



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Laura Parker
Public Information Officer
California State Library
(916) 651-6798

September 13, 2010

Banned Books to Be Read Aloud by Local Celebrities

Sacramento – Excerpts from banned books will be read aloud at the California State Library for five hours on Wednesday, September 22, in celebration of the freedom to read and the First Amendment. Notable city and state leaders, journalists, librarians, educators, and representatives from labor, sports, and non-profit councils will read from books that have been banned or challenged in the US.

The event will be held in the Fragrance Garden of the California State Library, 900 N Street, Sacramento, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The public is invited to attend some or all of the readings, which are scheduled at fifteen minute intervals throughout the afternoon. Light refreshments will be served.

This program is a kick-off for the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, held annually during the last week of September. Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access to information and draws attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted banning of books across the United States. This year Banned Books Week runs from September 25 to October 2.

The schedule of readings is as follows:

- 11:30 a.m. Rivkah Sass, City of Sacramento Librarian, Importance of Freedom of Speech
- 11:45 a.m. Nancy Lenoil, State Archivist, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- 12:00 p.m. Dr Nadeen T. Ruiz, Director, Serna Center CSU Sacramento, *Friends from the Other Side*
- 12:15 p.m. Jess Zaker, Lipstick Librarian, Sac City Rollers; Sac City Librarian, *And Tango Makes Three*
- 12:30 p.m. Pallas Hupé, CBS 13 News Anchor, *Goosebumps*
- 12:45 p.m. Sandra Swafford, California State Library Board Member, *Bridge to Terabithia*
- 1:00 p.m. Jeffrey Callison, Host of *Insight* on Capital Public Radio, *Of Mice and Men*
- 1:15 p.m. Ralph Lewin, President & CEO, California Council for the Humanities, *Always Running*
- 1:30 p.m. Mark S. Allen, CW31 Good Day Sacramento, *How to Eat Fried Worms*
- 1:45 p.m. John Cornelison, California Research Bureau, California State Library
- 2:00 p.m. Bill Leonard, Secretary of State and Consumer Services, *Bible*
- 2:15 p.m. Susan Bassett, Governmental Relations Consultant, *A Light in the Attic*
- 2:30 p.m. Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- 2:45 p.m. Maria Kochis, Librarian, CSU Sacramento, *Valley of the Horses*
- 3:00 p.m. Danny Curtin, Director, California Conference of Carpenters
- 3:15 p.m. Mariko Yamada, Assemblywoman, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- 3:30 p.m. Ira Bray, Library Development Services, California State Library, *Lord of the Flies*
- 3:45 p.m. Murial Johnson, Director, California Arts Council, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- 4:00 p.m. Gavin Ferguson, The Wake Up Call at 107.9, *Catcher in the Rye*
- 4:15 p.m. Kai Brown, Sacramento Mountain Lions UFL Football Team
- 4:30 p.m. Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian of California, Closing Passage

Local support for the Banned Books event is provided by the California State Library Foundation and by the readers, who are giving generously of their time.

Banned Books Week is sponsored nationwide by the American Library Association, American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers, and the National Association of College Stores. It's endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. For more information, visit *Banned Books Week* at <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm> .

About the California State Library: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is celebrating its 160th anniversary as the central reference and research library for the Governor's office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity. For more information, please visit www.library.ca.gov .

###