



**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility (DEIJA)  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:00 AM**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Rachel Dworkin (Chemung County Historical Society), Virgilio Pinto (Ithaca College), Karin Wikoff (Ithaca College), Beth Hylan (Corning Museum of Glass, retired), Jenny Shonk (Finger Lakes Library System)

ex officio: Christine Brown, Jessica Philippe

**Excused:** Allie Shanafelter (Corning Museum Of Glass), Penny Sweeney (Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES School Library System), Nancy Abashian (Binghamton University)

[Minutes from 2/20/24](#). No corrections or changes.

**Article Discussion**

We had a discussion [about the article](#). Some takeaways included that none of us have a full sense of what Emily Drabinski means when she says she's a Marxist. We talked about how we can create less divisiveness within our libraries, organizations, and communities and the answer is likely through community building. Can SCRLC do professional development around community building and also how to reduce triggered responses in ourselves or others through active listening? Jenny hosted Difficult Conversations with Courtney Breese (Executive Director, National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation) for the FLLS and it was really well-received. In terms of supporting ALA, most of us have lapsed memberships for various reasons, including cost, and it might be worth reaching out to Emily to find out about other ways to support ALA other than full membership or conference attendance.

**Around the Table**

**Karin:** She's Involved in a reading group about indigenous groups in colonial times; participated in the [witness to injustice interactive program](#), in Aurora, led by Sachem Sam George.

**Rachel:** She was invited to participate in the BlackSpace Manifesto. She attended MANY and there were panels on cultural competency; how do we bring more people of color into the museum and library professions.

**Beth**

No updates.

**Virgilio**

Hadenosaunee presenters came to IC and appreciated that the relationship building is coming before the land acknowledgment. They mentioned that Cornell did it in reverse. He highly recommends the book [How We Ended Racism](#): realizing a new possibility in one generation by Justin Michael Williams and Shelly Tygielski. The Antiracism Institute is going well and they had a get together a couple of weeks ago. Virgilio also added (via email), "I Was wondering how we support public schools and their libraries/books? Maybe guidance to diverse resources as one option?"

I came across the below two...

Rainbow library: lgbtq+ affirming books that if you are an educator you can request for your school for free: <https://www.rainbowlibrary.org/>

Joy for books: books by and for BIPOC. Also can get free books if you are an educator: <https://www.joyforbooks.org>

## **Jenny**

Her IDEA group met and wanted to move forward with a land acknowledgment. She had appointments with Sachem Sam George to work on it, but she hasn't been able to connect with him.

## **Grants for Consulting with Dr. Bright**

The panel discussion will be on May 30 at 1pm. Dr. Bright and the three project participants will share more about their grant projects. Jessica will reach out to the participants this week to finalize the details and the schedule, so we can start advertising.

## **Cornell Student Group Project-Spring Semester Project**

The group is finalizing work on advertising the cohort program, including developing a newsletter, interviewing The Cornell University Librarian, Elaine Westbrooks, and creating posts for Handshake.

Meanwhile, we've still been discussing how to develop the cohort program for BIPOC undergraduates interested in librarianship. We need to involve BIPOC in the development of the program.

## **BRAVE Dialogues Learning Circle update**

Christine is drafting some language to open this group up more broadly.

## **DEIJA in the SCRLC News**

We reviewed DEIJA content in recent SCRLC Newsletters and will continue to look for items to add in each newsletter.

## **Heritage Months**

We looked at the [History Center in Tompkins County list](#), which Virgilio found problematic because they are centered on much broader groups that don't celebrate individual countries/ethnic groups/communities. Others felt that they might be a good starting point for those who are new to trying to celebrate diversity. These months are still widely celebrated with schoolchildren (in Ithaca anyway). Virgilio mentioned that we could celebrate cultures in more

unique specific ways. For example, recognizing [different New Year's](#) celebrated around the world. Juneteenth is another important holiday that is a time of celebration.

### **DEIJA Advisory Committee Activities & Review DEIJA Plan**

These were tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

June 18, 11am

Minutes taken by Jessica.