

# The Idea!

The Newsletter for the Western Sullivan Public Library

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## Free to read, you and me

### Take It Or Read It

Callicoon patrons:



Ginger Townsend is reading the first of two Nancy Drew books. Her favorite character so far? Who else...Nancy!



Timothy Sloan appreciates the computer access and friendly staff at the Callicoon branch.



Mary White (former director of Delaware Free Library) loves the collection of vintage mysteries and the ability to get books on loan from other libraries.

Books that have appeared on a "banned" list at certain libraries or schools for years include *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

By Susan Scott  
WSPL Director

Sept. 26 to Oct. 3 is Banned Books Week, a celebration of our freedom to read and access materials without bias — and a perfect time to reflect on the role of libraries in the pursuit of this freedom.

Ideas are powerful things. They propel us forward, help us look back and lead us to a more informed future. We make decisions based on the knowledge we gain. As parents, teachers, friends and participants in our communi-

ties, we make decisions that require investigation of many different sources and viewpoints. We make important decisions for how we live and act in the world and how we wish the world to view us. A public library provides access to a broad variety of materials with the intent of creating an open environment for the dissemination of all types of information. Public libraries light the path of knowledge.

Libraries have long been on the front line of free speech. What we select to read and the idea that all possibilities are fully available is rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Proudly, Western Sullivan Public Library provides access and remains vigilant to the challenges associated with maintaining the freedom to read.

Be A Reading  
Revolutionary!  
Read BANNED Books!



### Notes from Narrowsburg

- At WSPL's branch in Narrowsburg, Knit-N-Stitch is a new gathering of anyone who likes to knit, crochet or sew — and those who want to learn! Every Monday, 6 to 8 p.m. Free.
- Friday Night Chess takes place at the Narrowsburg branch. It's the game of kings, open to all levels. Free. Fridays, 6 to 8 p.m.

## Put it on the calendar

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2:30, Jeffersonville Branch

**Vickie's Killer Cooking Show** bakes up a storm for all those teens (and their parents, siblings, grandparents and others) who are wary of the kitchen. Poet and dark queen of the kitchen, Vickie Diescher shares her expertise on the subject of "Quesadillas Are Not Just Flat Cheese Sandwiches."

Saturday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m., Jeffersonville Branch

**Teen Flix Video Debut** will showcase this summer's dramatic work by children who worked with videographer Ron Littke.

## Special 'Banned Books Week' Presentation

Our library's First Friday Contemporary Writers Series will feature two visiting authors on Friday, Oct. 2 at the Narrowsburg branch. The event will star with an open mike at 7:30 p.m. and feature noted authors Vera B. Williams and Ray McNiece beginning at 8 p.m. The library is at 198 Bridge St.



✦ Vera B. Williams of New York City and Narrowsburg will read from her latest book of poetry. Williams' eclectic background includes launching a cooperative community, raising three children, and starting a school. She's kept journals, studied Japanese calligraphy, designed covers for a pacifist magazine, and organized against militarism and injustice. "I love woods, the moon, rivers," she says, "but my being was mostly flavored in the soup pot of family and New York City's multi-ethnic neighborhoods. Mine was a fiercely scrapping, loud-talking, loving but unsettled family struggling to make a living, as were so many around us. We were radicals, world meddlers, people lovers, and lovers of literature, art, and music. My (writing) seems to be telling something of all that and, at the same time, celebrating it."

### Visit us now on Facebook

Are you a fan of Facebook, the popular social networking website? Be sure to check out the Western Sullivan Public Library page. To find the site, just login to Facebook and type "Western Sullivan Public Library" in the search box. You can become a fan, leave a comment or just check out library information.

Facebook, with more than 250 million active users worldwide, allows those participating to post a profile, add friends and send them messages, and update their profile to notify friends about themselves. Also, users can join networks organized by town, workplace, school, region — and public library. The website's name comes from the colloquial name of books given to college students at the start of the academic year to allow them to get to know one another.

"Intellectual freedom can exist only where two essential conditions are met: first, that all individuals have the right to hold any belief on any subject and to convey their ideas in any form they deem appropriate; and second, that society makes an equal commitment to the right of unrestricted access to information and ideas regardless of the communication medium used, the content of the work, and the viewpoints of both the author and receiver of information." — American Library Association

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✦ Ray McNiece has earned a national reputation as a poet and performer for almost two decades through his solo theater pieces, his poetry and music shows, his captaining of Poetry Slam Championship teams, his "edutaining" children's shows and workshops, and his yearly country-wide tours of performance poems, stories and songs. He is the author of six poetry books and the collaborative theatre work *Homegirl Meets Whiteboy*, with Shawn Jackson.



Poet and performer Ray McNiece not only co-headlines activities at the First Friday Writer Series on Oct. 2, but also visits our Jeffersonville branch on Thursday, Oct. 1 as Johnny Appleseed. McNiece will visit in character to tell Johnny's story, sing his songs, and celebrate his birthday. Free. Craft, snack, performance. Open to all ages. Jeffersonville Branch, 19 Center St. at 4:30 p.m. Please pre-register.