



Be Peace. Choose Peace. Create Peace.

PEACE THROUGH ACTION EVENT INFORMATION SHEET

Event Title	Bound Together: Understanding Book Censorship
Date, Time, Location	08/31/2023, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET
Event Webpage	Here
Event Description	

Bound Together: Understanding Book Censorship will explore the relationship between public access to literary material and cultivating peaceful communities. This virtual learning event on Thursday, August 31, 2023 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm ET will engage a variety of perspectives on book restrictions in educational and public service contexts. Enriched by reflections from professionals in the field, this interactive discussion will survey the significance of book restrictions in community cohesion, share resources for local initiatives, and share strategies for advocacy, education, and service. Participants will learn methods to build and preserve a culture of peace by promoting diverse modes of knowledge production and social understanding. While the term “book banning” often elicits a range of inflammatory connotations, this session aims to present the issue of public awareness and community bridge-building as fundamental elements of peacebuilding. After attending this event, participants will enhance their understanding of this controversial subject and examine the importance of the freedom to read in service of peace, harmony, and justice.

Presenter Biographies

Carlos Childs is the Southern Maryland Regional Community Organizer for the ACLU of Maryland. As Regional Organizer he has worked on legal justice reform, LGBTQ+ rights, education policies, and more. His regions cover Charles, Calvert, and Prince George’s County in Maryland. Aside from the ACLU of Maryland, Carlos has been a Southern Maryland activist for years fighting for worker rights and housing justice.

Sarah Hall, born and raised in Calvert County, has been an activist for peace and justice for over twenty years. She has worked to bring awareness to racial inequality, police brutality, and the marginalization of the LGBTQIA+ people in our community. She is also a visual arts educator and accomplished graphic artist with clients such as the American Red Cross, AARP, UNICEF, the American Association for Justice, SKDKnickerbocker, PBS, and the Center for Justice and Democracy. Learn more about her design work at sarahmariahall.com.

Chris Walonski, of Saint Petersburg, Florida, is the director of programs and partnerships development and delivery with [Peace Through Action USA](#). Chris is responsible for designing instruction in civic engagement and social engagement concepts and practices; writing and editing educational and promotional materials; planning and delivering educational activities; implementing performance management procedures; and engaging with organizations and networks aligned with Peace Through Action’s mission. Chris’s programmatic work has engaged a broad range of community intervention strategies and performance-based teaching methods. Prior to joining Peace Through Action USA, Chris served as a program researcher and professor of public speaking at East Tennessee State University. In this capacity, Chris married his passion for project development with the power of personal narrative to help produce a campus-wide sexual consent training program. Chris’ love for crafting educational experiences has taken him from

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public schools in Thailand to the Amazon rainforest of Peru. Upon returning to the United States as a program manager for the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), Chris designed and delivered a bilingual training program that incorporated an array of community partnerships serving multicultural and multilingual youth. Chris has served as an AmeriCorps member through Teach For America's Colorado Corps. Chris holds a Master of Arts in communication and storytelling studies from East Tennessee State University. As an avid learner, Chris has completed training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) and holds a CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) certification from Cambridge University. Chris is a grateful recipient of the Hemera Foundation's Fellowship for Contemplative Education and is an eager student of Buddhist meditation. In his personal time, Chris has toured the U.S. as a spoken word artist and National Poetry Slam champion.

Learning Resources

- [Event Webpage](#)
- [Event Presentation](#)
- [Event Recording](#)
- Explore resources from the [American Library Association's \(ALA\)](#) work to advocate and document efforts against book banning.
- Review [PEN America's](#) stance at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide.
- Survey the [National Coalition Against Censorship's \(NCAC\)](#) vision for an American society that understands, values, defends, and vigorously exercises free expression in a just, egalitarian, diverse, and inclusive democracy.
- Check out [Banned Books Week](#) which is an annual event that raises awareness about censorship and uplifts the freedom to read.
- Watch "[How a Book Ban Helped Us Find Our Voice](#)" by Christina Ellis & Edha Gupta discussing the impact of book banning on equitable access to information (video 13:53).
- View Jonathan Friedman's talk at TEDx titled "[This Talk May Be Banned in Schools](#)" (video 18:49).

Resources and Services in Calvert County, Maryland

- Connect with the [ACLU of Maryland](#), which focuses on defending civil rights and civil liberties in Maryland.
- Explore the [Banned Books Week](#) to read literature from the Calvert County Library.
- Engage with the [Calvert Library](#) to explore literature and defend the First Amendment in Calvert County.

Reading List

- "[Fahrenheit 451](#)" by Ray Bradbury
- "[1984](#)" by George Orwell
- "[Speak](#)" by Laurie Halse Anderson
- "[Beyond Banned Books: Defending Intellectual Freedom throughout Your Library](#)" by Kristin Pekoll