

ST-9

Oklahoma Report for Mountain Plains Library Association January 26, 2010

This year's conference **Explore the Possibilities** is shaping up to be a great event in downtown Oklahoma City from April 19-21. Watch the OLA Website www.oklibs.org for the Conference Preview. In the words of our OLA President, Charles Brooks, "I'd like to highlight two of our major speakers. Even if you're not in the habit of attending the Banquet, you may want to do so this year. The speaker that Monday night will be **Nancy Miller**, creator, executive producer and writer of the TNT series "Saving Grace". Miller is a native of Oklahoma City, where her series is set. **Dr.J. Rufus Fears** of the University of Oklahoma will be our keynote speaker Tuesday morning. Dr. Fears is an acclaimed teacher and scholar who specializes in the study of ancient history and the history of liberty. He is currently at work on a book to be entitled *Dangerous Delusions: Why We Ignore the Lessons of History at Our Risk*. Much more will be going on at Conference, so keep your eye on the OLA website, the OLA Facebook page, and the OLA conference wiki for all the details and the latest news."

The All Conference Event will be "Stacked, Fashion Off the Shelf!" April 20 at 7pm at the beautiful Downtown Oklahoma City Ronald J. Norick Library. Anyone registered for the conference can create and model an outfit for the Runway Challenge. 50% of the outfits must be made of materials found in a library (past or present). So get your creative juices flowing and enter your creation! In addition you can design a Home or Fashion Accessory. Complete details are at the OLA website www.oklibs.org

News from the Oklahoma Legislature, which is gearing up for a very challenging session, is that state agency budgets will be cut up to 15%. The state is facing budget shortfalls and may use some Rainy Day Funds. There are no bills filed so far that deal with censorship issues, but there are several bills that recommend Charter Schools. In the past these proposals have asked for removal of the mandate for school librarians (and incidentally school custodians and counselors) in public schools by allowing public schools to abide by the regulations for charter schools.