

FAHRENHEIT 451

COMMUNITY READ: *Fahrenheit 451*

Great books can ripple out through other art forms. *Fahrenheit 451* is a book, a stage play, graphic novel, film and even an opera. In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Ray Bradbury's novel, Fitchburg cultural institutions are embarking on a community project that takes place this fall. The community is invited to explore *Fahrenheit 451*—and the concepts and issues raised by the book—through a variety of events. Come to one; come to all; add your voice to the conversation.

F451: Stage Play Reading Marathon Extravaganza

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury | Saturday, Sept. 14
11 AM | Fitchburg Public Library | free

The opening event sets the stage for the month's activities as Bradbury's words and ideas come to life. Today, members of the community and theatre groups take their parts as we immerse ourselves in Bradbury's work. Over the next month, there will be readings, discussions, films, theatre performances, art-making and community sharing. We hope to see you at many F451 events!

F451: Film Screening and Conversation

Tuesday, Sept. 17
3:30 PM | Fitchburg State University
Ellis White Lecture Hall (Hammond Hall) | free

Thursday, Sept. 19
7 PM | Fitchburg Public Library | free

Bradbury's words also made their way into a film version of *Fahrenheit 451* by director François Truffaut. The film will be the focus for this year's Constitution Day. A moderated panel discussion with Fitchburg State faculty and students explores issues raised in the film.

Presented by the Academic Affairs and Student Development Offices

F451: Book Discussions

Wednesday, Sept. 18 | 4 PM
Monday, Sept. 23 | 12:30 PM
Fitchburg State University
Amelia Gallucci-Cirio Library | free

Readying ourselves for the upcoming theatrical performance by Aquila Theatre, join in discussions about the concepts and issues is hosted by Fitchburg State library staff.

F451: Book Discussions

Thursdays: Sept. 19 & 26, Oct. 3, 10 & 17
12:30 PM | Fitchburg Public Library | free

Over five weeks, community members will read aloud from *Fahrenheit 451*.

Each meeting starts with approximately 45 minutes of listening followed by a discussion about the book up to that point. Bring your brown bag lunch or knitting to work on while listening. Beverages will be provided.

F451: Theatre Performances

Tuesday, Sept. 24
10:30 AM School show | 7 PM Full-length
6 PM Spotlight with company members
Fitchburg State University | Weston Auditorium
Tickets: call 978.665.3347

The year is 1953. Sci-fi writer Ray Bradbury pens *Fahrenheit 451* and—with startling clarity—creates an imaginary world that has come to pass as our daily lives today. Flat screen monitors, interactive devices, ear buds and the blurry line between censorship and apathy.

Bold and inventive. Accessible and engaging. Using multimedia, nationally-renown Aquila Theatre ignites Bradbury's world where firemen burn books and refugees secretly memorize them. All the while, we are invited to examine that world and our own.

F451: Burned Books; Banned Books

Wednesday, Sept. 25
7 PM | Fitchburg Historical Society | free

Dr. Daniel Sarefield presents his scholarly fieldwork in recognition of 2013 Banned Books Week.

F451: Library Book Club

Wednesday, Oct. 2
1-2 PM &/or 6-7 PM | Fitchburg Public Library | free

Read the book and come have a conversation about it with members of the library's book club led by Marcia Ladd.

F451: Altered Books Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 5
9 AM—NOON | Fitchburg Art Museum
\$5 suggested donation/family

Got old books? Want art? Bring your old books and recycle/create something new at this family workshop.

F451: Altered Books Workshop

Sunday, Oct. 6
1-4 PM | Rollstone Studios
\$5 suggested donation/family

Couldn't make Saturday's workshop? Had so much fun you want to repeat the experience? Come to another family workshop with old books and recycle/create something new.

F451: Censorship Roundtable Discussion: "What is the role of censorship in our society today—both formal and informal?"

Wednesday, Oct. 16
7 PM | Fitchburg Historical Society | free

Panel discussion with leaders in the community. How do leaders view this question? Is censorship necessary? Excessive? What is appropriate? Moderated by Shirley Wagner, Ph.D., emeriti faculty.

F451: Film Screening and Conversation: *Storm Center*

Thursday, Oct. 17
7 PM | Fitchburg Public Library | free

Bette Davis stars as a librarian in the 1950s who "stands up" to local pressure from the City Council to remove a controversial book—*The Communist Dream*—from the shelves. Shown as part of the library's Third Thursday Film Series.

F451: Progressive Art Exhibition Day

Saturday, Oct. 19
11 AM at the Fitchburg Art Museum | NOON at Fitchburg Historical Society | 1 PM at Rollstone Studios | free

Make your way from the Art Museum to Rollstone Studios with a stop at the Historical Society for a hands-on altered book art creation. On display at each location will be the art created by participants of the Altered Book Workshops as well as school workshops.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS INCLUDE:

CenterStage at Fitchburg State University
Fitchburg Public Library
Fitchburg Historical Society
Fitchburg Art Museum
Fitchburg Cultural Alliance/Rollstone Studios
FATV/Fitchburg Access Television
WPKZ

THIS PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY:



The Amelia V. Gallucci-Cirio Endowment
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SCHOOL PARTNERS INCLUDE: Fitchburg Public Schools | North Central Charter Essential School

