

Book bans in Oregon

By Eileen Wende, Past President

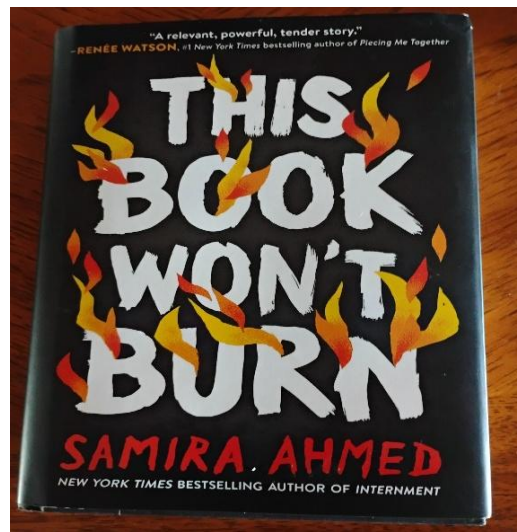
Recently the OEA-Retired Equity and Social Justice Book Club read author, Samira Ahmed's book, "This Book Won't Burn." Book Club members felt that this 'tween social-suspense novel, revolving around issues of racism, book banning, family relationships, student voice and student activism, was an engaging read for both teens and adults.

In reading this book, questions were raised in my mind about where we stood here in Oregon on book bans and challenges. An online search summarized that book challenges and attempts to ban books are on the rise, despite Oregon's landmark Senate Bill 1098, which passed in 2025.

The law prohibits school libraries and library districts from discriminating when selecting, retaining or removing materials, including book bans based solely on race, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation or disability of the authors, as well as the characters within the material. You can read the full text on the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS).

Challenges in Oregon are relatively low compared to nationwide challenges and are handled by local libraries and school districts on a case-by-case basis. Several books that have faced bans or challenges here in Oregon include:

- "The Handmaids Tale" (graphic novel) by Margaret Atwood
- "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson



- "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe
- "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison
- "The Bluest Eyes" by Toni Morrison

Resources to track local censorship efforts include the ACLU of Oregon, the Oregon Library

Association and county library systems, such as Multnomah County Library and the Washington County Cooperative Library Services.

The ACLU of Oregon has a website that is very comprehensive, if you are interested in tracking local censorship efforts or to support intellectual freedom.

In the politically charged time in which we live, we should be vigilant about what is happening close to home. In many cases, a small fringe group, or even a single individual, initiates an attempt to ban instructional materials, including attempts to dictate what

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Labor Day Picnic

By Maureen Barnhart,
President

“Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them.”
“Horseradish” by Daniel Handler (aka Lemony Snicket).

Thanks to our OEA-Retired Literacy Project--and that is a big “thank you,” we had the opportunity to give books to children of all ages as we celebrated solidarity with other unions at the NW Labor Council Labor Day Picnic in Portland.

Union songs played from a somewhat distant stage on a day accented by the shift from summer days to the mellower, light temperatures of autumn.

There is satisfaction, not just in seeing the children’s delight at choosing from so many types of books, but also in the adults’ reactions to old, familiar titles among the books.

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley paused to share memories of his parents reading to him as a child, and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and U. S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici both noted that “of course” teachers would be giving books, and thanked us for doing so.

Our director on the OEA Board, Al Rabchuk, showed that high school students aren’t the only age group with whom he enjoys a conversation, “Enjoy that book, and share it with another kid when you’re finished, he said as he handed out books.

We can recall in the fall preparing for a school year to support our students, and, whether it was in front of our minds as we did, we were, and are, bolstered by union solidarity.

Let’s celebrate our shared union goals toward respect, dignity, safety, and equality for every community. We stand together in solidarity for a stronger, more equitable America.



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CALENDAR

2026

October 15 *PrimeTimes* published
November 9 OEA-Retired Board Meeting

2027

January 11 OEA-Retired Board Meeting
February 1 *PrimeTimes* published
March 1 OEA-Retired Annual Assembly
TBA NEA-R Leadership Conference
April 1 *PrimeTimes* published
April OEA Representative Assembly
May 17 OEA-Retired Board Meeting
June 1 *PrimeTimes* published
June 28-29 NEA-R Annual Assembly,
Indianapolis, IN
July 1-5 NEA Representative Assembly,
Indianapolis, IN

Region II happenings

By Cherene Mills, Region II Director

We had an enjoyable Duty Free Not Back to School picnic on September 8. Thanks to Paul and Jonet Schutz for offering their home for the event.

Upcoming events:

November 5 – Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Dr, Newport, 10 am, entry cost \$5. Experience and learn about the center, as well as see the Blue Whale Skeleton. Afterwards we will also have lunch at a yet to be determined location.

December– No event, enjoy the holidays and your families

January 14 – Explore Woodburn with Lunch at Trapala Restaurant, 430 N. First St, Woodburn at 11 am. Trapala has an extensive menu of typical and modern dishes of Mexican origin, including vegetarian. We will then visit the **Woodburn Museum** at 1 pm to explore the curated displays, featuring local industry, pioneer life, cultural traditions, and significant historical events, along with collections of historical photos. No cost for museum entry.

OEA Executive Committee asks OEA-Retired for help

By JoAnn Conroy, OEA-Retired Vice President

In July, OEA Vice President Lindsay Ray met with our president and myself to discuss having our retired members review OEA grant applications.

The OEA Executive Committee is offering Local Leader Grants to locals across the state. While OEA has provided grants in the past, this year they are making a few changes. They want to prioritize smaller local associations that often have fewer resources.

The Grants amount has been adjusted to

\$1,000 this year to be able to reach a larger number of individuals.

Another significant change is that we, OEA-Retired, will serve as the review committee. Previously, the OEA Executive Committee reviewed the applications, a practice that led to conflicts of interest.

To mitigate that issue, identifying information will be redacted from applications before our approval committee reviews them. We'll have a scoring rubric to guide the review committee as it reads and evaluates the applications.

If you are interested in joining the Local Leader Grant Approval Committee, please complete this registration form, [Registration Form](#), and I will get back to you with more details. Questions can be emailed to me at danjo6588@gmail.com.



In remembrance

OEA-Retired received notice of the following members who have passed away:

Donald Ray Emmert, Sweet Home, 2021

Rhea Forum, Eugene, March 2026

Linda Lousie Pietila, Bend, September 2025

Joseph W. Lashway, Lane County, 2020

Susan Lea Gregory, Portland, February 2024

Hugh Johnson Turnbull, Creswell, April 2026

Linda Eggiman, Portland, November 2025

Beverly Joyce Horttor, Roseburg, September 2025

Barbara Drageaux, Portland, March 2024

Colleen Froemming, Springfield, February 2024

William Gwynn, Portland, September 2023

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Election 2026 is here!

By Bobbi Yambasu, OEA PAC Director

The 2026 General Election is here! If you haven't already received your ballot, you will receive it soon. We are recommending that you vote early and, if possible, use the ballot drop boxes rather than the mail.

If you use the mail, please mail your ballot at least a week prior to the deadline. In order to make sure that your ballot is counted, have your local post office hand stamp your ballot so that the correct date is stamped on it.

All mail is sent through the main post office in Portland and does not get machine date-stamped until it reaches that office—a trip that can take as much as a week.

The Oregon Secretary of State has made extra drop boxes available, especially in rural areas.

We also encourage you to vote down the ballot, which means, be sure to vote in all the races available to you, not just the federal or statewide races.

As is our custom, OEA PAC has recommended and/or endorsed candidates in the General Election. The federal and statewide candidate recommendations were decided by the delegates to the OEA PAC Convention in February.

However, the Oregon Legislature endorsements were done by local UniServ Councils that reviewed candidate questionnaires and interviewed candidates prior to making their recommendations.

Note: If a position is not listed, either that position is not up for election or there is no recommendation.

Federal:

US Senate	Jeff Merkley
CD 1	Suzanne Bonamici
CD 3	Maxine Dexter
CD 4	Val Hoyle
CD 6	Andrea Salinas

Statewide:

BOLI Commissioner Christina Stephenson

Oregon Senate:

SD 3	Cristian Ruvalcaba
SD 10	Deb Patterson
SD 13	Courtney Neron Misslin
SD 15	Myrna Muñoz
SD 16	Rachel Armitage
SD 17	Lisa Reynolds
SD 24	Kayse Jama
SD 26	Nicole Bassett

Oregon House:

HD 07	Kori Rodley
HD 08	Lisa Fragala
HD 10	David Gomberg
HD 13	Nancy Nathanson
HD 14	Julie Fahey
HD 19	Tom Andersen
HD 20	Paul Evans
HD 22	Lesly Muñoz
HD 25	Ben Bowman
HD 26	Sue Rieke Smith
HD 27	Tammy Carpenter
HD 28	Dacia Grayber
HD 29	Susan McLain
HD 30	Nathan Sosa
HD 35	Farrah Chaichi
HD 36	Hai Pham
HD 40	Michael Sugar
HD 41	Mark Gamba
HD 44	Travis Nelson
HD 45	Thuy Tran
HD 46	Willy Chotzen
HD 47	Andrea Valderrama
HD 48	Lamar Wise
HD 49	Zach Hudson
HD 52	Hank Sanders

Thank you for voting for these pro-education candidates!



Travel presentations

By Ray Johnson, Chair

Another travel Zoom meeting is in five days -- October 20 -- on our **Spirit of the American Southwest** (November 1-10, 2027) and **Iceland's Magical Northern Lights** (January 24-30, 2027) tours. The program starts at 6:45 pm. Please reply to rayugene@gmail.com to receive the Zoom address to attend.

Although some of our members and guests saw several of Arizona's sights on our **National Parks of America** tour in the fall of 2024, our new one, **Spirit of the American Southwest** is narrowly focused on the Copper State and its varied sights.

You will journey through the American Southwest's storied landscapes, get to know Santa Fe's historic plaza on a locally guided walking tour, explore Bandelier National Monument, home to cliff dwellings of Ancestral Puebloans, and visit the mesa-top Acoma Pueblo (picture below).

Within the Navajo Nation, take in the painted hues of Canyon de Chelly, marvel at the towering monoliths of Monument Valley, and savor a traditional BBQ dinner under desert skies.

From desert cities to ancestral lands, explore the spirit of the region. It is an Activity Level 3, which is on-the-go walking for more than 90 minutes with increased activities.

See sidebar for more information.



OEA-Retired Travel

2027

Croatia and Its Islands

May 1-12. 11 days with 20 meals.

Cost: \$6,949-\$13,349.

Deposit of \$898 due September 2, 2026.

Final payment due January 1, 2027.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377959>

Charms Of Quebec

September 3-10, 8 days with 10 meals.

Cost: \$5,149.

Deposit of \$698 due February 3, 2027.

Final payment due June 5, 2027.

For more information or reservations, go <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377993>

Spirit of the American Southwest

November 1-10, 10 days with 14 meals.

Cost: \$5,649.

Deposit of \$698 due April 24, 2027.

Final payment due July 31, 2027.

For more information or reservations, go <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1377981>

2028

Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

January 24-30, 7 days

Spotlight on French Riviera

March 23-31

Countryside of the Emerald Island

May 11-21

Sicily & Its Isles

Late September

Tucson, Arizona

Early October

2029

Galapagos Islands & Amazon River

Late January/early February

Utah's Mighty Five & The Rockies

Late May

For questions on Croatia or Iceland, contact Viki Mulick at 503-704-8012 or mulickv1@frontier.com

For questions on Quebec or American Southwest, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953 or sanrosenfeld@gmail.com.

Remembrance

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Gail Johnson, 2025

Sally Eva Bride, 2025

Michael R. Rose, Eugene, 2022

Nancy Oft Rose, Eugene, July 2026

Linda Ann Nice, Portland, April 2024

Winnifred N. Simonsen, Gladstone, March 2026

Joyce Koeppen, Roseburg/Glide, February 2025

Anita June Surmon, Lebanon, December 2021

Evelyn Mae Andrews, Tualatin, January 2021

Membership notes

By Cherene Mills, Chair

Three key points to know this month: a new email address for OEA-Retired membership, fall mailing returned results, and instructions for your family regarding OEA-Retired upon your passing.

Following is the new OEA-Retired Membership email so that new members are more likely to open their welcome email from us and, so that members or potential members can contact us with questions on OEA-Retired membership. The email address is oearetiredmembership@oregoned.org.

You should have received the fall mailing by now. However, we did have 172 returned. We send out the mailing with "Return Service Requested," which means, even if you have provided a forwarding address to the post office, it will be returned to OEA.

We do not automatically change your address on file with OEA; we confirm with you the correct mailing address. So, sometime over the next couple months, we will be contacting you to confirm your mailing address. If you want to take care of it before we reach out to you, you can send your correct mailing address to the new email address in the above paragraph.

As we process the returned mail, we also look for any notification of deceased online. Please

leave instructions for your family, or estate executor, to contact OEA and notify them of your passing. We do try to keep our membership list up to date, and the notification will decrease the number of returned mail pieces we get.

OEA-Retired book club

By Bobbi Yambasu

The OEA-Retired Equity & Social Justice Committee had its first meeting of the 2026-7 year on September 2 with the last one on October 14. Please note our next meeting date. The remaining schedule for this year is updated below:

- Dec. 2, 2026 *America's Founding Son: John Quincy Adams From President to Political Maverick* by Bob Crawford
- Jan. 13, 2027 *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson
- Feb. 24, 2027 *A Man of Two Faces* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- Apr. 7, 2027 *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel
- May 19, 2027 *Finding Me* by Viola Davis
- July 14, 2027 *No No Boy* by John Okada

Meetings are held at 9:30 am via Zoom The Zoom link is sent out about one week prior to the meeting. If you would like to join us, please email me at bobby4967@gmail.com.

We welcome everyone!

Have you moved or changed your email?

Contact: Marianne Fairchild
Oregon Education Association
2540 Coral Ave NE, Salem, OR 97305
503-364-6987

marianne.fairchild@oregoned.org

Region I

By Viki Mulick, Region I Director

Welcome to Region I's 2026-2027 Season of Activities!

Our next activity will take place Monday, October 19. We have scheduled an 11:30 am lunch at the Cadillac Cafe, at 1801 NE Broadway in Portland.

On Tuesday, November 17, we will meet at Salvador Molly's for lunch in the Hillside area.

We are super excited about our December play, "Bread and Roses" by the Portland Revels. It will feature 20th-century labor history and the famous Bread and Roses strike. As members of a labor union, how appropriate is this?!!

Come join us for one or all of these varied experiences. Look for emails from Region I to sign up for your favorites! Contact me at mulickv1@frontier.com.

Region III meetup

By Vickie Jackson

Central Oregon's end-of-summer gathering took place at Maragas Winery in Terrebonne. A small group toasted the summer's passing.



Book bans

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books and information students have access to.

Getting organized and fighting back have been very successful in dismantling book challenges, so that the actual "banning" or removal of the

book never happens. To do our part, stay vigilant, support students' rights and use your voice, if challenges are initiated.

"No one should decide for us what we can read, see or hear!" American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)



9:30 am, November 12
Huckleberry Breakfast & Lunch
881 SW Highland Dr., Gresham

9:30 am, December 10
General Meeting
PAT Office, 345 NE 8th Ave

Please join us at General Meeting for an opportunity to share about books you enjoyed this past year. We also will have a special guest who will talk about the hobby of coin collecting. Your old coins may be worth more than you know!

For the following events, the dates will be announced later:

- Later in October, we are planning to visit the 12.4-million-gallon underground reservoir near Washington Park. We will learn about the history of Portland's water system.



- In November/December we will visit the Belmont Fire Station.
- In January we will take a tour of the Hollywood Theater.



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OEA Foundation asks

Can you help?

Public school students need school clothes, eyeglasses, winter coats, hearing aids, etc.

You can help provide a better education for these students by making tax-deductible contributions to the **OEA Foundation**.

The OEA Foundation takes no administrative costs out of your donation; 100% of your contribution goes directly to the students to provide for these basic needs.

Please mail a check to OEA Foundation (6900 SW Atlanta St., Portland, OR 97223) or donate online at www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation.

Notice of publication change

By Bobbi Yambasu, Editor

OEA-Retired *PrimeTimes* is going digital as of **September 1, 2027**. That means there will no longer be a print/mail copy of our newsletter as of that date. In order to ensure that you continue to receive *PrimeTimes* anywhere, anytime, please provide and/or update your email address prior to that date.

Contact Marianne Fairchild 503-364- 6987 (Marianne.Fairchild@oregoned.org) to make the necessary changes.

Thank you.