



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Library Celebrates Banned Books Week September 26 – October 2

Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. The theme of this year's event is "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us." The Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020 List (yolocountylibrary.org/banned-books) includes titles that address racism, share Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) stories, and center on LGBTQ+ characters.

"This year's theme reflects the many divides our country has faced within the last year. We are still witnessing our nation divided between Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter, immigrant children divided from their parents at the nation's borders, Asian Americans brutally attacked and accused of being the coronavirus rather than Americans, and COVID-19 dividing us all into isolation. We need books to help us understand and process what is going on in the minds of each side of these divisions," said Youth Services Librarian, Katrina Laws-Ewald. "Banned Books Week is a way for all of us in the book community to build awareness of the detrimental social affects that censorship causes, and the power of books to foster empathy and understanding. The library has a responsibility to provide materials that reflect ideas in all facets of our world in an open-minded, nonjudgmental, welcoming environment."

Banned Books Week was launched by the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. It celebrates the value of free and open access to information while highlighting current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

Everyone is encouraged to learn more about Banned Books Week here: <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/banned>.

Individuals are encouraged to stop by any of the Yolo County Library branches to view displays, borrow and read challenged and banned books during the week of September 26 - October 2, 2021.

For more information about library programs and resources, visit any of the Yolo County Library branches or the library webpage at www.yolocountylibrary.org. Individuals can also connect with Yolo County Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

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