**Please Post**

**Oregon Spirit Book Awards 2017**

**Middle Reader:**
- **Winner:** Snow & Rose by Emily Winfield Martin

**Graphic Novels:**
- **Winner:** Star Scouts by Mike Lawrence

**Young Adult:**
- **Winner:** This Mortal Coil by Emily Suvada
- **Honor:** Strange The Dreamer by Laini Taylor
- **Honor:** Exo by Fonda Lee

**Debut:**
- **Winner:** The Tragically True Adventures of Kit Donovan by Patricia Bailey

- **Honor:** This Mortal Coil
- **Honor:** Strange The Dreamer
- **Honor:** Exo

**News & Book Awards**

- **Middle Reader:**
  - **Winner:** Snow & Rose by Emily Winfield Martin
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**OCTE Conferences are an excellent value!**

Register online:

{octe.org}

Pre-registration prices end Sept. 30.

- **OCTE Members:** $75
- **Non-Members:** $95
- **Students/Retirees:** $45

**Conference Details**

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**News & Book Awards**

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**Fall Conference - Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Mountainside High School • 12500 SW Mountain Ave. • Beaverton, OR

One of my favorite things about being a teacher is the refreshing feeling of starting a new school year. Teaching is one of the few professions that I can think of where every year we get a brand new start. I am the sole English teacher in a very small school high school, which means that I will be teaching the same classes and many of the same students as last year. But that doesn’t mean that I am not eager and excited to incorporate new ideas into my classroom; new novels, new lesson plans, new classroom management strategies, even a few new postcards! One of my absolute favorite places to gather new ideas and brainstorm with colleagues is at the Fall OCTE Conference.

This year we are very excited to host our fall conference at the gorgeous new Mountainside High School in Beaverton, and we’ll welcome Linda Christensen as our keynote speaker. Christensen is the Director of the Oregon Writing Project, and also a member of the Rethinking Schools editorial board. Her work focusing on incorporating both writing and social justice into the classroom is both applicable and important to all teachers. I cannot wait to hear her speak in person about her pedagogical passions and practices.

I am also eagerly looking forward to my other favorite aspect of the Fall Conference: the Oregon Spirit Book Awards. Established in 2005, the Oregon Spirit Book Awards are given yearly to authors of distinguished contributions to children’s literature or young adult literature who engage and encourage readers’ imagination, discovery, and understanding, reflecting the spirit and values held by Oregonians. OCTE is proud to be including a free award-winning book with member registration to the Fall Conference. I love meeting these authors and getting a personalized inscription that I can then show off and lend out to my students!

The Fall OCTE Conference is special to me because it’s a dedicated time and space for English teachers to come together and share our passions. The school year is young, I’m energized and optimistic, and I can immerse myself in community with other dynamic educators and authors. I walk away with amazing bits of inspiration to utilize in my classroom, and that is such a fulfilling feeling.

This conference is an excellent value: only $75 for OCTE members, $95 for non-members, and $45 for students and retirees. Further, for $100 one non-degree-applicable (800) level class is available from Lewis & Clark College (registration forms available at check-in). This is a great professional involvement opportunity in a state-level organization with connections to a national entity. So please, come to the OCTE Fall Conference on October 13 at Mountainside High School in Beaverton and walk away with a free book, fresh ideas, and an intensified passion for teaching English! Register online at octe.org

“**The Magic of Linda Christensen**”

Jackie Hamm
West Linn High School, West Linn, OR

Linda Christensen has a special power about her. She walks into the room with a hungry heart and fresh insight. When Linda talks, people listen. When Linda says jump, students ask “how high?” Students who have never seen themselves as writers leave her classroom proclaiming they are poets, authors, and performers. Teachers who have struggled with balancing standards and mandates with the heart for which they entered the profession leave her classroom with rigorous, relevant, and stunning plans for their students. Linda holds students to...
Message from the Editor:

Happy “New Year!”

Lynette Gottlieb, Editor
Ashbrook Independent School, Corvallis, OR

On behalf of OCTE, I wish you a wonderful back-to-school season and a reminder that you have terrific colleagues from across the state to reach out to visit our fall and spring conferences, the Chalkboard newsletter, and Facebook. When in doubt, reach out! We’d love to see new faces, especially at our upcoming fall conference on Sat. Oct. 13 at Mountainside High School in Beaverton, where there is ample time to meet new folks and get energized about teaching language arts in Oregon. Our keynote speaker is social justice advocate and educator Linda Christensen. I want to give a warm thank you to for the former editor of this newsletter, Peter Thacker, and to our most recent guest editor, Karen Johnson, who graciously held down the fort while I was traveling abroad.

This summer I was lucky enough to visit the village of Haworth, in the middle of England, where the Brontë siblings (Anne, Charlotte, Emily, and Branwell) grew up in the early 1800’s. Their mother and two older sisters had died while they were very young and their father and aunt took care of them. The house they lived in still stands at the edge of the village, surrounded by the special landscape of the area, called the Moors. The Brontës were not poor, but neither were they rich, except in two areas. They were rich in their imaginations and in their companionship with one another.

Every night all four siblings would sit around their small dining room table and read their very own writers’ workshops. They produced fantastical stories and fairy tales, written individually and in pairs, and read each other’s work, critiquing, editing, suggesting ideas. They would stay up long after their father said goodnight, writing by their oil lamps with pencils. Much of their writing was about a world they created called the Glass Town Federation, written in a tiny script you can only read with a magnifying glass. These handwritings were meant to be those of Branwell’s 12 toy soldiers!

Eventually, the three sisters wrote novels that are famous around the world. Maybe you’re heard of two of them: Wuthering Heights by Emily and Jane Eyre by Charlotte. You might read these books in high school, or borrow them from me or the library, or you can watch them as Hollywood movies. Bob! What I want you to think about is that these sibings together had two things that everyone in this room also has. First- we all have vivid imaginations. Second- we all have other people, to share our writing with. Together our possibilities are as open as the Moors the Brontës lived on.

I wish I could clone Linda Christensen for every classroom in this country!