

Oklahoma Library Association

"To promote all library interests and services in the State of Oklahoma"



February 23, 2002
Oklahoma Library Association Representative
Mountain Plains Library Association
Basha Hartley

Oklahoma Libraries: Where it's @: Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference, April 17 – 19, 2002, Adams Mark Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Oklahoma Library Association is preparing for the best ever state conference this April. Our keynote speaker, Cecile Richards will discuss "Before the Crisis; Building Grass Roots Support for your library". Other highlights include FOLIO (Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma) speaker Charles Banks Wilson, ALA President John W. Berry, author William Bernhardt, and Gene McFall's Witty World of Will Rogers. Pre-conferences will be presented on media training, reorganizing libraries and how to handle pests and mold in your library.

Sequoyah Book Awards announced. Once again, Oklahoma kids have picked great winners! Dork in Disguise by Carol Gorman has won the popular Sequoyah Children's Book Award. Ms. Gorman will be giving a presentation at the OLA conference on April 17. The Sequoyah Young Adult Award was won by Laurie Halse Anderson for her book Speak.

February 12, 2002 - Oklahoma Library Association Legislative Day. Over 180 librarians, friends of libraries and trustees from across the state braved an ice storm and the worst year in recent memory for state funds and state budgets to talk to their legislators at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Nothing daunts our library supporters. Discussion with our elected officials was candid and concerned. They appreciated our understanding that this year is not the best for our library goals and dreams to be realized, but reassured us that they would do what they could and that our issues would be in mind when our state finances improve.

Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma is alive and well! Oklahoma Library Association is one of the very few state associations that sponsor a thriving reading and book discussion series. The program began in 1985 with 6 libraries presenting discussion programs. In 2001, *Let's Talk About It* programs were held in 46 libraries! Thanks to this OLA project, all over Oklahoma, humanities scholars are talking about books and authors, historical contexts and literary trends with homemakers, bankers, coaches, salespeople, teachers, retirees and farmers.

LTAI Oklahoma offers more than 33 reading and discussion themes, each of which includes multiple copies of books that may be borrowed by participants as well as informative brochures, posters and other publicity materials. Scholars provide in-depth discussion of the topics and literature. Any library in Oklahoma is eligible to sponsor a LTAI series.

The funding for this project is provided by both the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Jennifer Kidney heads up our LTAI project. Her leadership and hard work have been a great benefit to OLA, our libraries and our customers. Jennifer is very excited about her work. She says the program is particularly popular in small, rural communities. Townspeople in Hobart, Cheyenne and other small communities tell her that they look forward every year to the LTAI programs. In Hollis, Oklahoma, population 2,584, LTAI programs draw 30 participants!

Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma's new project has been *Oklahoma Connections*, a humanities-based reading and discussion project that takes adult literacy students beyond the rudiments of learning to read to discoveries about cultural ideas, historical settings and people, distant places, commonplace concepts, human insights and much more. Our new adult readers have warmly welcomed the Connections series where their new skills in reading are put to use. Students read the books on their own, or with their tutors, or have the books read to them before each program. If they complete the series, they keep the books; for some, these will be their first books in a personal library. This has been a very successful project, and rewarding to literacy coordinators, tutors and students across the state. For your information, a list of *Oklahoma Connections* themes is appended to this report.

For information about *Let's Talk About it, Oklahoma*, or the *Oklahoma Connections* projects, please contact:

Jennifer Kidney
Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma
225 N. Webster
Norman, OK 73069
405/329-3395

Further information is available on the Oklahoma Humanities Council website at www.okhumanitiescouncil.org .

Oklahoma Connections Themes

BIOGRAPHY

What makes a hero? Whom do we admire? This series explores the idea of what makes a life well lived.

Session 1: Leading the Way

Eleanor Roosevelt by Doris Faber

El Chino by Allen Say

Sitting Bull: Warrior of the Sioux by Jane Fleischer

Session 2: Changing the World

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

"Wanted Dead or Alive": The True Story of Harriet Tubman by Ann McGovern

Session 3: Making a Difference

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

Teammates by Peter Golenbock

Ragtime Tumpie by Alan Schroeder

COUNTRY LIFE

This series examines what life is like in the country, from sensitive Cinderella cowboys to children discovering the joys of the wide-open countryside.

Session 1:

Parents in the Pigpen, Pigs in the Tub by Amy Ehrlich

Back Home by Gloria Jean Pinkney

Babe the Gallant Pig by Dick King-Smith

Session 2:

The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea by Tony Johnston

Lucy's Summer by Donald Hall

Lassie, Come Home by Rosemary Wells

Session 3:

Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell

Bigmana's by Donald Crews

The Land I Lost: Adventures of a Boy in Vietnam by Huynh Quang Nhuong

FRIENDSHIP

This series focuses on several questions: Who are our friends? What attracts us to them? How important are they to us?

Session 1: Families

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams

Ramona and Her Father by Beverly Cleary

One Morning in Maine by Robert McCloskey

Session 2: Peers

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Session 3: Animals

The Biggest Bear by Lund Ward

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Duncan and Delores by Barbara Samuels

JOURNEYS

This series examines different ways of travel as well as different motivators for journeys. How do we end at our expected destination? What happens if we don't?

Session 1: Fantasy

Wings, a Tale of Two Chickens by James Marshall

The Mountains of Tibet by Mordicai Gerstein

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt*

Session 2: Between Worlds

The Funny Little Woman by Arlene Mosel

Just Us Women by Jeanette Caines

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

The Goats by Brock Cole*

Session 3: Toward Knowledge

The Treasure by Uri Shulevitz

The Gold Coin by Alma Ada

The Goats by Brock Cole

Mississippi Bridge by Mildren D. Taylor*

*Alternate titles

NATIVE AMERICA

These stories reveal an extraordinary resilience in the face of often brutal campaigns to eliminate native cultures, and the effect of individual and group efforts to survive.

Session 1: Learning from the Past

Dancing Tepees by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

Death of the Iron Horse by Paul Goble

Racing the Sun by Paul Pitts

Session 2: Living Traditions

The Wind Eagle and Other Abenaki Stories by Joseph Bruchac

How Two Feather was Saved from Loneliness by C.J. Taylor

Indian Chiefs by Russell Freedman

Session 3: Still Here

The People Shall Continue by Simon Ortiz

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

ODYSSEY

This series uses a retelling of Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey* to share the ancient wisdom that the best stories are inspired by the gods and to explore the art of telling stories.

Session 1, Session 2 and Session 3:

The Odyssey retold by Robin Lister

READ WITH ME

This series also introduces parents of young children to books of rhythm and rhyme and their importance in developing a love of reading.

Session 1:

Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet Ahlberg

Happy Birthday, Mom by Frank Asch

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardemo

Session 2:

Yo! Yes? by Chris Raschka

Is Your Mama a Llama? by Deborah Guarino

A House for Hermit Crab by Eric Carle

Session 3:

Tickle, Tickle by Helen Oxenbury

Where Does the Brown Bear Go? by Nicki Weiss

Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months by Maurice Sendak
