

Chalkboard

WWW.OCTE.ORG JANNA E. REID, WENDY WEBER, CO-EDITORS

Oregon Spirit Book Awards 2010

Volume 36, No. 4, Fall 2011



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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 98 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

Chalkboard is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

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For a list of prior year's award winners, please visit

www.octe.org
in the Awards link

Dorothy Courtois, OSBA Committee Co-chair

Are you looking for an excellent children's book? The Oregon Council of Teachers of English presented the 2010 Oregon Spirit Book Awards at its fall conference on Oct. 1, 2011. **The Oregon Spirit Book Award** is given yearly to the author of a distinguished contribution to children's or young adult literature that engages and encourages readers' imagination, discovery, and understanding, reflecting the spirit and values held by Oregonians. Priority is given to books that present

- respectful portrayals of diverse populations
- tolerance of various individual and cultural perspectives
- peaceful, innovative, and equitable solutions of conflicts
- respect for ecosystems and environmental sustainability

The recipients of the 2010 OSBA awards are:

Children's:

Joha Makes a Wish: A Middle Eastern Tale
by Eric A. Kimmel

Middle Readers:

Calvin Coconut: Dog Heaven
by Graham Salisbury

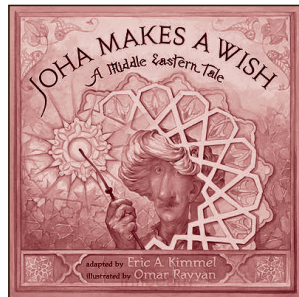
Young Adult:

Harmonic Feedback
by Tara Kelly

Special Category - Nonfiction:

The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)
by Barbara Kerley

Joha Makes a Wish - A Middle Eastern Tale



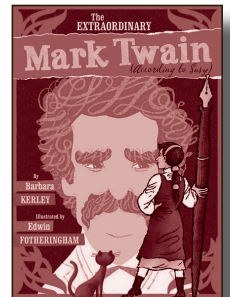
Calvin Coconut - Dog Heaven



Harmonic Feedback



The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)



Children's:

Aggie the Brave
by Lori Ries

Honor Books were awarded to:

Young Adult:
The Last Great Getaway of the Water Balloon Boys
by Scott William Carter

Middle Reader:

After All, You're Callie Boone
by Winnie Mack

Middle Reader:

Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword
by Barry Deutsch

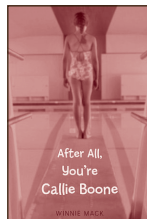
Young Adult:

The Candidates
by Inara Scott

Aggie the Brave



After All, You're Callie Boone



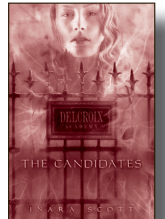
Hereville How Mirka Got Her Sword



The Last Great Getaway of the Water Balloon Boys



The Candidates





Manuel Mateo and Wendy Weber

The Friday evening workshop conducted by Oregon Shakespeare Festival staff Joan Langley and Kirsten Giroux was energizing and outstanding, setting a high bar for the rest of the conference. By engaging participants in some close contextual reading of sections of *Macbeth*, through active kinesthetic introductory activities, ice-breakers and conversation, there was more than one attendee who couldn't wait to introduce the "Scottish Play" to their classes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCTE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM

(for 8th graders in 2011-12). Deadline: Feb. 15, 2012

<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw>

Contact: John Scanlan, John.Scanlan@pendleton.k12.or.us

NCTE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING

(for high school Junior in 2011-12). Deadline: Feb. 15, 2012

<http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/aa>

Contact: Ricky Korach, DrMrsK@comcast.net

OCTE SPRING CONFERENCE—APRIL 21, 2012

Ashland High School, and a weekend of Oregon Shakespeare Festival plays • info@octe.org

28TH ANNUAL OREGON WRITING FESTIVAL

May 5, 2012, at PSU. Grades 4-12.

Info: bjwiegele@aol.com

OCTE LITERACY PROJECT MINI GRANTS

Application Deadline: May 1, 2012

http://www.octe.org/awardsandprograms_grantopportunities.html

facebook

Join us on Facebook! This is the fastest way to stay in touch and see what the English community is doing across the state. "Like" us and share with a friend!



Tim Gillespie opened Saturday's conference with an inspiring keynote address, "My Vocation: What I Learned." Recently retired from a 37-year career as a public school teacher and winner of the National High School Teacher of Excellence Award from NCTE, Gillespie has written many articles for educational journals and recently published *Doing Literary Criticism* with Stenhouse Publishers.



Tim Gillespie

Gillespie asked himself during his career, "What are you doing and what's it for?" Ultimately, the answer is that it's about the students. He told about a Hawaiian restaurant that has the slogan, "Go blalah or go home!" meaning, go big or go home! Gillespie said teachers need to focus on the big questions and not get bogged down in all of the details.

He was able to maintain enthusiasm throughout his career by remembering that one of the greatest gifts of teaching is that it provides endless opportunities to learn. He also kept a teaching journal, maintained relationships with colleagues, and always remembered how important the job of teaching is. "This work can be rigorous; it can also be joyful...the magic dust you sprinkle sticks longer sometimes than you know." By the end of his talk, there were few dry eyes in the audience.



Beth Lifson

In her presentation, "Gendered Rhetoric: Using Writing to Explore Gender," Beth Lifson described a unit she uses at The Center for Advanced Learning, a charter school in Gresham. This unit uses gender roles as a focus for teaching the skill of rhetorical analysis.



Conference Reviews



Peter Thacker

Peter Thacker's presentation on the deconstruction of William Saroyan's "Gaston" revealed layer upon layer of the short story's meaning, and he modeled how a class can bring a wide variety of meaning to any published text, with only a little prompting by an instructor. We were all a little surprised when the session drew to a close, as we could have been content to share and discuss strategies for easily an hour longer.



Jim Burke

The conference was bookended by the keynoter address of Jim Burke of Burlingame High School in San Francisco, "Thinking about Reading/Reading Is Thinking." He said that the most important model that teachers provide is being readers ourselves. And the best way to address comprehension, literacy, and student engagement is through rigorous, effective classroom discussion. Such discussion can occur in small settings or larger ones.



Kristin LeMon



Patricia Smith

Both Kristin Le Mon of Beaverton ("Critical Thinking through Literacy") and Patricia Smith of Clayton State University in Georgia ("Getting around Stumbling Blocks: A Differentiated Approach to Teaching in the Content Areas") emphasized the importance of and strategies for presenting material and giving assignments in a variety of modes. For some activities, students were in small groups consisting of individuals differing in learning styles.

And different types of questions and answers can be used, but the most important type is the essential question. That is, what larger issue can be examined in terms of a piece of literature or an historical event, or this theme or that notion? Providing essential questions—and teaching students how to create them—can lead to deep discussion and deep learning.

Texts can disorient, confuse, inspire, awe, or otherwise affect students. How can we use that disorientation, that confusion, that inspiration to get students to engage in inquiry and learning? By focusing first on smaller, factual questions and then building toward analytical and then evaluative questions, students and teachers can extend the learning from the text to the Larger Areas of Life.

These were just a few of the more than 35 presentations given by 50 speakers at the Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 OCTE conference at Sunset High School in Beaverton.

(Jean Mittelstaedt and Molly Gillcrisp contributed to these reviews)



Jan Priddy

Jan Priddy from Seaside High School presented "Making Students Work Harder without Making Your Eyes Bleed." She offered attendees practical strategies for reducing time teachers spend scoring writing and specific "low stress" assignments that get students writing frequently.



OCTE ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENT ELECT

Karen K. Johnson, Tigard-Tualatin School District

SECRETARY

Dorothy Courtox, St. Anthony's Elementary School

VICE PRESIDENT

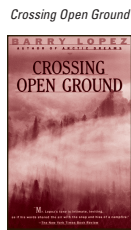
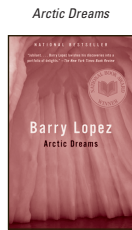
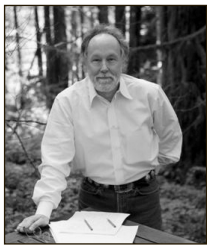
Heidi Hanson, Beaverton School District

TREASURER

Ulrich H. Hardt, Portland State University

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
2012 Spring Conference • April 21, 2012

ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL • 201 S. MOUNTAIN AVENUE • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520



BARRY LOPEZ, keynote speaker

Author of numerous books, including Arctic Dreams (National Book Award).

Conference Schedule:

8:00 a.m. - Registration

8:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. - Concurrent Sessions

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Barry Lopez

2:00 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. - Concurrent Sessions

Oregon Shakespeare Festival Plays:

Friday, April 20, at 8:00 p.m.

Romeo and Juliet; Seagull

Saturday, April 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Troilus and Cressida; Medea / MacBeth / Cinderella

Sunday, April 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Seagull; Animal Crackers

**Order tickets: 800-219-8161 or
www.osfashland.org/plays/index.aspx**

You may register on-line at octe.org

Academic Credit/PDUs Available

Earn one graduate credit from PSU (separate registration at the conference).
Earn 7 Professional Development Units for continuing licensure.