



An Investment for Life

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Banning Books Silences Stories. Speak Out! Banned Books Week is September 23-29

Carlisle, Pa. - Censorship succeeds when no one talks about it. We encourage readers to raise their megaphones and speak out for banned books! The American Library Association (ALA) has designated September 23-29, 2018 as Banned Books Week.

Carolyn Blatchley, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Library System, comments, "During this annual effort to spotlight the risk and dangers of censorship, the importance of free access to information, and our fundamental freedom to read, we reaffirm the commitment of the System and all of our [member library locations](#), to continue providing our patrons with uncensored access to library materials."

Banned Books Week offers an opportunity for readers to voice censorship concerns, celebrate free expression, and show their communities the importance of intellectual freedom. Here's what you can do to fight censorship, keep books available in libraries, and promote the freedom to read!

- Stay informed. If you hear of a challenge at your local library, support your librarian and free and open access to library materials. Find out your library's policy for reviewing challenged materials. Stay updated about intellectual freedom by signing up for the free Intellectual Freedom News newsletter.
- Organize your own Banned Books Week program such as a First Amendment film festival and display. The Banned Books Week Pinterest page hosts a collection of ideas to spark your creativity.
- Participate in The Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) Virtual Read-out. Join readers from across the world in filming yourself reading from your favorite banned book. The videos are featured on the Banned Books Week YouTube channel.
- Submit content that addresses censorship and banned books to the Intellectual Freedom Blog. Posts can be news items, reviews, and listicles.
- Perform a play about the freedom to read. The OIF offers a complete stage adaptation of YA novel "The Sledding Hill," written by frequently banned author Chris Crutcher.
- Stock up on Banned Books Week materials. Every year, OIF produces a line of Banned Books Week products. Show your literary pride with T-shirts, bookmarks, and posters, while helping support OIF.
- Help spread the word. Use the hashtag #bannedbooksweek to declare your right to read.

- Speak out. Write letters to the editor, your public library director, and your school principal supporting the freedom to read. Talk to your friends about why everyone should be allowed to choose for themselves and their families what they read.
- Exercise your reading rights. Check out a banned book from your local public library. Encourage your book club to discuss rebellious reads.
- Join the Freedom to Read Foundation. It's dedicated to the legal and financial defense of intellectual freedom, especially in libraries.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 354 challenges to library, school, and university materials in 2017. Of the 416 books challenged or banned in 2017, the Top 10 Most Challenged Books are:

- “Thirteen Reasons Why” by Jay Asher
- “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie
- “Drama” by Raina Telgemeier
- “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini
- “George” by Alex Gino
- “Sex is a Funny Word” by Cory Silverberg and illustrated by Fiona Smyth
- “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee
- “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas
- “And Tango Makes Three” by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson and illustrated by Henry Cole
- “I Am Jazz” by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

For all kinds of books, including items banned or challenged, visit your local public library.

The Cumberland County Library System consists of seven federated local libraries, one branch facility, a system headquarters office, and an associated non-profit Foundation. The Library System provides support to its member libraries through information technology, securing library materials, older adult services, training opportunities, and administrative and financial services. More information on the Cumberland County Library System can be found at www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the State, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.