

In the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Spring 1998 VolumeXXI, Number 2

Changes! Changes! Changes!

The Roadrunner is closing and the Guild must once again relocate. Our new location is a familiar one to those who have taken classes - **All For Kids Bookstore** - near the University Village shopping center. Through June we will be keeping the same day (third Sunday of the month) and time (1:00 pm). During the next few months as we gather member input, the board will be making a decision about a permanent location and format for our monthly gatherings.

Here is the schedule for April, May, and June:

April 19th	1:00 PM	Spring Story Swap, please bring a story (7 minute limit) to share
May 17th	1:00 PM	Zelda Foxall and open mike
June 21st	1:00 PM	Family Concert - Potpourri of tellers

All For Kids Bookstore is located near University Village at 2900 NE Blakely Street.
The store's phone number is 206-526-2768.

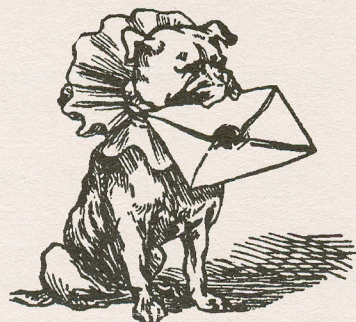
Storytelling at Folklife

New days and a new location for storytelling at Folklife

If you want to get a headstart on your Memorial Day weekend, you'll be able to do it with a Friday night session at Seattle Center on May 22. The Eve Alvord Theatre will be the site of many of the storytelling activities. It's located near the Charlotte Martin Children's Theatre. Many Folklife devotees enjoy the slower pace of activities on Friday afternoon and evening. The food booths will be open, so consider dinner and a night of listening to some of the finest tellers in the region.

Friday, May 22	Featured Tellers from 7 - 10pm
Saturday, May 23	Featured Tellers from 7 - 9pm
Monday, May 25	Tall Tales Contest from 1 - 3pm
Monday, May 25	Swapping Ground from 3 - 4pm

The above activities will all take place at the Eve Alvord Theatre. Be sure to check your program for Native American storytelling and children's programming featuring new and familiar tellers throughout the weekend. *The Seattle Weekly* carries the official Folklife program. Look for it about May 14.



President's Letter

Dear Storytelling Community,

Just 3 months ago I wrote of the changes that a new year brings. Little did I suspect the magnitude of those changes. Once again we had to look for a home for our monthly featured performance and open mike. We are all saddened by the closure of the Roadrunner. Bill and Michelle have decided that it just isn't profitable and are moving on to other things. We thank them most deeply and gratefully for all they have done to support us in this past year. They will be missed.

We must also once again thank Chauni Hasslet from **All For Kids Bookstore** for taking us in and providing a home for storytelling. She has most graciously offered us the use of the "author's room" at her bookstore for our monthly program. In April we are holding a story swap. We need both tellers and listeners. If you want to tell please bring a story (7 minute limit) and join the Story Circle. We will have a sign up sheet and we will take tellers on a first come basis. In May, Zelda Foxall will be the featured teller. Our June program will be a special Family Concert. As always, an open mike will follow. Please call the Guild for updated information.

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter we are sincerely looking for member feedback. It seems obvious we have reached a crossroads in the development of the Guild (see related articles in this issue). The board is in the process of establishing goals for the coming year and we need to know what it is our membership

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wants from the organization. We are considering several options, but would like as much input as possible. Please take a moment to e-mail or call with your survey answers.

And finally, we want to thank Mary Hobbs for the great job she did with the newsletter in her brief time with us. Mary resigned from the board as newsletter editor in January for health reasons. We wish her the very best and thank her for the new ideas and energy she brought to the newsletter. And we thank Sally Porter for once again assuming the role of editor. It's a big job to take on so suddenly and I am grateful for her willingness to assume the responsibility. Thanks also to Dawn Kuhlman who will take over as Treasurer, a job she very capably filled not too long ago also.

Happy storytelling and please stay in touch.

Camille

WANTED: BOARD MEMBERS Could this be YOU?

We are looking for new Board members to fill vacant positions. Do you have experience on a Board? Writing Grants? Doing mailings? Fund raising? Do you just have some really good ideas, that you are willing to work at turning into reality. Then please consider a board position. We are looking for folks who love storytelling (you don't have to be a storyteller though), don't mind a little extra work, and would like to help guide the Guild into the new millennium. Board positions are held for one year, beginning in June. Board members take an active part in the events of the Guild and are asked to attend monthly meetings. Please give us a call if you have questions. Think about it and let us know in writing by June 7, 1998, the day of our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.

Financial Woes for Seattle Storytellers' Guild?

The Guild lost money last year -- over \$2,000. The Board in evaluating the losses identified three areas of concern: the first, the cost overruns from the festival; the second, the cost of paying for the newsletter design and layout; and the third, attendance at Guild workshops and featured teller events. In response to these concerns the Board has taken some corrective action. First, we will no longer pay someone to produce the newsletter, we will do it ourselves and save \$1,000. a year. Second, we will not hold a festival this year and will solicit information from our membership as we plan 1998 programs, events and meetings. We need to know what you value and we are asking you to call us (253-854-2909) or e-mail us (SallyPorterSmith@msn.com) with your suggestions and comments.



First Ever Voice Mail, E-Mail, Write In Member Poll The Results to be Reported at the Annual Meeting

We need to know what you think about the Seattle Storytellers' Guild and what we should be doing as a Guild. To help you get started, the Board asks you to consider the following:

1. Would you like monthly membership meetings? If yes, what elements should be included: open mike? featured tellers? workshop/seminars? Would you like to see different people taking responsibility for the meetings -- i.e., not Board Members but Guild Members taking responsibility for the program content?
2. Do you want storytelling classes? If yes, what kind? Beginner classes, advanced classes, special subject classes like personal stories? Are there other types of classes you would like, and if so, what are they?
3. Do you want featured teller type events? Do you want to hear local tellers, out of area tellers, a combination, or big name tellers? If yes, give us some suggestions.
4. Do you want a festival? If yes, how often and what type of programs would make the festival an event you wouldn't miss?
5. Do you like the newsletter? Does it contain the information you are looking for? Would you like more articles, and if yes, what type of articles would appeal to you?
6. Are you looking for story swap groups? What type of group would appeal to you?

We need your comments and invite you to write, call your comments in (253-854-2909) or e-mail us your comments. (SallyPorterSmith@msn.com). Then come to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7 at 2pm to hear what our membership told us. The meeting will be held at the All For Kids Bookstore located at 2900 NE Blakely St., near University Village in Seattle. Please call us for more information.

SOURCES: ABOUT STORIES AND THE FOLKS WHO TELL THEM

by Margaret Read MacDonald, King County Library System

An important new source to know about is *STORYTELLING ENCYCLOPEDIA: HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND MULTIETHNIC APPROACHES TO ORAL TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD*, edited by David Adams Leeming. Oryx, 1997. This is a 543 page tome including bits of information about a wide variety of topics in folklore and people associated with folklore and storytelling. The articles are all interesting. Those in mythology seem strongest, those attempting folklore overviews are weak. An overview of "Japanese Storytelling" for example takes up one half page and includes "Further Readings" of Lafcadio Hearn, Andrew Lang, and Royall Tyler, in other words only layman's works, nothing to lead the reader into the folklore literature on the area. An entry on Anansi refers the reader to two picture books. The book's usefulness, however, lies in its inclusion of so many topics. There are entries on many characters from folklore and mythology and strangely several tale titles. An example from the H chapter listings: Hesiod; Hiawatha Tarenyawagon; Hiding the Child; Hindu Storytelling; Hlakanyana see African Storytelling; Hobgoblins see Goblins; Holidays (1 paragraph); Holy Grail (1 page); Homer; Hopi Creation Myth; Horus; How Evil Began; How Salmon Got Greasy Eyes; Hughes, Langston; The Human Race is Saved; A Hundred Merry Tales; Hurston, Zora Neale. An index is included, though the alphabetical listing and good cross-referencing work fine even without it. The articles are not signed. A fun browsing tool, laudable for the massive number of topics mentioned.

MOMENTOS MAGICOS/MAGIC MOMENTS by Olga Loya, with Spanish translations by Carmen Lizardi-Rivera. August House, 1997. \$11.95 pb. Fifteen stories from Olga's repertoire are related here. Many of these stories were learned from traditional tellers and her notes about her personal encounters with these stories are lovely. An enjoyable read and a much needed book, as we have so few fine collections of Mexican and Latin American story material. The tales are all presented in both Spanish and English. Don't miss this one.

THE SINGING SACK by Helen East. Talman Company, 1997, \$16.95. I recently discovered this delightful collection. The author provides 28 stories from around the world and includes the music for each tale! As my pet peeve has always been the publication of singing tales without their music, I was excited to find this book. Being no ethnomusicologist, I cannot vouch for the authenticity of the songs, but they do make a useful addition to the tales for our general storytelling purposes. Stories include "Sambalele", "Annancy, Puss, and Rata," and "Momotaro."

WISDOM TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD by Heather Forest.

August House, 1996. \$17.95 pb, \$27.95 hardback. Just got around to using Heather's collection of tales of wisdom. I thoroughly enjoyed the fifty tales. She retells them well and the selection is good. These are the sort of short, swiftly shot moral tales which work well inserted in speeches or sprinkled as spice within a story program. I think you will find many uses for these.

And don't forget that Ruth Stotter's *1998 STORYTELLER'S CALENDAR* is available. \$10.00 from Stotter Press, PO Box 726, Stinson Beach, CA 94970. Gorgeous and thought provoking as usual.

Upcoming Festivals and Storytelling Adventures

Planning your 1998 vacation? Looking for a storytelling adventure? Perhaps one of these events will become part of your plan.

7th Annual Vancouver Storytelling Festival, June 12 - 14 at the Roundhouse Community Center. Confirmed: Joseph Naytowhow, Leslie Robbins, Pauline Wenn, Margaret Read MacDonald and Penny Draper. For more information, call (604)533-0908.

Southern Connecticut State Universities Storytelling Cruise to Bermuda sails from New York on June 13. Carol Birch will take advantage of the time at sea to lead seminars on the art of storytelling. Graduate credits are available through SCSU. Costs range from \$1118 - \$1334. For additional information, call Marsh Passmore at (423)282-5126. For reservations, call (800)264-1223.

Midsummer in Sweden with special host and storyteller, Dr. Don Doyle. The trip is scheduled for June 15-29 and includes 15 days and 13 nights in Denmark, Sweden and Norway for \$3300. The price includes airfare from Phoenix; excursions on ferries, train and cruises as well as accommodations and most meals. Travelers will meet national storytellers, attend the Norwegian Folklore Show and Dinner. For more information, write Marlene Rausch, 4584 E. Chisum Trail, Phoenix, AZ, 85024 or call (800)480-7947, or fax, (602)473-2422.

Yukon International Storytelling Festival. Festival dates: June 19, 20 & 21, 1998. Performers at this year's tenth annual storytelling festival include: Allison Cox, Rosalie Sorrels, Pat Mendosa, Valentina Kyalundzyuga, David Thiaw, Johnny Moses, "Sky" Shivers, Daniel Son Fre're, and many more. For more information, call or write: P.O. Box 5029, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4S2, Phone (867) 633-7550, Fax (867) 633-3883, E-mail: yukonstory@yknet.yk.ca.

1998 National Storytelling Conference --Where the Trails Began..The Tales Continue, at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas city, Missouri on July 22-26. Keynote speaker is Julius Lester. For more information, call (800)525-4514.

1998 Northern Appalachian Storytelling Festival. Mark your calendars for September 17-20, 1998. Featured tellers include: Jackie Torrence; Liz Weir and Billy Teare; Dan Keddington; Michael Parent from Virginia and Laura Simms from New York City.

Timpanogos Storytelling Festival Cruise through the Eastern Caribbean with David Holt and Heather Forest. 7 days, leaving October 17, 1998. Holland America, call (800)829-2445.

The 1998 California Indian Storytelling Festival will be held in mid-October to early-November 1998. A specific date is still to be determined. However, if you would like to be placed on our mailing list and/or email list, please send your name, address, telephone number and email address to: California Indian Storytelling Festival (CISF), 37930 Palmer Drive Fremont, CA 94536 or email: teixeira@cnet.com.

6th Annual Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada will take place in Mississauga, November 19-22. Contact Ginger Mullen, (604)254-8456.

Biblical Storytelling Tour of Israel/Palestine with Biblical Storyteller, Dennis Dewey. Hear stories on the sites where they happened. January 12-22, 1999, \$2098. from New York. For more information call, (800)STORY-XL or e-mail, DenDew@aol.com.



Calendar of Events

April

16 Tale Traders Story 'n Snack, 7pm. Contact Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for more information. (see article on Tale Traders this issue)

18 Kathy Currie at Island Books, 11am.

19 Spring Story Swap, All For Kids*, 1 pm.

24 Tale Traders at Mt. Tahoma Storytelling Guild meeting, 7 - 9pm, at Snake Lake Nature Center, corner of 19th and Stevens (also called Tyler). For more info call Karen Drum (253-983-9114).

25 Cindy Easterson at Island Books, 11am.

28 Explore the Art of Storytelling with Cherie Trebon. 3 week series, 6:30 - 9pm. \$45. Continuing Education North Seattle Community College. Register through NSCC 206-527-3705 or credit card registration 206-527-3704.

30 Seattle Story 'n Snack, 7-9pm, call SSG 206-621-8646 for more info.

May

2 Pat Peterson at Island Books, 11am.

9 Cherie Trebon at Island Books, 11am.

16 Julie Miller at Island Books, 11am.

17 Zelda Foxall & Open Mike, All For Kids Bookstore*, 1pm.

21 Tale Traders Story 'n Snack, 7pm. Contact Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for more information.

22 Storytelling at Folklife, Eve Alvord Theatre, 7 - 10pm

23 Avis Jobrack at Island Books, 11am.

23 Storytelling at Folklife, Eve Alvord Theatre, Seattle Center, 7 - 9pm

25 Tall Tales Contest, Eve Alvord Theatre, Seattle Center, 1 - 3pm

25 Swapping Ground, Eve Alvord Theatre, Seattle Center, 3 - 4pm

29 Mt. Tahoma Storytelling Guild meeting, 7 - 9pm, at Snake Lake Nature Center, corner of 19th and Stevens (also called Tyler).

30 Nancy Stewart at Island Books, 11am.

June

6 Maggie Bennett at Island Books, 11 am.

7 Seattle Storytellers' Guild Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, 2pm, All For Kids Bookstore*, 1pm

13 Karen Haas at Island Books, 11am.

18 Tale Traders Story 'n Snack, 7pm. Contact Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for more information.

21 Family Concert - A Potpourri of Tellers, All For Kids Bookstore*, 1pm

June

21 Linda Scott presents *Mysteries of the Past - Dinosaur Stories*, Children's Museum, Seattle Center, 11:30 - 1:30 pm.

26 Linda Scott - *Journey Down the Silk Road*, 7 - 9 pm. Mt. Tahoma Storytelling Guild meeting at Snake Lake Nature Center, corner of 19th and Stevens (also called Tyler).

27 Linda Scott presents *Mysteries of the Past - Dinosaur Stories*, Children's Museum, Seattle Center, 11:30 - 1:30 pm.

July

16 Tale Traders Story 'n Snack, 7pm. Contact Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for more information.

16-19 *Celebrating Your Heritage*, the National Story League Convention 98 at the Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA. Reservations: 253-759-0941 or 253-564-2463.

*New location for SSG featured teller events. All for Kids Bookstore is located at 2900 NE Blakely St., Seattle. 206-526-2768.

Tale Traders -- Who We Are

As we share our stories we become one and encourager of one another.

Bob Christian

This is an intimate & very supportive group for telling stories -- known or still in the works.

J. Clauson

Eastside Story 'n Snack has a new name -- TALE TRADERS. We are an eclectic group (among us are a minister, a retired teacher, a technical writer, a stay-at-home mom with a background in Theater Arts) brought together by our love of story. We meet in Issaquah the third Thursday of each month from 7-9pm.

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Do you have an old story begging to be retold? Are you working on a new story you would like to try-out in an informal "safe" setting? Are you a new teller of stories who would like to build confidence? Have you told stories for years but feel your "well" is dry and need the excitement of friends to "prime" your storytelling pump? Tale Traders invites you to come and join us. Call Kathy Murphy, (425-391-4312) for more information.

Thinking About Story

As I read Ursula Hegi's novel, *Stones from the River*, I kept remembering Michael Dorris's novel, *Yellow Raft in Blue Water*. Both novels center around secrets and what happens when the truth is not spoken. In Hegi's work the setting is a small German town at the time of World War I through World War II and into 1950's. The main character, Trudi, is a Zwerg, the German word for dwarf. Trudi uses story as a bartering tool and how she uses the stories and the secrets of the town changes as the story progresses. *Yellow Raft in Blue Water* is a contemporary story of three women -- a grandmother, a daughter and a granddaughter. At the center of their lives is a secret and not until the final chapter is the impact of Ida's secret fully understood.

Two other books use story and metaphor to provoke thought, understanding and healing. *Eating by the Light of the Moon -- how women can let go of compulsive eating through metaphor and storytelling* by Anita Johnston and *The Spirituality of Imperfection: Modern Wisdom from Classic Stories* by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham say much about the power of story and storytelling to transform lives.

If you have read a book or an article that has you "thinking about story" and you are willing to share the title and your thoughts, send them to the Editor or e-mail me at SallyPorterSmith@msn.com. I hope to be able to pass on your recommendations and thoughts about books and story.

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Board for 1997-98

President: Camille Wooden (253-854-2909)
Vice-president: Dawn Kuhlman (253-939-7117)
Secretary: Zelda Foxall (206-322-5038)
Treasurer: Sally Porter-Smith (206-283-5984)
Member-at-large: Debra Harris-Branham
(206-772-0415)
Member-at-large: open position
Membership: Phyllis Silling (206-246-7636)
Newsletter Editor: Mary Hobbs (206-781-3487)
Folklife Coordinator: Pat Peterson (206-935-5308)
Publicity: Linda Scott (425-702-4723)
Volunteer Coordinator: Kathleen Currie
(425-222-5442)

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 Spring 1998 issue is February 15. Call the Guild at 206-621-8646 for updated information on Guild events.

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ 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 list for related events.

Mail to: Seattle Storytellers' Guild, P.O. Box 45532,
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

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