



Evidence used by groups seeking to promote disaffiliation from the American Library Association, or prevent librarians from joining or participating in ALA-sponsored professional development, is full of accusations which are one-sided and full of misinformation and half-truths. This packet would like to offer up evidence to refute those claims as well as add some context to some of the information often presented as fact.

I. The ALA promotes an LGBTQIA+ “agenda.” Evidence: ALA “Queering the Library” Program from 2022.

A. The purpose of the program - not to push an “agenda,” but to increase community understanding and reduce hate crimes.

“In particular, they urged librarians to push back against the misconceptions that queer content is inherently sexual or adult, pointing out that positive representation of LGBTQIA+ people reduces bullying and contributes to mental health. Those interested in their resources and contact information can find them in the shared slide deck.”

Sources: [“We Are Not Ok,” American Libraries, June 2022](#)

[“Queering the Library: PLA 2022,” *Library Journal*, March 2022](#)

‘We Are Not Okay’

Supporting the LGBTQ+ community at the library

By Sanhita SinhaRoy | June 26, 2022



Rebecca Oxley, librarian at Prince George's County (Md.) Memorial Library System
Photo: Rebecca Lomax/American Libraries



[HERE's the Full Program](#) for the ALA's PLA 2022 Conference (along with a photo of one page), showing Many MORE programs than just "Queering the Library."

Location: Oregon Ballroom 204, Oregon Convention Center

Effective Security Strategies: Empowering Staff to Address Disruptive Behaviors

Speaker(s):

👤 Yvette May, Branch Manager, Baltimore County Public Library 👤 Shirley Mason, Circulation Services Manager, Baltimore County Public Library

Spaces and Places

Stewards of the public library and its values

Location: Portland Ballroom 1, Oregon Convention Center

Libraries Build Business: Models for Empowering Underrepresented Entrepreneurs

Speaker(s):

👤 Diane Luccy, Business and Careers Manager, Richland Library 👤 Adam Pitts, Branch Manager, Gwinnett County Public Library 👤 Adriana McCleer, Community Partnerships Supervisor, Appleton Public Library 👤 Megan Janicki, Libraries Build Business Project Manager, American Library Association 👤 Michael Sekaquaptewa, Yakama Nation Library

Community Engagement/Partnerships

Public library advocates oriented toward community needs

Location: A105-106, Oregon Convention Center

Local History for the People: A Newspaper Partnership

Speaker(s):

👤 Michael Wells, Special Collections Librarian, Kansas City Public Library 👤 Jeremy Drouin, Kansas City Public Library

Community Engagement/Partnerships

Public library advocates oriented toward community needs

Location: D137-140, Oregon Convention Center

Offering Dementia-Friendly Service at Your Library

Speaker(s):

👤 Timothy Dickey, Adult Services Librarian, Columbus Metropolitan Library 👤 Mary Beth Riedner, Retired Academic Librarian/Volunteer, ALA-ODLOS Interest Group, Library Services for Dementia/Alzheimer's 👤 Amy DelPo, Administrator of Older Adult Services, Denver Public Library

Serving Adults

Public library advocates oriented toward community needs

Location: F149-152, Oregon Convention Center

🕒 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM PDT

Beyond Yuck and Yum: Programming with Picture Books about Food

Speaker(s):

👤 Craig Seasholes, Friends of Winthrop Library 👤 June Jo Lee, Author and Publisher, Readers to Eaters 👤 Suzanna Urmanska, Free Library of Philadelphia



Libs of TikTok (Source of “Queering the Library” Image/Tweet)



Will Carless

USA TODAY

Published 6:12 a.m. ET Nov. 2, 2023 | Updated 12:58 p.m. ET Nov. 5, 2023



Brookings, South Dakota. A university LGBTQ+ group is hit with a flood of hate mail, culminating in a bomb threat that terrifies students.

San Lorenzo, California. A drag queen story hour is one of several Pride events across the country stormed by suspected members of the extremist street gang the Proud Boys. The men shout homophobic slurs and threats, and a performer hides in a back room, waiting for police to arrive.

Philadelphia. Boston. Pittsburgh. Washington, D.C. Akron, Ohio. Threats hit hospitals and medical clinics, and some temporarily evacuate their patients while law enforcement assesses the danger.

Then comes summer and fall 2023, at least two dozen public schools and libraries start receiving bomb threats. In California, Colorado, Oklahoma

These cases, and many more, share a common link: The victim of each threat had also been targeted, in the days before, by the enormously popular conservative social media channel Libs of TikTok.

[Source: When Libs of TikTok tweets, threats increasingly follow](#)



II. The person who supposedly “recorded” ALA President Emily Drabinski at the Socialist Conference?

Her name is Karlyn Borysenko. She believes Holocaust victims chose to die and Adolf Hitler went to heaven.

A presenter at academic media company PragerU has been criticized for stating that her spiritual beliefs means she thinks Jewish people chose to be killed in the Holocaust, and that Adolf Hitler went to heaven.

In a series of tweets over the past few days, Karlyn Borysenko has been outlining her beliefs that people make decisions about their lives before they “choose to be born,” including when they die.

While answering a number of questions on the subject, Borysenko said this includes children who “choose to be aborted” as they could “choose to be born into human form” if they wanted.

Borysenko went on to suggest that even those who were killed in the Holocaust chose to do so spiritually for the “experience.”

Source: [PragerU Presenter Karlyn Borysenko Says Jewish People Chose To Die In Holocaust](#)

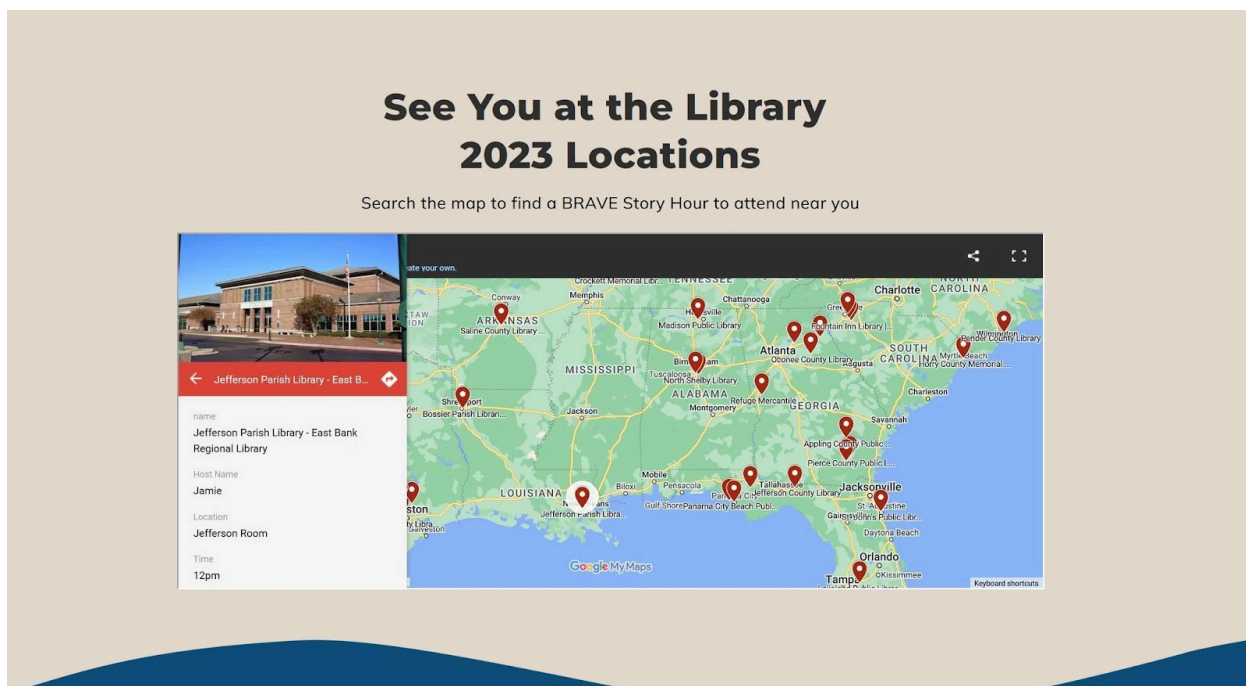
III. Brave Books is being “censored” by the ALA.

Quotes by Deborah Caldwell-Stone, head of the [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) at the ALA, are frequently taken out of context. In particular, one presentation is often given as evidence that the ALA encourages librarians to “discriminate” against conservative groups such as Brave Books. [HERE is the full presentation.](#)

Caldwell-Stone’s presentation was about preventing outside groups from using the library for political purposes rather than its intended purpose, which can cause disruptions to library services for *actual* library patrons. However, she cautioned attendees that they *could not* discriminate against groups for their viewpoints.

“Our public libraries must not endeavor to **deny** the use of meeting rooms simply because of an individual’s or group’s political or ideological views — that is, its “particular cause.”

In fact, Brave Books was allowed to put on their Kirk Cameron story hours across the United States on August 5, 2023 – including at the Jefferson Parish Library in Metairie.



IV. Dan Kleinman, owner of SafeLibraries®, is critical of the ALA and has founded an alternative, the World Library Association.

Kleinman has been targeting librarians for years with harassment, and has been involved in several lawsuits.

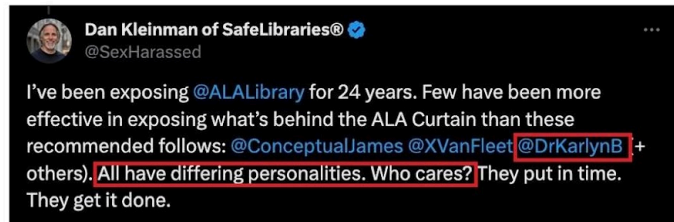
[School and Public Librarians Describe On-the-Job Harassment](#)

“A librarian who described harassment at the library added, “I was also harassed by Dan Kleinman of Safe Libraries.”



He also associates with well-known extremists, such as the earlier mentioned Karlyn Borysenko.

[Executive Director Dan Kleinman of World Library Association Finds Himself in Hot Water as Video goes Viral of His Apparent Attendance on a Known Extremist's Live-Stream Where She is Publicly Sexually Harassing an Individual and Kleinman Appears to Join In by Calling Out By Name](#)





Finally, his World Library Association is not a viable alternative to the American Library Association.

[ALA alternative won't pay Campbell library board members, leader says](#)

“In fall 2022, the library board approved in a 4–1 vote a statement saying that it would no longer be part of the ALA, a Chicago-based institution. Since then, the board has taken the mention of the ALA out of the job description for the library’s executive director and its collection development policy, though the policy is not yet in effect since the board needs to fill the executive director position.”

Butler said that losing Campbell County librarians’ access to continuing education opportunities was an unintended consequence of leaving the ALA, and the board was trying to come up with a solution. He didn’t realize that unlike some other industries, like scuba diving, library science education, apart from Christian library organizations, is largely tied to the ALA.

“That was a shock to us,” he said.”



V. The ALA is governed solely by President Emily Drabinski and is a Marxist organization bent on indoctrinating children with pornography.

Take a look at [the current ALA governing Board](#).

Current Executive Board & Officers:

ALA Executive Officers



PRESIDENT
Emily Drabinski (2023-2024)
The Graduate Center, CUNY
Brooklyn, NY



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Cindy Hohl (2023-2024)
Kansas City Public Library
Kansas City, MO



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Lessa KananTogusa Pelayo-Lozada (2023-2024)
Palos Verdes Library District
Rolling Hills Estates, CA



TREASURER
Peter Hepburn (2022-2025)
College of the Canyons
Santa Clarita, CA

Term 2022–2025



Sara Dallas
Southern Adirondack Library
Saratoga Springs, NY



Kathy Carroll
Westwood High School
Blythewood, SC

Term 2023–2025



Karen Schneider
Sonoma State University Library
Rohnert Park, CA



Amy Lappin
Lebanon Public Libraries
Lebanon, NH

ALA Executive Board Members

Term 2021–2024



Ana Elisa de Campos Salles
Parkside Branch
San Francisco Public Library
San Francisco, CA



Sam Helmick
Iowa City Public Library
Iowa City, IA



Christina Rodrigues
OCLC
Dublin, OH

Term 2023–2026



Stephanie Chase
Libraries of Eastern Oregon
Portland, OR



Sophia Sotilleo
Thurgood Marshall Library
Bowie, MD



Steven Yates
School of Library and Information
Studies
Tuscaloosa, AL

As you can see, Emily Drabinski's term ends in 2024, when she will be replaced by Cindy Hohl, from Kansas City, MO. The Executive Board includes library professionals from across the United States, including Ohio, New Hampshire, and Alabama.

In 2022, when Emily was elected, ALA membership was 49,705. When Emily ran for president of the organization, she received 5,410 votes, a majority of members who voted. That doesn't sound much like a Marxist conspiracy.

The ALA Governing Board does not set policy. That is the job of [the ALA Council, over 100 librarians from around the country](#) elected by membership to vote on ALA policies. That doesn't sound much like a Marxist conspiracy, either.

Here are some of the programs offered for the upcoming [Public Library Association Conference \(PLA\) in Columbus, OH, in April, 2024](#):



- Creating Youth Opportunities: Libraries Serve Youth at Risk of Incarceration
- Black Men in Public Libraries
- We See You: Programming for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Older Adults Need Jobs! Empowering Seniors to Rejoin the Workforce
- Challenging Post-COVID Impacts on School Readiness through Storytime Standards
- Stronger Together: Trauma Informed Methods and Models to Support Library Staff
- The Promise of Public Spaces: Building Community with Our Neighbors
- The Future's So Bright: Supporting the Next Generation of Librarians
- Mamas Matter: Creating Restorative Spaces in Public Libraries for All Mothers

****These are but a few of the programs offered.****

As you can see, ALA Conferences are extremely important sources of professional development. They are not pushing an agenda, or advocating for any particular political ideology. They are simply continuing the training of librarians to offer the best possible service to their patrons.