



PATRON COMPLAINT FORM

(Submit in person at the Library or via email to Library Director, Chris Shoemaker, at cshoemaker@ryelibrary.org)

Please complete all fields below. We will attempt to resolve your complaint quickly and fairly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Are you a Rye Free Reading Room cardholder? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Please briefly describe your complaint in the space below or on an attached sheet. If relevant, include in your description where and when the incident occurred (date and time), the full names of any Library staff or patrons involved and how they were involved and any other significant information.

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Drag Queen Story Hour scheduled to
_____ take place on February 8, 2020 in the Children's Room of the Library. Please see the
_____ attached sheet detailing my complaint. Thank you.

Signature _____

Date _____

To: Chris Shoemaker, Library Director, and the Board of Trustees of the Rye Free Reading Room

As a patron of the Rye Free Reading Room (the “Library”), I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Library’s promotion of a partisan political agenda aimed at sexualizing children and degrading women. The program in concern, Drag Queen Story Hour (“DQSH”), scheduled to take place on February 8, 2020, in the Children’s Room, invites adult entertainers dressed in drag to read books to *children ages three to eight*, lead crafts and songs, and facilitate discussions that support and normalize a radical sexual ideology. These story hours do not belong in children’s libraries for various reasons, chief among them, including:

1. **The Library’s support of partisan political activities violates its Policy for Public Use of Library Facilities (the “Public Use Policy”).** DQSH is a highly political issue with which the Library should not be involved, especially as it is in receipt of public funding. The Library should be a neutral zone, where one ideology is not preferred over another. Moreover, as a public institution, the Library should be a safe space where children of all backgrounds feel welcome, and where all parents feel comfortable bringing their children.
2. **The Library should not use its privileged position in the community, as a source of knowledge, to subject young children to sexualization of any kind.** DQSH is highly inappropriate because it aims to introduce children as young as three years old to sexual concepts that are well beyond their understanding (*e.g.*, immodest cross-dressing, homosexuality, transsexuality, and gender fluidity). DQSH’s sexual agenda and mature themes have no place in the Library’s Children’s Room.
3. **The Library’s support of an event exhibiting misogynistic themes violates its “Code of Conduct,” in which the Library commits itself to creating a “safe and pleasant atmosphere” free from “harassment or intimidation of ... customers.”** DQSH is highly offensive to women because drag queens, by definition, “caricature stereotypically vampish women.”ⁱ Drag Queens are hyper-sexualized caricatures of women played by men cross-dressed scantily clad and adorned in heavy make-up. This event, aimed at an especially impressionable preschool audience, mocks womanhood and debases femininity by oversexualizing women.

Mindful of the above, I strongly urge that the Rye Free Reading Room exercise its power and judgment – laid out in the Library’s Public Use Policy – to cancel the February 8, 2020 Drag Queen Story Hour and stop any future promotion of DQSH at the Library. Thank you.

ⁱ “Drag Queen.” Merriam-Webster.com. 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com> (20 Jan. 2020).