

# READ BANNED BOOKS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2014



In support of the right to choose and read books freely, the San Juan Island Library, in conjunction with the American Library Association, is sponsoring Banned Books Week September 21 – 27.

Stop in the Library this week to visit our incendiary display of banned or challenged titles. We are also offering a free viewing and discussion of the classic dystopian novel and movie adaptation, *Fahrenheit 451*, Wednesday, September 24th starting at 7 pm.

An annual celebration of our right to access books without censorship, Banned Books Week commemorates the most basic freedom in a democratic society—the freedom to read freely—and encourages us not to take this freedom for granted.

Since its inception in 1982, Banned Books Week has reminded us that while not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right to decide for ourselves what to read, listen to or view. San Juan Island Library joins thousands of libraries and bookstores across the country in celebrating the freedom to read.

The most challenged and/or restricted reading materials have been books for children. Book challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view; on the contrary, they are an attempt to remove materials from public use, thereby restricting the access of others. Even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book is well intentioned, the outcome is detrimental. Censorship denies our freedom as individuals to choose and think for ourselves. For children, decisions about what books to read should be made by the people who know them best—their parents!

The American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression; the ALA; the American Society of Journalists and Authors; the Association of American Publishers; and the National Association of College Stores all recognize the importance of the freedom to read by officially sponsoring Banned Books Week. The Library of Congress Center for the Book also endorses the observance.

American libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. Because libraries provide free access to a world of information, they bring opportunity to all people. Now, more than ever, celebrate the freedom to read @ your library! Read an old favorite or a new banned book this week.

Looking for more information about Banned Books Week? Visit the American Library Association's website for an array of resources from classroom curriculum to a list of the top 100 banned/challenged titles. Or stop into the Library, we can help!