

Banned Books Week 2020 – Gibson Memorial Library

For Immediate Release

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“Censorship is a dead end. Find your freedom to read!”

Creston, IA – Gibson Memorial Library will be uniting with the American Library Association and the Iowa Library Association in shared support of the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, September 27 – October 3, 2020. This year’s theme is, “Censorship is a dead end. Find your freedom to read during banned books week!”

Banned Books Week is an annual event that celebrates the freedom to read and is typically held the last week of September, it spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. Librarians, teachers, publishers, booksellers, journalists, authors and readers around the country will be coming together to focus on the value of free and open access to information.

Books are still being banned and challenged today. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials.

While books have been, and continue to be banned, part of the Banned Books Week celebration is the fact that, in a majority of cases, the books have remained available. This happens only thanks to the efforts of librarians, teachers, students and community members who stand up and speak out for the freedom to read.

“Words have power and access to diverse ideas gives us all the ability to fight ignorance and strengthen understanding.” Said Director Aric Bishop. “Celebrate the freedom to read by reading your favorite banned book. Fight censorship and exercise your freedom to seek and express ideas, during this year’s Banned Books Week. “

Visit Gibson Memorial Library’s Facebook page or website for Banned Books Week activities and events during that week or stop in and exercise your freedom to read. Brochures with the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement will be made available to the general public at the Library, stickers that say, “I read banned books”, Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2019 Bookmarks, and coloring pages for youth will be available while supplies last!

Report Censorship

The American Library Association (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom provides confidential support to anyone undergoing a challenge or ban. Support can come in the form of letters, book reviews, resources, talking points or emotional support. Report censorship online or by calling 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4226

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