

PUBLIC Periodical



Public Periodical – October 2025

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK OCT. 5–11, 2025



~~CENSORSHIP~~
is so 1984

READ FOR
YOUR RIGHTS

Banned Books Week is October 5–11: Defend the Freedom to Read

Censorship is threatening libraries across America. Coordinated book bans are targeting YOUR freedom to read – and these events help raise awareness and spur action to defend our rights.

This Banned Books Week, stand with us in defense of intellectual freedom.

The History of Book Bans & Burnings: Ellen Rajnisz from Burning Books traces book bans from the 19th century to today's surge of censorship. **Crane Branch / Monday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.**

Read for Your Rights Display: An interactive black light exhibit highlighting challenged books. Free swag available during regular library hours. **Aurora Town Public Library / Monday–Saturday, October 6–11 (during open hours)**

Three Fearless Advocates, One Vital Conversation: Hear stories of courage, censorship and the right to choose what we read with Martha Hickson, Carolyn Foote and Becky Calzada. **Kenmore Branch / Tuesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.**

Embrace Banned Books: Write to banned authors, enjoy live readings, and join the Rainbow Collective for a scavenger hunt. All ages welcome. **Hamburg Public Library / Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 p.m.**

Banned Together Film Screening: Watch an inspiring documentary on students fighting to reinstate 97 banned books. Includes panel discussion and free popcorn. **Merriweather Branch / Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 p.m.**

A ***Freedom to Read*** display featuring past and current banned books can be viewed throughout the month of October at the Central Library. The books are from the private collection of the late Library Director John Spears.

The Librarians (Partner Event): Oscar-nominated filmmaker Kim A. Snyder's powerful documentary on librarians defending democracy. **Part of the Buffalo International Film Festival, \$ tickets available [here](#).** Buffalo Toronto Public Media, 140 Lower Terrace, Buffalo / Saturday, October 11, 2:15 p.m.

Your library. Your rights. Your voice matters.



Every day, books drive breakthroughs at your Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Support this mission by joining us for our annual **Books, Bites & Banter Happy Hour** fundraiser benefiting the Bucks for Books campaign. Joining us for this fundraiser — or making a tax-deductible donation — helps keep our 37 locations stocked with current materials.

When: Tuesday, October 21 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Where: Big Ditch Brewing Co., 55 E. Huron, Buffalo (2nd floor, stair access only)

Cost: \$35 (includes 2 drinks & hors d'oeuvres)

Get tickets: <https://bl.buffalolib.org/Bites-2025>

Thank you to our sponsors: Fire Safety Systems, Bond, Schoeneck & King, and Allstate General Contracting Inc.



Citizen Emergency Preparedness Workshops

Western New York is no stranger to weather-related emergencies. Join us and the New York State Division of Homeland Security for a workshop on emergency preparation to help you get ready with confidence. Attendees receive a free preparedness kit.

When: Saturday, October 11 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Central Meeting Room, Central Library

Who: All ages welcome

Learn practical tips and strategies to keep your family safe during emergencies.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3wn4k4h8>

Another session is being offered on Saturday, November 15 at 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Lake Shore Public Library. Details [here](#).

PROFOUNDLY SPOOKY!

Check out these fang-tastic Halloween events happening at libraries across Erie County throughout October. From spooky storytimes to costume parties and Halloween movies, there's something for every purple people-eater in your life!

- **The Origins of Halloween:** Witches, goblins, black cats and bats all contribute to the festivities of this holiday. But where did it all begin? We'll look back to the origins of Halloween and its traditions. **Eden Library / Thursday, October 9, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**
- **Halloween Spooktacular Party:** Stop in for a frightfully good time with glow-in-the-dark mini golf, crafts and a spooky sensory table. Cindy Hanna will lead a Halloween Dance Party at 11:00 a.m. For all ages. Don't forget your costume! **Lancaster Public Library / Saturday, October 18, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
- **Movie Day:** Join us while we watch *Halloweentown* (1998, rated TV-PG). Snacks will be provided. Walk-ins welcome if space is available. **Anna Reinstein Memorial Library / Saturday, October 25, 1:00–2:15 p.m.**
- **Kidding Around Yoga Halloween Class:** For children ages 3–12. Halloween yoga poses and fun! Halloween costumes welcome. Parent/caregiver must remain with children ages 3–5. **Clarence Public Library / Thursday, October 30, 1:30–2:00 p.m.**

BOO!



Tarot Thursdays at Central Library

Discover the art of Tarot! Join our Rare Books Curator each Thursday in October for a fascinating show-and-tell featuring decks from Central Library's growing collection of over 10 different Tarot decks.

When: Thursdays in October | 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Where: Grosvenor Room, Central Library

Who: Teens and adults welcome

Compare beautiful decks and explore recurring visual archetypes in this unique series. While these rare decks aren't for readings, you'll gain insight into the artistry and symbolism of Tarot.

What's HAPPENING.

- **Itty Bitty Storytime:** Join Miss Carly for a baby & toddler storytime with stories, songs and fun activities for our littlest friends. Ages 0–2 with a caregiver. Registration required. **Grand Island Memorial Library / Thursdays, 10:00–10:30 a.m.**
- **Storytime:** Join us for Thursday morning stories—often with Mindy, a certified SPCA Paws for Love therapy dog! **North Park Branch / Thursday, October 16, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**
- **Future Investors Right Energy:** Join this financial discussion group to learn about smart energy and financial choices. Open to adults—drop-in, no registration required. **Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch / Monday, October 20, 4:00–5:00 p.m.**
- **English Conversations for the U.S. Citizenship Test:** Meet with Jim to practice English conversations in preparation for the U.S. Citizenship Test. Open to adults and all ages—drop-in program. **Lackawanna Public Library / Wednesday, October 22, 5:00–6:00 p.m.**
- **Job Fair:** Meet with local employers and agencies in partnership with the NYS Department of Labor. **Central Library / Friday, November 14, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
- **WNY Computer Coaching:** Free computer classes for adult beginners. Bring your own laptop or use one provided. Class size limited to 5; registration required at 716-896-4433 or in person. **Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch / Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

For all event listings, check out the library system calendar [here](#).

Stop by, and bring a friend — we hope you make the Library part of your month!

Profoundly
PUBLIC.