

# In the Wind

*Guild members to present*

## ➤ NSN Conference ◀

Soon storytellers from all over the United States will start arriving in Seattle. They'll be coming by plane, train, bus, car . . . (I suddenly had a vision of Connie Regan-Blake and her cousin-cohort Barbara Freeman bouncing across this country in their "little red truck" as the Storycrafters . . . ah, those were the days . . . ED). They'll all be heading for *Embracing the Power of Storytelling*, the National Storytelling Conference, presented July 7–11 in Bellingham.

We are proud of the incredibly hard work our colleagues north of Seattle are putting forth to make this conference a success. In our last newsletter we profiled two Guild members, Pat Peterson and Elizabeth Falconer, who will be tellers in the Regional Concert. This time we want to tell you about five other members who will be presenting in Bellingham: Allison Cox, Naomi Baltuck and her daughter Elly Garrard, Margaret Read MacDonald, and Meg Lippert.

### ➤➤ Allison Cox

will emcee the Regional Concert on Thursday evening (7:30–9:00). "I have the honor of welcoming storytellers from afar to the Northwest and inviting them to rest deep and drink in some of the best storytelling from around the Pacific Rim . . ." Allison says that the job of the emcee is to bring us

together in the spirit of mutual support for our journey "transforming our lives and our communities."

### ➤➤ Naomi Baltuck & Elly Garrard

will reprise their very successful workshop based on Naomi's book, *Crazy Gibberish and Other Story Hour Stretches* Friday afternoon (1:45–3:15). This talented duo has already presented their program of chants, songs, and story nuggets to dozens of Pacific Northwest storytellers, teachers, and camp leaders.

### ➤➤ Margaret Read MacDonald

is delivering the Saturday morning (9:00–10:15) keynote address, *Making Global Connections*. "I am on my third draft," says MRM, "and still not at all satisfied. Doing a keynote before storytelling peers is NOT a no-stress job. Last time I keynoted at a storytelling event (Sharing the Fire) it was like poking a stick into a hornet's nest! . . . For NSN, I was asked to do something that would make people think, draw on my folklore background, and connect with a global theme." In her presentation, she will share glimpses of revivalist storytelling in South America, Australia and New Zealand, the Caribbean, and Asia.

### ➤➤ Meg Lippert

will be presenting a workshop entitled *Telling It Like It Is: Transforming Stories From the Oral Tradition to the Printed Page* Saturday afternoon (2:00–3:30).

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**Now on the Internet!**

**[www.seattlestorytelling.org](http://www.seattlestorytelling.org)**

**Guild Website with PERFORMING TELLERS DIRECTORY (see page 3)**



# NSN Conference: It's Here!

*Jill Johnson*

By now, many of you have seen the classy green brochure with pictures of whales and statuary and the sea. You've perused its pages and begun strategizing: which sessions? who with? what do I want to learn THIS time??

While I was living in Jonesborough, I remember watching the town get ready for the annual National Storytelling Festival. The first signal was the "hurried up" conclusion of remodeling and refacing projects of buildings on Main Street. Next, street decorations started to go up, and then, finally, came the day that the tents started to go up. On that day, the excitement level (and the grumbling of the locals) began to rise. Walking down that historic street was like being in a time warp; the circus was coming to town!

Well, the circus is coming to Bellingham . . . lions and bears and jugglers and ladies with funny hats. And I can't wait.

Tuesday, July 6, starts off with a bang: a seven-hour whale watching cruise with The Island Mariner. Contact [www.orcawatch.com](http://www.orcawatch.com) for more information. Tuesday also features walking tours of the Bellingham historic downtown area and events at nearby Hovander Homestead Park and Tennant Lake Interpretive Center. Contact Brian at [storyflowers@hotmail.com](mailto:storyflowers@hotmail.com) for further information

## *In the Wind*

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on these events. Tuesday evening, there will be two concerts: *The Healing Voice of Story*, 7:00–9:00, and the *Kids Storytelling Concert*, 7:00–8:30. Dave Snowden, IBM, will also present a session: *Narrative Applications in a Complex Business World*, 7:00–9:00. This year, there are not two . . . or three . . . or four all day preconference sessions on **Wednesday**; there are SIX. And between 10:00am **Thursday** and 5:30pm **Saturday**, over **seventy** storytellers will present over **fifty** sessions: intensives (more than one session), workshops, presentations, and showcases. The topics they cover are incredibly diverse; there are simply too many to list them all. (See brochure or [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org).)

There will also be three keynote speeches (one by our own Margaret Read MacDonald), a panel discussion on youth storytelling, a Regional Concert, a National Concert, a Power of Storytelling Concert, an Oracle Awards ceremony, Story Swaps, a gallery walk, etc., etc., etc. And let's not forget all those informal, impromptu moments that make these annual gatherings so rich. So, come join us July 7–11 in Bellingham . . . Embrace the Power of Storytelling . . . in you.

## Guild silent auction contribution

The Seattle Storytellers Guild is contributing a Seattle Storyteller's Basket of Stories and Snacks as an item for the silent auction at the Conference. Local tellers are being asked to contribute books, CDs, and tapes, or other storytelling items along with their flyers. The basket will be completed with snacks of smoked salmon, coffee, and chocolate. The Silent Auction is an annual event at the Conference which helps fund conference scholarships for the following year.

## ➤ Gene Fries Award ◀

Eva Abram and Ellin Huttel are the recipients of this year's Gene Fries Scholarship Award. They will attend the National Storytelling Network Conference in Bellingham this July and will apply the award toward expenses. There were many worthy applicants this year, and the Guild decided to fund an additional award. We encourage applicants to apply again in the future. It sometimes takes several tries for success. In the meantime, start planning for next year. Gene would be pleased to know that so many in the Seattle area are telling stories and keeping the tradition alive.



# Seattle Storytellers Guild

[www.seattlestorytelling.org](http://www.seattlestorytelling.org)

We are pleased to announce the launch of the **Seattle Storytellers Guild Website**, and we invite you to visit this exciting new site. You'll find our website is a place where you can:

- ★ Learn more about the **Guild**—who we are and what we do.
- ★ Discover the benefits of **membership** and how to join.
- ★ Check out upcoming **events**.
- ★ Take a look at the listings in our **directory** of performing storytellers.
- ★ Send an **email** using the links to the newsletter, the directory, or Guild information.

We asked Mark Bassett of Dancing Leaves Web Design to create an inviting website that would have high visual impact, vibrant colors, and a classic, elegant style—and would be easy to use. He has given us a dazzling Internet presence that will appeal to members and potential members, those interested in booking storytellers, and our colleagues in the storytelling community.

## Performing Tellers Directory

Our directory of storytellers will be a comprehensive resource for schools, libraries, festivals, parks, churches, museums, and anyone else who wants to book a storyteller in the Pacific Northwest. Unlike some directories with individual web pages, our directory has been designed so that each listing will be searchable and can be indexed by search engines such as Google. Available to Guild members only, listings include:

- ★ Photograph
- ★ Contact information
- ★ Link to your website
- ★ 100-word description
- ★ 10 keywords

The directory will also have a scrollable index with the name, mini-description, and a small photo of each teller.

Whether you have been telling professionally for some time and have your own website or you are at the beginning of your storytelling career, the Tellers Directory is an excellent opportunity for you to establish or enhance your presence on the Internet. The cost of a one-year listing is only \$35—and for an extra \$10, we'll even scan your photograph. To apply for a listing, send an email from the Directory Page of the Website or call the Guild Hotline at (206) 621-8646 and leave a message.

### ➤ Guild members to present ◀

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Meg says, "My topic chose itself—retelling folk tales from the oral tradition for picture books has been my obsession for the past ten years." She will, no doubt, be drawing on her experience in publishing books like *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile*, a lively African tale written with Wondy Paye and nominated for the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award.

During Session H (Saturday, 4:00–5:30), MRM will be back—with colleagues Fran Stallings, J. G. "Paw-paw" Pinkerton, and Masake Sueyoshi to

demonstrate some techniques for international telling: *Sharing Tales Through Translation: Techniques for Tellers and Producers*. This one said MRM, "was easy. I was house-bound at Masako Sueyoshi's in Japan for ten days last spring (this was during the SARS scare in Asia—ED). I got the information via email . . . and we had plenty of time to work out a program." Both Pinkerton and Stallings have also done work with Japanese tellers. "All we have to do now," says MRM, "is practice with Masako when she arrives." For information about MRM's summer storytelling courses which evolved as a result of these preparations, see page 5.



## ➤ Folklife 2004 ◀

Cherie Trebon

Storytelling was alive and very well indeed at the NW Folklife Festival which was held over Memorial Day weekend. Twenty-eight program slots were available to storytellers, while the Liars Contest and Open Mike programs provided additional performance time. The Liar's Contest, held indoors this year, was filled to the brim, with a line of folks hoping to get in. In addition to the concerts that were co-sponsored by the Guild, additional storytellers and storyteller/musicians could be seen and heard at various other venues. Kudos go to all the tellers who participated and also to the volunteer signers who added a special dynamic to several programs with their interpreting skills. It was all of you who made the storytelling events so successful. I'd also like to thank our emcees Pat Peterson, Clint Cannon, and Tom Galt for so ably hosting the concerts. And finally, much gratitude goes to the staff at NW Folklife for their ongoing support of storytelling, and for doing the legwork of arranging performance space and schedules, and for finding and providing interpreters.

## ➤ Paddy Graber ◀

Mary Hobbs, Lenore Jackson,  
and Marilyn Milnor

On a beautiful Saturday back in April, the three of us had a rare treat—Paddy Graber, the storytellers' storyteller, regaled us with Irish stories and song at the Phinney Neighborhood Center. In a concert presented by the Seattle Folklore Society to celebrate the release of his first CD, *The Craic Was Great*, Paddy wove stories of his family, the Jewish and Irish traditions he grew up in, his own songs, and traditional tunes into a rainbow of delight and a pot of golden memories. We will long remember his eerie singing of the *Silkie of Sule Skerrie*, his recitation of the ancient Irish poem, *The Mystery of Amergin*, and his incomparable telling of *The Man Who Had No Story*. Paddy shared the stage with *Piper's Creek*—a band of four versatile musicians, whose bagpipe, tin whistle, harp, fiddle, and guitar playing would make anyone want to get up and dance a jig. It was an evening to treasure—a little story, a little song, a rhyme, a dance—even a little spoon playing. We listened, we sang, we laughed, and we cried. And we came away all the richer for the experience.

October 15–17, Port Angeles

## ➤ Forest Storytelling Festival ◀

Pat Peterson

Tellers for this year include **Mary Hamilton, Robin Moore, Brian Conroy, Dayton Edwards, Allison Cox, and Yvonne Young.**

There will be a selection of workshops for new and experienced tellers on Saturday morning and Jameston S'Kallam elder Elaine Grinnell will prepare a traditional salmon dinner on Saturday night. Peace Tales will be told on Sunday morning.

Registration for all events except the dinner is \$60 before October 1 and will be \$65 thereafter.

Details on the tellers and workshops will appear in the next issue of *In the Wind*.

For more information, call Josephine Pedersen at 360-457-3169 or Pat Peterson at 206-935-5308, email: [peterson.pat@comcast.net](mailto:peterson.pat@comcast.net).

## Editor's Note . . . . .

Jill Johnson

I'm back in harness. And the first thing I want to do is profusely thank Pat and Richard Peterson for their wonderful last minute assistance in getting the Spring Issue of *In the Wind* into your hands on time. Lenore Jackson worked with them—and the three of them got out a really fine issue. Thank you all.

There is no dearth of things to tell you about in this issue. So many events are happening—or will be happening—this summer: Folklife, the conference in Bellingham, StoryFest, etc. And Seattle Storytelling Guild members are right there in the thick of it all!

Soon the frenzy of summer will be upon us: picnics and camping, festivals, family visits, gardens and yardwork: all at the same time! Sometimes it can get to be a bit much. That's when I retreat to a quiet corner with just one—or a few folks—to share a story. In that moment, everything sort of slows down—and I am refreshed. I remember an evening when a guest shared a touching story about a young mentally retarded man lost in the woods during a hunting trip in Minnesota. That's when I am reminded that storytelling is not only Guild meetings and going to festivals and workshops and performing: it's basic human communication—rich and powerful—and available to all.

*In the Wind*



## ➤ ➤ ➤ StoryFest ◀ ◀ ◀

It just keeps getting bigger and better.

The Fifth Annual StoryFest will be held Thursday, July 22, through Saturday, July 24, at the Bellevue Regional Library and other locations throughout King County. Special guests for this festival include:

➤ **Patrick Ball**—one of the premier Celtic harpers of the world.

➤ **Roslyn Bresnick-Perry**—born in Russia, she shares Jewish legends, cross-cultural stories, and her own experiences of living in the Big Apple.

➤ **Carmen Deedy**—a Cuban immigrant, her passionate, energetic stories evoke laughter and tears.

➤ **Nancy Duncan**—the director of Nebraska Storyarts, her stories make you shiver, shake, and laugh.

➤ **Joel Ben Izzy**—a world traveler who takes you on a journey of imagination.

➤ **Won-Ldy Paye**—Liberian storyteller and award-winning author, he is a keeper of the oral tradition.

➤ **Eth-Noh-Tec**—duo who create an exciting blend of storytelling and kinetic theater using Asian and Asian-American stories.

➤ **Dovie Thomason**—gentle and animated, Dovie shares Apache and Lakota stories and animal legends.

➤ **Northwest Puppet Center**—presents an adaptation of *The Travels of Babar* by Jean de Brunhoff.

➤ **The Whitman Sampler**—return with their special blend of rhythm, music, and motion.

➤ **Nadia Taibah**—joins the ensemble with stories in Arabic and English.

For more information on ALL of these performers and a schedule of performances, go to the King County Library website: [www.kcls.org/storyfest](http://www.kcls.org/storyfest). Once again, free parking and a free shuttle will be available at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10675 NE 20th Street, 9:15am–5:30pm on Friday and Saturday. Shuttles will leave every ten minutes. Directions and Metro Bus routes can be found on the King County Library website.



### *Tales and Tellers, Storytelling Styles* **Margaret Read MacDonald** **Workshop at StoryFest**

Learn about telling styles around the globe and try a few styles yourself. Dates: July 23–24. Instructor: Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald. Time: 10:00am–3:50pm. Place: Bellevue Regional Library. Fee w/out credit: \$35.00. No registration needed. For UW credit: LIS 569. [www.ischool.washington.edu](http://www.ischool.washington.edu). Course offered in conjunction with King County Library System StoryFest. First day—lectures; second day—observing tellers and final discussion.

Also: LIS Storytelling Art and Techniques offered this summer at I School (3 credits). Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00–8:00pm, from July 26 to August 19. Instructor: Margaret Read MacDonald. [www.ischool.washington.edu](http://www.ischool.washington.edu)



### **Story Swaps at StoryFest**

If you would like to tell a story of your own at StoryFest, sign up at the Information Booth. Story Swaps will be held in the Little Top from 12:30–1:30pm on Friday and Saturday. Each teller will be limited to seven minutes or two stories, whichever is shorter. Storytellers of all ages and experience levels are invited to share their tales, and everyone is encouraged to come and listen. The sessions will be recorded for broadcast on KSER's Global Griot on the Sunday following StoryFest.



## *guild events*

### ◆ Fourth Thursdays

#### **Ravenna Third Place**

Featured teller and open mike. 7:30 pm. 6505 20th Avenue NE (206)-525-2347 (no meeting in July or August).

### ◆ Second Fridays

#### **Tellers Night Out**

Featured teller and open mike. 7:00pm. All for Kids Bookstore 2900 NE Blakeley, 206-621-8646. (no meeting in July or August).



## *other ongoing events*

### ◆ First and Third Mondays

#### **Story Circle of Whidbey Island**

Meets at 7:00pm at the Golden Otter Bookstore in Langley. Call Jean Gervais at 360-331-1273.

### ◆ Fourth Mondays

#### **Raintales Story Circle**

Queen Anne Hill, 7:00pm. Share stories in an informal and supportive setting. Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976 (no meeting in August).

### ◆ First Tuesdays

#### **Frog Rock Story Circle**

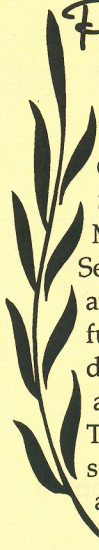
Experienced and novice are equally welcomed. 7:00-9:30pm, 9702 Sands Avenue NE, Bainbridge Island. Call Alyson at 206-842-5293 or Ed at 206-842-4562.

### ◆ Fourth Thursdays

#### **Bellingham Storytelling for Adults**

Stuarts Coffee House, 1302 Bay Street at 8:00pm. Hosted by Doug Banner (360) 752-2024.

## *Picnic Potluck and Story Swap*



Our annual "bash" will be held on Saturday, July 31, at 4:00pm at the home of Mary Brugh, 14528 20th Avenue NE, Seattle, (206-362-6003). All Guild members and friends are invited to join us for summer fun. The Guild will provide hot dogs and drinks. Please bring your favorite picnic food and a story to share, or just come and listen. This annual gathering brings all of our storytelling community together for a once-a-year celebration of who we are and what we do. See you there!

## *Vi Hilbert's College*

Upper Skagit Elder Vi Hilbert is sponsoring a special traditional storytelling event at her home in Bow, Washington.

Vi says that this is an assignment from the Great Spirit. Her goal is to get people to return to listening and giving back the essence of what was said. This is a lesson in listening and remembering.

Various traditional Native American tellers will visit with Vi and her students at her home from July 19 through the 23rd from 2:00 until 8:00pm. There is no tuition, but there will be a basket available for donations if one of the tellers has moved you..

Graduation culminates in a big party on Saturday, July 24. Listeners will have a chance to share stories and tell the storytellers what they have learned. This day will be a cause for much celebration for all of us because it is Vi's 86th Birthday!

Vi says, "People are the flames who warm our hearts." Come breathe life into those embers.

Please call Vi Hilbert for further information (360) 766-4451.



# ➤ ➤ ➤ Summer Calendar ◀ ◀ ◀

## July

July 7-11

National Storytelling Network **National Storytelling Conference**, Western Washington University, Bellingham ([www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)).

July 8-11

**National Story League Convention 2004**, Whitworth College, Spokane.

July 19-23

**Vi Hilbert's College**, Bow, Washington, 2-8pm, donations, 360-766-4451 (see page 6).

July 22-24

**StoryFest**, Bellevue Regional Library and other locations, sponsored by the King County Library System (see page 5). [www.kcls.org/storyfest](http://www.kcls.org/storyfest)

July 23-24

Workshops by **Margaret Read MacDonald** at StoryFest: Tales and Tellers, Storytelling Styles and Storytelling Art and Techniques (see page 5). [www.ischool.washington.edu](http://www.ischool.washington.edu)

July 26-August 19 (Tues/Thurs)

LIS Storytelling Art and Techniques course taught by **Margaret Read MacDonald**. [www.ischool.washington.edu](http://www.ischool.washington.edu)

July 29

**Sibylle Eischstaedt** presents *Another America*, a program of recitation and storytelling inspired by the writings of Emerson and Thoreau, Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 NE 100th, 7:00pm. Suggested donation: \$10-adults, \$5-children. Call Laurin Jones at 206-547-4628 for more information.

July 31

**Guild Annual Picnic Potluck and Story Swap**, 14528 20th Avenue NE, 206-362-6003, 4:00pm (see page 6).

## August

August 5

**Sibylle Eischstaedt**, *The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*, a fairy tale by Johann von Goethe, Seattle Waldorf School, 2728 NE 100th, 7:00pm. Suggested donation: \$10-adults, \$5-children (206-547-4628).

## September

September 10

Tellers Night Out, *Rain Stick Stories*, All for Kids Bookstore, 2900 NE Blakeley, 206-621-8646, 7:00pm.

September 22

Stories & Tea with **Mary Marguerite**, *Harvest Stories*, Victorian Manor, 610 First Street, Snohomish, 7:30pm. \$8 includes tea and desserts. [www.everythingtea.net](http://www.everythingtea.net)

September 23

Ravenna Third Place, **Kathi Lightstone** (yes, really!!!), 6505 20th Avenue NE, (206)-525-2347, 7:30pm.

*Have a rain stick lying around the house? Wonder why you bought it? How will you ever use it? We have the answer for you:*

### Rain Stick Stories

at Teller's Night Out. Come bring a story to share using your rain stick at 7:00pm, Friday, September 10, at All For Kids, 2900 NE Blakeley (206-621-8646). Put your imagination to work. Let's see how many ways we can use our rain sticks. A prize will be given for the most creative use of a rain stick. If you don't have a rain stick come anyway. Borrow one or come to listen to the creative uses of the rain stick in story. We'll have a great time.



*Yes, she's coming to Ravenna Third Place!*

### Kathi Lightstone

One of the region's most dazzling storytellers—known for her "fine and curious tales," old and new—Kathi performs to delighted audiences throughout the Northwest and has been captivating old and young alike at the Fall City Herbfarm Halloween Adventure for the past eight years. 7:30pm, Thursday, September 23, Ravenna Third Place, 6505 20th Avenue NE, (206)-525-2347.



# Seattle Storytellers Guild

for updated information see  
[www.seattlestorytelling.org](http://www.seattlestorytelling.org)  
or call (206) 621-8646

## 2004-2005 Board

Pat Peterson, President	(206) 935-5308
Marilyn Milnor, Vice President	(206) 322-7330
Mary Brugh, Secretary	(206) 362-6003
Lenore Jackson, Membership	(206) 284-2976
Jill Johnson, Newsletter Editor	(360) 341-2063
Mary Hobbs, Website Coordinator	(206) 282-7616
Cherie Trebon, Folklife	(360) 417-5031
George Neiswanger, Recruitment	(425) 670-1671
Eva Abram, Special Programs	(206) 282-4720

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

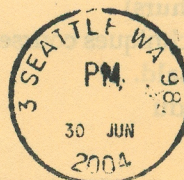
RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional, \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

[www.seattlestorytelling.org](http://www.seattlestorytelling.org)  
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Seattle Storytellers Guild

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