

DATE: 18 September 2009
TO: Penobscot County librarians
FROM: Stephanie Harp, on behalf of Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance
RE: Banned Books Week/Big Read event

Thanks to a Big Read grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance will sponsor events in each of Maine's sixteen counties during Banned Books Week, September 27-October 3, all focused on *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

With the help of River City Cinema, the Penobscot County event will be a free showing of the 1966 movie "Fahrenheit 451" on Saturday, October 3, at 7 p.m., at the Penobscot Theatre's Bangor Opera House, 131 Main Street, Bangor. The screening will be followed by a discussion of "Censorship and the New Social Media," with local journalists, writers, and teachers.

This event will follow the close of the Third Annual Bangor Book Festival, which runs Friday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m., through Saturday, October 3 at 4:45 p.m., at several venues in downtown Bangor. <http://www.bangorbookfest.org/index.htm> This year's keynote address is by Douglas Preston, author of *The Monster of Florence*. Preston himself was caught up in an investigation by the Italian government of his research and writing.
<http://www.prestonchild.com/solonovels/preston/monsterofflorence/>

We will be publicizing the movie screening around the Bangor area with Big Read/NEA posters, locally designed flyers, a news release, and the very social media outlets that we will be discussion after the movie (Facebook, Twitter, and the like). I also have a stack of Big Read bookmarks, *Fahrenheit 451* Reading Guides from the NEA, and small number of audio reading guides. If you would like any of these items for use at your library, both to publicize the event and to support whatever plans you have for Banned Books Week, please let me know.

Thank you,
Stephanie Harp

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Founded in 1975, Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance (MWPA) is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to enrich the cultural life of Maine by supporting writers, publishers, and the literary arts. MWPA is Maine's only statewide literary arts organization.
<http://www.mainewriters.org>

River City Cinema is an 8-yr-old not-for-profit organization dedicated to showing independent

and foreign films at venues around the Bangor area. <http://www.rivercitycinema.com>

Penobscot Theatre is America's Northeastern-most professional theatre company.

<http://www.penobscottheatre.org/>

Big Read, a project of the National Endowment for the Arts, is dedicated to “Creating a Nation of Readers by...inspiring people across the country to pick up a good book. Listen to radio programs, watch video profiles, and read brief essays about classic authors.”

<http://www.neabigread.org/events/>