Censorship in Schools and Libraries Exhibit

The “Censorship in Schools and Libraries” exhibit will be on display in the library from May 1-25. This exhibit is an educational project of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship.

- A board of education removes selected books from a high school library.
- More than 100 years after its publication, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn continues to be the object of censors.
- The popular Harry Potter books are burned because they “promote wizardry.”
- The evolution, creationism, intelligent design controversy continues in a number of states.

These are some of the challenges to First Amendment rights that have occurred in public and school libraries throughout the country.

“Censorship in Schools and Libraries” is an illustrated journal display that documents the challenges to freedom of expression in the US during the past 100 years. This exhibit presents 32 cases of censorship, each accompanied by an illustration. US Supreme Court and lower court decisions regarding censorship are an integral part of the exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display during regular library hours.

New Jersey Libraries Need Your Help

Gov. Christie’s budget calls for a 74% decrease in funding for statewide library services. This cut includes the elimination of all statewide library programs and services. This will affect all types of libraries in New Jersey. Once state funding is eliminated, NJ will lose $4.5 million in federal funding. What does this mean to NJ residents? Once state and federal funding are lost, the impact will be felt by all residents:

1. Access to electronic databases such as RefUSA and EBSCO will cease
2. Statewide interlibrary loan and delivery of library materials will cease
3. Libraries will lose 50% of state aid at a time when demand for services is increasing dramatically
4. More than half of public libraries will lose access to the Internet
5. Many libraries will lose email service
6. Many libraries will lose their websites or access to them
7. The Talking Book and Braille Center (known as the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped) will close
8. Group contracts which bring down the cost of other electronic resources purchased by libraries will cease

At the same time the state is eliminating funding for library programs, Assemblyman John DiMaio has introduced A2555 which eliminates the minimum local funding requirement for municipal public libraries. If passed, there is no guarantee that Washington Township will continue to fund our library.

The $10 million in library programs cut from the Governor’s budget represent little more than $1 per capita in state funds.

Go to www.savemynjlibrary.org for more information and to see how you can help.
Kid's Corner
This month, 3-6 year olds can Make & Take a gift for Mom, a puppet, an Ambrosia Fruit Salad during Tummy Yummies.

7-11 year olds can have some fun at Game Night on the 12th. 5th-8th graders can join us for Book Bingo on the 13th and Origami on the 27th. Book Buddies and Toddler Time kids will all have lots of fun this month.

Please see the calendar on page 4 for program times, dates, and ages.

Go to the calendar on our website to register for these programs.

Think you know more about baseball than the librarians at the National Baseball Hall of Fame?

PROVE IT!

Enter Step Up to the Plate @ your library, and you could win a trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.!

Visit www.ala.org/baseball to access a series of trivia questions about the history and diversity of our national pastime, developed by the Hall of Fame’s library staff.

Don’t know an answer? Not a problem! Use the print and electronic resources at your library to look up answers. If you need help, just ask the ultimate search engine—your librarian!

www.ala.org/baseball

Children's Book Sale
May 10-16
All books 2 for $1

Design a Bookmark Contest

The winning entry in each age group, 5-8, and 9-11, will win a $10 Barnes & Noble gift card, and his/her bookmark will be printed and handed out in the library during Children's Book Week.

Entry forms are available in the library in the Children’s Department. All entries must be received by Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Celebrate Children’s Book Week
May 10-16, 2010

Since 1919, Children’s Book Week has been celebrated nationally in schools, libraries, bookstores, clubs, private homes—any place where there are children and books. It all began with the idea that children’s books can change lives. In 1913, Franklin K. Matthias, the librarian of the Boy Scouts of America, began touring the country to promote higher standards in children’s books. He proposed creating a Children’s Book Week, which would be supported by all interested groups: publishers, booksellers, and librarians.

Mathies enlisted two important allies; Frederic G. Melcher, the visionary editor of Publishers Weekly, and Anne Carroll Moore, the Superintendent of Children’s Works at the New York Public Library and a major figure in the library world. With the help of Melcher and Moore, in 1916 the American Booksellers Association and the American Library Association cooperated with the Boy Scouts in sponsoring a Good Book Week.

In 1944, the newly-established Children’s Book Council assumed responsibility for administering Children’s Book Week. In 2008, Children’s Book Week moved from November to May. At that time, responsibility for Children’s Book Week, including planning official events and creating original materials, was transferred to Every Child A Reader, the philanthropic arm of the children’s publishing industry.

The need for Children’s Book Week today is as essential as it was in 1919, and the task remains the realization of Frederic Melcher’s fundamental declaration: “A great nation is a reading nation.”

Children’s Book Sale
May 10-16
All books 2 for $1

Children’s Book Week
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Recession drives more Americans to libraries in search of employment resources; but funding lags demand

CHICAGO – When jobs go away, Americans turn to their libraries to find information about future employment or educational opportunities. This library usage trend and others are detailed in the 2010 State of America’s Libraries report, released in April by the American Library Association. The report shows that Americans have turned to libraries in larger numbers in recent years.

Since the recession took hold, the local library, a traditional source of free access to books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs, has become a lifeline, offering technology training and workshops on topics that ranged from résumé-writing to job-interview skills. A January 2010 Harris Interactive poll provides compelling evidence that a decade-long trend of increasing library use is continuing—and even accelerating. This national survey indicates that some 219 million Americans feel the public library improves the quality of life in their community.

However, the report also shows that increased library use did not lead to an increase in funding for libraries. Research by the ALA and the Center for Library and Information Innovation at the University of Maryland suggests a “perfect storm” of growing community demand for library services and shrinking resources to meet that demand. While library use soars, a majority of states are reporting cuts in funding to public libraries and to the state library agencies that support them.

Other key trends detailed in the 2010 State of America’s Libraries Report:

- Internet use continues to expand at public libraries, which have seen double-digit growth since 2007.
- 96% of Americans feel that school libraries are an essential part of the education experience. However, funding for school libraries also lags.
- America’s academic libraries are experiencing increased use, both physical and virtual. Almost 95% of students use their academic library’s website at least once a week.
- America’s libraries continue their efforts to support minorities and other under-served or disadvantaged populations.
- The library community continues to defend a core value embodied in the First Amendment and the corollary right to receive and consider ideas, information, and images.
- Library construction fared better in 2009 than many expected during the recession.

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**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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