

RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: AAF Research Team
Date: July 27, 2023
Re: The American Library Association (ALA) Promotion of Cultural Marxism

The American Library Association (ALA) has emerged as a focal point in the war against wokeness in libraries across the country. With a radical agenda and promotion of woke policies, the ALA has transformed libraries into hotbeds of political activism. The ALA represents one of the greatest threats to freedom and decency in our public libraries and defunding their operations would reduce their influence on young people.

By refocusing on learning and impartiality, libraries can return to their core mission of providing unbiased access to knowledge for all, fostering open discourse, and respecting the values of local communities. It is time to prioritize intellectual freedom and the well-being of our communities over the divisive ideologies that currently permeate some library spaces.

The preliminary research from the American Accountability Foundation demonstrates that the ALA has:

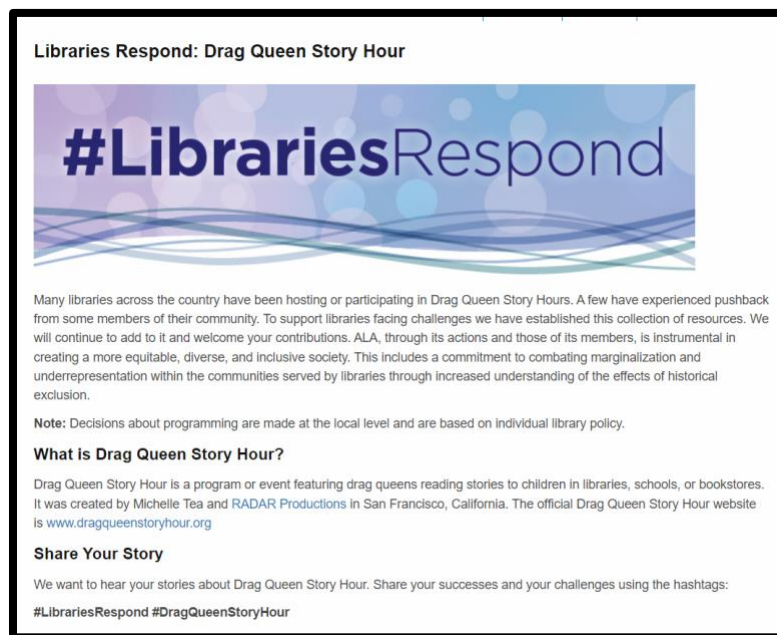
- ✘ Promoted drag queen story hours for children as young as toddlers.
- ✘ Supported radical and divisive diversity programs.
- ✘ Pushed highly inappropriate and sexualized reading lists at libraries.
- ✘ Promoted sexual content to minors.
- ✘ Pushed gender ideology content to minors.
- ✘ Elected a self-proclaimed “Marxist lesbian” as its president.
- ✘ Conspired to prevent Christians from holding events at public libraries.
- ✘ Promoted Critical Race Theory.
- ✘ Awarded its James Madison Award to George Soros.



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PROMOTES DRAG QUEEN STORY HOURS FOR CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS TODDLERS.

PROMOTES GUIDES ON HOW TO HOLD DRAG QUEEN STORY HOURS IN THE FACE OF CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION

The ALA has been actively promoting Drag Queen Story Hours through resource guides on their website. The guides include titles such as “Open to All: Serving the GLBT Community in Your Library” and “Defending Intellectual Freedom: LGBTQ+ Materials in School Libraries”:¹



PROMOTED DRAG QUEEN STORY HOUR EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 8

The American Library Association's Public Programs Office hosted an interview in 2018 where they provided insights into a "Drag Queen Story Hour" event, specifically targeting children aged 4 to 8.² The setup was a typical story time arrangement, with tables at the back for crafting star wands and an open floor in front, where the performer, “Ms. Sunbeam,” interacted with the children. The event commenced with a simple introduction by the children's librarian, warmly welcoming Ms. Sunbeam without divulging details about the books to be read. Unfortunately, this lack of prior book information left parents unable to pre-read the materials for appropriateness,

¹ ALA.org, “Libraries Respond: Drag Queen Story Hour,” Accessed on [July 21, 2023](#)

² Programming Librarian, “Drag Queen Story Hour: Q&A with Port Jefferson Free Library,” [October 26, 2018](#)



which could be concerning for those aiming to monitor and ensure the safety of their children, particularly in regard to sensitive topics.

[Programming Librarian]: Tell us about the event itself.

*[Thomas Donlon]: **It was designed for kids ages 4 to 8.** The room was a basic story time set-up. We had tables in the back set up for the craft, which was to make a star wand, and then we had an open floor in front, and the performer had a chair. The children's librarian introduced Ms. Sunbeam (the performer), and it was short and sweet, "Everyone welcome Ms. Sunbeam!" We didn't give an intro or go into any details. We didn't name the books beforehand and just let the performer do her thing! We chose three books: "It's Okay to Be Different" by Todd Parr, "A Family Is a Family" by Sarah O'Leary, and "Pete the Cat, I Love My White Shoes" by Eric Wittman."*



"SEEING A SEVEN FOOT GLAMAZON CROUCH DOWN AND READ THEIR FAVORITE BOOK WITH THEM OFFERS A SENSE OF SAFETY"

In a revealing interview featured on the Intellectual Freedom Blog by the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom, drag queens named "Muffy," "Alexis," and "Abhijeet" candidly discussed their involvement in Drag Queen Story Hour. "Alexis" proclaimed that it's important that "the children are able to see themselves represented" at Drag Queen Story Hour events, and "Abhijeet" likened drag queens to superheroes – leaving little doubt that their intent is to indoctrinate



children. “Abhijeet” also claimed that “seeing a seven foot glamazon crouch down” will somehow offer kids “a sense of safety”:³

...What do drag queens bring to story time?

Muffy: The Queens I book, on the surface, bring a lot of fun and color. But they also bring diversity and life experience. The children and parents we read for get to see different types of drag and different types of queens.

*Alexis: Drag Queens bring a larger than life energy with them, and more importantly Drag represents being whoever and whatever you want to be. **It also brings visibility. It's important the children are able to see themselves represented** but it's equally as important to see and experience different cultures.*

*Abhijeet: Drag queens are not just the mascots of the queer community. We're larger than life, **we're fairytale princesses, we're superheroes**. Kids aren't inherently bigoted unless raised to be that way, **and seeing a seven foot glamazon crouch down** and read their favorite book with them offers a sense of safety and an assurance that big things don't have to be scary.*

Drag queens interacting with kids provide that glimmer of hope for every child told they were too flamboyant, too much...

³ Intellectual Freedom Blog, “Three Queens: Perspectives on Drag Queen Story Hour,” [July 5, 2018](#)



THE ALA SUPPORTS WOKE CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND DIVISIVE DIVERSITY EFFORTS

The ALA's statement on supporting programming to promote diversity such as sexual, gender, race raises concerns about potential bias and exclusion of certain perspectives. While the ALA aims to ensure access to library resources for all individuals facing various barriers, the wording of their statement seems to favor a particular leftist, woke ideology.⁴

Programming to Promote Diversity

The American Library Association recognizes the critical need for access to library and information resources, services, and technologies by all people, especially those who may experience language or literacy-related barriers; economic distress; cultural or social isolation; physical or attitudinal barriers; racism; discrimination on the basis of appearance, ethnicity, immigrant status, religious background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression; or barriers to equal education, employment, and housing. ALA and its affiliated organizations have a number of initiatives that support libraries in providing and developing programming that promotes diversity.

Underrepresented patrons may experience several issues which limit their full, beneficial use of the library. Many of these issues may stem from a lack of representation in the services, staff, and collections of libraries. For many people, having never seen their perspectives represented in library staff and services, the library may be an unknown element in their day-to-day lives.

Libraries can work to bring the library to these communities through outreach and partnership efforts at cultural events, through community-based organizations, or through local media.

Libraries can help eliminate barriers to access by:

- Providing collections and programs which accurately and authentically reflect the cultural perspectives of diverse communities.
- Promoting library services through communication channels and community events organized by people of color and intersectionalities.
- Developing and providing services which address the unique needs specific communities.
- Investing in recruitment strategies that build a diverse staff so that all people see themselves represented in the administration, management, and delivery of library services.

The ALA Public Programs Office 2020 "Calendar of Events & Celebrations" included a variety of events throughout the year. However, some events seem to receive more emphasis than others. Particularly concerning events included on the calendar are:⁵

- March: International Transgender Day of Visibility
- June: Pride Month
- July: International Non-Binary People's Day
- September: Banned Books Week (focusing on books not placed in libraries because of their explicit content)
- October: LGBT History Month and National Coming Out Day
- November: Transgender Awareness Week and Transgender Day of Remembrance

⁴ ALA.org, "Programming to Promote Diversity," Accessed on [July 21, 2023](#)

⁵ Programing Librarian, "Calendar of Events & Celebrations," [January 30, 2020](#)



AMERICAN ACCOUNTABILITY FOUNDATION

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunar New Year
March	
<u>Monthly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Women's History Month Youth Art Month Read Across America National Nutrition Month Irish Heritage Month American Red Cross Month Music in our Schools Month 	<u>Weekly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teen Tech Week
<u>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLA Leadership Academy PLA National Conference (even number years) Tucson Festival of Books 	<u>Observations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Across America Pi Day Freedom of Information Day International Transgender Day of Visibility
April	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day
June	
<u>Monthly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride Month Rainbow Book Month Black Music Month National Oceans Month 	<u>Observances</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juneteenth Flag Day Father's Day National Donut Day National Gun Violence Awareness Day Wear Orange Weekend Autistic Pride Day
<u>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Conference ALA Annual Conference New York Book Festival 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York Book Festival 	
July	
<u>Monthly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Ice Cream Month Park and Recreation Month Disability Pride Month 	<u>Observances</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day International Friendship Day International Non-binary People's Day
<u>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harlem Book Fair 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFLA 	
September	
<u>Monthly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civic Awareness Month National Hispanic Heritage Month Library Card Sign-up Month National Recovery Month National Wilderness Month National Preparedness Month National Voter Registration Month 	<u>Weekly Celebrations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banned Books Week Deaf Awareness Week
<u>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Institute (ALSC) Printers Row Bookfair 	<u>Observances</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banned Books Awareness Day Banned Websites Awareness Day Constitution Day International Day of Peace National Coffee Day National Voter Registration Day Labor Day International Dot Day



AMERICAN ACCOUNTABILITY FOUNDATION

October	
<p>Monthly Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity Awareness Month Information Literacy Awareness Month LGBT History Month National Arts & Humanities Month American Archives Month National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Family History Month National Domestic Violence Awareness Month National Bullying Prevention Month National Cyber Security Awareness Month National Reading Group Month Filipino American History Month <p>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLA Dynamic Planning Institute Texas Book Festival Wisconsin Book Festival 	<p>Weekly Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Friends of the Libraries Week World Space Week Teen Read Week International Open Access Week <p>Observances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Peoples' Day International Observe the Moon Night Day of the Girl Halloween All Hallows' Read National Coming Out Day

November	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wisconsin Book Festival <p>Monthly Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native American Heritage Month National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) National Entrepreneurship Month National Family Caregivers Month National Scholarship Month Picture Book Month Dinovember <p>Library Conferences and Book Festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I Love My Librarian Award LITA National Forum Miami Bookfair International National Book Awards Ceremony Sharjah International Book Fair Young Adult Services Symposium 	<p>Weekly Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week Media Literacy Week Transgender Awareness Week <p>Observances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans Day National Philanthropy Day National Gaming Day @ your library Thanksgiving Day Transgender Day of Remembrance



ALA PROMOTES “INCLUSIVE BOOKLISTS,” INCLUDING BLM, TRANS, AND NONBINARY BOOKLISTS

The ALA publishes several “Inclusive Booklists” on their website, covering a wide range of topics, including “diverse families,” Black Lives Matter (BLM), transgender, nonbinary, and LGBTQ+ representation.⁶ The “Over the Rainbow Booklist” includes “LGBTQIA+ literature intended for readers from birth to age 18” and is supposed to “assist librarians, educators, parents, and others to ensure that everyone from babies and children to tweens and teens have access to selecting quality books with significant content regarding inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and all that extends throughout the Rainbow spectrum”:⁷

Inclusive Booklists

These booklists highlight diverse voices including racial diversity and gender identity and can be used in the classroom and when ordering collections. There are many booklists in the world that are categorized by topic, but these booklists ensure that underrepresented voices are being heard as well.

- American Indian Library Association Children's Booklist
- American Indian Library Association MG/YA Booklist
- Asian-Pacific American Booklist(s)
- BCALA and ALSC Social Justice Reading List
- Billings Public Library Inclusive Literature
- Black Lives Matter, Black Literature Matters - Comics Reading List
- Children's Books on Arabs and Arab Americans
- Diverse Families
- Love Your Neighbor: AJL Recommends Jewish Books for All Readers
- NYPL: Staff Picks: Trans, Nonbinary, and GNC Reads
- Over the Rainbow Booklist
- Rainbow Booklist
- REFORMA Recommended Book List
- Stories of Immigration
- Transgender Day of Remembrance Booklist

⁶ ALA.org, “Inclusive Booklists,” Accessed on [July 24, 2023](#)

⁷ glbtrt.ala.org, “Rainbow Booklist,” Accessed on [July 24, 2023](#)



Ocean County Library (NJ).



2021 Rainbow Book List Top 10 Titles for Young Readers



2021 Rainbow Book List Top 10 Titles for Teen Readers



PROMOTING SEXUAL CONTENT & GENDER IDEOLOGY TO MINORS

BELITTLED ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONTENT FROM LIBRARIES

The ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom includes a page titled "About Banned & Challenged Books" on their website. On this page, the ALA addresses the issue of book challenges and supposed censorship in libraries, particularly in relation to sexually explicit content accessible to minors. Ultimately, the ALA hides behind the First Amendment when defending their decision to not remove sexually explicit content from libraries:⁸

Why are books challenged?

Books usually are challenged with the best intentions—to protect others, frequently children, from difficult ideas and information. See Notable First Amendment Cases.

...

Often challenges are motivated by a desire to protect children from “inappropriate” sexual content or “offensive” language. The following were the top three reasons cited for challenging materials as reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom:

the material was considered to be "sexually explicit"

the material contained "offensive language"

the materials was "unsuited to any age group"

Although this is a commendable motivation, Free Access to Libraries for Minors, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (ALA's basic policy concerning access to information) states that, “Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources.” Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

“EMBRACING GENDER IDEOLOGIES” BOOKLIST INCLUDES BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS “0”

The book list titled "Embracing Gender Identities," sponsored by the ALA's "Association for Library Service to Children" division (ALSC), includes gender ideology promoting books for children as young as "0". The potential impact of introducing concepts like transgenderism to children at such early ages raises questions about the intent behind these materials and whether they might influence young minds in ways that could be seen as grooming.

⁸ ALA.org, "About Banned & Challenged Books," Accessed on [July 24, 2023](#)



The inclusion of books like "Transitioning in Elementary School" further intensifies worries about undermining parental rights and responsibilities:⁹

EMBRACING GENDER IDENTITIES

Embracing Gender Identities is an ALSC booklist created to help support conversations about gender identity and expression. This list, which is divided into books for 0-5 year-olds, elementary school students and middle schoolers, includes recommended informational picture books, as well as works of fiction and non-fiction that challenge gender norms and explore the wide spectrum of gender identity. It includes additional resources for parents.

Birth-Preschool (Ages 0-5)

<p>Clive and His Babies by Jessica Spangol Child's Play International, 2016. ISBN: 9781846438820 First in a series of board books about a boy whose love for imaginative play includes dolls, hats, glitter, art, and a diverse group of friends.</p>	<p>Julián Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love Candlewick Press, 2018. ISBN: 9780763690458 Julián LOVES mermaids! A summer afternoon of dress-up fantasy is only improved by a surprise from Abuela.</p>	<p>Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall Greenwillow Books, 2015. ISBN: 9780062252074 This heartwarming picture book follows the story of a blue crayon who is mistakenly labeled as "red," until he discovers his true identity as a blue crayon and celebrates the strength he finds in being his true self.</p>
<p>I Am Jazz! by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. Illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas Dial Books, 2014. ISBN: 9780803741072 This is the real-life story of Jazz Jennings, a transgender child who knew from a very early age that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body.</p>	<p>Neither by Airlie Anderson Little Brown, 2018. ISBN: 9780316543037 The Land of This and That is too restrictive for the individualistic Neither. But a more colorful and open-minded home is waiting to embrace Neither.</p>	<p>Teddy's Favorite Toy by Christian Trimmer. Illustrated by Madeline Valentine Atheneum Books, 2018. ISBN: 9781481450796 Teddy's mom accidentally throws out his favorite toy, a doll named Bren-Da, but then manages to rescue her through some epic moves. A great story that normalizes boys playing with dolls.</p>
<p>Introducing Teddy A Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship</p>	<p>Phoenix Goes to School A Story to Support Transgender and Gender Diverse Children</p>	<p>They, She, He, Me: Free to Be!</p>

⁹ ALA.org, "Embracing Gender Identities," Accessed [July 24, 2023](#)



K-Grade 5 (Ages 5-10)

Eleanor Wyatt, Princess and Pirate

by Rachael MacFarlane, illustrated by Spencer Laudiero
Imprint, 2018. ISBN: 9781250138576

Whether they're sword fighting, sailing, or dancing, Eleanor and her friends know there's more than just one way to play!

It Feels Good to Be Yourself A Book about Gender Identity

by Theresa Thorn, illustrated by Noah Grigni
Henry Holt, 2019. ISBN: 9781250302953

Vibrant and cheerful illustrations introduce young readers to the concept of gender identity through straightforward vocabulary, child-friendly and intentional language, and lots of love.

Jack (not Jackie)

by Erica Silverman, illustrated by Holly Hatam
little bee books, 2018. ISBN: 9781499807318

Big sister Susan loves her transgender brother just as he is; Jack's bright eyes and silly giggle will always make her smile.

Jacob's Room to Choose

by Sarah Hoffman and Ian Hoffman, illustrated by Chris Case
Magination Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781433830730

After Jacob and Sophie's classmates object to their bathroom choices, their teacher helps her students write new rules about who can use which bathroom.

Ogilvy

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by T. L. McBeth
Henry Holt, 2019. ISBN: 9781250151766

Cheerful Ogilvy the bunny challenges stereotypes after moving to a town where there are strict rules about what clothes you wear and what you can do while wearing them.

One of a Kind like Me / Único como yo

by Laurin Mayeno, illustrated by Robert Liu-Trujillo
Blood Orange Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780985351410

Danny and his mama visit a thrift store hoping to find the perfect purple dress for his princess costume.

Pink Is for Boys

by Robb Pearlman, illustrated by Eda Kaban
Running Press Kids, 2018. ISBN: 9780762462476

This beautiful picture book rethinks and reframes stereotypical gender roles and empowers children and their grown-ups to express acceptance in every color of the rainbow.

Sparkle Boy

by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by María Mola
Lee & Low, 2017. ISBN: 9781620142851

Though his big sister has a hard time understanding, Casey's parents and his abuelita support him in his desire to wear a shimmering skirt, glittery nails, and sparkly accessories.

Grade 6-8 (Ages 11-14)

Being Jazz

My Life as a (Transgender) Teen

by Jazz Jennings
Crown, 2016. ISBN: 9780399554643

Much more than the autobiography of a girl who transitioned at age 5, it's an uplifting story of acceptance, tolerance, and social justice.

George

by Alex Gino
Scholastic, 2017. ISBN: 9780545812573

George is a girl. When people see her, they see a boy, but George knows she's a girl. This novel deftly shares George's journey to find a place where she can confidently express her gender identity.

Gracefully Grayson

by Ami Polonsky
Disney-Hyperion, 2016. ISBN: 9781484723654

Grayson has a secret. Grayson is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. Can she set her true self free? In this moving story, Grayson finds strength in unexpected friendships and mentors who help her on her journey.

I Am Malala

How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)

by Malala Yousafzai

dad thinks he should play football, and his freestyle crew, the Dizzee Freeez, say dance studios are for sellouts. This hilarious novel celebrates following your dreams, while also confronting gender stereotypes.

The Pants Project

by Cat Clarke
Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2017. ISBN: 9781492638094

Liv, a transgender boy, is on a mission to challenge his new school's dress code that requires him to wear a skirt. He just might change his life along the way.

The Prince and the Dressmaker

by Jen Wang
First Second, 2018. ISBN: 9781626723654

Prince Sebastian leads a secret life—at night, he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. His best friend and dressmaker, Frances, keeps his secrets, but she's ready for the world to know whose talent lies behind Lady Crystallia's haute couture gowns.

A Quick & Easy Guide to Queer & Trans Identities

by Mady G and J. R. Zuckerberg
Limerence Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781620105863

A winsome group of slugs, observing humans on a camping trip, have an entertaining and informative discussion of queer identities, gender identity and expression, asexuality, relationship basics, coming out, and more.

A Quick & Easy Guide to They/ Them Pronouns

by Archie Bongiovanni and Tristan Jimerson, illustrated by Archie Bongiovanni
Limerence Press, 2018. ISBN: 9781620104996

A fun and educational comic guide to gender-neutral pronouns and how to use them.

The Witch Boy

by Molly Knox Ostertag
Graphix, 2017. ISBN: 9781338089523

Aster knows that he is meant to be a witch, but he is forbidden. In his family only girls are allowed to be witches, and the boys are supposed to be shapeshifters. When a vengeful force threatens his family, Aster must use his ability as a witch to help protect them.

Zenobia July

by Lisa Bunker
Viking, 2019. ISBN: 9780451479402

Zenobia July, middle-school hacker and amateur detective, is out to solve the mystery of who is posting hateful memes on her school's website, all while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and coming to grips with presenting her true gender for the first time.



Resources for Parents and Caregivers

Articles

Transitioning in Elementary School

Parent Advocacy and Teacher Allyship
By Tara Goldstein, Auesten Koecher, Pamela Baer, and Benjamin Lee Hicks
Teaching Education 29, no. 2 (2018): 165-77.

This academic journal article discusses how parents and elementary school teachers worked together to support the gender transition of a six-year-old Ontario child.

Supporting Transgender and Gender-Expansive Children in School

By Melinda Mangin
Phi Delta Kappan 100, no. 2 (Oct. 2018): 16-21

Educators share success stories of revising school policies to be more welcoming to all

students, as well as procedures for working closely with families to understand their needs.

More than a Safe Space How Schools Can Enable LGBTQ Students to Thrive

Michael Sadowski
American Educator 40, no. 4 (Winter 2016-17): 4-9.

Drawn from his book *Safe Is Not Enough: Better Schools for LGBTQ Students* (Harvard Education Press, 2016), Sadowski explores tools and techniques educators can use to support trans and nonbinary children and their families to create truly inclusive school communities.

Websites

The Family Acceptance Project

familyproject.sfsu.edu

The Family Acceptance Project is a research, intervention, education, and policy initiative that works to prevent physical and mental health risks for LGBTQ children and youth.

[Gender Spectrum](#)

PFLAG

pflag.org

PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Their mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ people and allies who support one another.

[Trans Lifeline](#)

Books

The Gender Creative Child

Pathways for Nurturing and Supporting Children Who Live Outside Gender Boxes

by Diane Ehrensaft
The Experiment, 2016. ISBN: 9781615193066

Ehrensaft explains the interconnected effects of biology, nurture, and culture to explore why gender can be fluid, rather than binary. She encourages caregivers to listen to each child, learn their particular needs, and support their quest for a true gender self.

Rainbow Relatives

Real-World Stories and Advice on How to Talk to Kids about LGBTQ+ Families and Friends

by Sudi Karatas
Skyhorse, 2018. ISBN: 9781510731738

Using a variety of real-life stories and interviews, this book helps families prepare for conversations with children about the issues and topics surrounding the LGBTQ+ community.

Raising the Transgender Child

A Complete Guide for Parents, Families, and Caregivers

by Michele Angello and Ali Bowman
Seal Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781580056359

Written by experts in the field, this book offers much-needed answers to all the questions parents and other adults ask



ALA'S PRESIDENT IS A SELF-PROCLAIMED "MARXIST LESBIAN"

ALA PRESIDENT EMILY DRABINSKI TWEETED THAT SHE IS A "MARXIST LESBIAN"

In a now-deleted tweet from April 13, 2022, ALA president Emily Drabinski tweeted "I just cannot believe that a Marxist lesbian who believes that collective power is possible to build and can be wielded for a better world is the president-elect of @ALALibrary. I am so excited for what we will do together. Solidarity!"¹⁰



In an interview with *Public Libraries Online* from July 2023, Emily Drabinski discussed her identity as a "queer" individual and that she is intently focused on bringing "awareness to LGBTQ+ library issues".¹¹

"I am among only a handful of queer presidents of the Association, and I am really open about that. So trying to bring awareness to LGBTQ+ library issues both for library workers who are queer, but also the communities we serve."

¹⁰ Internet Archive WayBack Machine, Twitter, @edrabinski, Tweet from [April 13, 2022](#)

¹¹ Public Libraries Online, "We're Stronger Together: A Conversation with ALA President Emily Drabinski," [July 21, 2023](#)



ALA ALLEGEDLY CONSPIRED TO KEEP CHRISTIAN BOOK EVENTS OUT OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Kirk Cameron, an actor and Christian Activist, recently called out the ALA for discriminating against a nationwide “See You at the Library” event planned for August 5th. The goal of the Kirk Cameron-promoted See You at the Library event is to “encourage faith-focused and family-first Americans around the country to come out to their local libraries.”

Cameron and the First Liberty Institute cited a speech given by ALA leadership that instructed local libraries “how to prevent Brave Books story hours from happening at libraries across the country.” The ALA reportedly instructed local libraries on strategies for restricting access to meeting rooms, as well as instructing them to prioritize library-sponsored events as possible methods to keep Kirk Cameron’s and other Christian library events out of public libraries, *Fox News* reported:¹²

Actor and writer Kirk Cameron is taking a stand — and not just for his popular children's books, two of which he's published recently with Brave Books, with more on the way.

Cameron is working with First Liberty Institute, the nonprofit Christian conservative legal organization based in Texas, to attempt to hold the American Library Association accountable for what he believes is discrimination against him and his pro-faith messaging, judging by its recent advisories to libraries across America to explore ways to "block" his upcoming nationwide story event on August 5.

Cameron told Fox News Digital about the issue, "While I'm trying to encourage thousands of Americans to visit public libraries and read wholesome books to their children, the taxpayer-funded American Library Association is not only criticizing me, they are teaching libraries to break the law and conspiring to prevent thousands of families from visiting their own community reading rooms," in a statement.

"Rather than being an example of genuine respect and non-discrimination, the ALA is the champ in excluding viewpoints it disagrees with and [is] preventing families from using libraries to read to their children about faith, hope and love."

He also said, "ALA, why all the hate? I thought you wanted diversity of thought in the public square? What happened to equal opportunity for all?"

¹² Fox News, “Kirk Cameron vows to hold American Library Association accountable for 'religious discrimination,’” [July 6, 2023](#)



Cameron said that he and First Liberty "have launched an investigation with the federal government to hold the American Library Association accountable for their religious discrimination, willful violation of the Constitution and the ALA's own internal rules to allegedly protect all people's access to public libraries."

Cameron concluded, "Accountability is coming."

Jeremy Dys, senior counsel at First Liberty Institute, based in Plano, Texas, told Fox News Digital in a statement, "While claiming to promote equality and diversity, the ALA is conspiring to deny access to thousands of citizens based upon open intolerance of their religious beliefs. Such action by any public library would be blatantly unconstitutional. Federal taxpayers should not be required to fund such bigotry and intolerance."

First Liberty Institute is the nation's largest law firm "dedicated exclusively to defending and restoring religious liberty for all Americans," the organization says.

Cameron and his publisher recently announced an upcoming "See You at the Library" book event for Aug. 5, 2023.

The goal of the Aug. 5 event, they said, is to encourage faith-focused and family-first Americans around the country to come out to their local libraries — and hold book readings or story time events for friends, families and neighbors.

Usually, community members and others can reserve rooms at local libraries for events, including book readings.

However, Cameron told Fox News Digital he was "shocked" to "see (on video) ALA staff, funded by its \$250 million budget, use those hard-earned taxpayer dollars to train librarians to discriminate against God-loving families and secretly sabotage a return to wholesome, patriotic community gatherings like 'See You At The Library' on August 5."

He added, "Historically, the local library was created to be a safe place for all people (of all race, economic status, religious affiliation, political persuasion, and sex) to read about all topics — including God's good design for the family, nations and the world."

Fox News Digital earlier reached out to the American Library Association for comment, but was told the group was holding its annual conference during the last week of June in Chicago and that a response would be delayed.

Fox News Digital reached out again for comment regarding Cameron's pairing with First Liberty.



Cameron and Brave Books referred to a recent speech they watched on video — reportedly delivered on June 8 — by American Library Association leadership at a "worldwide virtual conference" for libraries.

Part of the presentation involved telling attendees "how to prevent Brave Books story hours from happening at libraries across the country," they said.

"You can limit access to meeting rooms to persons eligible to hold a library card in your community. You could make a priority for library-sponsored programs," said the director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom in a virtual June 8 presentation posted on Library 2.0.

Beginning in December 2022, Cameron has traveled to libraries across the country, conducting a story hour tour during which he's been reading from his books "As You Grow" and "Pride Comes Before the Fall."

First Liberty wrote, in part, in its letter this week to the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C., "On behalf of our clients Brave Books and Kirk Cameron, I write to request that the Institute of Museum and Library Services ('IMLS') open an investigation into whether the American Library Association ('ALA') has violated federal law protecting religious liberty and failed to comply with the assurances of nondiscrimination required as a federal grant recipient."

It also said, "Brave Books and Kirk Cameron partner with local communities to read books at libraries."

The letter said as well, in a copy shared with Fox News Digital on Thursday, "Our clients author and publish faith-based children's books. As many authors and publishers have done throughout the history of the United States, our clients partner with individuals at the local community level to read and discuss their books. The practice is quite simple: Individual members of the local community request the use of rooms their local public libraries designate for community use to host a story hour."

Added the group in its letter, "Despite the effort of our clients to encourage thousands of Americans to visit America's public libraries, the ALA strongly criticized our clients' encouraging local community members to use libraries to read books. More concerning, ALA's director for its Office for Intellectual Freedom, Deborah Caldwell-Stone, appears to base the ALA's opposition to our clients upon their religious beliefs."



ALA SUPPORTS CRITICAL RACE THEORY

On September 22, 2020, during the Trump Administration, the White House issued its “Executive Order On Combating Race And Sex Stereotyping,” a measure aimed at curbing consideration of concepts like Critical Race Theory (CRT) and so-called “white privilege”. The ALA issued a press release in response to President Trump’s Executive Order, with ALA defending Critical Race Theory:¹³

CHICAGO - On September 22, the White House issued its Executive Order On Combating Race And Sex Stereotyping, prohibiting federal employees, contractors, and grant recipients from discussing or considering concepts such as critical race theory and white privilege and discouraging diversity education and training. This order is based on the patently false and malicious claim that diversity training—which is aimed at fostering a more equitable and just workplace and dismantling systemic racism and sexism—reflects a “Marxist doctrine” that is itself racist and sexist.

The American Library Association rejects this claim. We are painfully aware that libraries and the profession of librarianship have been—and still are—complicit in systems that oppress, exclude, and harm Black people, indigenous people, and people of color, and deny equal opportunity to women. We assert that a commitment to learn from the painful and brutal legacies of our history is essential to the fulfillment of our promise as a country of equal rights and opportunities.

This executive order is already having a chilling effect, with some colleges and universities suspending all diversity trainings and canceling cultural celebrations for fear of losing federal funds. A hotline has been established to encourage informants to report those whose words and deeds do not comply with the order or the dictates of its accompanying memoranda. We are reminded of another time and another era when the Council of the American Library Association adopted the Freedom to Read statement in response to growing concerns about censorship in the McCarthy era. That statement reads in part:

Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process.

¹³ ALA, Press Releases, “ALA Statement on Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping,” [October 29, 2022](#)

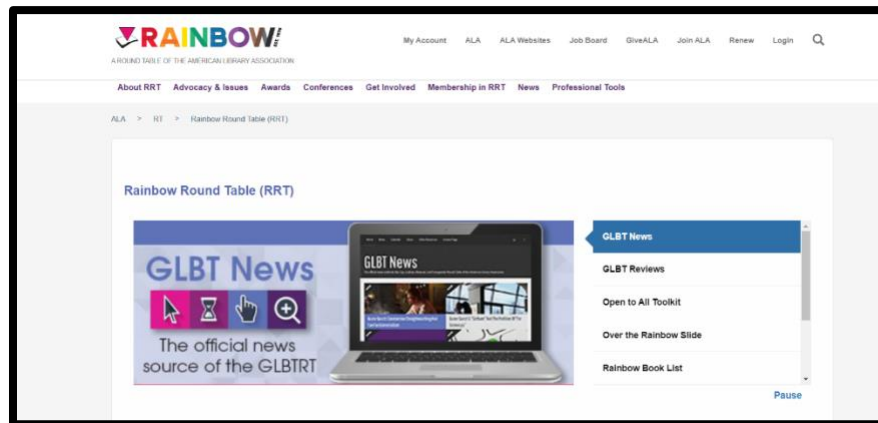


It is the longstanding role of libraries to foster intellectual freedom by ensuring access to the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by those in power. The pursuit of social justice and equity, diversity, and inclusion is equally a core value of the American Library Association. Consequently, the American Library Association opposes the Executive Order On Combating Race And Sex Stereotyping and all other actions that result in the curtailment of free expression and social justice and pledge to continue to pursue social justice and further our work against systems of oppression."



THE “RAINBOW ROUNDTABLE” TOOLKIT

The ALA houses a group named the “Rainbow Roundtable”:¹⁴



The Rainbow Round Table created an “Open to All” “toolkit” designed “to help library staff better understand gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual, aromantic, and other queer (LGBTQIA+) library users.”¹⁵

The toolkit asserts that “LGBT patrons want all of these things without having to ask,” which raises concerns about the potential lack of parental involvement or consent when it comes to accessing LGBTQ materials by children and teens.

Meeting the Needs of LGBTQIA+ Library Users

LGBTQIA+ library users don't expect to be treated any differently than any other user; they want to be able to find information that is relevant to them and their needs and to be treated with dignity and respect.

Symons and Freeman (2015) state that:

LGBT patrons and their allies want their privacy protected from prying eyes (which libraries already do well); the ability to check out materials without comment or judgment; materials that are interesting,

timely, and bought on-par with other subject matters; resources available in local branches without the need to order them from the far-flung reaches of the library galaxy; and programming to meet the needs of children, teens, adults, and families. Further, LGBT patrons want all of these things without having to ask.

LGBTQIA+ community members may not be aware of the materials available to them at your library, so specialized promotion and outreach will raise awareness and highlight the diversity of library

The toolkit also advocates for including “fiction with diverse protagonists of minority sexualities, gender identities, and family structures” for children. It proclaims that

¹⁴ ALA, “Rainbow Round Table,” Accessed on [July 24, 2023](#)

¹⁵ ALA, Rainbow Round Table, [“Open To All Toolkit”](#)



“children are often aware of their sexuality and gender at an early age, and there are increasing numbers of families with same-gender parents”:

resources. It is vital to hold programs and events for LGBTQIA+ users and families.

Collections that serve children should include fiction with diverse protagonists of minority sexualities, gender identities, and family structures, as well as nonfiction materials for school research projects. Children are often aware of their sexuality and gender at an early age, and there are increasing numbers of families with same-gender parents. Representation of these identities and families is critical for building healthy perceptions among youth.

Not all academic institutions include specific Gender and Sexuality Studies among their constituents,

however, information about LGBTQIA+ issues should be a part of every academic library collection.

Health information is critical in all types of libraries as mainstream information often does not account for particular risks or health complications faced by gender and sexual minorities. Additionally, such cases may be difficult to access, due to either supply or insurance gaps, and individuals may rely on freely accessible information until treatment is available.

Library users are of all ethnic and racial backgrounds, nationalities, socio-economic classes, and abilities. Look for materials that include and celebrate diverse experiences within LGBTQIA+ communities and promote accessible and inclusive programming.

Pertinent Terminology

The LGBTQIA+ community is complex and has its own terminology which can be very unfamiliar to some. The following two websites may be helpful in providing an understanding of terms and concepts used by your LGBTQIA+ library users.

- GLAAD Media Reference Guide: <https://www.glaad.org/reference>
- Human Rights Campaign Glossary of Terms: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

The toolkit also suggests that “when talking to children, ask if an adult is with them. Not every child (not just those of same sex parents) has a mother and father. Doing this allows children to respond how they are comfortable and lets parents know you are sensitive to a variety of families.”

Practical Tips for Library Services

- Think about “what you call people” who come into the library. Do you tend to use gendered titles, such as Sir or Ma’am? Addressing library users by a first name may seem uncomfortable at first, but it could do wonders in making a trans library user feel welcome.
- Look at policies respecting library users’ choice to change the name on their record. Changing names on federal and state-issued ID cards can be an extensive process; make policies that offer library users greater control over their identity at the library.
- When talking to children, ask if an adult is with them. Not every child (not just those of same sex parents) has a mother and father. Doing this allows children to respond how they are comfortable and lets parents know you are sensitive to a variety of families.
- Avoid asking for gender on forms or dividing activities by gender.
- If your facility marks single-seat bathrooms with gendered indicators, use neutral or inclusive symbols to indicate the bathroom location.
- Many library users prefer self-checkout machines and self-service holds because of privacy issues. If this is not an option at your library, be sure your staff respects all library users’ right to privacy.
- Create pathfinders, subject guides or reader’s advisory bookmarks related to topics of LGBTQIA+ interest.
- Include LGBTQIA+ books in genre or other displays and in book talking and readers’ advisory.
- Keep conscious efforts within hiring practices to interview and welcome the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ staff.

The toolkit also advocates for the allocation of specific LGBTQ materials for children, suggesting resources that librarians can use to help them build collections of LGBTQ content for kids.



systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation."

- Every library should have a collection development policy covering their collection. Sample collection development policies are available online at the RRT website: <https://www.ala.org/rt/rrt/popularresources/collection>. Another useful tool for creating or amending collection development policies can be found in the *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, Martin Garner & Trina Magi, editors, 2021.
- A good library collection will include fiction and non-fiction, informative and entertaining materials, graphic novels, audio books, videos, etc., for GLBTQIA+ library users of all ages. If your library has e-books/e-audio books in its collection, include a core collection of LGBTQIA+ materials.
- Annual bibliographies of LGBTQIA+ materials are available from the Rainbow Round Table of the American Library Association (RRT). The *Rainbow Book List* for LGBTQIA+ books (for youth 0-18) and the *Over the Rainbow Books* (for adults) highlight some of the year's best fiction and nonfiction. The Stonewall Book Awards, the oldest award for LGBTQIA+ literature, also recognizes adult, young adult, and children's fiction and nonfiction. There are also other LGBTQIA+ organizations which give book awards such as Lambda Literary and Publishing Triangle. The size of the

Fiction LGBTQIA+ Collection

Many Librarians are not sure where to start when it comes to collecting materials for the LGBTQIA+ community. Visit <https://www.ala.org/rt/rrt/bibliographies> for bibliographies on various topics. The bibliographies are not exhaustive, but serve as a starting point. The bibliographies will be updated regularly and will try to remain balanced in its approach of topics for LGBTQIA+ customers. As you collect materials remember that having only a few books on a topic is better than not having none at all. You can also add a variety of popular titles from the most current Stonewall Book Award, Rainbow Book list and Over the Rainbow Book list.

LGBTQIA+ Collection Development Resources

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- *Rainbow Family Collections: Selecting and Using Children's Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content* by Jaime Campbell Naidoo. Libraries Unlimited, 2012.
- Dorr, Christina H., Liz Deskins, and Jamie C. Naidoo. *LGBTQIA+ Books for Children and Teens: Providing a Window for all*. ALA Editions, Chicago, 2018.

Finally, the toolkit includes a labeling and cataloging section, where it suggests changes to labeling and cataloging processes. Advocating for terminology changes and reclassifying materials based on LGBTQIA+ topics may undermine the traditional role of libraries as neutral and unbiased sources of knowledge. Additionally, reclassifying materials to place LGBTQIA+ materials among sections related to health, family, and relationships could inadvertently expose young children to inappropriate topics.

FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

- *Top 250 LGBTQ Books for Teens: Coming Out, Being Out, and the Search for Community* by Michael Cart and Christine A. Jenkins. Huron Street Press, 2015.
- *The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content 1969-2004* by Michael Cart & Christine Jenkins. Scarecrow Press, 2006.
- *Queer Books for Teens (2000-2020)*: <http://queerbooksforteens.com/>

FOR ADULTS

- *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Literature: a Genre Guide* by Ellen Bosman, John Bradford, Robert Ridinger. Libraries Unlimited, 2008.

Cataloging

Library users utilize terms they are comfortable applying to themselves when searching the catalog. Subject headings and call numbers have not always been LGBTQIA+ friendly, however, librarians have advocated for improved terminology over time. "Intersex people" and "Transgender people" were added as Library of Congress subject headings in 2007. Periodically reviewing the catalog for offensive subject

headings is vital; language is continually evolving, and catalogers should remain current with terminology.

Libraries have made recent efforts to reclassify call numbers to place LGBTQIA+ materials among appropriate sections related to health, family, and relationships, rather than under "abnormal or deviant sexual behavior." LGBTQIA+ materials should be classified in their proper places. To avoid controversy, some libraries choose their own classification numbers to avoid shelving children's and fiction materials in nonfiction sections. Include materials in areas designated for the genre and audiences of the same age.

Labeling

The ALA's *Labeling and Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights* (2015) cautions against labeling. Identifying books with a LGBTQIA+ label may prevent library users from accessing them for fear of being outed. Interfiling LGBTQIA+ materials can be a positive move for libraries; when these materials are placed alongside other books and materials, LGBTQIA+ users feel welcomed and not ostracized.



ALA TIES TO GEORGE SOROS

In 2008, George Soros' Open Society Institute gave the ALA a \$350,000 grant for so-called "privacy rights" initiatives:¹⁶

The American Library Association announced today that it has received a \$350,000 seed grant from the Open Society Institute. The grant will launch a three-year public engagement initiative to inspire library patrons and Americans to stand with librarians as they fight to usher in privacy standards for the digital age.

The first phase of the privacy rights initiative will kick off with a provocative forum titled "Privacy: Is It Time for a Revolution?", among Information Age titans Cory Doctorow, boingboing blogger and science fiction author, Dan Roth, senior writer for Wired magazine and Beth Givens, director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on June 29, during ALA's Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Collaborating with ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom is a blue-ribbon privacy advisory panel of 13 thought leaders that includes representatives from the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Association of American Publishers, the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse and Google, among others (complete list at end).

"While many people and pundits have been saying their RIPs for privacy rights, librarians have remained guardians of the First Amendment for hundreds of thousands of library patrons, challenging subpoenas for reading records and online searches, ushering in legislative protections and fighting the erosion of fundamental rights," said Judith Krug, director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, who is the lead investigator of the campaign.

She continued, "Recently, heavy users of digital media—bloggers, social media experts, and online journalists—are speaking out about the need to recommit ourselves to privacy standards. As we launch this campaign, we invite our nation's librarians to 'opt in' to share their stories from the front lines of America's privacy wars and to lead Americans in a conversation about the importance of privacy to sustaining a democracy in the 21st century. We also welcome additional funding partners to help us achieve our goal to reestablish the rights of Americans to read, explore, and learn through books and electronic media without someone peeking over their shoulder," said Krug...

¹⁶ ALA.org, "open society institute gives american library association \$350,000 seed grant for 21st century privacy rights initiative," [May 21, 2008](#)



Additionally, in 1997, the ALA awarded George Soros its James Madison Award. ¹⁷This award, named after President James Madison, is meant to “honor individuals or groups who have championed public access to government information and the public's right to know at the national level”:

George Soros

Award:

[James Madison Award](#)

Year this Award was Won:

1 997

Award Win Active Date:

Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - 11:51

Winner Rank:

WIN

Sort field for winners:

George Soros

Winner Description:

philanthropist and financier

Winner's Last Name (this will display to the public):

Soros

Winner's First Name (this will display to the public):

George

Winner Detail Create Date:

Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - 11:51

Winner Detail Change Date:

Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - 11:51

Winner Type:

[PRSN](#)

¹⁷ ALA.org, “James Madison Award,” Accessed [July 25, 2023](#)

