

American Library Association President Report
Emily Drabinski
June 2024

This report includes activities and events since my April 2024 report.

Presidential priorities

Member engagement

With board member Stephanie Chase, I toured rural libraries in Oregon on my way to the Utah Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association conference.

Titled “The Road to Annual,” my presidential library tour left from New York on June 2. With the support of staff in the CMO office, particularly Jan Carmichael, the tour was supported with a logo and blog that will be updated over the course of the tour.

Artist Shana Agid collaborated with me to produce a perforated book of good library stories that will be shared with libraries and library workers met over the course of the tour.

The documentary film is on track to complete production by Fall 2024.

Climate Action

The committee charged with developing a National Climate Action Plan for Libraries has been completed. Once reviewed and approved by the boards of ALA and the Sustainable Library Association, the achievement will be shared with ALA Council at our Annual meeting.

Library Workers

The Executive Board reviewed and acted on all recommendations from the working group tasked with reviewing capacities at APA. Work with a small board committee to address outstanding issues will begin in the 2024-25 board year.

Support for school librarians

I transferred \$5000 to AASL to support President Courtney Pentland’s priorities. Funds were used to support a reading circle of John Schu’s *The Gift of Story*. Free books were provided to members to support broad participation. Remaining funds will be used to support President Pentland’s program at ALA Annual.

Speaking Engagements

- Invited talk. “The Fight for Libraries.” Silicon Valley eRotary Club. Online. (4/12/24)
- Discussion leadership. “How a Book Gets on the Shelf.” Dorot. Online. (4/16/24)
- Panelist. “Why Libraries Matter.” Loyola University. Chicago, IL. (4/18/24)
- Invited talk. “The Fight for Libraries.” Brookline High School. Brookline, MA. (4/22/24)
- Invited talk. “Libraries Do Good Work.” Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries. Online. (4/24/24)
- Keynote address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” British Columbia Library Association. Online. (4/24/24)
- Invited panelist. “Censorship.” Solidarity in Action. Online. (4/26/24)

- Keynote address. “Book Battles: The Assault on America’s Libraries.” Center for American Studies, Rome, Italy. Online. (5/6/24)
- Keynote address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” Massachusetts Library Association. Online. (5/7/24)
- Keynote Address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” LACUNY Institute. Online. (5/9/24)
- Keynote address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” Utah Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association. Salt Lake City, UT. (5/10/24)
- Keynote address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter. Allentown, PA. (5/16/24)
- Commencement address. San Jose State University. Online. (5/17/24)
- Keynote address. “Libraries Do Good Work.” Vermont Library Association. Killington, VT. (5/20/24)
- Keynote address. “Building Connections, Making Change: The Power of the Association.” IFLA Management of Library Associations conference. Online. (5/31/24)

Library Visits

- California State Library (4/29/24)
- Eugene (OR) Public Library (5/3/24)
- Blue River (OR) Public Library (5/3/24)
- Oregon State University, Cascade (5/4/24)
- Cybermill, John Day, Oregon (5/5/24)
- Newark Public Library (5/22/24)

An ALA presidency is a group project and I have so many people to thank. I would like to share gratitude to the library workers and ALA staff who made my year a success. My profound gratitude to Melissa Walling, Rebecca Headrick, and Dina Tsourdinis. Thank you to Leslie Burger. Thank you to Sheryl Reyes, Holly Robison, and Adrian Stratton, a governance team that helped me shine. Our CMO team deftly navigated a remarkably hostile and divided media environment. Thank you Jean Hodges and Raymond Garcia. Thank you to the Lannan Foundation for their generous financial support. Thanks to Bianca Phipps for indispensable logistics work. Thanks to Dolsy Smith for speech writing support; you are such a beautiful writer. Meredith Shiner was a constant and invaluable presence during the second half of my term, ensuring media engagement that reflected my commitments and values. Thanks to Flynn Murray for producing my Road to Annual library tour. Thank you to Nikita Carpenter Jr. for documenting our journey. It is an honor to work with a true artist.

To Leah Richardson. Thank you for helping me believe in it all.

Finally, to the library workers across the United States and around the world who welcomed me into your conversations, your libraries, your corners of the world. We got this.