

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
OREGON COUNCIL OF  
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH



Volume 41, No. 1,  
Winter 2016



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**Chalkboard** is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for over 100 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.

**OCTE**  
P.O. Box 9126  
Portland, OR 97207-9126

*OCTE Conferences are an  
excellent value!*

**Register online:**

[octe.org](http://octe.org)

*Pre-registration prices end  
April 18th.*

# Chalkboard

[WWW.OCTE.ORG](http://WWW.OCTE.ORG)

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## OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

### Spring Conference - Saturday, April 30, 2016

Silverton High School • 1456 Pine Street • Silverton, OR

Spring is just around the corner. It's a time of renewal and re-energizing. It's also the time to join us at the OCTE Spring Conference, where we will be "**Reigniting Our Practice.**" You'll find opportunities to refresh and network with other Oregon educators in a collegial atmosphere. You'll meet experienced, talented educators willing to share their diverse knowledge with teachers young and old.

Oregon author, Ellen Howard, will be our keynote speaker. Howard is the author of more than a dozen books for young readers, including the picture books, *Log Cabin Quilt*, which won the Christopher Award, *Log Cabin Christmas*, and *Log Cabin Church*. Known for her historical fiction, she is also a contributing author to, *Am I Blue? Coming Out of the Silence*, a short-story collection dealing with (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) issues by some of 1995's top authors. She has presented at our NCTE Regional Conferences and teaches writing for children and young adults in Vermont College's MFA program. Howard will discuss why and how to teach writing skills while making writing relevant for today's young people.

In addition, we will be offering 12 conference sessions for K-12 levels (see page 2). You'll come away with sources and materials for creative teaching strategies to take back to your classroom and a sense of how we impact students in positive ways.

Silverton High School is hosting us on their beautiful campus, nestled in the heart of the Willamette Valley. After a morning of engaging presentations, enjoy the afternoon exploring the natural beauty of the surrounding area. The Oregon Garden is open and in full bloom. Silver Falls State Park is nearby and boasts over ten gorgeous waterfalls with miles of hiking trails and picnic areas.



We have an outstanding conference planned and hope you will join us!  
I look forward to seeing you in Silverton.

**Laurie Dougherty**, Conference Chair



Silverton High School



**Conference Keynote:**  
Ellen Howard



### Appreciating Lea Mathieu's Interdisciplinary Workshop on the Civil Rights Movement at the OCTE 2015 Fall Conference

As a student at the University of Portland, my professor invited my classmates and me to attend the fall OCTE conference at Concordia University. We had the freedom to make choices related to our interests and to frame our own experiences throughout the day.

Several of us decided to go to a riveting presentation by Lea Mathieu: "Civil Rights through Poetry, Photography, and Drama." Displaying an adroit ability to describe an interdisciplinary Language Arts/ Social Studies unit, Lea was funny, personable, and humble. She brought to life both the subject matter at the heart of the lessons as well as the methods available to teachers to translate this information to students. She intermixed the presentation with several examples of the work done by students, some of which nearly moved me to tears.

The presentation began with a discussion about "Separate but Equal." Lea highlighted two photographs of what that term meant for both whites and blacks of that time and asked students to note the differences. It wasn't hard to see that separate was anything but equal.

Using a wide variety of visual and written documents, Lea built lessons that asked students to express themselves in persona writing, poetry and personal responses, building empathy for those oppressed during this moment in American history. Her ideas and insights excited me and made me want to teach the same lessons to my students.

Lea also showed us how to connect the civil rights movement to current civil rights issues in America. As an example, she had students watch a video of a South Carolina city hall meeting discussing the refugees from Syria. She also discussed a program that allows students from all over the world to live and work in towns and cities in the United States. She described how one Muslim student staying in a place can completely alter students' perspectives about what a Muslim really is.

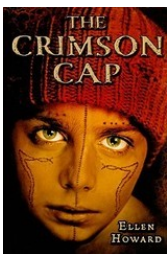
More than once Lea pointed out that her student demographic was rural and white, yet the students completely engaged with the material and became more compassionate as a result. They were able to express themselves artistically and empathically, learning so much more than they would have by simply listening to the information.

At the time I saw this presentation, I was buried in the minutiae of coursework at UP and only starting to get into my first student teaching assignment. From that vantage point, it was easy to lose my heartfelt desire for teaching. Lea re-energized my desire and resolve to become the best teacher I can be. Through the thoroughness and clarity of her presentation, I could tell that it would be easy for students to develop compassion for those whose experiences are different from their own. Lea was an excellent role model for me as a new teacher, and it was evident from the number and variety of questions she received from more experienced educators that she was a role model for them as well.

Lara Gardner, M.A.T. student, University of Portland

Editor's Note: Lea Mathieu, a treasured presenter at OCTE events, will be leading a workshop this spring in Silverton. Her topic is: "Reading the World."

### Ellen Howard Book Reviews



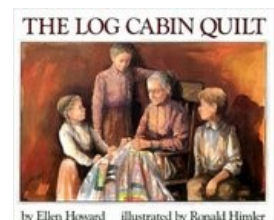
In 1687, when LaSalle's attempted French settlement in present-day Texas foundered, ten-year-old Pierre Talon left his family to go with the explorer for help but got no further than a Hasinai Indian town, where he grew into manhood before Spaniards came to "rescue" him and he had to choose an identity. Frightened at first by the Hasinai's strange ways, Pierre is won over by their care during his illness and comes to admire and emulate their skills, becoming part of the community. He learns that people can be complicated: Friends can also be murderers, "savages" may simply be people whose customs are different. Based on historical record and the little information available about the people of the Caddo Confederacy, this moving coming-of-age story is told in third person with the historical background smoothly integrated and supplemented by a character list, map and author's end note. Like Pierre, readers will find the Hasinai more civilized than the Europeans and sympathize with his difficult choice. A well-imagined window into a little-known past.

*(Historical fiction. 10-14)* [Adapted from kirkusreviews.com](http://Adapted from kirkusreviews.com)



Conference Keynote:  
Ellen Howard

An atmosphere of restrained grief and quiet struggle suffuses this almost inspirational story from Howard that draws on the experiences of 19th-century pioneers. The story opens as Elvirey's family--grandmother, father, sister, and brother--buries her mother and leaves Carolina by wagon for Michigan. Father is against bringing along Mam's things-- "There ain't no room for suchlike," Pap says. Granny defiantly brings along a bag of quilting scraps, saying, "I aim to set on it." After a long trip west, they clear the land and build a log cabin, but it never feels like home. One cold fall day Pap leaves them all to go hunting. Night falls and the cabin grows colder and lonelier. As the moss and dirt between the logs freeze and fall out, Elvirey chinks the walls with fabric scraps, making the "log cabin quilt" of the title. Pap, on his return, says, "Your mam would be proud. The place is downright homey." Elvirey observes that it isn't the scraps but "Mam's name said out loud" that makes the cabin home. This meditation on a small triumph over loss will add humanity to school units on the pioneers. *(Picture book. 5-9)* [Adapted from kirkusreviews.com](http://Adapted from kirkusreviews.com)










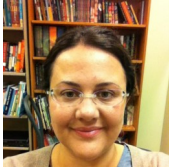
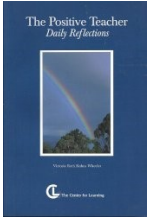
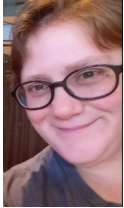




# Guide to Spring Conference Presentations

Pre-registration prices end  
April 18, 2016 ~  
On-site Registration is \$100 for all.

**Saturday, April 30, 2016**  
Silverton High School • 1456 Pine Street •

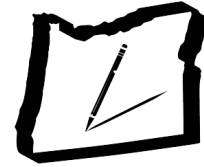
Register online:  
[octe.org](http://octe.org)

<p><b>A Smarter Response to Essential Skills: Writing Workshop Model to Produce Inspired Work Samples</b></p> <p>9-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Christy Weggelaar</b>, Teacher</p>	<p><b>Vocabulary! What Every Middle Schooler Needs!</b></p> <p>6-8 Audience</p>  <p><b>Carla Kessler</b>, Vocabulary Curriculum Specialist</p>	<p><b>Good News from the National Assessment of Educational Progress</b></p> <p>K-8 Audience</p>  <p><b>Beth LaDuca</b>, NAEP State Coordinator</p>	<p><b>Quiet Cooperation</b></p> <p>General Audience</p>  <p><b>Delana Heidrich</b>, Teacher, Bonanza High School</p>
<p><b>Something Old, Something New: Bridging High School and College Writing Through a Proficiency Based Approach</b></p> <p>9-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Cornelia Paraskevas</b>, Professor, WOU &amp; <b>Rachel Duncan</b>, Teacher</p>	<p><b>Update on Graphic Novels Across the Curriculum</b></p> <p>K-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Paul Gregorio</b>, Professor, PCC</p>	<p><b>Common Lore: Folklore in the K-12 Classroom</b></p> <p>K-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Eric Holmes</b>, Kaplan University</p>	<p><b>Using I-charts to Scaffold Student Questions and Writing</b></p> <p>K-8 Audience</p>  <p><b>Melanie Landon-Hays</b>, Professor, WOU</p>
<p><b>Staying Positive: Re-charging Our Personal Batteries</b></p> <p>6-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Victoria Wheeler</b>, Retired, author, <i>The Positive Teacher</i></p>	<p><b>Pairing Non-Fiction Information with Historical Fiction Texts</b></p> <p>6-8 Audience</p>  <p><b>Eryn Willow</b>, Teacher, Mark Twain Middle School, Silverton</p>	<p><b>OSLIS: Informational Text &amp; Information Literacy</b></p> <p>K-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Jennifer Maurer</b>, School Library Consultant, Oregon State Library</p>	<p><b>Reading the World</b></p> <p>9-12 Audience</p>  <p><b>Lea Mathieu</b>, Teacher, Lone Community School</p>



## Oregon Writing Festival

The 32nd Annual Oregon Writing Festival will take place at Portland State University on Saturday, May 7, 2016.  
8:00 a.m.—2:25 p.m.



**Cat Winters** is last year's winner of the Oregon Spirit Book Award for her debut novel, *In the Shadow of the Blackbird*. She has been praised for her "exquisite and magical" writing which "takes her readers on audacious rides" with her haunting, paranormal tales. Books include *The Cure for Dreaming* and her March 2016 release, *The Steep and Thorny Way*.



Award-winning author **Roland Smith** returns to address grades 6-8. Popular, prolific and beloved by all readers, he will be talking about how he writes and where he gets his ideas for his nonfiction books and his action-packed thrillers, including his newest ones, *Beneath* and *The Edge*. Others books are the *I,Q* series, the *Storm Runners* trilogy, and *Journey of the Red Wolf*.



**Bart King** will be talking to 4th and 5th graders. A former teacher, King is the author of many books filled with facts and interesting tidbits, including *The Big Book of Girl Stuff* and *Boy Stuff*, *The Pocket Guide to Magic*, *The Big Book of Superheroes*, and *The Pocket Guide to Mischief*. His books have been called "sure-fire hits" and "irresistible reads."

### What is the Oregon Writing Festival?

- Accenting writing as an art, craft and basic skill for Oregon students, grades 4 to 12
- Honoring outstanding student writers
- Recognizing writing teachers for high level student achievement in writing
- Encouraging effective classroom practices and home support to improve writing
- Increasing the interest and involvement of students and teachers in writing
- Promoting writing activities and festivals in local districts and communities
- Connecting student writers with Oregon authors and other student writers

Registration Cost:  
\$35 per student

Student Registration Form : Available through School District contact only.  
**For additional information about the Oregon Writing Festival, please contact:**

Barbara Wiegele  
[bjwiegele@aol.com](mailto:bjwiegele@aol.com)  
503-723-6275

Rick Hardt  
Festival Chair  
[hardt@pdx.edu](mailto:hardt@pdx.edu)

Go to:  
[octe.org](http://octe.org)

For detailed Writing Festival Information.







### Teacher Testifies Value of OCTE Fall Conference

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the OCTE/OCSS joint conference in October of 2015. So many of us are continuing to develop cross-disciplinary curriculum that pulls together threads not only from English Language Arts and Social Studies, but also issues that connect to women's/gender studies, ethnic/cultural studies, and social justice. I had such a pleasant time at the conference, connecting with other like-minded professionals who are developing curriculum that encourages our students to become global citizens in an increasingly diverse world. Because this kind of curriculum-building takes time, I really appreciated the fact that so many local social justice groups were also in attendance, distributing free curriculum and resources for teachers. The keynote speech from Laurie Halse Anderson was my favorite experience, because it reminded me why it is so essential for us to engage our students in critical dialogues that promote respect for diversity. Thank you again for this wonderful scholarship opportunity!



*I really appreciated the fact that so many local social justice groups were also in attendance...*

**Amanda Littke-Kellam**, Roland Bartel Scholarship Recipient  
English Language Arts / English Language Development

### Teaching Tip: Writing Poems That Appeal to Our Darkly Humorous Side



William Carlos Williams

"False Apology" poems were first made famous by William Carlos Williams in "This is just to say" a short poem he wrote about the scrumptious plums he ate without permission. Gail Carson Levine recently published a book full of false apology poems called *Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It*. I like to have 6th graders start off our poetry unit by writing their own false apology poems. It's my sneaky way to get them to like poetry: by showing my students that poetry does not have to be flowery love stories; they often find it more relatable than they originally thought.

**Aly Ferris**, 6th/7th/8th Grade Teacher  
Sauvie Island Academy

#### **This Is Just to Say by Audrey W.**

I have  
kicked your  
brand-new flip-flops  
into the ocean

And which  
probably had cost  
you an extremely large  
amount of money

Forgive me  
but it was so fun

#### **This Is Just to Say by Tessa D.**

I took  
the cookies  
you so  
nicely made

for the  
wedding  
from the  
cookie jar

Forgive me,  
chocolate chip  
is my new  
favorite kind

#### **This Is Just to Say by Kayla M.**

You have probably  
woken up  
and realized that you're  
in the hospital

I feel bad  
about daring  
you to do  
a back-handspring

Forgive me  
but it was truth  
or dare and you didn't  
have to take the dare

#### **This Is Just to Say by Aly Ferris**

I have assigned your class  
three weekly writings, a math packet, a 5-  
paragraph essay, a take-home quiz  
and an impromptu speech  
(all due tomorrow)

Even though you have  
chores, church, cheerleading practice,  
homework for Mr. Radich,  
and a basketball game.

Forgive me,  
I'm tired of hearing about  
your social life  
in my class.

# OCTE Chalkboard

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## Please Post



Save the Date



### Spring Conference - Saturday, April 30, 2016

Silverton High School • 1456 Pine Street • Silverton, OR 97381

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM** ~ Pre-registration prices end April 18, 2016 ~ On-site Registration is \$100 for all.

#### Conference Schedule:

- 7:45—8:15 Registration, Coffee and Pastries
- 8:15—9:10 Session 1
- 9:15—10:10 Session 2
- 10:15—11:10 Session 3
- 11:15 – 12:30 OCTE Business, Door Prizes, KEYNOTE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at:

[octe.org](http://octe.org)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Indicate number of registrants below.

Make checks payable to *OCTE*.  
Mail this form to:  
Barbara Wiegele  
14867 Orchid Ave  
Milwaukie, OR 97267-2454

#### Indicate number of registrants:

- \$60 - OCTE Members \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$90 - Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - \$30 - Student\* & Retired \_\_\_\_\_
- \*We define a student as enrolled in a full-time undergraduate or pre-service MAT program.
- Group Rate \$45 (OCTE members only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Group constitutes 5+ members

*Cost Includes: Breakfast and First Year Membership\**

\*Membership also includes two printed issues of the award-winning *Oregon English Journal*.

PDU's will be provided.

Silverton School District Teachers, please register, your attendance is free. \_\_\_\_\_



### PUB CLUB

Monthly meet-ups for English teachers to collaborate, share resources, and build community

First Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm

Portland: Green Dragon Bistro

Salem: The Governor's Cup

