



**DOWNERS GROVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1050 Curtiss Street
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November 30, 2022

To the Downers Grove community:

Another horrific act of senseless violence and bigotry took the lives of five individuals and injured about two dozen others in Colorado Springs' LGBTQ+ nightclub, Club Q. The Downers Grove Public Library reaffirms its commitment to standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

The fact that the attack took place on Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is significant. TDOR is meant to highlight and commemorate the lives lost due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence ([GLAAD](#)). Instead, additional lives were lost in an effort to erase a community of people. No community should need to fight for the right to exist. The library extends its deepest condolences to the LGBTQ+ community, and to the friends and families of:

- Daniel Aston (he/him)
- Raymond Green Vance (he/him)
- Kelly Loving (she/her)
- Ashley Paugh (she/her)
- Derrick Rump (he/him)

Hateful rhetoric and disinformation, which is false information that is deliberately intended to mislead, targeting the LGBTQ+ community continues to strategically perpetuate false and dangerous narratives ([ADL](#)). Anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric including “groomer”, “predator”, and “pedophile” narratives have surged unchecked across social media platforms ([HRC](#)) and extreme news media ([NBC](#)). These fallacies are continually repeated by organizations and community groups with such frequency that the fabrications are normalized and accepted as truth. As the Human Rights Campaign points out, this disinformation leads to real consequences such as “stigma, radicalization, and ultimately violence,” as demonstrated by the shooting at Club Q on November 19, 2022. Biased-motivated crimes like this shooting, also known as hate crimes, are increasing at an alarming rate against members of the LGBTQ+ community. Nearly one in five of any type of hate crime is now motivated by anti-LGBTQ+ bias ([HRC](#)). As we [stated last year](#), DGPL strongly condemns all discrimination, harassment, and violence against members of the LGBTQ+ community.

DGPL will continue to be a place for our LGBTQ+ community members to discover, grow, play and learn. To our LGBTQ+ community members and staff, we will continue to celebrate your whole authentic self. We will continue to hold stories of your diverse experiences in our collection and advocate for your inclusion in our services and spaces. We recognize spaces like Club Q, materials like *Gender Queer*, and events like Drag Queen Bingo are life-affirming, and life-saving, particularly for a community impacted disproportionately by suicide and hate.

It is troubling that increasing attacks against the LGBTQ+ community are currently a national trend ([NBC](#)). Our community is not immune; over the last year we have seen tremendous aggression and hostility in response to materials and events in Downers Grove, and here at the library. The vitriol that followed the announcement of our canceled Drag Queen Bingo event sent a loud message to

our LGBTQ+ children, family members, friends, neighbors, and staff. We call on everyone to open our community's doors with kindness and empathy to the incredible diversity of individuals who discover, grow, play, and learn in Downers Grove.

As a library, it is our responsibility to help the community with information literacy. The ability to identify disinformation as well as misinformation, false or inaccurate information, about the LGBTQ+ community is essential and can be life-saving. We invite the community to learn more about LGBTQ+ experiences and how to identify disinformation and misinformation with these resources:

Information Literacy Resources

- [GCF Global](#)
- [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#)
- [News Literacy Project](#)

LGBTQ+ Resources

- [Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere \(COLAGE\)](#)
- [DGPL's Original Statement in Solidarity with the LGBTQ+ Community](#)
- [Freedom for All Americans](#)
- [GLAAD](#)
- [GLSEN \(former Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network\)](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [Illinois Safe Schools Alliance](#)
- [It Gets Better Project](#)
- [Making Change: History of LGBTQ+ Activism since 1950](#)
- [NAMI](#)
- [OutWords Journey](#)
- [PFLAG \(Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays\) National](#)
- [PFLAG Illinois](#)
- [Pronouns Matter: Beyond He and She](#)
- [Right To Be \(formerly Hollaback!\)](#)
- [Stand With Trans](#)
- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Youth Outlook](#)

Booklists

- [Adults](#)
- [Adults - Films and Documentaries](#)
- [Adults - Nonfiction/Parenting](#)
- [Teens](#)
- [Older Kids \(Grade School\)](#)
- [Younger Kids \(Picture Books\)](#)