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AAUW Ashland & Jackson County Library Services  
October 8, 2024 "Big Ideas" Program

## What's Up with Efforts to Ban Library Books?

Between January 1 and August 31, 2023, the American Library Association (ALA) reported 695 attempts to censor library materials and services in the United States and documented challenges to 1,915 unique titles – a 20 percent increase from the same reporting period in 2022. And that year saw the highest number of book challenges since ALA began compiling data more than two decades ago.

**"Freedom to Read: Book Banning and Other Challenges Facing Libraries"** is the topic of a free public discussion on Tues., October 8, 4:00-5:30 p.m., in the Gresham Room at Ashland Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Part of the "Big Ideas" program series, it is presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Ashland Branch and Jackson County Library Services.

The speakers are Kari May, Library Director for Jackson County Library Services, and Marie Felgentrager, District Librarian/Media Specialist for Roseburg Public Schools. They will discuss the landscape of book challenges across the country and in our communities, as well as other issues facing libraries in the 21st Century.

May has 25 years of experience working in libraries in Colorado, Utah and Oregon and is a past president of the Colorado Library Association. A member of the Medford Rogue Rotary, she serves on the steering committee for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Jackson County and chairs Southern Oregon PBS's Community Advisory Board.

Felgentrager has been a public school librarian for 13 years and a teaching librarian for six years. As Head Librarian at Roseburg High School, she serves a student population of more than 1,500, plus oversees eight elementary and two middle school libraries. Felgentrager is also a contract Library Specialist for the Southern Oregon Educational Service District and a Specialty Library Coach for the Douglas Educational Service District. In 2022, she was named Oregon Intellectual Freedom Champion and now serves as the Oregon Association of School Librarians Intellectual Freedom Committee Representative.

Questions? Contact AAUW "Big Ideas" coordinator Marilyn Hawkins, (541) 708-6697, [mhawkins@prhawk.com](mailto:mhawkins@prhawk.com); or Ellie Anderson, Ashland Library, (541) 774-6896, [EAnderson@jcls.org](mailto:EAnderson@jcls.org).

<b>2024-2025 "Big Ideas" Schedule</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Ashland Library</b>
Oct. 8	"Freedom to Read: Book Banning & Other Challenges Facing Libraries"	
Nov. 12	"One Brick at a Time: Rebuilding the Oregon Shakespeare Festival"	
Jan. 7	"The Current State of Local/Regional Journalism"	
Feb. 4	"The Teenage Brain: Impacts on Despair, Homelessness & Substance Abuse"	
March 4	"Oregon Gun Laws Still Under Fire? An Update on Measure 114"	