

ST-9  
Oklahoma Report  
October 28, 2009

Librarians in Norman, Oklahoma were concerned when a visit by a best-selling author to a local middle school was cancelled after a parent protested the event. Author Ellen Hopkins wrote Glass, which chronicles her daughter's addiction to methamphetamine. The book is under official curriculum review by the school administration at the present time and a decision had not been made before the author was scheduled. Glass is a horrifying look at the consequences of teens making bad choices. Hopkins has done hundreds of school visits and her focus has been an honest look at the personal and family devastation of drug addiction. Ironically, Ellen Hopkins was invited to give her talk at Hillsdale Bible College, a local Free Will Baptist College. 150 people attended the event at Hillsdale College. The Norman Public Library has been buying more books to keep up with the demand of readers in the community.

Almost 200 people, including 120 Oklahoma high school students, attended the 2009 First Amendment Congress in Oklahoma City on October 28 and 29. The state's library community has been partnering with Freedom of Information Oklahoma, Inc. to host the annual event for the past eleven years. This year's theme was "Muzzling the Watchdog," and sessions focused on the impact of Internet news, blogs and social media on the traditional role of journalism as a watchdog of government. Highlights included an address by award-winning journalist Marvin Kalb, an online tour of watchdog websites by OSU Government Documents Librarian Barbara Miller, a debate on traditional vs. new media by two high school teams, and information on how to be a smart news consumer in the Information Age.

At press time, members of Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) were preparing to dedicate the state's eighth Literary Landmark. This year, the successful program honors John Joseph Mathews, Osage writer, artist, naturalist, historian and scholar. The Osage Tribal Museum in Pawhuska will be the site of the dedication. Past Oklahoma Literary Landmarks honor Woody Guthrie, Okemah; Ralph Ellison, Oklahoma City; Lynn Riggs, Claremore; Angie Debo, Marshall and Stillwater; Sequoyah, Salisaw; and Will Rogers, Claremore.