

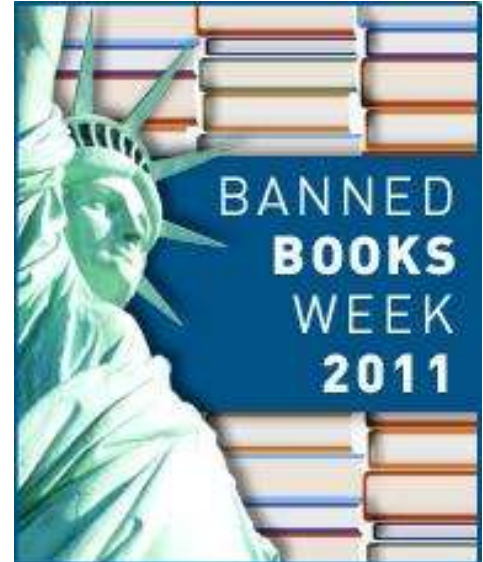
Celebrate Your Freedom During Banned Books Week!

September 24 – October 1, 2011

What do we mean when we say “challenged” and “banned” books?

A book is “challenged” when a person or group objects to the materials in that book and attempts to remove or restrict accessibility to it. A book is “banned” when this removal is successful.

Thanks to the work of libraries and the ACLU, most book challenges are now unsuccessful.



What is Banned Books Week?

In 1982, the American Library Association decided to raise awareness of the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States. The last week of September, this annual celebration reminds us all that free and open access to information is a right we cannot take for granted. Since that first celebration in 1982, over 11,000 books have been challenged, 348 being reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom in 2010 alone.

Why does the ACLU fight to defend the freedom to read?

We must remain diligent in our fight to protect our free speech and free expression. When a small group of individuals tries to keep the rest of society from reading a book, viewing a painting, or voicing their opinions they are impeding our Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms.

How can you take part in the celebration?

ACLU of Oregon sends out thousands of "I Read Banned Books" buttons to libraries and bookstores. Folks all over the state will be wearing the bright-yellow buttons to show their support for freedom from censorship and freedom of speech, so stop in at your library or favorite bookstore to pick one up today.



Visit www.aclu-or.org/bannedbooks to download a list of challenged books in Oregon, and a calendar of ACLU Banned Books events statewide.

