

 **12th Annual Ceremony**

# Joyce Carol Thomas Honored for Lifetime Achievement

**Joyce Carol Thomas** received the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th annual Oklahoma Book Award Ceremony held at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City on March 11, 2001. Presenting the award was her editor and friend **Maureen Sullivan**, Senior Editor at Hyperion Books.

Thomas was a double winner who also received the 2001 book award in the Children/Young Adult category for *Hush Songs*, a book of African American lullabies published by Hyperion Books for Children, New York. Presenting the award was **Lynn McIntosh**, director of the Chickasaw Regional Library System, and Vice-President of the Oklahoma Center for the Book.



Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award winner **Joyce Carol Thomas** (right) with presenter **Maureen Sullivan**

The Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries sponsors the program. Books considered for this award must have been published in 2000 and must have an Oklahoma-based theme or entrants (authors, illustrators, or designers) must live or have lived in Oklahoma. Thomas was born in Ponca City. Although she moved to California at the age of ten, she never forgot her Oklahoma background. Her books capture the imagery, language, and rhythms of that early time in Oklahoma when she made up songs, stories, and poems, and shared them with her playmates and friends.

**Carolyne Wright**, Edmond, received the 2001 Award for Poetry for her book *Seasons of Mangoes and Brainfire* published by Lynx House Press, Spokane, Washington. Wright is a creative writing professor at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond. The medal was presented by **Joe Holmes**,

*Please Turn to Page 3*

Other Awards Received by  
Joyce Carol Thomas

- The National Book Award for *Marked by Fire*
- Best book for Young Adults by the *New York Times*, 1983
- The Coretta Scott King Award in 1994 for *Brown Honey and Broomwheat Tea*
- Governor's Award, State of Oklahoma, 1998
- Poet Laureate for the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers at Oklahoma State University, Tulsa.

# Honored Poet Joyce Carol Thomas Reaches Out To Oklahoma

Joyce Carol Thomas, 2001 winner of the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award, came to Oklahoma City a week before the Awards Dinner to visit public libraries.

She visited nine Oklahoma County Metropolitan Libraries, and spoke to approximately 100 children at each location. The Metropolitan Library System gave each child a copy of *I Have Heard of a Land*, Thomas's picture book inspired by her ancestors' move to Oklahoma Territory.

The afternoon preceding the Book Award Ceremony, Thomas spoke and autographed books at the Belle Isle Library. The Friends of the Metropolitan Libraries cosponsored the event.

The day after the award ceremony, Thomas drove to Ponca City and visited her childhood haunts. A welcome home autographing party was held at the local bookstore Brace Books and More.



**Joyce Carol Thomas visits and autographs in Ponca City**  
—that's board member Bill Young above with Ms. Thomas

## Record Number of Kids Caught Reading

*Reading: It's Magic!* was the theme for the Oklahoma Celebration of Reading 2000-2001, a National Young Readers' Day event held April 10, 2001, at Lazy E Arena in Guthrie.

Oklahoma Center for the Book President **B.J. Williams**, and Executive Director **Glenda Carlile** presented certificates and \$25 checks to 25 happy students. This event begins with teachers and principals across the state calling students at home and asking them what they are doing. If they are "caught" reading, the teacher puts the student's name in the pool for a statewide drawing. There were more Kids Caught Reading this year—with more awards presented—than ever before.

Kids Caught Reading in 2001 were:

- Bradley Barney**, 3rd, Houchin Elementary, Moore
- Jennifer Dawson**, 4th, Union City Elementary, Union City
- Brittany Davis**, 6th, Central Elementary, Moore
- Craig Dodd**, 4th, Piedmont Elementary, Piedmont
- Chelsea Garcia**, 5th, Winding Creek Elementary, Moore
- Lawrence Hardeman**, 4th, Millwood Elementary, Oklahoma City
- Cody Huddleston**, 3rd, Winding Creek Elementary, Moore
- Kanten Klinger**, 5th, McCord Elementary, Ponca City
- Andy Lemon**, 4th, Union City Elementary, Union City
- Casey Linton**, 3rd, McCord Elementary, Ponca City
- Hillary Martin**, 3rd, Whittier Elementary, Muskogee
- Johnathan McFarland**, 5th, Whittier Elementary, Muskogee
- Chris Mooter**, 5th, Binger-Oney Elementary, Binger
- Torie Raines**, 4th, Binger-Oney Elementary, Binger
- Stevie Reed**, 3rd, Houchin Elementary, Moore
- Brandon Roach**, 3rd, Crowder Elementary, Crowder
- Ryan Rogers**, 6th, Talihina Elementary, Talihina
- Cairlin Scott**, 3rd, Crowder Elementary, Crowder
- Kara Shepher**, 5th, Lookeba-Sickles, Lookeba
- Katherine Bornholdt-Smith**, 3rd, D.D. Kirkland Elementary, Oklahoma City
- Jessica Tilley**, 3rd, Piedmont Elementary, Piedmont
- Dimitri Thompson**, 3rd, Millwood Elementary, Oklahoma City
- Cory Traylor**, 6th, Talihina Elementary, Talihina
- Jacob Wipf**, 4th, Pioneer Pleasant Vale, Enid
- Wougim Heap of Birds**, 5th, D.D. Kirkland Elementary, Oklahoma City

### Oklahoma Center for the Book Newsletter

is published as warranted. Writers for this issue are Sue Stees, Diane Seebass, and Glenda Carlile. Editing & Layout by the Public Information Office of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

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

Oklahoma City 405-521-2502 or  
OK 73105-3298 800-522-8116 toll-free statewide

# Best of Books and Liz Coddling Earn Awards

*Continued from Page 1*

the Director of Midsouth Independent Booksellers Association.

Mystery writer **Carolyn Hart**, Oklahoma City, was the recipient of the fiction award for *Sugarplum Dead*, published by William Morrow, New York. Hart has received numerous awards for her *Death on Demand* novels. She was a founding member of Sisters in Crime, a national mystery writers' group. The award was presented by her longtime friend and fellow mystery writer **Eve Sandstrom**. Sandstrom received the fiction award in 1994 for *Down Home Heifer Heist*.

The recipient of the Design/Illustration award was **Lane Smith**, New York, the illustrator for *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip*, published by Villard Books, New York. Smith was born and raised in Tulsa. The award was presented to his mother **Millie Smith** of Sapulpa, who said Lane was very disappointed that he was unable to attend and very thrilled to be nominated for this award.

**Laurie Sundborg** (below, left) presents **Liz Coddling** with President's Award



The Big Winners: (above, left to right) **Joyce Carol Thomas, Carolyn Hart, David LaVere, Carolyne Wright, and Millie Smith** (mother of **Lane Smith**)

**Julie Hovis** (left) and **Kathy Kinasewitz** of Best of Books—Distinguished Service Award winners



**David Clark**, Managing Editor of *World Literature Today*, presented the Design/Illustration award.

**David LaVere**, associate professor of history at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, was the recipient of the Non-fiction Award for *Contrary Neighbors: Southern Plains and Removed Indians in Indian Territory*. **Judy Randle**, Book Editor of the *Tulsa World*, presented LaVere with his award.

**Laurie Sundborg**, chairman of the Awards committee, presented the President's Award to Immediate Past President **Liz Coddling**, who she praised for her work on the board. Sundborg presented the Distinguished Service Award to **Julie Hovis** and **Kathy Kinasewitz**, owners of Best of Books, an Edmond bookstore. Best of Books has been the bookseller for the Oklahoma Book Awards for several years and donates all the profits back to the Center.

The Center received one hundred and sixteen entries and named thirty-six finalists this year. One hundred and ninety people attended the book award ceremony. Twenty-eight award finalists attended—signing books before and after the ceremony.

The Oklahoma Book Awards were funded with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Oklahoma Book Awards were funded with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# TALENT ABOUNDS IN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oklahoma City's **B.J. Williams** was elected president of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, beginning her two year term in the fall of 2000. Other elected officers are **Lynn McIntosh** of Ardmore, vice-president; **Glenda Madden**, Norman, secretary; and **Bettie Estes-Rickner**, Oklahoma City, treasurer.

Williams is the producer and host of the television program "Read About It," sponsored by the Metropolitan Library System. McIntosh is the director of the Chickasaw Regional Library System in Ardmore. Madden is the marketing director for the University of Oklahoma Press. Estes-Rickner is the Director of Information Technology Services for the Putnam City School System.

Other board officers elected this year include: **Carol Hamilton**, author, poet, teacher, and former Oklahoma Poet Laureate from Midwest City; Tulsan **Angie Jackson**, writer and book reviewer; and **Jim Keith**, retired teacher, basketball coach, and resident of Oologah, Oklahoma.

Also on the board of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, from the Edmond area are **Liz Coddling**, **Julia Fresonke**, **Ann Hamilton**, **Julie Hovis**, and **Marcia Preston**.

Other directors are: **Kim Doner**, **Teresa Miller**, **Diane Seebass**, **Sue Stees**, **Laurie Sundborg**, **Dean Sims**, and **John Wooley** from Tulsa; **Glenda Carlile**, **Joe Holmes**, **Susan McVey**, **M. J. VanDeventer**, **Gerry Willingham**, and **Bill Young**, all of Oklahoma City; **David Clark**, Norman; **Diane Canavan** and **Joyce Pippis** of Shawnee; **Mort Hamilton**, Ardmore, and **Anna Myers**, Chandler.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book, an outreach program of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, is governed by the volunteer board of directors. The mission of the Center is to promote Oklahoma authors, celebrate the state's literary heritage, and to encourage reading for pleasure by all Oklahomans.

In December, the Oklahoma Center for the Book held a joint board meeting with FOLIO (Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma) at the Edmond Library. The May board meeting was held May 18 at the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in Oklahoma City. **Dan Provo**, Director of the State Museum of History made a special presentation on the new State History Center including a proposed literary exhibit.

## BOARD MEMBERS PUBLISH NEW WORKS

Several board members for the Oklahoma Center for the Book either published new works in 2000 or are anticipating new publications in 2001.

The following books were published in 2000:

- *When the Bough Breaks*, **Anna Myers**, published by Walker and Co., N.Y., for children.
- *Legerdemain*, **Carol Hamilton**, published by Mirage Group, Santa Clarita, CA. a book of poetry. Hamilton also reprinted the children's book, *The Dawn Seekers*.
- *Family Correspondence*, **Teresa Miller**, published by HAWK Publishing Co., Tulsa.
- *Dark Within*, **John Wooley**, published by HAWK Publishing, Tulsa.
- *Buckskin, Calico, and Lace: Oklahoma's Territorial Women* (reprint), **Glenda Carlile**, Southern Hills Publishers.

Books to come out in 2001 are:

- *Perhaps She'll Die*, **Marcia Preston**, published by Intrigue Press of Philadelphia.
- *I'm Not from Neptune*, **Carol Hamilton**, published by Royal Fireworks Press, and *Breaking Bread, Breaking Silence*, which recently won the Chiron Review Chapbook Award.
- *Stolen By the Storm*, **Anna Myers**, a children's book about the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, and published by Walker.
- *Kate Barnard, Oklahoma's Good Angel*, **Glenda Carlile** with **Bob Burke**, published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

# OKLAHOMA'S FIRST LITERARY LANDMARK TO HONOR WOODY GUTHRIE

Beginning in 2001 and continuing until Oklahoma's Centennial in 2007, a literary landmark will be dedicated each year in the state. The first location chosen for its literary significance is the park site in the center of Okemah located near the statue of Woody Guthrie. This project is co-sponsored by Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma Poets and Writers Center, and the Oklahoma Center for the Book in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. The dedication will take place on October 5.

## LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

# ADDRESSING THE AUTHORS

Have you ever wanted to have a conversation with the author of a book you have just read?

November 21, 2000

Rowdy Reid  
316 California  
Enid, OK 73701-6515

Dear Louis Sachar,

I recently read *Wayside School is Falling Down*. Reading the book made me feel happy. Many times I would be laughing out loud while I was reading. As I would read I would fantasize about attending Wayside School myself. It seems like a real fun and interesting place.

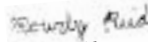
Many things about Wayside School could happen in real life, except for demonstrations such as throwing computers out of windows to explain gravity. The Wayside School building is very different from my school. My school is one story and small. It would be interesting to have classes in a tall building with many stairs. The stairways and basement at Wayside School are very mysterious. I found myself wanting to explore the basement even more than I read about it.

Mrs. Jewls teaches in very different ways from my school. Her way of teaching would be easy for the students in real life but for her students it was harder. Wayside School band students can play whatever songs they want but I do not believe anyone would ever want to listen to them playing. I would like having Mrs. Jewls for a teacher, and not having to pass for classes.

I can relate myself to all three of the Eric characters in the story. Many of the things they experienced in the story I have personally experienced, such as feeling fear when I have to go to the office. I feel fear because I do not know if it is for something good or bad. My mind freezes instantly when I hear the words "go to the office" so I do not remember if I did something bad or not.

I would enjoy attending Wayside School. Since I cannot go there in real life I will go there by reading your stories.

Sincerely,

  
Rowdy Reid

The Letters About Literature program allows students grades 4 through 12 to write personal responses to authors whose works have affected them.

To pick the best letters from our state, 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.

Three winners were selected from students in grades 4-7 (Level I), and three from grades 8-12 (Level II). First in each category received \$100, second received \$50, and third \$25.

The winners were:

### Level I

1st place went to **Shannon Whaley**, Edmond, writing to author **Cynthia Joye Rowland** for *The Monster Within*.

2nd place to **Rowdy Reid**, Enid, to **Louis Sachar** for *Wayside School is Falling Down* (left).

3rd place to **Darci Lewis**, Enid, writing to **Robert Lawson** for *Rabbit Hill*.

### Level II

1st place to **Blake Stuart**, Sallisaw, to **Harper Lee** for *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

2nd place to **Zachary Garret**, Broken Arrow, writing to author **Esther Forbes** for *Johnny Tremain*.

3rd place to **Kristina Welch**, Edmond, to **Roald Dahl** for *Matilda*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership**

Student-\$5\_\_ Individual-\$25\_\_ Contributing-\$50\_\_  
Partner-\$250\_\_ Organizational-\$500\_\_ Corporate-\$1000\_\_

Please mail this card and membership fee to:

**The Oklahoma Center for the Book**

200 NE 18 Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3298

The Oklahoma Center for the Book is a nonprofit 501-c-3 organization.

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.

For more information call (405) 522-3575  
or visit [www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb](http://www.odl.state.ok.us/ocb)

"A book is magical; it transcends time and space." —Daniel J. Boorstin, Librarian of Congress Emeritus

**Join us** as we recognize the important contribution of Oklahoma and Oklahomans to the world of literature.

**Help us** as we raise awareness of books and reading throughout the state.

**Become a member** of the Oklahoma Center for the Book—today!

"For books are more than books, they are the life, the very heart and core of ages past, the reason why men lived and worked and died, the essence and quintessence of their lives."—Amy Lowell, poet



---

## Inside—

*2001 Oklahoma Book Awards Recap*

*Joyce Carol Thomas—Double Winner!*

*Teachers Catch Kids Reading  
in Record Numbers*

*Kid's Write To Writers—Right!*

---