



Contact: Alan Bern
Community Relations Librarian
(510) 981-6107
alb2@ci.berkeley.ca.us

For Immediate Release
August 27, 2008

**It's Banned Books Week at the Berkeley Public Library:
September 27 through October 4, 2008**

***Berkeley* – Fall's coming soon and soon it will be Banned Books Week at the Berkeley Public Library! Come join us at a Public Reading in the Library Plaza in front of Central Library, 2090 Kittredge Street (at Shattuck) in downtown Berkeley, on Monday, September 29, 3:30-5pm. Books for all ages for readers of all ages! Come celebrate your right to read with us!**

Listen, watch, or participate in readings from a smorgasbord of **BANNED BOOKS** such as:

- Selections from **The Bible**
- Alice Walker's **The Color Purple**
- Philip Pullman's **The Golden Compass**
- Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's **And Tango Makes Three**
- Garth Williams's **The Rabbits' Wedding**

For a second consecutive year, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's award-winning "And Tango Makes Three," a children's book about two male penguins caring for an orphaned egg, tops the list of American Library Association's (ALA) 10 Most Challenged Books of 2007.

Three books are new to the list "Olive's Ocean," by Kevin Henkes; "The Golden Compass," by Philip Pullman; and "TTYL," by Lauren Myracle.

"Free access to information is a core American value that should be protected," said Judith F. Krug, director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. "Not every book is right for each reader, but an individual's interpretation of a book should not take away my right to select reading materials for my family or myself."

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, this annual ALA event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. This year, 2008, marks **Banned Books Week's (BBW's)** 27th anniversary (September 27 through October 4).

BBW is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, American Library Association, American Society of Journalists and Authors, Association of American Publishers, National Association of College Stores, and is endorsed by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

For more info on book challenges and censorship, please visit the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom's Banned Books Web site at www.ala.org/bbooks. Even more info at <http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/>.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom is charged with implementing ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights, the Association's basic policy on free access to libraries and library materials. The goal of the office is to educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries.

The "10 Most Challenged Books of 2007" reflect a range of themes, and consist of the following titles:

1. "And Tango Makes Three," by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell
Reasons: Anti-Ethnic, Sexism, Homosexuality, Anti-Family, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group
2. "The Chocolate War," by Robert Cormier
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Violence
3. "Olive's Ocean," by Kevin Henkes
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language
4. "The Golden Compass," by Philip Pullman
Reasons: Religious Viewpoint
5. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," by Mark Twain
Reasons: Racism
6. "The Color Purple," by Alice Walker
Reasons: Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language,
7. "TTYL," by Lauren Myracle
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
8. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou
Reasons: Sexually Explicit
9. "It's Perfectly Normal," by Robie Harris
Reasons: Sex Education, Sexually Explicit
10. "The Perks of Being A Wallflower," by Stephen Chbosky
Reasons: Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group

For more information from ALA
Contact: Macey Morales
Manager, Media Relations
(312) 280-4393
mmorales@ala.org

#####