



An Investment for Life

Vince DiFilippo
Commissioner

Jim Hertzler
Commissioner

Gary Eichelberger
Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Carolyn Blatchley, Executive Director
717.240.7165
cblatchley@ccpa.net

Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark; Keep the Lights On

Mechanicsburg, PA – Censorship leaves us in the dark. We encourage readers to keep the lights on and raise their megaphones to speak out for banned books. The American Library Association (ALA) has designated September 22-28, 2019 as Banned Books Week.

“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,” said Carolyn Blatchley, executive director of the Cumberland County Library System.

Banned Books Week offers an opportunity for readers to voice censorship concerns, celebrate free expression, and show their communities the importance of intellectual freedom. The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 347 challenges to library, school and university materials and services in 2018. Of the 483 books challenged or banned in 2018, the Top 11 Most Challenged Books are:

- George, by Alex Gino
- A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo, by Jill Twiss, illustrated by EG Keller
- Captain Underpants, series written and illustrated by Dave Pilkey
- The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas
- Drama, written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier
- Thirteen Reasons Why, by Jay Asher
- This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki
- Skippyjon Jones, series written and illustrated by Judy Schachner
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, by Sherman Alexie
- This Day in June by Gayle E. Pitman, illustrated by Kristyna Litten
- Two Boys Kissing, by David Levithan

For all books, including items banned or challenged, visit your local public library,
www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org.

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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.