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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Author Ted Gup to Visit Plain Community Branch

September 24, 2007 – Celebrate Banned Books Week, September 29 – October 6 at your local Stark County District Library.

Ted Gup, author of *Nation of Secrets: The Threat to Democracy and the American Way of Life*, will present a program entitled *Dangerous Secrets, Secret Dangers*, at 7:00 pm, Thursday, October 4, 2007 at the Plain Community Branch of the Stark County District Library. He will discuss the growing preoccupation with secrets in many American institutions (not just government) that undermines the very values in whose name secrecy is so often invoked.

Gup currently is the Shirley Wormser Professor of Journalism at Case Western Reserve University. He is a former staff writer for the *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine and has written for a wide range of other publications.

He has been a Pulitzer Prize finalist and has received more than twenty awards, including the George Polk Award, the Worth Bingham Prize, the Gerald Loeb Award, and the Book-of-the-Year Award from Investigative Reporters and Editors. He's been a Fulbright Scholar, a MacArthur Grantee and a Guggenheim Fellow, among his many other honors.

In addition, 10 students from the Jackson High School Debate team will hold a debate on issues of Intellectual Freedom, at the Jackson Township Branch on Monday, October 1 at 7:00 pm. They will discuss:

1. The Introduction and History of Censorship
2. Current Censorship Issues
3. Electronic Resources and Intellectual Freedom
4. Sex, Religion, Occult, Age Appropriateness, and Violence Issues

Banned Books Week is an annual celebration of First Amendment Rights and the freedom to read, sponsored by the American Library Association. It has been observed during the last week of September each year since 1982. This annual ALA event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted. This year, 2007, marks BBW's 26th anniversary (September 29 through October 6).

BBW celebrates the freedom to choose or 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. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met. Visit www.ala.org for more information.

The Stark County District Library is one of the best 100 libraries in the United States, ranked 6th in its population category. Its Main Library, 10 Branch Libraries, and two bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles serve 143,000 library card holders. More than 1.4 million people visited the Main Library or its Branches and Bookmobiles last year. Holdings number more than 925,000 items, and annual circulation is 3.8 million items. The collection includes books, audio visual materials, and periodicals for all ages. In addition, the Library provides programs and classes for adults, teens, and children, computer and Internet access, inter-library loans, reference and genealogy services, and traveling collections on two Bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles, as well as Outreach services to shut-ins, nursing homes, and housing units. It is one of the nine largest library systems in the state of Ohio, serving 12 local school districts. For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit www.starklibrary.org.

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