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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 OC TE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

OC TE
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2021
Fall Conference
Presenters
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Tamura:
October 6th



Stacy
Carleton:
October 13th



Amanda
Coven:
October 20th



Hana
Layson:
October 27th



2021 OC TE Fall Conference



The beginning of every school year is always a moment of excitement and transition for those of us who are educators. But what about this one? None of us are completely prepared for what will be asked of us in the days ahead. We are eager to see our students and are dedicated to supporting them as they also meet this transition. It seems important to take this beginning by recognizing the importance of community. As language arts educators, let's remember that we have a network of colleagues and resources that can support us. As co-editors for *Chalkboard*, we would like to welcome you to the newsletter and

the community of OC TE; we are here for you. Thanks for being part of this community. We are excited to move forward together.

Donna Sheets-Mathew and Jeanne Sheets-Sagoo
Co-Editors, *Chalkboard*

Introduction to Fall Conference:

The fall speaker series returns in October, and you won't want to miss it! OC TE will offer interactive presentations with the theme, "Equity, Justice, and Antiracist Teaching." These workshops will explore a wealth of relevant resources led by knowledgeable and engaging speakers. Participants will leave with strategies and materials to guide and enlighten their students.



Once again, the conference is free, and registration is open to all members at OC TE's website. All registrants will receive a Zoom meeting link and have access to the recordings and resources for 30 days.

Live sessions will be held each Wednesday from 4:00-5:00 pm, beginning October 6 and continuing throughout the month. The recording link will be sent the following Friday. PDUs will be available following live sessions. Participants who wish to obtain PDUs for asynchronous sessions will complete a session follow-up question after viewing the recording.

- Patricia Emerson
Conference Chair

Please Post

Bookmarks:

Oregon Excellence Awards in Teaching the English Language Arts

Congratulations to Jay Schroder, winner of this year's Oregon Excellence Award in Teaching English Language Arts. The OC TE-sponsored award recognizes an educator who has created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English language arts. Schroder has been supporting young writers in the Medford area for 22 years. He is a former Fishtrap Fellow and past director of Young Artist's Institute at Southern Oregon University. He coordinated an annual poetry slam at Eagle Point High School for fourteen years, and is dedicated to bringing guest writers and poets into his classroom at Central Medford High School.

Schroder recently developed the Teach from Your Best Self Institute to support educators in teaching from a place of authenticity. Fifteen institute participants completed a week-long summer workshop and will gather monthly this school year. The institute is based on a holistic teaching manuscript Schroder wrote. Schroder's nomination application affirms that Jay Schroder is "an exceptional educator who has supported and cultivated profound growth of hundreds of students, many of whom have continued to develop their writing practice."

Schroder currently teaches alternative education for Central Medford High School, practices poetry writing, and continues to develop and lead his holistic teaching institute. Congratulations, Jay!

OC TE Awards:

For information on upcoming teacher grants and awards, please check the OC TE website.

2021 NCTE Annual Convention:

This year's convention will be held virtually November 18-21 and will feature such speakers as Michelle Obama, Colson Whitehead, and Amanda Gorman. Explore the program and register at ncte.org

Call for Ideas:

Chalkboard would like to publish you! If you have lessons, strategies, or inspirations for the ELA classroom, please share them with us at publications.octeorg@gmail.com.



2021 Fall Conference Presenters

Linda Tamura: October 6th



Linda Tamura has been the co-editor-in-chief of *The Oregon Encyclopedia* since its inception more than 12 years ago. In her presentation "Using *The Oregon Encyclopedia* in Inclusive Classrooms," she will guide participants through this invaluable resource. She will introduce the OE, inviting teachers to engage students in the more than 1,800 fact-checked and reviewed entries and essays toward a richer understanding of Oregon's complex history.

Her presentation will focus on entry clusters that relate to Blacks, Native Peoples, Japanese Americans, Latinx and Women. The interactive format will ensure that teachers leave with resources to use with their students as writers and readers of non-fiction texts.

At OCTE's conference last spring, Linda shared her personal experiences growing up in Hood River as an Asian American. Rather than emphasize the negative, she continues to spread the word about "Heroes Unheralded," those who have stood up against the negative voices. She wants to provide teachers with lessons for "...now and for the future to empower our students."

Stacy Carleton: October 13th



**"And when you're gone,
who remembers your name?
Who keeps your flame?
Who tells your story?"**
--*Hamilton, the musical*

Who gets to tell the story of Oregon?

Stacy Carleton will help us delve into Oregon's previously hidden stories and challenge our state's traditional narrative by de-centering white supremacy and exploring a diverse array of voices through multimedia content from Oregon Humanities. Together, we'll discover ways to utilize the materials as entry points for social critique and the exploration of past and present stories of race, identity, gender, culture, land, place, power, and justice, among other topics. You'll engage in a sample lesson and walk away with a bounty of ideas and resources designed to invigorate your practice and enliven your students.

Stacy Carleton (M.Ed.) is a freelance writer, editor, ELA teacher, and tutor. She lives and creates in Portland with her husband and two children.

Amanda Coven: October 20th



Elie Wiesel's *Night* is one of the most widely read and acclaimed Holocaust memoirs and is a staple in classrooms across the country. Amanda Coven, Director of Education at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCH), will present, "Teaching *Night* through a Local Lens." During this session, participants will be introduced to the context surrounding this text and learn how to incorporate the history and experiences of a local Holocaust survivor, Alice Kern into their study of *Night*. Like Wiesel, Kern was born, grew up, and was deported from Sighet, Romania to Auschwitz. Amanda's presentation will be helpful to all teachers as they study Holocaust literature with their students.

In her role as Director of Education for OJMCH, Amanda works to promote the rich resources provided by the museum. Her presentation promises to both engage and inform.

Hana Layson: October 27th



**Exploring Race and Social
Justice through Art**

How can the visual arts increase student engagement and critical thinking in the language arts classroom, including supporting a greater understanding of equity, social justice, and anti-racism? The Portland Art Museum is committed to uplifting the work and voices of diverse artists and to supporting culturally responsive learning experiences for students and educators. During this session, Hana Layson, Head of Youth and Educator Programs, will share resources and strategies to support LA teachers in using the Museum to deepen visual literacy, support textual literacy, and foster critical thinking about identity and power.

As the Head of Youth and Educator Programs at the Portland Art Museum, Hana Layson provides professional development programs and resources for educators across disciplines and grade levels and works to make the Museum a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all ages.

Oregon Reads

This summer, we selected *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson for our book study. In her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Wilkerson examines the unspoken caste system and its role in shaping America. In a special Facebook group, we shared insights, links and quotes from our reading. In addition, we met weekly for an optional Zoom meeting where we were able to discuss the book in more depth. At our last meeting we discussed future directions for the book club.



We'd like to shake things up a bit with our next book club. We will be trying out several new ideas. This winter, we'll hold another book club focusing on diverse books for students and look at teaching through literature. We hope to gather around new texts to share with our students. We are also looking forward to introducing some new formats. Rather than a Facebook group, we will be using a new platform each week: Jamboard, Google Slides, Flipgrid, and Padlet. Each week we'll have an open Zoom session for technical support and discussion of the texts. If you have suggestions for texts, please be sure to let us know at our Facebook page or by email to OCTE@gmail.com.

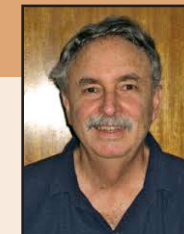
OCTE Board Member Honored with Klamath County School District Award



Delana Heidrich

Bonanza High School language arts teacher and OCTE board member Delana Heidrich is a recipient of a 2021 Klamath County School District Crystal Apple award. According to the district's website, the award is presented annually to "nine employees who best exemplify [the district's] mission of 'inspiring today's students to meet tomorrow's challenges.'" In a video introducing this year's winners, Bonanza's principal Jordan Osborn says Heidrich's nomination application included approximately 80 signatures of support. Heidrich teaches sophomore and senior English, Writing 121 and 122, Psychology 101, Speech 111, Creative Writing, and Senior Seminar at Bonanza's Jr/Sr High School (population 200). Heidrich loves watching her students discover and engage in their personal passions. She believes all students deserve to have someone respect exactly where they are while simultaneously supporting them as they stretch toward where they are going. Heidrich loves her current students and misses every single one of her former ones. She sends a shout out to the classes of 1991 to 2021 and beyond!

Paying the Land A Book Review by Paul Gregorio



Paul Gregorio

Portland author/illustrator Joe Sacco has utilized his distinctive approach of comics journalism to report on areas of conflict from Palestine to Bosnia. As in eight previous works about conflicts, Sacco travels to and spends time in the midst of society dealing with changes. Here he travels to the Northwest Territories of Canada to document the struggles of the Dene, indigenous peoples reacting to the legacy of colonialism. Like most of his other books, Sacco places himself in *Paying the Land*. He is an observer using text to give voice to people and allowing them to relate their stories. His realistic black and white illustrations give people faces. Using these conventions of graphic novels, this nonfiction approach combines oral history and historical research to document the changes of this group of natives.

The Dene elders believed in giving small gifts to the land in appreciation. This paying the land was based on the belief that the land owns them. After dealing with the governments and businesses over the extraction of resources, this changed to questioning that if this was their land, how come they were not in charge of it. Several people describe the changes, from snowmobiles to oil rigs, that altered their culture and identity. Sacco allows several viewpoints within the community and some changes in individual attitudes without judgment.

There are many similarities between the native peoples of Canada and the U.S. One of the most moving sections in the book is that of the boarding schools. Hearing it described and viewing the images of children and parents affected are powerful. The American Indian Movement of the 1960s and 1970s offered some hope but also some disagreements over strategies and approaches to change.

And in presenting all of the cultural changes and individual conflicts in this story of resources extraction from the land, Sacco frequently returns to the land. He removes the box framing of his illustrations when he draws the Dene in nature. It is just them, their faces and bodies and activities surrounded by nature, a part of nature.

Paying the Land uses primary sources in its 260 pages. It could be included in high school and higher education courses in language arts, history and journalism. It could also be a thoughtful selection for a book group.

Paul Gregorio is on the Oregon Spirit Book Award committee and he is a fan of works by Oregon authors.

