

## *in the Wind*

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Summer 1992, Vol. XV, Number 3

### **Fifth Annual Northwest Storytelling Festival**

It's back and better than ever! This year's festival will be held on September 19 from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard. As always, it will be a day of storytelling workshops, performances, story swapping and fun.

For the first time, the Guild will offer the opportunity to order a box lunch with preregistration. There are two different lunches to choose from which are being prepared by The Wedge. Those who order will be able to pick up their lunch at the festival.

Our featured storytellers, in addition to offering a workshop, will perform at both a Family Concert and the evening performance. The featured tellers are:

**Joy Anderson**, a Seattle teller, equally at home with traditional tales and personal stories, as well as a sly, entertaining teller of her own versions of Greek myths. Joy will offer a workshop on developing personal stories both in written and oral form.

**Sharon Creedon**, a favorite local teller who now divides her time between Seattle and Arizona. She tells personal stories and traditional ones, including some with a decided legal bent, a logical extension of her career as a lawyer. Sharon will be giving a workshop on adding "sparkle" to traditional tales.

**Dayton Edmonds** is a resident of Concunully, a Methodist minister, artist and Native American teller, who was also a featured teller at the Methow Valley Storytelling Festival. Dayton will offer a workshop on story and ethnic heritage.

**Marcia Lane** will come to us from New York. She will offer a workshop on music and storytelling.

Expect a flyer later this month telling you how to order your lunch box and pre-register. As always, registration will also be accepted at the door.



## What a Puzzle!

by Martha Eshelman-Smith

A wake in a Saramakan village in Suriname is a primary occasion for telling tales. This storytelling always begins with a period of riddling: "My father has a dog that barks from morning to night. It's never silent," [rapids] (*Two Evenings in Saramaka* by Richard and Sally Price).

The use of riddles to introduce a wake dispels the notion that riddles are strictly simple children's play although children's folklore includes many riddles: "I'm Tillie Williams from Walla Walla; I'm odd and queer but not peculiar; I like

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### Who eats at the king's table and doesn't use a napkin? -- A fly.

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pepper but not salt; I like walls but not ceilings," [double letters] (American Children's Folklore by Simon Bonner). Alvin Schwartz in his notes to *Unriddling* gives a brief history of riddles noting their association with magic, religion and prestige. He and Bonner illustrate the varieties of riddles: the classic descriptive riddle such as the two given above; the riddle parody that plays on your expectation of a riddle: "A dime and a nickel were on top of the Empire State Building. The nickel jumped. Why didn't the dime jump?" [He had more cents - Bonner]; the joking question: "What did one wall say to the other wall?" [I'll meet you at the corner or Don't lean on me. I'm plastered too. - Bonner]

Storytelling uses of riddles include stories with riddles such as the story of

Oedipus or Clever Manka (*Tatterhood and Other Tales* by Ethel Phelps.) Songs may be riddles as in "I'm My Own Grandpaw."

Riddles in a storytelling program may build context for subsequent stories. They can give stories context by showing something about the mindset of native tellers. "Who eats at the king's table and doesn't use a napkin?" [fly] (West African in Maria Leach's *Riddle Me, Riddle Me, Ree*). This context may in time as well as in space: "My twin points are bound by an iron bar. I wrestle with wind, struggle with the sea. I probe deep waters - I bite the earth," [anchor] (Fifth Century Latin in Williamson's *A Feast of Creatures: Anglo-Saxon Riddle Songs*. It may give a sense of a region's aesthetics: "A blue napkin full of pears," [sky] (*Persian and Arabic Riddles* by Charles T. Scott). Or it may give a sense of an item's utility: "Why is it a tailor and a plantain are alike? The tailor is cut to fit and the plantain fit to cut," (*Folklore from Contemporary Jamaicans* by Daryl C. Dance).

Riddles can signal that the teller expects creative interpretation from the audience - that the story is literal but not in the obvious sense: "The man was afraid to go home because a man with a mask was there. What was the man with the mask holding?" [a baseball].

Riddles can pace a program and provide audience participation. They are small gems of folklore which traditional storytelling helps preserve.



## Stories and Song Highlight Children's Festival

A new program at the Nordic Heritage Museum gives an opportunity to experience folklife of different countries *and* to tell stories. The museum is holding a series of mini-cultural festivals throughout the year and is looking for storytellers for these events. (Contact Heidi Saastamoinen at 789-5707).

Each festival highlights three or four cultures from different corners of the globe. Saastamoinen, the program coordinator, explained the groupings were chosen "to be interesting" and also to show the similarities of folk tradition from geographically distant lands. The chosen countries also reflect population groups in Seattle.

Welcome dances, everyday folk crafts, food and music will show bring

these disparate cultures to life.

June's festival featured Denmark, Africa and Mexico. July's will feature Finland, Hungary, Brazil and France. August will celebrate Sweden, Italy and Australia. September's features Norway (children will make traditional headbands and vests from paper), Japan and the Ukraine. Similar puppet theaters will represent the latter two, and participants can make Ukrainian decorative eggs. October's festival features Iceland, the Hmong culture and Lithuania. A holiday celebration will wrap up the year on December 12.

Admission is \$2.50 for each event per child or Passport Books can be purchased for museum members (\$8) and non-members (\$10).

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## Story Tree Spreads the Word for Tellers

Storytellers interested in widening their audiences via the airwaves have an opportunity to do so with "The Story Tree." The aim is to provide "quality radio programming to a growing audience," enhance credibility and marketability of storytellers, expand public awareness and offer self-marketing workshops. The Story Tree is looking for suitable material from tellers around the nation.

Interested storytellers should send a cassette or reel-to-reel tape to Carol A. Huebner, Producer, The Story Tree, P.O.

Box 2465, Johnson City, TN 37605. This program is especially interested in material two to 10 minutes long, but longer material is accepted. Also send information on the story, for example if it is original material, retold or in the public domain; and send information on yourself. Tapes cannot be returned.

Material selected for broadcast will include a short introduction of the storyteller. The Story Tree will promptly forward any listener inquiries to the teller.



## Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

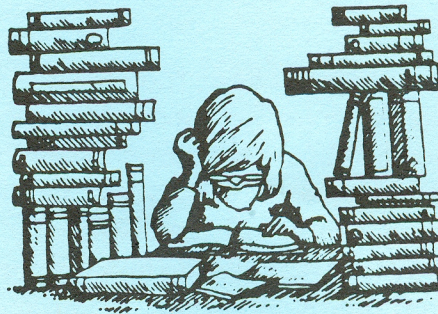
by Margaret Read MacDonald,  
King County Library System

Jana Dean's *Wetland Tales* just arrived! I was in the midst of a column about another topic, but decided to put that one aside and give our readers the scoop on Jana's new book. It is printed by the Washington State Department of Ecology and I don't know how many copies they produced. So we will want to get our orders in right away.

*Wetland Tales: A Collection of Stories for Wetland Education*, compiled and edited by Jana Dean (produced by the Washington State Department of Ecology, Publication #92-17). Jana has done a fine job with this collection. She includes 10 tales which can be related to wetlands study and provides interpretive notes to help the teacher/teller make that connection for each tale. I found her introductory notes, which gave a rationale for the use of story in wetland studies, especially interesting. They make some clear thinking and useful points for those of use who are always trying to explaining to non-tellers just *why* a story is important. The book is handsomely produced on buff recycled paper, with illustration by Nikki McClure. It is available from The Publications Office, Department of Ecology, Olympia, WA 98504-8711.

Thanks, Jana for giving us all a great new storytelling tool!

And while I am discussing books with a mission, I might as well make so bold as to mention my own latest book. (Since we don't have a review column for In the Wind at the moment, you won't hear about it unless I toss modesty aside. By the way this column is in the nature of a bibliographic essay. I discuss whatever comes to mind. Books and tapes sent to the Seattle Storyteller's Guild for review do not come to my desk.) My own newest



book is *Peace Tales: World Folktales to Talk About* (Shoestring/Linnet, 1992). This is a collection of 35 tales on themes of peaceful reconciliation. They were drawn from world literature and were most difficult to discover. It seems our stories tell us much more about survival through trickery and warfare than about living in peace with one another. A few of the tales in this new collection are retold in my "tellable" format, but many are reprinted as they appear in their original sources. Of the "tellable" tales I recommend particularly for your use "Strength," a powerful story which youth need to think about.

And since the theme of this month's column has turned to ecology, this is a good time to mention a new production from Joseph Bruchac and Michael J. Caduto. *Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children* (Fulcrum, 1991) is similar to their *Keepers of the Earth* (Fulcrum, 1988), which we all found so useful. The new book includes tales, again with notes on classroom use. It's trim size is slightly smaller than the first book. You may want to note that the stories only from *Keepers of the Earth* have been issued as a separate volume *Native American Stories* (Fulcrum, 1991). I recommend that you purchase the original *Keepers of the Earth Volume*, rather than the tales alone rendition. The notes enhance the tales and are worth the added price for the fuller book.

(Continued on next page)



# Coyote and Rock and Other Lushootseed Stories

Reviewed by Naomi Baltuck

Storyteller Vi Hilbert, an Elder and a member of the Upper Skagit Tribe, has recorded an audio cassette of stories. In a quiet, unaffected manner she presents eight Lushootseed stories and guest storyteller Rebecca Chamberlain tells one.

Vi's tales are told in both English and in her native language, Lushootseed, in such a way that the transition from one language to the other does not detract from the flow of the stories, but actually enhances the telling.

She begins with "Lady Louise," a wise and wryly humorous story. "Pushing Up the Sky" is a beautiful creation story about working together. These ancient stories touch a universal chord that rings true, traveling over the boundaries of time and cultural differences. A good example is the story about "Bear and Fishhawk," which is an important reminder that we must not try to be something we are not. Many of the stories, such as "Coyote and Rock" and "Mud Swallow" use a sly and understated humor that makes good-natured fun of our

human foibles. For balance, "Owl and His Wife Frog" is a sad and simple story that will stay with you long after the telling.

Guest storyteller Rebecca Chamberlain does a fine job telling "Little Raccoon." Be prepared for a change in tone and pacing, though, because the two storytellers' styles are very different and Rebecca's story is told only in English.

A fitting ambience for all of the stories is created by traditional flute music played by Lummi Native American Jule James.

I have listened to this tape three times and on each occasion, I found myself pulled out of my busy, noisy world. When the last story was over, I returned to my own world feeling refreshed and a little bit wiser. Perhaps that is because all these stories are told as simple truths and I, for one, believed them.

Note: This cassette was produced by Parabola Magazine and published by Harper Collins Publishers. Tapes may be purchased for \$11 plus shipping and handling by calling 1-800-331-3761.

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## Sources (Continued from page 4)

*Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope* by the Stories for World Change Network (New Society Publishers, 1992) has been released. I haven't seen a copy yet but expect it to be a most useful collection. I understand that many tellers contributed to this. It is described as "Stories and activities that relate to living with one another and the earth." Order from New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143 (\$24.95).



**BOOKS**



# Calendar of Events

## July

**3 Tales of the Seven Seas**, an enchanting evening of seaside storytelling featuring Cynthia Orr, Tom Galt, Dawn Kuhlman and Camille Wooden, Kathy Sider and Martha Smith. 8 p.m., Center for Wooden Boats, 1010 Valley, \$5 admission. Co-sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers Guild and the Center for Wooden Boats. Information: 621-8646.

**8 Traditions: Exploring the Folkways of Storytelling**, July 8-12, San Antonio Texas. Contact NAPPS, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659 (615) 753-2171. Workshops, discussions and performances.

**10 Sharon Creedon** tells stories about wolves at **Wofhaven's Howl-in**. The family night features a 7:30 p.m. tour of the wolf sanctuary and a campfire program of songs and stories. Located in Tenino, WA (southeast of Olympia). Call Linda at (206) 264-4695 for time and directions.

**10-11 The 12th Annual Michigan Storytellers Festival**, Flint MI. For information call (313) 232-7111, ext. 224.

**11 Tivoli**, the Nordic Heritage Museum's annual Nordic summer festival, will recreate a miniature Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, Denmark. From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., the parking lot will be full of amusements for children of all ages: booths, musicians, dancers, a wine and beer garden and a big top tent.

**13-16 Teaching with Tales: Storytelling for Educators**, a 3 credit course offered through the Central Kitsap School District's Summer Institute. Learn the basics of choosing, learning and telling a story. Learn how to teach children to tell a story and to shape stories from personal experiences. Special emphasis placed on confidence building, puppet-making, storytelling and creative dramatics. Receive plenty of experience in the actual telling of stories. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Silverdale, WA. Tuition \$125. For information, registration call (206) 692-3101.

**15 SSG Board meeting**, 7 p.m. Call Joy Anderson for directions.

**17 Peace Tales**, told by Margaret MacDonald. Author, storyteller and folklorist MacDonald will be telling thought-provoking folktales about peace from her newest book. Evening begins with open mike storytelling at 7 p.m., Burke Museum, UW campus, \$5 general, \$3 SSG members. Information: 621-8646.

**17-24 Ministry in Story**, integrating storytelling with spirituality. Contact Midge Miles, M.Ed., Ministry in Story Director, Mariandale Center, P.O. Box 1200 Dept. S, Ossining, NY 10562, (914) 923-0292.

**18 A Quincentennial Concert** Honoring the First People of this Land. This program celebrates the culture of Lushootseed oral traditions of the First People of Puget Sound through their stories and songs. Program includes Vi Hilbert, Johnny Moses and many others. This is the first of a two-part series. 1 to 5 p.m. at the downtown Seattle Art Museum, \$10. Tickets, info: 243-7059.



**18      Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** is a series of workshops for children (age 5 and over) and adults. Lis Nygaard, MLS, a part-time children's librarian and consultant, uses children's stories from various cultures as tools in confronting cultural stereotypes. 9 a.m. to noon, Conference Room, Centre for Continuing Education, University of British Columbia. \$175 for six sessions, \$35 for single session. One child per adult free, additional children \$5 per session. Inquiries: (604) 222-5261; registration: (604) 222-5222. July 18 features North American stories.

**19      A Quincentennial Concert** Honoring the Spirituality of the First People of Puget Sound. Program includes Vi Hilbert, Johnny Moses and many others. 1 to 6 p.m. at St. Mark's Cathedral, 1245-10th Ave. E., \$10. Tickets, information: (206) 243-7059.

**20-24      Holy Humor and Wholeness: Humor and the Story in Ministry.** Learn to use storytelling, clowning, mime and holy foolery in pastoral care. Contact Dr. Carol Voisin, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Dr., Berkeley, CA 92709, (800) 999-0528.

**25      Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** features children's stories of South America (see July 18).

**25-26      Illinois Storytelling Festival** with Patrick Ball, Jackie Torrence, Michael Cotter, Kathryn Tucker Windham, Gayle Ross. Spring Grove, IL. Contact Jim May, (815) 648-2039.

**26-31      Storytelling Retreats** with Barbara Griffin, author of the Storyteller Guidebook Series. Six-day workshop to

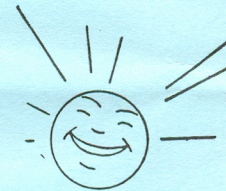
focus on storytelling in professional and educational settings. Contact Barbara Budge Griffin, 10 S. Keene Way Dr., Medford, OR 97504.

**28      A Circle of Friends**, a cultural sharing festival features the folklore of Finland, Hungary, Brazil and France, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Nordic Heritage Museum (related story, p. 3).

**28-Aug. 2      The Wilden Workshop**, Cedar Mountain, NC. A five-day storytelling intensive with Milbre Burch. Write to Kind Crone Productions, 582 Eldora Rd., Pasadena, CA 91104.

**30      Story'n'Snack.** 7:30 to 10 p.m., call Sally Porter Smith (284-2315) for directions.

## August



**1      Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** features children's stories of Asia, (see July 18).

**1      The 13th Annual Laura Simms Storytelling Residency**, the Ocamora Foundation, Okate' New Mexico, August 1-8. An in-depth workshop combining myth, traditional performance technique, meditation, symbolism, the meaning of dreams and personal narrative. \$975, contact Maura Hogan, 814 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, (212) 674-3479.

**1      Sharon Creedon** tells stories about wolves at **Wolfhaven's Howl-in**. Call Linda at (206) 264-4695 for time and directions.



## August

(Continued)



**8 A Circle of Friends**, a cultural sharing festival features the folklore of Sweden, Italy and Australia, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Nordic Heritage Museum (related story, p. 3).

**8 Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** features children's stories of Europe (see July 18).

**8-9 Stories, Inc.** presents the **Fifth Annual Hoosier Storytelling Festival**, Indianapolis, IN. For information: Stories, Inc. P.O. Box 20743, Indianapolis, IN 46220 (317) 255-7628.

**9-14 Storytelling Retreat** with Barbara Griffin. See July 26-31.

**14-20 Pre-conference on Jewish Storytelling** at CAJE '92 at UCLA. Featuring morning concurrent workshops Sunday August 16. A Legacy of Lore: Folklore Gathering and Telling Project, Cherie Karo Schwartz. Chelm: The Real and the Imagined, Steve Sanfield. From Storytelling to Creative Writing, Harlynne Geisler. Storytelling and the Elderly, Lynn Hazan. Treasures of the Sephardic Oral Tradition, Peninnah Schram. For information contact Peninnah Schram, 1720 Morningview Drive, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, (904) 962-9387.

**15 Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** features children's stories of Africa, (see July 18).

**15-18 Earth Myth and True Life Story: A Storytelling Workshop** with Laura Simms, "America's finest storyteller," along with renowned anthropologist and cultural ecologist Frances Harwood. Teachers and students will examine the inner landscape of story and the outer landscape of the phenomenal world. Mornings: storytelling classes; afternoons: outdoor explorations of symbols, shapes, wildlife and lore of the region; evenings: discussions of storytelling in traditional in traditional cultures. Snake River Institute, Jackson Hole, WY, P.O. Box 7724, 83001, Contact Doyen McIntosh (307) 733-2214.

**21 Just Say Yes**, a new improvisational theater group, will present an evening of improv, storytelling and the unexpected. Starts 7 p.m., followed by open mike. Burke Room, Burke Museum, \$5 general, \$3 SSG members. For information call 621-8646.

**21 Benefit concert**, featuring Vi Hilbert and Johnny Moses telling tales of the first people of Puget Sound. 8 to 10 p.m., Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard, 3014 NW 67th, \$10. Information: (206) 243-7059. Proceeds to benefit the Swinomish Community Smokehouse.

**22 Storytelling: Transcending Cultural Barriers** features children's stories of Australia, (see July 18).

**19 SSG Board meeting**, 7 p.m. Call Sally Porter Smith, 294-2315 for directions.

**26 Story'n'Snack** will be held August 30 as part of our Second Annual SSG Picnic.





**28-29 Polishing Your Story Gems;** teacher, Naomi Baltuck, professional storyteller. Ever try to describe an exciting or momentous personal experience and have it fall flat? It's all in the telling! Everyone is a natural-born storyteller and we all tell stories every day. In this course, in a safe and friendly atmosphere, you will shape those personal stories into polished "story gems" to share with family and friends. University of Washington campus. Friday 7 to 9:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., \$40.

**30 Second Annual SSG Family Picnic and Story Swap,** 3 to 7 p.m. Bring a dish to share and something to sit on (blanket, lawn chair). Beverages provided. Call Cherie Trebon for directions.

## September

**16 Board meeting.** Call Sally Porter Smith at 284-2315.

**18 Marcia Lane** from New York, one of the tellers featured at the Festival, at the Boiserie, 7 p.m. \$5.

**19 A Circle of Friends,** a cultural sharing festival features the folklore of Norway, Japan and the Ukraine, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Nordic Heritage Museum (related story, p. 3).

**19 Northwest Storytelling Festival,** 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Nordic Heritage Museum. See story, page 1.

**30 Story'n'Snack.** 7:30 to 10 p.m. Bring potluck dessert and story. Call Cherie Trebon at 525-0382.

## Upcoming

**National Storytelling Festival,** 20th anniversary celebration. October 2-4, Jonesborough, TN. Contact NAPPS, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659 (615) 753-2171.

**Tellabration 92: The Night of Storytelling.** 8 p.m. November 20, 1992. Register by July 31 for information on how to produce a Tellabration performance in your community. NAPPS, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN 37659 (615) 753-2171. One entry in the Proclamation contest will be chosen for use at all locations nationwide. The winning author will receive \$100 value in storytelling resources. Deadline: August 31.

## NEWs Seeks Storytellers

The Network of Editors and Writers at the University of Washington is interested in having a storytelling event for one of its autumn programs. Most programs occur from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and all take place on the University campus. Speakers can receive a small gratuity.

Anyone interested in sharing her or his craft and/or discussing the art and business of storytelling at such an event should contact Julie Reimer at 543-2390 (days).



### ***Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board***

**Members:** Naomi Baltuck, President, 776-1175; Margaret Read MacDonald, Vice-President, 827-6430; Joy Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator, 284-0400; Gene Friese, Secretary, 284-9469; Debra Harris Branham, 772-0415; Martha Smith, Grant Writing and Treasurer, 522-8788; Cherie Trebon, Festival Director, 525-0382; Camille Wooden, Publicity; Debbie Dimitre, Member-at-Large, 823-1081; Sally Porter Smith, Editor, 284-2315; Phyllis Silling, Member at Large, 244-0058.

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***In the Wind*** is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, a non-profit organization, and is published quarterly. membership in the Guild includes a year's subscription. Please check the expiration date on your label. Deadline for the Autumn issue is September 10, 1992.

## **Membership Form**

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Individual, \$15

\_\_\_ Family, \$20

\_\_\_ Institutional, \$30

\_\_\_ Donor, \$35

\_\_\_ Lifetime, \$150

\_\_\_ Muse, over \$150

\_\_\_ 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, WA 98145-0532.

### ***Seattle Storytellers' Guild***

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