Oregon Library Association  
1998-99 Executive Board

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Tillamook County Library,  
503-842-7492  
scharlton@wc.clackamas.or.us

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503-725-4542  
rohet@pdx.edu

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503-838-8886  
jenseng@wou.edu

Secretary • Jey Wann  
Oregon State Library,  
503-378-4198 x248  
jey.wann@state.or.us

Treasurer • Andrew Bonamici  
University of Oregon,  
541-346-2682  
bonamici@uoregon.uoregon.edu

ALA Representative • Deborah Carver  
University of Oregon,  
541-346-1892  
dcarver@uoregon.uoregon.edu

PNLA Representative • Nancy Spaulding  
Cedar Mill Community Library,  
503-645-1257  
spauldin@teleport.com

State Librarian • Jim Scheppke  
Oregon State Library, 503-378-4367  
jim.b.scheppke@state.or.us

Academic Library Division • Anne Fox  
Western Oregon University, 503-838-8892  
foxat@wou.edu

Children’s Services Division • Donna E. Zehner  
Dallas Public Library, 503-623-3841  
dcezehner@msn.com

Public Library Division • Colleen Winters  
Forest Grove Public Library, 541-359-3247

Trustees and Friends Division • Barbara Wright  
503-644-7307 x221  
barbw@img-oregon.com

Member at Large • Paula Hamilton  
Mt. Angel Abbey Library, 503-845-3361  
paulah@mtangel.edu

Staff Support Division • Linda Johnson  
Oregon Health Sciences University  
503-494-3220  
johnslil@ohsu.edu

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Upcoming Issues

Fall 1999  
The Heart of a Librarian  
Guest Editor  
Juanita Benedicto  
University of Oregon Knight Library

OLA Quarterly is indexed in  
Library Literature.
Writing Oregon

Serving as guest editor for this issue of the OLA Quarterly gave me an excuse to immerse myself in the writings of Oregon authors. Hoping to gain a renewed sense of what makes our literature unique, what gives it that sense of "Oregonness," I read, and read some more: Barry Lopez, Lars Nordstrom, Molly Gloss, John Daniel, Robin Cody, Shannon Applegate. I found some answers, many more questions, and an ever-increasing number of works to add to my reading list.

Though I grew up in Oregon and have read voraciously all my life, it is only in recent years that I have been drawn so strongly to the writings of Oregon authors. Is this because these writers are more visible now? Perhaps; certainly the efforts of those who work hard to promote local authors are paying off. Yet there is more. As we become more connected to the great wide world every day, as we routinely and instantly communicate with colleagues in all parts of the globe, as advances in technology rush us into an exciting and unfamiliar new future, the need to feel a strong sense of place, of home, of community, grows ever stronger. The writings of our local authors can help satisfy that yearning.

Here is a glimpse of the Oregon literary landscape: from the voices of writers, readers, editors, and librarians. Here is a look at the organizations and people who work to nurture and support Oregon writers, to build a community of writers and readers, and to raise public awareness of our rich literary heritage. I hope this issue inspires you to add an Oregon author or two to your summer reading list.

Lori Robare, University of Oregon Knight Library
Guest Editor

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The OLA Quarterly is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association. Please refer questions and input regarding the quarterly to:

Anne Billetter
OLA Publications Chair
Jackson County Library
413 W Main Street
Medford, OR 97501
phone 541-774-6423
fax 541-776-7295
billetter@jcls.org

Graphic Production:
Sandia Communications
800 NW Starker Ave.,
Suite 15
Corvallis, OR 97330
phone 541-752-7080
fax 541-752-2415
olaq@sandia.com

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