A child growing up in a small Oregon town, my earliest exposure to history was learning about the Oregon Trail. I was captivated by the stories of hardy pioneers heading west to stake a claim and carve a community out of the wilderness. It was a history of white men and their wives. If Indigenous Peoples were mentioned, they were the "Indians" the pioneers had to fight in order to safeguard their property. If women were mentioned, they were supporting characters in a cast of brave and intrepid individuals. People of color didn't exist as the protagonists of these narratives. We weren't asked to question why these pioneers had a right to the land, or to delve into the stories of the people already occupying that space.

Over time and with exposure to the broader world, I did begin to question these narratives and to learn about the untold stories in my Oregon history. When I began teaching in another rural Oregon community, I found some of the same materials and texts on my classroom shelves that I had used as a child. I struggled to find stories of the many other groups of people that formed the Oregon community, I found some of the same materials and texts on my classroom shelves that I had used as a child. I struggled to find stories of the many other groups of people that formed the Oregon community.

As a teacher educator, I believe in the power of story to transform, to give us a new lens for viewing our world, to expand our horizons. As a nation, we are still trying to weave our own history together, to share some of the stories that have been left out of the history books. As a teacher educator, I believe in the power of story to transform, to give us a new lens for viewing our world, to expand our horizons. As a nation, we are still trying to weave our own history together, to share some of the stories that have been left out of the history books.
2021 Spring Conference Presenters

**Jane Kirkpatrick: April 21st**

New York Times and CBA best selling and award winning author, Jane Kirkpatrick will join us as our featured speaker on April 21. The author of more than 30 books, Kirkpatrick has just published Something Worth Doing, the story of Abigail Scott Duniway, one of the first to fight for women’s rights in the mid-1800’s. Duniway led the suffrage efforts in the Northwest, promoting equal treatment in law, property rights, education, and the ability for women to vote. She was determined to make a difference and, with her husband’s encourage- ment, became a significant voice for women in a time when women were seen and not heard. After six attempts she saw the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, securing women’s right to vote. Jane will be discussing her research on Duniway and some of the untold stories of other remarkable women who helped shape Oregon.

**Linda Tamura: April 14th**

**BACK TO THE FUTURE: Lessons for NOW from the Japanese American World War II Experience**

After recounting how she discovered her hometown’s unsavory history surrounding the Japanese American World War II experience, Linda Tamura will show how investigating questions and identifying local heroes can be models for positive lessons and advocacy today. Linda Tamura is Professor Emerita of Education at Willamette University and co-editor-in-chief of The Oregon Encyclopedia. The author of two books about Japanese Americans (Hoo D River Ises, Univ. of Illinois Press, and Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence, Univ. of Washington Press), she serves on advisory boards and co-organized an upcoming exhibit for the Japanese American Museum of Oregon.

**Amanda Coven: April 28th**

Educators will discover engaging ways to implement the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education’s (OJM/CE) original framework, “tools of discrimination” in their classrooms when Amanda Coven, Director of Education, presents “Oregon: A History of Discrimination” on April 28 at 4:30. This framework has been developed to gain a deeper understanding of the many ways that people have oppressed different marginalized groups, discrimination that continues today. Attendees will explore how the “tools of discrimination” reveal how discrimination works outside of any particular issue or group and instead demonstrate how they interact to create systemic oppression. The goal is not to compare or rank one group’s oppression or discrimination, but to find commonalities in how discrimination has been instituted and perpetuated.

Tell Story in the OE

**Rick Hardt**

**Oregon Writing Festival Goes Virtual**

OCTE and the PSU College of Education will host a virtual Oregon Writing Festival (the 36th annual) on Saturday, May 1, 2021. We will be able to accommodate a limited number of students in these three groups: grades 4 and 5, 6 to 8, and 9 to 12 on a first-come-first-admitted basis. Keynote speakers for the groups will be award-winning authors Jane Kurtz, Roland Smith, and Emily Suveda. Please contact registrar Barbara Wiegele (bjwiegele@aol.com) immediately for details and for reservations. Registration will close when filled and no later than Friday, April 2.

As always, schools sending 10 students (or portions thereof) must provide a teacher to assist us in this virtual festival on May 1. Cost per student: $20.

**OCTE Building Contact Person**

In 1994, my family and I traded a modern 2-bedroom apartment in the crowded Bay Area for a 120-year-old, 4-bedroom house in the town of Bonanza, Oregon, population 450. After two years of driving back south across the border every work day to a position at Butte Valley School, I earned my Oregon credential and began teaching in Klamath County. At that early stage in my Oregon teaching, I could have used the support and camaraderie offered by a professional language arts organization. Perhaps because I entered Oregon teaching through kind of a side door, I did not stumble upon the Oregon Council of Teachers of English for another decade. Since joining OCTE, I have gleaned new knowledge attending and providing workshops at exceptional conferences, engaged in discussions with established authors, read and written articles for OCTE’s publications, and developed meaningful professional and social relationships. The OCTE membership committee is working to assure that other language arts educators do not miss out on such exciting OCTE opportunities as long as I did. In an attempt to assure our reach is extended to all language arts educators in the state, we are hoping to establish a contact person in every school who would dispense information about upcoming workshops, virtual book club opportunities, publication submission deadlines, and the like to teachers at their individual schools. Please consider serving as the OCTE contact person at your school. For more information or to sign up as the OCTE contact at your school, please contact the Membership Committee Chair, Michelle Coleman.