

Letter To Libraries Online

An Electronic Newsletter



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LIBRARY BOARD NEWS

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STATE LIBRARY BOARD CONSIDERS CHANGES TO READY TO READ GRANT PROGRAM

At their meeting on April 5th in Salem, the State Library Board will deliberate on a proposal to Governor Kulongoski to change the Ready to Read Grant program in 2007. The Board will consider a recommendation

from a Board subcommittee to focus the program on early literacy programs and summer reading programs. This follows a proposal made to the Board in December by the Early Literacy Initiative, a statewide planning effort led by the Multnomah County Library. The subcommittee recommendation also includes seeking a funding increase to provide every public library with \$1 per child per year with a minimum grant amount of \$1,000 for every library each year. If the Board approves the proposal, it will be forwarded to Governor Kulongoski for his consideration. If the Governor decides to support the proposal, he will introduce a bill in the 2007 Legislature to make the needed changes to state law governing the program, and his budget proposal will include the funding increase.

Anyone is invited to comment on the proposal which has been sent to all public library directors in the state. An "open forum" will be held at 2:00 on April 5th in Room 202 at the State Library for anyone to address the Board. Comments will also be accepted in writing up until the time of the Board's deliberation on April 5th.

NEW PLAN FOR THE HORNER LIBRARY STAFF EXCHANGE

Another item on the State Library Board's April 5th agenda concerns the Horner Library Staff Exchange. Since 1998 Oregon libraries have been exchanging staff with libraries in Oregon's sister province, Fujian, in China. Four Oregon librarians from four different libraries and eight Fujian librarians have participated. A new plan has been developed at the suggestion of Mr. Zhang Yi-xian, the Director of the Fujian Provincial Library. The plan involves more collaboration between the State Library and the International Relations Roundtable of OLA. Under the new plan, exchanges would be carried out in 2007 and 2010. In each year, three librarians from Oregon would spend three weeks in Fujian and four librarians from Fujian would spend three weeks in Oregon. The group of Oregon librarians would include a Chinese speaker, and the group from Fujian would include an English speaker. The IRRT would select the Oregon librarians to make the trip through an application process. There would be a \$500 participation fee for each Oregon participant. If the plan is approved by the State Library Board, the IRRT will be accepting applications later this year. For more information, contact Jim Schepke at the State Library, or Carolee Hirsch, the Chair of the IRRT, at the Eugene Public Library.

STATE LIBRARY NEWS

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LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE WINNERS HONORED

Students from across the state of Oregon will be honored at a celebration at the Oregon State Library on Monday April 3rd at 4:00pm for their winning entries in the 2006 Letters About Literature contest.

Oregon winners include: Level I First Place: Aubrey Means, Portland; Level I Runner Up: Mason Flores, Grants Pass; Level I Honorable Mention: Hannah Burke, Wilsonville; Meagan Gliebe, Gresham; Olivia Hinnerfeld, Portland. Level II First Place: Jessie Karlovich, Ashland; Level II Runner Up: Lucien Broeckel, Corbett. Level II Honorable Mention Emily Brevan, Phoenix; Elise Chow, Ashland; Emily Fuller, Grants Pass; Emily Harvey, Corvallis; Clemmie von Radies, Ashland. Level III First Place: Nick Engelfried, Hillsboro; Level II Runner Up: Rose Engelfried, Hillsboro; Level III Honorable Mention: Maya Lim, McMinnville; Jesus Vazquez, Woodburn. Also honored will be the seventy-nine semi-finalists from around the state. Letters About Literature is sponsored nationally by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress with Target Stores. In Oregon, Letters About Literature is sponsored by the Oregon Center for the Book, OEMA, OLA Children's Services Division and Young Adult Network.

OTHER LIBRARY NEWS

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THE LIBRI FOUNDATION 2006 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN GRANTS

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization, which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the United States. The Libri Foundation will match money raised by your local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise the matching funds. The librarian of each participating library selects the books their library will receive from a booklist provided by the Foundation.

Previous BOOKS FOR CHILDREN grant recipients are eligible to apply for another grant three years after the receipt of their last grant. Libraries who did not fulfill all grant requirements, including the final report, may not apply for another grant. Application deadlines for 2006 are: (postmarked by) April 15th, July 15th, and December 15th. Grants are awarded April 30th, August 31st, and January 31st. Application guidelines and forms may be found at the Foundation's website: www.librifoundation.org. For more information about The Libri Foundation or its Books for Children program, please contact Ms. Barbara J. McKillip, President, The Libri Foundation, PO Box 10246,

Eugene, OR 97440; 541-747-9696 (phone); 541-747-4348 (fax);
libri@librifoundation.org (email). Office hours are: Monday-Friday,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Time.

BAKER COUNTY LIBRARY SENDS RETIRED
BOOKMOBILE TO LOUISIANA

The Cameron Parish Public Library was devastated by Hurricane Rita last September, but help is on the way in the form of a bookmobile from the Baker County Library. Four of the five Cameron County branches were destroyed. Only one 1,000 square foot branch survived. But soon the old Baker County bookmobile will be stationed at Johnson Bayou, the site of one of the devastated branches. Cherrie Carlson-Conklin, a veteran library staff member, has led a successful community effort to stock the bookmobile with a fresh selection of books, DVDs and CDs, and has raised funds to contribute to library rebuilding efforts. Library Director Aletha Bonebrake commented that the 1968 Gerstenslager had to be retired because it was no longer safe to traverse the mountains of Baker County, but it should be fine to travel on the coastal plains of Louisiana. It will be transported on a flatbed truck the 2,200 miles to Cameron County, leaving in mid-April. Aletha says tax-deductible donations to the "Books To Bayous" project are still being accepted. Contact Cherrie at cconk@my180.net to make a donation.

2007 BEVERLY CLEARY AWARD CONTEST The nominees for the 2007 Beverly Cleary Award Contest have been announced by the Oregon Educational Media Association. The purpose of this award is to encourage reading by highlighting good quality literature (fiction and nonfiction) written on the second - third grade reading level, taking into account text, format and the illustrations of the books. This elementary contest will encourage books that students may not otherwise find on their own and are not necessarily the popular best sellers. Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express by Marlene Targ Brill relates how, in 1861, a boy named Charlie Miller became the youngest rider for the Pony Express, a mail service that linked the East and West coasts of the United States. (1-57505-587-2) The SOS File by Betsy Cromer Byars tells about Mr. Magro's class who submit stories for the SOS file about their biggest emergencies, and then they read them aloud for extra credit. (0-8050-6888-0) Owen Foote, Mighty Scientist by Stephanie Greene. Third grade best friends, Owen and Joseph, struggle to come up with a great science fair project that they will both enjoy doing, then something goes wrong and they have to change their plans two days before the fair. (0-618-43016-4) Birthday Pony by Jessie Haas. Grandma Aggie tries to help her granddaughter Jane and the independent pony, Popcorn, who were born on the same day, become riding partners. (0-06-057360-0) Say What? By Margaret Peterson Haddix. When their parents begin saying the wrong thing every time six-year old Sukey and

her older brothers misbehave, the children discover that it is a plot and fight back with their own wrong phrases. (0-689-86255-5) Ruby Lu, Brave and True by Lenore Look. Almost-eight year old Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends. (0-689-84907-9) Down Girl and Sit by Lucy A. Nolan recounts the adventures of a rambunctious dog who thinks her name is Down Girl and her next door neighbor, Sit, as they try to keep the world safe from dangerous squirrels, the paper boy, and a frightening creature named Here Kitty Kitty. (0-7614-5184-6) Secret Identity Shredderman by Wendelin van Draanen. Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity Shredderman! (0-440-41912-3)

PS. (FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN)

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On Saturday, February 25th, there was a celebration in Creswell. I was there to speak, along with Bill Sullivan from the State Library Board and the Lane Library League. My colleague Mary Kay Dahlgreen drove down from Corvallis and many librarians from Lane County libraries were there.

Ostensibly we were there to celebrate the ribbon cutting on a wonderful new public library facility in Creswell, but in reality we were there to celebrate much more.

We were there to celebrate the Lane Library District, which is the first new public library to be established in Lane County in many decades. Technically, I suppose, the library districts in Florence and Veneta are fairly new, but they both succeeded public libraries that had already been in existence before.

There is also a sense in which the Lane Library District is not really new, because it succeeded a volunteer library that, amazingly, had been in existence for 78 years. For a short time this library was a branch of the Lane County Library that unfortunately died back in the 1980's when a serial levy was not renewed by the voters. But the Lane Library District remains the first public library established under Oregon statutes in the town's history. That was certainly something to celebrate.

Another thing to celebrate was the fact that the Lane Library District serves over 7,300 citizens of Lane County who have not previously been served by a public library, except for the short time that the county

library was in existence. Lane County still has about 80,000 citizens that are not served by a public library, most of them just outside of Eugene and Springfield, but the Lane Library District has made a significant reduction in the number of "unserved" citizens in Lane County.

The new library building is yet another reason to celebrate. It's a beauty! Eugene architect Ray Nagao did an outstanding job of converting a former hardware store into a bright and inviting space that will be a real draw in the community. All of the money for the \$250,000 conversion project was raised by generous local donors and statewide foundations like the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Ford Family Foundation.

And how did this all come about? It started with two community volunteers, Bill and Verlean McCoy. Verlean was the volunteer librarian at the volunteer Creswell Library, but she and Bill knew a volunteer library was not good enough for Creswell. They, with a number of others, worked with the Lane Library League to get a library district measure on the November 2, 2004 ballot. Then they all worked hard to sell a conservative rural community on the idea of raising taxes by 59 cents per \$1,000 to fund the library. The vote was so close that it took until November 19th for the 19 vote victory to be certified.

Now Creswell has a library with four times the space of their old library, an adequate and stable budget, a new professional library director, Judy Anderson, even a professional children's librarian, Su Akeda. And it all came about because Bill and Verlean McCoy and others in Creswell would not be satisfied in what had been the status quo for 78 years. And that's really something to celebrate. -- Jim Scheppke

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