Storytelling Is Alive and Well in Oklahoma

Seminole, OK – June 4-5, 2010 - Storytelling…the word evokes images of bedtime and back porches and campfires. Storytelling festival morphs those images into concert halls, auditoriums or giant tents with a sea of faces focused intently on a lone figure with a microphone. The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival, returning June 4-5 for its fourth year to Seminole State College, will offer the best of both kinds of storytelling.

Nationally and regionally known spoken word artists including Jeannine Pasini Beekman, Connie Neil Fisher, Fran Stallings, Eldrena Douma, Teresa Black and Sam McMichael will perform at the festival, which is sponsored by the Territory Tellers of Oklahoma, the statewide storytelling organization, in partnership with the Seminole Tourism Council, Seminole State College and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce.

Story concerts, story circles, story swaps, workshops and exhibits will run for two days and evenings at the state-of-the-art Enoch Kelly Haney Center, 2701 Boren Blvd., on the SSC campus. Ghost tales will be told under the stars nearby.

Seminole State College is offering Storytelling 101 for one hour of college credit in conjunction with the festival. Professional storyteller and school library media specialist, Jeanette Harjo will be the instructor.

Librarians, teachers, storytellers and listeners are welcome. All events are open to the public. For more information and the schedule of events, visit www.territorytellers.org. Purchase tickets online before May 21 for discounted rates. Special discounts for seniors and students are available. Stories are family-friendly, but not intended for small children.

Contact: Valerie Kimble
kimblevalerie@yahoo.com
4001 Sparkle St.
Norman, OK 73073
Phone: 405-366-8915
"Be an explorer...read, surf the internet, visit customers, enjoy arts, watch children play...do anything to prevent yourself from becoming a prisoner of your knowledge, experience, and current view of the world.” Charles Thompson (author)

"Explore the Possibilities" has been, for me, more than just a conference theme. It's been my call to action to the Oklahoma Library Association during the past year. A call that you, its members, have more than answered. To prove it I would refer any doubters to the variety of workshops presented during the fall and spring, to the many activities our DRoCs have been engaged in, and the many plans that are already underway for next year. It's been a truly great year because of the great work all of you have done.

Perhaps greatest of all was the annual conference, OLA's 103rd, held jointly this year with MPLA. What an exciting experience that was! So many people worked so hard to make it a reality that I hesitate to single out any individuals because it was such a team effort. But I will anyway.

If you enjoyed the conference you owe a debt of gratitude to the Local Arrangements Committee. They handled all the myriad details that go into putting on a conference, everything from registration, to the Bookstore, signage, and so much more. Sarah Robbins and Beth Webb chaired this committee with great skill. Thanks also to Pat Weaver-Meyers and the Endowment Committee for taking on responsibility for the All Conference Event on Tuesday evening (what a hoot that was!) and for splitting the proceeds from the ACE with the Information Matrix Summer Camp. And what can you say about the programs except "Wow"! There was really something for everyone this year, and then some. Credit for that goes to Wayne Hanway and his Program Committee who worked so hard, in conjunction with our MPLA colleagues, in crafting what may be the strongest program ever at an OLA conference.

This is my final Oklahoma Librarian President's Column, but I don't really feel like spending any more time looking back, but instead looking forward. Because next year promises to be even more exciting and event-filled than this one. This summer we have the Information Matrix Summer Camp coming up in Tulsa in July, the Information Roundtable "mini-conference" in August at Rose State, the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books in October, also at Rose State, and the 3rd OLA GOLD Leadership Institute in early November at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore. All these are major events that will raise the profile of libraries in our state and offer each of us valuable opportunities for education and professional growth. Keep your eye on the OLA website or Facebook page for more information on each of these. And if you want to help in making them a reality, just contact Leslie Langley, our incoming president. I know she'll be more than happy to help you find just the place in OLA where you can put your time and talents to work in the service of our association and profession.

I'm certain of one thing: the future of Oklahoma libraries is a bright one. Yes, we face many challenges, but we should look on that as a good thing. As General George S. Patton once said, "Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." As Oklahoma librarians, you never face those challenges alone. You can always count on the unstinting support of your OLA friends and colleagues. Because fundamentally that's what OLA is here for. It allows us to stand together as we face the challenges that confront us, and celebrate together after we have overcome them.

And my challenge to each of you is this: Keep accepting challenges and working together so that we can all feel the "exhilaration of victory". Keep looking beyond limitations of money, time or whatever else seems to limit you. Above all, continue to "explore the possibilities"!
The Future of Technical Services: Exploring the Possibilities Preconference

Ably led by our 2009/2010 Chair, Louisa Payne, the Technical Services Round Table produced an excellent preconference on Monday, Apr. 19th. Our keynote speaker, Janet Swan Hill, a nationally known librarian at the University of Colorado in Boulder, has been intimately involved in the formulation of RDA (Resource Description Access), the new cataloging rules which are being designed to replace AACR2. Virginia Dietrich of the National Weather Center Library in Norman described an open source catalog based on Evergreen, and Heather Braum, Technology Librarian in the Northeast Kansas Library System at Lawrence, described an open source catalog based on Koha. June Abbas, Professor of Cataloging at OU-SLIS and Chair of the RDA ALA Programming Task Force, brought us up to date on RDA, its basis and how it will be tested and implemented in the coming year. It was a fascinating day for tech services participants, and a real learning experience.—Michele Seikel, Oklahoma State University Library

Tribal Libraries Committee Conference Presentations

A number of librarians shared their tips on services to American Indians in “Power Up Your Library Services! Lightning Talks”, ten short presentations on topics including planning, to genealogy, Indian law, and festivals or events with special presentations by Indian groups. Dr. Lotsee Patterson moderated the event, and Sharlotte Riggle, Chickasaw Regional System, was the organizer (they are the Committee Co-chairs for 2009-2010). Special thanks to Clyde Henderson, Navajo Technical College Library, who traveled from New Mexico to give his presentation. Contact information for the speakers will be available from Jan Bryant (ljanbryant@eok.lib.ok.us) or Helen Clements (helen.clements@okstate.edu).

With the OLA Legislative Committee, we sponsored “Building Relationships with Tribal Communities”, a presentation by Ben Wakashige, currently Library Director of the John F. Reed Library at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Ben was State Librarian of New Mexico, serving as that library’s first Tribal/Pueblo library consultant. He shared his wisdom and experience in working with native communities, tribal governments, the state legislature and legislators, organizing legislation, testifying before a committee, and other strategies. Finally, the OLA Government Documents Round Table’s session featured Steve Beleu of ODL. Steve has created a portal, Federal Websites for Tribal Libraries and Tribal College Libraries: Recommended Links, featuring Web resources from art exhibits to online reference tools. It’s available at http://www.oklibshare.org/ieclinks.htm. - Helen Clements, Assoc. Prof and Ref. Libn.,OSU

Right: ALA President Camilla Alire speaks at the Legislative Luncheon On Tuesday.
Preparing Questions for the Oral History Interview

So you have this really good idea for an oral history project or you have a few folks you would like to record their remembrances of a particular time or event. You have your equipment lined up and now it’s time to think about the actual interview. When preparing for the interview, allow sufficient time for developing an informed question guide.

Think about what it is you want to know? A little planning will go a long way towards generating a fruitful interview. Conducting background research on the person, event, and/or time period will help inform the development of the question guide. Think about an order for the questions. Do you want to go chronologically or focus on a particular point in time and then work around it? For the most part, it is easier for a person to recall activities from beginning to the end or from the end to the beginning. Begin with easy questions allowing the person to become comfortable and of course, do not force a response.

Some questions encourage more detailed responses than others. Compare the answers to these two questions:

Can you tell me about school lunches?
What can you tell me about school lunches?

The first question will most likely be a yes or no answer while the second question will prompt the person to elaborate and provide more detail. Phrases such as “tell me about…” and “talk a little bit about…” invite the person to share more. Try to avoid multipart questions. When a person is asked several questions in the form of one long question, there is a tendency to address only the last part of the question. Also keep questions short and use follow-up questions to elicit more details.

Visual cues or props may also be of help during an interview to trigger memories and perhaps add structure to the interview. For example, when interviewing in a person’s home, you may notice a collection of miniature glass figurines and say, “I see you collect glass figurines. How did you get started?” Photographs can also be useful in generating stories around an event, family, or person.

A quick Google search will render several websites sharing tips on developing interview questions and one of particular note is: The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide (http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx).

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program, OSU Library
Sequoyah Reading Lists Released Just in Time for Summer

The Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) has released the 2011 master reading lists for the Sequoyah Book Awards contest. Children and teens throughout the state will vote for their favorite book from one of the three master lists. The books can be read throughout the 2010 year and voted on next March. The first winner of this honor was “Old Yeller” in 1959, making Oklahoma’s program the third oldest youth choice book award in the country. The program has been expanded in recent years to provide reading opportunities for middle and high school students, in addition to elementary school age children. There is a master list of titles for each age group.

“With summer coming up, it’s the perfect time to introduce the books to young people,” OLA Sequoyah Award Committee chair Joan Sizemore said. “Children and teenagers have much more time during the vacation months to read for pleasure, and that activity is the most important way to develop a lifelong habit of reading.” To be eligible to vote, students must have read or listened to three or more books on their list. All eligible students will vote on March 31, 2011. To vote, students need to check with their school. Students attending schools that are not participating in the Sequoyah program may check with their local public library. Nominated titles for the 2011 list have been posted to the OLA website at www.oklibs.org and are listed below. Voting information will also be posted on the site.

For additional information, please contact OLA’s Kay Boies at: kboies@sbcglobal.net or call her at the OLA office at 405-525-5100

2011 Children's Sequoyah Masterlist
Students in grades 3 through 5 must read or listen to 3 or more titles to vote.
"The 100 Year Old Secret" by Tracy Barrett
"The Trouble with Rules" by Leslie Bulion
"Obi, Gerbil on the Loose" by Michael Delaney
"Kenny and the Dragon" by Tony DiTerlizzi
"The Gollywopper Games" by Jody Feldman
"Eleven" by Patricia Reilly Giff
"All the Lovely Bad Ones" by Mary Downing Hahn
"Swindle" by Gordon Korman
"Alvin Ho! Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things" by Lenore Look
"Too Much Flapdoodle" by Amy MacDonald
"Boys are Dogs" by Leslie Margolis
"When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature’s Balance in Yellowstone" by Dorothy Patent
"The Mysterious Case of the Allbright Academy" by Diane Stanley
"Nurk: The Strange, Surprising Adventures of a

2011 Intermediate Sequoyah Masterlist
Students in grades 6 through 8 must read or listen to 3 or more titles to vote.
"The Boy Who Dared" by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
"Peeled" by Joan Bauer
"The Compound" by S.A. Bodeen
"The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins
"The Patron Saint of Butterflies" by Cecilia Galante
"Eleven" by Patricia Reilly Giff
"The Other Side of the Island" by Allegra Goodman
"The Juvie Three" by Gordon Korman
"Itch" by Michelle Kwasney
"Every Soul a Star" by Wendy Mass
"The Adoration" of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson
"Trouble" by Gary D. Schmidt
"Antsy Does Time" by Neal Shusterman
"Stolen" by Vivian Velde Vande

2011 High School Sequoyah Masterlist—Students in grades 9 through 12 must read or listen to 3 or more titles to vote.
"The Compound" by S. A. Bodeen
"Shift " by Jennifer Bradbury
"Debbie Harry Sings in French" by Megan Brothers
"Graceling" by Kristin Cashore
"The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins
"Fancy White Trash" by Marjetta Geerling
"Paper Towns " by John Green
"Would You?" by Marthe Jocelyn
"Suite Scarlett " by Maureen Johnson
"No Choirboy " by Susan Kuklin
"Sunrise Over Fallujah" by Walter Dean Myers
"Burn" by Suzanne Phillips
"Impossible" by Nancy Werlin
We’re used to seeing economic data given by the usual geographies of state, county, and Metropolitan Statistical Area. But we also know that local geographies exist that defy state and county borders, such as the counties of Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, and Pushmataha, whose inhabitants participate in the economy of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, or McCurtain County, which is part of the economy of the Texarkana area. BEARFACTS is the online tool that you can use to get data for these geographies. Here’s how:

1. Open this web page: http://www.bea.gov/regional/bearfacts/
2. The first thing to note is that you’ll have the choices of State, County, Metropolitan Area, and BEA Economic Area. You can always choose one of the first three geographies to get a report on, for example, the economy of Oklahoma, Blaine County, or the Lawton Metropolitan Statistical Area.
3. Click on the BEA Economic Area map to see how the BEA has mapped local economies according to the business patterns those areas exhibit. The BEA’s definition of the Economic Area is that it consists of: a. one or more Metropolitan/micropolitan Statistical Areas that serve as regional centers of economic activity, and b. the counties that surround it that are economically related to it. The BEA last defined these in 2004.
4. There will be some parts of the map that you recognize, but many more that you don’t. Example: click on the map where Tulsa should be.
5. You’ll get a report on the Tulsa-Bartlesville Economic Area. Among the types of data it includes will be these: per capita personal income and its national ranking, total personal income, and components of personal income.

How do you determine which Economic Area you’re in? You can scan through this list of BEA Economic Area “Component Counties” for Oklahoma counties—http://www.bea.gov/regional/docs/econlist.cfm

Or, more easily, look through my list of counties in Oklahoma that are in a BEA Economic Area—

1. Dallas-Ft. Worth EA: Atoka, Bryan, Choctaw, and Pushmataha counties
2. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers EA: Adair and Delaware counties
3. Joplin EA: Ottawa County
5. Texarkana Texas, Texarkana Arkansas EA: McCurtain County
6. Tulsa-Bartlesville EA: Cherokee, Craig, Creek, Haskell, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Payne, Pittsburg, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington counties
7. Wichita-Winfield Kansas EA: Kay County

As you can see, the main economic centers in Oklahoma are Oklahoma City and Tulsa. This data is primarily used to measure economic development.

Steve Beleu, Federal Libraries Director
Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Gail Peck et al. Oklahoma Labyrinths – a path to inner peace. Oklahoma City: 7 Hawks Publishing, 2007. 301 pp. 978-0-9800900-0-0. $14.95. Walking a labyrinth is becoming a popular method of spiritual practice, one that seems to appeal to Christian and Pagan alike. Oklahoma Labyrinths provides a valuable resource in its exhaustive directory of those that exist in the state. The directory proper is divided by city with a helpful thumb index, and each labyrinth entry includes at least one photo and a lengthy description. There is also a quick list that just gives particulars about the sites, and elsewhere in the book are listings by type and by year established. The trouble is, the directory is less than half the book. The rest is a hodgepodge of instruction, personal experience (including at least one lengthy “conversation” between the author and a labyrinth), and information on tangential subjects such as sacred geometry, the meanings of trees and flowers, and numerology. Worse, this content has almost no organization and no index. It has all the marks of a self-published book without the benefit of an editor (Peck is the sole proprietor of 7 Hawks). Purchase only for large reference collections, or if there is an interest in labyrinths in your community. –Karl G. Sievert, Hardesty Public Library, TCCL.

Jeffrey M. Wilhite: A Chronology of Librarianship, 1960-2000. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, 2009. 278pp. ISBN 978-0-8108-5255-6. $75. Josephine Metcalfe Smith’s landmark Chronology of Librarianship (Scarecrow, 1968) has long been a standard tool for those researching the history of the field from the beginnings to 1959. University of Oklahoma librarian Jeffrey M. Wilhite picks up where Smith left off and traces the growth and development of libraries and librarianship as a profession, library automation and technology, and key library organizations from 1940 to the beginning the twenty-first century. For each of the forty years covered in this volume, Wilhite chronicles the contemporary events, technological innovations, figures and statistics, librariana (library-related facts and trivia), developments in the American Library Association (including the Notable Books and Newbery and Caldecott winners), happenings at the Library of Congress and in the US government, as well as news from IFLA, the UN, and different continents throughout the globe. Readers can survey the evolution of the Internet from the creation of ARPANET in 1961 to the birth of the World Wide Web at CERN in 1991. The chronology traces the history of online database searching from the designing of the DIALOG language to rise of the big database aggregators that continue to dominate the market. He includes useful information on median salaries for library professionals, funding for libraries over the years, and other figures and data along with legislation and other social and political events that have affected the changing landscape of librarianship in the last half of the twentieth century. Wilhite’s continuation of Smith’s chronology is thus an essential purchase for any library science collection and an invaluable reference resource for all institutions seeking to preserve the history of libraries and librarians themselves. —David Oberhelman, Oklahoma State University

Anne Morand et al. Thomas Gilcrease. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. 262 pp. ISBN 978-0-9725657-7-6. $24.95. This beautiful volume tells the story of Thomas Gilcrease, a 20th century Renaissance man: oilman, entrepreneur, art collector. It succinctly tells of Thomas’ early life in Oklahoma Indian Territory, at the turn of the 20th century, when Oklahoma was young and opportunities were plentiful. Ten essays provide an outline that begins with his birth, through his years of travel throughout the United States and Europe, to his death (in 1962), and the bold and enduring legacy he has left for us all. They are written by current and former Museum staff and contributors to the Museum Journal: authors with a unique and often exclusive prospective of Thomas Gilcrease’s life and legacy. This collection includes numerous photographs and reproductions, most in color. It includes interesting, and sometime little known facts about Mr. Gilcrease’s interest in the Taos Artist Colony, when it was young, and his fascination with antique books and maps, as well as pottery and paintings. This collection of essays doesn’t try to cover a great deal of detail; instead it will pull the reader into the life and times of this generous and eclectic man and his art collection. Tulsa, Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa are extremely lucky to be the custodians of this valuable collection. If nothing else, this volume will draw the reader to Tulsa, and the treasures of the Gilcrease Museum – the Museum of the Americas. —Robin Leech, Oklahoma State University

Susan Ragsdale and Ann Saylor. Great Group Games: Boredom-Busting, Zero-Prep Team Builders for All Ages. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute Press, 2007. 228 pp. 978-1-57482-196-3. $16.95. Question: What are Zip Bong, Two Truths and a Lie, and Mission Possible? Answer: These are just a sampling of the 175 fun-filled activities provided in this book. Just try to keep a straight face as you (or your colleagues) walk the laughing gauntlet or master the balloon obstacle course. Use these ideas at your next library program (there are activities that would work with any and all ages) or as a means to develop your staff teamwork capabilities. According to the authors, these activities provide your group the opportunity to “play with a purpose.” The book is structured in a way that focuses on six different stages of group development from “starting off right” to “deepening trust” and eventually moving towards “affirming changes and celebrating successes.” In each section, activities range from those that require just a few moments to those that require a little more time. While the games involve plenty of fun and laughter, many offer the opportunity for deeper reflection by providing follow-up questions that can be used as discussion starters. Although the title suggests “zero-prep,” some of the activities do require at least a little planning and supply gathering—but it is minimal, and most of these activities could be accomplished with supplies you will have on hand. While an obvious application would be for public library youth programs, the book has practical application for a variety of library settings where an ice-breaker or team building activities would be useful. There are many situations where a little fun and silliness could be just the thing needed to bring about positive growth and change—and a few laughs could ease the tension brought about by budget cuts and changing roles. —Peggy Kaney, Northeastern State University
2010 OLA Graduate Scholarship Winners Announced!

Scholarships were awarded at the annual 2010 OLA/MPLA conference held in Oklahoma City April 19-21st. The OLA Scholarship committee is pleased to announce this year’s scholarship winners:

Meaghan Hunt-Wilson is enrolled at the University of Oklahoma and will graduate in 2011 with a Library Media Specialist certificate. She currently works for the Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins office as an Editor and Communications Specialist where she has helped organize three separate family literacy fairs in Oklahoma City and surrounding rural areas. Meaghan also volunteers with the Pioneer Library System and as a literacy coach for the Metro Literacy Coalition.

Bracken Klar is currently employed with the Tulsa City County Library in the Media Center at their Central Branch where he schedules the meeting rooms and manages the CD collection. He serves on the Library Employee Recognition committee, The Asian Festival Committee and the Executive Staff Association Council. Bracken is currently enrolled at the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Science at Tulsa.

Jennifer Lehner is currently enrolled at the University of Oklahoma and plans to graduate in 2011 with a concentration in cataloging and technical services within public libraries. Jennifer began her library career as a part-time shelve and has worked her way up within the Pioneer Library System to her current position as a cataloger. She has worked with the cataloging committee to help set policy in her library system and has been involved in cataloging training for the Pioneer Library System.

Nicholas Wojcik currently works as a Microform Technician with the Bizzell Library at the University of Oklahoma. Nicholas is working towards a dual degree in Art History and Library and Information Science concentrating on archives and special collections also with the University of Oklahoma. Nicholas love of art and art collections and his studies while in Istanbul Turkey helped him begin to understand the wealth of information available in libraries and decided to pursue a library career.