

OCTE Chalkboard

PO Box 9126
Portland, OR 97207-9126

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO 1547

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
OREGON COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH



Volume 43, No. 4,
Fall 2018



WWW.OCTE.ORG Editor:
Lynette Gottlieb - lgottlieb@ashbrookschoo.org

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
Fall Conference - Saturday, October 13, 2018
Mountainside High School • 12500 SW Mountain Ave. • Beaverton, OR

Please Post



Conference Details
Pages 1, 2 & 4



News & Book Awards
Pages 3 - 4



Mariko Walsh, Fall Conference
Chair and OCTE President Elect
St. Paul High School, St. Paul, 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 posters! 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 in the classroom is both opportune 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

Oregon Spirit Book Awards 2017

Middle Reader:

Winner: *Snow & Rose*
by Emily Winfield Martin



Graphic Novels:

Winner: *Star Scouts*
by Mike Lawrence



Debut:

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



Young Adult:

Winner: *This Mortal Coil*
by Emily Suvada



Honor: *Strange The Dreamer*
by Laini Taylor



Honor: *Exo*
by Fonda Lee



Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for over 100 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

Chalkboard is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

OCTE
P.O. Box 9126
Portland, OR 97207-9126

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



"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

continued on page 3

Join Us in Beaverton, October 13!



Select Fall 2018 Conference Workshops & Sessions



Nazia Ahmad, "Creating Relevance for All Students Through Narrative, Reading, and Writing"

The workshop explores the ways in which we connect with students within the scope of their visible and invisible identities. We'll aim to design lessons that generate conversations about unearned advantages.



Lynette Gottlieb, "Timely Othello"

Shakespeare's *Othello* (1603) is as timely as ever, some 415 years on. In preparation to teach it to middle school students, I found *Othello* rich with "ripped from the headlines" moments related to social justice, immigration, race relations, and gender politics. In my presentation I'll delve into the content of the play, sharing my teaching ideas and activities.



Delana Heidrich, "This I Believe: Developing an Educational Philosophy"

Listen to a brief talk about how the speaker developed an educational philosophy during her 30 years in education, and then use guided writing and discussion to develop (or refine) and articulate a philosophy of your own.



Karin Kayfes, "Roses Aren't Always Red: Using Poetry to Inspire in the Writing Workshop"

In this writing session, we will explore poetry mentor texts and how to use them to inspire students to write great poems. Teachers will leave this session with many mentor poems, some tools for talking to students about the poems, specific ideas about how to write poetry inspired by these mentors, and best of all, several original poems written by you!



Jean Mittelstaedt, "Countering Classroom Crickets: Getting Students Talking"

We all experience asking a question of our classes and hearing...crickets. We also want our students talking to each other. From classic active learning techniques like icebreakers and Jigsaw to newer takes on activities like speed dating and Human Barometer, you'll participate in and take away activities that will get your students talking to you and to each other.



Jay Rishel, "Beyond the 5-paragraph Essay"

How can we support our students in their attempts to move beyond rigid, lifeless writing structures? In this workshop we'll discuss ways to implement a collage-style essay based on Peter Elbow's "Writing with Power."



Rick Hardt, Moderator, "Dealing with Challenging and Controversial Books in the Classroom"

Have you had push-back from parents or administrators on books you would like to use in the classroom? A panel of experienced educators will share their ideas and resources. They will provide a packet of examples, links, and policy statements. Come and share your views and suggestions. Panelists include Paul Gregorio, Lynette Gottlieb, Jackie Hamm, Delana Heidrich, Karen Johnson, and Desiree Kiesel.



Paul Gregorio



Lynette Gottlieb



Jackie Hamm



Delana Heidrich



Karen Johnson



Desiree Kiesel

Register online: octe.org



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 via 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.

The fall is always exciting, nerve-racking, busy, and ambitious for teachers. It is our "New Year," and our countdown is not the televised midnight one, but rather those last few seconds before the first bell on the first day. Whether you are new to the profession, a veteran teacher, teach first-graders or high schoolers, are in the countryside, the suburbs, or the city, this is when teachers come alive and dream big. Hopefully, we have summers behind us which held recreation and relaxation. Hopefully, we have also grown as life-long learners, so that we, too, can start our "New Year" ready to foster knowledge in our classrooms. Hopefully, we have new stories and insights, such as this one I'll share with my middle schoolers:

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 1800s. 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 run their very own writers' workshop. 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 is 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 from them from me or the library, or you can watch them as Hollywood movies too. What I want you to think about is that these siblings together had two things that everyone in this room also has. First- we all have vivid imaginations. Second- we all have each other, people to share our writing with. Together our possibilities are as open the Moors the Brontës lived on.*

continued from page 1

high standards, creating rigorous ways to explore literature, while allowing students to develop their voices as writers and create their own stories, seeing themselves as worthy of storytelling. Moreover, students access pockets of history not often taught in the American classroom, giving voice to those who have been silenced in our society, as well as to their own histories and lives.

Christensen's *Reading, Writing, and Rising Up*, as well as its sequel, *Teaching for Joy and Justice*, revolutionized not only the way I teach English Language Arts, but the way I approach teaching and working with children in the sacred space we call school. I met Linda in 2010 at a curriculum camp through the West Linn Wilsonville School District, and after working with her for just one week, wanted to call every previous student I had ever had to apologize for depriving them of the magic that is Linda's philosophy and curriculum. As a professor at Lewis & Clark College and director of the Oregon Writing Project, Linda works with teachers and students alike to create classrooms that respect the humanity and intellectual power of all people. Learning from Linda is an opportunity too good to pass up; see you on Oct. 13 where we're honored to hear from her as our Fall Conference Keynote Speaker.

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

Jerome C. Harste
NCTE Past President
Distinguished Professor Emeritus,
Indiana University

Oregon Spirit Book Awards 2017

Picture Books:

Winner: *Giant Pants* by Mark Fearing



Honor: *A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider* by Barbara Herkert
(Lauren Castillo, illustrator)



Honor: *Imagine That!: How Dr. Seuss Wrote The Cat in the Hat* by Judy Sierra
(Kevin Hawkes, illustrator)

