

Membership Profiles

Compiled by Aryssa Damron

Jennifer Minehardt, Head of Youth Services, Perrot Memorial Library, Old Greenwich, CT



How has ALSC contributed to your work in libraries?

Being a member of ALSC truly feels like belonging to a larger community. It's been the main source keeping me up to date with current trends nationwide. Serving on various committees has kept me connected, and it's been a truly rewarding experience so far.

What projects are you excited to be working on in ALSC?

I'm currently serving on the ALSC Notable Children's Books Committee and loving it. As the committee members always say, it's the best book club you've ever been in!

What brings you joy in librarianship?

Seeing the kids that come in and interacting with them every day. My favorite program is Baby Storytime. I just love watching the babies grow and learn throughout the programs. I've had so many take their first steps in our programs, and it brings so much joy!

What is your favorite book to share with children?

Dumplings for Lili by Melissa Iwai. The kids absolutely love seeing themselves in all the cultures represented and of course giggle at Lili having to go up and down the stairs every time!

What are you reading right now?

The Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett

Aleezah Rockler, Children's Library Associate, District of Columbia Public Library



How has ALSC contributed to your work in libraries?

I have participated in ALSC by serving on a committee and attending the 2022 ALSC Institute. Through both, I have met a lot of amazing people from all over the country. Each has their own library story. They have helped me gain new insights, get new ideas, and remain excited about a field that, up until 2019, was new to me.

What projects are you excited to be working on in ALSC or your library?

Recently, I was able to have an improv theater company begin doing workshops for adults. It has been a huge success. I am hoping to start teaching improv to the children at my library. There appears to be an interest in this in my community so I am excited to begin planning!

What brings you joy in librarianship?

Having been at my branch for nearly five years, it has been a pleasure to watch many of my regulars get older. Some of them I have known their whole lives. I also enjoy having children come

to my department and share that they enjoyed a book that I recommended.

What is your favorite book to share with children?

I am a big fan of anything by Jan Thomas (especially *Pumpkin Trouble*) and Mo Willems' *There Is a Bird on Your Head*. Also *Rain Makes Applesauce* by Julian Scheer—I still have my copy from when I was five!

What are you reading right now?

I am finishing up Alice Hoffman's latest novel *The Invisible Hour*. &

Why Stickers Are Powerful Magic, continued from page 32

Yet stickers are also ephemeral, and that is part of the magic, too. They go away. They are precious in part because they are not permanent, they will peel away and get stuck on the bottoms of shoes or disappear into the crevices of car seats, never to be seen again. They are paper mandalas, reminders that this, too, shall pass, and to enjoy the sparkly SpongeBob of every moment.

But most importantly, I am convinced that stickers represent the deepest gift an adult can give a child—our love and attention. Unlike their 26.2-mile counterparts, children who receive stickers from a friendly librarian are bragging about not so much an achievement as a relationship. They're thinking, "This means an adult cares enough about me to bestow this magical, ephemeral badge upon me."

"Is for ME?" Kena asks, fingering his special sticker gingerly, touching its edges and marveling at its beauty. I would give him a million more if I could, covering every inch of his two-foot frame to hear that again and again.

Is for me, a simple but powerful reminder of why I do this.

Is for you, an opportunity to connect to children as individuals and honor their personhood.

Powerful magic indeed. &

One Easy Way To Use Stickers for Magical Interactions

For the past few years, the Children's staff at all Tulsa City-County Libraries locations have been using one special kind of sticker to help create magical interactions on National Take Your Child to the Library Day. Every location has a roll of stickers with blank spots where our librarians and others can write a child's name. It's a simple yet effective way to make children feel seen!

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