



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, May 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom



Meet with other teens to talk about books and learn what's going on at the library. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

Virtual Kahoot!

Wednesday, May 19 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. via Zoom



Test your knowledge of all different subjects in our virtual Kahoot! All you need is a device and your brainpower! Grades 5 to 9. **RR.**

The Perfect Macaroon

Thursday, May 27 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom



There are 4 things you need to do to make the perfect macaroon cookie:

1. Register for this program.
2. Pick up *Bake Like a Pro* by Falyynn Koch and an info sheet at the Main Library.
3. Gather your kitchen equipment and baking ingredients.
4. Warm up your oven then join us on Zoom at the scheduled meeting time.

SAVE THE DATE



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Monday, June 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

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