

Honored For His Body of Work

Bill Wallace to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

The recipient of the **Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2000 is nationally known speaker and award winning children's author **Bill Wallace**. Wallace received the Oklahoma Sequoyah Children's Book Award in 1983 for *A Dog Named Kitty* and in 1991 for *Beauty, A Dog Named Kitty* also received the Texas Bluebonnet Award in 1983 and the Nebraska Golden Sower Award in 1985.

A former schoolteacher, Wallace said he became an author "to keep my fourth graders quiet after lunch recess. When they listened to the stories, I kept writing. They also talked me into finding someone to make 'real' books out of the manuscripts."

Wallace studied professional writing with **William Foster-Harris** and **Dwight Swain** at the University of Oklahoma. He began teaching elementary school in Chickasha in 1971. His wife Carol is also an elementary school teacher and has co-authored with Wallace *The Flying Flea, Callie and Me* and *That Furball Puppy and Me*.

This special award will be presented on March 11, 2000 at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City.

Previous Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award winners include: mystery novelist **Tony Hillerman**; Librarian of Congress Emeritus **Daniel Boorstin**; Newberry Award winner **Harold Keith**; **Savoie Lottinville**, who served as director of the University of Oklahoma Press for 30 years; Kiowa poet and Pulitzer Prize winning novelist **N. Scott Momaday**; historian **John Hope Franklin**; children and young adult author **S.E. Hinton**, Tulsa; and Norman novelist **Jack Bickham**. Last year's recipient was Tulsa author and award-winning reporter **Michael Wallis**.

BOOK LETTERS NEWS

Winning Cash Prizes

Kids Talk Back To Writers

The Oklahoma Center for the Book is again providing students the opportunity to tell authors—from **Judy Blume** to **Stephen Crane**—what they think and how they feel about their books.

For 17 years, students in grades 4-12 have been invited to enter the national essay contest *Letters About Literature*. Each fall, young readers are encouraged to write a letter to an author (living or dead) explaining how a character or an event in one of their books influenced their lives, with the emphasis on personal responses.

One of 30 participating state centers, the Oklahoma Center for the Book co-sponsors the contest with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and the Weekly Reader Corporation. Contest entry forms were published in Weekly Reader magazine.

During the past five years, more than 60,000 students from across the country have participated in the annual program, celebrating the special relationship between an author and a reader.

This year's competition, *Letters About Literature 2000*, has two levels: Level I for students in grades 4 through 7, and Level II for students in grades 8 through 12. This year, the entry deadline was December 17.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select national winners, each of whom will receive \$100. In addition, the Oklahoma Center for the Book will award the top three Okla-

homa winners in each category a total of \$350 in cash prizes.

Winners in *Letters About Literature 2000*—both the state and national contests—will be announced April 1, 2000.

Letters About Literature 1999 Results

This last year, in Level I, Oklahoma's first place winner was **Kristen Dodson**, a fifth grade student at Spiro Upper Elementary School, whose letter went to **Bill Wallace** for his book *The Christmas Spurs*. Level I second place winner was **Jennifer Lindsey**, a seventh grade student at Whitebead Elementary School, for her letter to **Katherine Paterson** for the book *Lyddie*. Another seventh grade student from Whitebead, **Thomas Williams**, was the third place winner. He wrote **Walter D. Edmonds** concerning the book *The Matchlock Gun*.

The Level II first place winner in 1999 was **Jeremy Oleson**, an eighth grade student from Kerr Jr. High School in Del City. He wrote to **Chieko Okiyama** about her book *Faithful Elephants*. Second place went to **James Coons**, a senior at Westmoore High School for his letter to **Mercedes Lackey** about her books *The Black Griffin*, *The Magic Winds Trilogy*, and *The Last Herald Trilogy*. **Emily McCombs**, a tenth grader from Westmoore High School placed third with her letter to **Ayn Rand** concerning *Atlas Shrugged*.

Oklahoma Center for the Book Newsletter is published as warranted. Editors for this issue are Center Board members **Diane Seebass** and **Sue Stees**.

An outreach program of the Library of Congress, the Oklahoma Center for the Book's purpose is to promote the work of Oklahoma authors, to celebrate the literary heritage of the state, and to promote reading—especially for pleasure.

For more information, please contact Executive Director **Glenda Carlile**, or visit our webpage at—<http://www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb/>

Oklahoma Center for the Book
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
200 N.E. 18th Street 405-521-2502 or
Oklahoma City 800-522-8116 toll-free statewide
OK 73105-3298

Save This Date March 11, 2000

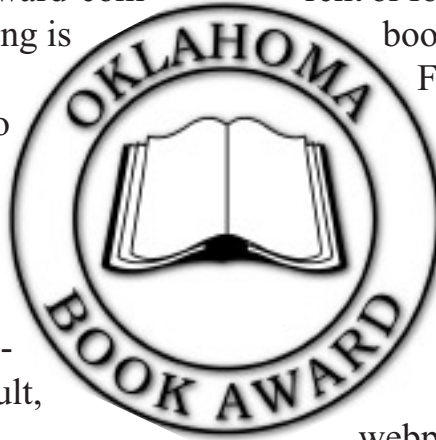
Oklahoma Book Award Dinner
at the Cowboy Hall of Fame
in Oklahoma City

11th Annual Book Award *Competition Now Underway*

Entries are now being accepted for the eleventh annual Oklahoma Book Award competition. The deadline for entering is January 10, 2000.

This program is designed to recognize and promote Oklahoma's working writers as well as outstanding books about the state. Entries are being sought in five categories: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children/young adult, and design/illustration.

To qualify, books must have been published between January 1, 1999, and December



31, 1999. In addition the author must be a current or former resident of Oklahoma, or the book must have an Oklahoma theme.

Finalists in each category will be selected and announced in February; winners will be announced at the awards ceremony March 11, 2000. No entry fee is required and books may be entered in more than one category.

For more information visit our webpage—<http://www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb/obaward.htm>.

Oklahoma Center for the Book Elects New Officers

Former librarian **Liz Coddling**, Edmond, was re-elected president at the September board meeting held in Oklahoma City. Other 1999-2000 officers elected were vice-president **B.J. Williams**, Metropolitan Library System; and former teacher **Joyce PIPPS** of Shawnee, secretary. Oklahoma City's **Gerry Willingham**, former librarian, was re-elected treasurer.

Newly elected board members include:

- Mort Hamilton**, Director of the Goddard Center for Visual & Performing Arts, Ardmore;
- George Henderson**, Dean of Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman;
- Joe Holmes**, Director, Mid-South Independent Book Sellers Assn., Oklahoma City;
- Anna Myers**, Children's Author, Chandler;
- Bettie Estes Rickner**, Director of Informational Technology, Putnam City Schools;
- Diane Seebass**, Editorial board, *Nimrod International Journal*, Tulsa;
- Sue Stees**, co-owner, St. Louis Bread Company in Tulsa;
- M.J. Van Deventer**, Director of Publications, Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City.

Also on the Board of the Oklahoma Center for the Book:

from the Edmond area, **Robert L. Clark**, **Julia Fresonke**, **Ann Hamilton**, and **Julie Hovis**; from Tulsa, **Kim Doner**, **Teresa Miller**, **Laurie Sundborg**, **Dean Sims**, and **John Wooley**; from Oklahoma City, **Gale Bollinger**, **Glenda Carlile**, and **Bill Young**; **David Clark**, and **Lenny Draper**, of Norman; **Diane Canavan**, Shawnee; **Aarone Corwin**, Midwest City; **Bill McCloud**, Pryor; and **Lynn McIntosh**, Ardmore.

Kids Caught Reading Again

For the 11th year, the Oklahoma Center for the Book will sponsor the *Kids Caught Reading* contest at the Oklahoma Celebration of National Young Readers Day.

During each school year, teachers and principals telephone students at their homes to ask them what they are doing at that moment. Every kid who they catch reading becomes eligible for a statewide drawing. The lucky ten students whose names are drawn receive certificates and \$25 checks from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. In 1999, 518 kids were caught reading at home.



The checks will be presented at the Oklahoma Celebration of Reading ceremony held at the Lazy E Arena, in Guthrie, on April 7, 2000.

YES I want to join—or renew my membership—in the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

Name _____
Address _____
City / State / Zip _____ E-mail _____
Phone _____

Type of membership:
_____ Student (\$5) _____ Individual (\$25) _____ Contributing (\$50)
_____ Partner (\$250) _____ Organizational (\$500) _____ Corporate (\$1000)

The Center for the Book

- Promotes Oklahoma Authors
- Sponsors the Annual Oklahoma Book Awards
- Participates in special literacy and reading projects
- Arranges author visits to Oklahoma communities
- Offers exhibits and openings
discussions and lectures
symposia and workshops

The mission of the Oklahoma Center for the Book is to promote Oklahoma authors, celebrate the state's literary heritage, and encourage reading for pleasure by Oklahomans.



Inside—

- Oklahoma Book Awards Underway*
- New Board Members and Officers*
- Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award Announced*
- Kid's Talk Back To Writers—and win!*