FOLIO lauded as best state Friends’ group of 1998

Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, FOLIO, received the Baker & Taylor Award as the best State Friends group of 1998 at the meeting of Friends of Libraries USA, FOLUSA, on June 26 in New Orleans. Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, FOLIO, was an outgrowth of the Governor’s Conference on Libraries in 1978. A Proclamation called for a state Friends of the Library to be formed. From that Proclamation came the original Board and Membership of FOLIO. All Board Members are lovers of books so the name FOLIO seemed particularly appropriate.

During 1998 FOLIO worked on objectives set at its creation:
- Supporting Friends Groups in Oklahoma.
- Offering seed grants to form new Friends Groups.
- Continuing to speak to potential Friends groups.
- Publishing a newsletter.
- Supporting the legislative goals of OLA.
- Publishing a Biennial Directory of Oklahoma Friends.
- Holding annual membership meetings for FOLIO.
- Holding quarterly meetings of the FOLIO Board.
- Awarding annual awards for excellent Friends' events.
- Offering scholarships to library support staff.
- Creating levels of membership.

During 1998-1999 FOLIO focused its activities on First Amendment Rights.
- Attending Legislative Day at the Capitol and bringing the message of First Amendment rights to individual Senators and House Members.
- Bringing Lee Brawner, Director of the Metropolitan Library System, to the Annual Meeting to describe his system's response to problems of censorship.
- Bringing Justice Marian Opaia and other distinguished civic leaders to Tulsa to speak in a Town Hall on the Constitution and First Amendment.

Other activities to support Oklahoma libraries include:
- Quarterly Meetings of Governing Board.... Each meeting of the FOLIO Governing Board is held in a different public library. During 1998, meetings were held in Altus, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, and Tulsa. Board members are well acquainted with libraries in Oklahoma when they have finished their terms.
- Annual Meeting.... The Annual Meeting of FOLIO is a part of OLA's Annual Conference. A highlight of the 1998 meeting in Tulsa was the roll call of Oklahoma Friends Groups. Lee Brawner, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City, spoke on the First Amendment problems his system has faced.
- Town Hall.... Together with the Tulsa City-County Library System and Friends of the Tulsa Public Library, FOLIO sponsored in May 1998 a Town Hall on First Amendment guarantees. FOLIO Board Members planned and managed the presentation. After the Town Hall, FOLIO hosted a reception at the home of a Board member.
- Boardsmanship Project.... FOLIO took a leading role in developing a Boardsmanship Workshop in 1998. Individual presenters and a panel of FOLIO members helped Library Commissions and Boards throughout Oklahoma understand the rights and responsibilities of their service.
- Seed Grants.... FOLIO offers seed grants of $225 to all new Friends groups in the state. This money is used for the fees involved in achieving non-profit status. Among the grants go information about activities, events, and fund raising for Oklahoma's Friends groups. Seed grants in 1998 went to Friends of the Mannford Library and Friends of the Genealogical Collection at the Schusterman-Benson Branch of the Tulsa City-County Library System.

Speakers' Bureau.... Members of the Governing Board

(Continued on p.46)
"Libraries: Roots to the Future"

It is an awesome responsibility to be elected as president of the Oklahoma Library Association. As I sit here thinking of what I want to say to you, the membership, in my first presidential column, I am struck by thoughts of the importance of libraries to communities and the people they serve. We often lose sight of the fact that thousands of people depend upon their library for information, solace, humor, ideas and much, much more. Libraries are a vital part of our past, present, and future. Libraries are the roots upon which knowledge grows, the roots upon which children and adults nurture their love of learning and reading, and the roots for community pride and involvement. Towards that end, I have selected as the theme for this year: "Libraries: Roots to the Future." We hope in the coming months to provide the membership with ideas and information that can help libraries continue to be the "roots" in their communities, their schools and universities, and in their lives.

It is indeed a privilege to begin my year as president when the association is in such outstanding shape due to the leadership of Debra Engel, past president, and our invaluable executive director, Kay Boies. Their guidance and the guidance of the OLA leadership of the past several years has enabled the association to weather the financial hardship of the past and emerge as a much stronger, more vital organization. Last year, OLA leadership produced and provided several outstanding workshops and a conference in Enid that was successful beyond expectations. The membership committee, chaired by Charles Brooks and encouraged by President Engel led OLA to a record number of individual members - 1126! We need to continue to work on "growing" that number by maintaining current members and adding more new members. The vitality of our organization is dependent upon our membership. With your help and support, we will "build" on the successes of the past with another great year and conference (to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel, in Tulsa, April 26-29).

Please let me and the other members of the OLA Leadership team hear your ideas and your visions for the continued growth of our association as we embark on this exciting year!

-Donna Morris

| 1999-2000 Oklahoma Library Association Calendar |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------
| August 20 | Program Comm/Exec Bd, Rose State College, Midwest City - 10 am |
| August 27 | Sequoyah YA Reading Team, Belle Isle PL, OKC - 10 am |
| August 31 | OLA/ODL Certification - Collection Dev - Guymon |
| September | Library Card Sign-Up Month |
| September 1 | Oklahoma Librarian Deadline |
| September 3 | OLA/ODL Certification - Serving Community & Collection Dev - Duncan |
| September 6 | Labor Day |
| September 7 | Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am |
| September 8 | OLA/ODL Certification - Serving Community & Collection Dev - Vinita |
| September 9 | OLA/ODL Certification - Serving Community & Coll Dev - Eufaula |
| September 10 | Membership Committee - 10 am |
| September 11 | Rosh Hashanah |
| September 14 | University and College Division, OSU Library - 1 pm |
| Sept. 16-17 | Encyclo-media |
| September 24 | Program Committee/Executive Board, SWOSU, Weatherford - 10 am |
| Sept 25-Oct 2 | Banned Books Week |
| October 1 | Sequoyah YA Reading Team, Brookside PL, Tulsa - 10 am |
| October 5 | Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am |
| October 6 | OLA/ODL Certification - Collection Dev & Library Services - Woodward |
| October 7 | OLA/ODL Certification - Collection Dev & Library Services - Ardmore |
| October 8 | Membership Committee - 10 am |
| October 11 | Columbus Day |
| October 13 | OLA/ODL Certification - Youth Services - Tahlequah |
| October 14 | OLA/ODL Certification - Reference & Adult Services - Bartlesville |
| October 15 | Program Committee/Executive Bd, Adams Mark Hotel, Tulsa - 10 am |
| October 17-23 | Teen Read Week |
| October 20 | OLA/ODL Certification - Ref & Adult Services - Guymon |
| October 21 | OLA/ODL Certification - Youth Services - Beaver |
| Oct. 22-25 | So., Central Chapter Medical Library Assoc Annual Meeting, Norman |
| October 27 | OLA/ODL Certification - Youth Services - Langley |
| October 29 | TSRT Workshop, Bizzell Memorial Library, OU |
| November 1 | Oklahoma Librarian Deadline |
| November 2 | Legislative Committee, ODL - 10 am |
| November 5 | Sequoyah YA Reading Team, Belle Isle PL, OKC - 10 a.m. |
| November 9 | OLA/ODL Certification - Ref & Adult Services - Hugo |
| Nov. 10-14 | AASL Ninth National Conference, Birmingham, AL |
| November 11 | Veterans Day |
| November 12 | Membership Committee - 10 am |
| November 16 | OLA/ODL Certification - Reference & Adult Services - Yukon |
| November 17 | OLA/ODL Certification - Youth Services - Mountain View |
| November 19 | Program Committee/Executive Board, Enid Public Schools - 10 am |
| Nov. 15-21 | Children's Book Week |
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Leadership Retreat focuses on teamwork
Participants at the 1999 OLA Leadership Retreat at Roman Nose Lodge this May were greeted by the natural beauty of northwestern Oklahoma. Gypsum Hills and short buttes of red rock erupted out of the prairie, and canyons snaked along through the park, filled with cedar trees and cool breezes. Late spring wildflowers abounded in rich profusion, dotting the rocks with brilliant splashes of color.

In this lovely setting, highly conducive to relaxation and the free flow of imagination, incoming President Donna Morris welcomed us with an agenda designed to refresh and re-energize us for the coming year. First up on the program was a team-building exercise with Linda Dowling, President of Communication Concepts, called the “amoeba.” We each picked a toy that illustrated a gift we brought to OLA, then Linda tied a rope around the perimeter of our group, forcing us to work together closely (see picture on front cover). The object was for everyone to step over a rope about 14” high without touching the rope, bringing our bundle of gifts over the obstacle. If any person touched the rope we were trying to cross, the entire group had to go back and start over. After about three attempts, we organized ourselves and worked together well enough that we were able to cross the rope. Communication, leadership, and interdependence were crucial to our success, though this wasn’t obvious to me at first. I was tricked into learning something with a fun game!

Kay Boies, Executive Director, talked about the “nuts and bolts” of how OLA works. Kay emphasized the importance of delegating, saying that we should “…ask people to be involved and involve as many people as possible.” She stressed the importance of the human element in participation in OLA: “People join because someone cares that they are a member. Personal contact makes the difference.”

Highlights of this retreat for me were the loud and silly sing-along on the hayride, nature hikes with people I don’t get to see very often, a moonlight swim with Basha Hartley (who could probably swim for hours and not get tired or cold), and the barbecue picnic. I think OLA really is all about people. The work we do, the programs we provide, and the committees we serve on are all very important, but I believe, secondary to that feeling of connectedness to others who share common goals.

Karen Bays

IMPORTANT NOTES
♦ If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 1999-2000, this will be your final issue of the Oklahoma Librarian.
♦ To subscribe to the OLA members electronic discussion list go to: onelist.com/subscribe/ola
Start writing your papers about popular culture and libraries now!

The Libraries and Popular Culture area of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Assn. and Southwest/Texas American Culture Assn. solicits paper proposals from librarians, graduate students, library school faculty, collectors, writers, and other aficionados (yes! including people who use libraries, too!) of popular culture and libraries for their annual conference, February 9-12, 2000, in Albuquerque, NM! Also welcome are proposals for slide shows, video presentations, workshop formats, and panels organized around common themes. We welcome proposals related to archives, museums, and other information settings, too.

Suggested topics:
- profiles of popular culture collections
- reports of research studies in the area of popular culture and libraries
- marketing popular culture materials to library users
- discussion of intellectual freedom issues related to popular culture resources
- collection building and popular culture resources
- organization and description of popular culture resources
- technology and popular culture in libraries
and other topics welcome!!

Send a 200-word abstract to the area co-chairs by December 1, 1999:
Rhonda Harris Taylor / Judith Overmier
School of Library and Information Studies
401 West Brooks, Room 120
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019-6032
PHONE (405) 325-3921
FAX (405) 325-7648

e-mail address: rtaylor@ou.edu AND/OR jovermier@ou.edu

For more details, visit the Association’s web site at http://www2.okstate.edu/swpca

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I attended the annual conference of the American Library Association in New Orleans at the end of June, during which I attended all of the Council meetings, the Executive Board informational meeting, the membership meeting, and one of the Chapter Relations meetings. On that basis, I can report the following:

- It rained uncommonly hard at the beginning and then turned very hot.
- ALA is financially sound and growing, with a membership of over 60,000 individuals.
- Colin Powell is a good speaker who does his homework and is not afraid to confront issues head on. He is married to a librarian and he believes in libraries, local control of Internet policies, and invited all libraries to join him in his campaign to make sure all young people can read well and that none are left behind.
- On the urging of Council, the Treasurer investigated the possibility of socially responsible investing, and has learned that it should be possible to do so without affecting revenues.
- Sarah Long’s theme for next year is “Libraries Build Community.” She wants to receive anecdotal information of things that are now happening across the country.
- ALA is initiating a study of outsourcing in libraries, with a report due next year.
- The budget for 99-00 will be over $40,000,000 for the first time. The key action areas are:
  1. Developing a national advertising campaign
  2. Public programming that links libraries, cultures, and communities
  3. Solidifying ALA’s technology infrastructure
  4. Exploring organizational and structural enhancements
  5. Continuing to establish relationships on a global basis
- The Congress on Professional Education was counted a success. Three new task forces are being established to recommend actions as follow up to the Congress. Anyone interested in serving on one of those task forces should contact Sarah Long quickly.
- An attempt will be made in September to obtain direct member input about priorities electronically—watch for this opportunity!
- There continues to be an emphasis on diversity initiatives. A new book entitled Stop Talking, Start Doing contains tips on how to interest more people of color in librarianship. Everyone seems to be frustrated by the lack of minorities in library schools and working in the field.
- Oklahoma has one of the new group of 50 Spectrum scholars.
- A new task force has been appointed to look at how ALA’s website links to other websites. They hope to be finished within a month. They are looking at selection policies, practices of maintenance and monitoring active links. They are also looking for a process by which ALA would look at complaints.
- We said farewell and thanked Ann Symons for a very good presidential year, and welcomed Sarah Long, wishing her well in her year. Nancy Kranich will succeed Sarah.
- Five years ago, ALA adopted its Coalition for a Digital Future, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act passed in 1998 includes significant protection for fair use of electronic information.
- ALA’s leadership in educating parents about the Internet has been cited by President Clinton and several prominent television news programs.
- The Fund for America’s Libraries was incorporated as an independent charitable foundation to support the work of ALA. Former First Lady Barbara Bush, U.S. Senator Paul Simon, and noted historian and author David McCullough are among the charter board members.
- Libraries On-line, a pilot project to explore new ways to extend information technologies was developed by ALA with funding from Microsoft. The program’s success led to a national $400 million program sponsored by the Gates Library Foundation, the largest public works project for libraries since Andrew Carnegie funded new library buildings.

There was discussion on how to make membership meetings more interesting so members will actually attend them. Nothing much came of that except to keep trying different times and formats. If you have ideas, please let me know. Or maybe we just don’t need one at all!

The Executive Board has forwarded to the Fund for America’s Libraries three priorities for funding this year: Spectrum Scholarships, Visibility/Advocacy for Libraries, and Literacy.

"Celebrating America’s Library and America’s Libraries" is a nifty brochure containing ideas and tips for promoting libraries and building partnerships. Lots of ideas on ways to tie into national publicity and ways to help the Library of Congress celebrate its 200th birthday next year.

Finally, here are the annual conference sites and dates for the next few years:

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<td>2000</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>July 6-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>June 14-20</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>June 13-19</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>June 19-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>June 24-30</td>
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As always, it is my pleasure to represent Oklahoma on the Council. Let me know if I can answer questions or communicate concerns to ALA for you.

— Jan Keene

Learning and Companionship

"... ALA conferences are about two very important things—learning and companionship. It is probably true that attendees learn more in informal ways than they do from programs, but they do learn. The companionship matters because we need to know that we share and are willing to work together for goals, ideas, and values in a world that is often inimical to all three." —from Our Singular Strengths: Meditations for Librarians by Michael Gorman, p.108
A new star is born: enthusiasm and energy abound in establishment of Friends group for Langston University Libraries!

Early in February 1999, two librarians invited about 20 faculty and staff members at Langston University to join them for lunch and to listen to their ideas for starting the Friends of Langston University Libraries. About a dozen people came to that first meeting and they listened and made suggestions. A smaller group continued the process of creating an organization, and they had their first success with a campus-wide celebration called SpringFest'99.

All campus organizations, both student and academic, were contacted and invited to participate in SpringFest'99. The response was great! Each group planned their own activity, or staffed a table or booth. The Senior Class, the Counseling Center and the Basketball Coach were among the campus groups who joined the Logan County Elections Commission and Health Department out on the lawn. The Friends distributed membership information, bookmarks and soft drinks. Food was sold from a vending cart, adding to the air of festivity. As a membership drive, the day was not a big success, but as a "coming out party," it was a barnburner! People stopped to tell us what a great idea it was, and how glad they were that we sponsored the event. Needless to say, plans are already being made for next year.

The Friends of Langston University Libraries has made library service to the children of the towns of Langston and Coyle one of its cornerstone goals. A summer reading club is planned for early August. The "Reading Lions Club" will be greatly aided by a grant from the Libri Foundation of $1000 worth of new hardcover children's books which will augment the existing children's collection. We will do some minor redecorating of our 3rd floor study room, and it will become the "Reading Lions" clubhouse.

Other goals include:
- To create greater awareness in the University community of the facilities, services and needs of the University Libraries;
- To provide support for University Library programs;
- To sponsor programs designed to add to the cultural life of the University community;
- To raise funds in the form of memberships, endowments and gifts to supplement the budgets of the University Libraries.

Our membership list is not long, but it is growing. We are looking ahead to the Fall semester, making plans for an author visit and a social event over winter break. We would love to hear from other Academic Friends. You can email me at: kcorbett@lunet.edu or call me at Langston University.

-Kate Corbett

"During the Centennial Celebration, a time capsule was buried between the two Centennial Arches, beneath the commemorative granite bench. This capsule, an aluminum tank sealed in a concrete vault containing 40 historical items, will be opened during the Bicentennial Celebration in the year 2090. The capsule's contents were selected to provide future generations with a contemporary snapshot of the 1990 University. A few of the articles chosen were: a yearbook, a message from then OU President Richard L. Van Horn, a football press guidebook and an AIDS pamphlet. Interestingly, no item that was technology dependent was included since the means to access such material would be nonexistent in 100 years."

—from The University of Oklahoma Historical Campus Tour booklet, 5/98
Storytime 2000—Reevaluating an old favorite

In 1997, scientists released a flood of new information about how human brains develop. According to the new research, the first three years: from birth to age three, are the most important in making connections that shape a lifetime of experiences. Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine found that children who don't play much and are rarely touched develop brains 20 or 30% smaller than normal for their age. Every person who interacts with a young child on a regular basis has the potential to shape the child's future.

Implications for storytime:

We need to be doing storytime for babies, both to stimulate the child and to teach parents and child care givers why stories, songs, and play are important to babies, and how to interact with their young children.

We need to be doing as much outreach as possible, to hospitals, day cares, and parents-to-be. Storytime needs to be available to as many young children as possible wherever they can attend.

10 Things Children Need

Child development specialists have identified 10 things as the most important building blocks we can give our children. These can be easily incorporated into each storytime, and are probably things you are already doing.

1. Interaction: Converse with children before and after storytime. Respond to their conversation using exaggerated gestures, etc. Ask children to "help" with storytime: choose things to have on Old MacDonald's Farm or on the bus, act out nursery rhymes, help with flannel board & other props.

2. Touch: Children should ALWAYS initiate. When they are playing with your shoestrings, or creeping closer and closer to you or to other storytimers, it's because they need to be touched. Shake hands on the way out of storytime. Be patient with kids who don't have a sense of personal space.

3. Stable Relationships: Opening and closing routines are important. Have storytime at the same day and time during the same months each year. Repeat songs and stories. If possible, try to have the same person do the same storytime each week.

4. Safe, Healthy, Environment: Check for staples, pins, food, etc. that might have been left in the room. Have Lysol handy, wash stuffed animals, blocks. Walk through area on your knees: what looks inviting to chew/climb on, babyproofing storytime room, having Kleenex and Bandaid's handy. Have a phone available, another adult on hand for emergencies.

5. Self-Esteem: Learn the names of the kids. The library is one of the few places where a child is known for himself, rather than as someone's child. Little kids like to help. Let them pick up crayons, help with flannel board stories, etc.

6. Quality Child Care: Outreach to day care centers and working with day care certification centers is crucial. If child care workers and parents don't know how to read to the kids, or don't feel comfortable reading, they probably won't.

7. Communication: Have handouts available for parents with words to songs & fingerplays, more books to read at home, etc. Watch your body language, children are especially sensitive to it. If you aren't having fun, they know! Have books available in other languages, particularly if you have non-native speakers in your storytime audience. Most kids are fascinated to hear a picture book in English and again in another language.

8. Play: It's easy to find ways to incorporate play into storytime. Act out pieces of picture books, with dances, cheers, or whatever the characters are doing. Make up new words to traditional songs. Be silly.

9. Music: Kids need music, but you don't have to be Beverly Sills to sing. If you absolutely hate to sing, use CDs and tapes and sing along with them.

10. Reading: Read to Your Bunny by Rosemary Wells is a great book to share with babies, kids and parents. Choose books that are developmentally appropriate for the age of the kids in your storytime.

KISS: Keep it Simple Storytime

You don't have to be Caroline Feller Bauer to do this. You can do a storytime that requires less than 15 minutes preparation time. The important thing is that you do storytime and that you have fun.

1. Storytime can be scheduled or unscheduled.

2. Parents do not have to sign up in advance to bring their children to storytime. Think about the impact the rules you use have on the children you are trying to serve.

3. Storytimes do not have to include a craft.

4. Storytimes do not have to have a theme. There are no theme police.

5. Storytimes should be open to children and their parents—part of the idea of doing storytime is to teach the parents how to do it at home.

6. Storytimes should make parents and children feel good about themselves and the library. If little ones are just not in the mood to sit quietly and listen, cut the stories short, do some singing and dancing, and enjoy yourself. The world will not end if you don't read all your books.

7. You don't have to sing. Tapes or CDs are fine, as long as the kids get some music.

8. One year olds can enjoy storytimes for threes...so can seven-year-olds.

9. Leave the door open. If a child can only handle the first half of storytime that's OK.

10. Plan storytimes for the very young. Birth to three is a critical time for development.

11. Don't advertise a book by reading it that you aren't prepared to let a child check out or place holds on.

12. Storytime isn't just for little kids. Adults, young adults, and older kids enjoy it too.

13. You don't have to finish the book just because you started it.

14. You don't have to read all the books, if it's not working, quit early or sing or cheer or whatever.

15. It's OK to read a book twice in one storytime if the kids want to.

16. Storytelling does not have to be perfect. If you forget, make it up or let the kids help make it up.

17. Children should see themselves in books (ethnic and cultural diversity in characters).

18. You don't have to do puppets if you don't want.

19. Storytime can be LOUD!

20. Give yourself permission to play.

—Basha Hartley, Donna Norvell, Carla Hickey, Leslie Langley, Kathy Logan, Karen Lehr, Beth DeGeer
SRRT advocates for underserved population at OLA Annual Conference

The Social Responsibilities Round Table presented "Unstraitening the Shelves: Making Room for Gay and Lesbian Literature" at OLA in Enid this year. The panel whose moderator was Linda Jordan, Pioneer Public Library, was comprised of Anne Moore, OU; Marla Roberson, Children's Hospital of OKC; Jane Taylor, OCO; Cathy Van Hoy, ODL; and Deb Willis, Metropolitan Library System. Discussion topics included collection development, reviews of literature, book awards, review of reference sources, Internet sites, and helping the public locate gay and lesbian material.

The panel began with a very moving and powerful video clip that Jane and Deb had filmed featuring gay and lesbian members of Church of the Open Arms. The people in the video gave a brief account of why the library system was so important to discovering their sexuality. Many suggested that the library helped them feel better about themselves and realized that they were not the "only" person who questioned their individual sexuality.

Maria reminded us that we should collect for gay and lesbian material as we would any other area. A written policy to address these special collections can be helpful when the material is challenged. It also helps with collection development. Anne, who is on the book nominating committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Task Force of ALA, explained the nomination process. She also shared information on the three most noted awards for GLB literature: the GLBTF, the Lambda and the Triangle. Jane gave an overview of traditional reference sources. Cathy supplied a very helpful internet resource sheet. Deb developed a pathfinder on how to locate gay and lesbian material in the library.

The presentation included a display of books that were nominated for the GLB Task Force Award. One of those books, Suits Me, the autobiography of Billy Tipton, features Enid, Oklahoma where Billy grew up. A listing of GLB books available from the Pioneer System and the Metropolitan System were also exhibited. Handouts included an Internet Resources Bibliography by Cathy Van Hoy, Gay and Lesbian Material: A Pathfinder by Deb Willis and a short Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Collection Development Reference List by Marla Roberson.

A few of the web pages that should be mentioned here are Library Q: Queer Internet Resources for Librarians and Library Users (http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/library/libq); Queer America: The National Database of Lesbian and Gay Resources (http://www.queer.com/queeramerica); and GLSEN: Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (http://www.glsen.org). Monographs to review are Gay and Lesbian Library Service, edited by Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt and Cassell's Queer Companion: A Dictionary of Lesbian and Gay Life and Culture by William Stewart. Specialized encyclopedias include Completely Queer: The Gay and Lesbian Encyclopedia. Other material is available on the handouts. If you are interested in a copy of the handouts, please contact one of the panel members. We are also attempting to link the handouts to our web page.

Book winners of the GLBT Force of the ALA for the year 1998 are Michael Cunningham's The Hours and Sarah Schulmans' Stagestruck: Theatre, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America. A complete list of the task force winners is available at the GLBT Force web page at (http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html). Other book award winners are available at Lambda Book Report (http://www.lambdalit.org) Publishing Triangle Awards does not have a web page available at the current time.

At the end of the program, a questionnaire was passed to the audience. Some of the comments received were "I liked the emphasis on the positive effect these resources could have on friends/family and others just wanting to learn more about these topics." "Thank you. I have long advocated for a good and current gay/lesbian collection in my library." "I'm all riled up and excited about looking at how these populations are/are not being served at my library and taking some steps to make sure more people are served."

Please visit our web site at http://www.pioneer.lib.ok.us/ola/srrt.htm

—Marla Roberson
OLA member reports on First Amendment Congress Oklahoma

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Along with some 100 others, I attended the First Amendment Congress Oklahoma sponsored by a special committee of Freedom of Information Oklahoma, Inc. on two days in late April. The Congress, which was a multi-faceted discussion of First Amendment rights and responsibilities, served as a dynamic jump-start to FOI’s project to establish First Amendment Resource Centers in our state’s public libraries. Speakers included attorneys; journalists; ethicists; a former Oklahoma Attorney General and the current First Assistant Attorney General; the Dean of the University of Tulsa’s College of Law; and our own Jan Sanders, Director of the Bartlesville Public Library.

Tom Gruber, First Assistant Attorney General, started things off by reminding attendees that the Open Meeting Law requires putting enough information on any public agenda that any member of the public who knows nothing about the topic will be able to decide if she or he wants to attend. “We are doing the public’s business,” Gruber said. “We must do all we can to enhance the public’s knowledge.”

Dr. Martin H. Beilsy, Dean and professor of law at the University of Tulsa, managed to blur the lines between members of “hate groups” and just regular folks. He said that, like it or not, we are all group identified – with groups such as the PTA, the Republican Party, the National Association of Women, the NRA, the Sierra Club, the NAACP, the OLA, the ALA and the Democratic Party – each organization is to some degree exclusionary.

“The problem comes,” Beilsy explained, “when groups seek to destroy the rights of others in the name of those who think like they do.” Beilsy said prejudices have changed through the years, then pointed out three prejudices currently considered politically unacceptable – religious prejudice, race prejudice and age prejudice. “Therefore,” he said, “groups that speak out in support of these politically unacceptable issues are labeled hate groups.”

Dr. Bill Loving, associate professor at OU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication, later confirmed and identified hate sites on the Internet as a part of his session on internet censorship.

Freedom of Information, Inc. used grant monies from the National Freedom of Information Coalition to help fund model First Amendment Resource Centers in five libraries – Bartlesville, Altus, Ponca City, Oklahoma County Metropolitan Library System and Tulsa City-County Library System. Bill Young, Oklahoma Department of Libraries public information officer, announced that ODL will help establish four additional resource centers in the state later this year.

The Congress was planned and produced by FOI, Inc. special committee members Kathy Horne, Kay Boies, Young, Lee Brawner, Janet Brooks, Sue Hale and Kay Bickham. A second Congress is being planned for the Fall of 2000 in Tulsa. You will do yourself and your institution a favor by attending.

---Linda Levy

Study reveals that libraries are essential!

The qualitative and quantitative research took the form of focus groups and a telephone survey. The telephone survey reached 501 adults and 225 youths, ages 12 to 17. Students, ages 12 to 14, set the study in motion during a spirited focus group session held in mid-October.

“They were so uninhibited and animated, and their insights fascinating. It was immediately obvious that young teens use the libraries regularly and hold libraries in high regard. They had good ideas for improvements, ideas the library is taking quite seriously,” Brawner said. Five other equally interesting focus groups were composed of adult library users and non-users and youth ages 15 to 17.

“Ackerman hosted the groups in their video conferencing faciltiy. Several library staff viewed the sessions through closed circuit television and found ourselves spellbound by 60 people who spoke freely and candidly about the services we provide, about our library structures and about the library system’s value to the community,” Brawner said.

The youth also requested “walk-up” access to Internet computers and this has been implemented. Both students and adults requested more comfortable seating and the addition of coffee bars; more staff to provide individualized assistance and longer weekend and evening hours.

The library has already responded to a request to lengthen the video checkout time from two days to a week. “Other needs will require more consideration and could take a few years to implement. These changes we will incorporate into the library system’s long range plan,” Brawner said.

---Julia Fresonke
Executive Board actions - February, April, and May

Meeting of February 19, 1999 at Rose State College
- Minutes of the meeting of January 15, 1999 were approved.
- Approved the Support Staff Roundtable / Public Library Division workshop request (that happened May 14th, 1998), “Don’t Shoot the Messenger.”
- Approved the very favorable treasurer’s report by John Augelli.
- Recommended a designated fund tracking for Sequoyah to the Budget Committee.
- Approved the broadcast of selected OLA conference programs for local Enid television stations.
- Changed the term of office for MPLA representative from 2 years to 3 years.
- Changed the ALA Councilor term to 3 years.
- Recommended to the membership changes to the constitution and bylaws to add an office of Publicity Coordinator, to be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Board. The Publicity Coordinator will be a non-voting member of the Executive Board and serve a two-year term.
- Approved a workshop proposal from Shari Cliff and Ginny Dietrich from Reference Roundtable / Library Education Division, “Are You Presentable? Making Presentations Count” (April 29th, 1999)
- The Executive Board went into executive session to receive the report of the Awards Committee made by Carol Casey. When the Executive Board returned to regular session the report of the Awards Committee was adopted.
- Developed and issued a position statement to be released March 8, 1999 that OLA opposes HB1420.

April 30, 1999 at Moore Public Library
- Approved minutes of the meeting of February 19th meeting after correction
- Minutes of the 92nd Annual Conference were reviewed. Addition to the minute was noted: award winner Doris Stevenson for the Special Project award was presented to the Broken Bow library project.
- Minutes of the 92nd Annual Conference were reviewed, corrected, and approved.
- Referred issue of OLA decision-making process between Executive Board meetings to the Bylaws Committee.
- Approved the treasurer’s report
- Approved a program proposal from Technical Services Roundtable Chair, Pauline Boyer Rodriguez, for a cataloging session during Encyclo-Media, Sept. 16-17.
- Use of OLA name as cosponsor of the ALA teleconference (May 25, 1999) on filtering was approved.

May 25, 1999 at Roman Nose Lodge
- The minutes of the April 30 meeting were approved.
- Treasurer’s report was approved. A written preliminary conference financial report was also submitted.
- Adopted a Resolution in Support of Oklahoma Libraries drafted by Debra Engel. This draft is a rewording of an OLA resolution passed in 1997 concerning the Tin Drum controversy.
- Jan Sanders on behalf of Laurie Sundborg presented a proposal for funding of an IFC program at EncycloMedia: “Crisis Communication: planning for the moment. After discussion, the IFC program was approved.

FOLIO (continued from page 37) have traveled the state at their own expense to introduce Oklahoma communities to the benefits of active Friends groups. In 1998, the President of FOLIO started a formal Speakers Bureau. The governing board has long realized that we need outreach into western Oklahoma. The following western Oklahoma communities were visited in 1998: Beaver, Boise City, Buffalo, Guymon, and Shattuck.

Biennial Directory... The directory contains the names and contact information for the Board members and Oklahoma’s Friends groups. Also included is information about Friends groups projects and events. This directory is used in developing new groups. FOLIO plans to go online with this directory in the future.

Legislative Day... FOLIO meets in Oklahoma City at the Capitol each year for Legislative Day. FOLIO members meet with representatives of the Oklahoma Library Association to talk about pending legislation important to libraries. In 1998 First Amendment guarantees were of great concern. After an information meeting, individual Friends went to the offices of their home Senators and House members. FOLIO encourages local Friends groups to host Legislative events to introduce their legislators to the concerns of public libraries.

Big Event Award... The Big Event Award is advertised in the FOLIO Newsletter. Three winners were chosen in 1998 and the awards were announced at the Annual Meeting. This year the Big Event Award of $250 went to the Pryor Friends of the Library. The $100 award went to the Oliver Warner Memorial Friends of the Library. The $50 award went to Friends of the Library of Watonga.

Library Support Staff Scholarships... FOLIO awarded its first support staff scholarships in 1993 and subsequently has awarded at least three scholarships a year. In 1998, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries initiated a voluntary certification process for all staff. Though no scholarships were awarded in 1998, FOLIO actively supported the certification process.

—Julia Ratliff
People and Places!

Special Libraries Association published a telecommuting study by OLA member, CLAIRE MCINERNEY, entitled Providing Data, Information, and Knowledge to the Virtual Office: Organizational Support for Remote Workers. Mcinerney’s book investigates exemplary practices of information professionals in providing remote access to information.

KELLYVILLE LIBRARY received a $150,000 grant from Sarkey’s.

KONAWA LIBRARY is a joint public/school combination. They received a $1.5 million bond issue for library improvements.

Oklahoma has a SUPER DUPER SUMMER READING PROGRAM for 1999: “Yippee Yi Yo! Join the Read Stampeded!,” with excellent art work. Some LSTA money was used to provide $500 programming grants to libraries for working in cooperation with a museum on something about The West. All these little towns have little museums! Every year ODL takes $40,000 in LSTA funds to create Oklahoma’s summer reading program. Every public library in the state participates. DONNA NORVELL does the 400-page manual, chock full of ideas! KIM DONER does the art work. BILL YOUNG handles the PR and the negotiating.

DESIREE WEBBER’s book, The Buffalo Train Ride, illustrated by SANDY SHROPSHIRE, was released May 1999. It’s a true story for 4th to 6th graders set in Oklahoma about the devastation of the great bison herds during the 1800s. In 1907, 15 buffalo are sent by train from a zoo in New York back to Oklahoma, to the newly established Wichita Wildlife Refuge in the first federal effort to preserve the species. Babies were born soon after the journey, and one of them was named “Oklahoma,” because it was born very close to statehood day.

A cool new cat on the town: TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY introduced “T-cat,” a shortened version of TCCL’s catalog to replace the 15-year-old NOTIS system. T-cat went on line June 1st, approved by a 1998 mill levy and bond election to streamline the library system’s library catalog and checkout system. T-cat training sessions, called “T-cat and Mouse” are offered weekly at the Central and regional libraries and periodically at other libraries.

LINDA LEVY was appointed Interim Director of the Metropolitan Library System by the Library Commission. She will assume the position in September, following the retirement of current executive director, Lee Brawner.

Head of Special Collections for the University of Tulsa’s McFarlin Library.

A $10,000 literacy grant went to TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM from the Scripps Howard Foundation.

With the donation, TCCL can continue to offer its family literacy outreach program. “If you teach a parent to read, you’ve taught the whole family,” said Lynn Yasser, TCCL’s literacy coordinator.

LORI CURTIS has been appointed the new head of Special Collections for the University of Tulsa’s McFarlin Library.

The TULSA LIBRARY TRUST and the Bank of Oklahoma awarded Oklahoma state senator, Penny Williams the 1999 Marcus R. Tower Service Award on May 16th at TCCL’s Central Library. Williams has fought long and hard to positively influence legislation governing public libraries. A lifelong advocate of education and literacy, Williams has authored and supported bills to better children’s education and adult literacy in Oklahoma. Locally, she actively participates in the Friends of the Tulsa Public Library.

Oklahoma Senator, Penny Williams (center) accepts the 1999 Marcus R. Tower Service award from Mike Elvir, Bank of Oklahoma, and Linda Saferite, TCCL executive director.

Electronic Books on the Beach
“The unacceptability of the present electronic book is often expressed in what has come to be known as the “can’t curl up in bed with it” syndrome, closely followed by the “can’t read it at the beach” complaint. Both protests are valid, but it may be supposed that advances in technology and design will soon overcome these insufficiencies as they have overcome others in the history of the book. After all, second- and third-century codices, many a foot or more tall, hardly constituted bedfellows, any more than did the seventeen-inch-tall 42-line Gutenberg Bible....” (from The Evolution of the Book by Frederick G. Kilgour, 1998. p.152)
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