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OREGON COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH



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Conference Details
Page 1-2



News & Articles
Pages 1 - 4

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.

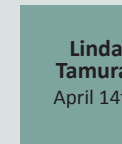
Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

OCTE
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2021 Spring Conference Presenters
(See page 2 for details)



JR Lilly:
April 7th



Linda Tamura:
April 14th



Jane Kirkpatrick:
April 21st



Amanda Coven:
April 28th



2021 OCTE Spring Conference

Following the success of our fall speaker series, we have decided to offer another series this spring. Beginning April 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons, we hope you'll join us to hear a variety of speakers addressing the theme of Oregon's Untold Stories. The series is free to all OCTE members or \$25 for non-members. Register at OCTE.org.



by Laurie Dougherty
Conference Chair

As a child growing up in a small Oregon town, my earliest exposure to history was learning about the Oregon Trail. I was captivated by the stories of hardy pioneers heading west to stake a claim and carve a community and civilization out of the wilderness. It was a history of white men and their wives. If Indigenous Peoples were mentioned, they were the "Indians" the pioneers had to fight in order to safeguard their property. If women were mentioned, they were supporting characters in a cast of brave and intrepid individuals. People of color didn't exist as the protagonists of these narratives. We weren't asked to question why these pioneers had a right to the land, or to delve into the stories of the people already occupying that space.

Over time and with exposure to the broader world, I did begin to question these narratives and to learn about the untold stories in my Oregon history. When I began teaching in another rural Oregon community, I found some of the same materials and texts on my classroom shelves that I had used as a child. I struggled to find stories of the many other groups of people that formed Oregon today, and tried to piece together my own, more representative curriculum. I wanted my students to hear all of the stories.

As a teacher educator, I believe in the power of story to transform, to give us a new lens for viewing our world, to expand our horizons. As a nation, we are still trying to weave our own history together, but in that effort, I believe in the importance of sharing everyone's story. In this series we hope to share some of the stories that have been left out of the history books.

Laurie Dougherty



Please Post

Bookmarks:

SB13

In 2017, the Oregon State legislature passed Senate Bill 13, also known as Tribal History/ Shared History. Under this law, lessons have been developed by both ODE and the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. Tribal History/ Shared History works to bridge gaps and inaccuracies in Native American curriculum and pushes towards the greater goal of highlighting the strengths and contributions that Native American students bring to their communities. Check out the ODE's Office of Indian Education website to learn more about the implementation of this bill.

SB 664:

In 2019, Senate Bill 664 was signed into law. This bill requires districts to provide students with instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides. Check out the ODE's Social Studies website to learn more about the implementation of this bill.

Call for Book Reviews by Women Authors:

Have you read a great novel or work of nonfiction by a female author about an issue that empowers women? March is National Women's History Month, so consider sharing a book review with your colleagues! Use the following criteria to guide you:

- A book by a female author that addresses an issue of female empowerment
- Adult and youth audiences are both encouraged
- A review that is 200-300 words in length
- Deadline: April 15th

Send your book review to publications.octeorg@gmail.com

Oregon Excellence Awards in Teaching the English Language Arts

To recognize excellence in teaching, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English (OCTE) invites any Oregon school to nominate one outstanding English language arts educator for one of these prestigious annual awards. A strong equal opportunity organization, we welcome nominations from anyone at any level of education—elementary, middle, secondary, two-year college, four-year college or university—but nominations must be limited to one per school.

To be nominated, the educator must have taught at least five years in any Oregon school at any level. In the opinion of the nominator, the educator must have created a particularly noteworthy record in teaching the English language arts. The nominator—with or without the assistance of the candidate—should nominate via online form (see below).

OCTE invites all Oregon teachers to submit completed Nomination Forms and Paragraphs to the OCTE Board of Directors for review and selection of annual Finalists. **The nomination deadline is April 6.**

After receiving nominations, the Council will call on experts to select finalists. Those teachers selected as finalists will be required to submit additional supporting evidence. Finalists and award winners will be recognized at the Fall OCTE conference.

2021 Spring Conference Presenters

JR Lilly: April 7th



JR Lilly, Diné (Navajo) Nation, will join us on April 7th as we kick off the OCTE Virtual Spring Conference on April 7, 2021. As part of a new generation that straddles a cultural chasm, he leads efforts to further the conversation around defining the role of our generation for both Native and Non-Native communities.

My uncle would always say “Creator loves STORY so much that He created Human Beings” and as we share our stories (both cultural and personal) our lives get woven together like our ceremonial baskets. At this gathering we will share in some Traditional Navajo Winter Stories and how they gave me the resilience to overcome poverty, domestic violence, and other harsh realities of this world. Culture is beautiful, culture is strength, culture is healing. Together we pray for Hózhó Náhasdlií’ (Walk In Beauty)

Jane Kirkpatrick: April 21st



New York Times and CBA best selling and award winning author, Jane Kirkpatrick will join us as our featured speaker on April 21. The author of more than 30 books, Kirkpatrick has just published *Something Worth Doing*, the story of Abigail Scott Duniway, one of the first to fight for women’s rights in the mid-1800’s. Duniway led the suffrage efforts in the Northwest,

promoting equal treatment in law, property rights, education, and the ability for women to vote. She was determined to make a difference and, with her husband’s encouragement, became a significant voice for women in a time when women were seen and not heard. After six attempts she saw the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, securing women’s right to vote. Jane will be discussing her research on Duniway and some of the untold stories of other remarkable women who helped shape Oregon.

Linda Tamura: April 14th



BACK TO THE FUTURE: Lessons for NOW from the Japanese American World War II Experience

After recounting how she discovered her hometown’s unsavory history surrounding the Japanese American World War II experience, Linda Tamura will show how investigating questions and identifying local heroes can be models for positive lessons and advocacy today.

Linda Tamura is Professor Emerita of Education at Willamette University and a co-editor-in-chief of *The Oregon Encyclopedia*. The author of two books about Japanese Americans (*Hood River Issei*, Univ. of Illinois Press, and *Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence*, Univ. of Washington Press), she serves on advisory boards and co-organized an upcoming exhibit for the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

Amanda Coven: April 28th



Educators will discover engaging ways to implement the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education’s (OJMCHE) original framework, “tools of discrimination” in their classrooms when Amanda Coven, Director of Education, presents **“Oregon: A History of Discrimination”** on April 28 at 4:30. This framework has been developed to gain a deeper understanding of the many ways that people have oppressed different marginalized groups, discrimination that continues today. Attendees will explore how the “tools of discrimination” reveal how discrimination works outside of any particular issue or group and instead demonstrate how they interact to create systemic oppression. The goal is not to compare or rank one group’s oppression or discrimination, but to find commonalities in how discrimination has been instituted and perpetuated.

Oregon Encyclopedia

Told Stories in The OE

Rick Hardt

Before the Oregon Encyclopedia, there were many more “untold” stories, such as who invented the Phillips screw and driver, which Tribe is associated with the Appaloosa horse breed, or who choreographed the technique for inserting prosthetic heart valves that was adopted worldwide.

The *Oregon Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, an online OCTE publication in cooperation with the Oregon Historical Society and PSU, reveals these and other Oregon stories such as the “Japanese American Wartime Incarceration in Oregon,” the marchers in KKK regalia in the state, or the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

The OE has authoritative entries on Sarah Winnemucca, Sacagawea, Chief Joe, as well as entries on writers and artists George Aguilar, Lillian Pitt, and Chris Eyre; an essay on “Jews in Oregon,” and entries on federal judge Gus Solomon, Rabbi Jonah Wise, and Congregation Neveh Shalom.

All of these, and so many more, help our spring conference tell the often “unknown” stories of Oregon.



February was Black History month, and you can learn about Black cowboys in the Oregon Encyclopedia

Oregon Writing Festival Goes Virtual

OCTE and the PSU College of Education will host a virtual Oregon Writing Festival (the 36th annual) on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

We will be able to accommodate a limited number of students in these three groups: grades 4 and 5, 6 to 8, and 9 to 12 on a first-come-first admitted basis. Keynote speakers for the groups will be award-winning authors Jane Kurtz, Roland Smith, and Emily Suvada.



Jane Kurtz



Roland Smith



Emily Suvada

Please contact registrar Barbara Wiegele (bjwiegele@aol.com) immediately for details and for reservations. Registration will close when filled and no later than Friday, April 2.

As always, schools sending 10 students (or portions thereof) must provide a teacher to assist us in this virtual festival on May 1. Cost per student: \$20.

OCTE Building Contact Person



Delana Heidrich

In 1994, my family and I traded a modern 2-bedroom apartment in the crowded Bay Area for a 120-year-old, 4-bedroom house in the town of Bonanza, Oregon, population 450. After two years of driving back south across the border every work day to a position at Butte Valley School, I earned my Oregon credential and began teaching in Klamath County.

At that early stage in my Oregon teaching, I could have used the support and camaraderie offered by a professional language arts organization. Perhaps because I entered Oregon teaching through kind of a side door, I did not stumble upon the Oregon Council of Teachers of English for another decade.

Since joining OCTE, I have gleaned new knowledge attending and providing workshops at exceptional conferences, engaged in discussions with established authors, read and written articles for OCTE’s publications, and developed meaningful professional and social relationships.

The OCTE membership committee is working to assure that other language arts educators do not miss out on such exciting OCTE opportunities as long as I did. In an attempt to assure our reach is extended to all language arts educators in the state, we are hoping to establish a contact person in every school who would disperse information about upcoming workshops, virtual book club opportunities, publication submission deadlines, and the like to teachers at their individual schools.

Please consider serving as the OCTE contact person at your school. For more information or to sign up as the OCTE contact at your school, please contact the Membership Committee Chair, Michelle Coleman.