



# Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is essential to our democracy and reading is among our greatest freedoms; and

**WHEREAS**, privacy is essential to the exercise of that freedom and the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others; and

**WHEREAS**, the freedom to read is protected by our Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, some individuals, groups and public authorities work to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label some views as "controversial", to distribute lists of books or authors they consider "objectionable" and to purge libraries of materials reflecting the diversity of society; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression, and can be trusted to exercise critical judgment, to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe, and to exercise the responsibilities that accompany this freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, intellectual freedom is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture; and

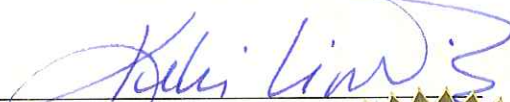
**WHEREAS**, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to choose and the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them;

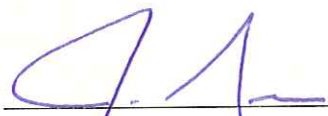
**NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE**, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim to be September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, as

## BANNED BOOKS WEEK

We call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and urge all citizens in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County to observe this week, and to celebrate and protect the freedom to read.

Signed this 29th day of September, 2012

  
Kelli Linville, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

  
Jack Louws, Executive  
Whatcom County

