

American Library Association
Emily Drabinski, President-Elect Report
June 2023

Since my April 2023 report, I have focused on preparing for my presidential initiatives. These include a library tour, four ALA Connect Live programs, support for ongoing work in the ALA-Allied Professional Association, and a focus on climate action. These projects extend the work of recent past presidents. I wish to thank Julius Jefferson, Jr. for establishing the Connect Live program. Thank you to Patty Wong for her work stewarding sustainability efforts in the association. Thank you to Lessa Pelayo-Lozada for her support of efforts to advance the interests of library workers. These are just three of the giants whose shoulders I stand on—I am grateful for the stewardship and support of a generation of ALA member-leaders.

Presidential initiatives

Bus tour

Working with ALA staff and members of my advisory committee, I continue to solidify plans for a presidential bus tour highlighting the contributions of American libraries to their communities and the importance of advancing literacy and the right to read across the country. We will begin this tour at Cranston Public Library in Cranston, Rhode Island, with Ed Garcia in early June. The tour will end in San Diego at Annual 2024. We are planning for a media stop midway through the tour and are pursuing leads in Texas. Leah Richardson (George Washington University) and Phoebe Waldron (Austin Public Library), members of my advisory committee, are principally involved with planning. Thank you Ian Ware of the Public Policy and Advocacy office for serving as staff liaison for this project.

Climate action

Working with Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and members of the Sustainability Committee of Council and the Sustainability Round Table, we are planning for a Climate Action summit during my presidential year. We will convene members to draft a national climate strategy, culminating in an event at Annual in San Diego. Presidential funds will support this initiative. Thank you to Executive Board liaison Sara Dallas for support with these efforts.

ALA Connect Live

My advisory committee and I have planned four ALA Connect Live programs that address elements of my presidential priorities. Thank you to advisory committee members Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Aliqae Geraci, George Gottschalk, Mimosa Shah, Charity Tyler, and Jamia Williams for their work on this initiative. Sandy Hirsh, incoming chair of the Membership

Committee, has agreed to assist in curating relevant volunteer opportunities in the association for members interested in these topics. Thank you to Melissa Walling for her vision and support.

- How we started a union: Thursday, September 14, 3pm Pacific/4pm Mountain/5pm Central/6pm Eastern
- How we negotiated our first contract: Tuesday, November 14 at 3pm Pacific/4pm Mountain/5pm Central/6pm Eastern
- How We Organized Against Censorship: Tuesday, February 13 at 3pm PT/4pm MT/5pm CT/6pm ET
- Climate Action From an Indigenous Perspective: Thursday, April 18, 11am PT/12pm MT/1pm CT/2pm ET

Rainbow Round Table/Lambda Literary Foundation Book Club

In recognition of the particular challenges facing LGBTQ+ and BIPOC readers and library workers, I will be working with members of RRT in partnership with the Lambda Literary Foundation to support a book club highlighting “Dangerous Reads” from a range of LGBTQ+ writers. Executive Board liaison Ana Elisa de Campos Salles, RRT chair Dontana McPherson-Joseph, and incoming RRT chair Nadia Orozco-Sahi met on June 7, 2023 to begin planning. I am in ongoing conversation with Lambda Literary Executive Director Samiya Bashir about this partnership.

Board support

CMO Search

I continue to serve on the Communications and Marketing Office director search. This work will continue through August.

ALA-APA Appointments

In June, I began the process of making appointments to ALA-APA committees. This work is ongoing.

Speaking Engagements

- “Say Gay: Schools, Libraries, Museums, and the Censorship of LGBTQ Lives.” **Panelist.** Organization of American Historians. 4/1. Los Angeles, CA.

- “The Fight for the Right to Read.” **Invited talk.** 4/19. Osher Institute, Boise State University. Boise, ID.
- “Public Libraries and our Right to Read.” **Panelist.** 4/19. Braille Institute. [online]
- “Queer Books in the Firing Line.” **Panelist.** 4/22. Rainbow Book Fair. New York, NY.
- “Collective Action, Collective Good: Organizing for Change at Work.” **Keynote.** 4/24. Herbert Biblo Academic Libraries Conference. Half Hollow Hills, NY.
- “The Fight for the Right to Read.” **Remarks.** 5/5. Wood Library. Canandaigua, NY.
- “We’re Gonna Win: Strategies and Tactics for Change.” **Keynote.** 5/8. New York Public Library Adult Services Unconference. Bronx, New York.
- “The Library Ecosystem Tools in Action.” **Panelist.** 5/29. COLA Ecosystem Subcommittee. [online]
- “We’re Gonna Win: Strategies and Tactics for Change.” **Keynote.** 5/24. Rhode Island Library Association. Providence, RI.
- “The State of Intellectual Freedom: A Conversation.” **Panelist.** 5/31. New Jersey Library Association. Atlantic City, NJ.
- “Materials Challenges: A Guided Discussion.” **Panelist.** 6/1. New Jersey Library Association. Atlantic City, NJ.
- “Save the Library, Save the World.” **Plenary speaker.** 6/14. Association of Theological Librarians. Fort Worth, TX.
- “Organizing for Change.” **Keynote.** 6/21. Academic Libraries North–UK. [online]

Library Visits

- Boise High School, 4/17
- North Junior High School, 4/17
- Boise Public library, 4/18
- Idaho Commission for Libraries, 4/18
- Cascade (ID) Public Library, 4/19
- Donnelly (ID) Public Library, 4/19
- McCall (ID) Public Library, 4/19
- Brooklyn Public Library, Macon Branch, 5/11
- University of Rhode Island, 5/23
- West Warwick (RI) Public Library, 5/23
- Cranston Public Library, 5/23

Interviews and Media

- “Beyond Book Banning: the Movement to Control America.” Jim Hightower’s Chat & Chew. 4/24
- “These Reads Prove That Book Bans Are Regressive Trash.” Cosmopolitan. 5/9