

in The Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

- **Haller Lake Storytelling Events Third Fridays 7:30 P.M. at Haller Lake Community Center.**
- **Ready to Tell Tales—A Workshop with Margaret Read MacDonald January 23rd, 2016**
- **Story Swaps at the Home of Virginia Rankin and David Klein December 4th and February 5th**

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Added Flyers:

The Holiday Potpourri

Easy to Tell Tales—a Workshop with Margaret Read MacDonald

Coming Up at Haller Lake

* Print these out *
* and share them *

Tellebration 2015

On Friday evening, November 20th, 2015 over 90 people and two service dogs gathered for the Seattle Storytellers Guild Tellebration at Haller Lake Community Center – so many that some had to sit on the ledge around the walls. The hall was decorated with a fall theme, the stage had lights and a good sound system – welcome improvements. But it was as the three master storytellers plied their craft that the evening took on a very special charm – many agreed the best Tellebration in years.

Will Hornyak, an Oregon Teller, after claiming to be Wm Butler Yeats' grandson, opened the evening with an Irish sing-a-long of “Mary Mack” – a tongue twister, for sure – but as the evening progressed, we found this teller both articulate and able to conjure up interesting voices for his characters. His second story was a Munster tale of Biddy Early – filling the room with laughter as Death came calling, found himself doing chores and dancing at her birthday party. I found out later that she was a real person, a beloved herbalist who outlived three husbands before her death in 1874 at the age of 76.

Eva Abram, a Seattle teller, told a touching tale of a gathering of collectors and in particular, of an old man who collected cares. Then she shared a historical piece about William Still, a freeborn son of slaves who was collecting their stories for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, and how while doing so stumbled upon a long lost brother.

Ingrid Nixon, from the Peninsula, told a Holiday Ghost story and she had piece of gold from Uncle Arthur to prove its authenticity, convincing us that it is good to be smart, but also good to be lucky!

Following a break with many members of the Guild reconnecting with friends and acquaintances, Eva led off the second half of the evening's tales with some “church” stories – about the Big Meetin' to decide how the \$23.49 from the congregation's chicken dinner would be



spent and another about the Big Revival as the preachers got to confessin' their weaknesses to each other. Particularly enjoyable were her expressions, pacing, and her final punch line.

Ingrid shared a personal tale of teenage angst – skillfully framed with a story of finding sea glass, and punctuated with the words she wished her grandmother could have said. She took an experience of growing up--shattered by reality--but like a jar filled with sea glass in the sun, now seen in a new light.

Will finished the evening with two well known tales to which he brought his special touch. The first was the story of Scheherazade – an illustration of handling the violence of the world. If only he had the time to finish his story!! He then told the story of Little Well Read Riding Hood – a librarian who had read all the books – this was a very fractured tale full of humorous rapid fire references to our Northwestern culture and concerns. What a wonderful evening.

The skill of the tellers was obvious, but even more so the ways they had personalized their tales and made the stories their own, and ours as well.

Special thanks to the Board and all those who contributed to the planning and putting on of this Guild event!! (See Page two) A wonderful night it truly was!

Remarks on Recent Events...

What did people say about Seattle Storytellers Guild's Tellebration 2015?

~ Yesterday was also the first day where I truly understood what the guild is all about, and it was amazing. Before this I sort of understood the message and goals of the guild but last night I saw it live and in action. It was incredible!!!
Anya Rybnikova

~ Was fabulous! Tellers were absolutely grand. Attendance was remarkable!! Great work. Thank you so much for an amazing event and evening. Beautiful decorations, by the way. best, Mary Desein

~ Sharon Creeden and I agree that this year's Tellebration was one of the finest nights of storytelling we have experienced in a long time. We also know how much work it takes to produce an event. Thank you all for making it happen. Pat Peterson

~ Congratulations on pulling off a fabulous Tellebration event. It was a great audience -- both in size and responsiveness. THANK YOU for asking me to be a part of it. Honored . . . really. Ingrid Nixon

I second all the thanks ! I had terrific feedback from everyone, too, even the two folks who got pressed into service helping with chairs, etc. Judith Alexander



A Perk for SSG:

As a perquisite for the guild's support of the **Port Angeles Forest Storytelling Festival**, the Seattle Guild becomes an official sponsor of a particular evening concert of the festival, and has one of its members chosen by the festival organizers to open for one of the featured tellers. Organizers choose from a list that is provided. This year they chose our member John Wasko who opened for Anne Penfound.

John's opening was the story of his quest to buy a valentine to honor Pat Peterson for her many years of service to our Seattle Guild. The catch was that the purchase had to be made in the summertime, which made the story a tale of the obstacles to be overcome. As amusing as it was to discover John's dealing with each obstacle, on another level the audience came to appreciate Mr. Wasko's high regard for Pat Peterson shining through all those "mere details". And with this, our favorite MC was left nearly speechless!!
- - - Glenn McCauley

Judith Black's house concert at the Baltuck-Garrard home October 11

The house was full Sunday evening for a potluck and house concert featuring Judith Black. With humor and compassion she related her journey to find the necessary housing, sociability, and other services in light of the progressing dementia of her aging mother in law. In her second story, she revealed her anxieties while waiting for her son, a marine, to land after an Afghan deployment. Would he be changed?, missing a limb or whole?, whole in mind? This evening was enjoyed by all.

— Glenn McCauley

Apology

I apologize that the "snail mail" version of the fall quarter's *In The Wind* was sent out so late. Note: If members opt for the e-version, they will receive the newsletter at the earliest **and** in color!

Glenn McCauley

SSG IS WORKING TOWARD DEVELOPING NEW EVENTS FOR STORYTELLING

SO MANY WAYS VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP...

One of the reasons that Tellabration™ was a success this year were the many volunteers who contributed to that evening. There are many opportunities in planning and putting on Guild events where volunteers can make a real difference. Here are some needs the Board has recognized.

Advertising coordinator - right now we have Judith on e-mail ads, Larry on the web site, Barry on the newsletter and whoever is producing an event. It would be good to have a person overseeing it all - whether they do it or make sure someone else does.

We need people to collect photos/bios/and all facts needed for advertising events and producing flyers of various sizes for distribution and send these to all who need them; contact local and city newspapers/ newsletters/ NW guilds and them our program ads and to help distribute flyers around Seattle.

Events planning - Someone who can look ahead and be sure that we have met our goals for scheduling our events for each month (except summer) as well as the workshops/concerts that we want to have at least three times a year. We already have a workshop and three concerts coming this quarter.

This person would take the board's suggestions and contact presenters and find out what they would require for time/ money/ space/ number attending and acquire proposals from tellers about who is interested and what they have to offer. There are possibilities for Storyteller exchanges with other area Guilds as well which would require organization.

Hospitality - When we have tellers coming from out of town, we ought to have several homes that are willing to house a teller for the night and offer them hospitality. Surely there are more folks among our membership that have a spare room available for the night?

Hosting - We'd be overjoyed:) if you'd be willing to assist at our Haller Lake third Friday storytelling events with the following: (1) Help to set up chairs, tables and snacks and put away/clean up, after. (2) Show people assisting those who use the elevator instead of the stairs, how to do that. Please come at 7 and stay to clean up after (#2). Help with greeting and manning tables and making our presenters comfortable and welcome.

If you'd like to participate in any of these, [please contact our President, Samantha Desmond Tomoeartemis@gmail.com](#)

Article contributed by Allison Cox, Patty Zeitlin

In the Wind

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Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild
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Writers & Contributors:
Allison Cox, Glenn McCauley,
Judith Alexander, Patty Zeitlin,
Cherie Trebon, Norm Brecke,
Nick Smith, Barry McWilliams

In the Wind is published quarterly by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art of storytelling. A one year subscription is included in guild membership. See Page 7.

Articles and comments should be directed to eldrbarry@gmail.com

Spring issue deadline: February 15

Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2015-2016 www.seattlestorytellers.org

Samantha Desmond	President
Anya Rybnikova	Secretary
Glenn McCauley	Treasurer
Allison Cox	Membership

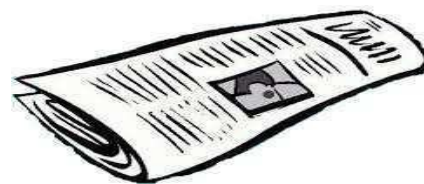
At large members

Patty Zeitlin	
Ellin Huttel	
Affi Durr	
Judith Alexander	Emails/ Web liaison
Larry Hohm	Web site

Unofficial members:

Cherie Trebon	Folklife liaison
John Wasko	Earth Day Coordinator
Barry McWilliams	Newsletter Editor

Contact information is on Our Web Site



Want more storytelling news?

**Or want to announce a story event
between newsletters?**

Judith Alexander sends out e-mail announcements generally on the Sunday before the first and third Fridays of each month. She will also forward items to the Seattle Storyteller's Guild webmaster Larry Hohm and Barry McWilliams for *In The Wind*.

Judith's e-mail address is
judith_tells2@earthlink.net

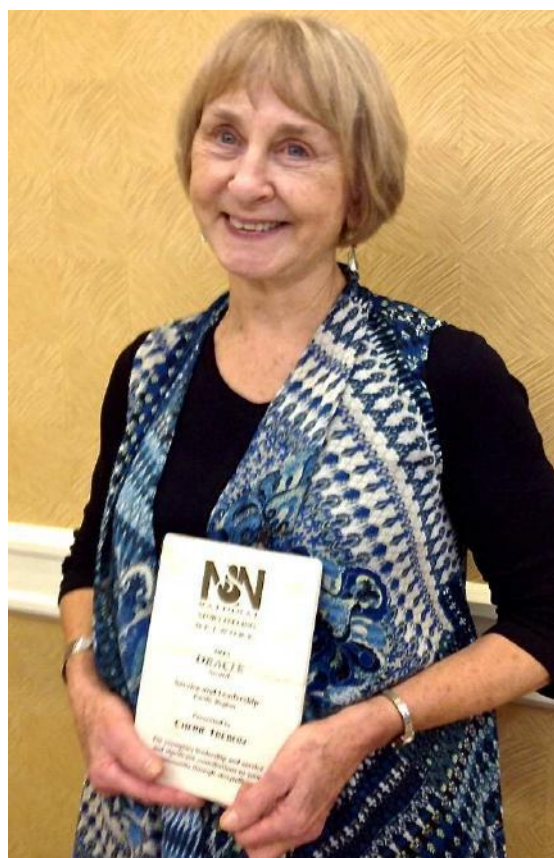
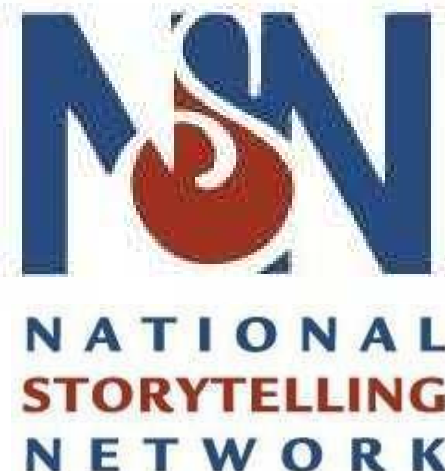
Or visit our website for more news:
seattlestorytellers.org

**Seattle Storytelling Guild's Cherie Trebon
was awarded the National Storytelling
Network's 2015 Oracle Award for
Regional Leadership and Service
for the Pacific Region.**

These are the moving words she spoke when accepting the award in Kansas City this summer:

I believe I was one of the luckiest children ever born because my father read stories to me nearly every night of my early childhood. He instilled in me a lifelong love of reading and story. Flash forward to my early thirties when I happened to hear a storyteller in performance – a storyteller for adults. I'd never heard of such a thing and I was mesmerized and immediately transported back to those early story times with my dad. The thought popped into my head that I wanted to be a storyteller. However, there was a huge impediment – I was terrorized by public speaking. Finally I gathered up all the courage I had, borrowed some from a few friends, and took my first storytelling class – and survived.

I became active in the Seattle Storytelling Guild as an avid listener, a volunteer, and eventually as a storyteller in my own right. It was so much fun that at one point I decided that I would quit my job and make my living as a storyteller. The thought was short lived. As a single parent with children to feed, clothe, & educate, I desperately needed the security of a regular paycheck. So I revised my plan. Rather than make a living at storytelling, I determined to make a life through storytelling. What a glorious life it has been. Stories heard & told, wonderful people met from around the world – storytellers and story listeners alike drawn together by a love of story, so many ways to volunteer, including directing festivals in Seattle and Port Angeles. I've been able to promote storytelling and become an advocate for it. If I could sum up the last 30 years of my life as a storyteller in one sentence, it would be this: "While I haven't made much money through storytelling, oh my, I feel incredibly rich." Thank you for honoring my work with this award.



Gene Friese 2015 Scholarship Winner

Norm Brecke writes:

Thank you so much to the Seattle Storyteller's Guild for choosing me as the Gene Friese Scholarship recipient this year. With your generous subsidy I was able to attend the National Storytelling Festival with Anne Rutherford. I had never been to the festival and had a wonderful time.

Anne was an invited teller to the Exchange Place, a 12 minute spot for up-and-coming tellers done on Friday evening. As her guest I was able to sit in the tellers section at performances and eat meals elbow to elbow with some of the greats in storytelling. I was able to speak to tellers I had built relationships with in the past; Robert & Nancy from Eth-Noh-Tec, Andy Offut-Irwin, Kim Weitkamp, Antonio Rocha, Beth Horner, and Tim Lowry. Conversations with them deepened my understanding of what is expected to be a platform teller at festivals. I was able to see so many tellers, most of the tellers I have come to respect in my past studies of the art. I saw hours of great stories that made me laugh and made me think. Mostly, I was able to study the different styles that work for each teller in building a relationship with the audience and maintaining focus throughout the performance.

Norm Brecke and Anne Rutherford are now hosting **Scary Stories** in Portland at the Lucky Tab Taproom, 1700 n. Killingsworth, PDX. The Scary Story show and open mic is held every 3rd Thursday. Professional tellers tell classic ghost stories and urban legends, plus an open mic for audience members to tell us a story that scares you. Adults. \$5 donation requested at door.

More info: www.oregontellers.com or <https://www.facebook.com/events/838313206286092/>

Exchanging Storytellers??

Allison Cox has spoken with several guilds (South Sound/ Mt. Tahoma/ Forest Story People/ Portland/ Victoria/ Vancouver) and ALL were interested in doing a teller exchange where some of their members come to our monthly meeting to share stories and we do the same. We hope to explore these opportunities in the coming year.



Flash News!! At Home Story Swaps!!

Winter Story Swaps take place Friday, Dec 4 and Friday, February 5 at the home of Virginia Rankin and David Klein – 1222 NE 100th St in the Maple Leaf neighborhood of Seattle above the Northgate Mall. Contact them at [206-525-6436](tel:206-525-6436). Come at 7pm for treats and schmoozing. Telling starts promptly at 7:30. Come to tell or come to listen. Feedback if you wish it.

See the Guild's web site for more details and directions.

Winter Calendar of Seattle Area Events * indicates Seattle Storytellers' Guild event

December.

3 MOTH StorySLAM Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Ave N, Seattle

4 * Story Swap 7 PM at home of Virginia Rankins, 222 NE 100th ST in the Maple Leaf neighborhood—See SSG web site

5 Children's Storytelling at Ravenna Third Place Books, 11 a.m., 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free. See Ongoing Events below

4 PJ Storytime at Island Books, Mercer Island 3014 78th Ave SE Mercer Island, See Ongoing Events below

10 A Winter Gift Patrick Ball Concert 7:30 pm Greenlake Methodist Church 6415 1st Ave NE \$25 Contact Mary Dessein marystories@hotmail.com

10 Fresh Ground Stories 7 p.m., Roy Street Coffee & Tea, 700 Broadway E, Seattle, free. See Ongoing Events below.

15 A Guide To Visitors Live "Don't Call it a Comeback" 7:30 p.m. Theater Off Jackson 409 7th Ave S, Seattle \$10

18 * Haller Lake : Holiday Potpourri! 7:30-9:30 PM See p. 7

January

15 * Haller Lake Warm Stories for a Cold Night: 7:30-9:30 PM See p. 7

23 * Easy-to-Tell-Tales Workshop with Margaret Read MacDonald 9-1 PM Nordic Heritage Center

•28 Auntmama's Storycorner. 7 p.m., Madison Park Starbucks, free. www.auntmama.com



Storytelling ON THE AIRWAVES

Sundays. "Walkin' the Floor" with Storyteller Auntmama, KBCS 91.3 FM or .fm, 8:30 a.m.

Sundays. **The Storytelling Show**, Vancouver Co-op Radio, CFRO 102.7 FM or www.coopradio.org, 9-10 p.m. thestorytellingshow.com

Saturdays. **Prairie Home Companion**, KUOW 94.9 FM 3-5 p.m.

February

5* Story Swap 7 PM at home of Virginia Rankins, 222 NE 100th ST in the Maple Leaf neighborhood—See SSG web site

*** 19 Haller Lake! A Tale of Murder** Larry Hohm – 7:30-9:30 PM See p. 7

*** 25 Auntmama's Storycorner.** 7 p.m., Madison Park Starbucks, free. www.auntmama.com



At the time of publication of this issue of In The Wind, information on many Winter 2016 events were not yet available.

For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

go to

Seattlestorytellers.org

or subscribe to

[Judith Alexander's E-mail List](mailto:Judith.Alexander@seattlestorytellers.org)

(See p.2)

And check the [On Line Calendars](#) of the Storytelling Communities on p. 7

Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

Please check before you go! Details may change.

Saturdays— **Children's Storytelling** at 3rd Place books, Ravenna, 11:00am. 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA, Free. thirdplacebooks.com

First Thursdays **Moth StorySLAM** themed open mic. 8 p.m., Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Seattle, \$16 premium, 8 general, themoth.org/events

First Fridays, Even numbered Months **Living Room Story Swaps** Rankins, 1222 NE 100th ST in the Maple Leaf neighborhood

First Saturdays **Island Books PJ Story Time.** 6:30 p.m., 3014 78th Ave. SE, Mercer Isl., especially for children ages 3+ and their families. Free Mercerislandbooks.com

First and Third Mondays **Thrilling Tales for Grownups** 12:05—12:50 P.M. Seattle Central Library Free

Second Sundays **Middle Eastern Stories and Dance, 7pm**, hosted by Marion Moat Kalia Indian Cuisine, 4520 200th Ave. SW #202, Lynnwood, 425-771-6422 No cover; tips welcome. Updates or request a storytelling spot, e-mail marion.moat@frontier.com

Third Fridays **Haller Lake Friday Evenings** 7:30 p.m., Story exchange with occasional featured teller. Sept.-June, HLCC, seattlestorytellers.org

Fourth Thursdays **Fresh Ground Stories.** 7 p.m. Roy Street Coffee & Tea, 700 Broadway E, Seattle, WA 98102, free. www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/

Last Thursdays After a Holiday break for Nov and Dec, **Auntmama's Storycorner**, will be back in Jan and Feb— 7-8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison Street Seattle, WA 98112 free auntmama.wordpress.com - note the new URL

Every other Month **A Guide To Visitors Live** 7:30 p.m. Theater Off Jackson 409 7th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98104 \$10. agtvt.org

Regional Ongoing Events

Third Tuesdays **The Yarn Spinners, a Storytelling Club**, 6:00 p.m., Hal Holmes Center, 209 S Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA, Every month except Dec. Contact: Bret & Elaine Bleggi bleggi@charter.net

Third Thursdays **Scary Story Show and Open Mike** hosted by Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke 7-9 PM Lucky Lab Taproom 1700 N. Killingsworth PDX Info www.oregonstorytellers.org

Second Fridays **Portland Storytellers Guild Potluck and Story Swap** 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 Southwest Capitol Highway, Portland, OR

Second Saturdays **Portland Storyteller's Guild StoryThon! 7:30-9:30** Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter from the parking lot side of the building), Portland portlandstoryteller.org

Second Mondays **Fireside Story League of Tacoma** Story Circle and Storytelling Lesson, 6:30 pm Go to www.firesidestoryleague.org & click newsletter for location. Details contact: Penny Tennison 253-265-2113. or Eileen Brekowitz 253-759-0941

Second Wednesdays **South Sound Storytellers Guild** Featured teller and open mike. 7 p.m., The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA, Free

Third Mondays **Stories at Fern.** 7:30 p.m., 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., \$5. victoriastorytellers.org

Third Sundays **Listen! Laugh! Enjoy!** Stories for grown-ups, Featured teller and open mike. 7 p.m., Vancouver, B.C., \$7. vancouverstorytellers.ca)

Third Fridays **The Bellingham Storytellers Guild: Storytelling for the Love of It.** Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room General Meeting and Informal Workshops 6:00 to 7:00 PM Storytelling Showcase 7:00 - 8:00 Family friendly and free to all. BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org

Up and Coming at Haller Lake

**The Haller Lake Community Club
is one of our main venues.**

Programs are from 7:30 – 9:30 P.M.
Refreshments — Donations accepted

In December on the 18th,
**A Holiday Potpourri of
Storytelling** with Sharon
Creeden, Pat Peterson, Naomi
Baltuck and Beatrice Baltuck
Garrard followed by an Open
Mike.

In January on the 15th,
Warm Tales for a Cold Night:
John Wasko, Allison Cox and
Judith Alexander share Stories
from Warm Climates to warm
the heart! Open Mike!

In February on the 19th
A gripping tale of murder,
"The Irony of Hate" by Ruth
Rendell told by Larry Hohm
Open Mike follows!



**Getting to Haller Lake Community Club,
12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle, WA**

From I-5 North •Take exit 174 (130th St.)
west to Meridian.

From I-5 South •Take Exit 175 (145th
St.) west to Meridian.

NOW- from either direction go south
(left) on Meridian to 128th (Then west
(right) on 128th;
1 block to HLCC.

From Aurora
•Turn east on 125th St. to Densmore.
•Go north (left) to HLCC at end of block.

By Metro Bus
•#346 goes right by HLCC.

Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

**Fresh Ground Stories
Seattle Storytelling Meetup Group**
meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/

The MOTH :True Stories told Live
Seattle and Portland
themoth.org/

A Guide to Visitors Stories on Stage
Seattle
www.agtv.org/

**Seattle Public Library:
Calendar of Events**
spl.org/calendar-of-events

Story People of Clallum County
Port Angeles
clallamstorypeople.org/

South Sound Storytellers Guild
Lakewood
southsoundstory.org/

Fireside Story League of Tacoma
firesidestoryleague.org/

Bellingham Storytellers Guild
BellinghamStoryTellersGuild.org/

Yarn Spinners Storytelling Club
Ellensburg
See their Facebook Page

Portland Storytellers Guild
portlandstorytellers.org/

Portland Story Theater
portlandstorytheater.com/

Seattle Storytellers Guild

Membership Form

Circle one: New member or Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

Individual \$25/year ____ \$70/3 years ____

Family \$35/year ____ \$85/3 years ____

Professional Membership \$75/year ____
(SSG membership plus Web listing)

Additional tax-deductible contribution _____

OK to share your data with National Storytelling
Network? name only _____ e-mail too _____

To join the SSG You can fill out the form below and send it to:
Seattle Storytellers Guild
P.O. Box 45532
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

Or go to www.seattlestorytellers.org Click on "Join Now" at
the top of the page, from there you can join or renew online
using PayPal By clicking the "Pay Now" button or you can print
and mail the form with a check.

Employer matching funds? Check if your employer
will match your SSG membership donation.

Find us on Facebook. Be a fan, get updates, join
discussions.

Professional memberships include guild member-
ship and a listing on the Performing Tellers section of
the guild website. Join with the form on page 9 or at
www.seattlestorytellers.org. You'll be contacted for
details for your web listing.



Expanding Our Horizons in 2016 – An Opportunity for our Guild and its Members

Folk Alliance Region West Conferences

October 13-16, 2016 and October 5-8, 2017 2016
at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Wa.

Folk Alliance is kind of like NSN, but includes dance and storytelling in addition to its central focus of music. They moved their headquarters to Kansas City recently, shortly before NSN made the move. Their big national event is usually in Kansas City, but there are several regional conferences each year, each one attracting a few hundred people.

For the next two years, the FAR-West [Folk Alliance Region West] conference will be coming to Bellevue, WA. For the past couple of years, Cathryn Fairlee and I have been "infiltrating" the event, which was in Oakland in 2014 and 2015, and we have successfully gotten a little storytelling involvement in the FAR-West conference, both in terms of panels and workshops and by putting on a storytelling performance. This year, we also had a presence in the Networking Center, to hand out information about NSN, as well as regional organizations and events.

The panels that work best at this conference typically have 3-5 participants up on the dais, depending on the topic. Workshops would depend on the skill involved. For instance, a voice workshop might have a single instructor, but there have been workshops on song creation that have involved several people doing one-on-one work.

The programs person will need to decide on the panels, but starting this early, we should have lots of say in how storytelling is included in the conference. So, we need to look at panel ideas for things of use to both storytellers and musicians, or to festivals and venues that might feature both. Those are what draw the biggest audiences, other than the storytelling concert. Because the House Concert movement has been a really big part of Folk Alliance, if you have locals who have done storytelling house concerts, their experiences would be a very welcome part of the conference. There have been a couple of models used, but this year the panels and workshops were about 90 minutes in length, and there were "master classes" for professional development, kind of like the ones at an NSN conference.

The format that Cathryn used the last two years for the concert was an olio of tellers with different styles, and the audience members who talked to us afterward were impressed by the range of telling and tellers. Part of it was to get people out of thinking they know "what storytelling is" in thinking of it as any one thing. Some people told stories about music, or used music, but that was not required. It was just part of the range of the performance.

- - - Nick Smith

If you are interested in representing the Guild on a panel about incorporating music and story together at the Folk Alliance Conference in Bellevue In October 2016. contact Mary Dessen marystories@hotmail.com

[Nick Smith is a teller of historical tales for adult audiences,
and traditional tales for all ages in Pasadena, California.]





meeting the wonder-smith, PART 1:

The Seattle Storytellers Guild has an "Epic Storytelling Event" with sixteen tellers, and Musicians in March 2016.

Picture a white haired woman in her sixties in the purple robes of a Druid holding large audiences of students at UC Berkeley spellbound with heroic myths and sagas and tales of legendary creatures such as fairies and elves, and the benefits of talking to trees in the 1930's. This same woman moved in circles of artists and intellectuals, was a rebel during the Irish rebellions and finished her last years communing with nature's spirits on the West Coast of California.

Ella Young, the author of **The Wonder-Smith and His Son**, Ella Young had a life as interesting as the tales she published in her books.

Born in 1867 in Northern Ireland the oldest of six children; growing up her family moved to various places in Ireland before settling in Dublin. Attending nearby Alexandra College she was a protégé of the Irish Nationalist, George William Russell. She joined the Theosophical Society and had contact with intellectuals and artists interested in Spiritualism including W. B. Yeats, Padraic Pearse, Isabella Augusta (Lady Gregory), and Padraic Colum.

She got her B.A. in 1898 at the age of 31, and after her graduation, she became a teacher. She was deeply immersed in the study of Irish history, nationalism and the struggle for independence. During this period, she spent considerable time in the west of Ireland learning Gaelic, collecting fairy tales, tales of yore and studying the ways and customs of the people of the west. She published **Poems** in 1906, and wrote a number of children's books on Irish mythology including **The Coming of Lugh** (1909), **Celtic Wonder Tales** (1910) and **The Rose of Heaven**, a book of verse (1920).

She joined the activist Daughters of Ireland, a radical Irish nationalist organization, in 1900. They promoted Irish language, history, and culture - combating English influences - and would become the women's arm of the rebellion. While not directly a part of the hostilities, she hid and ran guns and ammunitions to Irish Volunteers during the Irish Republicans' struggles for an independent Ireland, including the failed 1916 Easter Rising, which ended with the execution of her close friend Padraic Pearse. The conflicts continued, but hopes were crushed by the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, the partitioning of Ireland, and an oppressive Irish Free State. For a time she laid low in the west, where she continued collecting stories and myths. But it was time to leave Ireland.

Opportunity came as Ella Young, now 58, was invited to lecture on Irish Mythology in American universities and hired to fill the post of Celtic studies scholar at the University of California in Berkeley in 1924, and she immigrated to the United States in 1925 on a temporary visa. However Young was briefly detained at Ellis Island as a probable mental case when the authorities learned that she believed in the existence of fairies, elves, and pixies! The New York Times announced her arrival with the headline, "Ambassadress from Elfland!" A wealthy patron and grandson of the 21st President interceded in her behalf.

Finally admitted, she lectured in New York and the East Coast, proceeded west by train, seeing the Grand Canyon and New Mexico, and continued on Berkeley. Her encyclopedic knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject of Celtic mythology attracted and influenced many of her friends and won her a wide audience among writers and artists in California. She also made trips to Taos, New Mexico where she had friendships with Photographer Ansel Adams and his wife, Georgia O'Keefe and other artists and writers.

It was at this time that she published **The Wonder-Smith and His Son** in 1925, and **The Tangle-Coated Horse and other Tales** in 1929, both were Newberry Honor Books. In the introduction to the **Wonder-Smith and His Son**, Ella said it took her twenty years to collect the various fragments of the myths of the *Gubbaun Soar* from Gaelic storytellers in thatched cottages and little villages in Ireland. **The Unicorn with Silver Shoes** was published in 1932 - a Celtic myth turned inside out.

In 1931, she went to Canada and sought to re-enter the United States, on a work visa with the intention of becoming an American Citizen. Again her application was held up for months resulting in a publicized firestorm of letters to the State Department from friends and fellow academics and pointed questions to President Hoover.

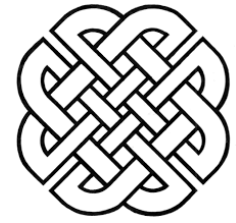
Ella had a passionate love and reverence for the land of America. She regarded her new country as a "great tawny lioness," in contrast to Ireland, which she saw as a "white unicorn." Ella felt most at home in the wild and rugged beauty of the West Coast. She spent time as she could with the spirits of the land - to her a larger race than their Irish counterparts. She considered the rocky, wooded promontory of Point Lobos to be the center of psychic power for the entire Pacific Coast and she revived the old Celtic Mystery School at Mount Shasta in Northern California.

After her retirement, she moved to a little cottage close to the beach and dunes she loved in Oceano, California planting an exquisite garden on barren sandy soil. In the evenings she would fill the house with candlelight and hold court beside the hearth fire recounting magical stories with her friends, the Dunites, members of a Theosophical community living in the dunes. There she wrote a two volume Auto-Biography: **Flowering Dusk: Things Remembered Accurately and Inaccurately**. She never returned to Ireland. After her death, to cancer in 1956 at the age of 88, her ashes were scattered among the Redwoods north of the Napa Valley. A biography, **Ella Young Irish Mystic and Rebel**, written by Rose Murphy, was published in 2008.



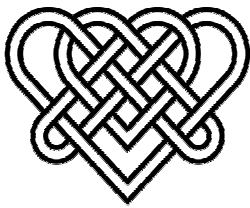
Part 2 of Barry McWilliams' article will look at the Wonder-Smith Myth and its connections to Irish Mythology.

AN EPIC UNDERTAKING



A company of the **Seattle Storytelling Guild** tellers will endeavor to share an epic length traditional Irish myth on March 19th, 2016, at The George Center for Community in North Seattle. We will have sixteen tellers, some telling tandem, as well as musicians for this event.

The tales will be drawn from the fourteen chapters of **The Wonder Smith And His Son: Tales from the Golden Childhood of the World** by Ella Young. This book was a *Newberry Honor Runner Up* in 1928. Ella Young collected stories throughout Ireland over nearly 20 years, telling of a master craftsman who is "a maker of worlds and shaper of universes". What parts she could not find, she filled in - with writing echoing the lyrical and lovely language of their Irish origins. This will be SSG's first steps into "epic length group storytelling."



Contact Allison Cox for additional information
Allison@dancingleaves.com or [206-463-3844](tel:206-463-3844)

In the Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild

P.O. Box 45532



www.seattlestorytellers.org

First Class Mail



Holiday Storytelling at Haller Lake

With

Sharon Creeden, Pat Peterson, Naomi Baltuck and Beatrice Baltuck Garrard

Friday, December 18, 2015 7:30 – 9:30 pm

At **Haller Lake Community Center**
12579 Densmore Ave North, Seattle, WA 98133

An evening of stories from our guest storytellers, followed by an open mic.

Sharon Creeden was a trial attorney for the King County Prosecutor when she discovered the Seattle Storytellers Guild, and began telling and collecting stories, many of which are included in her books, *In Full Bloom: Tales of Women in Their Prime* and *Fair is Fair: World Folktales of Justice*, which received the National Aesop Award for folklore. Sharon continues to be inspired by the members of the Seattle Storytellers Guild.



Naomi Baltuck and Beatrice Baltuck Garrard are an intrepid mother-daughter duo. When Naomi is not writing novels, and Beatrice is not studying history at Stanford, they travel the world together telling stories and fighting crime."



Pat Peterson tells her holiday stories with a twinkle and a smile. That's not to say that a memory revealed might bring a tear to the eye or a tug to the heart. She will share old favorites....and something new.



No admittance fee. Donations welcome. Snacks provided.



Sponsored by the **Seattle Storytellers Guild**

For more info, see our website: seattlestorytellers.org
Or visit us on Facebook - [/SeattleStoryTellersGuild/](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleStoryTellersGuild/)

The Seattle Storytellers Guild presents

EASY-TO-TELL TALES

A Workshop with Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald



Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 9am - 1pm

A Hands-on Workshop.

A great workshop for teachers, parents, librarians...all beginning storytellers!

You will leave ready to tell six short audience-participation folktales.

Teachers will learn to use stories to meet core curriculum standards and be able to earn clock hours.

At the Nordic Heritage Center,

3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117
“about 10 min. west of Aurora, Follow 65th NW west, then the brown signs for the Museum.”

Coffee and Snacks provided

Cost: \$35 (Includes a 1 year membership in the Seattle Storytellers Guild)

\$10 Current Guild Members, Seniors, and Students

“...a grand dame of storytelling,” author, folklorist, world traveler and renowned storyteller!

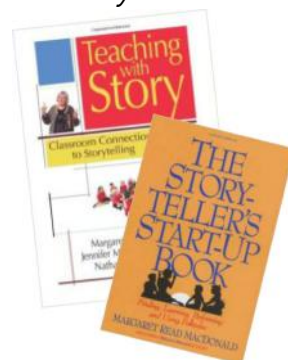
Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald travels the world, telling and bringing back stories from such marvelous places as Maharakham, Kota Kinabalu, and Rio. She is a folklorist, children's librarian, and the author of more than 65 books on folklore and storytelling, including the award winning Peace Tales, The Storyteller's Start-up Book, and Teaching with Story: Classroom Connections to Storytelling and picture books including The Old Woman and Her Pig, Stop!, The Squeaky Door, Mabela the Clever and many more.

Pre registration encouraged: judith_tells2@earthlink.net

We may plan a non-host lunch for afterwards

More about Margaret at www.margaretreadmacdonald.com

Or see www.seattlestorytellers.org



Sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers Guild

Up Coming Events: Seattle Storytellers Guild

at Haller Lake Community Center 12579 Densmore Ave North, Seattle, WA 98133

December 18th Holiday Storytelling at Haller Lake

at Haller Lake Community Center 7:30 – 9:30 PM



An evening of stories from our guest storytellers:
Sharon Creeden, Pat Peterson,
Naomi Baltuck and Beatrice Baltuck Garrard,
followed by an open mic.

No admittance fee. Donations welcome. Snacks provided.

January 15th WARM TALES FOR A COLD NIGHT

at Haller Lake Community Center 7:30 – 9:30 PM

Take a virtual vacation! Three long time storytellers, John Wasko, Allison Cox, and Judith Alexander will present stories from warm climates to warm the heart.

Bring your stories for a welcoming open mic. time!

Snacks provided and a chance to mingle. Donations welcome.



February 19th A Story Swap At Haller Lake

at Haller Lake Community Center 7:30 – 9:30 PM



Host Larry Hohm will tell a gripping tale of murder,
"The Irony of Hate", by Ruth Rendell.

Open Mic. for sharing stories, Of course!

Snacks provided! Free, donations welcome

Winter Story Swaps take place Friday, Dec 4th and Friday, February 5th at the home of Virginia Rankin and David Klein – 1222 NE 100th St in the Maple Leaf neighborhood of Seattle above the Northgate Mall. Contact them at 206-525-6436. Come at 7 pm for treats and schmoozing. Telling starts promptly at 7:30. Come to tell or come to listen.



January 23rd An Easy-To-Tell-Tales Workshop 9am – 1 PM

with Margaret Read MacDonald. (Cost and Location TBA)

March 19th The Wonder Smith and His Son : A retelling by 16 storytellers (and musicians) of this wonderful Irish myth at the George Center.

See seattlestorytellers.org for more information