

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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At the Library: Celebrate freedom to read during banned books week

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Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. More than 11,300 books have been challenged since 1982, according to the American Library Association. The Office of Intellectual Freedom reported 307 challenges in 2013, though many more go unreported.

Books are often challenged or banned because of profanity, racism and sexual themes. These challenges to books are usually motivated by the desire to protect children or avoid difficult topics and mainly occur in schools and public libraries.

This year, Banned Books Week—Sept. 21 through Sept. 27—highlights banned and challenged comic books and graphic novels. Comic books are frequent targets for censorship. Many people still see comic books and graphic novels as a low art form, and the free speech and expression of authors and artists has a similarly low value associated with it. “Bone” by Jeff Smith, one of the 10 most challenged books of 2013, is a comic book series.

Our community supports OCPL’s dedication to providing free and equal access to books and information. During Banned Books Week, OCPL celebrates the freedom to read by promoting books in our collection that have been challenged or banned in other libraries.

The 10 most challenged book titles of 2013 were:

- “Captain Underpants,” a series by Dav Pilkey
- “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison
- “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie
- “Fifty Shades of Grey” by E.L. James
- “The Hunger Games” by Suzanne Collins
- “A Bad Boy Can Be Good for A Girl” by Tanya Lee Stone
- “Looking for Alaska” by John Green
- “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” by Stephen Chbosky
- “Bless Me Ultima” by Rudolfo Anaya
- “Bone,” a series by Jeff Smith

Stop by the OCPL main library and check out our display of banned books this month. Pick up a free bookmark or button and discover new books, whether controversial or not.

Friends of the Library book sale

The Friends of the Orange County Public Library will hold its annual Fall Book Sale on Sept. 26 through Sept. 28 at the OCPL main library.

Looking for a great deal? This is the place to find it.

Hardback books are \$2. DVDs and paperbacks are just \$1, and children's books are 50 cents each from Thursday to Saturday. Fill a bag of books for just \$5 on Sunday.

Book sale hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept 26 for Friends members only, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28, in the bag sale. The first bag is \$5, and each additional bag is \$3.

Friends of the Library memberships are available at the door throughout the sale.

FOCPL is a nonprofit organization started in 1981 and run exclusively by dedicated volunteers. It supports the OCPL main library by raising funds to enhance the library's services, collection, technology, programs and staff development.

Since 2009, the Friends have donated more than \$65,000 to OCPL. The Friends provided prizes for this year's summer reading program—which included two Kindle Fire e-readers. The self-checkout machine on the second floor of the library was made possible by FOCPL. And items such as shelving, teen room furniture and the meeting room projector were endowed by the group, as well. Learn more at www.orangecountync.gov/library/friends.asp.

Orange County Public Library serves the community from three locations. The Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough is open seven days a week and can be reached at 919-245-2525. The Carrboro Branch Library inside McDougle Middle School, 900 Old Fayetteville Road in Chapel Hill, and the Cybrary inside The Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St. in Carrboro, offer complementary hours to serve southern Orange County. Call the Carrboro Branch at 919-969-3006 and the Cybrary at 919-918-7387.