

IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY WINDOW

Fall 2024

Reading Against the Tide: *How One Patron Challenges Censorship*

Sam Helmick, *Community & Access Services Coordinator*

Driven by a thirst for knowledge and understanding, a devoted patron of the Iowa City Public Library's Bookmobile has made waves by reading over 100 banned books.

One day, while gliding through a water aerobics class at the Mercer Aquatic Center, Mary Lou struck up an enlightening conversation with a retired school teacher. They discussed the growing

trend of book censorship across the nation, and during this exchange, the teacher posed a thought-provoking question: "I want to know what they don't want us to know."

This simple yet profound inquiry resonated deeply with Mary Lou, igniting a quest to uncover the truths behind titles deemed too controversial for public consumption.



2024 ICPL Bookmobile Staff.

Article continued on pg. 4

Children's Books We Love

Children's Department



Into the Goblin Market

by Vikki Vansickle

"Van Sickle's perfectly paced rhyming text pairs wonderfully with the exquisite ink and digital illustrations by Jensine Eckwall."

- Casey



Little Shrew

by Akiko Miyakoshi

"Illustrations are steeped in nostalgia and the story captures what it means to live a simple but good life."

- Victoria



Sometimes We Fall

by Randall de Sève

"In her follow up to *This Story is Not About a Kitten*, de Sève weaves a tender tale about resiliency."

- Casey



Viewfinder

by Christine D. U. Chung

"Fans of Peter Brown's *The Wild Robot* and adult viewers of *Scavengers Reign* will feel right at home."

- Casey



Just Like Caitlin

by Ally Obermeier

"The illustrations are cute and this book would make a great read-aloud."

- Anne W.

Looking for the most in-demand books for kids this year? The Iowa City Public Library team has you covered with these top picks! From heartwarming stories to exciting adventures, these titles are sure to captivate young readers. Check them out, and explore even more at search.icpl.org!

See pg. 3 for more recommendations



Director's Letter

Elsworth Carman, *ICPL Director*

Every year at this time, we invite our community to explore the resources we offer at the Iowa City Public Library by visiting the Main Library or Bookmobile, browsing our online databases and collections, or exploring our program calendar. Whether you're a power user or new to the Library, we're here to help you find the materials, information, and activities that will enrich your life.

Your Iowa City Public Library card provides full access to everything we offer. We have various types of cards available and look forward to getting you registered soon. Visit our website (icpl.org/card), give us a call at 319-356-5200, or stop by for more information.

We are committed to making our services accessible to the entire community and would love to hear your thoughts on how we can better serve you. I can be reached at 319-356-5241, elsworth-carman@icpl.org, or via the QR code below; your feedback and ideas are appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of the ICPL community,
Elsworth Carman



Fall Into a Great Read with ICPL's Picks

Looking for your next great read this fall? The Iowa City Public Library is here to make your literary journey even more exciting!



Staff Picks

Let ICPL's staff of readers and watchers help you find what you're looking for!



What's NEW?

There's always something new at the Library. See new additions to the collection.



Recently Returned

Curious what other people are reading? Explore what others have recently borrowed.



Featured Collections

Looking for something topical? Browse titles around themes.



Surprise Me!

Love Serendipity? Try our randomizer - you never know what you might find!



Choose your favorite way to find something to borrow at

icpl.org/browse

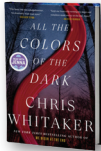


Check out ICPL's most in-demand titles of 2024!

What Iowa City is Reading

Anne Mangano, Collections Services Coordinator

Adult Fiction



All the Colors of the Dark
by Chris Whitaker
1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending, Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing.



The Briar Club
by Kate Quinn
An intimate and thrilling novel of secrets and loyalty put to the test.



The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore
When a teenager vanishes from her Adirondack summer camp, two worlds collide.

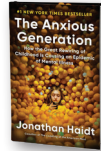


Same as it Ever Was
by Claire Lombardo
Iowa Citian Lombardo's novel examines the complete and complicated trajectory of one woman's life and asks what it takes to form and keep a family.



The Wedding People
by Alison Espach
A propulsive and wise novel about one unexpected wedding guest and the surprising people who help her start anew.

Adult Non-Fiction



The Anxious Generation
by Jonathan Haidt
An investigation into the collapse of youth mental health-and a plan for a healthier, freer childhood.



The Art of Power
by Nancy Pelosi
Political memoir that tells the story of the author's transformation from housewife to House Speaker.



Men Have Called Her Crazy
by Anna Marie Tendler
When Tendler checked herself into a psychiatric hospital, she underwent myriad tests and therapies. Here, she examines her experiences and the pressures modern women face.



The Friday Afternoon Club
by Griffin Dunne
A memoir and coming-of-age story chronicling the successes and disappointments of Dunne and his multigenerational family of larger-than-life characters.



The Backyard Bird Chronicles
by Amy Tan
With boundless charm and wit, Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world.



AIM

STUDENT CARD
ACCESS TO INFORMATION & MATERIALS

AIM gives students access to Coralville, Iowa City, and North Liberty public libraries. This card, which doubles as a school ID, gives students access to check out 3 books

(or audiobooks) at a time from each library, as well as digital resources, without fines or fees. For more information about this card, ask a school librarian, contact your public library, or visit:

iowacityaimcard.org





Reading Against the Tide: *How One Patron Challenges Censorship*

Sam Helmick, *Community & Access Services Coordinator*

Article continued from pg. 1

She discovered the ICPL Bookmobile, which conveniently visits the aquatic center every week, providing her with access a wide array of materials, the ability to return books, and place holds for titles from the Downtown Library. Partnerships between the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department and the Iowa City Public Library create these moments of connection, fostering learning even as participants float from their municipal pool right on to the steps of the Library's Bookmobile.

Her journey through banned literature led her to dive deep into themes of racial justice in *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and delve into the complexities of empathy and love. Reflecting on the novel, Mary Lou shared, "The Hate U Give changed how I see the world. Angie Thomas' words opened my eyes to the systemic injustices faced by Black communities. It's the kind of story that sticks with you and pushes you to act."

Tale by Margaret Atwood, Mary Lou found herself grappling with the stark portrayal of gender dynamics and societal structures. "The Handmaid's Tale taught me to examine how we approach each other socially and how we build systems that deserve scrutiny. It's a reminder that what we accept today can shape our tomorrow in ways we may not fully understand," she said.

Mary Lou's exhaustive list of titles includes *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker—works that explore the resilience of those who face trauma and adversity.

Through reading these powerful stories, she's gained a richer understanding of the human experience, fueling her advocacy for intellectual freedom. Mary Lou's reading adventure underscores the crucial role of libraries. "The library is about borrowing books; each of those books serves as a gateway to understanding our world and ourselves," she says. "The conversations and con-

nections that emerge from seemingly random interactions reveal powerful truths and broaden our perspectives. I encourage everyone to lean into their libraries—they're essential for appreciating the world around us."

In a world where information is often debated or restricted, Mary Lou's story highlights the power of literature in revealing truth. Libraries, through their diverse collections and community programs, play an invaluable role in fostering this exploration and dialogue, ultimately shaping a more informed, better-connected, and empathetic society.

The Intellectual Freedom Festival at the Iowa City Public Library begins during the last week of September and offers a unique opportunity for the community to engage in enhanced scrutiny and examination of censorship, providing a platform for those eager to learn more and join the conversation.



Fall 2024 Schedule Aug 26 - Dec 20

Monday

- 9:00-9:30 Scooter's Coffee
- 9:45-10:15 Oaknoll East
- 10:30-11:15 Willowwind School
- 11:30-12:00 North Dodge Hy-Vee
- 1:30-2:00 Emma J Harvat Square Park
- 2:15-2:45 Hy-Vee Drugstore, Rochester
- 3:00-3:30 Legacy Independent Living
- 3:45-4:30 Lemme Elementary

Tuesday

- 9:00-9:30 Sidekick Coffee & Books
- 9:45-10:15 Melrose Meadows
- 10:30-11:30 Oaknoll Retirement Community
- 11:45-12:30 UI College of Medicine Courtyard
- 1:30-2:00 Fin & Feather
- 2:45-3:15 Atrium Village
- 4:00-4:30 La Petite Academy of Iowa City

Wednesday

- 1:30-2:00 ICCSD Home School Assistance Program (HSAP)
- 2:30-3:00 Willow Creek Park
- 3:15-3:35 Weber Elementary
- 4:00-4:30 Lincoln Elementary

Thursday

- 9:00-9:30 Community & Family Resources
- 9:45-10:15 Mercer Park
- 10:30-11:00 St. Mark's United Methodist Church
- 11:15-12:00 First Avenue Hy-Vee
- 2:15-2:45 Twain Elementary
- 3:00-3:30 Grant Wood
- 4:00-5:30 Fareway Grocery, GreenState Credit Union, Mormon Trek Blvd

Friday

- 1:30-2:00 Fairmeadows Park
- 2:15-2:45 Regency Heights Senior Living
- 3:15-4:00 Hoover Elementary



ICPL's 2024 Youth Empowered to Serve (Y.E.S.) Interns.

Say Y.E.S. to the Public Library!

Christelle, Y.E.S. Intern

Edited by Inayah Smith, Teen Services Volunteer

This summer, the Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) partnered with the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County to host four teen interns through the Youth Empowered to Serve (Y.E.S.) program.

Through this program, the interns engaged with various departments, participated in community activities, and learned how the library plays a vital role in serving the diverse needs of its patrons. Their experiences highlighted the library as a dynamic hub of learning, support, and community engagement.

Many people think of libraries as places filled solely with books, but there's so much more happening at the Iowa City Public Library. When I began my internship, I expected to spend most of my time organizing shelves or cataloging books. However, I quickly realized that the library offers a variety of services far beyond just books.

At ICPL, there are several departments dedicated to enhancing the community experience. For example, the Reference and Information department helps visitors navigate the library and answers any questions they might have. This is just one of the many ways the library serves its patrons.

Mariline, another YES intern, highlighted her favorite experiences at the Library: "Three of my favorite parts were the job shadows with Children's programs, [being in] the teen room, and watching broken machines get fixed."

Sydney, another intern, found joy in various activities: "Shadowing the paggers, running around getting books for people that are on hold, working in the garden—watering it, trimming plants, pulling them. That was wonderful. And of course, dropping lasagna," she said with a smile.

Louis, reflecting on the Library's broader impact, noted, "It's a safe place for homeless people, and a place where random kids can watch movies."

Our experiences helped us see that the Iowa City Public Library is much more than a place to borrow books—it's a dynamic community space where everyone can find something valuable.

In conclusion, the Library is a perfect place for ambitious people. The library accepts and supports everyone, so that there are no outsiders in the library. And the experience is free—a free opportunity for learning and community. The staff are constantly adapting to their patrons' wants and needs to be inclusive and make everyone feel safe and welcome.

The value of the library for giving other people opportunities is priceless; the library is a place where cultures, thoughts, and other identities blend to create the population that frequents the building.



Scan here for weather alerts, schedule updates, and more info about the bookmobile!
icpl.org/bookmobile



2024 Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival & Banned Books Week

Jason Paulios, *Adult Services Coordinator*

In 1995, the Iowa City Public Library established the annual Carol Spaziani Intellectual Freedom Festival to honor Carol Spaziani's 27-year career at ICPL and her lifelong commitment to the freedom of ideas. Spaziani believed that the public library's role is to be a resource and a forum for an individual's pursuit and expression of diverse points of view.

The festival is planned by a library committee that monitors current intellectual freedom issues and organizes programs of interest for area residents. This year's festival will address the numerous recent challenges, book bans, and legislative restrictions affecting libraries, classrooms, and workplaces. Many of the targeted books involve stories and experiences of marginalized populations, such as the

LGBTQIA+ community, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color. ICPL is dedicated to highlighting these issues during the festival, with events and displays kicking off during the American Library Association's annual Banned Books Week in the last week of September. Celebrate your intellectual freedom and join us at the Library for programs and discussions.

The theme for Banned Books Week 2024 (September 22-28) is "Freed Between the Lines." We can find freedom in the pages of a book — but book bans and censorship threaten that freedom, along with other rights and institutions. During Banned Books Week 2024 and beyond, let's share our love of the right to read and the freedom found in books. Let's be Freed Between the Lines!

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the Iowa City Public Library's Intellectual Freedom Festival and Banned Book Week or visit icpl.org/iff.



BANNED BOOKS
WEEK Sept. 22-28, 2024
ALA.ORG/BBOOKS/BANNED

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Manny Galvez, EDITOR
Madison Bartlett, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

CONTRIBUTORS:
Elsworth Carman
Anne Mangano
Sam Helmick
Jason Paulios
Christelle, Y.E.S. INTERN

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LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: Thursday 10 AM - 9 PM
Friday: 10 AM - 8 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday: Noon - 5 PM

CONTACT US

123 S. Linn St.
Iowa City, IA 52240-1820
PHONE 319.356.5200
WEBSITE icpl.org

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Intellectual Freedom Festival & Banned Book Week Events

Preschool Stories & More: IFF Film Festival

Thurs, Sept. 26, 10:30 AM, *Storytime Room*

Enjoy several animated shorts of frequently banned or challenged picture books.

Totally Tweens: Cookies & Comics (Banned Books Week Edition!) Drama

Thurs, Sept. 26, 4 PM, *Storytime Room*

Tweens are invited to a monthly book club to listen to a graphic novel read-aloud.

Keith Haring, Censorship, & the Power of Art

Thurs, Sept. 26, 6 PM, *Meeting Room A*

This collaborative event by the Stanley Museum of Art, Obermann Center, and ICPL will explore the enduring impact of Keith Haring's work in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the power of art and information in the face of censorship.

Family Storytime: Local Author Visit with Jill Cronbaugh

Sat, Sept. 28, 10:30 AM, *Storytime Room*

Join Jill Cronbaugh for a read-aloud of her picture book "*Connor's A Unicorn*".

Drag Family Storytime with Bookmobile

Sat, Sept. 28, 11:30 AM, *Meeting Room A*

Fun costumes are encouraged and we will have silly props available as we read stories, sing, and dance with local drag kings and queens.

Intellectual Freedom Festival (IFF) Celebration

Sat, Oct. 5, 10 AM - 3 PM, *Lobby, Storytime Room, and Second Floor*

Join us for crafts, interactive displays, storytimes, refreshments, and the ICPL Friends Foundation Book Sale!

Amanda Jones, *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*

Sat, Oct. 19, 10 AM, *Meeting Room A*

Mapping the book banning crisis occurring across the nation, *That Librarian* draws the battlelines in the war against equity and inclusion, calling book lovers everywhere to rise in defense of our readers.

Josh Cowen, *The Privateers: How Billionaires Created a Culture War & Sold School Vouchers*

Sat, Oct. 19, 11:30 AM, *Meeting Room A*

Cowen lays bare the surprising history of tax-funded school choice programs in the United States and warns of the dangers of privatization.

ICPL Friends Foundation Pop Up Book Sale During Iowa City Book Festival

Sat, Oct. 19, 10 AM - 3 PM, *Lobby, PopUp Storefront*

Join us for a pay what you can used book sale in the ICPL Lobby during the Iowa City Book Festival!



Interested in our events?

Find all programs online at:
icpl.org/calendar



Giving is Easy!

Online - Visit icpl.org/donate to use your credit card for a monthly or one-time donation.

Mail - Deliver or mail this completed form with a check payable to Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) Friends Foundation. Mail to ICPL Development Office, 123 S. Linn St., Iowa City IA 52240-1803.

Text - iclibrary to 366283

Payroll deduction - Employees of the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, The University of Iowa, or other local public and private employers can donate through Iowa Shares by naming "Iowa City Public Library Friends Foundation" at bit.ly/IAshares

Enclosed is my/our contribution of \$ _____

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**Local
Postal Customer**

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arts and
crafts
bazaar



December 7

**Donations accepted at the
Library until December 6!**

