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Help is Needed!

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West Bend Parents For Free Speech

Help is Needed!

Ginny Maziarka's group seems to be trying to delay the appointment/confirmation of library board members, and citizens that support the efforts of West Bend Parents For Free Speech are asked to either attend the Common Council organizational meeting on **Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00pm in Council Chambers**, or write emails supporting the confirmation of the mayor's appointments to the individual alderpersons, who will ultimately approve the library board appointments.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, please send an email to each alderman (not just the one for your district.) You can get the email addresses here: [West Bend Alderpersons](#).

Petition Signing at the Library

We will be at West Bend Community Memorial Library on **Wednesday, April 22 from 6:00-8:00pm**. I believe we will be in the board room on the first floor at the back of the library. Residents will be able to stop by and sign the petition, get copies to take home to collect more signatures, and just meet with each other to discuss this issue and other steps we can take to protect our library from attempts at censorship. Please stop by to offer your support in whatever way you can. If you can't join us, please see the text box below to download the petition or sign the online petition.

Petition Now Available! 4-10-09

I now have a petition which asks the library board of West Bend Community Memorial Library to enforce (and if necessary, adopt) policies that protect the collection from attempts at censorship. This petition also asks the board to reject the requests made by the Maziarkas in their petition.

You can help with the petition in two ways. First, you can download and print copies of the paper petition and circulate it to collect signatures from other residents in the West Bend area. If you are unable to do that, you can help promote the online version of the petition and encourage people to sign it. **Each person should sign only one version of the petition**, either the paper one or the online one, but NOT both. Also, each person that signs either petition should be a resident of the area and have a library card that allows them access to the West Bend library collection. If you would like to show your support but live outside of Washington County, please draft a letter or email of support and send it to West Bend Community Memorial Library. I know the staff of the library is keeping copies of the letters of support/viewpoints that the Maziarkas' complaint and requests are an attempt at censorship. These supportive letters will likely be shared with the board when the Maziarkas' complaint/petition is presented to them.

Visit, sign and promote the online petition: [West Bend Citizens for Free Speech Library Petition](#) Please ask other local residents to forward the petition URL to friends, family, etc. in the area. We need to collect many more signatures than the Maziarkas did!

Download the paper petition to collect signatures. You can contact me (info on the bottom of the petition) about turning in your circulated petitions. Please try to collect as many signatures as possible, and ask others to collect signatures, too! [Library Petition](#) (follow the steps to download free; or contact me at mariahanrahan@charter.net and I can email you the petition directly)

Why This Site Was Created

A note about the name (3-19-09)

I have had a few discussions with local residents about the name of this website. Unfortunately, I am unable to change the URL or heading on this free website at this time. I wish I would have thought about the name a little more as I was creating this page. Instead of the heading you see, please think of this as **West Bend Residents for Free Speech** or **Community Library Advocates for Free Speech** or whatever term you prefer. This page does not mean to be unwelcoming to individuals in our community that are not parents or that live outside the city of West Bend, as this issue effects many other communities because of the library's inter-library loan program. Also, it is only intended to address this current issue of the recent complaint to the West Bend Library board about Young Adult materials. To me, this is a free speech/censorship issue, which is why I came up with the website name. The name is my doing alone.

This website was created to provide BALANCE to a current controversial issue facing West Bend, WI.....a complaint made by local residents concerning some materials in the Young Adult Zone section of the West Bend Community Memorial Library.

This complaint was made by West Bend residents Ginny and Jim Maziarka and will be addressed at the next library board meeting.

I find the complaint to be ridiculous and a thinly veiled attempt at censorship. I am seeking like-minded parents and community members to discuss this issue and publicly present an alternate viewpoint on this matter. So much of the media attention to this issue has presented the Maziarkas' side, but there has been little representation (or balance, if you will) of other viewpoints and opinions.

This site offers the viewpoints of the site's creator and does not represent the viewpoint of any group. The Guestbook, Forums, and Blog comments allow visitors to share their views and opinions. The posts made there are by individuals, and do not represent the ideas of anyone other than the person who posts them.

I invite you to share your thoughts on this subject and forward the URL for this site to community residents that would be interested in discussing this issue

Radio News !

I was on WBKV (1470 AM) on Monday 3/23/09 to discuss my views on the issue with Bob Bonenfant. Hopefully you will agree that I didn't allow the host and the callers to trip me up on my main point! This is an attempt at censorship and as parents, we are the only ones who get to determine what our children have access to in the public library system; it is not the library's responsibility (nor do they have the authority) to restrict or limit the access of any library patron to materials that are available to the public.

I am hopeful the interview will also be posted on the website within a day of my interview. Check out the station's website [WBKV AM Radio](#), and be sure to complete the poorly phrased survey about the library issue...select the "parents should do the regulating" option.