



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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# San Diego Public Library Celebrates Reading and Calls Out Censorship During Banned Books Week

## READ-A-THON, MOVIE SCREENINGS AND STORYTIMES PLANNED AT SEVERAL CITY OF SAN DIEGO LIBRARY LOCATIONS

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is commemorating Banned Books Week and celebrating the freedom to read with a full week of programming at San Diego Public Library (SDPL) locations. [Banned Books Week](#) is an annual event that started in 1982 as a response to book challenges in schools, libraries and bookstores. This year's theme is "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us."

As part of Banned Books Week, SDPL will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Read-a-Thon on Monday, Sept. 19, from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Neil Morgan Auditorium at the San Diego Central Library, 330 Park Blvd. Library staff will read excerpts from challenged and banned books, switching out every 10 to 15 minutes. Library Director Misty Jones will read from "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison.

**"At the San Diego Public Library, we are committed to the free expression of ideas," said Jones. "Banned Books Week highlights and honors free speech and the importance of open access to information. It is important that the people who use the library see themselves reflected in the books and materials."**

City library locations will host storytimes of challenged or banned children's books and the "Picture This" program, featuring screenings of movies adapted from banned books, including "Of Mice and Men" and "The Hate U Give." Patrons are encouraged to browse displays of banned books available for check out and pick up free bookmarks and stickers celebrating Banned Books Week. The library has also produced a special edition of its "Listeners Advisory" [podcast](#) focused on banned books, intellectual freedom, censorship and how the library responds to book challenges.

Visit SDPL's Banned Books Week [web page](#) for a complete list of programs and to view a suggested reading list.

**About the San Diego Public Library**

With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the San Diego Public Library is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.4 million people. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

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