

# INTERCHANGE

Journal of the Oregon Association of School Libraries

Fall 2009



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## Fall Conference 2009

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# INTERCHANGE

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dba Oregon Educational Media Association**

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- OASL provides progressive leadership to pursue excellence in school library media programs by:
- advocating information literacy for all students;
  - supporting the highest levels of library media services in schools;
  - supporting reading instruction and enjoyment of literature;
  - strengthening member professionalism through communication and educational opportunities;
  - promoting visibility in education, government and the community

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# Its Time to GET GRAPHIC!

From the Guest Editor

by Lisa Hardey

Shortly after the 2007 OASL Conference in Seaside, I was asked to chair the 2009 conference in Salem. I agreed, thinking how lucky I was to have almost two years to plan for it. Well, the time flew by in the blink of an eye!



The conference is just around the corner, and the conference committee is feverishly working to make everything magically fall into place! Where is Gail Carson Levine's pixie dust when I need it most? I think I will ask her for a little sprinkle at the banquet after her amazing presentation. I just want to keep a little in my pocket for whatever crazy adventure I agree to next!

Speaking of adventures, banquets, and presentations, the conference committee has a phenomenal list of presenters, activities, authors, and other tricks up their sleeves to dazzle you during the two-day conference.

I promise it will be worth your time and every precious penny. I know that many of you have faced uncertain times over the past few months. Budgets are tight. Emotions are running high. If library teachers and paraprofessionals ever needed a boost, now is the time! I am offering you the amazing opportunity to take two days to surround yourself with friends, books, authors, ideas, and information. The conference offers a chance not only to renew your spirit, but a chance to fuel yourself with new ideas and hands-on activities. You will walk away with the confidence to strut your stuff in all the school libraries across the state. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT!**

To really tempt you, let me introduce you to our theme: GET GRAPHIC! The committee chose this theme as a challenge to embrace all the ways we can entice our students to not only READ a wide variety of genres but to visit our libraries! We believe its time to try new concepts and step outside our comfort zones. Jump out of the box. The conference will entice you to read a graphic novel. You'll love reading a signed copy of Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*. Design a new anime character. Pick up some manga and practice reading from right to left, back to front. Better yet, start a Manga Club and host a cosplay. Serve up some chocolate dipped pocky and break out the DDR! Host a "gaming extravaganza." Watch Miyazaki's *Spirited Away* or start simple with Disney's *Howl's Moving*

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*For those of you who are a little more traditional, we didn't get too carried away! All your favorites are waiting for you.*



Castle. Need a little more convincing? Check out this website: [www.getgraphic.org](http://www.getgraphic.org) for a great exploration of "The World in Words and Pictures".

For those of you who are a little more traditional, we didn't get too carried away! All your favorites are waiting for you. Booktalks from the four amazing Batgirls: Gonzales, Hardey, Battisti, and Benedetti. Book repair to make our favorite books last just a little longer. The authors alone will make you want to pick up a pencil and jot a few lines of your own. EBSCO, OSLIS, World Book Online, Learn 360, and other "techie" attractions await you. Don't forget YRCA, OBOB, TBABS, YALSA, and a whole bouquet of acronyms to tickle your brain. Here is a list to keep you entertained: OLA, LSTA, QEM, OASL, NEA, WLMA, ACLU, ALA, BCCCA, and the one that started it all OEMA! Maybe I should offer a treat to the first person to tell me what those all mean! LOL!

Still not convinced? Maybe you are the touristy type. Here is your opportunity to give your camera a workout! The Oregon State Capitol grounds are beautiful. Take a tour of the State Library. Ride the carousel and play in the park along the Willamette waterfront. Exercise your leg muscles on the 1/2 mile trek across the new Union Street Bridge across the river into West Salem. Discuss the latest novels you found at the conference while you stroll with your new librarian friends through downtown Salem looking for the grasshopper sculpture lurking in an alley. Visit the Tea Party Bookstore and purchase a memento.

Well, I think I have given you more than enough reasons to boldly write 2009 OASL Conference in Salem across the October 9 and 10 slots on your calendar in PEN. Hop on the website at [www.oasl.info](http://www.oasl.info) and register TODAY. The conference committee and I look forward to meeting you!

*Lisa Hardey is the OASL Fall Conference Chairperson and Library Teacher at Sprague High School in Salem.*



## Conference Committee

Back Row Left to Right:  
 Daletta Gonzales - OASL Awards Chair  
 JoAnn Klassen - OASL Registration & Website  
 Jim Hayden - Site Liason  
 Gregory Lum - Authors

Not Pictured:  
 Debra Barnes: Conference Treasurer  
 Victoria McDonald: OASL Treasurer  
 Merrie Olson: OASL Past President



Bottom Row Left to Right:  
 Debbie Willer - Secretary  
 Amie Lake - Saturday Sessions  
 Sarah Davis - Exhibits  
 Rita Nelson - Hospitality

Middle Row Left to Right:  
 Lynda Johnston - Friday Sessions  
 Carol Dinges - OASL President  
 Debra Grant - Book Sales  
 Peggy Mischke - Technology  
 Lisa Hardey - Conference Chair

"...because no one should be hungry"

## Make A Difference! Bring donations for local food bank

In 2007, OASL conference attendees gave back to the Seaside community by donating coloring books and crayons to the Clatsop County Women's Resource Center. Lum's Auto agreed to match \$1.00 per book/crayon set resulting in a \$500 donation. Continuing the tradition, the 2009 Conference Committee has committed to collecting canned food for the Marion-Polk Food Share.

As you begin to pack your conference bags, please throw in a canned food item to donate or swing by a local grocery store and pick up a few groceries. Examples of items needed include canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, peanut butter, cereal, macaroni and cheese, chili, and soup. For more information visit [www.marionpolkfoodshare.org](http://www.marionpolkfoodshare.org).

Look for the donation barrels at the Salem Convention Center during the conference!



- Need is highest in rural areas, where the increase is 22.5% higher than last year.
- Need in Salem-Keizer is up 9.9%.



## 2009 OASL Conference Registration!

It's time to Get Graphic! Register online NOW for the 2009 OASL Fall Conference in Salem, Oregon on October 9-10. Simply go to [www.oasl.info](http://www.oasl.info), click on Conferences, and select the 2009 Conference. There you will find all of the information you need including programs, authors, exhibits, and registration materials.

The amazing website also provides OASL membership information and benefits, news and announcements, access to the online directory of OASL members, scholarships, conference handouts, professional resources, and more!



## From the... President's Desktop Laptop

By Carol Dinges, OASL President

*"We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."*

**T**hus spoke Benjamin Franklin as he prepared to sign the Declaration of Independence, knowing that he and the other signers would find themselves dangling from the gallows should the bid for independence go south. It was no time to be a wimp.

**This morning I read** on the front page of The Oregonian that the state Senate Education Committee approved a bill that would allow school districts to eliminate librarians, counselors, TAG programs, and other mandates in order to deal with the anticipated budget shortfall. (Note: I wrote this last spring in order to meet the editorial deadline for this issue.) Should this bill pass both the Senate and House, heaven forbid, many of us are likely to find ourselves packing up our library programs and shutting the doors.

**I am a pacifist at heart.** Political battlefields, be they local, state or federal, intimidate me. However, to follow my natural inclinations and leave political activism to others in these frightening political/economic times would be to abdicate my responsibility to my students and colleagues. It's no time to be a political wimp.

**OASL has stepped up and** become very politically active in 2009. Under the leadership Nancy Sullivan, we crafted the Quality School Library bill (HB 2586), which, as I write this, looks very likely to pass both the House and Senate. This bill puts school libraries on the proverbial "front burner" of school improvement by requiring that all schools include building a strong library media program as part of their continuous improvement plan and allowing school improvement grant monies to be directed

to school libraries. Nancy and her committee worked tirelessly to craft and promote this bill, and many of us lobbied for it at the capitol on Library Legislative Day in March, while many others wrote postcards to their legislators to urge their support.

**Just as I was beginning to** feel that we had done our part to lobby for libraries, I picked up this morning's paper. We haven't won the political battle to recognize the importance of strong school libraries – we've just begun. And, like the current economic downturn, it's likely to be a long, drawn-out struggle. This time we have to contact our legislators to warn them of the long-term damage that the current Senate Bill will create in the name of short-term savings. We don't know what the next turn of events will be, but we must all be vigilant and ready to respond as needed.

**On the bright side,** the librarians from Clatskanie recently asked for our help to convince their school board to retain their library staff hours, and, armed with research data and other support from OASL members, they successfully argued their cause.

**We members of OASL,** both licensed and paraprofessional, must all hang together in these precarious times, or most assuredly we shall all be hung out to dry separately. Unlike the signers of the Declaration, we don't risk the gallows should we fail, but we do risk our students' futures.

*Carol Dinges is the current president of OASL. She is a library media specialist at Lebanon High School.*



## Friday Dessert Speaker and Session Presenter:

# Gene Luen Yang

by Debbie Willer

*The 2009 OASL Conference Committee is honored to have Gene come to Salem as not only a winner of the Printz Award for American Born Chinese, but as an educator who has worked to mix his passions of teaching and comics into learnable art.*



Gene Luen Yang once admitted, "I think I'm going to start praying that one of my kids becomes a librarian" as he came away from the November YALSA convention and stated, "I always come away from a room full of librarians feeling inspired."

Gene used the topic of *Comics in Education* as the basis for his Master of Arts in Education degree at CSU/Hayward. He wrote a history of comics in education with its own 'McCarthy' era, and he created "Factoring with Mr. Yang and

Mosley," an interactive comic on algebraic factoring. Gene is still teaching part time, but is spending more and more time at conferences and speaking about his art. He is also working at raising awareness of how the comic and graphic art community can be an incredible tool for school populations and learning in general. Gene suggests trying Larry Gonnick for a whole series of graphics that touch everything from history to physics. He is also particularly fond of Jay Hosler, a biology professor who did a graphic novel called *Clan Apis* that traces the life cycle of the bee. "It's beautiful work."

Gene's favorite library is the Fremont Main Library in Fremont, California. "It's a beautiful, well-maintained building with a great selection of books (including comics) and a wealth of programming." However, his favorite librarian is Annette Counts, the Bishop O'Dowd High School librarian where he teaches. "She's knowledgeable, friendly, and goes out of her way

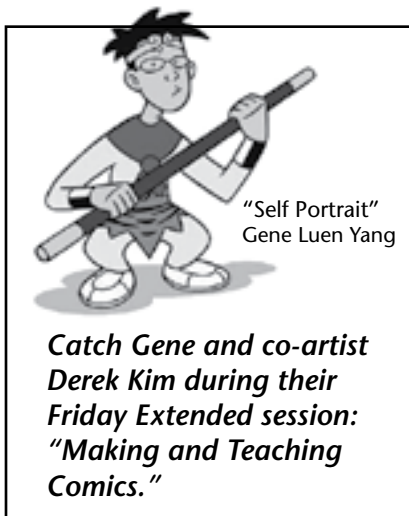


*Above: Gene Luen Yang with his favorite librarian, Annette Counts.*

*The Michael L. Printz Award honors literary excellence in teen literature.*

to help me whenever I have a research question. She neither fears nor worships technology. She simply uses it. She's the epitome of what a modern librarian should be."

Gene has also been asked to be a judge for the National Book Awards this year and is looking forward to "reading a couple hundred of the nation's best YA books this summer." I asked Gene if he might do a graphic librarian someday, and he headed



**Catch Gene and co-artist Derek Kim during their Friday Extended session: "Making and Teaching Comics."**

me toward his favorite, *Book Hunter* by ex-librarian Jason Shiga, and *Rex Libris* (which is being optioned for a motion picture) by James Turner.

Gene is focusing for the moment on 'pure' graphic novels, and his newest novel, *The Eternal Smile* also starred Derek Kirk Kim as the artist. Gene did the story lines and thumbnails, and Derek worked the thumbnails into the beautiful panels for publication. They will both be in Salem at the conference collaborating during the Friday Extended session on 'Making and Teaching Comics.' They will guide participants through the ins and outs of making comics, look at the creative process and go through classroom ready exercises to learn about the language of comics.

Gene will color the Friday Dessert palate speaking on 'Comic Books are Invading America' and tossing up graphic novels, manga, and classic comic styles that are now served up in America's libraries, schools,

and bookstores. Gene will examine why today's young readers are enthralled by this century-old art form, and what librarians and educators should do about it.

Gene believes that, "In the information age, we desperately need information professionals to help us sort through the avalanche of words and pictures, colors and sounds. We need them to teach us to research, to discern, and to properly cite. Keep at it! You all are at the forefront of the new world!"

Indeed!

For more information about Gene Luen Yang, visit [www.humblecomics.com](http://www.humblecomics.com).

*Debbie Willer is the library textbook assistant at Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon. Visit Debbie at <http://text-bookwindow.blogspot.com/>*



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## Keynote Speaker & Session Presenter:



# Britt White

By Lisa Hardey



Above: Two of Britt's favorite graphic novels.

**B**ritt White is a dynamic presenter with a passionate desire to increase teen literacy through the use of graphic novels. As the current Young Adult Services Librarian for the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System in New York, Britt definitely has a teen connection. In addition to her library duties, Britt is a member of the Get Graphic! team that travels extensively to get the word out on the power of graphic novels. The team provides instructional workshops, author visits, and exercises in comic and graphic novel creation.



Britt has presented to all age levels, convincing them that graphic novels not only promote fantastic leisure reading, but they are an important part of both educational reading and for patrons of all ages. Graphic novels are astoundingly popular and can be as simple or complex as any other literature. According to the research cited at the team's website, [www.getgraphic.org](http://www.getgraphic.org), reading graphic novels:

- Engages reluctant readers & ESL patrons.
- Increases reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- Can provide a bridge between low and high levels of reading.
- Presents an approach to reading that embraces the multimedia nature of today's culture, as 2/3 of a story is conveyed visually.
- Provides scaffolding for struggling readers.
- Presents complex material in readable text.
- Helps patrons understand global affairs.
- Helps eliminate discipline problems as students are actively engaged in the text and graphics.
- Offers another avenue through which individuals can experience art.

Britt's keynote message, *The World in Words and Pictures*, will show you how graphic novels are a natural fit in the classroom. How has their rise in popularity in the literary world been mirrored in the world of education? How are perceptions changing to allow for students to begin experiencing the world in words and pictures?

Britt will also present a three-hour Friday session, "What in the World? The What, Why, and How of Graphic Novels." Participants will explore the history of comics, graphic novels, and manga. The resources presented will lead you to quality graphic materials for your library.

If you are not convinced that graphic materials are the right fit for your library, then you won't want to miss the Saturday session, "Bringing Words and Pictures to Life." Learn how to justify the presence of graphic novels in the educational setting and discover how even "non-artistic" individuals can express themselves with words and pictures!

Lisa Hardey is the 2009 Conference Chair and a library teacher at Sprague High School. She is the advisor for the Sprague Manga Club with over 40 active participants and an ever-growing manga collection!



## The 2009 OASL Conference Schedule

### Friday, October 9th

7:00 am – 6:30 pm: Registration

8:30 am – 11:30 am: Morning Session

11:30 am – 1:00 pm: Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award  
Luncheon or lunch on your own

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Afternoon Sessions

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Exhibits Open, Book Sales

6:30 pm: Gene Luen Yang Author Signing

7:00 pm: Gene Luen Yang Dessert

### Saturday, October 10th

8:00 am – noon: Book Sales and Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Session 1

9:15 am – 10:15 am: Keynote Speaker Britt White

10:15 am – 11:00 am: Exhibit Time Only

10:30 am – 11:00 am: Author Signing

11:00 am – noon: Session 2

Noon – 1:30 pm: Celebration Lunch

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm: Exhibitors Open

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm: Book Sales

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm: Author Signing

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: Session 3

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm: Session 4

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Author Signing

6:00 pm: Gail Carson Levine Banquet

# Friday Extended Sessions

by Lynda Johnston

Friday Extended Sessions are designed to give conference goers an in-depth look at pertinent topics pertaining to libraries and classrooms. This year's line-up includes lessons on repairing damaged books, creative ways to make books, information on the latest graphic novels, new webpages and online sharing, great book talks, an opportunity to explore and understand OSLIS, and a tour of the Oregon State Library. With so many choices available, be sure to make a selection early as some classes have limited registration and will fill up fast! The morning sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. and afternoon sessions begin at 1 p.m. Lunch on your own in downtown Salem provides a chance to discuss your session choices with friends!



## **Basic Book Repair** by Bev Harris and Sharon Sarver

Bring two books in need of repair, an 18-in metal ruler, scissors, and \$25 to cover the cost of supplies you can take with you and learn how to transform those books back to life! Bev and Sharon are experts in inserting loose pages, repairing hinges, restoring torn pages, and rebacking picture books. Excellent handouts will be provided with instructions to repair books left at your center. You will also learn preventive measures to keep all books in good repair. This class will be offered in the morning and afternoon, but space is limited to 30 participants per session. Bev is the Lead Cataloger for Salem Public Library while Sharon works in Technical Services. Their combined book repair knowledge invaluable.



## **Bookmaking Mania** by Claudia Fisher, Edith Fuller, Gregory Lum

Mania is a great word for this trio that offers creative ideas for bookmaking! Creating books is an art lesson waiting to happen. Get your nimble fingers and active brain ready for a jam-packed, three-hour, hands-on session of bookmaking. You will get ideas and lessons in making pop-ups, origami books, blank journals from recycled textbook covers, and a plethora of mini-books. These ideas work with kids of all ages! There is a maximum of 30 participants and an \$8 fee for materials. Gregory is a high school librarian at Jesuit High School while Claudia and Edith are retired. They have the time to be creative and a bit wild.



## **MORE Flips over Books!** by Daletta Gonzales and Lisa Hardey

The dynamic duo returns to dazzle you with a list of 2009 K-8 must-have books! Hear about all the latest and greatest titles and learn some new ideas and activities to keep your students begging to read!

*Lots more...*

## More Friday Extended Sessions



### Engaging Your Students With Library 2.0

by Sam Wallin

Wow your middle and high school kids with your knowledge of web pages such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, and Animoto. As a librarian at Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Sam knows how to engage students using these fun, entertaining, and even educational web

sites. He will show how to use tools that will put cartooning, movies, slides shows, and music in all your social networking documents. He will help you generate a project that will even WOW you!



### Get Graphic

by Gene Luen Yang\*

Take a comic book lesson from the award winning author Gene Luen Yang. Gene began publishing comic books under the name Humble Comics in 1996. His graphic novel (Gene calls his comic books "graphic novels" when they are longer and encased in a cardboard covers) American Born Chinese

became the first graphic novel to be nominated for The National Book Award and the first to win the Printz Award. Did you know that comic books found in the US are quite different than the ones found in Japan and France? Gene will discuss comics and culture as well as share exercises on doodling and writing your own comic strip.



### What in the World? The What, Why, and Now of Graphic Novels

by Britt White\*\*

With their unique combination of text and pictures, graphic novels are a natural fit in the classroom. Learn about the basics of graphic novels and how they can fit

into your library, instruction, and life! Explore the history of comics, graphic novels, and manga, their structure, and how to read them.... Discover the reasons why this media should be in the hands of your students. Investigate resources that will lead you to quality graphic material and help you to get it into your library.



### Lesson Study: True Collaboration

by Linda Bilyeu and Jody Wiencek

Most professional development occurs in isolation from the classroom setting. This lesson study is a collaborative experience where librarians and classroom teachers spend full days planning, presenting, observing and reflecting on teaching and learning. A standards based approach blended with a professional learning community is a model for how collaboration between classroom teachers and librarians impacts successful student



learning. It has validated the important role of school librarians as instructional partners. Linda works as an Information and Media Specialist with Bend-LaPine Schools. Jody is an educational consultant.



\*Gene Luen Yang is Friday Dessert Speaker; 7 p.m.

\*\*Britt White is Conference Keynote Speaker; Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

## More Friday Extended Sessions



### You're Invited: A Feast of New Literature for Teens

by Jerene Battisti and Angelina Benedetti

Whet your appetite with this feast of new books for teens and readers who love them. Divided thematically, this menu presents new fiction and nonfiction for middle school, junior high,

and high school readers--including fantasies, biographies, fun nonfiction, historical and realistic fiction books. Each participant will take away an annotated bibliography of approximately 100 titles, an understanding of recent trends in publishing, and plenty of great stories to share.

### Teaching Information Literacy to a Generation of Gamers

by Nicholas Schiller, Carole Syensson and Serin Anderson



This presentation is designed for high school librarians and teachers. This professional team of experts will introduce video games as a medium and examine how games communicate with and teach players. They will also discuss some key learning principles encountered by gamers and link these with practical techniques for librarians and teachers. They will also walk through how a game teaches, so attendees will experience teaching and learning video games first hand. Nicholas Schiller is the Library Instruction Coordinator at Washington State University Vancouver Library while Carole Syensson and Serin Anderson are with the University of Washington Tacoma Library. Carole is the Assistant Director, and Serin is the Budget & Collection Resources Librarian.



### Oregon State Library Tour and More!

By Katie Anderson and Jennifer Maurer (pictured)

Come tour the historic building that houses the Oregon State Library, learn about programs such as Letters About Literature and the Oregon

Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, and find out how to borrow a book from the Library and Information Science collection.

### OLSI & EBSCO:

#### Getting the Most Out of Both

by Jennifer Maurer and Lisa Dennis



In a lab setting with time to get your questions answered, acquire a deeper understanding of what OLSIS and EBSCO can do for you and your students. Learn how to use OSLIS' easier navigation, the

My Stuff folder to store research-related work, and avatars. From an EBSCO trainer, learn tips to optimize the search experience and discover resources like online tutorials and customizable posters to help promote usage.

*Lynda Johnston, chair of Friday Extended Sessions, is a teacher-librarian at Whitworth Elementary in Dallas, Oregon, located west of Salem. Her challenge for next year is a reconfiguration of the elementary schools in Dallas. Whitworth Elementary will become only a 4th and 5th grade school. She is looking forward to new ideas, technology, and book suggestions for these intermediate age kids.*



## Attend the 2009 OASL Conference and...

### ...Collect College Credit



Portland State gives you the opportunity to earn one Graduate or Undergraduate credit for attending both days of the OASL Fall Conference in Salem, Oregon. Sign up at the PSU table at the conference center on Friday or Saturday morning. The price for the credit is \$55. All payments must be made before you leave the conference by cash, check, or credit card. There is no late registration for this credit.

To receive a grade, you will need to write a short report that includes a review of the session you felt helped you the most or was the most inspiring. The report must be submitted no later than December 1, 2009.

Questions-Contact Ruth Murray at [murrayr@pdx.edu](mailto:murrayr@pdx.edu).

## 2009 OASL Conference **Book Seller** Tea Party Bookshop

*Just a block east of the conference center on the corner of Liberty and Ferry Street*

Tea Party Bookshop takes its name from the Boston Tea Party. That incident in American history marked the first time the people rose up against corporate control of their purchasing choices and was the onset of revolutionary thinking. At Tea Party, we encourage people to think for themselves, and we shelve an excellent selection of quirky and interesting books, many from independent presses. We support local vendors where we can and strive to be as green as possible.

Owner JoAnne Kohler read her way through much of the New York City Public Library as a child and was instilled with an absolute love of books and reading. JoAnne did her undergraduate work at Cornell, studying Art History and Asian Studies, and went on to do a Masters in Public Administration at SUNY Albany. A move to

California found her managing Waldenbooks stores, then working as an assistant editor at a college textbook publisher. She felt the call to return to school, and she received her Master of Library and Information Science with Emporia State University.

The Tea Party Bookstore came about because Salem lost two key bookstores – one general interest, the other metaphysical. JoAnne had always wanted to own a bookstore, and with this void in the community, it seemed the time was right. Tea Party Bookshop opened in August of 2008, and it is becoming a community hub, where many groups meet, workshops and classes are offered, and serendipitous conversations happen. Our specialties are fine



fiction, spirituality and green living books, but we are also developing a very nice children's section with out-of-the-mainstream books. You'll also find great gifts, handcrafted jewelry, and an excellent selection of greeting cards.

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*When in Salem, come visit...*

## The Oregon State Library: Serving You Then and Now

by Jennifer Maurer

Since its inception as the Oregon Library Commission in 1905, the Oregon State Library has provided quality service to the citizens of our state. Cornelia Marvin Pierce was our first State Librarian who served from 1905 to 1928. Pierce strongly believed in the importance of libraries and led a determined effort to establish them across the state. She instituted traveling libraries and the first books-by-mail program in the country. While Oregon's involvement in politics was gaining national attention, Cornelia gathered and distributed information about issues that voters were deciding. She also did reference work for the state legislature even before it was officially one of her duties (Brisley 138-140).

Some of Pierce's efforts were aimed at developing school libraries, which were virtually nonexistent when she started her tenure in 1905. When the school library law passed that same year, one of Cornelia's responsibilities was to supply school superintendents with lists of quality books deemed appropriate for children. By acting as a central purchasing agent for school library books, she saved the state \$3,000 in her first year on the job. Additionally, Pierce provided high school debate teams with package libraries, or compilations of newspaper clippings, documents, books, and periodicals on specific topics. Cornelia helped found the Pacific Northwest

**Take a tour of the Oregon State Library, see Friday Extended Sessions.**

Library Association, and as its president in 1917, she called for the creation of a school library committee (Brisley 136-147). The tradition of developing school libraries continued after she retired, as

is evidenced by the inclusion of a model school library room when the existing State Library building on the Capitol Mall opened to the public in 1939 (Harriet).

The dedication of service to all Oregonians is still apparent through the leadership of our current State Librarian, Jim Schepcke. In Cornelia's era OSL worked to establish libraries, while under Jim's tenure we work to develop and support them. But how and in what endeavors? The library's three-pronged mission shapes the answer to that question.

### Talking Book and Braille Services (TBABS)

Talking Book and Braille Services carries out one part of OSL's mission, which is to provide reading materials to blind and print-disabled Oregonians. TBABS serves nearly 5,000 individuals and over 500 institutions around the state. Eligible patrons can access many resources, including over 300,000 copies of 70,000 book and magazine titles in audio, large print, and Braille formats; Unabridged, a program for downloading audio books to one's computer; and descriptive videos, in which the visual elements of a film are described without interfering with the dialogue. Currently to listen to audio books, patrons use a specific player that uses special cassettes, but soon participants will be able to opt for a new machine that plays digital media.

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TBABS being part of the State Library. However, the program has served Oregonians since the creation of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in



*The model school library room was opened in 1939. Cornelia Marvin Pierce is credited with developing school libraries in Oregon.*




*TBABS team member, Andrea Clarkson, and volunteer, Mark Quistad sort through just a small fraction of the cassettes that arrive in the daily mail.*



*Alice LaViolette is one of several GRS team members who assist patrons in the Reference Room on the second floor of the library.*

*Continued on page 24*



# School librarians are in demand. Become one...ONLINE.



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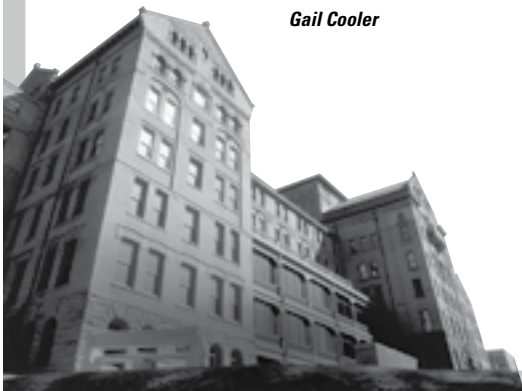
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*Gail Cooler*

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*Saturday Banquet Speaker*

## Gail Carson Levine

by Daletta Gonzales

Newbery Honor award winning author Gail Carson Levine might sprinkle some pixie dust while speaking at the OASL Saturday Night Banquet. She is the fairy godauthor of 16 books, unpacking fairy tales, historical fiction, a writer's book for children, and a picture book out of her author's bag.

Levine's first book, *Ella Enchanted*, was a 1998 Newbery Honor book. Her passion is retelling classic-themed fairy tales, using them to write the fabulous *Princess Tales* series. Her versions of fairy tales have helped countless girls envision themselves as princesses without looking for a prince to always save them. I once heard Gail Carson Levine speak in Portland. She said, "My job as a writer is to make my character suffer so that my reader will suffer. That way they will continue to read."

When Levine was approached by Disney to create the world that Tinkerbell came from, she was ecstatic. *Peter Pan* was her favorite book as a kid, even though she thought Wendy was crazy for leaving Peter! This led to *Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg* (2005) and *Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand* (2007). Her world was the basis for Disney's subsequent books and the movie *Tinkerbell*.



Gail Carson Levine is so passionate about writing that her book *Writing Magic* is all about helping young people strengthen their writing. Her chapters take young writers through plot, character development, and trying to get published!

I can't wait to hear her talk about her writing process with a focus on her books *Dave at Night*, *Writing Magic*, and *Ever*. She will give us an up-close look at her writing workshop for kids 10 and up! Under her tutelage, perhaps a new crop of writers will be adding to our libraries in the future!



*Daletta Gonzales is a Library Teacher at Washington Elementary School in Salem, Oregon.*

# A Plethora of Amazing Authors Awaits You in Salem



Derek Kim



Amber Keyser



Sara Pennypacker



Dale E. Basye

**Derek Kim**, co-author of *The Eternal Smile*, will be sharing a portion of Friday's extended session, Making and Teaching Comics, with Gene Luen Yang. Derek is the recipient of the Eisner, Harvey, Xeric, and Ignatza awards. His debut graphic novel, *Same Difference and Other Stories*, published by Top Shelf Productions in 2004, won all three industry awards including the Eisner. His second graphic novel, *Good As Lily*, with artist Jesse Hamm, also made many Best-of-2007 lists including YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens. After spending most of his life in the Bay area, Derek lives and works in Portland. Visit [www.lowbright.com](http://www.lowbright.com)

**Amber Keyser** will explore using graphic novels to teach science. Amber, a biologist, loves to write about science and adventure for children. Her books include *An Algonquin Heart Song*, *Cells with Max Axiom*, and *Genes with Max Axiom*. She is a resident of Portland. Visit [www.amberkeyser.com](http://www.amberkeyser.com)

*By Gregory Lum, 2009 Authors Chair and Librarian at Jesuit High School*

**Sara Pennypacker**, the 2009 Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award, will be featured at the BCCCA luncheon on Friday. Sara's book, *Clementine*, was announced as this year's winner last April. Besides the Clementine series, she has written *Stuart's Cape*, *Stuart Goes to School*, and *Pierre in Love*. Sara lives in West Chatham, Massachusetts. Visit <http://sarapennypacker.com/>

**Dale E. Basye**, author of *Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go*, will share his journey for his book for middle readers. He is the recipient of the Flamingnet Top Choice Award. Dale, a Portland resident, has presented at many middle schools. Visit [www.wherethebadkidsgo.com](http://www.wherethebadkidsgo.com)

**Amy Costales** is the award-winning author of three bilingual picture books. She has taught in public schools in California and in international schools in Thailand and India. Her books include *Lupe Vargas and Her Super Best Friend*, *Abuelita Full of Life*, and *Hello Night*. Amy lives in Portland. Visit [www.amycostales.com](http://www.amycostales.com)



Amy Costales



April Henry



Anne Osterlund



Rosanne Parry

**Virginia Euwer Wolff** has taught school for more than twenty years in New York, Philadelphia, and Oregon. Virginia is the winner of the National Book Award and the Michael Printz Honor (both for *True Believer*), two Oregon Book Awards, and many other awards. She has written six books for young readers, the latest of which, *This Full House* (2009), concludes the Make Lemonade trilogy. Her book *Bat 6* is one of the featured books for the OregonReads2009 project. She will be presenting two different concurrent sessions. Virginia lives in Oregon City.



**April Henry** was first published as a twelve year old when she sent a short story to Roald Dahl. April has since published eight mysteries and thrillers, with four more under contract. Her latest books are the YA thriller *Torched*, as well as *Face of Betrayal*. April lives in Portland. Visit [www.aprilhenrymysteries.com/](http://www.aprilhenrymysteries.com/)

**Anne Osterlund**, a sixth grade teacher in eastern Oregon, will present an active session on building characters for stories. Anne has written *Aurelia* and *Academy 7*. She lives in Lone, Oregon. Visit <http://anneosterlund.com>

**Rosanne Parry**, author of *Heart of a Shepherd* and *Daddy's Home*, will share ways to support students of deployed soldiers and introduce books that address the military family experience. She teaches part-time and has volunteered extensively in classrooms and libraries. Rosanne lives in Portland. Visit <http://www.rosanneparry.com>

Along with featured authors **Gene Luen Yang** and **Gail Carson Levine**, a wonderful supporting cast of authors will be presenting concurrent sessions and autographing their books in Salem. Don't miss out on listening to an author that is new to you or on purchasing an autographed book for your library.



Gene Luen Yang



Gail Carson Levine



## LOL@OASL!

By Amie Lake

YALSA, OBOB, YRCA....is this texting or vegetable soup? Actually it's a list of Saturday Sessions for the Oregon Association of School Libraries Fall Conference 2009. Presentations for all grade levels will address universal topics such as ways to engage reluctant readers, the best new methods for streaming digital media, how to advocate for your library during a challenge, and much much more! Check it out....



### ***Get Graphic: New and Interesting Graphic Novels for Teen Readers***

Presented by Jerene Battisti and Angelina Benedetti

Enjoy this presentation of new and interesting graphic novels for teen readers. Divided thematically, this menu presents new fiction and nonfiction graphic novels for middle school, junior high, and high school readers. Each participant will take away an annotated bibliography of all presented titles and an understanding of recent trends in graphic novel publishing.

### ***Getting Graphic with Library Advocacy***

Presented by Kelly Kuntz

Weiden & Kennedy here we come! Use the power of images to tell your library's story. Each human eye has 1,000,000 fibers to the brain; each ear has only 30,000 connections. Seeing is believing! Leave this session armed with free/cheap resources and ideas to turn everyone into an advocate for your school library.

### ***The World Book Web: Leveling the playing field for the school library.***

Presented by J. Derek Collett

with a guest appearance by former OASL President  
Jim Tindall

With its four online sites; Kids, Student, Advanced, and Discover for Differentiated Instruction; World Book offers content for all grade levels. New: the capabilities for text-to-speak audio in all sites as well as the ability to translate those same articles, primary sources, and e-books into 13 languages.





### ***Award Winning Choices for Your Young Readers***

Presented by Rebecca Cohen

Book talks and program ideas to use with the 2010 Young Readers Choice Award lists for elementary, middle, and high school students

### ***Library2Go: It Works***

Presented by Jenny Berg

Kids, teens, and adults can enjoy downloadable audio and video in the classroom and at home. Library2Go, available from public libraries in Oregon, contains over 6,000 titles ready for download to your computer and MP3 player. Learn how Library2Go works and how to make it work for you.

### ***Beguiling Them Visually***

Presented by Dolores Johnston

Dolores will present and book talk an array of visually tempting information books, poetry collections, picture books and graphic/Comix books that will tempt even the most reluctant reader/learner. She will share visual literacy activities that will level the playing field for both the gifted and the at-risk reader.

### ***Gale eBook Demonstration***

Presented by Jeff Jensen & Lindsay Smith

We would like to introduce the Gale Virtual Reference Library to the teacher librarians and their colleagues. Gale has recently built partnerships with several other publishers which expands our reach of delivering unlimited and simultaneous eBook content to our clients. We will include client demonstrations on how to use eBooks to support lesson plans and integrate into the classroom setting.

### ***Keep it Simple – Easy Programs for Your Library***

Presented by Meg Miranda

Simple & quick ideas for getting students into the library and into reading.

### ***Young Writers program with NaNoWriMo***

Presented by Debbie Willer

Every November writers all over the world take part in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) and we'll be taking a look at their Young Writers Program. Setting goals, forums, workbooks and curriculum guides to help your students get writing!



### ***"Fun"ding!***

Presented by Nancy Sullivan, Melinda Moorefield, and Beth Malmsten

Learn interesting and fun new ways to get extra funds to support ideas for contests, book fairs and much more!

*Continued*

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### ***Stellar Story-Telling Tips and Techniques***

Presented by Curt Nelson of Slightly Illusional

A full-time motivational speaker for kids will share tips and techniques to turn you into a Media Center Rock Star! You'll learn how to establish a famous alter ego, improve your stage presence, give your puppet an attitude, use interactive humor to make your presentation unforgettable, and much more!

### ***Making it Real: Reaching the Reluctant Young Adult Reader***

Presented by Gregory Lum

Learn techniques and tips to get teens reading the "real" books. Hear short and quick booktalks on the "real" books that snag reluctant readers from recent lists. Find out about resources from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) to help update your collection and assist with readers' advisory. Get an up-to-date overview of YALSA's six literary and media awards and lists of recommended reading, listening and viewing for teens. Presenter Gregory Lum, Jesuit High School Librarian, is a YALSA member and has served on YALSA book selection committees. Free YALSA swag and book raffle for attendees!

### ***Talking Book and Braille Services: Same Great Service: New Medium***

Presented by Elke H. Bruton, MLIS

Talking Books have given fast and courteous service to thousands of Oregonians since 1939. TBABS uses detailed patron profiles to fully customize patron's reading opportunities. From high-tech digital downloads to low-tech daily circulation processing, TBABS serves patron information needs in real-time. Find out what the upcoming transition to digital media will mean to patrons: more opportunities to download materials "on-demand," clear digital sound, easy navigation, and machines that are intuitive, lightweight, and portable! Find out more about Talking Books in a relaxed brief presentation, with plenty of time to ask questions and "play" with the new digital talking book players.



### ***Current Issues in Intellectual Freedom in K-12 Libraries***

Presented by Leigh Morlock

Discover the best approaches to address challenges in your library.

### ***Learn 360: the NEW choice for Streaming Media.***

Presented by Steve Finch

Streaming media that is effective, easy to use, and affordable. Stream and download videos, video clips, audio programs, images, speeches, and newsreels. Find content via keyword, subject, or state standard. Learn 360 is new! See how Learn 360 users can blog; podcast; share video, lesson plans, assignments and more.



### ***Creating Arresting Library Book Displays 2009 update***

Presented by Wendy Giesler

Get inspired to create a variety of types of library displays, including bulletin boards, cube and window displays, and free-standing, interest-generating displays. Learn to use unusual materials, recycle, and have fun. Tips, tricks, and tools.



### ***Just Win It:***

### ***The Connie Hull Mini-Grant Recipients Panel***

Hosted by Gregory Lum

Gregory Lum, a Connie Hull Executive committee member, will lead a panel discussion with the five recipients of the Connie Hull mini-grants. These inventive library personnel will share their ideas – from iPod audio books to graphic novels and nursery rhymes - that promote school library programs. Come learn about the process as you could be a winner next year!



### ***Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is Growing!***

Presented by Deb Alvarez and Libby Hamler-Dupras, with special guest presenters Judy Kullson and Diane Chaffe

Join us and learn how your 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students can get more involved with reading AND have fun. The OBOB divisions are: 3rd-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and NEW! 9th-12th grades.

For registered OBOB schools, 16 specific titles are chosen and questions are provided for each division. Students read and discuss the books and then compete in teams of four students to correctly answer questions.

Lesson ideas for the OBOB titles and a poster will be available, along with the handouts about the program. There will be a book giveaway for schools who have preregistered on the OBOB website, or would like to sign up to participate.

### ***Great Graphic Novel Committee 2009-2010***

Jessica Lorentz-Smith

Come get graphic with a member of the 2009-2010 Best Graphic Novels for Young Adults Committee. Learn how you too can become a volunteer for future committees; see the kinds of materials publishers send to committee members to preview, how the nomination process works and what happens at the ALA annual convention.

*Amie Lake is a newly licensed teacher who is ready to take the library world by storm! Two years ago Amie was the OASL Academic Scholarship winner and she also received a Connie Hull Mini Grant to support the beginnings of a Manga Book Club in the same year. Now Amie is giving back to OASL by being the Saturday Sessions Chairperson and networking with schools and librarians all over the state. Amie is excited about the new adventures in library that are yet to come!*

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*Continued from page 15*

## The Oregon State Library

If you know of any students or community members who might be well-served by TBABS, encourage them to contact the friendly staff at 1-800-452-0292, 503-378-3849, or [tbabs.info@state.or.us](mailto:tbabs.info@state.or.us).

### Government Research Services (GRS)

Another part of the Oregon State Library's mission is to provide quality information services to Oregon state government. The division that makes sure that happens is aptly named Government Research Services, and last year library staff answered more than 14,000 reference questions posed by state employees. Additionally, GRS maintains the library's collections, in a handful of specific categories: state and federal documents, government research, and Oregon history and genealogy. As one example, last year librarians added 4,500 items to the Oregon Documents collection.

GRS members also staff the Reference Room on the second floor. This area is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 to 5 and houses several computers for patron use, a small browsing collection including a variety of periodicals, and the genealogy desk. The majority of the library's collection is in closed stacks, so citizens looking for something specific should ask for the item at the reference desk, contact GRS at 503-378-8800 or [docrequest@webhost.osl.state.or.us](mailto:docrequest@webhost.osl.state.or.us), or use their own library's established interlibrary loan procedures. Anyone interested in researching their family history can ask for assistance from the volunteers of the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society. A volunteer is available during regular Reference Room hours and on the second Saturday of every month from 10 to 4.

### Library Development (LD)

The final piece of OSL's mission statement is to provide leadership, grants, and other assistance to improve local library service for all Oregonians. That goal is the responsibility of the Library Development team. If you have communicated with anyone at the State Library, it is probably someone from this division.

You may not recognize the names Ann Reed and Darci Hanning, but you have likely seen the fruits of their labor. Ann is the Federal Programs Coordinator who tracks public library statistics and administers Oregon's portion of the Library Services and Technology Act grant program. Whether you know it or not, you and your students have benefited from an LSTA grant project. OSLIS, Oregon Battle of the Books, the statewide database licensing project, and L-net come to mind.

Darci, as the Technology Development Consultant, helps with the technical side of OSLIS, but her main project is overseeing Plinkit, a service providing website creation toolkits to public libraries. Plinkit started in Oregon and is now a collaborative with eight other partners covering fourteen states.

As the Youth Services Consultant, Katie Anderson works with public libraries on such projects as Ready to Read grants and Reading for Healthy Families. She also coordinates Oregon's involvement in Letters about Literature, a national writing contest in which 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to write a letter to an author explaining how that author's work affected their lives. Finally, as coordinator for the Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse, Katie tracks all formal challenges to library materials.



### State Library Development Team

*Back Row: Katie Anderson, Mary Mayberry, Jennifer Maurer  
Front Row: Darci Hanning, MaryKay Dahlgreen, Ann Reed*

If a book is challenged at your school, please let her know about it and about the outcome.

That leaves three LD staff members. I am the School Library Consultant, and my primary responsibilities are overseeing and promoting OSLIS, assisting users with statewide database vendor access problems, conducting

an annual analysis of how school libraries fare against Quality Education Model standards, and helping with general questions about school libraries. Our team is rounded out by Mary Mayberry, our consulting assistant, and Mary Dahlgreen, the program manager. We are always glad to help, so contact any of us any time: [www.oregon.gov/OSL/LD/contact\\_us\\_directory.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/LD/contact_us_directory.shtml).

This summary highlights some of the ways we can serve you at the Oregon State Library. Join us for the tour on Friday, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. to learn more. If you cannot make it for the tour, check us out online: [www.oregon.gov/OSL](http://www.oregon.gov/OSL).

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- Brisley, Melissa A. "Cornelia Marvin Pierce: Pioneer in Library Extension." [Reprinted for private circulation from] *The Library Quarterly* 38.2 (Apr. 1968): 125-153.
- "Harriet C. Long (1930-1941)." *Oregon State Library*. 18 Mar. 2008. Oregon State Library. 12 May 2009 <<http://www.oregon.gov/OSL/harriet.shtml>>.

*Jennifer Maurer is the School Library Consultant at the Oregon State Library. [jennifer.maurer@state.or.us](mailto:jennifer.maurer@state.or.us)*



## Classified Memorandum:

For Paraprofessionals In School Libraries

by Meg Miranda

### GET GRAPHIC

I dabble in the craft of making greeting cards. It is a fun weekend hobby and as the chair of our school social committee I have an outlet for my creations. This month I treated myself to an order of ten discounted back issues of "Stampers Sampler". It is from stamping and other craft magazines and books that I get ideas for my cards. Stampers Sampler is very graphic. The pictures of the cards are larger than the descriptions of how the cards were made (there are no step by step directions). The picture tells the story.

I realized as I thought about what I would write for this column that I read books differently than I read my craft magazines. When I read books I pay close attention to the words and visualize the characters and the action. I have my own head movies going on. If there are illustrations in the book I don't pay much attention to them. When I read my craft magazines I pay more attention to the illustrations than I do to the text. I find that the pictures give me more ideas than the accompanying story. This realization of how I read begins to explain why I don't really like graphic novels. I read pictures and print in ways that don't blend well for me.

On the other hand, my younger son (age 24) was a reluctant reader until he was a senior in high school. His reading tastes are eclectic – I am always surprised by what he chooses to read (currently he is reading Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*). In addition to the classics he enjoys graphic novels. I once asked him if he pictures what he reads and he said no. I was very surprised with his response.

There are studies, books and articles galore written by experts in the field of reading education. I'm sure that my realization of my two reading styles has been studied and written about.

The "aha" factor to me reemphasizes that the students at my school have varied reading styles and it is important to have a decent sized collection of graphic novels and illustrated non-fiction (such as the Eyewitness books) just as we stock our fiction shelves with a diversity of genres.

So although I personally find myself plowing through the graphic novels chosen as Young Reader Choice nominees and Oregon Battle of the Books, and the tidbits of information in Eyewitness-type books frustrate me, I know that continuing to purchase these types of books increases the library's "cool factor" with the students. For some students just picking up a book is a major accomplishment.

*Meg Miranda, OASL Para-professional Representative, is classified librarian at Linus Pauling Middle School in Corvallis.*

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# Clementine wins! Meet the Author!



## BEVERLY CLEARY CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARD

By Jann Tankersley

Sara Pennypacker, author of the 2009 Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award winning book, *Clementine*, began her professional career as a watercolor painter. As a child she loved art and books and was always making up stories or working on art projects. As an adult, she followed her love of art as a painter with her own gallery. Later, when she had her own children, she switched to writing children's books. Her books include *Stuart's Cape* and *Stuart Goes to School* as well as four *Clementine* books (so far!) According to her website, [www.sarapennypacker.com](http://www.sarapennypacker.com), she's working on a fifth *Clementine* book, as well as a continuation of the Flat Stanley books (originated by Jeff Brown).

The character of *Clementine* is the opposite of her character of *Stuart*, a boy who worries about everything. *Clementine* is a young girl who doesn't worry about anything, but maybe she should! Her impulsive behaviors often lead to problems. Children love reading about her funny escapades.

Marla Frazee, illustrator of the *Clementine* series, is also the author and illustrator of

the 2009 Caldecott Honor book, *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*. She is both an author and illustrator. Her many books include *Everywhere Babies*, *Hush Little Baby*, and *The Seven Silly Eaters*. Her illustrations of *Clementine*, her family, and friends add a delightful dimension to the *Clementine* book. When selecting the titles nominated for the Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award contest, the book selection committee considers the illustrations as an integral part of the book. Ms. Frazee's illustrations add to the tone and feeling of the book, and contribute to the readability for second through fourth graders.



### Conference Luncheon

We will be celebrating *Clementine*, Sara, and Marla at the Beverly Cleary Children's

Choice Award Luncheon on Friday, October 9, 2009 at the OASL Conference in Salem.

*Jann Tankersley is the Library/Technology Teacher at Dayton Grade School in the Willamette Valley. She is the chair of the BCCCA committee.*

***Need Money?*****Apply for a 2009 Connie Hull Mini-Grant**

From iPod audiobooks and graphic novels to nursery rhymes and student-created picture books, these are some of the excellent projects from the current Connie Hull Mini-Grant winners!

The Connie Hull Endowment Committee received eighteen Mini-Grant applications this past year by the closing date of November 8, 2008. Most of the grant applications were well-written and addressed the four selection criteria. Many of them had excellent ideas for the promotion of literacy and student achievement. Unfortunately, the Connie Hull Endowment allots only enough money to fund six grants of \$250 each.

The six winners listed will be presenting their projects at a concurrent session on Saturday.

**2008 AWARD WINNERS**

The following grants were chosen as award winners.  
(Listed in alphabetical order by project name)

**Project Title: Getting on Board with Graphic Novels.**

Submitted by Dana Buttler, School Librarian, Beaver Acres Elementary, Beaverton S.D.

**Project Title: iPod Audiobooks.**

Submitted by Jennifer Hitchcock, Library Assistant, Carus Elementary, Canby S.D.

**Project Title: Nursery Rhymes.**

Submitted by Susan Swanson, Teacher Librarian, Triangle Lake School, Blachly S.D.

**Project Title: Promoting Audiobooks through Small Group Literacy Instruction.**

Submitted by Kaycie Hoffman, Library Media Specialist, Harold Oliver Intermediate, Centennial S.D.

**Project Title: Serving Up a Great Book.**

Submitted by Pattie Hart, Media Specialist, Forest Hills Lutheran School

**Project Title: Student-Created Picture Books.**

Submitted by Lisa Krebs, Library Media Specialist, Grants Pass High School, Grants Pass S.D.

**2009 APPLICATION PROCESS**

If you are interested in participating in the Connie Hull Mini-Grant program, specific information about the 2009 application process will be available on the OASL website, in the OASL e-newsletter, and at the 2009 fall conference in Salem.

The six winners listed above will be presenting their projects at a concurrent session on Saturday.

Applying for the grant is simple. Complete the form with your administrator's approval, write a one-page narrative about your idea that addresses the criteria:

value in promoting literacy, extent of the project impact, clarity and completeness of the proposal, and sustainability of the project.

***Requirements***

Only OASL members may apply. Only one grant application may be submitted per member. The 2008 winners are not eligible to apply for 2009 mini-grants. For more information, please contact Merrie Olson, molson@sps.lane.edu

*Article written by Gregory Lum, Jesuit High School librarian, who is a past-president of OASL and the 2009 Fall Conference author chair.*



## Young Reader's Choice Award Nominees

by Rebecca Cohen

# 2010

It is with great excitement, and some trepidation, that I start my first year as Oregon's Young Reader's Choice Awards (YRCA) representative. Thank goodness I'm in a part of the world where reading is such an integral part of our character. Of course, having a great list to promote doesn't hurt any. This year's committee, part of the Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA), had a distinct advantage selecting titles in that 2007 was an excellent publishing year for juvenile and young adult titles. The committee also had many nominations from librarians, teachers and young readers that made our job much easier.

Our readers will be able to choose from science fiction, mystery, graphic novels, humor, realistic and historical fiction. The authors range from perennial favorites Roland Smith (*Peak*) and Gordon Korman (*Schooled*) to relative newcomers Adam Rex (*The True Meaning of Smekday*) and Brandon Mull (*The Candy Shop War*) along with many others. The following reviews and opinions are my own unless otherwise noted. I do enjoy dialog and appreciate your take on these titles, especially if it differs from my own. So, drum roll, please:

### Junior Division (Grades 4-6)

**No Talking** by Andrew Clements

Reading level: Ages 9-11 Atheneum, ISBN: 978-1416909842, (PB) \$5.99



Clements scores again with this school story about fifth-grader Dave Packer, an inveterate conversationalist who can't help talking in class. He's not alone. His classmates are equally involved in verbally sharing everything and have earned the name "The Unshushables" from the teaching staff. But when Dave reads about Mahatma Gandhi and how he spent one day a week not talking, Dave decides to be like Mahatma and

not talk for 48 hours. His classmate, Lynsey, another chatterbox, takes him on and it develops into a Girls vs. Boys no talking marathon. The whole silent classroom bit is quite disturbing to the teaching staff, but the students can't tell them why because they won't talk! Clements has written yet another thought provoking school story (remember *Frindle?*) that will provide many avenues of discussion, if the reader will talk.

**Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis

Reading level: Ages 9-12

Scholastic Paperbacks, ISBN: 978-0439023450, \$7.99

Buxton, Canada, is a Canadian town founded by an abolitionist as a haven for people who escaped slavery in the United States. In 1849, eleven year old Elijah is our guide to the community, its many quirky characters and the realities of slavery for those who make it to Buxton and those who don't. Curtis effectively uses Elijah's voice to



tell this relatively unknown tale of the Underground Railroad's terminus and how the early inhabitants of Buxton lived their lives with courage and humor. Elijah himself is an endearing character, pronounced fra-gile by his family, who finds himself drawn to the settlement's work of providing a future for their brethren who make it that far. Events conspire to take Elijah back over the 'line' to America where he is confronted with the harsh realities of slavery which he had heretofore only heard about. Curtis's deft portrayal of another time and place provides us with another of his stellar works of historical fiction (*Bud, Not Buddy* and *The Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963*) that can be used for curriculum extension or for simple reading pleasure.

**Igraine the Brave** by Cornelia Funke

Reading level: Ages 9-12

The Chicken House, ISBN: 978-0439903790 (HC) \$16.99



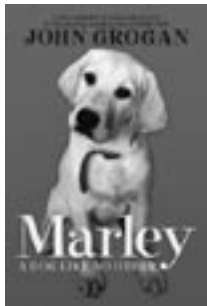
Funke gives her readers a delightful heroine in Igraine, the girl who wants to be a knight as brave as her great grandfather more than anything else. Her family of esteemed magicians is not pleased but the intrepid Igraine doesn't let that stop her in her quest to protect the weak and avenge the wronged, especially when those wronged are her own parents. Osmund, whose aunt is the baroness next door, has come to

claim the most wonderful treasure in the castle, the singing spell books. Igraine's parents are incapacitated because they've turned themselves into pigs! With an open, easy

## YRCA 2010

to read format, fun spot illustrations throughout, and characters with depth, this is an excellent choice for older elementary readers.

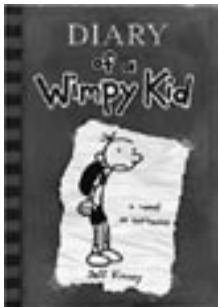
**Marley: A Dog Like No Other** by John Grogan  
Reading level: Ages 9-12  
Collins, ISBN: 978-0061240355, (PB) \$6.99



By now, many of your readers are familiar with the world's worst dog, Marley, from the successful movie by that name that stars Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson. Hopefully, knowledge of the story won't stop them from picking up this delightful tale of an incorrigible pup whose antics bring joy to his world. This heavily edited version of Grogan's best-selling book for adults took out lots of detail but did

leave in the hilarious adventures and deeds of the lovable dog and his family. This is, unfortunately, another 'dog dies' tale that make many of us cry but the end scenes are gently done for young readers. Dog-loving readers will eat this up and it makes for a delightful classroom read-aloud.

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal**  
by Jeff Kinney  
Reading level: Ages 8-12  
Abrams Books for Young Readers, ISBN: 978-0810993136, (HC) \$12.95

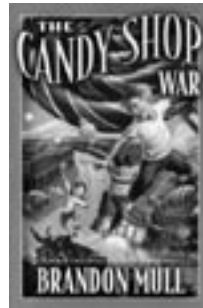


Originally published as an online comic book, Kinney's first book about Greg Heffley retains many of the original illustrations. Greg relates his daily trials and tribulations as a seventh grader in a voice that will ring true with readers and leave them laughing and heading out to look for the next book in the series. Its cartoon-filled pages and easy-on-the-eyes layout make for a very good

choice for reluctant readers of all ages. This is the first in Kinney's series about Greg that has caught the imagination of many a young reader.

**The Candy Shop War** by Brandon Mull  
Reading level: Ages 9-12  
Shadow Mountain, ISBN: 978-1590387832, (HC) \$18.95

When fifth grade friends Nate, Summer, Trevor and Pigeon walk through the doors of Belinda White's new candy shop, they have no clue as to the adventure that they are about to embark on. Neither does the reader in this quirky, fast-paced fantasy from *Fablehaven* author Brandon Mull that shows the dark side of candy, especially candy that has



magic properties. There are Shock Bits that literally electrify the imbiber, Moon Rocks that render one weightless, and a treat that lets one enter a magical land of wonder. Anything that has all these goodies has to have a dark side, and the story does. Ms. White has an ulterior motive in seducing the friends to the sweet side. She wants to find the Fountain of Youth but she is not the only one. There are plenty of

magical beings in this sweet fantasy that has a dark center. The plot is full of twists and turns and flights of imagination with well-developed characters that invite readers to find the next book in the series.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick  
Reading level: Ages 9-12  
Scholastic, ISBN: 978-0439813785, (HC) \$24.99



Selznick's Caldecott Medal winner is a sublime reading experience. Copiously illustrated with charcoal drawings that extend this masterful tale, Selznick explores the beginnings of the movie industry in the person of twelve-year-old orphan Hugo who lives in the walls of a Paris train station. Hugo tends the clocks in the station, unbeknownst to the station management, because his recently deceased father taught him all

he needed to know about mending clocks. His father also passed on his passion for an automaton (robot) that sat in a museum, waiting to come to life. And, yes, it is Hugo who will do so as he develops the magic of 'moving' film. Because of the illustrations, this book looks much longer than it is and may take a bit of booktalking to persuade readers frightened by the thickness of the novel that this is a reading adventure they want to take.



**The Mysterious Benedict Society**  
by Trenton Lee Stewart  
Reading level: Ages 9-12  
Little, Brown Young Readers, ISBN: 978-0316003957, (PB) \$6.99

Four children are recruited to save the world when they are enticed by an advertisement that asks, "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" When they prove to be those children, their lives take an abrupt turn for adventure. Eleven-year-old orphan Reynie Muldoon tells this tale full of twists and turns as Mr. Benedict trains the children to infiltrate the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened. Kate, Constance, Sticky

## YRCA 2010

and Reynie become the Mysterious Benedict Society as they fight to save the world from evil Mr. Curtain and his plans to brainwash everyone to do his bidding. Here's a book, the first of a series, to give to Harry Potter fans who want to be taken even further than J.K. Rowling did. Issues addressed in a completely organic fashion include abandonment, family, loyalty, and facing one's fears. Stewart never speaks down to his readers, expecting them to keep up with his intricate plot and well-developed characters. Fans of Blue Balliet's books will appreciate being steered to this one.

### MIDDLE DIVISION (GRADES 7-9)

**Plain Janes** by Cecil Castelucci

Reading level: Ages 12-15

Minx, ISBN: 978-1401211158, (PB) \$9.99



This year's graphic novel choice features four girls named Jane who want to liven up their white bread small town. They form an "art attack" group and call themselves P.L.A.I.N. – People Loving Arts in Neighborhoods. However, their efforts to encourage creative expression (putting bubbles in the town fountain, wrapping street object as Christmas presents) turn on them as their guerilla

art stunts make townsfolk uncomfortable and some downright angry. Castelucci's characters tend toward the stereotypes but this can be a plus as readers find themselves engaged with the familiar and Castelucci introduces plenty of thought-provoking issues to engage even thoughtful readers who might never consider a graphic novel. Rugg's spare, clean style of comic art will be enjoyed by regular readers of comics but here's your chance to engage fans of realistic fiction with the pleasures of graphic novels. This is the first in a series about the four Janes.



**Book of a Thousand Days**

by Shannon Hale

Reading level: Ages 12-15

Bloomsbury USA Children's Books,  
ISBN: 978-1599903781, (PB) \$8.99  
(September 2009 release)

When Lady Saren seeks a maid, Dashti doesn't know that she's applying for a job that calls for being bricked in a tower with her lady for seven years, punishment for Lady Saren's love for a man not of her father's choosing. However, Dashti accepts that she will keep her vow of service no matter what the conditions. Even when Dashti must pretend to be the Lady during a visit from the Lady's lover, then finds herself falling madly in love with him, Dashti will not forsake her duty. Hale has taken an ob-

scure tale gathered by the Brothers Grimm, *Maid Maleen*, set it in Mongolia and crafted another of her signature reimagined folktales. Give to your readers of Napoli, Yolen, and McKinley.

**Schooled** by Gordon Korman

Reading level: Ages 9-12

Hyperion, ISBN: 978-1423105169, (PB) \$5.99



Capricorn Anderson has spent all of his 13 years at Garland, a '60's commune whose population has dwindled to two, with his grandmother and commune founder, Rain. He's never been to a school except Rain's, never watched television, had a friend his age, eaten meat, or been to a dance until Rain is injured and he's fostered by a school counselor in the city. His first day of

school, he's nominated for eighth grade class president, an honor reserved for the biggest nerd in the class. And he is very different from most Claverage (C Average) Middle School students. Another keen eared story from Korman told by interesting characters that gives readers an opportunity to consider friendship, loyalty, sustainability and the interesting experiences of people other than themselves.

**Skulduggery Pleasant: Scepter of the Ancients**

by Derek Landry

Reading level: Ages 10-13

HarperCollins, ISBN: 978-0061731556, (PB) \$3.99



From Booklist

Twelve-year-old Stephanie Edgley inherits her uncle Gordon's estate and is promptly attacked on her first solo visit to the property. A mysterious skeleton-detective, Skulduggery Pleasant, comes to her rescue, explaining that he thinks Gordon was murdered and that she may be next. The two join forces and set off to solve the crime in a series of magical adventures that take them into

a world filled with ancient evil creatures, including Nefarian Serpine, who seeks the Scepter of the Ancients and the infinite power it will bring him. Landry, whose previous writing credits include horror screenplays, keeps the action brisk, his characters slightly macabre, and uses humor to take the edge off the violence. The story line is intricate (with numerous plot twists and switches in allegiance), and although her actions seem better suited to a somewhat older girl, Stephanie is a well-developed main character. The level of violence may disturb younger readers, however. This is recommended for larger collections where demand for horror/fantasy is high. *Kay Weisman* Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved.



## YRCA 2010

***Alchemyst: Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel***

by Michael Scott

Reading level: Ages 11-14

Delacorte Books for Young Readers, ISBN: 978-0385736008, (PB) \$8.99



From School Library Journal *Starred Review*. Grade 6-9—Scott uses a gigantic canvas for this riveting fantasy. The well-worn theme of saving the world from the forces of evil gets a fresh look here as he incorporates ancient myth and legend and sets it firmly, pitch-perfect, in present-day California. At the emotional center of the tale are contemporary

15-year-old twins, Josh and Sophie, who, it turns out, are potentially powerful magicians. They are spoken of in a prophecy appearing in the ancient Book of Abraham the Mage, all but two pages of which have been stolen by evil John Dee, alchemist and magician. The pursuit of the twins and Flamel by Dee and his allies to get the missing pages constitutes the book's central plot. Amid all this exhilarating action, Scott keeps his sights on the small details of character and dialogue and provides evocative descriptions of people, mythical beings, and places. He uses as his starting point the figures of the historical alchemist Nicholas Flamel and his wife, who have found the secret of immortality, along with mythical beings, including the terrifying Scottish crow-goddess, the Morrigan; the three-faced Greek Hekate; the powerful Egyptian cat-goddess, Bastet; and Scathach, a legendary Irish woman warrior and vegetarian vampire. While there is plenty here to send readers rushing to their encyclopedias of mythology and alchemy, those who read the book at face value will simply be caught up in the enthralling story. A fabulous read.—*Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City* Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

***Peak*** by Roland Smith

Reading level: Ages 11-14

Harcourt Paperbacks, ISBN: 978-0152062682, (PB) \$6.95

Peak, so named by his mountain climbing parents, has resigned himself to only hearing from his estranged dad on the rarest of occasions, so he is ecstatic when invited to climb Mt. Everest with his father. It is only when

he gets to Tibet that he finds out the real reason for the invitation; his famous mountain guide father wants credit for getting the youngest person ever to the top of the world. With Peak, Smith gives his readers yet another of

his attention grabbing adventure books that manages to include a number of sub-plots that make this coming-of-age, historical fiction, and friendship tale work for readers. Lots of mountain climbing detail and some fairly gruesome bits when Peak and Sun-Jo pass the corpses of unsuccessful climbers whose bodies will stay on the mountain forever.

***Zen and the Art of Faking It*** by Jordan Sonnenblick

Reading level: Ages 11-14

Scholastic Press, ISBN: 978-0439837071



San Lee needs a solid identity for his new life in a new town at a new school. He's tried on most of the usual ones, jock, nerd, emo, at prior schools but nothing really fit. He's sick of faking interest in MTV, cool clothes or whatever is going on in the sports world. But when he's labeled a Buddhist because he is Asian, it fits. He goes with it and finds a self within the

stereotype. Well-paced, spots of laugh out loud funny, and a unique spin on the perennial coming-of-age question, "Who am I?" Sonnenblick delivers a good read.

***True Meaning of Smekday*** by Adam Rex

Reading level: Ages 9-12

Hyperion, ISBN: 978-0786849017, (PB) \$6.99



From School Library Journal

Where does one begin when asked to write a five-page essay on the meaning of Smekday? If you are 11-year-old Gratuity Tucci, you begin prior to the arrival of the aliens, before your mother started receiving cryptic messages through a mole in the back of her neck, and before all Americans are forced to move to reservations in Florida to make room for the influx of

an alien race known as the Boov. In a rebellious snit, Tip decides to drive her mother's car to Florida, rather than take the Boov rocketpods, and finds herself caught up in a most outlandish road trip with her cat, Pig, and her very own renegade Boov, J.Lo, for company. First-time novelist Rex has written an imaginative, wacky, hilarious sci-fi story that will appeal to fans of Eoin Colfer and Jon Scieszka. Lively cartoon-paneled illustrations are interspersed throughout and add to the fun. This is a fast-paced adventure with a whip-smart protagonist, a lovable and resourceful extraterrestrial, and plenty of social commentary.—*Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK* Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

## YRCA 2010

## Senior Division (Grades 10-12)

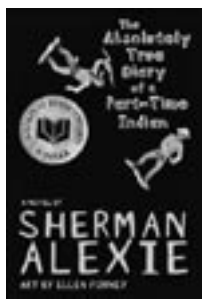
***Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***

by Sherman Alexie

Reading level: Ages 13-16

Little, Brown Young Readers, ISBN: 978-0316013697.

(PB) \$8.99



Alexie's debut young adult novel has much of the writer in Arnold Spirit's life as a bright, gifted Spokane Indian from the rez. Arnold expects life to be a disaster, after all he started out with water on the brain and was never expected to live, but he wants more. If he is going to make his dream of college happen, he knows that he must challenge himself more than the

reservation high school will. When he transfers to the white school in a nearby town, he learns to deal with the feelings of abandonment and anger from his childhood friends and neighbors at the same time he learns to use his art to make his way in the world. Alexie's art is as compelling as his words in telling this story, in fact a reader can follow the story quite well with the pictures alone. Strong language and plenty of sex is talked about and thought about because, as Arnold says, "Indians like to talk about sex." and we know people like to think about sex. Hopefully, these factors won't keep the book out the hands of readers who will be better for meeting Arnold and the people of his world.

***Does My Head Look Big In This?*** By Randa Abdel-Fattah

Reading level: Ages 13-18

Scholastic Paperbacks, ISBN: 978-0439922333, (PB)

\$8.99



Amal is a sixteen year old Australian Palestinian Muslim girl coping with an upper class prep school after 10 years at the Hidayya (Muslim school). Her wry, smart, funny voice carries the reader with her as she decides to wear the hijab, traditional head scarf, as a symbol of the way she wants to live her life. Abdel-Fattah is spott on in her debut novel. Language, setting, mother-daughter-father-friend relationships contribute to a look at

life so similar and so different from what many American and Canadian readers know. Some mild language is used and plenty of bickering with parents who are multi-dimensional and often interesting.

***Twisted*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

Reading level: Ages 14-18

Puffin, ISBN: 978-0142411841, (PB) 9.99



Tyler has been a perennial 'edge' dweller in his suburban high school until he committed the 'foul deed' of defacing his high school with 5 paint cans worth of graffiti. It made him a celebrity and his punishment, a summer's worth of community service work as a laborer, made him a lean, muscular guy who was hot enough to get the attention of Brittany, daughter

of his dad's boss and one of the gilded ones at Washington High. Anderson has captured the awkward, sex-obsessed voice of this teenage boy as beautifully as she does with her female characters in her other books.

***Mistik Lake*** by Martha Brooks

Reading Level: Ages 14-18

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, ISBN: 978-0374349851, (HC)

\$16.00



Odella's family is full of secrets, shared with the reader bit by bit through the individual voices of the characters, including that of her mother who left the family to live her own life and dies before Odella can figure out why. Set in Canada, this thoughtful tale take place in Winnipeg and on Mistik Lake of the title, slowly revealing the truths that help the family find their way to each other. *Mistik Lake* will be

most enjoyed by thoughtful readers who can follow the non-linear story and appreciate the beautifully developed characters in Odella's life.

***City of Bones*** by Cassandra Clare

Reading Level: Ages 14-18

McElderry, ISBN: 978-1416955078, (PB) \$9.99



Clary Fray's life is that of a fairly typical teen with a single mom until she witnesses a murder committed by three people who only she can see! And the victim disappears before her eyes! Her introduction to the world of Shadowhunters coincides with the disappearance of her mother, Jocelyn, and changes in her own perceptions lead her to finally conclude the truth: she is a Shadowhunter herself. Her

task is to protect the city from demons bent on destroying it and all that dwell there. Clare does have some fun lines

## YRCA 2010

in the book. If reading the book brings to mind episodes of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, you're not alone. And if the characters feel like some you've met before, you're not alone there either. *City of Bones* will never be a fantasy classic but it is an enjoyable read and fans of the genre will eat it up and clamor for the next installment in this series, *The Mortal Instruments*.

**Enter Three Witches** by Caroline Cooney

Reading Level: 14-18

Scholastic Paperbacks, ISBN: 978-0439711579, (PB)

\$6.99



Cooney's fresh re-telling of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* from the perspective of the women who lived and worked in *Macbeth's* castle is full of delights for readers. With leads from Shakespeare's play heading each chapter, we can spy on the happenings huge in the world and small in the kitchen in that long ago time. Fortunately interesting characters are just that regardless of the era. Mary, a lady in her own right until the death

of her father and destruction of her home, finds herself in the capable company of resourceful women; hot-headed warm-hearted Swin, old Jennet with her infinite knowledge of how things are, Ildred the resentful and jealous. She is the observer in this tale and we meet all the players through her eyes. When war comes to *MacBeth's* castle, Mary must find a way to survive amidst the tragedies of Shakespeare's classic. An excellent choice for Shakespeare studies reading lists, this deft re-telling will delight readers both familiar and unfamiliar with the Bard. It can be hoped reading might lead a reader to the original.

**Deadline** by Chris Crutcher

Reading level: 14-18

HarperTeen, ISBN: 978-0060850913, (PB) \$8.99



From Booklist

Just before his senior year, Ben Wolf is diagnosed with a rare, incurable leukemia. At 18, he has the legal right to keep the news to himself until he's ready to reveal it. With only his doctor and therapist in on his secret, Ben sets out to live an entire lifetime in a year: There are insects that pack it all into a day, he reasons. His goals are to join his brother on the football

team; learn everything he can; and ask out gorgeous Dallas Suzuki. Crutcher fits far too much into this ambitious novel, which includes subplots about incest, pedophilia, manic depression, and intellectual freedom, as well as a

Jesus-like character who appears in visions. And readers may feel distanced from Ben, whose first-person voice and reactions never quite feel authentic. But, as usual, Crutcher writes vivid sports action scenes, and teens' interest will be held by the story's dramatic premise, Ben's unlikely turn as a football hero, love scenes with Dallas (including some mildly explicit sex), and Ben's high-gear pursuit of life's biggest questions. *Gillian Engberg*, Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

**Wicked Lovely** by Melissa Marr

Reading level: 14-18

HarperCollins, ISBN: 978-0061214677, (PB) \$8.99



Aislinn has a dangerous, terrifying secret. She sees the fairies. If they knew she can see them, she would be at their cruel mercy. She surrounds herself with fairy deterrent iron whenever possible. Her would-be lover Seth lives in old railcars, perhaps part of his attraction is the safety that provides? She is sought by two fairies, Keenan, who is convinced she is the one who will pass his test and be his bride, and Donia,

who failed the test but loves him still. The fairies don't know that Aislinn sees their true selves and she uses this skill to survive the coming upheaval. Marr's debut novel is stellar and she continues to please fans with sequels to this fully imagined world of magic and mayhem.



*Rebecca Cohen is the Youth Services/ Circulation Supervisor at Newport Public Library, Newport, Oregon, USA. Currently serving as the Oregon Representative to PNLA's YRCA*

*Committee, booktalking the YRCA list has been part of her year since 1987. She can be reached at (541)265-3109 or storyweaver@newportlibrary.org.*

## OASL WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Daletta Gonzales

Please join us in honoring this year's Oregon Association of School Libraries award winners at the Fall Conference!

### 2009 District School Librarian of the Year

*Linda Bilyeu*  
Bend-LaPine School District

### 2009 Elementary School Librarian of the Year

*Angela Hatfield*  
Lamb Elementary, Salem-Keizer School District

### 2009 Secondary School Librarian of the Year

*Erin Fitzpatrick-Bjorn*  
West Orient Middle School, Gresham-Barlow  
School District

### 2009 Library Media Paraprofessional of the Year

*Deborah Ann Pugh*  
Holley Elementary School, Sweet Home School District

### 2009 Distinguished Library Services Award for Administrators

*Dr. Nancy Golden*  
Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools

*Daletta Gonzales is the Teacher Librarian at Washington Elementary School in Salem and is the OASL Awards Committee Chairperson.*



## Intellectual Freedom

by Leigh Morlock,  
Intellectual Freedom Chair

### Celebrate the Freedom to Read Award

Thank you to all participating schools!

A coalition made up of the ACLU of Oregon, the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) and the IFC of the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL), is the recipient of the SIRS-ProQuest State and Regional Achievement Award. Given by the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT), a grass-roots coalition of ALA members concerned with intellectual freedom in libraries nationwide, the award will be presented on July 10 at the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago.

The Oregon coalition is being honored for its campaign, which increased state-wide participation in Banned Books Week by 22 percent over two years. In 2008, 31 of the 36 counties of Oregon participated in Banned Books Week activities, which were hosted by academic, public and school libraries, the Oregon State Library and 10 bookstores. Banned Books Week, an annual event designed to raise awareness about the dangers of censorship in libraries and schools, has been the linchpin in these three groups' effort to bring intellectual freedom into all state libraries. The campaign started when an ACLU board member donated 3,000 buttons, emblazoned with "I Read Banned Books," to be distributed to all participating libraries. As awareness grew, libraries saw an increased demand for local information regarding challenges to library materials. Staff and volunteers from the ACLU of Oregon and the Oregon Library Association's IFC sifted through newspapers and publications to create a master list of all materials challenged or banned in Oregon since 1979.

For more details go to: <http://tiny.cc/VWWBh>

*Leigh Morlock*  
OASL Intellectual Freedom Chair

NEW FAVORITES • BY JOANN S. LUM • NEW FAVORITES • BY JOANN S. LUM • NEW FAVORITES



## New Favorites – outstanding books for children

Schertle, Alice. *Button Up!* Illus. by Petra Mathers. 2009. Harcourt. 33p. \$16.00 (978-0-15-205050-4)  
Ages 4-8. Finally, clothes have a voice in this clever and very funny book of “wrinkled rhymes” that are sure to please young children! With each turn of the page, the author takes readers on a rollicking adventure through their closets, imagining how their clothes think while being used. Shoelaces know that they can just hang around, swimsuits like to be wet, and even wool sweaters enjoy being a little prickly! “When Jack plays soccer we get our kicks. /I’m Jack’s jersey. /I’m number 6. /I show the number for me and Jack, /6 in front/and 6 in back...” Each of the fifteen witty rhymes comes to life with Mathers’ amusing and detailed, watercolor illustrations. By using animals like the opossum, alligator, and bear to don the clothes, her brilliant humor leaps off the pages, e.g., a slouched upright otter with a purple Mohawk sports oversized sneakers with long shoelaces, and a long-necked ostrich wears a wool turtleneck. In addition to using full-page illustrations, at times several smaller illustrations display action, allowing children to see the personification of the clothing. Without being contrived or formulated, the rhymes and illustrations in this collection will authentically please and delight children.

Lewis, J. Patrick and Beth Zappitello. *First Dog*. Illus. by Tim Bowers. 2009. Sleeping Bear Press, an imprint of Gale. \$15.95 (978-1-58536-467-1)

Ages 4-8. “Once upon a time there was a dog that was looking for the perfect place to live...” So begins this heartwarming story about a little puppy that travels the world in search of the perfect home. He sails across the Atlantic Ocean to London and finds a slobbering English bulldog, and in China he meets a strange-looking sharpei. He travels to ten different places around the world; dissatisfied with each breed’s lifestyle, he realizes that he just couldn’t live with him or her. Finally he reads a newspaper announcing that the First Family is looking for a dog, and he finds his perfect home. Acknowledged for his amiable illustrations of dogs, Tim Bowers’ paintings



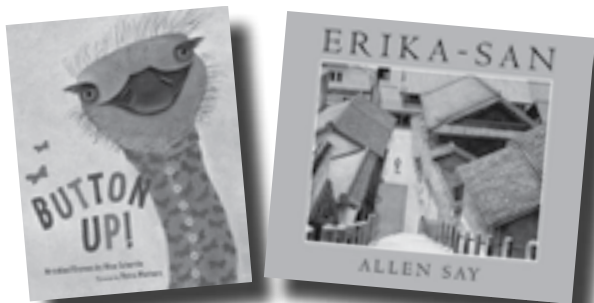
depict darling canines in various action environments. The illustrations appear like a snapshot of a moment that the reader is able to observe. For example, the puppy’s meeting with a Rhodesian Ridgeback appears in the foreground while lions and their cubs are sleeping in the South African brush. On the end pages, a drawing and a paragraph about each of the ten visited dogs adds more information about the breeds.

Gourley, Robbin. *Bring Me Some Apples and I’ll Make You a Pie*. Illus. 2009. Clarion Books. \$16.00 (978-0-618-15836-2)

Ages 5-9. In her debut picture book, this commended cookbook author/illustrator uniquely connects Southern history with food in this story of Edna Lewis, the granddaughter of an emancipated slave who founded the community of Freetown, Virginia. Edna and her family live by the seasons: in spring they pick wild strawberries and gather wild mustard greens while Daddy stands behind the plow preparing the land. In each season, Edna and her sister and brother gather fruits and vegetables and often sing songs: “Wake up, Jacon. Day’s a-breakin’, /Fryin’ pan’s on and cornbread’s bakin’. /Bacon in the pan. Coffee in the pot. /Git up now and get it while it’s hot.” Children will feel included in the harvesting as they enter into the land and bounty rendered in translucent, watercolor illustrations. In a day when children think that food comes from a store, readers will learn where food comes from, as well as the joy in creating cuisine from fresh ingredients. In the Author’s Note, additional biographical information explains how as an adult Edna became a famous chef when African American female chefs were uncommon. Five recipes, representing the kind of dishes that Edna Lewis loved, are included.

Say, Allen. *Erika-San*. Illus. 2009. Houghton Mifflin. 32p. \$17.00 (978-0-618-88933-4)

Ages 6-10. Ever since Erika was a little girl, she loved Japan. As a child, she adored the picture of a Japanese cottage with lighted windows that Grandpa bought





while living in Japan. *"I want to live there, 'she said the first time she saw it."* She studied Japanese in middle school, in high school, and in college. Finally, she was on her way to Japan to teach. In this beautiful narrative, a young girl's passion for a people and a culture translates into her adult dream of teaching and living in Japan. Throughout the pleasant pace of words chronicling her journey, Say seamlessly includes elements of the Japanese language and society throughout the text and illustrations (e.g., crowded cities, bullet trains, thatched roofs, Japanese words). His brilliant, watercolor illustrations showing the masses of people in Tokyo as well as the lush green landscapes of the remote island demonstrate Say's versatility in painting. The depth and richness of color, indicative of a master watercolorist, illuminates the contrast of regions within Japan. Lessons of being comfortable in one's environment and tenaciously pursuing one's dream fill the pages of this happy, serene story of a woman's life.

Brown, Don. *Teedie: The Story of Young Teddy Roosevelt*. Illus. 2009. Houghton Mifflin. 32p. \$16.00 (978-0-618-17999-2)

Ages 5-10. Once again Don Brown, well-known for his critically acclaimed, biographical picture books, has created a fascinating book describing how Teddy Roosevelt's childhood impacted his adult life. Although the Roosevelts were affluent, their wealth couldn't protect Teedie from asthma, a disease that made his body weak but led to the cultivation of a strong mind. *"He had boundless curiosity. Once he walked down the street and spotted a dead seal laid out on a slab of wood."* Teddy's actual words are interjected throughout the text, allowing the reader to know exactly how he felt: *"I carefully made a record of utterly useless measurements and at once began to write a natural history of my own..."* The exaggerated pen and ink and watercolor illustrations effectively depict how Teddy's small frame and frail body impacted his curiosity and determination. His humorous depictions of Teddy's antics fill the pages. A variety of interesting facts about his life are included in this fast-moving biography.

This book is sure to inspire children to further research the life of this great President of the United States.

Laroche, Giles. *What's Inside?* Illus. 2009. Houghton Mifflin. 40p. \$17.00 (978-0-618-86247-4)

Ages 9-12. Intriguing bas-relief cut-paper collages, sometimes created by eight layers of cut paper incorporated with drawing and painting, punctuate the pages of this needed book for budding architects. The outside of thirteen of the world's most unusual and beautiful buildings appears on pages with the query, *"What's Inside?"* or *"Who's Inside?"* The next page then reveals not only the architectural features of the building's interior, but also people functioning in the building. The Petronas Twin Towers in Malaysia, the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, the Alcazar (castle) of Segovia, Spain as well as other assorted buildings (e.g., barn, circus tent, opera house) are included. Marginal notes giving the name, location, date of construction, materials, architects, today's use, and little known facts detail the accompanying paragraph summarizing aspects of the structure. A glossary of architectural terms with illustrations is included. This book masterfully explores through text and extraordinary illustrations how various factors affect design and use of some of the world's most unique buildings.

Aldrin, Buzz. *Look to the Stars*. Illus. by Wendell Minor. 2009. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 40p. \$17.99. (978-0-399-24721-7)

Ages 10 and up. In this second collaboration of Astronaut Buzz Aldrin and Wendell Minor (*Reaching for the Moon*), children will get a first hand account of the wonders of space exploration. In this comprehensive look at the history of space exploration, Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin talks to children enabling them to understand the complexity and thrill of space. Each of the fifteen sections comprise information about the first astronauts, various Apollo Missions, the Space Shuttle, future of space travel, and other topics. Quotations from Charles Lindbergh to Edwin Hubble to Alan Shepard appear along the bottom of the pages.

The dramatic paintings rendered in gouache watercolor enable the reader to experience the thrill of discovery. Paintings of Sputnik, John Glenn boarding Friendship 7, and the Mars rover Spirit, for example, make the text come alive. Embedded within the full-page paintings, a smaller element from the text is highlighted. The amazing detailed timeline effectively summarizes the plethora of space-related information. The synergy of Aldrin's narrative and Wendell's detailed paintings intelligently connects the history of flight with future plans for space.

*Joann S. Lum is a former classroom teacher, reading specialist and educational consultant.*

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