

In the Wind

Volume XXI, Number 4 Winter 1998

Jay O'Callahan in Concert

Master storyteller Jay O'Callahan will be performing in Seattle on Saturday, February 20th at the Broadway Performance Hall at 7pm. He will be telling the story of "The Great Auk" and additional pieces (see Pat Peterson's review, page). His appearance is sponsored by the Children's Hospital Storytelling Guild. Tickets are \$15.00 and available by mail. Send your check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Tell It All For Children's, P.O. Box 15632, Seattle, WA 98115. Questions, call Pat Peterson at 206-935-5308.

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Storytelling Dinner
Theater
featuring
Allison Cox
with stories from Linda Scott,
Tim Platt &
Debra Harris-Branham

Friday, March 12, 1999
from 7 - 10pm

14 Carrot Cafe
2305 Eastlake Ave E.

Cost: \$22.00
Tickets available
January 19

Join us for an evening of good food and good stories. Featured teller, Allison Cox will tell Celtic stories in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Doors open at 6:45 with dinner being served at 7pm. The showcase begins at 8pm featuring stories from Debra Harris-Branham, Tim Platt and Linda Scott-Cummings. Julia's 14 Carrot Cake will be served during intermission from 8:45 - 9:15pm. Allison Cox will tell from 9:15 to 10pm.

Space is limited to 65 persons (we reduced the number of participants due to crowding at our first dinner) so



advance tickets sales are required and available by mail or by phone. Mail to Kevin Cotter at 2329 - 10th Ave. E. Seattle, WA 98102 or call 206-621-8646 and select the Dinner Theater option. Entrees are being determined, call the Guild # and Press 3 after January 1st for choices. Dinners include coffee or tea, and dessert. Wine, beer, specialty coffees and soft drinks available are extra and Julia requests cash only for these items.

Out of consideration to our tellers no food will be served during the performance and dinner serving will cease 15 minutes prior to show.

Street parking is usually readily available within 1 to 2 blocks of the restaurant but please note that it is a Friday night in Seattle and guests should plan ahead for possible congestion.

The Spirit of the Great Auk: A Review by Pat Peterson

I find that a road trip is a grand way to listen to tapes. I could not have chosen a better way to hear this story for the first time. The tape began as I was sitting warm and dry in my car on the auto deck of a ferry crossing Puget Sound on a day of gale force winds in November. The waves and wind put a salt spray on my windshield as Jay began to tell the tale of Dick Wheeler and his incredible journey.

The auk was a 2ft. tall black-and-white bird hunted to extinction in 1844. Sometime in its evolution, it gave up flight for the ability to soar under the sea. In 1991, at the age of 60, Dick Wheeler set out to "do his dream" of a solo 1,500 mile kayak trip from Newfoundland to Massachusetts. It was a quest that taxed him physically and gave him the task of telling those of us outside the small fishing villages he visited to be aware of how the sea is being plundered.

Those of us who live in the Northwest are well aware of the consequences of clear cut logging. Recently we have looked to the sea and seen the once abundant supply of salmon and shellfish dwindling. Talk of conservation brings forth hard feelings between countries as well as commercial and sport fishermen. What we thought would always be there is in danger of disappearing and so the extinction of the auk is a timely warning to us all.

The story works well on so many levels. It is a wonderful tale of adventure about a 60 year old man undertaking the trip that had been a dream of his since age 10. That trip was a true test of man against the sea and Jay is able to put us in that Kayak. It was not an easy paddle on a glassy pond... and there is relief when the journey is over. I loved the people in the fishing villages that gave him shelter and encouragement. It was a "You Are There" experience.

The Spirit of the Great Auk is available by calling 1-800-626-5356.

Editor's Note: Margaret Read MacDonald has been out of the country. Look for her regular column in the next issue of *In the Wind*.

Healing Words, Healing Images by Linda Scott-Cummings

Nancy Mellon's workshop in October at the Seattle Waldorf School was quite a treat. Nancy started the School of Therapeutic Storytelling in New Hampshire and also teaches at Emerson College in England. She has written *Storytelling and the Art of Imagination*.

The workshop was based on Nancy's belief that storytellers are needed who can create new stories for whoever their listeners are and for what they need at that moment. And that these stories will come by way of imagination, intuition, and inspiration.

After Nancy talked about this idea she gave us an opportunity to try it out. Now I have not been one to make up a story at the spur of the moment. The idea tends to terrify me. If I had known that I would be expected to make up a story for someone that I didn't know with no preparation time and only three minutes to hear something about them I probably would not have gone -- but, now I am glad I didn't know. I found that I could create a story for a partner that spoke to things she had told me with her words. A partner's story for me was very comforting.

We also worked on determining what sorts of stories speak to different people at different times. Why telling a bubbly, happy story to cheer up a sad friend is not usually going to work. What story styles speak to different moods and how as storytellers we need to be able to step into the mood of a story that will be the most effective in a certain situation.

What I learned over the weekend increased my understanding and broadened my potential for giving through story.

On Saturday evening the Waldorf School hosted a Storytelling Concert with Nancy Mellon, Kristi Bush, Daniel Stokes, Mary O'Kane, Eric Foxman, and myself. Between tellers Jrei Howe played the harp, Rod Magnuson played the Celtic wooden flute, and Molly Knight played the piano. It was a delightful evening with much variety of talent.

Nancy is considering returning next fall for another workshop along the same theme. I will keep you posted as soon as I hear her plans.

Monthly Membership Meeting Topics Announced

January 14th *Books! Books! Books!* Storytellers are often book people and at January's meeting we bring the two interests together. King County librarian Jean Pollock presents books and other resources for storytellers. Other topics to be covered include researching stories and finding the version you want. At the end of the meeting we will have a book share, so if you have a favorite book - be it a story collection, single story, or a resource book - please bring it and share it with the group. Bibliographies of classic and current books will be available. See you there! All For Kids, 7pm.

February 11th *Personal Stories* with Kevin Cotter and Pat Peterson. Kevin and Pat will talk about how they create personal stories. Participants will be invited to craft a memory into the beginning of a tale. Listeners always welcome. All For Kids, 7pm.

March 11th *"How Do I Get Started?"* One of the most frequently asked questions of experienced tellers is "how do I start a storytelling career?" This month we offer a panel discussion by 3 professional tellers, including Pat Peterson, Linda Scott and one other professional who offer their ideas, advice, tips, and personal experiences to help answer this question. Wherever you are in your storytelling life, there is bound to be some helpful information here. All For Kids, 7pm.

For more information on monthly meetings and other SSG events call the Guild at 206-621-8646.

SSG Board Member Name Change

Don't be confused when you see the name Scott-Cummings. SSG Board Member Linda Scott has just returned from her wedding and honeymoon in Monterey and is now going by Linda Scott-Cummings. When folks have had a chance to get used to her new name she will drop the Scott and just be Linda Cummings.

Folklife 1999

Memorial Day Weekend may seem a long way off but the application deadline for performers was December 11, 1998. Not to worry if you did not receive an application or were unaware of the 'due date'. Late applications are placed on a waiting list and accepted on a "space available" basis after some performers cancel. Request an application and get it in as soon as you can. The people in the Programming office are available weekdays 9-5 at 206-684-7300.



National Storytelling Conference Call for Tellers!

The 1999 National Storytelling Conference, *Voices At the Water's Edge*, will be held in San Diego on July 7 - 11 at the University of San Diego. On July 8, a Regional Conference will be presented at the conference featuring 8 tellers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Hawaii, and California. Each of these states is being asked to submit audiotapes and biographical information for three tellers they have chosen to a selection committee in San Diego. From these three, one will be chosen to represent each state (with the exception of California, which will be represented by 3 tellers). This is where the call for tellers comes in. If you are interested in being considered to represent Washington in the Regional

**Deadline January
15, 1999**

Concert, you are invited to submit a 6-minute maximum audiotape of a story representative of your style and genre of storytelling plus biographical information to the Washington Selection Committee. Former featured tellers at the National Festival are not eligible for consideration. Former Exchange Place tellers are eligible. There will be no remuneration for Regional Concert tellers. If you are interested in applying, please send your 6-minute audiotape and biographical information to: Dawn Kuhlman, 921 4th St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092. Deadline: January 15, 1999 (no late entries will be considered). Note: We are not responsible for re-

Never Talk About Politics or Religion: Unless You Are Telling a Story by John N. Clauson

As storytellers we are aware of the power of story to influence, shape, and empower the lives of our audience. We therefore select stories that are appropriate for the venue in which we are telling. We hope the stories we use are filled with the capacity to transform, provoke wonder, and entertain those who listen. One type of story that has amazing power to shape the lives of people is the biblical or religious story.

Both Testaments of the Bible are filled with stories that are profound, transform thinking and entertain the listeners. But how does the teller go about developing these stories so that people of the 20th century will feel the impact of 1st century and even much older stories?

Biblical storytelling falls into several different categories. I will be examining the forms I have used as a teller and have since discovered good explanations and definitions of in Bailey P. Phelps' book, *Telling the Bible*.

The first is that of simply Retelling a text essentially word for word. It is memorizing and then retelling that story. One difficulty with this form is that it is easy to slip into a reading style. That is telling the story as if you were reading it. But retelling a with this form is that it is easy to slip into a reading style. That is telling the story as if you were reading it. But retelling a biblical story is much more than simply re-reading it without the book in front of you. It involves telling the story so the emotions of the people in it come alive. When anger is expressed in the text, it must come out that way through the teller's voice inflection. So does joy, fear, amazement and all other emotions the text might be representing. You, the teller must be aware of them and then express them in the telling of the text. A good place to begin is by asking these questions of the text, who would be glad this story is being told and who would not want to hear it? As a listener, there is a world of difference in hearing a Bible story being read or being told. When it is told, the Bible

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can really be lively.

Another form of biblical storytelling is Reorienting the story itself. This involves looking at the story from another angle. Perhaps the teller can tell in first person from the viewpoint of one of the characters in the story. This opens another window in the text for the listener. Telling in the third person can also be effective in a re-orientation of the story. A question that may help develop a story this way is to ask, What did the character see, hear or experience in the event?

Resetting the story involves moving the biblical story into the twentieth century in language and setting. By using language of the day and places that listeners may have experienced, the story can be honed in ways that empower the audience to new understandings of the relevance the story may have for their lives. An example of this would be taking the Parable of the Prodigal Son and resetting it on a Midwest farm or small town

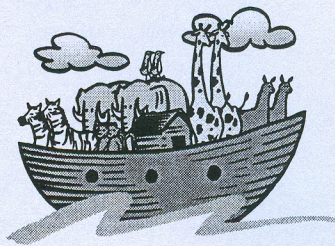
with the younger son running off to New York City. The possibilities are really endless. The question that will help one develop a story in this way is "if this story were told York City. The possibilities are really endless. The question that will help one develop a story in this way is "if this story were told in another culture or place, what would it be like?

The final way to deal with a biblical story is Re-imaging. This means taking the theme of the story and using it in an entirely different story. This is difficult, but can have far reaching effects. To put together a story in this fashion, ask the question, "what does this story say to us?" Then take the answers to that question you discover and create an entirely new story that addresses the answers.

All of these forms of biblical storytelling involve interpretation and understanding of the stories. Even in basic retelling, the teller must make decisions as to what words and feeling to emphasis. This is not unique to biblical telling. All stories require this of us as tellers. Perhaps that is what makes telling any kind of story such a stimulating activity. So the key is, read the story, learn the story, interpret the story and tell the story.

So those are the basics but they still beg the question, "so what?" Let's face the facts, we are storytellers. If we don't tell, we burst. (Ok, perhaps not, but it feels like it.) Telling biblical stories provides you with another way to tell; another way to help your audiences come to new insights in understanding life. This can become another venue for telling that perhaps you have been unaware of or afraid to approach.

I encourage you to give biblical storytelling a try. It can lead you to another chapter in your storytelling book. It I encourage you to give biblical storytelling a try. It can lead you to another chapter in your storytelling book. It gives you a resource to countless stories that address all aspects of life. And be sure to remember, never talk about politics or religion: unless you are telling a story.



Experience Biblical Storytelling First Hand

To experience first hand some biblical retelling, The Puget Sound guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers will be doing a retelling of the Gospel of Mark. There Will be two opportunities to hear it. On February 9 at 6:30 we will be telling at the Mennonite Church in Seattle. There will be a repeat telling on March 7 beginning at 6:30 with dessert. The telling will begin at 7:00. This performance will be at Nativity Lutheran Church in Renton. For more specific details you can contact me by email at jclauson@sttl.uswest.net or by phone at 425-228-5464.

Monthly Story Swap Groups

New Story Group in Seattle

Need an audience to try out a story you are working on? Want an opportunity to share a few story ideas you have been kicking around? Would you like to request some suggestions about how you can enhance that story you love so much? Or do you just want a place to go where you can tell a story each month? If you are interested in doing any of the above you are invited to participate in a new story group that is hosted by Lenore Jackson. This story group meets on Queen Anne Hill every 4th Tuesday at 7:00. We are in the process of finding a catchy name for our story group. So bring your ideas for a name, as well as a story to tell. For more information, please call (206)284-2976.

Tale Traders — Eastside Story Swap

Tale Traders, an informal group for people who love stories, has grown to fourteen active members. The group meets twice a month in Issaquah — the second Monday and the third Thursday — in order to provide amply time for everyone to share. 7-9pm. Contact Kathy Murphy at 425-391-4312, for more information.

Slighe nan Gaidheal 's Bardic Tales Monthly Story Swap

Slighe nan Gaidheal (pronounced shlee-uh nun gael) has joined the Seattle Storyteller's Guild as an institutional member. The organization grew out of Scottish Gaelic language classes first held in 1989. In April, 1997 the group organized as a 501C3 non profit corporation. Dedicated to the continuation of Scottish Gaelic language and culture the organization now has over 100 members and hosts an active choir as well as several levels of language classes. A core of Slighe nan Gaidheal members have also developed an interest in storytelling as a means of preserving the Scottish heritage. In January, Slighe nan Gaidheal, through SSG, is inaugurating a **Bardic Tales Monthly Story Swap** which is open to all members of the SSG as well as Slighe nan Gaidheal and will focus on Celtic tales. Please see January calendar for details. Beginning Scottish Gaelic classes start Tuesday, Jan. 5th and run for ten consecutive weeks. For more information on Slighe nan Gaidheal or to register for language classes, call Rich Hill at 206-322-6304 or leave a voice mail at 206-689-2966.



Calendar of Events

January 5 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

January 9, 26 and February 2 **Explore the Art of Storytelling with Cherie Trebon**, SSG Board member and professional storyteller. Reconnect with the ancient art of storytelling. Strengthen your ability to express yourself with power and sensitivity while learning to create verbal magic out of special memories or a treasured folktale. Add vitality to public speaking, teaching conversation. Sweaty palms and stomach butterflies can enhance, not inhibit, the natural storyteller within you. Classes held in the Sand Point area of NE Seattle. Register through the Continuing Education Program at North Seattle Community College. Phone: 206-527-3705 or 206-516-2955(automated line). Refer to class #7640. \$45.

January 14 **Books! Books! Books!** with **Jean Pollock** at our monthly meeting. 7pm, All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle.

January 19 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

January 25 Linda Scott-Cummings offers a Personal Story Workshop at Lake Washington Technical College. The class will meet for three consecutive Mondays from 7-9pm. Cost: \$31. For more information call LWT College, 425-739-8100 or Linda at 425-702-4723.

February 2 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

February 9 **The Puget Sound guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers** will be doing a retelling of the Gospel of Mark. 6:30 pm, Mennonite Church in Seattle. For more specific details you can contact me by email at jclauson@sttl.uswest.net or by phone at 425-228-5464

February 11 **Personal Stories with Kevin Cotter and Pat Peterson** at our Monthly Membership Meeting, 7pm, All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle.

February 16 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

February 16, & 23 at 6:30pm and March 6, 9:30am - 1:30pm **Honing the Steel with Cherie Trebon.** Expand the knowledge learned in your storytelling adventures to date. Class will emphasize basics of breath control and relaxation techniques, character identification and development, shaping the story, and sharpening performance skills. Minimum enrollment is 6, maximum is 12. Last class will be a potluck lunch. Register by calling Cherie Trebon, 206-525-0382 and placing a 50% deposit on total class cost of \$45.

February 20 **Jay O'Callahan in Concert.** 7pm. Broadway Performance Hall. Tickets are \$15.00 and available by mail. Send your check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Tell For All For Children's, P.O. Box 15632, Seattle, WA 98115. Questions, call Pat Peterson at 206-935-5308.

February 25 **Bardic Tales Story Swap**, 7pm. Bring a snack to share and a Celtic tale to tell. Listeners welcome. For directions or more information call

Sheila Hunter at 425-831-2000(evenings) or e-mail at quepasa@ptinet.net (see related article, p.)

February 26-28 **Jay O'Callahan and Doug Lipman** offer **The Creative Process Through Storytelling** at a site near Port Angeles. Cost is \$400 and includes lodging and meals. Space is limited. Call the Story People at 360-457-3169.

March 2 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

March 7 **The Puget Sound Guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers** will be doing a retelling of the

Clip and Save!!

Tale Traders, an informal group of people who love stories, will meet the 2nd Monday and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7:00 at Kathy Murphy's home in Issaquah. Call 425-391-4312 for directions.

The Network of Biblical Storytellers meets the 2nd Monday of each month at noon for a brown bag lunch at various locations in the greater Seattle area. Call 206-361-4630 for the exact location.

Island Books Saturday Storytelling features local tellers from 11 - 11:30/1:30am. Bookstore on Mercer Island. Free. For more information, call 232-6920.

Gospel of Mark. 7pm at Nativity Lutheran Church in Renton. For more specific details you can contact me by email at jlclauson@sttl.uswest.net or by phone at 425-228-64

March 11 "How Do I Get Started?" a panel discussion with three professional tellers. Monthly membership meeting at All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle, 7pm.

March 16 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

March 25 **Bardic Tales Story Swap,** 7pm. Bring a snack to share and a Celtic tale to tell. Listeners welcome. For directions or more information call Sheila Hunter at 425-831-2000(evenings) or e-mail at quepasa@ptinet.net (see related article, p.)

April 6 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

April 20 **Stories and Such with Debbie Deutsch.** Pacific Science Center. Free. 11am & 1pm. More info: 206-443-2001.

Upcoming 1999 Festivals

January 22-23 **15th Cowboy Poetry Gathering** will be held in Elko, Nevada. More info: 702-738-7508; www.westfolk.org/gathering.html. or wfc@sierra.net.

February 19-21 **7th Annual Solvang Flying Leap Storytelling Festival** (near Santa Barbara) Featured tellers: David Novak, Jeff Gere, Katy Rydell, Ruth Stotter, Will Hornyak & Ellaraino. Call 805-688-9533.

February 24-28 **Stories of the Heartland Festival** in Alberta Lea & Austin, Minnesota. Featuring Awele Makeba. More info, call 507-373-4748

March 5-7 **18th Annual Sharing the Fire -- Passing the Torch, Telling the Story** with keynote speakers Diane Wolkstein and Margaret Read MacDonald. Boston, MA. More info: www.tiac.net/users/papagoe/stf00.htm.

March 12-14 **12th Annual Mariposa County Storytelling Festival** with J.J. Reneaux, Rafe Martin, Len Cabral, Katy Rydell & Clara Yen. Call 800-903-9936 or 209-966-3155.

May 22 & 23 **14th Bay Area Storytelling Festival** will be held at Kennedy Grove Recreation Area. Brochures available in February. Call 650-952-3397 or e-mail Tellagain@aol.com.

July 7-11 **1999 National Storytelling Conference,** San Diego, California. More information in the next newsletter. See related article on *Call for Tellers*.

Storytelling Dinner Theater Registration Form

☆ Friday, March 12, 1999 from 7 – 10pm

☆ 14 Carrot Café – 2305 Eastlake Ave. E.
Seattle

☆ Cost: \$22.00, dinner includes entrée, coffee or tea and dessert.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Make checks payable to SSG and mail to:
Kevin Cotter
2329 – 10th Ave. E
Seattle, WA 98102

Dinner Entrée Selection available after Jan. 1, 1999 — please call 206-621-8641 and press 3 to hear choices.

Entrée Choice: _____



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

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In the Wind is a 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. Call the Guild for updated information on Guild events. Deadline for the Spring newsletter is March 10.

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Membership Form

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Institutions, \$35. _____

Mail to SSG at address above.