Talking to the community through Town Hall meetings

"Books and libraries and the will to use them are among the most important tools our nation has to diffuse knowledge and to develop our powers of creative wisdom."

—President John F. Kennedy

"Censorship will not bring back morality."

—Rev. Jerry Rice, Enid

In places across Oklahoma this year public libraries took the initiative in explaining the role of a library in the community and the First Amendment. The impetus was an Oklahoma Department of Libraries program offering Town Hall grants to libraries that would develop programs to address these issues.

Five public libraries used this opportunity. Bartlesville Public Library presented the first town hall meeting in February, followed in April by Shawnee, Beaver in July, and winding up in September with Tulsa City-County Library System and the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County. The libraries joined with Friends groups, county bar associations, members of the clergy, newspapers, schools, a politician and other community members.

The Town Hall meetings were a chance to present information about library issues, to make important connections in the community, and offer a public forum for questions and discussion. Each was different, tailored to that community. Related issues like local control, parents’ responsibilities in the library, censorship, collection development, and filtering were addressed.

Panel members in Bartlesville spoke to the question, "Given the universal scope of information currently available via electronic format... and keeping in mind the individual’s right to free speech... what responsibilities does that place on those providing access to information and to the citizens of Bartlesville?" Jan Sanders said afterward, "While we had not rehearsed our remarks, they did flow together well, and [let] audience members see the complexity and depth of the question. We did not expect, nor did we receive, consensus." In a nutshell the good points of doing the program were, Jan went on, that "it raised questions which many of our users had never considered and gave us an opportunity to explain, gave us a forum to discuss things like open access, parental control, and filtering in a sane, rational discussion before emotions and tempers played a part. It also gave us a chance to line up strong library supporters who, although they might not totally agree with our methods, do agree with what we are trying to accomplish."

Even a small community could do a Town Hall meeting. Librarian Annette Harness put together a panel for the Beaver town hall meeting which included State Rep. Jack Begley. An audience came in spite of the roasting July day!

Tulsa’s Central Library hosted a Town Hall meeting on “Your Reading Rights and Responsibilities” on Sept. 12. One hundred people came to hear Justice Marian Opala of the Oklahoma Supreme Court, followed by a 7-member panel moderated by Sister Sylvia Schmidt of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries. A few days later 50 people gathered in a packed room for the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County’s “Intellectual Freedom and the Public Library: The Library’s Role in a Wired World.”

Coverage of the events in the local

"We don’t speak with one voice capable of suppressing all the others."

—Justice Marian Opala

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Coverage of the events in the local

Cont. on p. 68

Tulsa town hall meeting panel members (l-r): Joseph Alsay, lay minister, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Dr. Cathy Burden, Superintendent of Union Public Schools; Steven Dow, Exec. Dir., Community Action Project of Tulsa County; Linda Saferite, Exec. Dir., Tulsa City-County Library System; Hon. Joe Williams, Councilor, City of Tulsa; Patrick Williams, Attorney; Joe Worley, Exec. Ed., Tulsa World (photo by John Fancher).
President's Column

This year I've often been greeted with, “how is OLA doing?” and I can enthusiastically answer “terrific!” We offer:

◊ continuing education opportunities and annual conference;
◊ communication and connecting members;
◊ coalitions and collaborative relationships;
◊ continuing conservative spending and fiscal responsibility.

Financially our association is in better shape this year because of the diligence and hard work of last year’s OLA leadership and OLA members. The bottom line for this year’s leadership remains the same: providing quality member services and opportunities while simultaneously increasing revenue over expenditures. Since July 1998, OLA has offered four workshops including:

“Don’t Get Caught in the Web” (August 13);
“Surf’s Up: Protecting Libraries from Internet Undertow” (October 1);
“ImMEDIATE Relief: Cataloging and Processing Nonbook Materials (October; and

How is the Oklahoma Library Association?

“Be Prepared: What to Do Before the Censor Comes” (November 12).

Plans are underway for three spring workshops including:

◊ “Yes, You Can! Web Page Development Made Simple” sponsored by Public Libraries Division on February 18 in Stillwater;
◊ “Tools for Managing and Accessing Internet Resources” sponsored by University and College Division possibly in April 1999; and
◊ Children’s and Young People’s Roundtable is planning a workshop on young adult services and programming for May 1999.

For registration information, contact Kay Boies at 348-0506 or watch the OLA web page at www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola

Membership dues provide 31 percent of OLA's overall revenue. Your new membership or renewal makes a difference.

Coalition building is important to the Association expanding support for OLA’s mission and legislative goals. OLA joined a coalition of 10 organizations that meet on March 10, 1999 for “Network for the 90's” at the State Capitol for a lobbying day. Coalition members include the Oklahoma League of Women Voters, BPW, AAUW, Family and Community Leaders, National Association of Social Workers, Delta Sigma Theta, Oklahoma Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Women’s Political Caucus. “Network for the 90’s” will precede our own OLA Legislative Day slated for Thursday, April 8, 1999. Registration information for both events will be sent to you.

Communication between members is vital. One of our most valuable member services is the opportunity to share with each other both formally (through workshops and conference) and informally during breaks at a workshop, during lunch, between meetings at conference. The OLA Divisions, Committees, and Roundtables have a presence on the OLA website where you can find the latest news from each group. In addition you can join the University and College Division (UCD) listerv or the OASLMS listerv. The Oklahoma Librarian continues a strong tradition of great news stories and information about your colleagues across the state.

Plans for the annual conference in Enid from March 24-27, 1999, are well underway. You will receive your conference preview in early January 1999.

OLLA is your professional association for improving and strengthening the quality of libraries and librarianship in Oklahoma. We need to help colleagues who are not yet connected to OLA to find a way to connect to the association and have the opportunity to participate. Look over the OLA calendar on the webpage and find a meeting of a group that interests you. If you don’t know what meeting to attend, give me a call and we can talk it over; I promise you that there is a group within this organization that will fit your needs. I realize that not everyone can get away for a meeting, so why not become an e-mail member?

And give thanks. A new column began in the September/October issue of the Oklahoma Librarian that is our membership “thanks” column. To thank an OLA member for a job well done, big or small, within the Association, just e-mail me (debra@pioneer.lib.ok.us) or our wondrous Oklahoma Librarian co-editors Rachel Butler and Karen Bays.

As we close our year of 1998, I want to take this opportunity to thank you — your membership in the Oklahoma Library Association is what makes this Association work and your participation in OLA is what makes the Association grow. Wishing each of you and your families a peaceful holiday season,

Debra Engel
Thanks!

...Pat Weaver-Meyers for chairing the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1999 Conference;

...Donna Schwarz for having a cake made in the shape of the OLA logo for the October OLA Membership Committee meeting;

...Gwen Witherspoon, Ken Bierman and Daphane Kerley for doing the yearly audit of OLA's books, plus those of OASLMS (Oklahoma Assn. of Library Media Specialists) and Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma;

...Andy Peters for placing the conference program planning forms on the OLA website;

...Glenda Lamb and her staff at the Enid and Garfield County Public Library for their past, present, and future help with the 1999 OLA conference;

...John Augelli, Library Director at the Stillwater Public Library, and his staff for hosting the October OLA Program Committee and Board meeting;

...Gretchen Hannefield for calligraphy on OLA's resolution thanking Mike Havener;

...Paula Walker and Encyclo-Media for giving OLA, OASLMS, and the Sequoyah Book Award Committee numerous opportunities to market memberships, services and activities;

...Members of the Sequoyah Reading Teams and the Sequoyah Administrative Team for their work at the Sequoyah booth during Encyclo-Media;

...Library supporters of S. 2288, the Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998;

...Kathy Latrobe and June Lester for the OASLMS listserv, benefit of OASLMS membership;

...Members of the Ethics Committee and Intellectual Freedom Committee for their successful October workshop on Internet policies;

...The Technical Services Roundtable members for their October workshop on cataloging and processing nonbook materials;

...Junie Janzen for planning, hosting, and bringing the refreshments for the two New Members Roundtable receptions held for OU library school students, one in Norman and one in Tulsa; and

...Donna Skvarla for delivering FOLIO (Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma) information throughout the state.

...Gary Phillips for his work on the design of the new Legislative Committee brochure, and to Bob Tormey for helping with layout and printing.

...Technical Services Roundtable workshop presenters: Mary O'Donnell, John Rosenhamer, Carolyn Hust, Katherine Wong, Heidi Johnson, and Technical Services Roundtable members for planning and organizing the workshop.

...Intellectual Freedom Committee, Public Library Division, and Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists for planning and implementing the November workshop: “Be Prepared: What to do BEFORE the censor comes” and program presenters: Kathy Latrobe, Desiree Webber, Jennifer Greenstreet, Marty Thompson, Linda Gann, Patrick Little, Theresa Dickson, Karen Morris, Pat Sprowls, and JoAnn Bierman.

And thanks to all the unnamed OLA contributors and providers of creative energy.

In this season of giving, remember the many gifts you’ve received from OLA . . . and PAY your dues!

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OCLC FirstSearch

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ALA’s first Diversity Officer speaks to Metropolitan Library System staff

Spanish speaking individuals, according to the Population Reference Bureau’s website, are expected to constitute 25% of U.S. population or around 100 million people by the year 2050. Spanish speakers in the United States are not a homogenous “ethnic group.” In fact, Spanish speakers represent a multitude of nations, racial backgrounds, and religions. They have achieved high educational levels and enjoyed considerable economic success.

On October 13th, the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County was honored with a visit from ALA’s first Diversity Officer, Sandra Rios Balderrama. In appointing Balderrama for this post, ALA has made an important new commitment to making the needs of Spanish speakers and other ethnic and racial groups a high profile concern of librarians nationwide. At Metropolitan’s Staff Development Day, which in its offerings explored the meaning of diversity, Balderrama in a keynote address and in workshops offered specific methods by which librarians and all staff can become more acquainted with the varied needs and concerns of this diverse group.

Balderrama’s keynote address was very powerful, emotional, and inspiring. She affirmed the audience for our willingness to address these issues. She said “It is a courageous act to get together and start talking about diversity... giving that person who walks into your library a chance to be a whole person rather than just a stereotype.” Balderrama emphasized that, regardless of your institution’s policy, it is up to each individual staff member to choose tolerance and acceptance over fear and ignorance. She insists that “every day you make strategic choices, take a risk, and make decisions about how you will interact with another person. This requires personal, daily leadership from each of us that transcends titles, degrees, or classifications, and requires personal integrity and determination.”

Networking with the community is an important part of providing good library service, but Balderrama issued this exhortation about communicating within the community: “Even more than understanding the demographics available through the school systems,” Balderrama explained, “even more than visiting the community leaders and getting on their agendas, it is the attitude of the persons who want to understand what is going on in their community that counts. It is most important to ‘listen with an open heart’ to the community and its concerns. Do not operate on stereotype or preconception. By entering into an ongoing dialogue with the community, the needs of all can be served.”

REFORMA, a 25 year old group of activists interested in services to Spanish speaking people has developed a multitude of manuals to guide and assist librarians who are willing to take on the challenge of getting to know and serve Spanish speaking communities. Balderrama is very active in REFORMA, and encouraged workshop attendees to investigate their website for further information and professional support: http://latino.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/reforma

--Ronna Davis

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Resolution thanking Michael Havener

WHEREAS, the purpose of OLA is to strengthen the quality of libraries, library services and librarianship in Oklahoma, and for that purpose brings together librarians, staff and friends to share knowledge and grow professionally; and

WHEREAS, Michael has given freely of his time, energy, enthusiasm, and insights in countless workshops, programs, planning sessions, and informal venues during his 10 years as an OU School of Library and Information Studies professor; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of OLA, Michael has fostered the development of all types of libraries and librarians across the state, not only through his involvement in OLA, but in many other state and national library groups; and

WHEREAS, Michael is a teacher and mentor, knowing when to lead and when to let things develop, as revealed by his guidance given as a continuing education committee member; and

WHEREAS, Michael promoted professional activities with students and modelled exemplary professional behavior to Oklahoma, helping to build new librarians to step into the field and OLA; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Oklahoma Library Association considers Michael Havener a friend for life, a real asset to the profession and the state; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we as an organization and as individuals wish Michael the very best! Thank you, Michael!

Adopted by the Executive Board on September 25, 1998

OLAs Awards nominations deadline extended

February 5, 1999 is the deadline for submitting nominations for an OLA award. Make sure the world knows about those special men and/or women who have done something for your library. Submit their name for recognition and honor at the Oklahoma Library Association Conference this Spring.

The following awards may be presented: The Distinguished Service Award, Citizen’s Recognition Award, Special Project Award, Special Meritorious Service Award, Outstanding New Librarian Award, and Oklahoma Library Service Award.

Awards Committee members are: Chair Carol Casey, Ernestine Clark, Sandy Ellison, Yvonne Hinchee and Marilyn Hinshaw. Visit the OLA Home Page for more information and nominations forms or contact Carol Casey, 6305 Ridgecrest Drive, Edmond, OK 73034, home 405/340-6798, work 405/330-3375, FAX 405/340-2882 or e-mail: casey@ionet.net, or any committee member.

Libraries: An American Value

Final draft of the ALA statement

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America’s libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

♦ We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library’s resources and services;

♦ We value our nation’s diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;

♦ We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services;

♦ We connect people and ideas by helping each person select and effectively use the library’s resources;

♦ We protect each individual’s privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;

♦ We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;

♦ We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners— informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant; but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech, in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

--Endorsed by the OLA Executive Board, Sept. 25, 1998
A genealogist goes to Washington

The National Institute on Genealogical Research was held July 13-18 in Washington, DC at the National Archives. The institute takes an in-depth look at federal records of genealogical value that are located in the Washington, DC area, and has been held annually since 1950. The class is limited to 40 students. The Archives provides strong support for the program.

I was honored to be awarded this year's Richard S. Lackey Memorial Scholarship. Each year the scholarship is given by the alumni association to a librarian serving genealogy patrons. The institute provides advanced genealogical education to experienced researchers. And this proved to be true as we delved into the many resources available at the Archives. Some sessions were taught by Archives staff, and attendees were able to use the facilities and become familiar with researching at the Archives.

Among the topics covered in the institute were using the National Archives and its "Finding Aids," land records, military records, immigration records, federal court records and census records. Some specialized records were also discussed, among them the Southern Claims Commission records and records on African Americans. We discussed holdings of the Archives' regional depository branches. Records of the Fort Worth branch, the regional branch for Oklahoma, were featured, particularly their Indian records.

The Archives is now online and we were given an overview of the web site <www.nara.gov>.

An interesting day was spent at Archives II in College Park, MD. This new facility, built in 1993, houses the Archives' collection of pictures, cartographic records, railroad records and other records that were moved because of space constraints at the facility in Washington, DC. While we were there we were introduced to John Carlin, Archivist of the U.S.

Attending the institute was very educational and rewarding. It was a pleasure to meet and work with the Archives' staff and the other attendees, many of whom were professional genealogists and researchers. Being able to actually research at the Archives and use the original records was a wonderful experience. It has proven very helpful as I assist genealogy researchers here in Oklahoma.

--Kathy Huber

How do you spell relief?

A full house of 70 people came to the Technical Services Roundtable workshop "ImMEDIAt e Relief: Cataloging and Processing of Nonbook Materials," on Oct. 23rd at the Midwest City Public Library. Participants found out about differences in cataloging AV vs. book materials, got practical techniques for doing physical description and subject analysis of nonbook items, and ideas for processing them.

Highlights included a keynote by Mary O'Donnell, Oklahoma State University library, and breakout sessions covering cataloging of specific types of nonbook materials. John Rosenhammer, Oklahoma City Community College, led a session on cataloging of videos; Carolyn Hust, Rose State College, dealt with Internet resources; and Katherine Wong, University of Oklahoma, reviewed cataloging of software; and the team of Jana Hausberg and Marygrace Berkowitz from Metropolitan Library System talked about cataloging multi-media items.

The wrap-up panel was a big hit. A group of public and academic librarians led an interactive discussion on processing issues and potential solutions. Heidi Johnson threw CDs--in the packaging used by Metropolitan Library System--on the floor to show the CDs would actually survive a bookdrop.

Workshop attendees were the usual varied crew, but with many more school librarians present than usually come to Technical Services workshops. Pauline Rodriguez also said, "Many people were new to OLA or new to technical services." Thanks to the State Dept. of Education for getting the news out to school librarians across the state. Many thanks also to the Midwest City Library for hosting the group. Workshop evaluations contained lots of positive comments on the site and on how extra nice the staff at the Library was!

Linda Saferite, Tulsa City-County library system Executive director strapped on waders and jumped into this Woodland Hills Mall fountain to gather coins. The Mall donated coins collected in September to the Library. Shoppers also learned about Library services as part of national Literacy Awareness Month activities. (photo by John Fancher)
Choose from a smorgasbord of Internet workshops in the ODL training lab

Internet Health Resources and Medline Training
January 19, 21, 26 and 28, 1999
Reference staff at the University of Oklahoma Bird Health Sciences Center Library will highlight general health resources in the morning. In the afternoon, they will provide basic training on searching Medline using PubMed. Registration begins December 1, 1998.

Basic Internet and Basic SearchBank
February 2 and 4, 1999
Office of Library Development staff explain internet resources and search strategies to beginning users of the web plus the use of SearchBank, the state-wide database. A 30 minute pre-introduction to the mouse and Windows 95 will be offered for novice users. Registration begins January 5, 1999.

Reader's Advisory and Quilts
February 16, 18, 23, and 25, 1999
Ginny Dietrich will highlight sites on books, authors and genres useful for reader's advisory. In the afternoon, Donna Skvarla will use her expertise to showcase quilting resources on the web. Registration begins January 4, 1999.

Travel and Gardening
March 16 and 18, 1999
Desiree Webber will present travel information in time to plan summer vacations followed by gardening sites in the afternoon presented by Ginny Dietrich. Registration begins February 1, 1999.

Summer Reading Program
April 6, 8, 13, and 15, 1999
Donna Norvell, Desiree Webber, and Vicki Mohr-Sanger will highlight internet and SearchBank sites that can be used to supplement ODL's 1999 Summer Reading Program: "Yippie Yi Yo: Join the Read Stampede!" As a result of the popularity of last year's workshop, THIS WILL BE A FULL DAY WORKSHOP. Registration begins March 1, 1999.

To register for classes, e-mail or call Phil Cooke at pc.oke@otln.odlstate.ok.us, (405) 521-2502 or 800-522-8116.

Town Hall meetings (cont. from p. 61)
Press was excellent, especially in Enid.
The day after the Enid event the Enid News & Eagle ran a superb article which began with panel member and attorney Stephen Jones' "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."
Patricia Davis, librarian at Enid High School for 27 years, said, "Information is power and if [people] want to make informed decisions, they have to have access to all materials." Some of the comments by newspaper managing editor Jerry Pittman, and Dr. Jerry Rice, minister of the First Presbyterian Church were also included, giving the wider newspaper audience the flavor of and important information from the town hall discussion.

"The town hall meetings were wonderful, said OLA's Kay Boies, who attended all the forums, "and they've given people in the communities better tools to support open libraries."

Though the meetings were approaches with a certain amount of trepidation by some, or ignored by others ("not in my community—I'm afraid to stir things up"), the town hall meetings individually and collectively have been a great success.

These events were not costly. Though there is not now funding from ODL for Town Hall meetings, any library, with a few handouts and donation of refreshments, could put on a town hall meeting. Libraries need to get their message out. Any librarian who was involved in the 1998 town hall meetings would be glad to help you plan one. And lots of people in our communities are hungry for information and thoughtful discussion.

--Rachel Butler

Factoids from "The Reader's Timeline," in Alberto Manguel's A History of Reading

C. 55 BC: For his dispatches, Julius Caesar invents one of the earliest codices—pages folded into a booklet—thereby presaging the end of the scroll and the beginning of the book as we know it.

C. 1000: To avoid parting with his collection of 117,000 books while traveling, the avid reader and Grand Vizier of Persia, Abdul Kassem Ismael, has them trained to walk in alphabetical order.

Well, it may not be life-or-death, but when you need assistance with your library automation system, you don't have time for answering machines and inexperienced representatives. At Nichols Advanced Technologies Inc., we give you the quality, timely support today's busy libraries demand. Our staff of librarians, media specialists, and computer experts are there for you — whether you're automating for the first time or a seasoned pro switching to our software from another system. Our outstanding customer service starts with our software. Athena leads the industry in Internet solutions, with products that put your library on the Internet or Intranet, give you one-click access to cataloged web sites, and empower you with Z39.50 access to hundreds of libraries and their MARC records. Prove it to yourself. Call 800/642-4648 or 512/342-2850 for a FREE sample copy of Athena on CD-ROM, or visit us at www.nicholsinc.com.

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— Marilyn Brown
Librarian
Hampton Bays, NY
OASLMS

Oklahoma Association School Library Media Specialists (OASLMS) is having an exciting year. The following programs are underway for OLA Convention in March:

- Shirley Climo will be the luncheon speaker, talking about “Old Tales, New Faces.” She will also speak at a regular session on “Telling the Truth.” Shirley is a delightful person and we are looking forward to her coming to Oklahoma.
- Pat Davis and Janet Coontz are planning a pre-conference workshop entitled “Library Tours.” Plan to be in Enid Wednesday so you will not miss this fun trip. We will be visiting several libraries and having lunch as a group. This will be a perfect time to share information and visit with other librarians across the state.
- Sue Jenkins, SDE Coordinator, will be presenting a session entitled “Selecting the Winners: An Examination and Celebration of Book Award Programs for Children and Young Adults.”
- Basha Hartley will be conducting a session entitled “Inside Rural Children’s Libraries-Low Budget Interior Design.”
- Connie Teague, media specialist at Pryor, is putting together a group of librarians to share ideas from various types of libraries. This session is entitled “Eclectic Information Sources.”
- Pat Zachary, Buffy Edwards, and Jayme Seat are organizing the auction to be held at the All Conference Reception Thursday evening. The reception is being held in a unique setting in Enid that should be “way cool.”
- Kay Walker with the Department of Agriculture is presenting “Ag in the Classroom” at a regular session. This session will acquaint you with free resource and hands-on educational materials that are offered to every elementary school in the state.

A special thanks to all OASLMS members for the hard work you do and the time you devote to sharing your expertise.

To those who’ve not yet joined, your becoming a member will support OASLMS’ commitment to build a network of 1000 school library media specialists by the year 2000. This network will allow us to communicate, share ideas and resources and be an active voice in decisions that affect school libraries and librarians.

--Carol Fox, OASLMS Chair

SRRT Goes To The Community

Sometimes I forget, when juggling my day-to-day work life, that we librarians are an important part of a larger community—the community of educators, artists, and advocates of life-long learning. On Oct. 17th, Social Responsibilities Roundtable joined other organizations at St. Luke’s Methodist Church in Oklahoma City to celebrate the way women have worked in partnership to create a better world. Organized through the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, “Women’s Bold Journeys - From Weavings to Websites” was an opportunity for us to remind the public of the contributions librarians have made to the cultural tapestry of Oklahoma.

When we heard about this conference, we immediately thought of Ruth Brown and quickly secured an exhibit booth. Throughout the day-long event, more than 250 women visited our booth, learning about the “indiscreet” Miss Brown and signing up to win Maya Angelou audio books which had been generously donated to us by Full Circle Bookstore. This turned out to be an even better draw to our table because Dr. Angelou, who had been scheduled as keynote speaker, had taken a fall and was therefore unable to make it to Oklahoma City. Our disappointment was overcome in the Opening Session when former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Wilma Mankiller, demonstrated how simple storytelling can become powerful oratory. Her journey from underconfident mother of two working behind the scenes for social change to articulate Head of the Cherokee Nation was beautiful and riveting. Her stories were lessons in confrontation and conciliation, humor, wit and stoic refusal to bow to the foolishness of stereotypes.

The Church that day was teeming with women from every part of the City and from around the State. The agenda was packed with sessions on the arts, leadership, women’s history, community development, health and spiritual issues and cross-cultural, cross-generation communication. Indeed, communication was the primary activity whether in the exhibit area or in workshops. Although it was full, I was able to squeeze into the poetry writing workshop and heard women and men read from their work which reminded us all how diverse our lives are and how rooted in a desire for wholeness. All the workshops were packed and high energy. Marla Roberson and Deb Willis came back high as wild angels from the drumming workshop. Glenda Lamb, Vickie Dixon, and Carolyn Mahin worked the exhibit booth when the rest of us were in workshops and kept the spirit high at our table. Deb Willis had created a power point program on ALA/OLA/SRRT which scolled with lovely colors and caught the attention of those who thought they had merely wandered over for candy from our table.

I want to thank Glenda Lamb, Carolyn Mahin, Deb Willis, Cathy Van Hoy, Fran Harbert, Marla Roberson, and Linda Jordan for working so gloriously together to plan and carry out this activity. I also must thank Louise Robbins for her assistance in helping us obtain the photographs for the exhibit and in encouraging us in the project. We hope our efforts will be rewarded with new names for the donor list and in even more Ruth Brown-inspired projects. But to be felt valued and supported in one’s community is reward of another kind, and I think I speak for all the SRRT members who experienced this Conference—we were blessed.

--Jane Taylor
**Executive Board takes action**

SEPTEMBER

The OLA Executive Board met Sept. 25, 1998 at the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County and took these actions:

♦ Approved the minutes of the Aug. 22 meeting.
♦ Accepted the treasurer’s report.
♦ Heard from Jan Sanders on the Legislative Committee’s draft, trifold legislative brochure. Endorsed the proposed 1998/99 goals as presented.
♦ Adopted a resolution of appreciation for Mike Havener, drafted by Rachel Butler.
♦ Discussed the revised “Libraries: An American Value” statement prepared by ALA under President Ann Symons. Voted to endorse the statement.
♦ Currently there are two OLA listservs, a moderated list run by OASLMS for OASLMS members only, and an unmoderated University & College Division listserv. Discussed guidelines drafted by Debra Engel for OLA listservs, but did not adopt a policy at this time.
♦ In response to a request by the ALA Washington Office, voted to support S. 2288, the Wendell H. Ford Government Publications Reform Act of 1998.

OCTOBER

On Oct. 16, 1998 the OLA Board met at the Stillwater Public Library and took these actions:

♦ Approved the minutes of the Sept. 25 meeting.
♦ Accepted the treasurer’s report as presented by John Augelli, who noted capital expenses to replace the office computer at the beginning of this year (FY 99).
♦ Accepted the audit report submitted by Gwen Witherpoon, representing the Audit Committee.
♦ Approved a motion authorizing the OLA treasurer to pay state sales tax without waiting for the president’s approval. The Executive Director’s salary and benefit payments are already done this way.
♦ Reviewed a notification letter from the Public Library Association and endorsed their proposed annual conference date of April 3-5, 2002.
♦ Heard a proposal by Debra Engel for an ad hoc committee on publicity. Some discussion ensued, but no official action.
♦ Accepted a $500 grant from the Center for the Book to support Billie Letts’ presentation at OLA’s Annual Conference.
♦ Mona Hatfield explained needs for Sequoyah book awards promotional materials and sales items. Authorized purchase of items estimated to cost about $300.

**People and places**

ANN MILLER, Library Media Specialist at Truman Elementary School in Norman, is the winner of the Oklahoma Assn. of School Library Media Specialists Polly Clarke Award. This award is given to an Oklahoma library media specialist who has established an exemplary library media program which serves the needs of students, teachers, and administrators.

Ann says, “I believe I have achieved my goal of the library as the most important classroom in the building. My library is seldom quiet, sometimes exuberant, and always useful.” However, this library media specialist is often replaced by the Library Detective, Zelda Zero, Christopher Columbus, and many other visitors from her personal cast of characters she uses to motivate learning. Another of her successes has been Truman’s Technology Committee and staff development activities.

The award was presented at the OASLMS luncheon at Encyclo-Media Conference in Okla. City on Sept. 17, 1998, and includes a cash prize from Follett Library Companies.

JANE LILLY, Manager of the Moore Public Library, was honored Nov. 16 by the City of Moore by a proclamation signed by the mayor. She’s retiring from the Pioneer Library System branch later this year. She began her library career in 1985 as a substitute librarian in the Moore and Norman branches, and has been branch manager since 1991. She and her husband John plan to travel and spend time with their grandchildren.

KATE CORBETT is Reference/Technical Services Librarian at Langston University.

Formerly a library media specialist at Poteau High School, KAREN NEUROHR is now Library Director at Carl Albert State College in Poteau.

FRANCINE FISK is the new Library Director at University of Tulsa’s McFarlin Library, replacing ROBERT PATTERSON, who retired this spring. Francine has been at TU since 1985, serving as Coordinator of General Services during the past five years.

Renovations are underway at the Brookside Library, which closed Aug. 15. The Tulsa City-County Library system is expanding the branch from 3,200 sq. ft. to 7,200 sq. ft. The expansion is possible because landlords Bill and Donna Ramsey donated the 32-year old building and adjacent land. Improvements include adding a 75-seat community meeting room, more computers and technology resources, and an expanded book collection. The branch will reopen in January.

The Tulsa Library Trust’s Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature was presented to Cynthia Voigt in August. She drove more than 1,800 miles from her home in Maine to an Oklahoma baking in 100 degree heat!
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