***ALSC Matters***May 2020, Vol. 18, no. 2

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**Officially Speaking**

**2020 – Year of Change and Discovery!**

This was the main heading of my February 2020 column. Little did we know how fundamentally we would change in just a few short months. All of us are discovering each day how our personal and professional lives have been affected and upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. I think the majority of you are working from home as well as caring for your families and still engaging with ALSC committee work. Thank you. We cannot do our work without your engagement, time, and passion.   
   
**How Will We Celebrate Our Awards?**Many of you have asked how we will celebrate our winner and honor recipients in light of the Annual Conference cancellation. At this time, it is our intent to collaborate with other ALA units and REFORMA to offer a virtual event in June. We are working on it, but as we know, the best laid plans can go awry. When we have information to share, we will do so. For the most current information and updates around Annual Conference alternatives, keep checking the [ALSC Conference page](http://www.ala.org/alsc/confevents/annual).

**A New Way of Engagement.**As you most likely know, the ALSC Board of Directors, at its February 20, 2020, online meeting, approved a plan of action for realigning our committees and the work they do. The Board was able to act on this due to the feedback from members during the Midwinter Meeting as well as through online submissions. Through this realignment we know that more members will be engaged in committee work as we now are working with a hybrid model for process committees. What does hybrid mean? Committees will engage in online meetings throughout the year with the hope that most committees will meet in person during the Annual Conference (strongly encouraged, but not required). Book and media committees will continue to have face-to-face meetings, as currently required. We are thankful that we completed the realignment in time for Kirby McCurtis, Vice-President/President Elect, to begin appointments to the committees whose work begins July 1, 2020. To read the background and overview of the changes, please visit the [ALSC Committees page](http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/coms/).

**ALSC 2020 Election.**Thank you to all of you who voted and made your voices heard in the ALSC election! We have a new Vice-President Elect, Lucia M. Gonzalez, Division Councilor Kimberly Patton, and three new Board members: Ariana Sani Hussain, Soraya Silverman-Montano, and Meredith Steiner. Please join me in welcoming them to the Board! Their service year will begin July 1, 2020. Caldecott, Newbery, Sibert, and Children’s Literature Legacy Committee [election results](http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/governance/election/2020_results) were also announced. I wish to thank everyone who agreed to stand for election. We cannot continue our great work without you!

**May Community Forum.**At its April 23, 2020, online meeting, the ALSC Board set direction for the next Community Forum. ALSC would like to create a forum for members to discuss how they are managing their work through the COVID-19 crisis and in what ways we can support one another. Have a conversation with your colleagues about your hopes, your dreams, your fears for the future. What will library life look like after we go back to work? What do we need to consider in meeting the needs of our communities? We can all learn from one another; so please consider sharing your perspective. The forum will be held on Wednesday, May 20, at noon CST. Visit the ALSC [Community Forum](http://www.ala.org/alsc/member-center/community-forums) page soon to register. I’ll also include registration information in my May 5 blog post.

I’ve shared just a few items happening within ALSC, and I hope you will take some time to subscribe to the [blog](https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/), read *ALSC Matters*, the quarterly newsletter, and dig into all the amazing [Publications & Resources](http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources). It’s there for you wherever and whenever you need it. And, please consider logging in and attending an [online Board meeting](http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc/governance/board-work/schedules) – everyone is welcome!

I welcome your comments, suggestions, and ideas! Please contact me when you have a moment.—[*Cecilia P. McGowan*](mailto:mcgowanalsc@gmail.com)*, 2019-2020 ALSC President*

**Navigating Uncharted Waters**

Well, this is certainly not how I expected I would be spending the final months of my vice-presidential year. Now in week five of a “stay home, stay safe” order from the governor, I think I have adapted to remote working, but I can confidently say my dog has grown tired of me. I hope each of you is coping to the best of your abilities and staying safe during these uncertain times.

Like so many of you, I was devastated to learn that we would not be coming together in Chicago for Annual—it really is my favorite time of the year. I love getting to see friends from across the country, celebrating the best books for young people, fangirling my favorite authors and illustrators, hearing about new releases, honoring the excellent work of colleagues, and learning from one another. Know that ALSC staff are hard at work trying to reschedule and plan for alternate programming and celebrations; please be patient, this was not what they anticipated either!

ALA will hold a [virtual event June 24-26](https://2020.alavirtualevent.org/) as a touchpoint. This can’t replace the conference, but will hopefully provide members with a way to come together as a community during this pandemic. A number of programs will be offered with the focus being on education and engagement. Look for more information from ALA about the virtual event soon. While regular ALSC operations are continuing in the background, we are still working to get the celebrations and community-building aspects of Annual working in some form. The work we began in the fall to make all of our committees hybrid, to increase the types of opportunities for virtual engagement, is even more important than ever. I take solace in the knowledge that there will be a new way forward, although uncharted for our association, and we will build it together.

Please remember you have a community in ALSC. Now is a great time to view the [archived webinars](http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/webinararchive) that you may have previously missed, or share how you are continuing to serve patrons during these unprecedented times as [a guest blogger](http://www.ala.org/alsc/member-center/engage). Use the [Connect space](https://connect.ala.org/home) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/wearealsc) to stay in touch.

I hope each of you is making time to breathe deeply and finding a way to laugh daily in the midst of this mess. Until we meet again—*Kirby McCurtis, ALSC Vice-President/President-Elect*

**Honoring Our Silver Anniversary Members**

Congratulations to the following individuals who reached 25 years of ALSC membership in 2019. We appreciate your commitment to the association and profession. A silver anniversary member is recognized in the ALSC Voices section of each issue of *ALSC Matters*.

Marilyn Ackerman  
Roxanne Feldman  
Kathryn J. Ferrell – Bargeloh  
Judy Freeman  
Nancy A. Hawkins  
Dona J. Helmer  
Lisa G. Herskowitz  
Kathleen T. Isaacs  
Roger Kelly  
Amanda C. Lucas  
Ruth Anne Mielke  
Cynthia R. Millman  
Judi Moreillon  
Elizabeth C. Orsburn  
Amy E. Sears  
Martha Seif Simpson  
Amy L. Teske  
Gaylene R. Tunison  
Bina Williams

**Thank You to Our Friends!**

Many thanks to the following generous contributors to Friends of ALSC. To learn how you can support ALSC, [visit our website](http://www.ala.org/alsc/donate).

**Gold Circle**

Maria Gentle

**Silver Circle**

Jo Schofield  
Robert L. Sibert  
Brian Wilson

**Friends Circle**

Miriam Budin  
Benjamin Cohen  
Lisa Dennis  
Jennifer Duffy  
Nancy O'Grady  
Rachel Payne  
Linda Plevak  
Robbin Price  
Hella Rumschlag  
Michael Santangelo  
Megan Schliesman

**ALSC Voices**

**ALSC Profile**

*Celebrating colleagues with 25 years or more years of ALSC membership*

**Amy Sears  
Head of Youth Services  
Teaneck Public Library  
Teaneck, New Jersey**

**ALSC Membership: 26 years**

**Where did you attend library school?**

University of Michigan

**What was your very first library position?**

My very first job was as a page at the Portsmouth (N.H.) Public Library while in high school where I went from being a general page to working just in the Children's Department. My first professional job was at the Brooklyn Public Library, N.Y., as a generalist librarian at the Clinton Hill Branch (1992).

**What do you love most about your current job?**

The diversity of the job: from doing storytimes to helping people find books to doing collection development. (If I have to choose one, I would say doing reader's advisory.)

**What's your favorite book of all time?**

*Anne of Green Gables*

**What do you remember about your favorite teacher?**

Mr. Celestino, my high school Latin teacher, made Latin class fun.

**What is your favorite family tradition?**

Playing games after dinner on Christmas with siblings, nieces, and nephews

**What would you do if you won the lottery?**

Buy a beach house on the New Hampshire seacoast

**What do you think libraries will be like 25 years from now?**

A place for people who love books, both in print and other formats, to come together, and a place where everybody in the community comes together

**What’s your favorite myth, legend, or fairy tale?**

Robin Hood. When I was a child, the TV show, "The Adventures of Robin Hood," with Richard Greene, was on our local television station daily, and I loved the show, which led to reading multiple versions of the legend. I loved the adventure, the camaraderie, and the romance of Robin and Marian.

**Bright Ideas**

**Preservation Inspiration ... for Kids**

Preservation Week 2020, April 26 through May 2, kicked off during National Library Week. A public awareness campaign from the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) and ALA, Preservation Week strives to inspire activities that preserve personal, family, and community collections in addition to library, museum, and archival materials. And, that means preservation involves children, too.

[ALCTS Preservation for Kids webpage](http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek/ch/kids) provides resources to help support young people in documenting their experiences and their place in time. A video on the America's Young Archivists: The K–12 Web Archiving Program profiles an eighth-grade class from Connecticut, who are archiving the websites they use every day—from social media sites to cosplay, film editing, and music sites—to provide a snapshot for future generations of the interests and activities of youth in the early 21st century.

The Preservation for Kids page also offers many resources on bookmaking and storytelling by kids. The current COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine have created unique circumstances for children and their families. What better time is there than now for kids to create their own books and stories, chronicling their lives and new routines during this unprecedented period?

Check out all these preservation gems at <http://www.ala.org/alcts/preservationweek/ch/kids> and start planning how you’ll inspire young people and their families to make preservation their own.

**Building Relationships: One GeekFest at a Time**

Five years ago, we had no idea just how far GeekFest would go. In 2015, we had roughly a dozen exhibitors, a number we would triple. It was truly an improbable experiment. Astor, Florida, is an unusual town, straddling the St. John‘s River, which divides the town into two counties: Lake and Volusia. Roughly 1,500 year-round residents call Astor home, a number that swells to 3,000 in the winter. And Astor sits at the tip of 33 miles of bear crossing. So, a GeekFest? With dedication, teamwork, and a passion for all things geek, the road was paved, unlike most roads in Astor.

Earning the 2020 Public Library Association's [EBSCO Excellence in Small/Rural Public Library Service award](http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2020/03/public-library-association-announces-2020-award-winners), a national award, given only once a year to one public library in the United States is a testimony to many things. Yes, GeekFest bolsters team spirit across departments, including Parks & Trails, Lake County Sheriff’s Office, Lake County Office of Fire Rescue, and of course Library Services. And GeekFest reflects what we all aspire to, which is excellence in library programming—an enriching experience for all who attend. Even more than this, though, is the collaboration among local agencies and the support of local talent and artisans.

GeekFest brings together youth engineering groups, writers, artisans, and musicians of all ages, and groups from all across Central Florida. Just a few of the past exhibitors have included: The Society for Creative Anachronism; R2D2 Builders of Central Florida; Renaissance Robotics Team 5937; and The Ocklawaha Sutler. This collection of exhibitors represents the support of Central Florida groups, and aids greatly in putting the community of Astor on the map, literally and digitally. What is more, this innovative program features volunteer educational groups, as well as exhibitors who create but also educate attendees.

It would be impossible to discuss GeekFest without also discussing the festival’s brainchild, Elise VanCise. Elise’s enthusiasm and creativity are infectious and inspired many of her teammates’ costumes. Indeed, my own steampunk Darth Vader costume went on to win awards! But the real upshot of GeekFest is what it accomplishes. This festival aids in recruiting new volunteers for the County and members for the Friends of Astor County Library. Additionally, local agencies, such as Kiwanis, Astor's Chamber of Commerce, AFPOA, Moose Lodge, and VFW have members who are a part of our programming, be it in representing their agency, or in the donation of their time. The spirit of partnership is critical to our programming and GeekFest is instrumental in maintaining close ties. Overall, GeekFest has an impact on the community as a whole, and establishes Lake County Library system as a local and countywide leader.—*Jonathan Dolce, Branch Supervisor, Astor County Library, Florida*-- (Photo above: courtesy of Elise VanCise, Astor County Library)

**Coping during COVID Resources**

In the last six to eight weeks, as cities and states have mandated shelter-in-place orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, offers of free resources to help us cope with working and serving patrons virtually have flourished. It has been difficult to keep track of all the offerings and information being put forth. For your convenience, below is a compilation of select resources that have been shared via ALSC networks over the past weeks.

**General Resources and Development Opportunities**

[ALSC Open Resources](http://www.ala.org/alsc/alsc-open-resources)   
ALSC is providing free access to select webinars and all *Children and Libraries* issues to help keep professional development and work moving forward during the quarantines.

[ALSC Blog Posts](https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/category/pandemic/)  
Articles related to working and coping during the pandemic and beyond

**Pandemic Preparedness and Response**

[COVID-19 Response](http://www.ala.org/tools/ala-covid-19-response)  
A round-up of resources being provided by ALA and its various units.

[Pandemic Preparedness: Resources for Libraries](http://www.ala.org/tools/atoz/pandemic-preparedness)  
A compilation of resources from ALA to help educate and inform decisions on pandemic prevention and preparedness

[Safe Handling of Collections, Reopening Practices for Libraries, Museums](https://imls.gov/news/covid-19-research-partnership-inform-safe-handling-collections-reopening-practices-libraries)  
The Institute of Museum and Library Services, along with OCLC, Inc. and Battelle, announced a collaboration to support the nation’s libraries and museums as they consider safe reopening practices in light of COVID-19.

**Virtual Storytimes and Use Policies**

[ALSC Virtual Storytimes Services Guide](http://www.ala.org/alsc/virtual-storytime-services-resource-guide) (*Under Construction*)  
This guide is a work in progress that will offer helpful direction and resources to those planning virtual storytime events.

[Children’s book publishers’ policies for reading books aloud online](https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=publishers-adapt-policies-to-help-educators-coronavirus-covid19)  
This *School Library Journal*article includes a directory of children’s book publishers and their adapted policies on use during the pandemic.

[Online Storytime & Coronavirus: It’s Fair Use, Folks](https://programminglibrarian.org/articles/online-story-time-coronavirus-it%E2%80%99s-fair-use-folks)  
Carrie Russell, copyright specialist in ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy Office, discusses the finer points of Fair Use exception to U.S. copyright law.

**Ideas/Resources for At-Home Fun and Learning**

[Publisher Online Resources](https://www.cbcbooks.org/readers/reader-resources/publisher-online-resources/)  
The Children’s Book Council compiled links to a wealth of free resources from publishers to support educators, librarians, and families.

[Ideas to Keep Busy](https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/goleta-valley-library/information/covid-19-how-to-keep-busy)  
The Goleta Valley Library in California created and widely shared a webpage titled, “Ideas to Keep Busy at Home for All Ages,” linking to numerous websites, broken down into categories such as Family Activities & Websites; Nature & Animal Camera Live Streams, and Children’s Art & Music.

[Fun & Learning at Home](https://www.kershawcountylibrary.org/research-learning/education-fun-at-home/)  
Kershaw County Library in South Carolina created an Education and Fun at Home page with a long listing of free online resources in categories such as Downloadables, Let’s Keep Moving, and STEM Activities.

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

**Member News**

**Dr. Mona Kerby**, professor of education at McDaniel College, is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a member of the library profession who has, over a significant period of time, made an outstanding national contribution to school librarianship and school library development. For thirty years, Kerby has been a member of ALA, the AASL, and ALSC, actively serving on committees. Congratulations, Mona!

**Forum on Effects of the Pandemic**

ALSC will hold its next Community Forum, "Impact of COVID-19 on the Library: Present and Future," on May 20, at 12 p.m. Central time. Join fellow members and leaders for a discussion about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your work and your library. What will library life look like once our buildings are reopened? What do we need to consider for meeting the needs of our communities? [Visit the Forum webpage to register](http://www.ala.org/alsc/alsc-community-forum-may-2020).

**Connecting during COVID-19**

How has your library stayed in touch with patrons during the pandemic? Passively—through hearts and bears in windows? Actively—through online programming? Chalk messages on sidewalks? Another creative way? *Children and Libraries* would love to share photos and brief stories in an upcoming issue. Please send your stories and photos for consideration [to CAL Editor Sharon Verbeten](mailto:toylady@athenet.net).

[Check out these helpful tips for taking high-quality print photos!](http://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/cal/author-guidelines/photo_tips)

**Upcoming ALSC Webinars**

Did you know that ALSC live webinars are free and open to all? Learn more about our upcoming webinars below. [**Register online today!**](http://www.ala.org/alsc/elearning/live-webinars)

[**Honoring Infancy: Libraries Welcoming Babies**](http://www.ala.org/alsc/honoring-infancy-libraries-welcoming-babies)  
Thursday, May 7, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Central time

Join members of ALSC’s Early Childhood Programs and Services Committee as they share ideas and tips for developing a baby-friendly library experience. Topics will include marketing strategies, family-friendly policies and areas, and helping non-youth staff understand babies.

[**Honoring Infancy: Beyond Baby Storytime**](http://www.ala.org/alsc/honoring-infancy-beyond-baby-storytime)   
Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 2:00 p.m. Central time

Members of the Early Childhood Programs and Services Committee talk about what makes a program appropriate for babies and share some tried and true ideas that are doable at any library.

[**25 Ways to Build the Bridge between your School and Library**](http://www.ala.org/alsc/25-ways-build-bridge-between-your-school-and-library)  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Central time

Librarians are the bridge between schools and the library. With successful school outreach programs, librarians can create lasting networks and educate the community on modern library practices. Participants will receive 25 ideas for programs and services that will help build the bridge.

**Celebrate Día 2020**

This year's Día theme is "Each Story Matters - Every Child Counts." New resources are available, including updated reading lists for children from birth through Grade 8, posters, and social media graphics to encourage families to celebrate Día where they are. Materials are customizable and perfect for promoting your library's virtual celebration.

Día is a celebration every day of children, families, and reading, which emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

**Participate in National Library Legislative Week from Home**

While the in-person 2020 National Library Legislative (NLL) Day was canceled, ALA is hosting a [week of advocacy training and activities](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/nlld) on May 4 through 8 that are open to everyone. Library advocates will have the opportunity to hear from one other, train virtually, and continue creating connections and relationships with decision makers at every level of government.

In 2020, advocacy is more important than ever before. The NLL week of training aims to prepare everyone to take the leap forward, expand skill sets, and pioneer new forms of digital outreach.

Knowing that everyone is balancing screen time with multiple responsibilities at home, the week is a "design your own path" program based on your preference and availability. Tune in every day between May 4 and May 8 for live afternoon sessions and complete advocacy actions when you can. All trainings are free and recordings will be available on the website through May 31. For more information, visit [ALA's NLL Day website](http://www.ala.org/advocacy/nlld).

**Wonder Woman Champions Library Cards**

This September, DC’s Wonder Woman is embarking on a new mission with ALA and libraries nationwide to champion the power of a library card as Library Card Sign-up Month Honorary Chair.

On this mission, Wonder Woman will remind the public that there is nothing more empowering than signing up for your own library card. Through access to technology, media resources, and educational programs, a library card gives students the tools to succeed in school and provides people of all ages opportunities to pursue their passions and dreams.

Wonder Woman posters, stickers and bookmarks are currently [available for purchase through the ALA Store](https://www.alastore.ala.org/content/lasso-library-card-poster).

Visit the [Library Card Sign-up Month website](http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card) for more information.

**Knapp Wins 2020 Sullivan Award**

Alice Knapp, president of the Ferguson Library, Stamford, Connecticut, is the recipient of the 2020 Peggy Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. The Sullivan Award is presented annually to an individual in a library administrator role who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children.

Knapp was nominated for the Sullivan Award by ALSC member Caroline Ward, former coordinator, youth services, and Elizabeth McKay, supervisor of youth services. They wrote, “Alice has been a major leader and cheerleader for Ferguson’s Youth Department. She is a good listener and empathetic person, always careful to make sure the supervisor of youth services and the staff are involved in the planning of any new projects. She naturally embodies the very finest in a supportive, visionary administrator.”

Peggy Sullivan, the award's namesake, was a former ALSC President (1976-1977), ALA President (1980–1981), and ALA Executive Director (1992-1994).

The deadline for submission of applications for the 2021 Sullivan Award is February 1, 2021. [Guidelines and applications](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/sullivan-award-public-library-administrators-supporting-services-children) are available online.

**Honoring Library Workers**

While in-person celebrations are not possible during the COVID-19 quarantine, it certainly is an appropriate time to honor the critical role that library workers play in keeping our libraries running. The ALA Allied Professionals Association has taken the festivities online and invites library advocates, patrons, and staff to show their support of our nation’s library workers by posting words of encouragement and appreciation for their local library stars at <http://bit.ly/librarystar>. These testimonials are proof positive of the impact of library workers, and libraries, in communities. Check out the “[Galaxy of Stars](http://ala-apa.org/nlwd/#galaxy)” in your state, and across the country.

**Libraries Reimagined**

Released in conjunction with National Library Week, [*Libraries Reimagined*](https://www.humanmedia.org/product/libraries-reimagined/) is a public radio documentary examining the critical role of libraries in democracy. The series of four episodes, including one on early literacy, is a free resource that also may be a helpful tool for advocating the importance of the library in your community. The program features interviews with librarians, library patrons, authors, and other experts. ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy office provided assistance on the project, helping identify some of the interview sources. Check out *Libraries Reimagined* at <https://www.humanmedia.org/product/libraries-reimagined/>. [Promotional graphics are also available](https://www.humanmedia.org/libraries-reimagined-artwork-share/) in a variety of digital formats.

**Report on Family Learning**

The Joan Ganz Cooney Center recently published a report from the Families Learning Across Boundaries (FamLAB) Project that focuses on the role of libraries in connecting learning opportunities for families with young children. *Learning Across Boundaries: How Librarians Are Bridging Children’s Interests* shares findings from a national survey of more than 400 professionals across the U.S. about how they are connecting children’s learning across settings.

The main goal of the Families Learning Across Boundaries (FamLAB) Project is to create an ecosystem that enables and encourages young children’s learning across settings, especially children from underrepresented populations.

The report is available at:  <https://joanganzcooneycenter.org/publication/famlab-librarians/>  
Learn more about the [Families Learning Across Boundaries initiative](https://joanganzcooneycenter.org/famlab)   
In addition, a [2-page tipsheet](http://joanganzcooneycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/jgcc_librariesconnectinglearning.pdf) shares research-based suggestions for library professionals interested in finding creative yet practical ways to create partnerships and serve their communities.

***\* Do you have news of national interest to share with*ALSC Matters*readers? Please send us your stories for inclusion in “Field Notes.” For more information and deadlines, visit the***[***Field Notes submission form***](http://www.ala.org/alsc/alscconnectonline/alsc-matters-field-notes-send-us-your-news)***.***

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