

In the Wind

MEG PHILP IN CONCERT

Saturday, January 18, 2003—7 PM

Australian Storyteller Meg Philp charmed and enchanted a full house last year, and is back by popular demand. Step into a magical forest setting to join Meg, a native of Scotland, as she draws upon her British roots to present "Wondering in the Woods: the story of Parsifal".

Meg describes her own life as journey in which she, like Parsifal, is wandering, wondering and striking out with a will, not certain of what's ahead but with stories to sustain her. For one evening, we can share the journey. What better way to begin your own journey into the New Year?

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild is pleased to present Meg Philp in concert at the home of Naomi Baltuck and Thom Garrard in Edmonds.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear one of Australia's premier storytellers in an intimate setting. Only 30 tickets will be sold. The cost is \$10 for S.S.G. members and \$12 for nonmembers, and includes the concert, coffee and dessert.

For reservations and directions, call Naomi Baltuck at (425) 776-1175.

ANNE-LOUISE STERRY

February 8 & 9

Anne-Louise Sterry from Portland will bring us the warmth—and spice—of her Italian heritage to help us through the dark days of February.

Gobsmacked: You too will be amazed, delighted, stunned when you see how easy it is to sing and tell stories. Anne-Louise will share some easy stories and songs that you can use right away. Perhaps you will have some to share with her. We will experience our creativity, laugh and lower our blood pressure! Bring a tape recorder so you can remember. Workshop Saturday Feb. 8 1-3 p.m. All for Kids \$15 for Guild members, \$20 for non-members.

Pasta Fazool *

Sunday Feb. 9 Stories on a Second Sunday
Third Place Books 6 PM

A hilarious and heartwarming selection of stories and songs. Anne-Louise will share some childhood stories from her native country (New Jersey), stories of Anthony the Italian boy and who knows what else.

*A hearty winter stew with macaroni and lots of beans! New Jersey pronunciation.

VI HILBERT POTLUCK

Come break bread with Upper Skagit elder and storyteller Vi Hilbert. The great grandmother of the Seattle storytelling community will share her light with us at a potluck dinner in her honor.

Sunday, March 2, 3-6 PM

It will be held at the Edmonds home of Naomi Baltuck and Thom Garrard. For directions call (425) 776-1175.

CLASSES

EXPLORE THE ART OF STORYTELLING:

North Seattle Community College Continuing Education Department is again offering a beginning storytelling class taught by storyteller and SSG President, Cherie Trebon. This interactive class covers the basics including: Storytelling dynamics, voice control and diction, choosing and learning a tale, and aspects of performing. "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, and conversation. Sweaty palms and stomach butterflies can enhance, not inhibit, the natural storyteller within you."

Class meets 6:30-9:00 p.m. three consecutive Wednesdays beginning January 22. \$45.00.
Register by calling NSCC: (206) 516-2955 or (206) 527-3705.

VOICEWORK GROUP STARTING

Lenore Jackson

Ruth Sawyer said in *The Way of the Storyteller*, "A voice resonant, flexible, and pleasant to the ear, well supported by a fundamentally deep breath, words distinctly and easily spoken, and there you have an adequate instrument for your art."

I am looking for other storytellers who are interested in expanding their vocal skills by working together on area such as increasing range, flexibility, and resonance. I am willing to facilitate and host the group, but I am hoping others will lead as well. Please call me at (206) 284-2976 to discuss scheduling.

YOU ARE A PART OF HISTORY

Explore the relationship between "big" history and your own individual life. History is not just famous names and dates. History is stories and all of us have stories to tell. These interactive classes will focus on two periods---one for those who remember the 1930's, 40's and 50's, one for the 1950's, 60's and 70's and another for the 60's 70's and '80s. Kim Pearson, author and artist, helps people tell their stories through memoir, fiction, storytelling and art. For information on the locations and cost, call 425-865-0409 or visit www.primary-sources.com.

FAIRY TALES

Lee Roloff

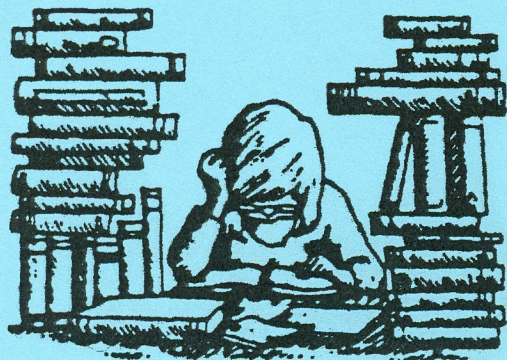
On three consecutive Saturdays, Lee Roloff will be conducting a class on Grimm's Fairy Tales. In this six-hour course we will read approximately two fairy tales per week exploring as many aspects of the fairy tale as possible within that short time.

Lee Roloff, PhD, taught myth and fairy tale at Northwestern University and the Jung Institute of Chicago for over 25 years. He is very interested in how the tale is a psychological as well as literary representation of human complexes and conditions. He was asked to provide a definition of "fairy tales" for a pending Dictionary of Myth and Fairy Tales that was limited to just over 100 words. The definition will appear as follows:

Fairy tales are short "once upon a time" narratives paradoxically existing concurrent with, yet removed from the present, and possessing qualities of entertainment and cautionary instruction, e.g., rites of passage, quests, awakenings, abandonments, etc. Fairy tales have been interpreted sociologically as reflections of social and political structures, but since the influence of Freud and Jung, have been interpreted as narratives of inner psychological import wherein each character is defined by special attributes. Of prime import is the first sentence delineating the situation, e.g. "There was once a miller who had fallen on hard times" (the failed father), or "There was once a childless king and queen" (the childless couple), and from this first sentence inevitable consequences follow.

The suggested text is *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales*, introduction by Padriac Colum, commentary by Joseph Campbell.

Classes meet three consecutive Saturdays beginning January 18 and ending February 1 from 10:00 am - noon. The location is the Good Shepherd Center, Room 221, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Seattle. Fee is \$50 before January 13; \$60.00 after. For registration information call the C.G. Jung Society office at 206-547-3956



Storytelling in Singapore:

Postcard from Margaret Read MacDonald

Just back from a five week SE Asian jaunt and no time to write my usual book review this time. But the editor has asked for a quick "postcard from Singapore". So here it is.

The storytelling community in Singapore is thriving today, due largely to the efforts of two women, Sheila Wee and Kiran Shah. They have been organizing storytelling classes annually, with the help of our own Cathy Spagnoli. Cathy is able to swing through Singapore frequently en route to her second home in India.

Singapore is abuzz nowadays with tellers. And the excitement is growing. After an article appeared in the local paper, Sheila was beset with calls from businesses who wanted workshops for their personnel.

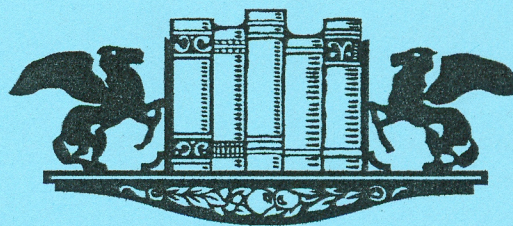
The National Book Development Council of Singapore sponsors an annual Asian Congress of Storytellers. This year tellers came from Thailand, Burma, Korea, The Philippines, India, Japan, and Malaysia. The format was mainly keynotes and workshops, with one afternoon showcase for the Asian tellers. But we all got plenty of chance to tell during the next week as we were shunted from school to school to library during the National Library Board's Asian Children's Festival. 25 library storytelling events were held and twice that number of school visits. We truly saturated Singapore with stories! They even told stories on the rapid transit trains in one special day called "The Great Singapore Stories". Politicians showed up to tell tales in highly publicized events at malls,

and of course the rest of us were still out telling in the schools and libraries all over town. They had arranged a great deal of publicity for the event, spots of tellers on the evening news, feature articles in newspapers. Thus the library programs were well attended by enthusiastic families. Then the whole thing ended with an Asian Children's Writers & Illustrators Conference!

Gerry Fierst and I were traveling together and were fortunate to be put up in a housing development board flat owned by a friend. It was good to live right in a Singapore neighborhood, rather than the removed atmosphere of a hotel. Though the squat toilet did give us pause!

From there we went to Hong Kong, where the storytelling bug has yet to bite as far as we can tell. The Coordinator of Children's Services at Hong Kong Public Library hired Jen and Nat Whitman (The Whitman Story Sampler) last year for a six week English language series at the main library and is excited about plans for more this year. But she is the only trained children's librarian in the 60 branch system! The Hong Kong literary fair organizers are talking about incorporating a storytelling component this year. Perhaps they will be able to unearth some good storytellers. Of course tellers are needed in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English! Lisa Tam at the Hong Kong International School is just finishing her masters in storytelling at ETSU so there is one Mandarin/Cantonese/English teller coming up!

Of course I am always shopping for some great tellers to bring to Seattle. I found a few, but our problem now is convincing the immigration authorities to let us bring them over.



JILL JOHNSON IN PERFORMANCE

Jill Johnson is premiering a new work, "*Little, But Oh My! - the story of Berte Olson*", on Friday March 28th, 2003 at 7:30 PM at the Whidbey Center for the Arts (WICA) on Whidbey Island. It tells the story of the first woman on Puget Sound to skipper a ferry boat and run her own ferryboat company.

Berte's company had three different runs. The first ran between Whidbey and Fidalgo and Camano Islands before the construction of the Deception Pass Bridge. The second and third, on Hood Canal, earned this colorful, strong-willed woman the nickname, "Tugboat Annie of Puget Sound".

Jill is presenting this program as the result of selection as a performer in the Local Artists Series, a WICA program which seeks to support and showcase area artists.

The ninety minute show is the result of extensive research and interviews with family members all over the Puget Sound area. The program is co-sponsored by the South Whidbey Historical Society and will feature an exhibit of historical photographs and artifacts from the period. Original music, maritime, and Norwegian folk songs will also be a part of the production.

"This is a really exciting time," says Jill, "when we're finally putting months of research and preparation together. The cooperation and support of other area artists and performers has just been amazing."

Following the WICA performance, Jill and the Historical Society will use the funding from a recent grant to present a version of this program in area schools.

Looking (way) Ahead

The National Storytelling Network Conference 2004 will be held in Bellingham, Washington in July 2004.

If you want to help with the planning and presentation, contact Rosemary Vohs .

Rosemary.Vohs@wwu.edu

THE VOICE AS AN INSTRUMENT

by Heather Forest

Although I weave original music into the tapestry of my telling, I am not a trained musician. I taught myself to play guitar in my early teens and sang folk ballads popular during the folk music revival of the sixties. In the early 1970's, my love for folk literature and an affinity for singing and composing melodies led me to start creating original ballads based on world tales. I have enjoyed the process of exploring the terrain of my voice. As a workshop leader, I try to encourage tellers to think of their voice as a unique instrument. Here are some thoughts on the subject:

As an instrument, the human speaking voice produces a wide variety of pitches, offers complex tonality, and has percussive capacity. By subtly shifting the pitch or rhythm of words in a sentence, a storyteller can dramatically change the communication and convey multilevel nuances. For example, try saying, "I said I would go" as if you are surprised, then, as if you are defiant, then, as if you are confessing a crime. As you speak, listen to your voice and notice how the "music" of the sentence changes. Say the same sentence five times and, each time, emphasize or rhythmically accent a different word. Listen to how the communication changes when the "music" is altered.

The same instrument, the vocal chords, produces the sound of both speaking and singing. These two tiny muscles allow us to whisper, speak, sing, and scream. I have always wondered why some people insist that they can whisper, speak and scream, but can't sing. Perhaps someone unfortunately traumatized them in youth by telling them to only mouth the words in chorus. It is true that we are not all opera singers, but it is not fair to deny anyone the pleasure of recognizing and appreciating all the tones and textures that can be produced by their own distinct voice.

If we redefine song as simply an intentional pattern of rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tonality, then spoken words can be described as having qualities similar to words that are sung. Singing, as we recognize it, is just one color on the wide spectrum of what the natural voice can do. I am not speaking here of opera singing, but of humming or simply expressing melody.

Moving from Speech to Song

It is an interesting exploration to vocally play with the subtle edge between speech and song. To create, for example, a melody for a line of spoken text in a story, first, carefully listen to yourself express the narrow range of actual pitches made when the line is expressively spoken. Move those pitches toward a slightly different, "smoother" tonality and use those "notes" to create the melody. Listen carefully to the rhythm of a sentence until you could actually clap the pattern. Merging the suggested melody and rhythm and then pushing them into the tonality of song is a short leap. By taking a small pitch step into melody, one need not take an unsteady giant leap into an operatic voice to consider oneself "singing" a passage. Renaissance sculptor Michelangelo said that he did not "make" the sculpture but rather "liberated it" from the stone. Often I feel that I am not composing a melody but rather finding the melody that is **already suggested** by the speech pattern. This is especially useful in finding simple melodies for repeated refrains in stories for very young listeners. A tune does not have to be complicated or have a wide pitch range. A song could have just one or two notes sung in a rhythm. Listen to birdsongs for inspiration!

Using Song in Story

When it serves the story, I enjoy weaving song in and out of spoken tales. I might move the story along by singing the narration. A musical theme or sound that represents a particular character might be heard whenever that character enters the tale. A song could be used as an introduction to the story, or it could be embedded in the tale as a repeated refrain for young children to sing along with. The song could happen after the story, as a comment or a closing.

Listening

Listening is the key to creating a pleasing tonality in both speech and song. Our own ear can shape the sound of our instrument. Ironically, one of the most powerful elements of vocal music is silence. It is the silence between the sounds that creates rhythmic pattern and emotional suspense. It is the silence in the form of a pause that creates effective comic timing. Listen to the silence as well as the sound.

Taking Care of Your Instrument

The vocal chords produce the voice. These two, very small muscles at the base of the throat vibrate and create sound when controlled breath passes through them. There is only a tiny space between the two chords. The smallest irritation and swelling of the surface of the vocal chords can cause the sound produced to change. If the sound you hear is slightly hoarse or raspy, then the vocal chords are slightly swollen. If no sound can be produced, i.e. you have laryngitis, then the vocal chords are so swollen that they cannot vibrate and thus produce no sound. The cure for laryngitis is total voice rest. Silence for a few days is a small price to pay for protecting an instrument that must last an artist a lifetime.

Sound reinforcement, or using a microphone when addressing a large group, is also a way to protect your instrument. Developing strong stomach muscles to support the sound is another protective tool. Jogging and singing at the same time is a challenging way to build breath control and stamina.

To improve your tone, listen to yourself as you speak and sing. Play with the pitches. Sing in the shower, in cars, and alone to the trees in the meadow. Exercise your vocal muscles. Have fun. Carefully observe the sounds you make to gain better control. The more delight you take in your own natural instrument and instinctive musicality, the more delight listeners will have in hearing you.

Copyright © 1997 Heather Forest



BEAT THE WINTER BLAHS!

Seattle Sizzles with storytelling events this winter. No need to feel blue because 'there's nothing to do'. A variety of concerts, classes, workshops and telling are offered as a way to deal with our dreary days. No excuse not to hear a new or favorite teller or to take time to learn storytelling skills. If you've been telling for a while, promise yourself that you'll learn a new tale and come to share it at an open mike. If you are just getting started, we welcome you. Listening to a variety of tellers and tales is the best way to find out what kind of stories you want to tell. If you need further information, please call the Guild at 206-621-8646. We'll be glad to answer any questions.

Teller's Night Out and Stories on a Second Sunday

Please join us. *Teller's Night Out* is an informal gathering of storytellers and listeners that takes place on the second Friday of the month at All for Kids bookstore, 2900 N.E. Blakeley, in Seattle. Call 206-526-2768 for directions. Our program begins at 7 PM. We may have a 'how to workshop' on some aspect of telling or a featured teller. An open mike follows.

Stories on a Second Sunday is held at Third Place Books located in Lake Forest Park Towne Center. Call 206-366-3333 for directions. The program starts at 6 PM on the second Sunday of the month. A featured teller is followed by an open mike.

Both of these programs are free and open to all. It is suggested you check the Calendar for specific topics...some are suitable for families, others for an adult audience.

If you are new to storytelling, this is a fine way to get to know people in the storytelling community. If you would like to be considered as a featured teller, telling at an open mike is a good way for us to get to know you. Please call the Guild at 206-621-8646 for further information.

ONGOING EVENTS

First Tuesday **Bainbridge Island Frog Rock Story Circle** Experienced and novice storytellers from Kitsap county and beyond are equally welcomed. The Circle meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 9702 Sands Ave. N.E. on Bainbridge Island. Call 206-842-5293 (Alyson) or 206-842-4562 (Ed).

2nd Friday Seattle. 7 p.m., **Seattle Storytellers Guild program and swap.** All For Kids Bookstore 2900 NE Blakeley (206) 621-8646

Third Thursday **Issaquah Tale Traders** This story circle meets on the 3rd Thursday in Issaquah from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you love storytelling and are looking for an informal place to share stories and network, please come and join us. Call Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for directions.

Fourth Monday **Seattle Raintales Story Circle** 7:00 Queen Anne Hill. Call Lenore Jackson 206-284-2976

4th Thursday of each month, 8pm **Bellingham Storytelling for adults** at Stuart's Coffee House, 1302 Bay Street Hosted by Doug Banner of the Bellingham Storytelling Guild, 360-752-2024

Weekly Seattle/Snohomish County area **Global Griot radio program** of stories and music from around the world, including recordings of "master storytellers" and live performances in the studio. KSER 90.7 fm (Seattle/Snohomish County area); also available via the World Wide Web at www.kser.org The program is aired live on Sunday mornings, 8-11 Pacific time. Info: (425) 742-4541.



Calendar Winter 2003

January...

Jan. 10 Teller's Night Out "Take Me Home" **Pat Peterson** tells stories of time and places past. All for Kids 7 p.m.

Jan. 11 "Crazy Quilt Tales" **Debbie Dimitre** tells tales of Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane. Kingsgate Library 2 p.m.

Jan. 12 Stories on a Second Sunday Storyteller **Jill Johnson** and Whidbey Island harpist **Mara Grey** present "The Celtic Heart", stories and songs of Ireland and Scotland. Third Place Books 6 p.m.

Jan. 18 **Meg Philp** House Concert see page 1

February...

Feb. 8 Workshop with **Anne-Louise Sterry**
\$15 for Guild members, \$20 for non-members. All for Kids 1-3 p.m.

Feb. 8 "Broken Star" **Debbie Dimitre** tells stories of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman. Kingsgate Library 2 p.m.

Feb. 9 Stories on a Second Sunday **Anne-Louise Sterry** "Pasta Fazool", a hilarious and heartwarming selection of stories and songs. Third Place Books 6 p.m.

Feb. 14 Tellers Night Out Celtic Stories with **Shelia Hunter** and **Sharon Gunn**
All for Kids 7 p.m.

March...

March 2 **Vi Hilbert** party Potluck and stories In Edmonds. Call Naomi Baltuck at 425-776-1175 for directions. 3-6 p.m.

March 8 **Debbie Dimitre** tells "Around the World with Nellie Bly". Through her daring and inventive stunts, she blazed the trail for all future female journalists. Kingsgate Library 2 p.m.

March 9 Stories on a Second Sunday **Maggie Bennet** "Lore, Legends and Lyrics of the Irish" Third Place Books 6 p.m.

March 14 Teller's Night Out **Jill Johnson** previews part of her new work "Little, But Oh My! -the story of Berte Olson" All for Kids 7 p.m.

March 28 **Jill Johnson** premieres "Little, But Oh My! -the story of Berte Olson" Whidbey Center for the Arts 7:30 p.m.

Key Addresses and Numbers for the Calendar

Third Place Books

Lake Forest Park Towne Centre
206-366-3333

All For Kids

2900 N.E. Blakeley
Seattle, WA
206-526-2768

Seattle Storyteller's Guild 2002 - 2003 Board

President - Cherie Trebon 206-525-0382
Vice President - Lenore Jackson 206-284-2976
Secretary - Marilyn Milnor 206-322-7330
Treasurer - Julia Buchholz 206-329-3323
Publicity - Sheila Hunter 425-831-2000
Membership - Kathy Currie 425-222-5442
Members at Large

George Neiswanger 425-670-1671
Aarene Storms 425-493-8202
Margaret Swanson-Vance 206-632-9047
Jill Johnson 360-341-2063

Newsletter Editor - Pat Peterson 206-935-5308

In the Wind is the newsletter of the Seattle Storyteller's 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 at 206-621-8646 for updated information on Guild events.

Newsletter articles and comments should be directed to:
patpeterson@attbi.com

Spring issue deadline is March 15, 2003

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Zipcode: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Today's Date: _____

NEW _____ Individual, \$20. _____

RENEWAL _____ Family, \$30. _____

Institutional, \$35. _____

In the Wind

Seattle Storyteller's Guild
P.O. Box 45532
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

First Class Mail