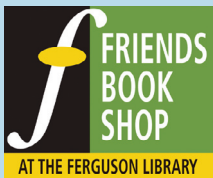


Friends of The Ferguson Library



Book Shop News

Stop by the Friends Book Shop this month for great selections on Black History Month, Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Did we mention Ground Hog Day too?

The Shop is displaying a collection of books on Abraham Lincoln and will also showcase other U.S. presidents. Of course, we'd be remiss if we didn't feature romance and relationships this month!

All Book Shop proceeds support the Library.

Literary Competition is Open

Entries are due February 5 for the 36th Annual Stamford Literary Competition. The contest is open to Stamford students in grades 3 to 12. Entry forms are available at the Main Library and branches and on the Friends program page of the Library's website, fergusonlibrary.org/friends-of-the-ferguson/programs-events/.

South End Branch to Close for Renovation in March

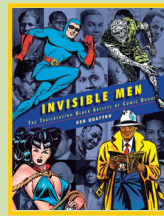
The Ferguson Library's South End Branch will be closed during the month of March for renovation. The Bookmobile will be on site at the Lathon Wider Community Center to provide library service while the branch is closed. We expect to reopen in April with a new, updated facility. We can't wait to show you around!

Missed one of our programs? Not to worry – catch up whenever you have a chance. We are recording most of our virtual programs, including the recent CrimeCONN Express series. You can find them on our YouTube channel. Be sure to subscribe.

Staff Recommends: African American Aesthetics



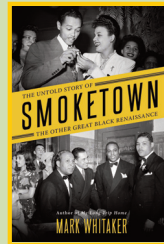
Black Futures
edited by Kimberly Drew
and Jenna Wortham



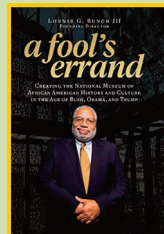
Invisible Men: The Trailblazing Black Artists of Comic Books
by Ken Quattro



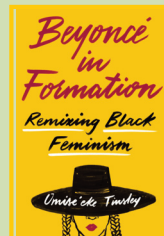
Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance
by Mark Whitaker



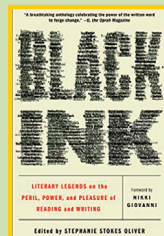
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power
edited by Mark Godfrey
and Zoé Whitley



Beyoncé in Formation: Remixing Black Feminism
by Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley



A Fool's Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump
by Lonnie G. Bunch III



Black Ink: Literary Legends on the Peril, Power, and Pleasure of Reading and Writing
edited by Stephanie Stokes Oliver

Connect to The Ferguson



Focus on Ferguson

The Heart of the Community

THE NEWSLETTER OF STAMFORD'S PUBLIC LIBRARY • FEBRUARY 2021

From the President's Desk



I'm writing this message after listening to President Biden's inaugural address and his appeal for unity. He made reference to the systemic racism that we have all witnessed and the monumental first of electing a woman of color as our vice-president. Last June, along with over 100 organizations in Stamford, The Ferguson Library signed a call to action: *Stamford Stands Against Racism*. While the call to action is prescriptive, it is also an exploration of systemic racism that begins by looking at history through a new lens. To this end, we have created a new Black History Month banner that features the Sankofa bird, which symbolizes moving forward, while looking back.

I invite you during this Black History Month to look to the past to understand how we arrived at this moment. This month, and throughout the year, The Ferguson Library has resources for this exploration beginning on the Everyday Democracy page of our website, fergusonlibrary.org/Stamford-everyday-democracy/.

—Alice Knapp, President

HOLIDAY HOURS

The South End Branch will be closed Friday, February 12 for Lincoln's Birthday. (The Lathon Wider Community Center, which houses the branch, is closed that day.) The entire Ferguson Library system will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day.

Friends Author Series: February 16 The Henna Artist



The Friends Author Series presents Alka Joshi on February 16 at 6 p.m. She'll talk about her riveting debut novel, *The Henna Artist*, a story set in 1950s India about a young woman struggling to shape her own destiny in a world pivoting between the traditional and the modern. With her novel, Alka reimagines what life might have been like if her mother hadn't been in an arranged marriage at 18 and instead been able to pursue the same independence and education that she always advocated for her daughter.

Register at Fergusonlibrary.org/events. Once you register, you will receive the Zoom information.

Civility in America

Our Civility in America series continues virtually on February 3 at 6 p.m. with Janet Jensen, Founder and Executive Director of the Jensen Project. The Jensen Project is dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence and reducing exploitation. Then, on February 24 at 6 p.m., the Wisdom of Civility with Rick Slager, founder and CEO of Acacia Living, Inc., which provides healthcare options for seniors. Register at fergusonlibrary.org.



A Novel Affair is April 15

A Novel Affair, the Library's spring fundraiser, is April 15! The event will be virtual as we celebrate our 10th anniversary and come together to support Stamford's public library. We're delighted to honor Tom Cassone for his longstanding service to the Library and the Stamford community.

Many thanks to our sponsors to date: **Morrison:** Friends of The Ferguson Library; SL Green Realty Corp; **Lahiri:** Jack Alexander; Melvina Callion; First County Bank; **Baldwin:** Judith Block; Ellen Bromley & Thomas Gizicki; Jane Carlin & Benjamin Gifford; Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey; Garden Homes Management; Stamford Health; **Steinbeck:** The Ashforth Company/A.P. Construction; Kerrin & Stephne Behrend; Rocco & Carol Cassone; David & Andrea Cohen; Cummings & Lockwood; The Dilenschneider Group; Susan DiMattia; Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Home; Hooker & Holcombe; Konica Minolta; KPMG; Debbie & Robert Neiman; F.D. Rich Company; UConn Stamford; United Services of America/AffinEco; Andrew & Robyn Whittingham; **Alvarez:** Nicholas & Arlene DuBiago; Sam and Emily Gordon; Prince Law Group; Arthur & Betsey Selkowitz; Silver Petrucelli & Associates; Sound Federal Credit Union; Stephen Perry & Susan Toliver.

If you would like to join us as a sponsor, please contact Linda Avellar at 203 351-8208 or linda@fergusonlibrary.org. Attendance is free and open to all. We welcome donations. Registration will open March 1.



February is Black History Month

We will be celebrating Black History Month with a book and art display and a series of programs for children and adults, including a discussion of the book *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates on February 22 and community-wide storytelling and poetry program on February 27. (See our online calendar for details at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.)

Look for a brochure with more information, including the history of Black History Month and the iconic Sankofa bird, which symbolizes moving forward while looking back. (See the beautiful banner outside the Main Library.)



Black Freedom Struggle in the United States

Delve into Black history with the database, Black Freedom Struggle in the United States. This resource provides primary source documents related to critical people and events in African American history. Featured subjects include the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements and the contemporary era, which focuses on major court cases involving issues of race from 1976 into the 21st century. You can find Black Freedom Struggle in the United States under A to Z databases, on the Research page of our website.

THE FERGUSON LIBRARY
phone 203 964-1000 • fax 203 357-9098
fergusonlibrary.org • email: comments@fergusonlibrary.org
FEBRUARY 2021

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Barbara Thomas, *Communication Asst.*
Peggy Devlin, *Editorial Asst.*

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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

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

Main Library Passport Office
Monday through Wednesday 11 – 5
Thursday 11 – 8
Friday 11 – 5
Saturday 11 – 4
Sunday 1 – 4

Harry Bennett Passport Office
Saturday 1 – 4

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



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, @ferglibraryyouth, @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/TheFergusonLibrary>.

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, whether or not you have participated in that discussion group before.

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

Monday, February 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The Mothers by Brit Bennett

Harry Bennett Branch

Monday, February 8 from 7 to 8 p.m.
The Orchid Thief by Susan Orlean

Spanish Book Club

Saturday, February 20 at 3 p.m.
El ruido de las cosas al caer by Juan Gabriel Vásquez

Community Mindfulness Project Meditation

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 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 at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84840527453> to join the Zoom meeting.

Coyotes & Coexistence

Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom (postponed from an earlier date)

Join the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) for a special program about our local cousin to the wolf – the Eastern Coyote. Learn more about their biology and behavior and ways to reduce problems from occurring between people, pets and coyotes. **RR.**

Death Cafe Stamford

Thursdays, February 11, 25 from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom

Discuss death in a group-directed discussion. The objective 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. For Zoom meeting details, visit fergusonlibrary.org/event/. Note: Death Cafe is a discussion group, not grief support or counseling.

Remote Book-A-Librarian

Reserve up to one hour with a librarian for information or technology assistance, including help with our virtual resources like e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming movies. To make an appointment, visit <https://fergusonlibrary.org>.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

Zoom meeting details for each program are on our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

Classical Guitar Performance

Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Enjoy an evening of beautiful music with Marc Mathelier, an internationally-acclaimed classical guitarist.

South End Branch African and African American Authors Book Discussion

Monday, February 22 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Community Storytellers & Poets

Saturday, February 27 at 3 p.m. via Zoom

Inviting all novice and professional poets and storytellers to share stories and poems based on family and community. All ages. Registration required.

Additional Black History Month programs being scheduled.

Please check our online calendar at fergusonlibrary.org/event/.

FERGUSON LIBRARY'S PROFESSIONAL SPEAKERS GROUP PRESENTS LUNCH & LEARN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION SERIES:

Individual Communication Skills: LinkedIn Personal Branding and You

Wednesday, February 3 at noon via Zoom

Targets skills needed to effectively communicate YOUR message across all platforms. With Sandra Long, in conversation with Mary Abbazia. **RR.**

Business & Career

TechXel Stamford

Fairfield County's First Enterprise Accelerator

Venture Expert Talks

Thursdays from 5 to 6:15 p.m. via Zoom

RR for each session.

February 4 – Marketing

Mark Strauss, Marketing Guru

February 11 – Patents and Trademarks

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

February 18 – Social Media

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

February 25 – Cybersecurity

Sergio Pedro, Cyber Pro on Cybersecurity

Stamford One Million Cups

Wednesday, February 3 at 9 a.m. via Zoom

We are re-engaging our entrepreneurs in a virtual world with new stories of innovation and interactions leading to more authentic connections. This month, we are exploring social/cultural entrepreneurship. Come meet and learn from local entrepreneurs. **RR.**

FRIENDS VIRTUAL AUTHOR SERIES: An Evening with Alka Joshi

Tuesday, February 16 at 6 p.m. via Zoom Webinar

A touching tribute to the life her mother didn't have the opportunity to lead, Alka Joshi's debut novel, *The Henna Artist* is set in post-Raj 1950s Jaipur, about a young woman struggling to shape her own destiny in a world pivoting between the traditional and the modern. **RR.**

Technology



All computer classes will be presented on YouTube. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/the-fergusonlibrary>.

Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

February 4 – Basic Microsoft Word

Learn basic features of Microsoft Word. Mouse and keyboard skills required.

February 11 – Intermediate Microsoft Word

A more advanced class for those already familiar with Word basics.

February 18 – Basic Microsoft Excel

Learn how to name worksheets, enter data and write formulas. Must be familiar with Windows.

February 25 – Intermediate Microsoft Excel

Designed for those who know how to set up a basic spreadsheet and perform simple calculations and wish to expand that knowledge with keyboard shortcuts, templates and conditional formatting. Must be familiar with basic Excel, keyboard, and Windows.

Facing Racism in Stamford Dialogue Series

Wednesday, February 24 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for a series of dialogues uniting Stamford residents, where we will learn about each other and look at our community through the lens of racial equity. (Also meets March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31.) With support and in partnership with The Ferguson Library, SSAR (Stamford Stands Against Racism) and Everyday Democracy. **RR.**

English Language Learners

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

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

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23

New students: 11 a.m.

Basic: 12:30 p.m.

Low intermediate: 3 p.m.

Advanced: 6 p.m.

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

Virtual vocabulary games: 2:30 p.m.

Beginner: 4 p.m.

High intermediate: 5:30 p.m.

CIVILITY IN AMERICA SERIES

RR for each program. Sponsored by the Dilenschneider Group, The Ferguson Library, and Hearst Media in Connecticut.

A Talk with Janet Jensen, Founder and Executive Director of The Jensen Project

Wednesday, February 3 at 6 p.m. via Zoom

The Jensen Project is dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual violence and reducing exploitation.

The Wisdom of Civility with Rick Slager

Wednesday, February 24 at 6 p.m. via Zoom

Founder and CEO of Acacia Living, Inc., d.b.a. INVU Care, providing healthcare options for the ever-growing senior population in the United States.



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



THE FERGUSON LIBRARY

YOUTH SERVICES FEBRUARY 2021

Masks required to enter a library building.
To read our Reopening 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

Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch

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

South End Branch

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



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/>.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The South End Branch will be closed Friday, February 12 for Lincoln's Birthday. (The Lathon Wider Community Center, which houses the branch, is closed that day.) All Ferguson Library facilities will be closed Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day.



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](https://www.instagram.com/ferglibrary), [@ferglibraryyouth](https://www.instagram.com/ferglibraryyouth),

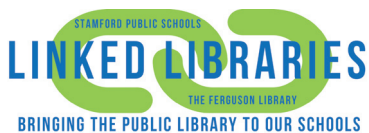
[@harrybennettbranchys](https://www.instagram.com/harrybennettbranchys) and [@southendbranch_lib](https://www.instagram.com/southendbranch_lib).



Facebook and Facebook Live <https://facebook.com/TheFergusonLibrary/>.



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/>.

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 FEBRUARY 2021

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

Take Your Child to the Library Day / Take the Library to Your Child Day
Saturday, February 6



Family Storytime

10:15 to 11 a.m. via Zoom



The whole family can drop in to this weekend storytime in celebration of *Take Your Child to the Library Day*. Families with children ages 5 and under. **RR.**

Car Parade and Drive-Through Party!

Noon to 12:30 p.m. at HB

We're celebrating *Take Your Child to the Library Day* by having a parade! Decorate your car, dress up in costume, turn on the music and drive by the Harry Bennett Branch to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Take Your Child to the Library Day!* Make & Take bags will be available while supplies last. All ages.

Your Story Is Important with Author Supriya Kelkar

2 p.m. via Zoom



When author Supriya Kelkar was growing up, she never wrote stories about families who looked like hers. She will give tips on sharing your own important story. Ages 6 and up and their families. **RR.** Co-sponsored by India Cultural Center.

Children's Programs

Sing & Stomp

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 23

from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. via Zoom



A song and dance party! For 18 months to 3½ years with adult. **RR.** Registration for March Sing & Stomp classes opens February 12 at 11 a.m.

Budding Bookworms via South End Branch Instagram

Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 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.

Crafternoons @ Home

Thursdays, February 4, 18 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 from February to 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.

Book Bunch Club Discussion and Activity

Wednesday, February 10 at 4 p.m. via Zoom



Are you a fan of Geronimo Stilton (or his sister, Thea)? Whether you've read only one book in the series – or have devoured many of them – you are invited to attend this series discussion and activity program. Please have blank paper, a writing utensil, and crayons or markers handy. Expect to have a mouse-tastic time! Grades 2 to 3. **RR.**

Kids' Book Discussion

Tuesday, February 16 from 7 to 7:50 p.m. via Zoom



The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson.

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in the old house that belonged to her grandmother. She finds a letter addressed to her grandmother alluding to a town tragedy and offering clues to a mysterious fortune. Can Candice and neighbor Brandon solve the mystery and find the fortune before the summer ends? Grades 4 to 6. **RR.**

Teen Programs

T-MAD

Friday, February 5

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.**

Creative Writing Club

Wednesdays, February 10, 24

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.**

Drop In and Draw

Thursday, February 18

from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom



Learn some drawing basics from artist Debra Hamuka-Falkenham, then work on a piece to enter the 2021 Teen Art Contest. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

Teen Vision Board

Tuesday, February 23

from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom



Let's meet virtually and create a piece of art representing our hopes and dreams for 2021. Project materials will be available for pickup at all library locations beginning February 1, or you can use materials from home. If you use your own materials, you'll need a large piece of construction paper or card stock, glue, scissors, and magazines or newspapers that you don't mind cutting. Grades 6 to 12. **RR.**

Check our online calendar for **BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS.**

