

## in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Fall 1988, Vol. XI, #5

# First Northwest Storytelling Festival

by Donald Braid

The Northwest Storytelling Festival is coming fast. Do you have your tickets yet? The Festival is on Friday, September 30th, and Saturday, October 1st, at Lakeside School, 14050 First Avenue NE, in Seattle.

On Friday night there is a concert with all the featured tellers at 7:30 pm. The cost is \$6. The Concert is intended for adults and children over 10.

The featured tellers are: **Brenda Wong Aoki**, a Japanese American storyteller and performance artist from San Francisco; **Naomi Baltuck**, from Seattle, who tells original and folk material; **Debra Harris-Branham**, from Renton, a teller of trickster, participatory and Black American Tales; **Johnny Moses**, a native American shaman and storyteller of the Nootka and Saanich peoples; **Cathy Spagnoli**, from Seattle, a teller of world folktales, many drawn from her travels in Asia; and the **Wives' Tales Story Tellers**, a duo of two women (Nan Gregory and Melanie Ray) from Vancouver BC who tell literary and folk stories.

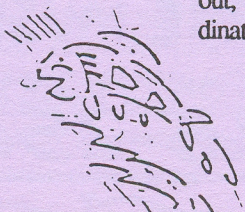
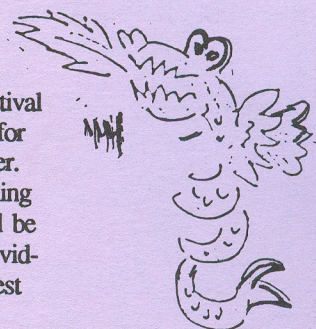
Saturday afternoon, 1 pm - 5 pm, there will be three stages running simultaneously: A "Family Stage" (for all ages), an "Adult Stage" (for adults and children over 10), and a "Swapping Ground" which is a chance for you to tell stories to the audience gathered there. Admission for the afternoon is \$11 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.

Saturday evening from 7 pm to 10 pm there will be a concert of Ghost stories. This again is recommended for adults and children over 10. admission is \$6.

If you want to see the entire festival you can get full festival tickets for \$18 member or \$20 non-member. Tickets may be reserved by calling 527-2341 or 525-2560. We will be selling a limited number of individual event tickets in advance. Best call and make your reservations now!

The festival will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.

We still need volunteers to help us produce this event. If you can help out, please call our volunteer coordinator, Sue Grizzell, at 523-6919.







*They say . . .*

"Life is like a palm tree. The fronds go this way and that."

—Dahomey, West Africa  
Stories —a wesstern storytelling newsletter

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: ☐ Individual, \$10 ☐ Family, \$15

☐ New ☐ Institutional, \$20 ☐ Donor, \$25

☐ Renewal ☐ Liar, \$49.95

☐ Fairy godparent (lifetime), \$100

☐ Muse (be creative & generous), \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am interested in volunteering. Please call me to discuss how I may help.

☐ Please include my name on mailing lists for related events.

Mail to: *Seattle Storytellers' Guild*

*P.O. Box 45532*

*Seattle, Washington 98145-0532*

### Call Us for Answers:

Naomi Baltuck, V. P., Membership Activities, 525-2560  
Donald Braid, President, Program Dvlpt, 527-2341  
Clare Graham, Secretary, Editor, *In the Wind*, 325-9409  
Sue Grizzle, Coordinator of Volunteers and Mailings, 523-6919

Mary O'Leary, Coordinator NW Festival, 725-7660

Martha Smith, Grants writer, 522-8788

Eugene Vernon, Legal Advisor, 325-5864

*In the Wind* is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, a non-profit organization, and is published quarterly (January, April, July, and October). Membership in the Guild includes a year's subscription.

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR LABEL.

DEADLINE FOR THE January-March NEWSLETTER IS Dec.

10. Articles & queries should be sent to:

Seattle Storytellers' Guild, P.O. Box 45532, Seattle 98145-0532.

***Seattle Storytellers' Guild***

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THE SEATTLE STORYTELLERS' GUILD  
~ PRESENTS ~



# **HALLOWEEN STORIES**

for

# **ADULTS**

AND CHILDREN 10 AND UP



**SUNDAY, OCT. 30**

AT 7 P.M., DOOR OPENS AT 6:30 P.M.

ADMISSION - \$5.00

AT THE BURKE MUSEUM BOISERIE

FOR MORE INFO. OR TICKET RESERVATIONS

CALL **525-2560**

BE THERE OR BE WAIVED



# Northwest Puppet Center

by Chris Carter

In January, we went out to Neah Bay to meet with some of the Elders of the Makah tribe. We wanted to ask their permission and help to do a marionette play based on the stories of the Makah tribe. They gave us their enthusiastic support. In cultures where stories are one of their greatest wealths, they liked the idea of us bringing the stories to life and showing them both to their own children and to people around the state to acquaint them with the Makah culture. The Elders spontaneously started telling us stories they thought would make good puppet plays. It was the first of many sessions we spent with them, gathering story material for the show. The Makah are gifted storytellers, telling ancient tales which have been passed down orally through families, with animation, joy and warmth.

In subsequent visits to Neah Bay, we met musicians, basket weavers and drum makers—all who are helping with the production. The heads of the marionettes are carved of cedarwood in the refined and eloquent style of the NW Coast Indians by Duane Pasco. My partner, Stephen Carter, makes the bodies and controls of the marionettes. I weave cedar bark into their capes and skirts. With the help of our children, we are beginning rehearsals of this show, which is called "Q'w'e-ti—Tales of

the Makah Tribe." In seven short legends, it tells of the adventures of the trickster-hero Q'w'e-ti, the Mink.

Q'w'e-ti, a favorite of the Makah,

tricks greedy Raven and the fearful Burden Basket Ogress, but is outsmarted by the Moth People and the beautiful Octopus Woman.

The exciting collaboration between Carter Family Marionettes, the

Makah tribe and the Makah Cultural and Research Center premieres November 1 at Neah Bay. It will be a special performance with live narration by four of the Makah storytellers we've worked with. In November, we'll tour "Q'w'e-ti" around the state with perform-

ances at the NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue on November 11 at 7:30 pm, November 12 at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm and November 13 at 1:00 pm. These performances will begin with traditional dancing and singing by members of the Makah Tribe and will have live narration by a Makah storyteller. For more information, call 723-2849.

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## Apologies are in order!

The last issue of *In the Wind* incorrectly named the Bellevue Community College KBCS Program Director. It's Marianne Bundren who supports and encourages storytelling "on the air."

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## Ready, set . . .

The Monterey Public Library and local co-sponsors will present the first Monterey Storytelling Festival November 10-12, 1989. Festival organizing committee invites resumes, audition tapes and brochures from storytellers who wish to participate in the Festival, as performers or workshop leaders.

Send materials and inquiries to:  
Community Programs  
Monterey Public Library  
625 Pacific Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

## Margaret Read MacDonald: She's done it again!

by Naomi Baltuck

Many of you are already familiar with Margaret MacDonald's highly acclaimed book for storytellers: Twenty Tellable Tales. With Hallow een just around the corner, H.W. Wilcon could not have chosen a better time to release her latest book, When the Lights Go Out.

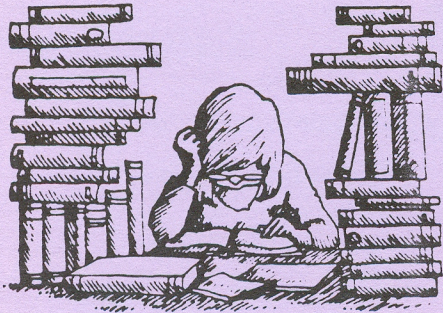
When the Lights Go Out is a collection of twenty more very tellable tales garnered from many world cultures. The stories range from "not too scary" to "scary in the dark" to "jump tales" to "the really gross stuff." Included are stories appropriate for all possible audiences, from "The Wee Little Tyke," which tickles the pre-schooler's funny bone to the Eskimo tale "Totanguak," which could chill the blood of an adult.

The best source books for storytellers are the ones written by other storytellers: the author's understanding goes beyond that which looks good upon the printed page to that which will translate well into oral form. Margaret Read MacDonald has used her many years of practical storytelling experience to develop a unique ethnopoetic writing style to help the storyteller establish the rhythm of each story when spoken aloud. Lines are arranged to correspond with oral phrasing and simple cues tell when to emphasize certain passages. At the end of each story, the author includes helpful notes on story origins and suggestions for telling a story.

The result is a collection of easy-to-learn, easy-to-tell stories which will be useful to the practicing storyteller and invaluable to not only beginning storytellers, but to teachers, librarians and parents who have limited time for collecting and learning stories.

Pick up a copy of When the Lights Go Out and you'll have a guaranteed story-bag of tricks and treats the whole year through!





## Sources

about stories and the  
folks who tell them

by Margaret Read MacDonald

Last year I started collecting material for a book on using stories in the family. Before I even got a proposal letter off to my publisher, what should land on my desk but TWO new books on family storytelling! Both are worth your attention.

**I'LL TELL YOU A STORY, I'LL SING YOU A SONG: A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE FAIRY TALES, FABLES, SONGS AND RHYMES OF CHILDHOOD** by Christine Allison (Delacorte, 1987, \$15.95).

Allison gives texts for 23 of the best known "fairy tales" It's the fare of "Three Bears" to "Snow White." She also includes a section on fables, drawing mainly from Aesop. The book includes sections about "songs," "motion songs and fingerplays," "nursery rhymes," and "hymns and prayers."

The material presented is all available elsewhere, and Allison's tale texts are not very "tellable." She retells the tradition "snip snap snout" ending of "Billy Goat Gruff," for example, with "the three Billy Goats Gruff had a lovely summer frolicking in the grassy meadow." And the wolf in her "Three Little Pigs" goes away because the fire in the chimney is too hot.

While I do not recommend this book as a source of material, its boxed asides on technique are enlightening and the format of the book is so airy and inviting that I suggest you get your hands on it for a quick browse. I think non-storyteller parents will

find the book approachable, and at the reasonable price of \$15.95, it has gift appeal.

**THE FAMILY STORYTELLING HANDBOOK: HOW TO USE STORIES, ANECDOTES, RHYMES, HANDKERCHIEFS, PAPER AND OTHER OBJECTS TO ENRICH YOUR FAMILY TRADITIONS** by Anne Pellowski (MacMillan, 1987, \$15.95)

Drawing on her international expertise (Anne founded the Information Center on Children's Cultures for the U.S. Committee for UNICEF), Anne presents handkerchief stories, origami, paper cutting, object stories, drawing stories from around the world. She includes materials collected from fellow tellers Ruth Stotter and Gay Merrill Gross. The book continues the tradition of **THE STORY VINE** (Collier/MacMillan, 1984) and will be equally useful as a source of quick, attention grabbing story bits, useful in programming.

In chapters on "Why Tell Stories," "When to Tell Stories," "What Kinds of Stories to Tell," and "How to Tell Stories" the author introduces the art of storytelling. She sprinkles her suggestions with personal anecdotes, story clips, and notes on the use of tales in other cultures. Guild members will enjoy reading her comments.

This too would make a good gift book. Pellowski's book should appeal to a more intellectual audience than Allison's text, which works more as a quick fix for the desperate parent.

## At The Boiserie

by Donald Braid

Storytelling continues at the Boiserie this Fall. On October 30, we will present "Howling at the Moon," a program of stories for Halloween. The first half of the program will feature some of Seattle's finest ghost storytellers, the second half will be an open mike so that you can tell your own favorites.

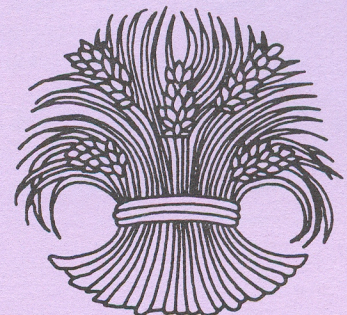
On November 13 Sue Grizzell will tell women's stories. If you missed Sue's stories at folklife, or would like to hear more, here is your chance.

December 11 is our ever popular **Holiday Potpourri**. As in the October program we will have an hour of featured tellers followed by an open mike.

Come and enjoy the warm surroundings of the Boiserie and some good storytelling. Better yet come tell us one of your stories. Recommended for adults and children over 10.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, storytelling starts at 7 pm in the Boiserie coffee-house in the Burke Museum on the U of WA campus (45th ave NE and NE 17th).

There is always lots of free parking. For ticket reservations call 527-2341.





# Repetition, Repetition, Repetition

by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

"Art Appreciation," "Introduction to Fiction," "Fundamentals of Music" – a liberal education includes such courses not because the art form cannot be appreciated without them, but because appreciation of the art form can be enhanced by them. No such course is in the standard curriculum to teach the fundamental principles of oral literature. This is one of a series of essays on the building blocks of oral literature.

When the poet Jana Harris wished to capture the voice of a Columbia Basin wife, she used repetition  
"I canned them pears  
and I canned them pears  
cause he loved 'em,"  
(from "I canned them pears and I canned them pears" in Manhattan as a Second Language). When she wished to invoke the sounds of a Southeast Alaskan Native American chant, she used repetition:  
"She said, Fish  
give me your silver skin, fish  
give me your silver, silver skin  
give me your silver almond skin  
fishm give me your skin"  
(from "Beneath the Pole of Proud Raven" *ibid.*) Repetition, so carefully removed from literary works as superfluous, redundant, wordy, typifies oral literature that it is used to create an oral feeling in written words.

Repetition occurs at all structural levels – in sounds, in words, in phrases, sentences, and even larger units. Classical rhetoric dissected this repetition, especially of words or phrases, into many categories based upon where the repeated words occurred. "A dream you had, by my soul, a dream!" (from "The Peddler of Ballaghadereen" in Ruth Sawyer's The Way of the Storyteller). The beginning (dream) is repeated at the end (dream). The beginning may be repeated as another beginning as in

"Come buy a trinket – come buy a brooch  
Come buy a kerchief of scarlet or yellow" (*ibid.*)

Or one may immediately repeat oneself – "Landlord, Landlord of the Head Inn, take that road to Ballaghadereen." (*ibid.*) At least eighteen of these rhetorical categories are named: epanalepsis, anaphora, epizeuxis. The names are not important; a sensitivity to the texture created by various units of repetition, relative positions, frequency, and distance is.

Diane Wolkstein, together with Samuel Noah Kramer, translated/retold the tales of the Sumerian goddess Inanna in Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth. In the forward she explains how she came to realize the need to retain in retelling the fundamental feature of the texts – repetition. It helped create a sense of other-time:  
"When heaven had moved away from earth,  
And earth had separated from heaven"  
(a repetition of an end as the next beginning). It helped create a sense of other-place:  
"At that time, a tree, a single tree, a huluppu tree  
was planted by the banks of the Euphrates"  
(repetition with only a word or two between). It enhanced a sense of ritual:  
"Small windstones were tossed up against him;  
Large hailstones were hurled up against him;"  
(repetition of ends). All examples are from "The Huluppu-tree." Throughout the book, Wolkstein exhibits the masterly use of repetition, retaining the original oral-ritual flavor without cluttering the text so as to lose the interest of the reader. She has edited the text into tellable stories and has used them as such.

Not all repetition repeats the same words. A word or root may be repeated in a different grammatical form as in the preceding sentence. Repetition in other words, a redundancy, is common – for example: "These parts of time made up the long, dark nights, which were called Po. As long as Po lasted, there was no light, there was only darkness." (from "The Children of Sky and Earth" in James Riordan's An Illustrated Treasury of Fairy and Folk Tales). Redundancies are especially common in stories told in informal traditional settings – for example, "I went to school, college, in Arkadelphia at Henderson State Teachers College, Henderson State College, now." (Story 36 in Ghost Stories from the American South, W.K. McNeil, editor).

Stories that exemplify the controlled use of repetition include: "Gallymanders! Gallymanders!" in Richard Chase's Grandfather Tales, "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" in Stith Thompson's One Hundred Favorite Folktales, "Sanyikar the Crow-Girl" in Folktales of India, edited by Brenda F. Beck, et. al., or "Song of Young Killer Whale" in Donald Philippi's Songs of Gods, Songs of Humans.

I repeat, the names are not important; a sensitivity to the texture created by various forms of repetition is. It will enhance your story listening and telling.



If you're going to the NAPPS 16th National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee, October 7-9, be sure to find our own Pat Peterson from Seattle. Margaret Edmundson (Utah), Wanna Zinsmaster (California) and Pat are representing the West at the Exchange Place.

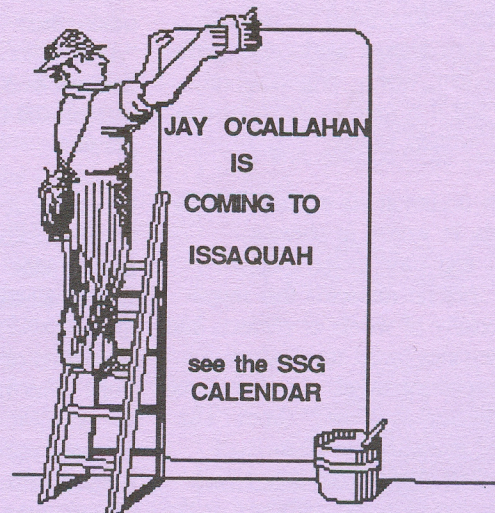


## NOVEMBER

- 1 "Q<sup>w</sup>e-ti" Makah Cultural and Research Center, Neah Bay. See article on page 2.
  
- 5 Chinese Tales and Music with Cathy Spagnoli and Joan Rabinowitz. Seattle Art Museum, Volunteer Park, 11 am. Call 625-8950 for more information.
  
- 11 "Q<sup>w</sup>e-ti" NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue, 7:30 pm. Call 723-2849.
  
- 12 "Q<sup>w</sup>e-ti" NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue, 11 am and 7:30 pm. Call 723-2849.
  
- 10-13 "Sayin' Somethin' in the Tradition" The Sixth Annual National Festival of Black Storytelling will be in Oakland, California. Oscar Brown, Jr., Nikki Giovanni, Whitman Mayo, Jackie Torrence and Luisah Teish are a few of the renowned performers participating. Every storytelling session opens with drums and is free to the public. For details, contact Festival, Box 28654, Oakland, CA 94604 or the Festival Office at (415) 268-9306.
  
- 13 Second Sunday Concert featuring Sue Grizzell telling Women's Stories. 7 pm at the Boiserie. \$5.00  
 "Q<sup>w</sup>e-ti" NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Avenue, 1 pm. Call 723-2849.
  
- 17 Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board Meeting Visitors welcome. 7 pm. 7467 1/2 Woodlawn Avenue, NE
  
- 21 Cynthia Orr tells Stories Mother Never Told You at Red and Black Bookstore, 430 15th Avenue East. 7 pm. 322-READ for information.

## DECEMBER

- 1 Story 'n' Snack. To avoid conflicts with end of the month holidays, our monthly story gatherings for November and December will be combined in this, the last Story 'n' Snack gathering of the year! Bring a tale and a treat. Thursday, 7:30 pm. For more information call Naomi or Thom at 525-2560.
  
- 11 Second Sunday Concert at the Boiserie. A holiday potpourri of some of Seattle's finest storytellers. 7 pm. \$5.00
  
- 15 Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board Meeting Visitors welcome. 7 pm. 7467 1/2 Woodlawn Avenue, NE
  
- 19 Mallory Clarke tells International Tales that are a WEE Bit Political at Red and Black Bookstore, 430 15th Avenue East. 7 pm 322-READ for information.





# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

**NO Story 'n' Snack in September!** Come to the Story Festival for your monthly Story fix!

**24** Naomi Baltuck tells stories from all over the world. Saturday, 1 pm, University Bookstore. Free. For more information, call 634-3400.

**30-October 1** Northwest Storytelling Festival! See front page article.

## OCTOBER

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** Our regular Second Sunday Concert has been moved to October 30. There will be no Second Sunday Gathering this month. Come instead to our special Halloween Concert!

**7-9** **NAPPS National Storytelling Festival** Jonesborough, Tennessee. This is NAPPS' 16th Annual Festival and will feature Brenda Wong Aoki, John Basinger, Bernard Bragg, Lucille and Bren Breneman, Len Cabral, Bill Harley, Ray Hicks, Alice McGill, Gamble Rogers, Pete Seeger, Jackie Torrence, Robert B. Wilhelm, Michael Williams and Diane Wolkstein. Phone 615-753-2171 for ticket and lodging information.

**10** **Stories with JAY O'CALLAHAN** at the Issaquah Village Theatre, 120 Front Street N. Call 747-0215 (Pomegranate Productions) or 392-8303 (Rainy Day Books) for ticket information.

**14** **Evening of Stories with Cathy Spagnoli.** Hiawatha Community Center, 2700 California SW., West Seattle, 7 pm. For more information, call 684-7441.

**14-16** **Stories: The Voice of Peace: Personal, Religious, World Peace.** A Week-end Conference with Belden Lane, Jenny Warwick, Arthur Waskow, Peninnah Schram, Laura Simms, Gioia Timpanelli and Diane Wolkstein at Beaver Conference Farm, Underhill Avenue RD#3, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Call 914-962-6033 for more information.

**17** Eugene Vernon telling **Autumn and Halloween Stories** at Red and Black Bookstore, 430 15th Avenue East. 7 pm 322-READ for information.

**20** **Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board Meeting** Visitors welcome. 7 pm. 7467 1/2 Woodlawn Avenue, NE

**21-22** **Third Annual Los Angeles Basin Storytelling Festival** at Cal State L.A., featuring Jay O'Callahan, Doug Lipman and Olga Loya. Friday only: \$10; Friday and Saturday: \$45. For more information, call Stephanie Meyer during the day at 213-612-3285.

**27** **Story 'n' Snack.** Thursday, 7:30 pm. Bring a spooky story and a treat. For more information call Naomi or Thom at 525-2560.

**28** **Maurice Sendak**, well-known author and illustrator, will be Guest Speaker in the Spencer G. Shaw Honor Lecture Series at 8:15 in Kane Hall, University of Washington. The lecture is complimentary. It is sponsored by the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences and the University Bookstore. It is for adults only.

**30** **Howling at the Moon: A Special Halloween Concert** sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers' Guild. Sunday, 7 pm., at the Boiserie at Burke Museum, University of Washington.