

Special summer

Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

1st and 3rd Friday
Virtual Story Swaps Page 7

Zoom StoryFest: "Aunt Lena"
with Anne-Louise Sterry
June 19th—7:00 PM Page 2

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A Special Virtual Storytelling Issue!

Usually the Summer months bring a break from storytelling events for the Seattle Storytelling Guild. Apart from the NSN Conference, and with the demise of the Powellswood Storytelling Festival – and just a few summer swaps remaining, the Board recently decided to drop our Summer issue of *In The Wind*.



However, due to the impact of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, all of our gatherings to share in the joy of story from March on were canceled or postponed until 2021. This included our Annual Meeting and elections, usually held in May/ June – so a Special edition has been sent out providing you with our Annual Reports – that meeting, tentatively will be in the Fall, possibly September. Hopefully we will be able to resume our Story Fests in the Fall. We want you to know what is currently happening in your storytelling guild. Lots to read! You will want to print this one out!

If there are symbols for these difficult times, perhaps they are the *Teddy Bears* peeking out of people's windows or through the virtual windows of Zoom, feeling shut in, waiting for this to be over. Or the *toilet paper rolls* that people seem to hoard for no reason other than they just "need to do something." Or those **cloth face masks** – that sadly hide our faces from each another as we stay indoors, or six feet apart.



"I compare the art of telling stories to a gigantic tree sustained by age-old roots. It is a robust tree that stands firm in the midst of new technologies surrounding it. And the storyteller is the voice that is woven with the soul . . . Can there be anything more powerful than the voice that is kept alive . . .?"

Beatriz Montero of Spain in *Storytelling Magazine*, April/May 2016

Stories are supposed to bring us together – though now, perhaps only through virtual means on Facebook, YouTube or ZOOM. NW Folklife went virtual this year and the National Storytelling Network had a virtual conference instead. The MOTH is having virtual Slams. A World Virtual Storytelling Group exists on Facebook and other events increasing appear on YouTube channels. The Seattle Storytelling Guild coped with the pandemic with 1st and 3rd Fridays ZOOM Story Swaps. Stories have been told to elders online, and a number of our tellers are participating remotely in a variety of national online events.

There has been a seismic cultural shift affecting the entire arts and entertainment community. What will the "new normal" look like? What place will storytelling have in it? This issue addresses that new era of virtual storytelling in a variety of ways. Norm Brecke shares how he and Anne, professional storytellers, have coped with Staying-at-Home. Our webmaster, Larry Hohm tells us how to upload video stories to YouTube and has added lists of virtual events to our web site. Judith has been Zooming around the World from her living room and Barry discusses the changing dynamics of telling live streaming stories to small screens, and has appended a revised edition of his Hints for SSG ZOOMers.

Jill Johnson (1941 — 2020)

A former President of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, Jill Johnson was loved by the Guild. She was a strong supporter of storytelling, and our National Storytelling Network liaison. We are all saddened by her passing. Memories gathered from the Guild membership were compiled by Allison Cox, but they were too much for this page—so we will attaching them separately. She prepared the following summary of her life, which we are including in this issue of the Newsletter.



Carolyn Hoke "Jill" Johnson

- Teacher, Trainer, Consultant, Actress, Storyteller

Jill Johnson of Langley, WA passed away peacefully on May 21st surrounded by her family, at home on the island she loved. She was 79.



Jill was an educator all her life, after graduating from NW University in 1963, she moved west to become a teacher in Napa, CA. In 1965, Jill volunteered with US Army Special Services and spent a year in Korea and then in 1967 volunteered again with Special Services in Vietnam. She was in country during the Tet Offensive in 1968. Jill returned from Vietnam in 1968 and married Lane Johnson, her husband of 30 years. Together they joined the US Peace Corps serving in the Philippines, where their two children were born.

In 1980, the family moved to Shelton, WA where Jill taught ESL to Southeast Asian refugees and also worked as a Community Health Educator for Planned Parenthood. In 1989, the family moved to Cameroon, West Africa. Jill worked for the United Nations Development Fund and CARE Cameroon, and also served as a Training Coordinator for Volunteers evacuated during a coup in neighboring Chad. This led her to serve as a Peace Corps Training Director in Morocco, the Central African Republic, and the Solomon Islands.

Jill and Lane returned from Africa in 1992, moving to Tennessee where Jill was introduced to storytelling at the National Storytelling Festival. This spawned a twenty year career as a storyteller with performances, workshops, and recordings all over the US and the world. Jill returned to Whidbey Island, WA in 1993. Two of Jill's historical one-woman shows: *Little, But Oh My! the story of Berte Olson* and *Rebecca* premiered at the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) in Langley, and received the National Storytelling World Winner Award and the Honors Award for her CDs of these performances. She also appeared in many WICA productions as an actress.



Jill felt that storytelling was what she was born to do, and she was still actively performing just months before her death. Jill was full of passion and energy and threw herself into everything she did. She cared deeply about the world around her and the people in it. "I have lived a rich and full life, she said, "I made many mistakes... but I would do it all over again in a heartbeat!"



*There will be a celebration of life for Jill in Langley at a future date, once it is safe to do so in lieu of flowers, please donate in Jill's name to one of her favorite organizations:
Save the Children, Planned Parenthood, Sound Water Stewards, WICA,
Whidbey Children's Theatre, and PBS.*

A Virtual Story Fest on Zoom 7 PM June 19th, 2020

followed by a Story Swap: Six minute stories. Tasteful. Told, not read.

TALES BY AUNT LENA : *The truth talking, lipstick smacking, lasagna baking aunt we all wish we had...*

Meet Aunt Lena, an “alter-ego cocktail” of all of Anne-Louise’s exuberant Italian family. As Aunt Lena, Anne-Louise Sterry shares a thought-provoking approach to living life with hilarious and audacious joy.

Our program will be followed by a Short Story Swap:
Six minute stories. Tasteful. Told, not read.

For security reasons, please Register
Connection information will be emailed to you!

[REGISTER HERE]



There is no cost in attending this event, But **Donations (Suggested \$5—\$10)** would be appreciated.

Anne-Louise Sterry is an internationally-known motivational speaker and award-winning recording artist, author, singer-songwriter, and master storyteller. Unfailingly positive and empowering, Anne-Louise brings energy and rare authenticity to her audiences. She speaks and performs across America and Europe in concerts and keynotes as herself and as her alter-ego, Aunt Lena. Anne-Louise has a degree in psychology, is an experienced medical software trainer, a psychiatric nurse, performing artist and motivational speaker. As Aunt Lena, she wrote the book **Aunt Lena’s Cucina**. Anne-Louise has recorded and produced six music and storytelling CDs as well. Anne-Louise’s website is www.audaciousjoy.com



In the Wind

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Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild
Editor: Barry McWilliams

Writers & Contributors: Barry McWilliams, Larry Hohm, Judith Alexander, Norm Brecke, Anne Brendler, Patty Zeitlin, Jill Johnson, Naomi Baltuck, Allison Cox

In the Wind is published three times a year 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 txt files are preferred, with pictures sent as separate attachments.

Fall issue deadline: August 15

Articles Welcomed!

Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2019-2020

www.seattlestorytellers.org

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Contact information is on Our Web Site

Want more Storytelling News

Or want to announce an event
between newsletters?

Judith Alexander sends out her e-mail blast generally on the Sundays before the first and third Fridays of each month. She will also forward items to the Guild webmaster Larry Hohm and to Barry McWilliams for In The Wind.

SUBSCRIBE

seattlestorytellers.org

Press the [Show All Events] Button

The President's Review of the 2019-2020 Season

—Barry McWilliams



We had great plans for this year, and an ambitious emphasis on bringing in more featured storytellers. We started using a new venue – Haller Lake United Methodist Church – and found it quite hospitable and adequate for both our smaller and bigger events. We partnered with the Puget Sound Welsh Association, and connected

with the Story People of Clallam County. We added sound equipment to our programs – a combo of Barry's and SSG's equipment. Larry has made some significant improvements to our Web site. Jen Stone is assisting Judith and the Guild in improving our e-mail communications systems. Blue T-shirts and white name tags have given us a visible identity.

What has been tackled and accomplished.

- September – our second Tales with a Bit More Variety Show included an itinerant puppeteer and a three year old teller. And a bit of behind the scenes drama.
- The joint Harpers in Wooden Halls concert featuring Jane and Deb with their harps and tellers from the Puget Sound Welsh Assoc. included music with Andrea's Wild Wolves. Susy Irwin did a Workshop in October as well.
- Our Appalachian Tellabration[™] recovered grandly after first the featured teller then a back up teller canceled – thanks to Auntmama and Allison Cox and the Piney Gals for a great evening of story, music (and dance).
- In December, we had our traditional Holiday Stories and Dessert Potluck. John O'Brian of KUOW recorded it for his "Speakers Forum."
- Erran Sharpe and Alice Susong – friends from the Clallam County Story People braved the snow to bring us a nice evening Under the Northern Lights.
- In February, we seized an opportunity to have Loren Niemi for a story concert and, most agree, one of the best workshops we've had.
- We've had regular Story Swaps alternating between HLUMC and Briarcrest Under our "umbrella", Under the Rainbow has prospered with the help of grants from the Pride Foundation though UTR also was shutdown and forced to go virtual.
- With the leadership of Patty and Marilyn, and Afifi, the First Friday Swaps at HLUMC and Briarcrest were going well – and have kept those going on ZOOM.
- Storytelling (and music) at Olive Way Starbucks with both Auntmama's Storytable and Fresh Ground Stories drawing good audiences two Thursdays a month.
- A number of us took on the joyful task of bringing stories to a number of retirement residential complexes.

Then, due to the virus shutdown, EVERYTHING came to a stop!!

We had to postpone what would have been a terrific Spring with the Crones from Portland; three great tellers for Earth Day, and an "Epic" cast for the Welsh Mabinogian event including two tellers from the British Isles. It was hard, but necessary, to cancel, but we have extended our desire to have all of those tellers in the Spring of 2021. Also canceled was a workshop planned with Merna Hecht in April and Jill Johnson's illness forced the cancellation of the Village by the Sea Story Festival, though it would have been canceled anyway.

Our monthly Board meetings at Patty's Clubhouse (3 times) or by ZOOM Conferences (7 Times) and lots and lots of e-mails in between took a lot of energy. Besides all the details and presentation of our Story Fest programs, the Board has spent a lot of time on several issues. We pondered adequate compensation for featured tellers, and what to ask at the door – finally settling on passing the Purple Hat for donations for smaller events and a tier of suggested donations at the door for bigger events. We got a better grip on our income and expenses with Anne's capable help. We established Written standards for Storytellers in our programs, and e-mail voting regarding pressing matters. We had to deal with last minute changes in programs and figuring out what to do with Earth Day. We are still wrestling with our Mission Statement – especially in the changing cultural contexts of the "new normal." The Board hopes to find someone whose sole activity will be pursuing grants. We have some new members, but still need a President and Secretary, to be elected this Fall.

I have served as President of the Guild now for three years, and will continue until this Fall. Board meetings need dockets and there is lots of e-mail to deal with. I have been doing quite a bit besides: the Newsletters and fliers and handouts for publicity, arranging backdrops and audio improvements, trying to fit some telling into it all, and I am now hosting our virtual swaps. But I will step down from President this fall – the Board agrees I am doing too much – so we are looking for someone who might be willing to take over that office. I will continue as a board member – but do need and want to have more time for my own storytelling and all the other things of life.

My sincere thanks to Patty and Anne, Eva and Susy, Afifi and Bergith, Allison, Larry and Judith, Bu, Chris and MaryAnne – as well as Jen, Marilyn and Lance, and all the others who have contributed so much time and arduous effort into the activities and successes of the Seattle Storytellers Guild this past year. Several new volunteers have helped a lot, but we could use more. There are lots of ways you can get involved with us.

Annual Treasurer's Report Seattle Storytellers' Guild

May 21, 2020



Checking Account Balance, May **2019** \$1633.52
 Savings Account Balance, May **2019** \$13,807.48 (incl. YTD interest of \$4.67)
 Total Account balances, May **2019** \$15,441.00

Checking Account Balance, May **2020** \$885.10
 Savings Account Balance, May **2020** \$15,734.70 (incl. YTD interest of \$4.29)
 Total Account balances, May **2020** \$16,619.80

Amounts included in May **2019** accounts total: \$3900 Pride Foundation grant to Under the Rainbow, received in December **2018**, of which none had been spent as of the date of the **2019** report.

Amounts included in the May **2020** accounts total: a new Pride Foundation grant of \$4000, received in December **2019**; Under the Rainbow has spent most of its \$3900 grant from 2018 (mentioned in the 2019 Annual Report) and none of its \$4000 grant from 2019 (mentioned in this Annual Report). Thus, Under the Rainbow has left in its balance: \$5142.18.

A second separate amount included in the **2020** accounts total is: \$510. This represents \$500, a gift from Judith Alexander, and \$50 from John Wasko, minus \$40 which was granted to two members to pay for admission to Loren Niemi's workshop in February 2020. This \$510 constitutes what is called the "Gene Frieze Scholarship Fund."

A third amount included in the **2020** accounts total is a gift of \$200, from Bu Huang and her husband Zhan Ding, which was matched by Microsoft, so: \$400.

Finally, a fourth amount included in the **2020** accounts total is a gift from IBM of \$1000, honoring Bu Huang's hours of volunteer service with the Seattle Storytellers' Guild.

Appendices to this **Annual Report 2020**:

Income:

- 1) Besides the gifts and grants just mentioned, we took in \$1,785 at events.
- 2) Our most successful events were: October 5, 2019, when we teamed with the Puget Sound Welsh Association, Jane Valencia, and Deb Knodel; and Tellebration™, in November 2019; third place goes to the evening with Loren Niemi, in February 2020.
- 3) Our membership total for the year: \$793.07, from payments made through PayPal (\$548.07) and personal checks (\$245).

Expenses: Our biggest expenses were for space rental (\$1185)**, donations to other storytelling guilds or in memoriam gifts (\$1025), sound production equipment (\$718), and publicity, printing *In the Wind*, postage, etc. (\$802).

** Included in the \$1185 for space rental is a \$375 credit at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, for events we had to re-schedule until after the pandemic. Excluded from the \$1185 is the \$265 refund we received from the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church after the event October 5, 2019.

— Respectfully Submitted, Anne Brendler, Treasurer



Anne & Norm in the Virtual World

These times are anything but typical. Yet, two of the more in demand storytellers in the Northwest, Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke, do their best to stay busy anyway. Anne & Norm were on their way to another eventful year of telling. Mid-February Anne appeared at the St. Simon's Storytelling Festival in Southern Georgia. The next weekend Norm joined her for the Ark Storytelling Festival in Ann Arbor, Michigan. *"The Ark was a real thrill for us. This festival has been around a long time and most of the popular tellers have been there,"* said Norm.

In April, they were headed to the Yosemite area to do some school shows, hiking, and some writing. Then Anne was scheduled to head to the Kansas Storytelling Festival and Norm was set to appear at Northlands Confabulation in Wisconsin. Then, *"All at Once everything was cancelled or postponed to next year,"* said Anne. *"We are just grateful to have done the gigs we had early on."*



"We knew it was the right thing to do but what were we going to do instead?" said Norm. Right away they went to work re-posting on **Facebook** (from [AnneandNormStorytellers.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K) YouTube channel) the videos of each story from their book, [52 Story Jokes: Anyone Can Tell](#). Now they are filming and posting jokes from their new book, [52 Animal Story Jokes: Anyone Can Tell](#).

"We were immediately asked to come to an online storytelling swap, but we were lukewarm on the idea of performing live on camera," said Anne. *"No one is there to react, so we worried about it."*

"We knew it wouldn't be the same." Said Norm. After a couple of weeks, they relented and now have regular Zoom meetings for their regular participants in their own organized monthly events; **Stories on Tap** and a Folktale discussion group they have. *"We wanted a place where our regular participants could still tell a story and see each other. It has been fun, not the same as being together, but certainly better than not seeing friends at all."*

They have also been part of [Artists Standing Strong Together](#), a national group mainly led by Virginia Storyteller Sheila Arnold. *"Sheila asked if we wanted to be in the second Family Story Fest they were having one Saturday and we both said we would,"* said Anne. They also performed in [Better Said Than Done's Zoom concert series, Come As You Are](#). Storyteller Jessica Piscatelli Robinson had Anne and Norm tell in a special show last year in Fairfax, Virginia and when she went virtual immediately asked them if they wanted to tell.

"It was a fun night, actually, evening for us since we were the only ones involved from the Pacific time zone," said Norm. *"Our friends Jessica, Bil Lepp, and Andy Offutt Irwin were also on the bill."*

June 25 and July 23 they will be in a Zoom program with people from a storytelling group they are part of with members Jeff Doyle, Michigan; Ingrid Nixon, Alaska; Paul Strickland, Kentucky (Cincinnati area); Simon Brooks, New Hampshire; Sheila Arnold, Virginia; Antonio Rocha, Maine. Not all of them may participate, but it's sure to be a great show with that crew. *"Things move fast in this virtual world. Shows are springing up everywhere. People are just at home, so they don't have to plan ahead as much,"* said Anne.

Norm's children's book, [The Man Who Loved Dragons](#), just happened to come out when the country was shutting down. He is planning virtual book release parties for groups where the people will know each other. *"We got advice from a friend that events are better if people know each other, even on Zoom,"* said Norm. He's had one for people in the Portland area on May 30 and is having one for his Seattle based friends on June 6 at 4:00. Tell the story, then walk folks through the book. Trish Anderson, the illustrator, will talk about her part of the project. The creators will answer questions and tell you how you can buy the book.



If you're interested email- normwilltell@gmail.com to reserve a place for the virtual event.

Or to buy the book— go to www.anne-norm.com/shop

— Submitted By Norm Brecke

Stories Here, There, and Everywhere, Despite Covid-19



The world is in “lock down,” with in-person gatherings discouraged and then banned. Long-planned events, storytellers’ gigs, chances to swap stories informally, were all suddenly canceled. Thanks to Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp and other computer programs, many of us are able to stay in touch with family and friends. I feel blessed to have been able to use Zoom to hear storytelling around the world, and so many stories that I never heard before!

My first Zoom experiences with storytelling started last year when the Northeast Storytellers (NEST) began the **Worldwide Virtual Storytelling Guild** (WVSG), which has since expanded to four meetings a month, on various days and times of day. I could even attend when I am in Germany, despite the 6 hour time difference. Early on, Hope Lewis, one of the organizers, asked if I would like to tell. I was shy and my first appearance was finally planned for April. I practiced at the SSG First Friday Swap, which our President Barry and Marilyn Grevstad set up as our first Virtual event. Barry agreed to keep doing them, on both the First and the Third Fridays. These will likely continue through the summer.

In the meantime, one of the storytellers I know in Munich decided to offer “Fairytale on Sunday,” at 5pm their time, 8am my time. She ended the first session with “If we were together in person I would pass my singing bowl among you for tips, so here in the chat box is my PayPal information, if you’d like to contribute. My income is currently zero.” She invited me to tell stories on two Sundays. By watching her, I learned a lot about telling in front of a camera for a virtual audience.

Next, I traveled to St. Louis for a Conference that would have been held for a long weekend in April. Instead, the University of Missouri Extension held events from the end of March through the whole month of April, with Friday nights being for “Virtual Decameron,” adult stories reminiscent of those Italians who escaped the plague and shared stories on various themes. I told on the evening devoted to “Masks.”



Since then I have been in New York City, I think (the tellers were from all over!), at Elizabeth Ellis’s Texas home, and at an English Toastmasters’ group in Hamburg, Germany, where I was invited to tell a short story. I also spent a Saturday (from 6am to 9pm) listening to stories and workshops at a Festival organized by Eric Miller in Chennai, India. The first week in June I am attending the **National Storytelling Network (NSN) Virtual Conference** for 7 days, and looking forward to learning LOTS!

One of the fun and sometimes intimidating features of these visits outside of Seattle is seeing people I have read about in my NSN “Storytelling” magazine (Simon Brooks), experienced at the Forest Festival (Kim Weitkamp and Alton Chung), heard at one of Naomi’s house concerts (Marilyn Kinsella), or enjoyed at an SSG event (Loren Niemi). I also loved seeing people I know in the audience, including Susy Irwin, a storytelling friend from Germany, one from Israel, and Dr. Goldsmith from L.A. who has taught at the UW. Another treat was watching Korean preschoolers tell well-rehearsed stories, some with props appropriate to an original story, all in English!



There is much to learn about the technology of virtual storytelling, and the **NSN listserv** has had many discussions about the right camera and sound system, whether to stand or sit when telling, how much to charge for a virtual school or library visit, and so on.

It seems I have more time to fit stories and storytelling into my life during this time of “lock down,” but I do miss seeing all of you in person and hearing the telling live. Please stay well and be ready with stories to tell when we meet again in person !

How to Post Videos on YouTube



Many storytellers are posting performances online these days, as are many other performing artists. One popular platform, of course, is YouTube, which is free to use, widely viewed, and fairly easy to use.

To post a video performance on YouTube, follow these steps.

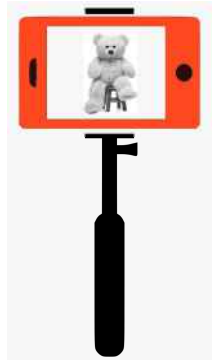
1. Create a video recording of your performance. This can be done with any smartphone or tablet, or a computer with a web camera. It is best done in horizontal. The result should be a video file, with a filename ending with an extension such as .mov, .mp4, or .wmv.

2. In your browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, ...) navigate to: www.youtube.com

3. Along the top of the YouTube home page, you will see a search bar. Immediately to the right of the search bar is a video camera icon, which looks like a black silhouette of a video camera, with a plus sign on it. Click the video camera icon, then click "Upload video".

4. From the "Upload Videos" page you have two options. You can drag and drop your video file to the center of the page, or you can click "Select Files" and use the pop-up file browser to navigate to the video file of your performance.

5. Continue to follow the online instructions. YouTube will step you through a three phase process. First, it will upload your file; this will likely take a few minutes; the amount of time will depend on the size of your file and your upload speed. Second, it will "process" your file; this will also likely take a few minutes. Third, it will allow you to publish your file.



6. While your file is being uploaded and processed, you will be able to enter information about it. You can enter a title and description for it. You will be required to indicate whether it was made for kids. And you can select one of three visibility options.

- a. Public: anyone may view it.
- b. Private: only people who have the link that you will share may view it.
- c. Unlisted: similar to private, but in addition, your video will not show up in any searches.



7. YouTube will create and display a video link for your video. Right-click on the link, copy it, then share it with people (via email, text, or a link on a webpage) to let them see your video.

8. There are more options as well, which you can explore. You can add thumbnail pictures, cards, and an end screen. Just poke around to learn about these options.

By Larry Hohm

The New Era of Virtual Storytelling by Barry McWilliams

Perhaps by now we have stopped reeling from the Covid-19 Pandemic. After a couple of months of Social Distancing with all its working at home, online schooling, and the massive shutdown of life as we knew it, we are coming to grips with a new “normal.” It has had a tremendous impact of our cultural life – no public gatherings whether for education or worship, sports or the arts. Movie and TV production has ground to a halt. Suddenly, musicians, teachers, preachers, performers of all sorts, and storytellers found themselves in a stuck-at-home bind. So TV newscasters report the news from homes, American Idols compete in living rooms, game shows are without audiences and other shows have “home editions.” Everyone, from the biggest stars to us humble storytellers have had to adapt to this new reality.

We have struggled with drawing audiences to our public events, especially the media-savvy young adults of the Millennials, Gen X, Y or is it now Z generations, who relate to life through their smart phones. Now we are compelled to enter a new era with our age old art. Cut off from their busy lives and slick entertainment people have been forced to discover the value of simpler life. Fortunately there is technology enabling work and schooling at home, business meetings and social gathering through the internet. Quite a few “gig” artists have resorted to reaching fans via performances from home through Facebook and YouTube and Zoom.

With any technology, there is a learning curve – starting with connecting online and getting audio and video working right on a variety of devices. And navigating with clicks through various buttons and menus. There are unforeseen challenges – in the midst of a story, garbled audio, out-of-sync video, or screens locking up due to insufficient bandwidth. Or an invasion of miscreants “zoombombing” gatherings with vulgar and off-color language. All of which have happened at our virtual swaps!

Perhaps there are new dynamics for this virtual storytelling world. Traditionally, we have been used to performing before audiences, whether in a small circle, or before a large room full of people from a stage. We learn how to draw people into our tales with voice, movement and gestures, developing these skills is a part of our art. Often lights are dimmed to focus attention on the teller. And our audiences bring energy to our telling responding to us with body language, laughter and “ahh’s”. For storytellers, there isn’t a fourth wall – they need their audience to make their story come to life. When I tell a story, I move around a lot and use a lot of gestures. I sense when the audience is with me, and know when to use clever repartee to draw attention back.

Prerecorded videos, such as those posted on Facebook or YouTube may capture some of that dynamic – especially if they were made before a live audience, and the recording is wide enough to take in the movements and gestures, On a small

screen, even these lack the excitement of a live performance. And trying to capture that dynamic is more difficult when recording on a “narrow stage” with just a lonely camera watching.



and simple virtual backgrounds will help. Our laptop or other cameras should at our eye level – put it up on a box – so people won’t be looking up at your chin. Or get a selfie tripod for your smart phones.

Verbal pacing and a variety of rhythm and speech are even much more important now, if we are to capture and keep people’s attention. Tellers must show animated emotions of fear or worry, joy and surprise with just their face. That makes practicing before a mirror important. We can’t see how audiences are responding. They are in separate environments with all sorts of distractions, and their attention to the screen can easily wander away. You have to connect right away in a way that relates to them. You can’t be boring. Jokes fall flat when listeners laugh alone. That is why situation comedies have laugh tracks. In the world of virtual storytelling, there are clearly new dynamics to be learned.



I would strongly recommend you read online:

Chris Lema’s article on 7 Tips for Telling Stories on Zoom and Lynn Torrie’s articles :

*** How to be a good online storyteller or audience**

*** See More of Your Audience and * ZOOM “pin video,”** where she suggests you use to focus your telling on just one face, so that everyone will sense you are telling it individually.

But it is still the story that matters. The readers of this article have discovered the joys of tales told and passed on, But choosing the right ones for a dispersed audience on small screens is even more important.



There is still the need for a beginning, ending and creating that path of increasing tension leading from the one to the other—that is the essence of stories. And bringing about that emotional “Eureka” moment – whether it is a “Ha Ha” of laughter, an “Ooh or Ahhh” of shared wonder, a “A-ha” of sudden realization and discovery, or an “Amen” of meaning and enlightenment. Stories can offer understanding, healing, transformation and hope. And perhaps this is our opportunity to connect with younger generations; but in doing so, we must adapt, skillfully using these new technologies, especially with younger audiences while keeping alive age-old stories that touch hearts!

The SSG Website During Quarantine by Larry Hohm, Web Master

As the Covid-19 pandemic spread, and social events of all kinds were cancelled, the SSG website began to reflect these changes. Our calendar of upcoming events was soon replaced with a list of links to online storytelling resources.



Many storytellers in the Pacific Northwest have YouTube channels where they post video recordings of their performances, and we have posted links to their YouTube channels. Storytellers in our community began shifting to virtual story swaps, online meetings, and video recordings, and soon our calendar of upcoming events contained announcements of Zoom meetings.

The National Storytelling Network started a Kids YouTube Channel. The St. Louis Storytelling Festival went online in April. SSG's Under the Rainbow Storytelling went virtual, as did the first and third Friday SSG story swaps.

The entire arts community has been forced to adjust to these challenging times, and to transition to online formats. It has been heartening to see the storytelling community making an effort to stay active and relevant, and to rise to this challenge.

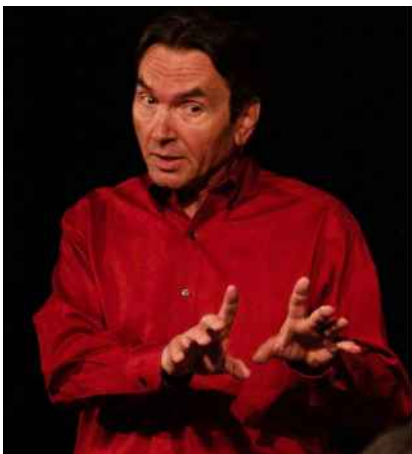
Northwest Folklife Goes Online

Like many arts organizations these days, Northwest Folklife went online with its annual festival, May 23-25, with the title: **From Home to Home: Northwest Folklife Festival!** The festival included music from a variety of cultures, live participatory dancing, workshops, and storytelling. Many performances were live-streamed, and many were "on-demand". Storyteller Larry Hohm represented the storytelling community, and told a humorous story, "The Funeral," by Richard Matheson. His performance is available online on the Folklife website, and on his own website, <http://www.larryhohm.org>.



All of the Folklife performances are available online
at <https://www.nwfolkfeststreaming.org/>.

Larry Hohm Tells Humorous Stories Online



During these quarantine days, Larry Hohm has been telling one humorous story each week, and posting each on YouTube. Although most of the stories he tells at live performances are a bit on the dark side, his weekly series on YouTube contains only humorous stories; they are fairly short, typically three to ten minutes. They are likely to make you smile.

The first four stories in this online series, which started on April 26th, were all written by Roald Dahl, and published in his delightful book, "Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes," which contains his riffs on some classic fairy tales. The YouTube links for Larry's videos can be found on his website: larryhohm.org. They can also be found on his YouTube channel, by searching for "Larry Hohm" on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

First Friday Swaps—Temporarily gone ZOOMing

In the Fall and Winter attendance at the **first Friday Story Swap at HLMC** ranged from 7 to 18 members in attendance. The usual attendance was probably 12 or 13 at Haller Lake United Methodist Church, with Marilyn Grevstad leading. She began with an opening that inspired everyone tell a mini story a few sentences long. (We usually had at least 5 storytellers, the rest listeners.) A social time with refreshments, after the 8 minutes-or-less stories, was enjoyed by all.

The **Briarcrest Neighbor Association** had their swaps on alternating months with Afifi's encouragement, first at the home of Jon and Amy Anscher, then at Shorecrest High School. Though their location had to shift with the arrival of the hosts' baby, the group has had a spirit of unity and enthusiasm for sharing stories.

After the Covid-19 showed up a dozen or so of us have met on **Zoom**. Barry set it up, with Marilyn as hostess, and after sorting out a few challenges with this new format, from 5 to 6 people told wonderful tales that we all appreciated. We will be meeting on Zoom first and third Fridays in June, July and August this summer. Six minute stories please on a variety of themes. For security reasons, and to keep out miscreants disrupting our gatherings, it is necessary to change the link ID for each swap, and we may need to send passwords out separately. So, If you want to be on the list to get a link, and haven't received it before, please send your email address with a request to eldrbarry@gmail.com We'll keep you posted.

In September, if it's safe, Briarcrest might resume their in person meetings, and after that the former Haller Lake SWAP will meet October at the church (if and when it's safe to do so) . Otherwise we will continue on ZOOM.

By Marilyn Grevstad and Patty Zeitlin

Auntmama's StoryTable has , of course, been canceled since March with the shutdown of **Olive Way Starbucks** to meetings and group gatherings.

Seattle Storytellers Guild

Membership Form

Circle one: New member or Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Today's Date _____

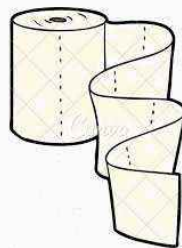
Individual \$25/year ____ \$70/3 years ____

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 ____



Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

Fresh Ground Stories

Seattle Meetup Group

[meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](https://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

The MOTH : True Stories told Live

Seattle and Portland

themoth.org/

Seattle Public Library: Calendar

spl.org/calendar-of-events

Story People of Clallum County

Port Angeles

clallamstorypeople.org/

Quimper Story Guild

Port Townsend

facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild

South Sound Storytellers Guild

Lakewood

southsoundstory.org/

Fireside Story League of Tacoma

firesidestoryleague.org/

Bellingham Storytellers Guild

BellinghamStoryTellers.org/

Storytelling Club—Yarn Spinners

Ellensburg - See Facebook

Portland Storytellers Guild

portlandstorytellers.org/

Portland Story Theater

portlandstorytheater.com/

For More info on Local and Regional Events

To join the SSG You can fill out the form below and send it to:

Seattle Storytellers Guild

P.O. Box 18361

Seattle, WA 98118

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 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. You'll be contacted for details for your web listing.

Sadly, the last issue of *In The Wind* had colorful write ups on several upcoming events with bios on the tellers, etc. which with the shutdown were immediately canceled. Allison Cox has made the arrangements to reschedule two of these events next Spring.

CRONE TALES are back! Circe and Babba Yaga Walk Into A Bar...
An Evening Of Personal Story, Folktale & Myth Friday, MARCH 19, 2021
Haller Lake Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave NE, Seattle, 98125



The Seattle Storytellers Guild invites you to experience a heady evening of stories of the enchantment, misadventure, grief and love of these tricksters, goddesses, fey and witches. Allison Cox of Vashon Island is joined by her Portland cronies: Barbara Fankhauser, Pam Maben, Anne Penfound and Julie Strozyk, who will share stories from Ireland, Greece, India, Russia and the Americas, as passed on from the wise women of old.

Mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, May 14th and the afternoon and evening of Saturday, May 15th, 2021, for The Mabinogion and other Welsh Tales.

Storytelling that will transport you to another time and reality, next year's Epic Event was too good to pass up. The Seattle Storytellers Guild has joined forces with the Puget Sound Welsh Association to present this Welsh epic, The Mabinogion contains the earliest stories of all of the literature of Great Britain that continues to inspire us today! Our storytellers include tellers from the Puget Sound Welsh Association as well as from storytelling guilds across NW and Canada. Music will be interwoven between the tales!



Gene Friese Scholarship



The Seattle Storytellers Guild announces the 2020 Gene Friese Scholarship process. Gene was a much-loved member of the Seattle storytelling community who passed away in 1995, noted for his collection

of Teddy Bears. This scholarship fund was created to honor his memory. An award of \$100 must be used to attend a storytelling festival, conference, workshop, or class. The recipient will be required to provide proof of the use of the scholarship (receipt, voucher, ticket stub, etc.). To qualify for this scholarship, you must be a resident of Washington or Oregon and be a member of a storytelling guild in Washington, Oregon, or of the National Storytelling Network.

Your application must include the following:

Your name, address, phone number, email, and the storytelling guild to which you belong, your storytelling experience (beginners are encouraged to apply), and how you would like to use the scholarship money - a description of the event, limited to 300 words. A confirmation of its use must be submitted after the event.

Send your application by e-mail to :
acbrendler46@gmail.com



*The National Storytelling Network is excited to announce their first ever
Virtual Storytelling Conference and Festival
 from May 31 to June 7, 2020!*

This features many of the things you love about their in-person conference: workshops, performances, and social time, as well as some special things we cannot normally do, like international performances. They will have some free events, such as their annual member meeting, the ORACLE awards ceremony, and other special events. Workshops, most performances, and some special events will have fees. If you haven't joined NSN, do there ae discounts for Seattle Storytellers Guild members. Contact judith_tells@earthlink.net or Anne at treasurer@seattlestorytellers.org for information on the discounts.

TO REGISTER or visit <https://storynet.org/virtual-conference-registration/>

Don't worry – there will be breaks. You won't be screen-bound all day!

For those who cannot attend all or part of the conference, NSN will be recording sessions. NSN is beginning to build a digital library of resources that will help storytellers learn and grow from their own homes, on their own schedules.

The physical NSN office will be closed until our partner, Mid-Continent Public Library, re-opens their facilities. Until further notice, **ALL MAIL** you would normally send to the NSN office should be sent to the following **temporary** address: Attn: NSN, 13030 W. 104th Street, Overland Park, KS 66215

Susy Irwin will be our new NSN Liaison.

Feel free to contact her with questions about the National Storytelling Network

Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series

LGBTQ+ tellers prioritized. Allies welcome to listen

While the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order is in effect, Under the Rainbow Storytelling is being livestreamed on Zoom at its usual time, but not at its usual location, The Edmonds Library.



You may join either by phone or computer audio/video. **Every second Monday for teens and adults, 6:00-6:30 p.m. — socializing 6:30-7:45 p.m. — featured and open-mic storytelling;** Each story followed by group conversation. No one is obligated to tell a story.

You may register anytime before the start of the event. Click on the registration link to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the gathering.

[Zoom registration link](#) for Under the Rainbow Storytelling

Upcoming Storytellers

Monday, June 8, 6:00-7:45 p.m., featuring Cathy Tenzo

Cathy Tenzo is a writer, an artist, and a devoted seeker of joy. Her fiction has appeared in the periodicals Flash Fiction Online and Double Dare Press. Her poetry has been featured in the magazines Asimov's Science Fiction, Dreams and Nightmares, Typehouse Literary Magazine and many more publications. She is a member of the Lady Poetesses from Hell, who read at science fiction conventions. She also draws some pretty fun comics and is proud to be a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. You can find her on Twitter @CathyTenzo and at CathyTenzo.com.



Monday, July 13th Monday, June 8, 6:00-7:45 p.m. featuring Jo Tyler

Jo Tyler (Pikesville, MD, USA) is Associate Professor at Penn State University. Prior to joining Penn State, Jo was a corporate practitioner in multinational environments for 25 years, most recently as vice president of organization and management development at Armstrong World Industries. Her research explores the interplay of storytelling and listening, visual art, organizational narratives, and play in organizational contexts with a focus on organizational change. She provides consulting, customized facilitation, workshops and keynotes on these topics and other issues connected to organizational development and change. She has published a variety of articles and book chapters topics related to organizational development, learning, and change. She can be reached at jat235@psu.edu



Monday, August 10th, 6:00-7:45 p.m., featuring Clara Pluton

Clara Pluton is a Seattle based comedian and podcaster. Clara is tall, gay, and will be wanting to discuss communism with you after the show. They're the co-host of 104.9 KHUH FM's radio show/podcast 'Hot Takes With Hot Dykes' where they and fellow lezzie comedian girlfriend, Val Nigro, serve the sapphic dish live, as well as stream able everywhere podcasts are heard. Their frenetic and fast paced comedy has brought them to Calgary's *Femme Wave Festival*, *PDX Queer Comedy Festival* and Vancouver's *Just For Laughs NorthWest*. Catch them every month at their talk show 'Cruisin With Clara' every last Saturday at The Timbre Room. You can find more from them on instagram@clarapluton or at clarapluton.org.



Writing Rainbow Wednesday, June 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Writing Rainbow is a monthly meetup for LGBTQIA+ folks and our allies. Join us to work on your book, blog, screenplay, or anything else you're working on! Every First Wednesday we'll gather to check in on our goals, share suggestions and tips about writing, and do some work together. **If you only want accountability** — not quiet work time — please join us at 7:30 p.m. as we review what we've done both this month and in this specific work hour.

Register in advance for the Zoom event if you plan to attend any portion — late arrivals and early leavers welcome! Register here: [Zoom Registration Link for Writing Rainbow](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the gathering.

In the last issue of *In The Wind*, Barry discussed the value of traditional tales vs first person narratives in my article : "Not Just Fairy Tales". Soon after that issue went out, Barry found a number of articles in the National Storytelling Network's **Storytelling Magazine** in the March 2020 issue that addressed this same matter. Here are a couple of quotes to think about . . .



"Children and adults need safe spaces to imagine who they want to be. Folk and fairy tales allow us to place ourselves into the vessels of their archetypes and enter protected spaces to work out big questions and to practice conquering fears before actually stepping into the dark, scary woods of reality. Exercising our brains in this way strengthens imaginations to see the world, our society, our work, and our everyday through the lens of possibility."

Rachel goes on to say, *"Though I tell primarily traditional tales, I believe personal narrative is valuable for people to tell and hear. I am excited by the amaz-ing energy this form of telling has brought to the field. Putting these two genres of story together blends the best of both worlds, has the potential to create new audiences, and to generate new ideas in storytelling."*
----- Rachel Harrington "Dreaming Wildly: Telling Traditional Tales to Audiences of All Ages" p. 31-32

"Why folk and fairy tales? The magic, the human connection, the safe distance to process difficult subject matter, the inclusion and conversation they create, and the reflection of local culture and heritage, shared or otherwise." ". . . personal, true stories have all but drowned out traditional stories, or so it seems."

"Personal stories have value—empathy lies with the teller of the tale. With folktales, fairy tales, myths, and legends, empathy (however) is with the story It is here where one can truly be part of the story and experience growth. One cannot enter the personal story of someone else, identify with the personal narrative, or experience it in a transformative manner. This, I believe, is where lies the power of the old stories." Young storytellers and young audiences ". . . need to hear these stories so they can unpackage this mad, crazy world, into digestible and discrete parts, and perhaps smile as they do so."
-----Simon Brooks "Young Tellers and Folk and Fairy Tales" p.27

In the Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild

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Seattle, WA 98118



www.seattlestorytellers.org

Standard Mail