

Good Morning! Today in EYE-OPENER September 21, 2015

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1) Surprise Visit to State Library by...: Everyone who attended the Town Meeting last week would be able to fill in that blank—the President of the U.S. made an unscheduled stop last Monday at the State Library building. Wait...what?! State Librarian Michael Scott was stunned when he learned that President Obama would be arriving at the Miller Building for an impromptu meet-and-greet; Mr. Obama was in Des Moines to speak at a town hall meeting at North High School.

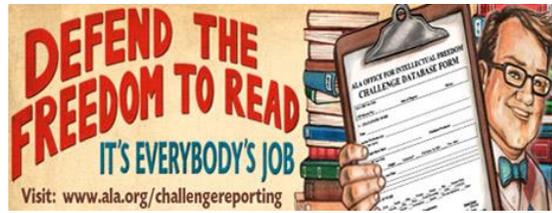
From the Des Moines Register 9/14: "...'*Since we are in Iowa to talk about education, a great place to start is the State Library,' Obama remarked. He was greeted by State Librarian Michael Scott and several library staffers and asked Michael 'How do you get to be State Librarian? It is a very cool title...' "*

He was there just over 1 hour; during his visit, the President was interviewed by Iowa author Marilynne Robinson for an article to appear in the *New York Review of Books*. Robinson is an essayist and novelist who received the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2012.

Not just any old Monday for State Library staff in Des Moines lucky enough to be in the building that day. Thanks to Michael for sharing this great story at our Town Meeting in Storm Lake! And while staffers were not allowed to take selfies with the POTUS, luckily Des Moines Register photographers captured incredibly memorable moments. Like the one above...that's Michael on the left!!

From left: Michael Scott, Gary Krob, Pres.Obama, Helen Dagley, Barb Corson



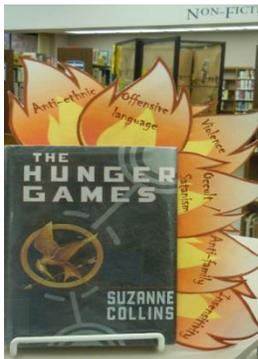


2) Banned Books Week Sept27—Oct3: There's still time to get your **Banned Books Week** groove on! This year's freedom to read recognition week is **September 27-October 3**. And this year, young adult books are the focus. The American Library Association is a lead sponsor, joined by the American Booksellers Association, the National Council of English Teachers, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the Freedom to Read Foundation, among others.

Along with promotional materials like posters, bookmarks, press releases, and video clips, ALA compiles lists of the most frequently challenged and/or banned books through the years. Among the most frequently challenged books in 2014 were

- ✓ The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
- ✓ Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
- ✓ The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
- ✓ A Stolen Life by Jaycee Dugard
- ✓ The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

With **Banned Books** lists in hand, libraries have fashioned very creative displays using challenged titles. Here are some notables:



Storm Lake



Spirit Lake



Coralville

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote "*every burned book enlightens the world.*" Find your inspiration for celebrating **Banned Books Week @ Your Library** at the BBW website <http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/> and at the ALA website <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek>



3) Celebrate City Week: This promotion was new last year—and pretty cool. October 12-16, the Iowa League of Cities is lending its sponsorship to the second annual “City Week,” an effort help promote good government in Iowa and to help cities highlight the important role local government plays in the lives of Iowans.

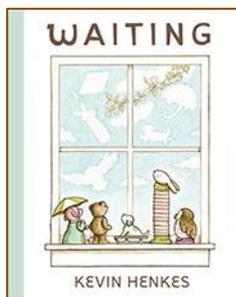
An impressive number of other Iowa organizations and agencies are gearing up to recognize **City Week**, themselves wanting to promote good government. Among them are the

- ✓ Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- ✓ Iowa Firefighters Association
- ✓ Iowa Police Chiefs Association
- ✓ Iowa Public Airports Association
- ✓ Iowa Parks & Recreation Association
- ✓ And...The Iowa Library Association!

From the website: “...**City Week** is part of an ongoing effort to raise public awareness about the services that cities perform and to educate the public on how city government works. Involve local schools, businesses, chambers of commerce, media and civic clubs in planning **City Week** activities in your community...”

So with this being second time around, let’s throw public libraries more prominently into the mix! Contact your own city hall to see if any plans are in motion—then find your place in the planning process. The **City Week** website <http://cityweekiowa.com/> notes a few frequently asked questions and suggests that you take photos of **City Week** activities in your community, then share those photos with the Iowa League of Cities.

Back on the **City Week** website, you’ll find an Idea Box, logos, and **Facts About Cities** material to display. Be sure to promote activities on your social platforms; in doing so, use **#CityWeekIowa**. Especially in light of an ILA conference session that Brandie Ledford and I will be presenting titled “**City Library, City Service,**” we’d love to hear your stories from **City Week 2015!**



4) Win a Visit By Author Kevin Henkes: Harper Collins Publishing is running a promotion for their children’s author Kevin Henkes and his book Waiting. This promotion sounds fun and easy—all it involves is a creative display using Harper Collins’ promo kit. Acquire the kit by emailing schoolandlibrary@harpercollins.com; be sure to include the mailing address of your library and use the subject line “Waiting promo kit request.” (available while supplies last...)

If your library is able to secure a promo kit, then set about building a winning display ☺ You have until **October 15**—by then, you'll need to fill out an online entry form, with up to 4 photos of your display. The grand prize is an appearance by Kevin Hankes, along with a custom window display created by Henkes himself. Runners-up will receive a set of signed books. Winners will be notified by November 30. There is no purchase necessary; this contest is open to bookstores and libraries nationwide.

With so many creative children's librarians out there, some Iowa library should have a good chance at this, so why not give it a whirl ☺ Find the entry form and more details here <http://harperstacks.harpercollins.com/waitingcontest>

5) Meetings / Events This Week: Fall is typically a premier season for continuing education and this fall is no exception. Following last week's 2-day workshop in Storm Lake, **Wednesday** of this week boasts the "**Performers Showcase**," sponsored by Iowa Library Services and hosted by Sioux Center Public Library. Attendees are sure to enjoy this entertaining day watching a variety of SRP performers auditioning their best material ☺

On **Thursday September 24, Dickinson County** holds its annual **Staff Development Day** with Spirit Lake PL hosting this year.

Plenty more national webinars in September—find those registration and other details here <http://www.statelibraryofiaowa.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

September 21. 7:00-8:00PM. *Teacher-Librarian News Night* sponsored by Teacher Librarian Virtual Café <http://tlvirtualcafe.wikispaces.com/TL+News+Night>

September 22. 1:00-2:00PM. *Romantic Sounds: The Art of Narrating Audiobooks of the Romance Genre* sponsored by Booklist <http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars>

September 22. 1:00-2:00PM. *Successful Programming for Babies and Toddlers* sponsored by Infopeople <http://infopeople.org/training/view/webinar>

September 24. 1:00-2:00PM. *Navigating the World of Donated and Discounted Technology* sponsored by TechSoup <http://www.techsoup.org/community/events-webinars/default>

September 24. 1:00-2:00PM. *Reaching Reluctant Readers: Finding Appropriate High-Interest Content that Engages and Inspires* sponsored by Booklist <http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars>



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