Eagle Forum Report

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=ALA: All Leftist Anarchists =

SEX IN THE STACKS

by Joy Pullmann, who is executive editor of The Federalist, a happy wife, and the mother of six children. Joy is a grateful graduate of the Hillsdale College honors and journalism programs. She wrote *The Education Invasion: How Common Core Fights Parents for Control of American Kids.*

Mid growing concern about libraries connecting children to sexually explicit activities, the American Library Association is doubling down.

A large organization that drives the training of U.S. librarians and their use of public funds has chosen a self-described "Marxist lesbian" as its next president amid growing concern about libraries actively connecting children to sexually explicit activities and materials.

Emily Drabinski was elected president of the American Library Association by the organization's members and began her term in office in July 2023.

ALA's approximately 54,000 members include librarians, libraries, library graduate schools, members of library boards and associations, and library students. The vast majority of its membership fees, therefore, are provided by taxpayer funds.

Drabinski won with 5,410 votes from such an electorate, compared to her opponent's 4,622 votes, according to an ALA press release. The election was conducted online.

The interim chief librarian of The Graduate Center at City University of

New York, where she was previously the "critical pedagogy librarian," Drabinski posts openly on her Twitter feed in support of sexually exposing children, union-led political strife, socialist politicians, and libraries pushing explicit and far-left material on unwilling taxpayers.

On a personal web page, Drabinski touted multiple endorsements from labor and LGBT activists in her bid for the ALA presidency, including from Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers union.

"I so value Emily's work in intentionally bringing a class, labor, and queer consciousness to her efforts as an anti-racist ally," wrote fellow ALA member April M. Hathcock in a public endorsement of Drabinski.

For more than a century, labor unions have often functioned as a recruiting and muscle operation for the Communist Party and its fellow travelers and shell operations.

In a TV interview with a Boise station about her ALA election, Drabinski conveyed surprise at public concerns about libraries making pornographic materials available to children and buying them with taxpayer resources.

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"It's like concerted political efforts to sort of push this, sort of story about what libraries do which seems very, you know, it's anathema to what libraries actually do, that we are, sort of pushing pornographic materials on our patrons and it's really not what we do at all," she claimed. "... There's no big library agenda."

Contrary to her claims in that interview, however, Drabinski's other YouTube videos are replete with teaching other librarians how to "subvert" and inject hard-left politics and sexuality into their publicly funded work. For one example, consider one of many such lectures she gave to other librarians on July 6, 2021, titled "Teaching the Radical Catalog."

In the lecture, Drabinski discussed her homosexual coming out experience and how saturating in a campus environment of proliferating sexual identities changed how she approaches being a librarian. At her first librarian job, "At Sarah Lawrence, absolutely everybody was queer. ... There were so many ways to be gay. ... And it was my job to teach those students how to find themselves in our library catalog," she said. She described queering the library as "critical thinking" and "thinking critically

Emily Drabinski Tweets:



about the catalog."

Here's a slide from that presentation showing the sexuality sections of the Library of Congress catalog. In it, you can see the Closed Captioning of what Drabinski is saying while showing the slide, which includes affirming the idea that "queerness includes the subversion of those kinds of normal family types." She's referring to the family types that naturally produce children — i.e. a married man and woman.

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In the rest of the presentation, Drabinski went on to teach librarians how to change how visitors find books about sex, contradicting her claims to the Boise reporter that librarians don't work to get sexual material into patrons' hands. This very effort has been a part of Drabinski's public professional work for decades, by her own public attestation.

"We can equip our students with the capacity to wring what they need out of library structures, and wringing what you need out of systems that exclude you is a necessary life skill for survival and revolution," she concluded in her talk. "And we can also help build a way of shaping students as agents of change both inside the library and out."

So while Drabinski tells the general public that librarians aren't trying to help minors access pornography, by her own admission elsewhere that's exactly what she has focused her professional career on doing, with taxpayer resources. In their endorsements, fellow ALA members and leaders said, as did "former ALA Council member" Jenna Freedman, that Drabinski's professional "accomplishments" include "queering the landscape of library publishing and scholarship."

This is supported by her Google Scholar page, which ranks Drabinski's 2013 article "Queering the Catalog" as her top-cited work. In that article, she notes "the first program of ALA's Task Force on Gay Liberation was called Sex and the Single Cataloger, a session about the trouble with headings for gay and lesbian materials."

That ALA task force was founded in 1970, and was the first formally organized professional U.S. organization to push LGBT preferences. That task force now annually presents the Stonewall Awards for LGBT-themed books. Such recommendations are essentially "buy list" excuses for public libraries that ensure major taxpayer subsidies for often obscene, and what would otherwise be mostly obscure, books that few people ever saw or requested from libraries.

In the 2013 article, again flatly contradicting her representations to the Boise TV station, Drabinski developed a "strategy [that] suggests the possibility of a queer library politics."

"Queer theory provides a useful theoretical frame for rethinking the stable, fixed categories and systems of naming that characterize library organization schemes and strategies for helping users navigate them," Drabinski wrote. She essentially explained "queer theory" as the rejection of the existence of truth, either in language or in anything: "Viewing cataloging and classification from a queer perspective [is] — one that challenges the idea that classification and subject language can ever be corrected once and for all." She argued that since gender identities are fluid,

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so must be library classification systems and stacks.

This is a rejection of Western thought and civilization, which is built on the search for truth. A search for truth presupposes that truth exists and can be at least partially known. This also implies the world has an intrinsic, natural order that can, and indeed must, be acknowledged (i.e., the natural law). So it's no surprise that a woman who opposes truth, and instead deifies self-created and unnatural identities, calls herself a Marxist.

Whether in its predominantly economic or cultural forms (which, as they say, intersect), Marxists are committed to overthrowing the West, including all of its organizing ideas and accomplishments. In addition to lies and deception, Marxists use sexual chaos as a deliberate strategy of cultural destruction. The "queer theory" in which Drabinski specializes openly aims to destroy the West by destroying the natural family, natural sex, natural relationships between the sexes and the children those sexes produce only heterosexually, natural distinctions, natural hierarchies, and order itself.

The United States, especially in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution that gave this great nation its birth, is the chief modern example of Western achievement. Its achievements are precisely in recognizing and attempting to adhere to the natural order as closely as possible. And now those who hold the keys to its socalled institutions of learning use their positions and resources to erase truth and the natural law, which are the very foundation of Western society.

Like other Marxists, Drabinski also makes politically exclusionary statements that show she doesn't approach non-leftists with good faith, instead desiring to wage political war against people who disagree with her with whatever resources she can muster.

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For example, writing in the Los Angeles Review of Books in December 2019, Drabinski wrote, "The [political] right is interested in maintaining the status quo, preserving white supremacy and the continuing consolidation of wealth into their hands and no one else's. ... Like the United States itself, the right is enriched by capitalism, racism, and patriarchy."

On that issue, at least, she was willing to tip her hand to the Boise journalist: "I think we have legacies of racism to undo," she commented while on another subject. To her, however, as to so many others now atop our commanding heights, dismantling "racism" means "dismantling America." One pervy picture book and publicly funded twerk at a time.

THE LIBRARY IS NOT A SAFE SPACE

by Jim Metrock, President of Obligation, Inc.

T here were two prominent takeaways from this summer's five-day annual conference of the American Library Association that I attended in Chicago: the evils of socalled book banning and the flamboyant acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ agenda.

I witnessed the ALA manipulate language in order to create fear in librarians. They identified a person who questioned a book as a "book banner." Several speakers described people who challenged a book as "dangerous." I heard no one openly question this over-the-top language.

Several sessions focused on book challenges which the ALA presented with an us-against-them viewpoint. They held up librarians as the defenders of freedom and intimated that any book challenged was a threat to the freedom to read for all people.

Advice was given on how a librarian should prepare for meeting with a concerned citizen asking for the removal of a book or books. Librarians were told to be familiar with state laws and their own library policies regarding book challenges.

One session was led by three librarians who gave tips on handling book challengers. Two mentioned they have their talking points taped on top of their desks so they can quickly respond to a person complaining about a book. I learned quickly that no librarian who follows ALA guidance will ever say, "Oh, you're right. That book should not have been on the shelf."

Every day attendees could hear speakers on topics like: "Help! They're Coming For Our Books!" and "Understanding and Combating Book Bans" and "Changing the Narrative: ALA Policy Corps Takes On Book Banners."

Throughout the conference, the ALA was honoring, affirming, lifting up all things LGBTQIA+. Instead of having a breakout session to help attendees learn how to rekindle a love of reading for middle schoolers, they had a session called "Beyond the Middle School Rainbow: Intersectionality in LGBTQIA+ Middle Grade Books." And for younger children, librarians could choose to attend the session called, "Promoting Diverse LGBTQIA+ Narratives in Picture Book Collections."

The conference attendees passed Resolution 59 that states, "Whereas it has been observed that 61% of pride festivals in the top 50 most populated cities in the United States occur

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during the second and fourth week of June; Whereas the ALA's Annual Conference, traditionally held during the fourth week of June, conflicts with many pride festivals, leading to difficulties for the 1,476 Rainbow Round Table members and other LGBTQIA+ members of the ALA to fully participate in both events...." The resolution therefore calls for the ALA annual conference to be moved from its longtime position in June to a more LGBTQIA+ convenient date.

One slide summed up the ALA's position on book challenges. "Parents have the right to guide their children's reading, but parents should not be making decisions for other parent's children. Specifically, a small group of parents should not dictate what books other people's children are allowed to read."

Another slide stated, "We can trust individuals to make their own decisions about what they read and believe." This applies to all patrons no matter the age. The ALA wants librarians to consider all children as with the maturity of adults and be able to decide for themselves what they read.

An attorney on the Intellectual Freedom committee said that it was very difficult for any book to be considered obscene. He advised that the courts would consider the value of the book as a whole. Is the book completely without merit? Few books are. Attendees were told that the law is on the library's side.

If a book is offensive to you, rather than asking for it to be removed, you might have greater success asking for it to be moved to a restricted area in the library where parents may have more control.

Librarians are taught that no book challenge is legitimate; only the books they choose deserve to be on the library shelf. It's hard to reason with ALA librarians who are counseled to not consider the merits of any opposing argument.

The ALA finds it most offensive for parents to challenge more than one book at a time. A speaker said the first thing to ask a book challenger is, "Have you read all the books you are challenging?" They do not believe that most have read in full the challenged book(s).

You must read the book you are challenging because it makes your complaint more valid.

A sign outside the exhibition hall listed the most challenged books of 2023. All books had the exact same reason for being challenged: "Claimed to be sexually explicit." Even the extraordinarily explicit "Gender Queer" had that description. It seems the ALA can't allow itself to say any book is sexually explicit.

Attendees were told to be prepared for citizens who dared question ANY book in their library. I got the feeling after hearing multiple speakers in different sessions, that librarians have a strong sense of ownership when it comes to their book collections. They are to protect their books from the patrons who built and support the library. How dare any citizen march into their library and suggest that a book doesn't belong in the children's section.

One of the most important sessions I attended was given by the ALA's Intellectual Freedom committee. An attorney talked about groups leading book challenges, which made me think that it could get ugly, but I was wrong. The ALA attorney praised conservative groups for having a plan and working the plan. He said these people don't give up. They keep coming even when meeting obstacles.

Another committee member said, "We were hoping this season of book challenges would be over in a year or two, but this is not going away." Those who challenge the content of a book or the positioning of a book (adult-content book in the children's department), need to understand librarians are being told by the ALA that no book challenge is legitimate. Only the books they choose deserve to be on the library shelf.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the Director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, spoke in a panel discussion. She is a rockstar among progressive librarians.

Ms. Caldwell-Stone said children should have access to anything in a library. Parents should be the ones to control what a child accesses. Librarians should not be asked to take over the role of parents. A young child should be able to check out a R-rated movie. Librarians have no role in protecting a child from content. To do so would be a violation of the ALA's Library Bill of Rights.

By the end of the conference, I realized that local librarians are not the problem; rather the American Library Association is the problem. To regain sanity at your local library, I think it wise to discontinue all ALA memberships - organizational and individual. Cutting off the flow of funds will help end the tyranny of this activist organization. Librarians are respected and appreciated by their communities, but this is rapidly changing due to the toxic influence of this small Chicago-based organization. The American Library Association isn't as nice as its name sounds.

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