



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2016

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~ Media Advisory ~

BANNED BOOKS READ-OUT IN SPRINGFIELD

*Featuring teens reading **Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out***

To celebrate free speech and honor defenders of First Amendment rights, the Springfield Public Library will host a Banned Books Read-Out event. Admission is free.

On Friday, September 30, from noon to 4:00pm, students from the Academy of Arts and Academics will celebrate the freedom to read with a read-out of Suzanne Kuklin's groundbreaking work of young adult nonfiction, "*Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*," in the Springfield City Hall Lobby, 225 5th Street. Teens will read aloud passages from *Beyond Magenta*, one of the top ten most challenged books of 2015. Everyone is invited to stop by to listen, borrow books that have been targeted for censorship from the library, and pin on free "I Read Banned Books" buttons.

Banned Books Week 2016 celebrates diversity. It is estimated that over half of all banned books are by authors of color, or contain events and issues concerning diverse communities, according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. This year's Banned Books Week will celebrate literature written by diverse writers that has been banned or challenged, as well as explore why diverse books are being disproportionately singled out in the first place. Michelle Lewis, chair of the City of Springfield's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, will kick off the event.

Many people are under the impression that attempted censorship is a thing of the past or that "it doesn't happen here." In fact, individuals and groups continue to request -- or demand -- that public and school libraries remove or restrict access to particular books, music, films, and other resources.

For information about recent censorship attempts in Oregon, visit the Oregon State Library's Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse website <https://www.oregon.gov/osl/LD/Pages/projects/OIFC/index.aspx> or the ACLU of Oregon website: www.aclu-or.org/bannedbooks

For information about frequently challenged books and censorship attempts around the country, visit the American Library Association's Banned Books page <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek> For information about Banned Books Week, visit <http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/>

What: Banned Books Read-Out event

When: Friday, September 30, 2016 from noon - 4pm

Where: Springfield City Hall lobby located at 225 5th St, Springfield, OR 97477

Additional Information: Contact Thea Hart, 541-726-2238 or thart@springfield-or.gov