

# in The Wind

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

- \* How to be a Real Character—A workshop with Norm Breke and Anne Rutherford March 6, 2016
- First Friday Story Swaps See page 3
- The Wonder Smith and His Son March 19th—The George Center
- Earth Day Storytelling April 24th
- Haller Lake Storytelling May 20th 7:30 P.M. at Haller Lake Community Center
- Folk Life Storytelling May 27-30
- Auntmama's Storycorner Last Thursdays at 7 p.m., at Madison Park Starbucks. See page 8

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## Added Flyers:

- Alice—in-Wonderland A 1 Woman show with Anne Rutherford/  
How to be a Real Character—Workshop with Norm Breke and Anne Rutherford  
Folk Life Storytelling 2012

- \* Print these out \*
- \* and share them \*



## AN EPIC EVENT

A company of Seattle Storytelling Guild tellers will share an epic length traditional Irish myth on Saturday, March 19th, 2016, from 7:00-10:00 pm, at The George Center for Community, 2212 NE 125th St, Seattle, WA 98125.

### The Wonder Smith and His

**Son** is a retelling of a wonderful Irish myth collected by Ella Young presented by sixteen storytellers and musicians.

Ella Young collected these stories throughout Ireland over nearly 20 years, and wove them in an epic tale of a master craftsman and his children, drawing the characters from Irish Mythology. What parts she could not find, she filled in – with writing echoing the lyrical and lovely language of their Irish origins. There is more about the Wonder Smith and Irish Myth in this issue of *In The Wind*.

This will be SSG's first step into "epic length group storytelling." Tellers include: Larry Hohm, Katherine Gee Perrone, Allison Cox, Barry McWilliams, Jane Valencia, Jill Johnson, Meg Lippert & Margaret Read MacDonald, Mary Gavan, Jeff Leinaweaver, Leslie Slape, Cathryn Fairlee, Samantha Desmond, Joy Ross. Musicians include Mary Dessein, Katherine Gee Perrone, and Jane Valencia. Judith Alexander is the Emcee.

Along with the telling will be occasional musical accompaniments of Harp, Psaltery, Penny Whistle, and Guitar. Allison Cox has organized this exciting event! You are invited to come for this memorable evening and bring your friends, we will have ample seating!

Suggested Donation: \$5 - members, \$8 - non-members, \$12 - families For For Info, contact: Allison Cox [allison@dancingleaves.com](mailto:allison@dancingleaves.com).



Illustration by Boris Artzybasheff

## Remarks on Recent Events...

### "Easy to Tell Tales" Workshop a Success

Margaret Read MacDonald: a whirlwind of a teacher !

Over 30 participants learned storytelling and techniques from a master teacher and storyteller. School and public librarians, teachers, long-time and new storytellers joined our lively and interactive event at the Nordic Heritage Museum. In the course of four hours, we learned to tell at least six stories from Margaret's repertoire and books. Practicing the stories with others ensured we would remember them until we returned to our schools and libraries to actually share them with audiences. Those who were not already Guild members are now members, and we look forward to hearing from them soon.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Ellin and Glenn, assisted by Afifi. Eva Abram and Pat Peterson helped carry in books, set up the room and register folks. Many thanks to all the volunteers, including Allison, and a special, grateful thank you to Margaret Read MacDonald for this wonderful opportunity to encourage more storytellers in our community.

Submitted by Judith Alexander



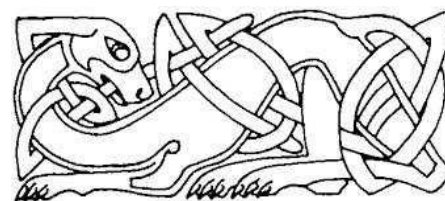
### An Evening of Murder

Larry Hohm performed his one-man show, "An Evening of Murder," on January 15th at the Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109. A lively audience of around sixty people listened to tales of murder by Ruth Rendell, Bill Pronzini, Joe Donnelly, and Harry Shannon. Larry also told some "quickies" by Jeffrey Whitmore, Tom Ford, Bruce Harmor, and Dick Skeen.

The lounge at the Swedish Club offered a special cocktail for the evening, "Death in the Afternoon" (sparkling wine with a shot of absinthe). All of the survivors of the evening appeared to enjoy the show.

Larry Hohm

Guild members got their chance to hear Larry at **Haller Lake on February 19th**. Larry has just the right pacing and "conspiratorial tone" for these intrigue tales. At the open mike afterwards the stories were not as sinister, but very well told.



### Winter Telling at Haller Lake

Our **December 18th Holiday Potpourri** with Sharon Creeden, Pat Peterson, Naomi Baltuck and Beatrice Baltuck had around 70 people in attendance. The storytelling ranged from a mean snowman to Hershel's tricks; a great white bear and Pat's touching story of "the dress in the box." And the open mic was another very full plate of "holiday-treats."

**In January** on the 15th, **Warm Tales for a Cold Night**: John Wasko, Allison Cox and Judith Alexander shared Stories from Warm Climates such as Nigeria, New Zealand, the Philippines, Hawaii and East Africa to warm our hearts and one from Appalachia as well! And a little Hula too!

The help and assistance of volunteers helping with all the details contributed much to making these very memorable evening!

- Barry McWilliams

## Story Swapping Opportunities

Come to tell or come to listen. Each teller will have 8 minutes to tell all of a short story or a fragment of a longer one. We will be rigorous about this time limit and a 5 minute limit on feedback. Tellers who wish feedback will be in charge of this time, and what they wish help with. Of course it is always OK to tell without feedback.



***"Even Numbered "Months Story Swaps on Fridays, March 4th and May 6th at the Home of Gail Gensler 104 NW 75<sup>th</sup> ST, Seattle, WA 98117***

It is a yellow house with orange doors on NW corner at the corner of NW 75<sup>th</sup> and 1st Ave NW.

Come at 7pm if you wish to mingle, chat, have a snack and/or a beverage.

Telling will start promptly at 7:30. Contact Gail at 206-789-7944

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a fragrance-free event**, since the host is very sensitive to fragrance. Please do not wear perfumes, scented hand lotion or other strong fragrances. Thank you!

An ***"Odd Numbered Months Story Swap"*** will take place on **Friday, April 8th** at the home of Virginia Rankin and David Klein 1222 NE 100th St

Come at 7pm if you wish to mingle, chat, have a snack and/or a beverage.

Telling will start promptly at 7:30. Contact Virginia at 206-525-6436.



***Story Swap in the Briar / Shoreline Area*** on Friday, March 4, 2016, at 1535 NE 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Shoreline, WA 98155 7—9 P.M.

Please come prepared to tell a story or to listen. Contact Afifi Durr at 206-367-4043

### *In the Wind*

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Writers & Contributors: Judith Alexander, Allison Cox, Mary Dessen, Larry Hohm, Barry McWilliams Cheri Trebon, Cynthia Westby, John Wasko, Bret Bleggi, Anne Rutherford, Susy Irwin

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Articles and comments should be directed to [eldrbarry@gmail.com](mailto:eldrbarry@gmail.com)

**Summer issue deadline: May 15**

### Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2015-2016 [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)

Samantha Desmond	President
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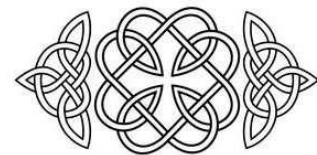
#### **At large members**

Patty Zeitlin	
Ellin Huttel	
Afifi Durr	
Judith Alexander	Emails/ Web liaison
Larry Holm	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 to Barry McWilliams for *In The Wind*.

Judith's e-mail address is [judith\\_tells@earthlink.net](mailto:judith_tells@earthlink.net).

Or visit our website for more news:  
**[seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)**





## Tips for Telling at Open Mics

By Cynthia Westby

Open mics are an exciting platform for tellers and listeners; a perfect opportunity for practice in front of a live audience after we've satisfied ourselves in front of our hallway mirrors. Out of respect for our audience and ourselves, please be familiar with open mic etiquette. Here are some guidelines when planning to tell a story at a Seattle Storytellers Guild open mic.

1) *Find out what length of tale the open mic host is accepting.* Practice your story to learn how long it takes for you to tell that story. When you tell it live that length may change. Remember that your story cannot last longer than the posted limit for a story. Some open mic hosts will keep an eye on the clock and cut you off when the time limit has been reached. Others will expect you to watch the clock. Both host and audience will be aware of the clock as the evening grows later. It is vital to practice and respect the time limit.

2) *You must determine copyright to know if you can legally tell a story.* A rule of thumb is that if a folk tale or other story has been published within that last one hundred years it is still within the author's copyright. If so, you need to have that author's permission to tell that story. If you want to tell someone else's personal story you must have their permission. To tell a folk tale you must adapt the story in appropriate ways (doing your research on the country of origin, the pronunciation and meaning of words, and retaining the intention and key elements of the story) to make it your own. Know where your story comes from, find other versions of the story, and then adapt that story without undermining the integrity and beauty of that story and its cultural context. If you memorize a story, telling it word-for-word as it is written in a book, then you are likely violating copyright.

3) As you work on your version of a tale, it is very helpful to memorize your beginning and ending so you start without stumbles and end with a bang. Please don't bring notes or a book to read from. An open mic at the Guild is for telling a story from your heart and memory. *Find your own way for remembering the beginning, ending and core of your story – and be sure to have a beginning, middle and end.* That is what makes a story. Each of us has a different method for remembering a story. For some it is imagining the story as a movie, for others it is remembering key images to aim for as you tell the story. Develop techniques and skills to tell in your own style.

4) *Ask yourself what you love, value, and/or want to communicate with your story.* Let your enthusiasm for the images, meaning, and ideas be communicated through body language as well as your voice. Let your connection to the story come alive.

5) *After the open mic is over, find and ask a couple of people from the audience for their feedback.* Be specific about what kind of feedback you want. Do you want to know if a particular part of the story worked? Or if there was anything they found confusing? Other possible questions include: What was the best part of how I handled the material? What did you like about my delivery? What gestures or movements worked well? Clarify if you only want positive suggestions. You might explicitly tell them that if the story did not work for them to please not share that with you. Choose audience members carefully before asking someone for feedback. Find people supportive of your efforts, who want you to do well, believe in you, and are willing to be honest in a useful way.

*Finally, have fun!!* We all benefit from hearing each other's stories, and from gaining experience in front of an audience. I can't wait to hear your next story at the guild's upcoming open mics. The next Haller Lake event with an open mic is Friday, May 20.

# Earth Day Storytelling 2016

—by John Wasko



Mark your calendars! The Seattle Storytelling Guild will again bring Native and non-Native tellers together at the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center for a celebration of Earth Day. We will gather on Sunday April 24th from 2 to 4 pm.

The Duwamish Longhouse is located at 4705 W Marginal Way SW, in West Seattle.

Earth Day was established in 1970, as a way to help us all be more aware of our precious planet, and our relationship to the environment in which we live. The Seattle Storytellers Guild has presented a storytelling event that honors Earth Day for many years. Five years ago we started holding this event at the beautiful Duwamish Longhouse in West Seattle. With a grant from Humanities Washington, and cooperation of the Duwamish Tribe, we will again be able to hold this great afternoon of storytelling. If you have been to this event in the past, you know how amazing it can be. If you haven't attended before, this is the year to come.

Our tellers will be Johnny Moses of the Tulalip Tribe, Rebecca Hom of Shelton, Washington, and Blake Shelafoe of the Duwamish Tribe. James Rasmussen from the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition will also speak.

Johnny Moses is a master storyteller, historian, healer, and spiritual leader, who speaks 14 different languages/dialects. He has told across the US and at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro. Whenever I meet tellers from other parts of the country they always ask about Johnny, having met him and heard him tell in previous encounters. He shares stories filled with beauty, wisdom, and humor.

Rebecca Hom is the artistic director of the annual Forest Storytelling Festival in Port Angeles, WA. She has traveled the back roads of the US collecting and telling stories to the delight of all who hear her.

Blake Shelafoe of the Duwamish Tribe gave voice to the Duwamish River and told its poignant history in compelling fashion, two years ago. His story inspired a group of teens at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center to paint a 210' mural based on his story. I can't wait to hear what he tells next.

There will be one or two other surprises as well! This will certainly be an afternoon to treasure. Don't miss this free, all-ages event. Refreshments provided. Donations are always welcome. Bring a Friend! See you there!



# Spring Calendar of Seattle Area Events \* indicates Seattle Storytellers' Guild event

## March

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

**4 \* Story Swaps** 7 PM at home of Virginia Rankins, 222 NE 100<sup>th</sup> ST in the Maple Leaf neighborhood

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

**19 \* The WonderSmith and His Son: An Epic Event** The George Center 7:00-10:00 PM See p. 1

**31 \* Auntmama's Storycorner.** 7 p.m., Madison Park Starbucks, free. [www.auntmama.wordpress.com](http://www.auntmama.wordpress.com)

## April

**4 \* Story Swaps** 7 PM at home of Virginia Rankins, 222 NE 100<sup>th</sup> ST in the Maple Leaf neighborhood

## 23 The Door between the Worlds

Patrick Ball concert 7:30 pm Greenlake Methodist Church 6415 1st Ave NE \$25 Contact Mary Dessein [marystories@hotmail.com](mailto:marystories@hotmail.com)

## 23 Earth Day Celebration

**28 \* Auntmama's Storycorner.** 7 p.m., Madison Park Starbucks, free.



## 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.coopradi.org](http://www.coopradi.org), 9-10 p.m. [thetellingshow.com](http://thetellingshow.com)

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

## May

**5\* Story Swaps** —See SSG web site

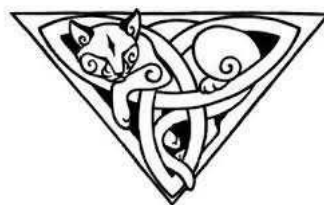
**26 \* Auntmama's Storycorner.** 7 p.m., Madison Park Starbucks, free.

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

For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events go to [Seattlestorytellers.org](http://Seattlestorytellers.org)

or subscribe to Judith Alexander's E-mail List (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](http://thirdplacebooks.com)

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

**First Fridays, Even numbered Months** Living Room Story Swaps Virginia Rankins, 1222 NE 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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/](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

**Last Thursdays. Auntmama's Storycorner.** 7-8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison Street Seattle, WA 98112 Free Call 206-473-9523 for information

**Every other Month A Guide To Visitors Live** \*7:30 p.m. Theater Off Jackson 409 7th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98104 \$10. [agtv.org](http://agtv.org)

## Regional Ongoing Events

**Fourth Tuesdays. Ellensburg Storytellers - The Yarn Spinners.** 6:00 p.m., Hal Holmes Center, 209 S Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA, Every month except Nov. / Dec. Contact: Bret & Elaine Bleggi [bleggi@charter.net](mailto: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.oregontellers.org](http://www.oregontellers.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 [portlandstorytellers.org](http://portlandstorytellers.org)

**Second Mondays. Fireside Story League of Tacoma** Story Circle and Storytelling Lesson, 6:30 pm Go to [www.firesidestoryleague.org](http://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., \$. [victoriastorytellers.org](http://victoriastorytellers.org)

**Third Sundays. Listen! Laugh! Enjoy!** Stories for grown-ups, Featured teller and open mike. 7 p.m., Vancouver, B.C., \$. [vancouverstorytellers.ca](http://vancouverstorytellers.ca) (Not in Sept.)

**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](http://BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org)

## Up and Coming SSG Events

### No Haller Lake Programs in March and April!

March 5th

#### Alice in Wonderland

1 Woman Show—Anne Rutherford  
At Naomi Baltuck's

March 6th Workshop 1-4 PM

#### "How to Be a Real Character"

at Home Street Bank,  
Phinney Ridge Branch Mtg Room

March 19th 7-10 PM

#### The Wonder Smith & His Son

At the George Center

April 24th 2-4 PM

#### Earth Day Celebration:

At the Duwamish Longhouse

#### Folk Life Storytelling 2016

May 27-30

At the Seattle Center

**Seattlestorytellers.org**



May 19th 7:30-9:30 PM  
Haller Lake Community Center  
12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle, WA

#### A Bag or Tricks: Tricksters and Wise Fools

Barry McWilliams  
and Mary Dessein  
Open Mike follows!

### Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

Fresh Ground Stories  
Seattle Storytelling Meetup Group  
[meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

The MOTH :True Stories told Live  
Seattle and Portland  
[themoth.org/](http://themoth.org/)

A Guide to Visitors Stories on Stage  
Seattle  
[www.agtv.org/](http://www.agtv.org/)

Seattle Public Library:  
Calendar of Events  
[spl.org/calendar-of-events](http://spl.org/calendar-of-events)

Story People of Clallum County  
Port Angeles  
[clallamstorypeople.org/](http://clallamstorypeople.org/)

South Sound Storytellers Guild  
Lakewood  
[southsoundstory.org/](http://southsoundstory.org/)

Fireside Story League of Tacoma  
[firesidestoryleague.org/](http://firesidestoryleague.org/)

Bellingham Storytellers Guild  
[BellinghamStoryTellers.org/](http://BellinghamStoryTellers.org/)

Yarn Spinners Storytelling Club  
Ellensburg  
See their Facebook Page

Portland Storytellers Guild  
[portlandstorytellers.org/](http://portlandstorytellers.org/)

Portland Story Theater  
[portlandstorytheater.com/](http://portlandstorytheater.com/)

## Seattle Storytellers Guild

### Membership Form

Circle one: New member or Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

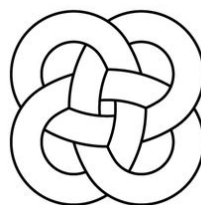
Individual \$25/year \_\_\_\_ \$70/3 years \_\_\_\_

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](http://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 membership and a listing on the Performing Tellers section of the guild website. Join with the form on page 9 or at [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org). You'll be contacted for details for your web listing.





## Legends of the Celtic Harp

**Patrick Ball** will be in Seattle on Saturday April 23! The trio he's formed with Aryeh Frankfurter and Lisa Lynne, will be performing his show: "*The Door Between the Worlds*," a dramatic journey through music and story into the mystical realms of the Celtic Underworld.



When: 7:30 p.m.  
At Greenlake United Methodist Church,  
6415 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
Get Tickets: [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)  
or at the door Ticket price: \$20

**Patrick Ball**, long a favorite across the country, is a premier metal strung Irish harpist. In watching him, I have often thought he doesn't even touch the strings! He found his way into storytelling and hasn't looked back. [patrickball.com](http://patrickball.com)

**Lisa Lynne**, is widely acclaimed for her performing on the Irish bouzouki, Celtic harp, and Mandolin as well as her compositions. Her music was heard through the PBS special, '*Alone in the Wilderness*.' [lisalynne.com](http://lisalynne.com)

**Aryeh Frankfurter**, Celtic harpist, also plays the Cittern and Swedish Nyckelharpa. He began playing the violin at age 3. He's gone from progressive rock violin to Swedish and Celtic folk music. A wonder to watch and hear. [lionharp.com](http://lionharp.com)

Also! Aryeh and Lisa will be at the one, the only **Tim Noah Thumbnail Theater** in Snohomish on Saturday, April 16, when Mary Dessen will be privileged to be the MC for that concert. The cozy home for the performing arts in Puget Sound, the 'Thumb' is an intimate venue, with a capacity of 90 seats.

When: 7:30 p.m. on April 16  
Where: Tim Noah Thumbnail Theater,  
1211 - 4th St., Snohomish 98290  
Get tickets: at the door, or call [360-568-9412](tel:360-568-9412) for will call, or contact Mary Dessen  
([mary@marydessein.com](mailto:mary@marydessein.com))  
Ticket price: to be determined.

## CHANGES IN ELLENSBURG!

We are now called "*The Ellensburg Storytellers: the Yarn Spinners*." Just by changing the order of our name we are hoping people will be able to find us better and not confuse us with a knitting club! We have changed the day to meet the 4th Tuesday of each month except for November and December. We are keeping our Liar contest on the first Tuesday of November because it's election day and fits the occasion. In December we will have a special holiday meeting with a pot luck.

Bret Bleggi [bleggi@charter.net](mailto:bleggi@charter.net)

## Auntmama's Storytable

features tales and tunes!

Shows begin at 7 PM at the Madison Park Starbucks.  
4000 E. Madison Street, Seattle, WA 98112

**March 31** Two great Faith's come together for stories of Easter and Purim. Diana Bremont features with Esther's story. Joel Tepp brings the music.

**April 28** the tellers celebrate poetry month and the Passover traditions. Wes Weddell plays songs from his latest CD hit "Nobody's Flag"

**May 26** Stories and songs are all about "Brothers." Kathya Alexander, Olubayo and Mary Anne Moorman share original stories.

Anyone interested in help writing your own story can gather at the Storytable at 6 PM

For further information call [206 473 9523](tel:206-473-9523)

## FANNING THE EMBERS

The premier storytellers' retreat  
In the northwest  
April 22-24, 2016

*"Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames."* Rumi

Early Registration by March 15 - \$200  
Registration after March 15 - \$225

Meet other tellers; work on your work; get inspired, revived and rekindled! It's a weekend to be treasured! Space is limited.

Go to [www.fanningtheembers.org](http://www.fanningtheembers.org)  
to learn more and register!

sponsored by **South Sound Story Guild**  
[www.southsoundstory.org](http://www.southsoundstory.org)



## PART 2: THE WONDER SMITH AND IRISH MYTH

**The Wonder Smith and His Son** is a literary epic myth by Ella Young drawn from stories collected from cottages and fishermen in Ireland. While clearly a literary creation, it is told in wonderful poetic language with a Gaelic ring. Taking her main characters from Irish mythology, she has makes them into simple folk with humor and shrewd kindness – telling a timeless story of family relationships amidst the challenges of life. Ella Young wrote the Wonder-Smith in 1927 as she left Ireland and its violent struggles for a new life in America. Where Irish myths glorified heroic fighters, she has composed an epic battle of wits instead.

**Celtic myths survived in abundance in Ireland.** But Elizabeth Cook in her book, *The Ordinary and the Fabulous*, says “Many modern readers, children and grownups alike, find them dull or ridiculous. The stories as they have actually been told are rarely poetic . . . unpromising material.” Another writer says “Irish mythology is endearingly clear as mud.”

There are reasons for this muddle of Irish myth. Unlike the mythologies of Rome and Greece and Egypt – Celtic myths were oral traditions passed down by druids and bards and tainted by Roman conquest until Middle Age Christian clerics with a bias against paganism recorded them. And the bulk of these, which became the tales of Arthur, or the Children of Lir, or Tristan and Isolt, were Welsh and British.

Irish mythologies left no temples and little art to interpret. Sacred places were natural features – groves of trees, bodies of water – in fact, every feature of the landscape was mythic. “*The Irish think of their history mythologically; and so too, of their geography.*” The pagan Celtic worldview had a “*belief in a time when the super-natural was natural, when the marvelous was normal.*”

**Ireland was settled** by stone age farmers who left megaliths and burial mound cairns which became sacred places and portals to the Underworld. Bronze age brought in metallurgy, the building of “Hill Forts” fortified with rings of ditches; and many “stone circles.” The Iron Age brought invaders that dominated Ireland and its earlier peoples, leaving us the great Irish sagas of the pre-Christian period.

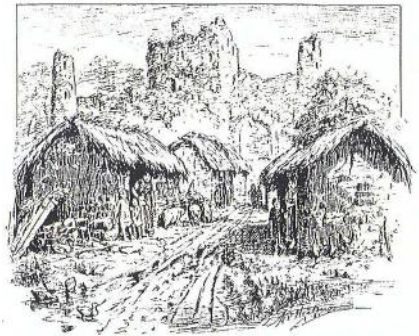
**In mythic history**, the first Irish perished in Noah's Flood. Later settlers were overcome by the *Fir Bolg*, who left Ireland and then returned, only be defeated by the *Tuatha Dé Danann* – who came with magical powers – gods of fertility, water, battle, the sun, blacksmithing, craft-working, and the “other world” – playing out their dramas in the three principal ‘cycles’ of Irish tales and their warrior heroes: CuChulainn; Finn MacCool and his Fianna.

The *Tuatha De Dannan* struggled with the *Fomor*, a monstrous race ruled by a cyclops named Balor. The *Fir Bolg* and *Fomorians* represented the harmful or destructive powers of nature, while the *Tuatha Dé Danann* represented the gods of growth and civilization. Defeated by the invading *Milesians* who became the Irish, the *Tuatha* withdrew into the underworld where they still feast. Eventually that race of gods seems to have declined into the leprechauns and fairies of later Irish folk lore.



This is the background of Celtic Irish Myth from which Ella Young drew her tales. There are creatures of Irish Celtic Mythology – a *Pooka*, a shape shifting water spirit, and the *Piast* – a Sea Serpent, *drawn fold on fold from the deep, writhing and glittering – every scale like a wave.* But there are also creatures from other traditions, Norse, and *Djinns* of Arabia.

**The epic of the Wonder Smith begins** with the Gubbaun Saor receiving his tools and his talents as a smith, stone carver and architect. Gubbaun exchanges his daughter, Aunya, who *robbed the crows of their cleverness and taught tricks to foxes*, for a disappointing boy, Lugh, who *would not learn but do nothing but sit in the sunshine and play little tunes on a flute he had made.* Gubbaun realizes his mistake, and Aunya is found by the boy, who brings her home and marries her – though that father-daughter relationship continues to be strained.



A summons comes from over the North Sea, from Balor, King of the Fomor, seeking the Gubbaun to build him a fortress *strong as the foundations of the earth . . . such a dune as never from the beginning of days shaped itself on the ridge of the world*, promising great riches. Perilous journeys and hard work follow. And the family must use their combined wits to find a way to save themselves from evil Balor's sinister plans. The epic ends with a great feast – *the memory of it was honey in the minds of poets for a thousand years* – and the passing of the Gubbaun Saor to the underworld.

**So who was the Gubbaun Saor?** In Gaelic, his name means “Smith Artisan.” Irish myth had three Craftsmen gods: *Goibhniu*, the Smith, *Credne* the Silversmith, and *Luchta*, the Carpenter. The Celtic blacksmith, *Goibhniu*, stands out. The working of metal and especially of iron could be seen as magical knowledge – mastering the element of fire, transforming the bones of the earth with strength, skill, secret knowledge, and magic into revered and coveted jewelry and weapons. In Christian Celtic myth, the *Goban Saor* was credited with the building of churches. His name was adopted by several saints to show connections with early medieval architecture and their prowess as artisans. Catholicism considers him a historical figure around 650 AD. The influence of various folk stories can be seen in the Wonder Smith.

*Lugh* in the Wonder-Smith is a musician and poet. But the same name is found in Celtic myth as the one who slings the stone that kills *Balor*, the cyclops and turns his eye against the *Fomorians*. In the Ulster Cycle, he fathered *Cu Chulainn*. *Lugh* is a name given to the Sun God; and a Storm God. And *Lugh* possessed a beautiful hound.

*Aunya* does not appear in Celtic myth, but is a striking example of an Irish colleen with the fire of wisdom, a keen commonsense and a sharp tongue to match. Perhaps the spirit of Ella Young resides in her.

*Balor* is a giant cyclops, “*a blackener of the earth. One eye in the center of his forehead that can devastate walled cities and blast a country side. His breath freezes the sea-furrows.*” The *Fomorians* were chaotic demons and nature forces of destruction that brought droughts or fierce storms: “*Djinns and dwarfs and giants and goat-footed men and demons of the air, and monstrous beings and strange beasts.*”

Clearly Ella Young assembled her gathered tales of the Wonder-Smith into a literary tale, still there is all that charm and lovely imagery of the Irish mythic world from which they came.

***Storytelling is the shortening of the Road.***

An Article By Barry McWilliams

## You Can Tell Stories! A Class with Suzy Irwin

Human beings are hard-wired for storytelling. Whether you want to use storytelling in your work or for personal enjoyment, this fun and supportive class will help you develop and practice your oral storytelling skills. This class will begin with learning folktales and concentrate on developing personal tales. Flex and strengthen those storytelling muscles through class exercises, writing, and small group work. Suggestions for story sources will be covered. Optional field trips to local events will be suggested. By participating in the class all students will earn a year's membership in the Seattle Storytellers Guild!



**Times:** 7:00PM – 9:00PM **Dates:** 04/11/2016 – 05/09/2016 **Tuition:** Fee 95.00

<https://continuinged.northseattle.edu/blog/you-can-tell-stories-how-become-pathfinder-journey-through-imagination>



## Portland Story Theater presents **Luck of the Irish,** A St. Paddy's Celebration

Get into the St. Paddy's spirit with Luck of the Irish, an exuberant celebration of music, stories, and entertainment steeped in the joyful energy of the Emerald Isle. Luck of the Irish features lively stories, rowdy songs, a dash of cheeky Irish humor, and fabulous raffish prizes.

**21+ only**

**Saturday, March 12, 2016 Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta Street in Portland**  
7 pm Live music/doors open, 8pm Festivities: stories, dancing, singing, and more  
\$15 advance, \$18 at the door, \$5 PDX Arts for All

[pdxstorytheater.org](http://pdxstorytheater.org)

## *In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

*P.O. Box 45532*



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

**First Class Mail**

# Alice's 1-Woman Wonderland

The Original Adventure adapted & performed by Anne Rutherford



**Saturday March 5 2-4 pm**

**At the home of Naomi Baltuck & Thom Garrard  
20228 87th Ave W, Edmonds WA 98026**

**\$15 per person**

**\$12 for Seattle Storytelling Guild Members**

**Admission includes Show,  
Tea Party & Hat Contest**

Go down the rabbit hole with master storyteller Anne Rutherford in her one-woman version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale. From Red Queen to Hatter, Anne brings alive over a dozen characters through her vivid vocal and physical performance, fueled by the wit of Carroll's original text.

*"Amazing...I forgot there was just one person on stage!"*

— audience member, 2015 Fertile Ground Festival premiere

Seating is limited: [\(503\) 830-2398](tel:5038302398) or [anne@annerutherford.com](mailto:anne@annerutherford.com) to reserve your spot

## Workshop: How to Be a Real Character!

led by Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke, The Oregon Tellers

**March 6<sup>th</sup> 1 - 4 pm**

Discover, practice and apply three key skills to engage audiences with distinctive, unforgettable story characters.

Explore the character's quality of voice, memorable turns of phrase, and distinguishing gesture or body posture. Have fun spicing up your own natural storytelling style in this lively, interactive workshop. Participants are welcome to bring a story with 2-3 characters; sample stories will also be provided. This workshop is useful for new or seasoned storytellers, also writers and public speakers.



**Home Street Bank — Phinney Ridge Branch Meeting Room  
7307 Greenwood Ave N Seattle WA 98103**

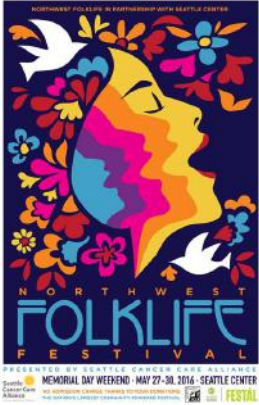
**\$35 per person or \$25 for Seattle Storytelling Guild members.**

**Limited seating, reserve now:**

**to reserve your spot, [normwilltell@gmail.com](mailto:normwilltell@gmail.com) or [\(503\) 964-0706](tel:5039640706)**

**Find more at: [www.http://seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org), also [www.oregontellers.com](http://www.oregontellers.com)**





# STORYTELLING: THE AGE OLD ART FORM

Submitted by: Cherie Trebon

Some of the premiere storytellers of the Northwest will perform every day of the Northwest Folklife Festival for both adults and children. These events, jointly hosted by **Northwest Folklife** and the **Seattle Storytellers Guild**, are popular events. Event schedule is below. Please check [NWFolklife.org](http://NWFolklife.org) for performer names and times or last minute changes to schedule.

**Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-30, will be here before you know it  
so plan to attend the FREE Northwest Folklife Festival at the Seattle Center.**

**Friday, 7:00-9:00pm, Folklife Café**

## **Showcase of Storytelling – Cultural Focus Event**

The traditional Friday night kick-off concert features performers who combine music with stories. Tellers: Rick Huddle, Aunt Mama/ Dixie Storycrafter, Norm Breke, Paul 'Che oke ten' Wagner (Adults and children over 6)

**Saturday, 7 00 - 9:00pm, Center House Theatre**

## **Liar's Contest**

New time and venue for this festival favorite. This open-mic program often turns hilarious as fibs, whoppers, and downright lies unfold. Sign up 1 hour prior to event. Incredible trophies for winners. Emcee -Norm Breke. (All ages)

**Sunday, 11:00 - noon – Discovery Zone**

## **Family Concert of stories.**

Storytelling fun for all ages. Tellers: Mike Evans, Katherine Gee

**Sunday, 7:00 - 9:00pm, Cornish Playhouse**

## **Ghost Story Concert**

Over capacity audiences demanded a larger venue for this event. Cornish Playhouse is twice the size! Eerily haunting tales- not for the faint-hearted. Tellers: Naomi Baltuck, Anne Rutherford, Larry Hohm, Allison Cox. (Adults and children over 10)

**Monday, 1:00-3:00pm – Folklife Cafe**

## **Showcase of Storytelling**

Talented performers offer a diverse program of stories and styles. Tellers: Jennifer Ferris, Ingrid Nixon, John Wasko, Jo Walter. (Adults and children over 6)

