

ALAN Online News:

A Tribute to an ALAN Great: Teri Lesesne

In this issue: A Statement on the Status of the 2021 ALAN Workshop

A Tribute to an ALAN Great: Teri Lesesne



From Teri's Family

It is with the greatest of sadness and the heaviest of hearts that we - Teri's family - announce her passing, August 31, 2021. Teri succumbed to cancer, after a fight for life that she won for many years, at her home surrounded by her sisters, her granddaughters, and her husband. We loved her fiercely and will miss her daily.

One of her greatest joys was bringing new books into the lives of teachers and their students and for

that reason, she was often called “the goddess of young adult literature” by some and “the book lady” by others. Teri always said that the right book given to the right student at the right time would create a reader. And that’s what she spent her professional life doing - giving each of you book titles for you to share with your children and your students.

Teri offered much of her professional life to professional organizations, particularly to the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents, an arm of the National Council of Teachers of English. Teri served as president of ALAN, as executive director, and was honored to be a recipient of the ALAN Service Award. To honor Teri’s life and career, the family asks that donations be made to the National Council of Teachers of English, designated to the Teri Lesesne grant. These dollars will be used to establish a fund that helps provide registration to the ALAN Conference to early career teachers. She loved that annual conference where teachers came together to hear from authors and discuss all things books. Bringing new teachers to that conference year after year will be loving and meaningful tribute to her.

Teri, a Distinguished Professor at Sam Houston State University, was also an active member of NCTE serving as the Chair on the Standing Committee Against Censorship, the Middle Level Section Co-Chair, a member of the NCTE nominating committee; she was also a recipient of the Texas Library Association Outstanding Service Award, a National Book Foundation judge, the Printz Award committee member, a member of the VOYA Editorial Advisory Board, and on and on. If there was a committee that had something to do with books,

Teri served on that committee.

We know that all of you reading this have your own connection to Teri and we are sure that connection has something to do with books. She often shared how touched she was when teachers shared how something she had written or said helped them connect kids to books. So, we ask that you keep reading, and then keep sharing books. And then share them more. Nothing would mean more to Teri.

Many thanks for loving our Professor Nana,
Her family



We are heartbroken by the news of Teri Lesesne's passing. Teri was, and will always remain, a treasured friend, colleague, and mentor for countless ALAN members over the years. We will miss her presence, wisdom, and humor more than we can express. ALAN is currently working with NCTE for ways to honor Teri, and acknowledge the enormous and lasting influence she had in our field. Please stay posted as we work on these details, and share ways that ALAN members can be involved in these projects. Thank you.

The ALAN Executive Committee



Submit to the New ALAN Picks

The new ALAN Picks is seeking articles that analyze teaching strategies designed to increase student engagement with YA texts in middle, secondary and university classroom and library communities. On this page, you'll find information on manuscript guidelines, upcoming calls for manuscripts, and author guidelines.

Check out more information on the New ALAN Picks Website [here](#) including calls for manuscripts.

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Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of
NCTE (ALAN) |
hstrickland@andersonuniversity.edu

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