

Pride books

Mary Eufrazio <meufra@gmail.com>

Wed 6/29/2022 3:15 PM

To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I'm upset over hearing the pride collection of books for children was taken by some group of residents. I want you to know I support having these books available for our kids. Please reorder them and have them available again.

Thank you

Mary Eufrazio

resident of Elmhurst

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Fw: Right to read what we want
Colleen Sherburn <csherburne10@att.net>
Thu 6/30/2022 6:50 AM
To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Library Board.

I am disheartened to have learned of these planned removal of LBTGQ and gender affirming books by a rogue gang of anti-Christian thugs.

I want you know as a active member of the Frist United Methodist Church of Elmhurst, I abhor this attack on the library and the books that give Queer people gender affirming images of themselves. Please let me know how I as a member of a congregation that believes in the value and worth of all people can be of service to you and the people of Elmhurst.

Colleen Sherburne
Card holder since 1982

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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Diversity of materials

Sally Schuster <sally@schuster.me>

Wed 6/29/2022 1:53 PM

To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I have heard that a conservative Christian group went to a library board meeting with a concern about our library having LGBTQ books on the shelves. They then went and checked out every LGBTQ book, even in the children's library section.

This is most upsetting to me. It is important that the library has materials for all of its users. For one group to impose its values on all of us is abhorrent. Libraries are known for their mission to serve all their users. You must stay that way. The way things seem to be headed we will each need to carry a gun and pretend we do not believe in the rights of each individual to choose how we want to live our lives.

NO ONE can decide who I am and what I believe but me.

Sally Schuster

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LGBTQIA Materials

jennifer.jordan-dmm.com <jennifer@jordan-dmm.com>

Tue 6/28/2022 3:43 PM

To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

As a practicing Christian in Elmhurst, I was deeply disturbed to hear about the recent board meeting in which other Christians spoke out against having LGBTQIA materials in the library.

Please know that as a frequent user of the library, I fully support having all types of materials available in the children's and adult sections – LGBTQIA as well as BIPOC and any other acronyms that allow for diversity.

I am confident that those who spoke out at the recent meeting were a very vocal MINORITY.

Please carry on with your good work and being a gem in our community. I appreciate it.

Best regards,
Jennifer Jordan

Jennifer Jordan
Jordan Daily Money Management
Keeping Your Financial Life in Balance
www.Jordan-DMM.com
Jennifer@Jordan-DMM.com
phone (630)832-5223
fax (630)563-9086

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Support of Diversity Collection

Carolyn Heiney <cheiney@att.net>

Mon 6/27/2022 1:11 PM

To: etlboard@elmhurst.org <etlboard@elmhurst.org>

Cc: Mary Beth Harper <marybeth.harper@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

To the Elmhurst Public Library Board of Trustees:

Yesterday I was informed that last week in protest a conservative Christian group checked out all books with LGBTQ themes from our wonderful Elmhurst library. I am appalled! Libraries are a source of information on all topics, including topics of diversity. I am a Christian and the Jesus I know taught love and inclusion, not hate and exclusion. Our library always has been a safe place where my family is greeted with a smile. It's the place my grandchildren love to visit. To see it being used for political purposes sickens me. I want our library to continue to be the place where everyone can choose a book that will educate, will entertain, and will enlighten. I support any actions that the library board takes to keep diversity topics on the shelves. How else can we be truly free?

Carolyn Heiney

630-834-1426

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Supporting of the lgbtq+ community

Jennifer G <jgrisolia.jg@gmail.com>

Sun 6/26/2022 12:02 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I was deeply saddened to hear that a group of "christians" asked to have the Pride Month books/displays removed from the Elmhurst Public Library. I was angered to learn that when they did not like that their request was denied they simply removed the books.

As an educator, a lifelong Elmhurst resident, and a Christian, I took the news as an attack on our community's right to enrich lives by connecting, creating, and learning at the library. I have always felt the library was a place where anyone could go to learn about anything.

By highlighting books that celebrate Pride Month, you are showing children, young adults, and adults that they are loved and not alone in a world where exclusion is happening at an alarming rate. People routinely use the Bible to exclude others. My Christian upbringing taught me to love all of my neighbors regardless of race, religion, or sexual identification.

I stand behind the Elmhurst Public Library's Board of Trustees in their decision to not only work to include materials that INCLUDE all members of the community in their collections but highlight those materials during Pride Month.

Please continue to work to fulfill your values of Lifelong Learning, Intellectual Freedom, and Diversity.

If our libraries cannot be a safe haven for learning, we are lost.

Jennifer Grisolia

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Please Continue to Support PRIDE

Maggie Shields <maggieshields515@gmail.com>

Sat 6/25/2022 11:24 AM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

I was so disheartened to learn that members of our community have tried to stop the wonderful displays in the children's area of the library supporting Pride. I have two daughters who have checked out books from these displays or off the shelf and they have aided us in having discussions on discrimination and the importance of treating others with kindness. It makes me so sad to know that books teaching us to love everyone bring about such hatred.

Please don't let a small (albeit vocal) group of the community change your mission of inclusivity. The children's library is a safe space for all kids. The librarians are amazing and kind. Please know how many in the community appreciate you all and all you do. Keep up the good work and please continue to provide books for everyone.

Elmhurst is for EVERYONE!!

Kind regards,

Maggie Shields
773/454-5081

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Support of Elmhurst Pride

Tamara Homolka <tahomolka@yahoo.com>

Fri 6/24/2022 4:37 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I am writing you today in support of our LGBTQ+ community. I appalled by the behavior of certain members in our community at your recent board meeting.

Thank you for standing your ground against this intolerance!

Tamara Homolka

Long term Elmhurst resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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book challenges

Colette McCabe <mccabecolette@yahoo.com>

Fri 6/24/2022 11:43 AM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I'm writing you to inform others that the Freedom to Read statement is part of the U.S. Constitution protection of free speech. It would be unconstitutional to prohibit certain written materials from being available to those who wish to inform themselves of it.

Such prohibition is a form of intolerance that is illegal. All librarians are well-versed in this and select library materials for purchase in line with that legal protection.

Kind Regards,

--Ms. McCabe

School Library Technician
Bear Valley Middle School.

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FREEDOM TO READ

Dorothy McCabe <duhprin1@aol.com>

Fri 6/24/2022 11:28 AM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I'm writing you to inform others that the Freedom to Read statement is part of the U.S. Constitution protection of free speech. It would be unconstitutional to prohibit certain written materials from being available to those who wish to inform themselves of it.

Such prohibition is a form of intolerance that is illegal. All librarians are well-versed in this and select library materials for purchase in line with that legal protection.

Dorothy McCabe

~ By God's Grace

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No tolerance for non pride!

Becca McCracken <beccalmccracken@gmail.com>

Fri 6/24/2022 10:36 AM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello Elmhurst Public Library Board,

I was completely dismayed to hear of the recent visitors to the EPL board meeting. We are a very active family at the Elmhurst Public Library and regularly check out books on subjects related to LGBTQ+ content. We have two children aged 7 and 5 and they clearly understand personal expression in both gender and sexual identity. This is a major reason why we have come to Elmhurst as a family and continue to stay here.

We encourage the EPL to not only follow the basic library procedures regarding checked out materials, but also consider both the following options:

- 1.) IMMEDIATELY purchase two of every item that was checked out in an act of private censorship of library materials. DO NOT WAIT for the late period to replace these items. If funding is necessary to replace these items, our family would like to support the library in making this purchase. Please reply to this email with cost so that we can support the funding of the items.
- 2.) Reach out directly to these individuals IMMEDIATELY naming the late and replacement requirements for the library based on the current policies. Send an increased number of reminders to these individuals so that they are not able to believe that they "got away" with these horrible acts of censoring library materials.
- 3.) Identify potential ways to revise library policies indicating the purposeful censorship of library materials that will directly result in the suspension of accounts at the Elmhurst Public Library. Private censorship should NOT be tolerated by our community library.

Please reply to this email with the steps the library is taking to address this issue. This CANNOT be tolerated within our community. We must make a clear and strong response to these incredibly horrible acts. Your community is here to support. Name your needs and we will rally to support you.

In solidarity,
Becca McCracken

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Becca McCracken

Casting Director

McCracken Casting

[Court Theatre](#)

[HBO's Somebody Somewhere Season 1](#)

[Lyric Opera of Chicago](#)

T 630.209.7723

E mccrackencasting@gmail.com

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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No tolerance for non Pride

Courtney Barcus <courtney_ehorn@hotmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 7:29 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello Elmhurst Public Library Board,

I was completely dismayed to hear of the recent visitors to the EPL board meeting. We are a very active family at the Elmhurst Public Library and regularly check out books on subjects related to LGBTQ+ content. We have two children aged 8.5 and 6 and they clearly understand personal expression in both gender and sexual identity. This is a major reason why we have come to Elmhurst as a family and continue to stay here after 12 years.

We encourage the EPL to not only follow the basic library procedures regarding checked out materials, but also consider both the following options:

- 1.) IMMEDIATELY purchase two of every item that was checked out in an act of private censorship of library materials. DO NOT WAIT for the late period to replace these items. If funding is necessary to replace these items, our family would like to support the library in making this purchase. Please reply to this email with cost so that we can support the funding of the items.
- 2.) Reach out directly to these individuals IMMEDIATELY naming the late and replacement requirements for the library based on the current policies. Send an increased number of reminders to these individuals so that they are not able to believe that they "got away" with these horrible acts of censoring library materials.
- 3.) Identify potential ways to revise library policies indicating that the purposeful censorship of library materials that will directly result in the suspension of accounts at the Elmhurst Public Library. Private censorship should NOT be tolerated by our community library.

Please reply to this email with the steps the library is taking to address this issue. This CANNOT be tolerated within our community. We must make a clear and strong response to these incredibly horrible acts. Your community is here to support. Name your needs and we will rally to support you.

In solidarity,

Courtney Barcus

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Support pride

Michelle Sweet <msweet612@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 7:27 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

My family and I support your efforts to support pride month and activities.

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Library Pride Support

Andrea Tepfenhart <atepfenhart@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 7:22 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Good evening,

I read that you had a group of patrons come and request that the PRIDE displays and crafts be taken down and stopped. I am writing to let you know that I support your displays and crafts, and request that you continue to support the PRIDE movement.

Myself and my 2 sons hold library cards, and are very thankful for all the work you, as the board, and the staff at the library do in order to show different lifestyles and cultures. Please continue to support and show these displays, as they are sometimes the only exposure to different lifestyles and cultures people will have.

Thank you for your time,
Andrea Tepfenhart
Library Patron

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Pride support

Kelly Langworthy <kelmc11@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 5:45 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

As a mother and weekly visitor for the children's library I am in support of pride and will not stand for intolerance in Elmhurst.

Please continue to promote pride and tolerance in our public library.

Kelly Langworthy

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Support for pride

Ashley Homolka <a.homolka7312@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 5:10 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

My name is Ashley Homolka. I grew up in Elmhurst and I graduated from York in 2019. I'm appalled at the recent homophobic and anti-pride acts at the Elmhurst Public Library. It is disturbing that it is 2022 and this is still happening. Pride month is a time for members of the LGBTQ+ community to celebrate and be heard. I'm happy that the EPL was trying to celebrate pride month and show their support, however the acts by these people who ruined it should not be tolerated. I'm sending this email to show my support to the LGBTQ+ community as an ally and that I'm proud that you guys were originally trying to showcase the importance of celebrating pride month. There are more people in the community that support the Elmhurst pride collective than not and these people trying to stop it should have consequences. I know you guys can only do so much so keep it up and I know it's frustrating but everyone is in this fight together!

Thank you

-Ashley Homolka

Sent from my iPhone

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Pride Support

Meghan Godwin <mgodwin82@yahoo.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 3:15 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Board Members,

We learned what took place at the board meeting on June 22nd, and I am disheartened by the show of intolerance. Please know that we fully support our children learning about love in all forms. We hope that the extravagant display of homophobia does not deter you from keeping the library as a safe and educational place for every person.

Sincerely,

Meghan and Tim Anderson

Parents of Audrey (age 10), Owen (age 8), and Evan (age 8)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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Support for diversity efforts

Anne Mathias <acmathias@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 3:25 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

I'm appalled at the recent group effort to hide library books and materials. Thank you to the Elmhurst Public Library for supporting all people and especially for modeling for our children how to learn about and respect people whose experiences are different than their own. I am proud of our library and ask they continue this important service to our community despite close-minded bullying by others.

Anne Mathias

Elmhurst resident and parent

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Support for Pride Displays and LGBTQ+ materials

Amy Pawlik <bowersamy@hotmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 3:40 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

To the Board,

I'm writing in support of Elmhurst Public Library's Pride displays and materials that are LGBTQ+ inclusive.

I heard that there were voices opposed at the last meeting and that part of the protest was to check out materials so others would not have access. I'm not sure how you combat those type of actions but if money to purchase "backup" materials would be helpful, I would be happy to contribute to such a cause.

Best,
Amy Pawlik
Elmhurst resident

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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Pride support

Lorna Sutton <lorna.sutton@outlook.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 4:12 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

I am writing in response to the pride protests that happened at the board meeting on Tuesday. I strongly feel that the Pride relate items should remain in the kids library and we should not stand for intolerance.

Thank you,

Lorna Sutton

Sent from my iPhone

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Promoting Diversity

Annette Armstrong <snookybear775@icloud.com>

Thu 7/7/2022 10:08 AM

To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

My name is Annette Armstrong and I live at 210 Addison, Unit 501, in Elmhurst. I would like to commend the Board and staff for their commitment to diversity and inclusion! This effort is demonstrated by the development of the collection, hiring practices, programming, and displays!

I was disheartened to hear about members of the community checking out books from the various "Pride" displays in June, vowing to never return them. I understand that these individuals also addressed the Board and read a letter of their "concerns" aloud. It is further my understanding that while fines are not assessed, individuals that do not return materials will be responsible for paying for the items, plus a processing fee, and may be sent to Collection. At present, the processing fee is \$5.00. I suggest that the fee be raised to at least \$10.00 as a more realistic number based on staff time.

I applaud the creativity and efforts to raise consciousness about topical issues; and to build a more inclusive community!

Equally important is guarding against censorship. Everyone is free to decide what they, or members of their own family read, watch, or listen to. **They are not free to decide what others read, watch, or listen to.**

Thank you!

Annette Armstrong

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Pride Displays

Joseph Johnson <joseph.johnson@umcelmhurst.org>

Wed 6/29/2022 4:50 PM

To:

- EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

📎1 attachments (282 KB)

following [jesus.pdf](#);

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Dear Board of Trustees:

I want to express my support as the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst for the library's Pride Month displays. I believe it is imperative that citizens of all ages have access to materials that represent the GLBTQIA community. These resources are necessary in an open and secular society like ours.

Thank you for commitment to serving the community.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Johnson

PS I have included the sermon I preached on June 26 encouraging my congregation to support the full inclusion of LBGTQIA persons.

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The Reverend Joseph A. Johnson
Third Sunday After Pentecost
June 26, 2022
First United Methodist Church
Elmhurst, Illinois

Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

Following Jesus

But he turned and rebuked them. Luke 9:55

A significant portion of Luke's gospel is the travelogue that begins in verse 51. Luke tells us that Jesus has set his face to go to Jerusalem. This portion of the gospel ends in Chapter 19 with the entrance into Jerusalem. Ten chapters narrate the disciples of Jesus following him to Jerusalem with the remaining five chapters (20-24) narrating the trail, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

The first act these disciples want to do is call down fire from heaven and destroy an entire village because they did not receive Jesus.

Apparently, these disciples missed or forgot this instruction Jesus gave them in 9:5:

Wherever they don't welcome you, as you leave that city, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them.

Or maybe they missed Jesus' own action when he was not received. Last week, when the Gerasenes did not welcome him and asked him to leave: he left, getting into the boat and crossing back to his home. (Luke 8:37) Jesus did not retaliate.

Their desired action also betrays the mission given them in chapter 9 of proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing the sick. That was it!

Jesus gave no command to injure people either physically or spiritually. Such actions are anathema to the ministry of Jesus Christ who sought to heal people in mind, body and soul.

To their credit, they at least asked Jesus before they did it! And there was no guarantee that God would provide the fire. But the idea of harming people in Jesus' name took root early in the church.

We must never forget this.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must examine our ideas of what it means to follow Jesus.

Which is exactly what Paul is asking the Galatians to do—he warns them not to act out of selfish desires.

Over a decade ago, pastor and scholar Eugene Peterson completed a paraphrase of the Christian Scriptures titled *The Message*. He begins his introduction to Galatians with these words:

When men and women get their hands on religion, one of the first things they often do is turn it into an instrument for controlling others, either putting or keeping them “in their place.” The history of such religious manipulation and coercion is long and tedious.”¹

Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?

But Jesus turned and spoke sternly to them.

One issue the church has had and still does is hostility toward those whom we perceive to be our enemies. Peterson translates it as “the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival.” (5:19-21)

Peterson is giving us the definition of vices and virtues. Vices and virtues are habits which we form through repeated actions that become our way of interacting with the world. I think of learning our table manners which we practiced at home so that when we were out they were a habit: “Could you please pass the salt?”

The habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival is extremely dangerous because it leads to apathy, hatred, and violence.

Lord, they’re just Samaritans. Should we call down fire from heaven to consume them?

But Jesus turned and spoke sternly.

¹ Peterson, Eugene; *The Message Remix*; p. 2109; 2003; Alive Communications; Colorado Springs.

One of the devotions I read this week reminded me of the ways the church is still hostile toward the other...the LGBTQIA other.

Lydia Wylie-Kellerman wrote in relation to Paul's letter to the Galatians:

When I see terms like "flesh" and "sexual immorality," my stomach tightens and grief rises in my throat. I know I'm entering scriptural territory that has been used for generations to exclude and hate. Sermons on texts like these have forced so many LGBTQI folks to leave churches, carrying trauma in their bodies, wondering if there is a God and if they are loved and whole.²

I would add that many Christian interpretations of this passage would also apply selfish desires to LGBTQIA people and not to heteronormative people for wanting to have a sex life.

Lord, they're just LGBTQIA. Should we call down fire from heaven and consume them?

But Jesus turned and spoke sternly.

The guiding principle and holy virtue that Christianity taught we borrowed from Judaism:

You must love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord. Leviticus 19:18

To follow Jesus and to follow the Spirit is to have affection for others. It is to proclaim God's love for them and it is to heal them. It is to desire for them what you desire for yourself. It is to be empathetic.

Now some of you are thinking, he's preaching this sermon at the wrong church. Am I right?

We attended the family PrideFest, we are a reconciling congregation, etc!

Yes!

² Disciplines; June 23, 2022; The Upper Room.

The last two years has seen an unprecedented amount of anti-LGBTQIA legislation most of which has been introduced by followers of Christ. Currently, over 100 bills have been introduced in state legislatures that attack transgendered Americans' rights. Some of these bills charge parents with child-abuse for seeking and providing gender-affirming therapy for their children. The state of Texas has begun investigations of at least nine families.³

- 29 states have bills to restrict transgender youth healthcare, including a bill that passed into law in Alabama, making providing such care a felony.
- 48 bills have been proposed to ban transgender youth from sports, passing into law this year in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Iowa, Kentucky and Utah, the last states [required legislative override of the governors' vetoes](#) and persuasive objections.
- 7 states are attempting to block bathroom access for transgender and gender-nonconforming youth: Arizona, Iowa, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia.
- 17 states have bills to restrict or prohibit LGBTQ-inclusive and/or race-inclusive curriculum and books, including Washington, Tennessee, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina.
- 5 states have “Don’t Say Gay” bills canceling conversations in schools about sexual orientation and gender identity, the best known being Florida's, which was signed into law in March ([Florida’s](#) being the best-known).⁴

These bills do real harm to real people.

Lord, they're just LGBTQIA. Should we call down fire from heaven and consume them?

But Jesus turned and spoke sternly.

³ <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/03/11/apple-google-business-texas-trans-law/> accessed on June 23, 2022.

⁴ <https://www.glaad.org/blog/guide-media-covering-state-legislation-targeting-lgbtq-people> accessed on June 23, 2022

I share this to contextualize the extreme hostility toward LGBTQIA people that some Christians perpetrate.

Do not get overwhelmed!

Instead let us put into action following Jesus who taught us to love our neighbor and following the Holy Spirit who calls us to kindness. All of us here can provide love and kindness to all people in the spaces we inhabit: our homes, our communities, our churches.

Given the legislative onslaughts, imagine the oasis you can be. As one person reminded me this week, you can change someone else's world by being kind to them and loving them for who they are.

For those of us who receive this on regular basis from our family, society and religious communities, we take it for granted. Yet, many in the "community" are lucky to have love and kindness in one of these spheres and because we learn to love based on the values of our family, community and our religious communities, we sometimes don't love ourselves.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, our kindness and love of neighbor is refreshing and life-giving.

Second, as a religious community our witness to the inclusive love of Christ is radical. The majority position of Christianity is not affirmative. We forget this because we have used our Christian freedom to affirm the LGBTQIA community.

In this "Christian" nation, we are an oasis!

Finally, I'm told there is a primary on Tuesday. We all have an opportunity to vote our conscience. On Wednesday morning, we discussed how do we as a society move toward an all-centered welfare? I think this is a great question to interrogate any politician or policy with.

Excuse me Candidate so-and-so, how to you propose to move us as a society to an all-centered welfare? Or how will your policies do that? Because I am not only concerned about myself and my family but about my neighbors. And vote for those who will move us to an all-centered welfare.

And two more things...In Feb. 2021, the US House of Representatives passed the Equality Act that would give comprehensive protection to LGBTQIA people in public accommodation, housing, healthcare, financial institutions and jury. It is currently legal for peremptory challenges based on sexual orientation and gender identity real or perceived.

The Equality Act has stalled in the Senate. So each of us could write, call, text or tweet our US Senators and ask them to pass the Equality Act.

This week at the Elmhurst Public Library a Christian extremist group influenced by “the nation’s top Catholic advocacy organization”, Catholic Vote, descended on the library board meeting to object to the Pride displays in the public library. After the meeting, they “checked” out nearly all of the books in the children’s section of pride display and many of the adults.

They call these extremist activities “Hide the Pride.” Similar groups have done similar things to public displays of BIPOC books. It’s an old censorship technique that seeks to deny access to materials they deem objectionable.

I call them extremists because they seek to terrorize the LGBTQIA community by their actions. They are not interested in an open society and will take violent action to achieve their goals.

They **know** that it is Pride Weekend. Pride Weekend is a sacred time of celebration in the LGBTQIA community. Fifty-three years ago, the community stood up to the society and said we will no longer have our lives criminalized by you.

Their attack seeks to deny resources to the community as well as experiences. Their attack singled out the community for intimidation, shame and hatred.

Their attack would be similar to a group targeting our nativity scene at Christmas or disrupting our Holy Week and Easter observances. Even this doesn’t quite get at the outrageousness of this act since we experience so much Christian privilege in our society.

Here is where you need your pencil or pen and paper. Write this email address down

ELMBOARD@ELMLIB.ORG

The best response we can do as Christians is to send emails to the Trustees of the library expressing our desire to have materials for the LGBTQ community. Additionally, you can join me at their next board meeting on July 19 at 7 pm. Please be sure to send your email or letter before July 19 so that it can be included in the board's meeting packet.

Jesus our Lord gave the church a simple mission.

Proclaim the Good News of God's Reign.

Heal society.

In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(No subject)

Jean Hogan <jeanmhogan@gmail.com>

Thu 6/23/2022 4:42 PM

To: EPL Board <eplboard@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Good Afternoon,

I saw on Facebook what happened at the library meeting last night.

While I was not part of that group that attended the meeting and would never take materials from the library with mal intent, I don't feel the Elmhurst Public Library is the same library where I pretty much raised my older children. I rarely bring my youngest child to the EPL. I barely missed a story time with my older daughters, we spent hours upon hours in the learning garden and reading books there. Now, the children's library is filled with masked librarians, board books like "a is for activism", pride everywhere, and age inappropriate story-times such as this:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Hfe8dz4JfaY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3G344uj4G1VOQ4Z_-5mk8hcNVRxGW4Yp-apscVPlkwduVXSPgEBUYpGQ

What happened to just letting kids be kids? Why does all this need to be pushed in their faces? I miss the welcoming, warm, age appropriate children's library. I feel sad for my son who will not have the same experience my older children did at the EPL. It's been years since I have listed the EPL as a reason to move to Elmhurst. It's just really sad to me, what a loss, I used to be one of your biggest fans.

Thank you,
Jean Hogan

--

Jean Hogan
jeanmhogan@gmail.com
cell: 847-606-9855

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Pride month

Regina Hughes <hugheshouse10@yahoo.com>

Wed 6/22/2022 7:36 AM

To: Mary Beth Harper <marybeth.harper@elmlib.org>

-EXTERNAL EMAIL-

Hello,

I am a Elmhurst resident and a parent . I strongly object to my library sexualizing our innocent children with the " pride agenda".

Please just do what a library does and offer books to children that are appropriate and wholesome and stop bending to the voices that are not in anyway the clear majority of Elmhurst parents and families.

Thank you,

Regina Hughes

Sent from my iPhone

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



YOUR COMMENTS
about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST

PUBLIC LIBRARY

PLEASE KEEP
THE LIBRARY A
SAFE PLACE TO
LEARN ABOUT
LGBTQIA+ AND OTHER
IMPORTANT TO PICS!

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name JENN KOVACS Date 6/21/22

Address 296 S Hagans

Phone 773-619-2907

Email jennkove8@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS
about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST

PUBLIC LIBRARY

I came to show support but
am grateful to have learned so
much. I am deeply grateful
for the library's support of
smaller, sometimes marginalized
groups in our community.

Thank you.

Left at 6/27/22
Around the Table:
Elmhurst Pride
Collective

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name ELIZABETH S. NEILL Date 6/27/22

Address 488 PARKVIEW AVE, ELMHURST, IL

Phone 630 659-5294

Email elizabethneill09@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6/29/22 *JS*

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS
about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST

PUBLIC LIBRARY

I Love the Heartstopper books
Please Keep having LGBTQ+
books at the library!!

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Ava Amendola Date 4.25.22

Address 907 S Hawthorne Av

Phone 773-919-7927

Email Kristiamendola@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes ☐ No ☒

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS
about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST

PUBLIC LIBRARY

I feel like I need to write large or
fill this whole space w/ small words
because I can actually say a lot
but first, thank you for being a
welcome place for all individuals
and for not giving into groups
wishing to threaten or take
away from our lives. Also, I
appreciate you are open to
suggestions and don't throw
your hands up and walk
away. Thank you, thank you.
Laurie

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Laurie Nourse Date 6-24

Address _____

Phone 312-375-5966

Email lauriebuzzella@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes ☐ No ☒ if you need/want
to but I don't need
to be

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

We need to represent every
person in our community
and world.

The thought of not having
books about the LGBTQ
community is ~~embarrassing~~ and
terrifying.

Jim Blanchette

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Jennifer Blanchette Date 6/25/22

Address 403 E. Church St. Elmhurst

Phone 630-222-3112

Email ~~jblanchette~~ jblanchette@yahoo.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

I support LGBTQ+ resources
at the Elmhurst library. My husband
and I are grateful that these books
were available for our kids. We
believe it makes our community
a stronger, more compassionate place.
We hope you continue to offer
books with LGBTQ+ characters for
all ages.

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Gretchen Sylvester Date _____

Address 108 S. Linden Ave.

Phone 708-738-3305

Email gresylvester@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Please continue to provide a wide variety of books at all levels that represent authors, characters & stories with diverse lived experiences. Including LGBTQ+, black, indigenous and females.

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Kristi Amendola Date 6.25

Address 907 S. Hawthorne

Phone 773-919-7927

Email Kristiamendola@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes

☒ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

AS AN ELMHURST RESIDENT I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE LIBRARY'S MAINTAINING AN LGBT BOOK SELECTION AND I HOPE THAT ELMHURST LIBRARY CONTINUES TO NOT CENSOR BOOKS.

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name CHRIS BOBOWSKI Date 6/25/22

Address 234A NORTH ADDISON AVE

Phone 630 303 3622

Email CEBOBOWSKI@GMAIL.COM

Would you like to be contacted? Yes

☒ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST
PUBLIC LIBRARY

We love all the
pride & diversity
books

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Roma Dala Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email roma.p.dala@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Much appreciate the collection
of books on LGBT issues. It's so important
for everyone to have access to these
stories. I only wish they had been
available in the 60's + 70's when
I was growing up. It would have
helped reduce the isolation + fear
I felt growing up as different.
Thank you for helping all people
who are different!!

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Tom Tyler Date 6-25-22

Address 234A N. Addison Ave

Phone 630-926-3512

Email plantdoc59@aol.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes ☒ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

As an Elmhurst resident for 22 years and a preschool teacher for the last five, I would like to commend our Children Department for its commitment to serving all children and all families. It provides a resource, a joyful hub and a safe place to land for our youngest residents and their families.

I often check out books to share with my classes or with individual families, including LGBTQ+ families. Young children have same sex parents or single parents, attend same sex weddings and family celebrations, question their own identities in all sorts of ways, and encounter families nothing like their own. Understanding strengthens our

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

families, our classrooms, and our communities. THANK YOU for All you DO! ❤️

OPTIONAL

Name Susan O'Donnell Date June 24, 2022

Address 627 S. Poplar Avenue

Phone (630) 606-0569

Email susanowhatever@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thank you for the inclusive books and programs you provide. Whether is for Juneteenth or Pride month, our family appreciates having these available.

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Pam Pintozzi Date 6/25/22

Address 915 Hillside Ave

Phone _____

Email _____

Would you like to be contacted? Yes No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

I took my kids to the library recently and felt so proud of the diverse books available to Elmhurst. I'm thankful that kids + adults may have the opportunity to see themselves in the literature + identify with stories, that they may not have through home, school or friends. I'm very thankful that my biracial children have the opportunity to learn about race + ethnicity through

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Megan Rivera Date _____

Address 657 S. Saylor

Phone 312 493 4754

Email mmh8877@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hi,
I am very concerned about the incident at the EPL this past week where a group appears to be attempting censorship of Public Library materials, and intimidating the Board of the EPL to stop the advocacy of PRIDE and support of the LGBTQIA community. I support the EPL in continuing to provide materials and literature that contains and discusses LGBTQIA issues. This is so essential for our society! All persons should have equal access and be represented. Please do not succumb to

Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.

OPTIONAL

Name Jennifer Kilps-Cornwell Date 6/27/22

Address 8855 Fairchild Ave Elmhurst IL 60126

Phone (630) 991-8848

Email jkcornwell16@gmail.com

Would you like to be contacted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED

books + better understand
our country's history, which
is not always taught in
school.

You are doing a
wonderful job.

Thank you.

Megan Rivera

* Please reach out with
ways I can help.

the pressures of this or any other
groups that attempt to restrict the rights
of persons. Elmhurst Library is supported
by all taxpayers and should fully
represent all taxpayers. Additionally,
the mission, vision and vision
statement identifies that "Elmhurst
Public Library values RESPECT

- we provide an environment that is
welcoming to all.
- we protect the privacy of library users.
- we defend intellectual freedom
- we respect all points of view
- we believe that everyone has the
right to be treated with respect.

ACCESS

- we provide equal access to all

LEARNING

- we provide diverse resources and programs.



YOUR COMMENTS

about our services or programs are important to us.

ELMHURST

PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a member of the queer community, I would like to pass along how impressed I was with the amount of resources compiled for the pride section in the children's library. I loved that there were options available for a wide variety of age groups & that there were both non-fiction resources & some really great fiction selections for kids who may really need the opportunity to take on another's

(Please write on the back if you need more space. Thank you.)

OPTIONAL

Name Molly McChollos Date 7/9/22

Address 6458 Hillcrest Ave.

Phone 630.291.4804

Email mminchidollos@in16healthcare.com

Would you like to be contacted? Yes ☐ No ☒

RETURN TO ANY STAFF MEMBER WHEN FINISHED