



From darkness, light.

September 29, 2023

In support of Banned Books Week 2023

Holocaust Museum Houston calls on our community to stand up for the freedom to read during Banned Books Week. This annual event, held October 1 - 7, 2023, brings together the entire book community - librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types - in shared support of the freedom to seek and express ideas, even those some may consider unorthodox, offensive, or unpopular.

Banned Books Week continues to be relevant. Recently, a Texas teacher was fired for reading from an illustrated version of Anne Frank's diary. According to the American Library Association, Texas saw the most attempts to restrict books last year of any state. Part of a broader national trend targeting the right of students to read about historical truth, racism, the LGBTQ community, and more.

Holocaust Museum Houston offers free resources and materials through our E-Books literacy program. Teachers and students can easily access our bilingual digital titles at no cost. To learn more about the E-Books program, please visit hmh.org/education/ebooks.

Anne Frank knew well the importance of books, writing in her diary that "ordinary people don't know how much books can mean to someone who's cooped up." Books offer escape, knowledge, and access to a wider world of ideas. We have the power to save that world, or to stand by and watch it disappear. Together let's stand up for the freedom to read.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Herz
Board Chair
Director

Tamara Savage
Interim Co-Executive Director

Kristin Albers Lamm
Interim Co-Executive