



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 15, 2004

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City Libraries Celebrate Freedom to Read During “Banned Books Week,” Sept. 24 through Oct. 1

SAN DIEGO – To help raise awareness regarding the censorship of books, the City of San Diego Public Library will present exhibits and activities during national Banned Books Week, Saturday, Sept. 24 through Saturday, Oct. 1.

“It is important to recognize that not every book will be right for every reader,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “However, the freedom to choose for ourselves is a hard-won right that we must not take for granted. Reading, speaking, thinking and expressing ourselves freely are core American values.”

Two Banned Books Week exhibits will be on display at the Central Library, one in the Literature section and a second outside the Children’s Room. The Central Library is located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego, 619-236-5800.

In addition, there will be displays of banned and challenged books at the following branch libraries:

- Balboa, 4255 Mt. Abernathy Ave., 858-573-1390.
- Carmel Mountain, 12095 World Trade Drive, 858-538-8181.
- City Heights/Weingart, 3795 Fairmount Ave., 619-641-6100.
- La Jolla/Riford, 7555 Draper Ave., 858-552-1657.
- Linda Vista, 2160 Ulric St., 858-573-1399.
- Mira Mesa, 8405 New Salem St., 858-538-8165.
- Mission Hills, 925 W. Washington Ave., 619-692-4910.
- Mission Valley, 2123 Fenton Parkway, 858-573-5007.
- North Clairemont, 4616 Clairemont Drive, 858-533-3972.
- Point Loma/Hervey, 3701 Voltaire St., 619-531-1539.
- Rancho Bernardo, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive, 858-538-8163.
- Rancho Peñasquitos, 13330 Salmon River Road, 858-538-8159.

Observed since 1982, the Banned Books Week campaign is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Library Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers and National Association of College Stores. The campaign is endorsed by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress.

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Between 400 and 500 book challenges are recorded each year by the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. However, it is estimated that less than one-quarter of all challenges are reported and recorded by public and school libraries. A "challenge" is defined as a formal, written complaint filed with a library or school about a book's content or appropriateness. The majority of challenges (roughly 60 percent) are brought by parents, followed by library patrons and administrators. Each challenge represents an effort to remove books from school curricula or library shelves.

For more information on Banned Books Week, visit the American Library Association on the Web at <http://www.ala.org> .

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>

Top 10 Most Frequently Challenged Books in the United States

Banned Books Week will be held Sept. 24 through Oct. 1 to help call attention to censorship. The American Library Association (ALA) collects information about challenged books from two sources: newspapers and reports submitted by individuals, some of whom use the Challenge Database Form. All challenges are compiled into a database. According to the ALA, the following books were the most frequently challenged in 2004:

- "The Chocolate War" for sexual content, offensive language, religious viewpoint, being unsuited to age group and violence
- "Fallen Angels" by Walter Dean Myers, for racism, offensive language and violence
- "Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture" by Michael A. Bellesiles, for inaccuracy and political viewpoint
- Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey, for offensive language and modeling bad behavior
- "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky, for homosexuality, sexual content and offensive language
- "What My Mother Doesn't Know" by Sonya Sones, for sexual content and offensive language
- "In the Night Kitchen" by Maurice Sendak, for nudity and offensive language
- "King & King" by Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland, for homosexuality
- "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou, for racism, homosexuality, sexual content, offensive language and unsuited to age group
- "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, for racism, offensive language and violence

The most frequently challenged authors in 2003 were Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, J. K. Rowling, Robert Cormier, Judy Blume, Katherine Paterson, John Steinbeck, Walter Dean Myers, Robie Harris, Stephen King, and Louise Rennison.

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