**NEW FONCPL CONTEST FOR MEMBER FRIENDS**

“Few educators have experienced the emotional highs and lows of Livingston Parish middle school librarian [**Amanda Jones**](https://sites.google.com/view/abmack33/home). In 2020, she was named [**Louisiana School Librarian of the Year**](https://llaonline.org/Awards-and-Scholarships), and in 2021 she earned national accolades as a *School Library Journal* [**School Librarian of the Year**](https://www.slj.com/story/journeying-with-jones-amanda-jones-2021-school-librarian-of-the-year-pandemic-COVID). But in 2022, Jones found herself at the center of a national controversy on library censorship and the subject of online vitriol, threats, and harassment. The rollercoaster ride, which has also included a public shoutout from Oprah Winfrey and an ongoing defamation lawsuit (in which she’s asking for $1 and an apology), is described in Jones’ new book, *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America*, which officially hits shelves Aug. 27.”  [Click here](https://www.inregister.com/culture/the-story-behind-livingston-parish-librarian-amanda-jones-new-memoir) to read the full article about Amanda Jones.

“Amanda Jones started getting death threats, all for standing up for our right to read . . . but she's not stopped fighting against book bans, or stopped advocating for access to diverse stories.”-Oprah Winfrey, in a speech at the 2023 National Book Awards.

"Amanda Jones clearly outlines how we got here, who's leading this false charge against qualified educators, media specialists, and authors-and most importantly, explores the steps we all must take to make the voice of truth and reason louder than their caterwauling.”-Jodi Picoult.

To celebrate our Freedom to Read and support Amanda Jones, FONCPL is having a contest that any member of a FONCPL Friends group may enter.  Individuals may enter multiple times, if they so desire and members of the same FOL may also enter, but only one prize will be awarded per person. Here is the challenge:  in a maximum of 500 characters, make a statement on your perspective of, reaction to, or response to library censorship.  Those entering this contest must agree to allow us to print their statement if they enter.  Name and affiliation will be withheld if so marked on the entry form.  FONCPL will use these statements in our newsletter, on our website, and in presentations. [Click here](https://foncpl.org/) for the fillable entry form.  Entries are due via email by September 30th. Prizes are hard copies of Amanda’s memoir which will be shipped to the winners. FONCPL is buying copies to help Amanda defray the cost of her defamation lawsuit.  The number of prizes awarded will depend on the number of entries. Let’s hear your thoughts! Enter today!

**NEW FRIENDS OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARIES (FONCPL) CONTEST FOR NCPLDA MEMBERS**

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