Sharon Creech Receives Tulsa Library’s 2006 Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature

TULSA, Okla. — “Life is like a bowl of spaghetti — every now and then you get a meatball. Receiving this award is like finding a glorious meatball in all the tangled spaghetti of my life,” said Sharon Creech after receiving Tulsa City-County Library’s 2006 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature on Aug. 25. More than 300 fans turned out to honor Creech as the 15th recipient of the Zarrow award. Given by the Tulsa Library Trust, the award consists of a $7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.  

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I can’t believe how fast the program committee has moved on the OLA Centennial Conference. This year, the conference will take place Monday – Wednesday, not our usual conference schedule. Surprisingly, that’s given us some opportunities to be truly creative. We’ve got some premiere pre-conferences planned for Monday: Libraries as Culture Keepers, Leadership in Times of Crisis and Grant Writing for Libraries. A group tour of the Oklahoma History Center is an alternative choice. By arriving on Monday, you’ll be able to attend the conference banquet, which will be held for the first time ever on the first evening of the conference. Former Governor George Nigh and our very own “library legends” will be a part of the banquet. Visit with long-time colleagues; retired librarians will be receiving special invitations to this event. Be there to honor historic figures in the profession and welcome friends you might not have seen for a few years.

The All-Conference Event is going to be loads of fun, where attendees can “masquerade” in outfits from different decades of the last 100 years—including this year, if you prefer. We’ll have a special reception before the event begins to honor our vendors, one of which has attended OLA for more than 50 years! The party will be Tuesday night, April 3rd. Several librarians will be performing songs from their favorite decade—you have got to be there. Get ready to laugh, get ready to sing along!

Steve Abrams, noted futurist and past president of the Canadian Library Association, will be the keynote for our opening session on Tuesday morning. Also, meet “John Doe from Connecticut.” They’ll be un gagged and talking about their experience with the Patriot Act. Hear about the 100 best from nearly 50 years of Sequoyah book awards. Learn about maps of Oklahoma from the original survey plat maps of the 1800s to the most recent aerial maps. Share union-listing tricks on OCLC’s connexion. Keep up with the latest technologies. Find out how to retain young mobile librarians. Get the insight on teens and the “millennials” information-seeking behavior. Share a legacy of historic moments—cross the tracks with Miss Ruth Brown and go back to 1907 to learn about our State’s centennial beginnings. There’s much more, so be sure your calendar is reserved for April 2-4.

In addition to the tremendous work of conference planning, the DROCS are putting on some workshops that should really help back at the workplace. Take a look at the workshop list on the website. Latinos at Your Library and Oklahoma’s Response to the OCLC Landmark study on Perceptions about Libraries are just two of several timely topics. I just attended the Information Technologies workshop at Rose State and learned a lot of useful information about electronic book circulation and wireless–based programming.

The Sequoyah Reading Teams are hard at work and a new schedule for the Sequoyah Awards has been adopted. The new procedures include grade level changes, time line changes, and committee membership changes. With the schedule changes we hope that it will improve our ability to get winning authors to attend the annual conference because we can notify them before their calendars are filled.

Legislative Committee has met several times to plan for the upcoming legislative season. They are preparing for legislation that may target school and public libraries. So, keep abreast of listerv announcements about proposed bills. Jayme Seat and Kathy Hale are primed and ready to help if you get questions.

James Garner, Desmond Mason and Dayna Dunbar, and Carrie Underwood are all featured in new READ Y’ALL posters created by the Marketing Committee. The Carrie Underwood official website has featured Ms. Underwood’s support of our literacy campaign. These are just a few of the “happenings” going on at OLA this year.
In the spirit of celebrating our centennial, I have listed below a few historic “happenings” in the Association’s history. Take some time to ponder the accomplishments of all the librarians who have gone before us – we owe them much.

1908 – Oklahoma Library Association created a traveling library training class in collaboration with the Federated Women’s Clubs to train librarians in the State.

1910 – The Association started working to convince people to preserve Native American materials, thereby saving much of our rich heritage.

1917 – OLA organized the distribution of magazines and novels to World War I soldiers overseas and encouraged the preservation of local war records.

1919 – The Association lobbied the State Legislature and succeeded in establishing the Oklahoma Library Commission, which later became the Oklahoma Department of Libraries

Pat Weaver-Meyers

Creech Receives Zarrow Award
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“Each year, we continue to bring you the best creative talent in children’s literature. Tonight’s award winner is loved by children and adults alike. Her stories show a depth of emotion that speaks to you no matter your age. Truly she writes books for the ages,” said Linda Saferite, CEO, Tulsa City-County Library, at the Zarrow award presentation.

Creech received the award on a Friday night. The following Saturday, she presented awards to winners of Tulsa City-County Library’s 2006 Young People’s Creative Writing Contest, plus shared tips on how to write creatively and give life to words and voices to characters.

Past recipients of the Zarrow award are Avi, Susan Cooper, Russell Freedman, Richard Peck, E.L. Konigsburg, Jerry Spinelli, Jane Yolen, Cynthia Voigt, Gary Paulsen, Walter Dean Myers, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Madeleine L’Engle, and S.E. Hinton.

For more information about the Zarrow award, call Larry Bartley, trust manager, at (918) 596-7985 or click on www.tulsalibrarytrust.org.

Jackie Hill
Upcoming Conferences and Workshops: Tools You Need to Do Your Job Even Better!

This list shows all currently planned workshops and other opportunities for continuing education sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association. For more information and registration forms please visit the OLA website at [http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html).

"Support Your Support Staff" Conference 2006: "Lasso Your Talents"
Sponsored by the Support Staff Roundtable
Thursday, October 26, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
[Midwest City Public Library](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html)
Registration Deadline: October 18, 2006

"Survivor: Collection Management"
Sponsored by TSRT (Technical Services Roundtable)
Friday, October 27, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
[Stillwater Public Library](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html)
Registration Deadline: October 20, 2006

"Latinos @ Your Library"
Sponsored by CATS (Children and Teen Services Roundtable)
Friday, November 3, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
[Stillwater Public Library](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html)
Registration Deadline: October 27, 2006

"Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources: An Oklahoma Response to the Landmark OCLC Study"
Sponsored by the Marketing and Communications Committee, Public Libraries Division, University and College Division, and OASLMS
Tuesday, November 7, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
[Stillwater Public Library](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html)
Registration Deadline: October 31, 2006

"Grass Roots Power: Influencing Decision Makers"
Sponsored by the Legislative Committee, FOLIO and GODORT
Tuesday, January 9, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
[Oklahoma Department of Libraries](http://www.oklibs.org/workshops/index.html)
Registration Deadline: December 22, 2006
CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF YOUR LIBRARY

The Centennial Ad Hoc Committee wants to encourage every library in Oklahoma—school, university, public and special—to celebrate their history in art and in writing. We think it will be great fun for all libraries to create a collage for their library depicting the history of the library, some special event, a special service, a department, or your Friends group. We also would like for all libraries to submit a short history to the “Focus on Libraries” project.

The Centennial collage project would include creating a collage on foam board then bringing it to the OLA Conference in April 2007. The collage can be constructed on standard foam board that is between 20"X30" and 32"X40". It can be comprised of pictures, newspaper articles, fliers, 3-D materials, etc. then coated with “Mod-Podge” to seal it. It needs to have a 3"X5" card attached on the back stating the name of the collage, the name of the library and a contact person with address, phone number and e-mail address. In order to make arrangements for display at conference please notify Jan Bryant by January 9, 2007 of your intent to bring a collage. Also let her know if you will be bringing a display easel. You can notify her by letter or e-mail. (Jan Bryant, Muskogee Public Library, 801 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401; jianbryant@eok.lib.ok.us)

There is a special flier included which will give more details on the collage project. The picture and instructions are used with permission of Hideaway Pizza who has a wonderful Centennial Collage Project. You can go to the Hideaway Pizza Collage Project web site www.collage2000.com to see other samples of collages which have been done as a part of their Centennial Collage Project.

For the “Focus on Libraries” Project write a brief history of your library and e-mail it to Tanya Finchum at ftanya@okstate.edu. The histories are posted on the OLA web site “Focus on Libraries”. We want histories from all libraries in Oklahoma so please take the time to write your library’s history and share it. This is an excellent way to preserve this valuable information for the future.

So come on all you creative library people and let’s celebrate both Oklahoma’s Centennial and OLA’s in art and word.

Jan Bryant
Centennial Ad Hoc Committee
The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) is a statewide organization, with its headquarters in Tulsa, that works to “promote sound floodplain management, practices, and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain,” which means that they seek to protect Oklahoma’s floodplains and prevent flooding problems for Oklahomans. They also seek to educate floodplain managers about Oklahoma’s flooding problems, and to educate homeowners who live in floodplains that they need to buy flood insurance and can also take steps to reduce the risk of flood damage to their homes and businesses. Much of what is on their website is for professionals, but they also include materials for the general public.

**TOP BUTTONS**

**The organization**
Contains basic information about the organization, their treasurer’s report, their bylaws and constitution, their resolutions, history, and perhaps of most interest to the general public, “Current Projects,” which currently includes their “Flood Awareness Poster Contest,” a statewide contest for all fourth grade students.

**Certification**
This is for professionals and includes certified training and online training events.

**Committees**
Contact information for their seven committees, including an Education Committee.

**Policy**
The OFMA’s positions on topics related to Oklahoma’s floodplains.

**Conferences calendar**
They have an annual conference and occasional workshops. This also includes materials on Oklahoma’s “Flood Awareness Month” and “Flood Insurance Month”.

**Awards**
This includes not only awards for organization members, but also a scholarship for students going into the field of floodplain management.

**Publications**
Links to free publications from the Association of State Floodplain Managers, FEMA, and their own “Freddie Floodway” brochures on such topics as *Tornado Safety in Oklahoma*, *Lightning Safety*, and of course *Flood Safety—Flood Insurance*, *Flood Safety—Flood Prevention*, and *Flood Safety—Flood Proofing*. 
MID-PAGE FEATURES

“Top stories”
Contains not only news about the organization, but also links to an online tool from Floodsmart.gov titled “What is your flood risk?” that you can work through to help you determine the flood risk to your home or business and what you can do about it.

“Upcoming events”
Mostly for professionals, but also includes due dates for such general public events as the school poster contest noted above.

TOP RIGHT OF WEBPAGE

“Archives”
Links to their older publications and other materials such as flood photos of the Kingfisher flood of March 4, 2004, and the addresses for past OFMA conferences from such speakers as Lt. Governor Mary Fallin.

Steve Beleu, ODL

Support Staff Roundtable Sez “Lasso Your Talents”

You will not want to miss the next Support Staff Conference! The roundtable has been offering a conference geared towards library support staff for several years. The members have planned workshops that appeal to all staff members. This year it will be no different! The date for the conference is October 26, 2006. Mark your calendars now!

The keynote speaker will be Frosty Troy, editor of “The Oklahoma Observer” and a well-known figure around the Oklahoma Capitol. He will inspire library folks to be a library advocate whatever our position in the library. Stacy Schrank of the Metropolitan Library System will get the attendees organized or at least show how to become more organized with less stress. Louisa Voden of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries will share her knowledge of surfing the Internet for Oklahoma government sites. Kathryn Roots Lewis will be sharing techniques of the “ABCs” of communication. Kent Brooks from Western Oklahoma State University will be instructing on Internet safety and we all know what a hot topic that is now. Our final speaker of the day will be Theresa Dickson of the Pioneer Library System. She will use humor and inspiration to help attendees search for their “hidden” talents in their library work.

Hearing all this should make you want to run to get your registration in for this event right away! Lunch of pizza, salad, and cold drinks will be provided on site at the wonderful Midwest City Library on East Reno in Midwest City. See you there!

Earlene Piercy