

# *in The Wind*

## **Seattle Storytellers Guild Events**

**First Friday Virtual  
on Zoom Story Swaps**  
See Page 7

**SSG StoryFests**  
**December 18**  
**January 15**  
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**Guild After Party**  
**December 18**

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## **LEISURE TIME, PURPOSE AND THE STORYTELLERS GUILD**

By Patty Zeitlin—Vice President



If you're not taking care of kids, and have more time on your hands these days, what might you enjoy doing besides storytelling? Maybe there is something our board needs done that you would like to offer. You also might enjoy doing a few things for the Guild that are new to you. But how do you find out what those things are? One way is to join in as an "ad hoc" member, i.e. a volunteer board role either with or without a specific task, at first. It's one way to learn what we're doing, to get to know us, and to find out what you'd like to contribute.

I attended my first board meeting eight years ago, as an ad hoc" member and later on discovered, to my surprise, the fun and satisfaction of

finding great venues (like Haller Lake Methodist Church) for our swaps. I already liked connecting people with each other to share feelings, thoughts and experiences. So later on, I initiated and led a practice of "checking in" at the beginning of each board meeting. In time, the Guild needed a Vice President and by then, I was comfortable fulfilling that role, but not in the "traditional" way. I've done and now do a number of different things when the need arises, and I can fulfill it.

Awhile ago, I learned about other non-profits whose board members fulfill some but not all of the expected role descriptions. They step in when and where they are needed. I think organizations work best when people are, for the most part, doing what they enjoy and what interests them, not things they dislike or are unable to do. But there are exceptions. I'm not a big fan of moving stuff in storage, but with the help of my friend and our Treasurer, Anne Brendler, I really did enjoy transporting our materials from Haller Lake Community Club to Haller Lake Methodist Church. And just in time. A storm hit that flooded and completely destroyed the cupboards at the Community Club where all our materials had been!

Working together with a shared purpose and friends makes all the difference. According to my agreed upon role, I'm supposed to lead board meetings when the president isn't available. In the past I've only done it a couple of times when Barry couldn't. But these days, I'm doing it more often. I do enjoy it, and at some point, Bergith, our Hospitality Chairperson, might take over that job.

We are stepping up to share the workload of our wonderful President, Barry McWilliams, because after three and a half busy years, he wants to step down and spend more time with his family. We tried to find a replacement, but during these crazy times, no one has been available. Being on the Storytellers Guild Board is at times challenging, but it is also enormously rewarding to know and work with such skilled, talented, dedicated people who support the unique mission of teaching and sharing the art and delight of oral storytelling. If you want to volunteer, or check us out, we will be very happy to welcome you!

# Seattle Storytellers Guild's Virtual 3rd Friday StoryFests

Each Starts at 5 pm (Pacific Standard Time) on the below dates

(Waiting Room open at 4:30 Admitting at 4:45)

A Zoom link will be sent upon Registration for these events.

## December 18th: **Stories and Strings for Covid Times**

With **Anne Glover**



A chicken that can't count, a voracious tiger, an old hag, greed, stupidity, wisdom, and luck, all woven together by mind-bending string figures and Anne's comedic sense of balance. Seattle will be the first to hear Anne's original recitation, *In Covid Times*. Much of the material is suitable for family audiences but some stories will be more suited to a mature audience. (See the flier attached to the Newsletter or on the website.)

## Our fabulous **Holiday After Party**

will follow on Zoom from 7—8:30 pm (after an hour dinner break)

Here's a chance to re-connect with old and new friends in the Seattle Storytellers Guild.

Dress Festive! We have some really fun games and activities planned! Don't miss it!!

Expect an emailed invitation with more details soon.

*"No Dessert Potluck, but plenty of Holiday Cheer"*

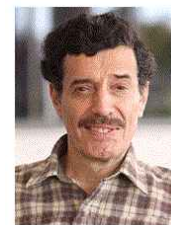
Register in advance for the link to both Zoom programs: <https://tinyurl.com/y2lsf4r7>

## January 15th: **Cross-Cultural Adventures** **in my Lebanese-Middle Eastern and American Journey**

with **Dr. Naji Abi-Hashem**



Naji Abi-Hashem was born in Lebanon, and his country of birth remains alive in his heart. Trained as a cultural psychologist in the United States, Abi-Hashem generally spends about a third of his time in Lebanon and the rest of his time teaching, writing and making presentations at conferences, global networking and doing cross-cultural work around the United States. He makes his home in Seattle. Dr **Naji Abi-Hashem** will share Multi-Cross-Cultural stories drawn from his travels from and to the Middle East.



Register in advance for this Zoom Program: <https://tinyurl.com/y3uyypko>

## February 19th: **Surviving Ty — tales of a well-intended restless soul.**



### Featuring **Ty Fance** – An Author/ Producer/ and Storyteller

Ty's autobiographical stories feature his journey into and through fatherhood; reflections on marriage; and his colorful childhood – rediscovered. His stories are featured in his book of autobiographical short stories *Off My Head and Over the Fence*. Ty produced a long running storytelling show called - Off My Head - *a lasting storytelling experience* - which featured local storytellers sharing personal stories that are "sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, but always authentic and relatable"

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y3m6soot>

To see more of Ty's stories, you may subscribe to his YouTube channel: **Ty Fance Storyteller**  
or his FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ty.fance>

## New to Zoom? Watch This Video!

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomBasics-SC>

You are most welcome to invite friends, but please share the Registration links above, rather than the login link sent to you for these events, for security reasons.

**A Suggested Donation of \$5 or more will help support our StoryFests and our featured Tellers!**

(See page 9 for details on our Tip Jar and other ways to donate)

**This is the "Board Issue."** The Seattle Storytellers Guild would not be able to offer its programs without these folks who have given it so much time and effort. Most of them have shared something about what they are doing in this issue, and we hope it will encourage you to consider how you could join with us in promoting the joys of oral storytelling as members or volunteers.

Besides those who contributed elsewhere to this issue are:

**MaryAnne Moorman** aka **Auntmama** has kept busy – with Storytable at Olive Way Starbucks (until the shutdown), frequently telling, she is the host of Pocket-grass and a Sunday radio show. She endeavors to bring storytelling and the folk music scene together.

**Susy Irwin** has taken on the role of our auxiliary liaison with the National Storytelling Network, has helped with planning our programs and also teaches Storytelling Classes. (See page 13)

**Chris Spengler** is active in the Under The Rainbow programs, and manages the SSG Membership rolls.

**Several, though not on the Board, contribute quite a bit to our activities:**

**Marilyn Grevstad** has been the host of our Haller Lake Story Swaps and frequently brings folktales to tell at them.

**Lance Lambert** has contributed to planning, and often volunteers to help at events. He also has been a storyteller at our Elder Tales events.

**Naomi Baltuck** is one of the organizers of the Under The Rainbow Storytelling programs for the LGBTQ+ community, both securing grants for their operation and scheduling tellers for their events.



**The Seattle Storytellers Guild is looking for volunteers in many areas.**

**If you are good at or want to learn how to:**

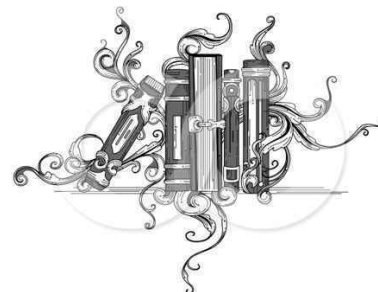
**Create online flyers and advertisements,  
Host Zoom events,  
Manage publicity,  
Plan events,  
Emcee an event,  
Edit a newsletter,**

**Or just want to meet friendly people who love storytelling...**

**Then join us!  
Contact Bergith Kayyali  
for more info.**

Bergith's email address:

[bergithkayyali@hotmail.com](mailto:bergithkayyali@hotmail.com)



## *In the Wind*

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Editor: Barry McWilliams

### Writers & Contributors:

Barry McWilliams, Judith Alexander, Patty Zeitlin, Anne Brendler, Afifi Durr, Larry Hohm, Bu Huang, Allison Cox, Eva Abram, Bergith Kayyali, Susy Irwin, Marte Fallshore, Naomi Baltuck

*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 11.

Articles and comments should be directed to [eldrbarry@gmail.com](mailto:eldrbarry@gmail.com)  
txt files are preferred, with pictures sent as separate attachments.

**Spring issue deadline: February 15**

**Articles Welcomed!**

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2019-2021

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

Barry McWilliams	President
Patty Zeitlin	Vice President
Marte Fallshore	Secretary
Anne Brendler	Treasurer

### At large members

Afifi Durr	Judith Alexander
Larry Hohm	Bergith Kayyali
MaryAnne Moorman	Eva Abram
Chris Spengler	Bu Huang

### Auxiliary members:

Allison Cox	Epic Events
Naomi Baltuck	Under The Rainbow
Susy Irwin	NSN Liaison
Cherie Trebon	Folklife liaison

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*.

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)

Press the [Show All Events] Button



## HOW AFIFI CAME TO THE SEATTLE STORYTELLING BOARD

At the end of 1980 I established my own business in Seattle "Arabic Language and Translation Services." People at that time discouraged me by saying, "Who wants Arabic" especially in Seattle. I did not listen. I advertised about my business on the internet and joined U.S. American Translator Association and became an Active and Certified member. My work involved translating and interpreting in Courts and hospitals and in the business world: Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and in school districts all over Seattle.

Several years later, one summer, Folklife in Seattle Center contacted me and asked me if I could translate an Arabic song into English. I jokingly told them: I am fed up of translation. Please, I said, find me something to do as fun to present in Folklife. Like doing Tabbouleh, a famous Lebanese salad; I could present it and tell all gossip stories that goes behind gathering and making Tabbouleh. and how Tabbouleh originated in old times in Lebanon. During that time, woman and their teenage daughters would come to help in making Tabbouleh as it takes a lot of chopping parsley, tomatoes, onions, mints and all ingredients, such as, adding extra virgin olive oil. While women are gathering they start bragging about their beautiful daughters in front of other women who might have a boy looking to marry, it was a scheme of arranged marriage.



Surprisingly, after I talked to Folklife, a week or so, suggesting my crazy idea, I received a message from them saying: "Yes they are open to me presenting Tabbouleh in Folk life Festival". And the organizer said: they could arrange a tent for me outside. I contacted a friend of mine, an American Lebanese, Diet professor, in Seattle Pacific University and asked her if she would be willing to join me in on stage to do the Lebanese Tabbouleh together. I added: I will gossip to you stories about how Tabbouleh originated in Lebanon. She was so excited about it because she was born in the States, from Lebanese parents never went to Lebanon. She loved Lebanese food. Her grandparents immigrated to United States during the Ottoman Empire.

I was so excited. I went and bought all Tabbouleh ingredients, little dishes for people to sample the Tabbouleh. I told stories and gossips while chopping with my friend. I was surprised and astounded how many people showed up in Folklife. A reporter from Seattle Times wrote about it in Seattle Times. This brought shills to my spines. I decided I wanted to do this more often. I wanted to tell stories. I think someone was there from Seattle Storytelling Guild and she told me about it and storytelling and that is how I ended up on Seattle Storytelling Board.



*In old times, especially in weddings and certain occasions, mothers and their young daughters, join to help make Tabbouleh. As male guys are not allowed to be with women; the fathers and lads come to help spread these muds on the guest roof as cement was not popular. This way, the lads learn the trade from their fathers.*

*On the roof, usually there is a big round stone with big handles on it so they can roll the round stone on the roof. They spread mud and smooth it with this rolling stone. Afterwards, men and their lads join hands together and go round and round in circles, up and down, pressing on mud very hard to make it stick very hard on the roof so rain does not seep in winter down to the house.*

*As a result of this old practice in old times, the Lebanese Folkloric Debkeh originated. Nowadays, Lebanese Debkeh is very popular and famous. First, it originated in villages then extended all over Lebanon and the Middle East. Therefore, people started gathering in occasions, similar to our Thanksgiving tradition in America and have fun. Remember, too, the women while doing the Tabbouleh will be scheming on arranged marriages. Then, later they all meet, eat, dance and celebrate.*

*As time went by, Debkeh dance evolved from these gatherings in many forms and shapes dependent on areas where people came from. This is how the Debkeh spread all over the coastal side of the Mediterranean Sea during Ottoman Empire; then to the Lebanese mountains.*

*Submitted by Afifi Durr*

## What do Seattle Storytelling Board members do?

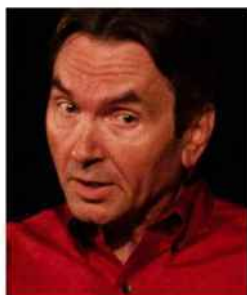


"For about a decade, as "email maven," I have been sending out emails listing the SSG events, and other storytelling events in the Northwest. Organizers send me their publicity and I forward that to Larry for the website and to Barry for the newsletter, if there is time. I often have to rework the info to be consistent with the other listings, and then organize the email and send it, about twice a month. Since the summer I have been using

Mailchimp which makes the sending easier, but the listings and formatting harder. Once a year I try to get accurate listings of the on-going events. I also help get SSG events listed on other local calendars, and now especially on the calendars of the National Storytelling Network and Northeast Storytelling group.

Since we have not been able to elect a new president, I have tried to support Barry by drafting agendas for Board meetings, and helping at our regular events. This is more difficult now that I am in Germany for the foreseeable future, where the time is 9 hours ahead of Seattle, and I can't attend the Board meetings, nor most of the SSG events. Last December I was organizer and MC for our December StoryFest."

**Judith Alexander**



"I have been on the SSG Board for seven years, and maintain the SSG website. I have performed frequently at the Northwest Folklife Festival, the Pocket Theater (which, sadly, closed last year), and the Swedish Club, all in Seattle. I performed at the online Folklife festival in May. I tell mostly fiction,

and my repertoire includes stories by over twenty authors, including H. G. Wells, Joel Chandler Harris, Joyce Carol Oates, Mark Twain, Ray Bradbury, Roald Dahl, Ruth Rendell, and Ursula K. Le Guin. I love to tell stories that are a bit on the dark side.

Since the pandemic started, I have shifted my focus to humorous stories, and have posted many videos on YouTube. My friend, Mark Linsey, handles the technical editing for me, and he has taught me a lot about such things as lighting, backgrounds, and camera angles. Making videos has been a new adventure for me, but like most storytellers these days, I miss being in the same room with my audience!

Links to my YouTube videos can be found on my website:

[www.larryhohm.org](http://www.larryhohm.org)."

**Larry Hohm**



"I became a board member in 2018. I had been attending Seattle Storytelling events for several years when my friend Patty invited me to be on the board. I agreed to be the hostess for the Guild's in-person events, organizing the treats and drinks for the monthly storytelling meetings and I did this for about a year, except for a 4-month period when I was very ill and hospitalized. Since March 2020 we have had no live events so that ended and will not happen until Covid is controlled. With no in-person events, I am helping as needed with the Board - helping to run the board meetings and learning how to assist Zoom meetings. I continue to attend online events and board meetings where planning is done. Board members offer to moderate events. I have also participated as a story teller in Thousand Nights as well as the Nordic tales at the Nordic Museum in Ballard. I have attended several workshops on storytelling. Being a storyteller for an international event was very special with my hosting guests from Canada. I enjoy working with other Board members. I am always adding new skills, including storytelling and managing meetings."

**Bergith Kayyali**

As an at-large member of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, my duties include:

**Elder Tales** - Coordinating with senior residences to arrange a storytelling events. Communicating with storytellers to present.

**Earth Day** - I have been on the Earth Day Planning Committee and was responsible for planning the 2020 Earth Day event. The planning includes: selecting a location; selecting tellers; soliciting volunteers; making sure everything is done so the event goes smoothly.

**Library** - I have volunteered to take the lead in establishing a library of books for our organization. Duties include asking for book donations; recording and storing books; and creating a system for lending books. All members of the guild are requested to volunteer where needed, which includes hospitality and setting up for meetings."

**Eva Abram**





## Organizing Storytelling Events in the Virtual Frontier

The Seattle Storytellers Guild has been planning events for over 40 years. Many of these have been Storytelling Programs with several storytellers. Some included or consisted of story swaps. We have also done big events – festivals back in the 80's; epics in more recent years. With the current migration of storytelling events to the virtual world – our story events have also moved to Zoom for the time being.

Most of us enjoy the events, but don't realize all that goes into organizing and hosting them. The Guild's board has experience and is a good place to learn the nuts and bolts of assembling an event. It begins with deciding on the **Who, What, When and Where?** Which means finding and booking storytellers and other performers, an emcee, and a venue adequate for the audience and in a convenient location. **Why?** Usually events will have a theme – whether determined by the organizers, the season, or the tellers. Both storytellers and venues bring in the question of **How Much** will these cost? And how, we hope, the event will pay for itself. Along with this, there are needs for various things – sound systems, stage décor and lighting, arranging and serving refreshments, and setting up chairs and tables for the above and for sales. Getting into the venue and cleaning up afterwards all of which takes volunteers!

Virtual events take a vary similar process of organization. The **Who, What, When** remains – the **Where**, the venue, now becomes a link to Zoom or Facebook or Youtube that is transmitted electronically. Organizers still have to consider the **How Much** the storytellers require, but often have to rely on soliciting online donations rather than the “gate” to meet those needs. The virtual form of the venue changes quite a few things. Zoom programs need to be shorter and often the date and times are adjusted accordingly. The virtual “audience experience” is much different – both for the tellers and the participants. Online tellers have their individual struggles with at the restrictions of “at home” staging and lighting and microphones. “Rehearsals” before the event to get those things right are usually necessary.

It takes more than one host! A technical host is needed, who creates and starts the Zoom meeting, and deals with technical issues – admitting guests from the waiting room, spotlighting, pasting chat announcements and an number of other “mute” points. Another hosts as the emcee, bringing a personal touch to the event - drawing a diverse audience together, introducing the tellers and presenting the program.

The atmosphere of a Zoom Event is different. People trickle in early and often times want to linger afterwards. They find themselves face to face with not just the storytellers, but also with a lot of other people – some familiar – some strangers. And while most are in their homes, those may be anywhere. A concert's “shared audience experience” can be lacking – of shared laughter, applause or communal sighs. And there aren't refreshments to promote smaller mingling and chit chat conversations with friends.

Publicity is what creates the audience and that now goes out all sorts of ways – especially in these days of social media. Fliers, whether printed, mailed, emailed or posted on line, need to be both informative and colorful – which requires design and production. And they need to reach their intended audiences – which used to just be local folks. Word of mouth, posters and paper fliers used to suffice. But now publicity has become mostly social media. Paper fliers are replaced by attractive media posts and pastes into chat boxes - sharing the link on a web site, sending it out via emailed newsletters, and blasted bi-monthly in emails to our list. Registration links offer advantages. But more than that – multiple postings are needed on Facebook pages, Eventbrite, and Meetup. And reaching our audience, who are no longer just local, takes thinking and strategy, targeting Facebook boosts. “Word -of-mouth” has now become “Please share” on people's personal media and during other online events.

With the obvious popularity of online events, it is probable that storytelling organizations will continue producing virtual events even after we are able once again to gather face-to-face. Developing the skills needed to produce and present virtual events will continue to be very valuable to us.

Barry McWilliams has an upcoming two hour **Workshop on Using Zoom for Storytelling Events.**

*It covers Zoom's Basic and Advanced Controls, its recent updates, how to Organize an Event, and dealing with some tech issues and disruptions.*

*You can access and download his class worksheets on his website at [http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/VirtualST/Zoom Workshop.pdf](http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/VirtualST/Zoom%20Workshop.pdf).*

*The blue text on the worksheets is clickable, and participants are encouraged to explore this ahead of time.*

This two hour Workshop will be offered twice

**December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** (Pacific Standard Time) and also on **December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.**

Please Click on the desired date and time to Register. You will be sent a link for the Workshop.

The cost is \$15, paid to the Seattle Storytellers Guild. (See the Purple Hat on page 9).



## The Treasurer's Tale

By Anne Brendler, Treasurer

I moved to Seattle from Kansas City in the summer of 2001. That summer, there was an outdoor Story Festival, organized by the Guild, in Bellevue. It was as if I had arrived just in time to join up with some old friends. I had been privileged to hear many well-known tellers in Jonesborough in 1998 and 1999, and I went to Storytellers Camp in Florida in early 2000. Such joy and wisdom and welcome these folks share! I began to regard myself a nascent teller and Storytellers as "my people." They form the clan to which I want to belong. Thus, with that summer's festival in my own new backyard, it seemed a wonderful stroke of good luck to have landed in Seattle. Margaret Read MacDonald had headed up the effort, I believe, and I recall that Antonio Rojas was one of the brilliant tellers. I was still teaching full-time, so it was a while before I actually had the time to participate more fully in the teller family. I finally joined the Guild in 2015, as nearly as I can recall, having attended a Tellabration™ late in 2014.

I became a faithful attendee after that for the evening events the third Friday of each month, and sometime in the summer of 2016, I asked to attend the Annual Planning Meeting, which was held once a year at a Board member's home. At these meetings, the events for the upcoming year are planned. That summer, I was a mere observer, but I was made to feel as welcome as if I were a full-fledged Board member, inspired with suggestions. I recall the very lively conversation flying around me, names of tellers and dates and times. No wonder Patty Zeitlin, who was trying to take the minutes, had to ask people to slow down and repeat things. It was hard just to listen and keep up. Trying to take minutes seemed near impossible!

Soon after that meeting, it became clear that Glenn McCauley, our long-time (now former) Treasurer wanted to step down from his post. My name was put forward as a possible replacement. I was astonished! I was hardly an experienced teller, and furthermore, I had never been the Treasurer of anything! Now here it was. I was voted in at the Annual Meeting in June 2017, and with Glenn's help I was able to assume my duties fairly comfortably. I haven't been fired yet, so I guess I'm able to keep up! It is a pleasure to be able to contribute.

Here is what I do: keep the financial books (write checks to pay bills; receive and bank incoming moneys); keep our PayPal account up-to-date; collect, and subsequently bank, donations at our events; help sell performers' merchandise (books, CDs, etc.) at our events; keep official paperwork up-to-date (business licenses, taxes, insurance premiums, attorney questions); manage our post office account; write a monthly report for the Board meetings and an Annual Report for the Annual Membership meeting; keep up with Correspondence Secretary duties (we do not have one, so I write some of the thank-you notes, both physical and electronic, to any donors, and/or new and renewing members); manage extra funds within our savings account (e.g. the fund for Under the Rainbow and the Gene Friese Fund); apply for grants when/where appropriate. I have also on occasion taken the meeting minutes, and I have rewritten the By-Laws with Barry McWilliams, and a new experience has been working on a Re-Open Fund grant with 4Culture, now in its final stages.



## QSNS TO MARTE FALLSHORE

**What led you to volunteer and then to be on the board?** *I was attending so many events (many of them free) sponsored by SSG that I decided to give back.*

**Why did you choose the particular role you now play.** *I've been sect. for other nonprofits before and I'm good at it. It's relatively easy (relatively being the operative term) and I get to feel part of something outside my house/ town/ bubble.*

**Do you fulfill just that role or do many different things?** *So far, I am doing just that role, but I am on one subcommittee.*

**What specific help (from someone outside the board...ie. a reader, potential volunteer) would you like to have?** *I don't think I need any help right now. However, if you have any storytelling books, please send them to Eva (see elsewhere in this bulletin).*

**How the virtual world is working (or not) for storytelling events and board meetings?** *The virtual world is what is allowing me to participate as fully as I am. I don't live near Seattle (I live on the dry side of the mountains in Ellensburg) so I am thrilled to be able to do all I do from home.*

**Advantages of being on the Board and/or volunteering?** *I love being involved and getting to know some of my favorite storytellers. I have known most of the board members for YEARS through the NW Folklife Festival, but now I get to play along. It's been great!"*

**Marte Fallshore, Secretary**

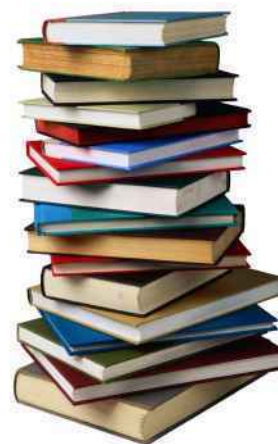
## The SSG Storytelling Books Project

The SSG's mission is to perform and promote storytelling. One of the ways we'd like to do that is to have a library of storytelling books to loan to members. Our previous library has been lost, so Eva volunteered to do the legwork to establish a new library. Lincoln High School has expressed interest in using storytelling to enhance their curriculum in drama and perhaps other subjects. We are excited about the possibility of having an ongoing relationship with Lincoln High School and perhaps other schools in the area.

Collecting and recording books for our new library will take time and the efforts of other volunteers to make this happen. We are asking for donations of relevant books from our members, email Eva Abram

at [rainwaterstorytelling@yahoo.com](mailto:rainwaterstorytelling@yahoo.com).

If you wish to contribute to this project!



"I met Patty and Afifi in Shoreline Historical Museum in the spring of 2018. I told Patty that I am interested in local history, especially because I didn't grow up here. Everything is fascinating to me. Patty invited me to go to the story swap at the Haller Lake site. I went and listened to the stories. I really enjoyed the experience. Patty told me that they are always looking for volunteers/board members and right now, they need someone to coordinate the publicity activities. So I happily signed up :-)

Below is what I understand what I am doing within the organization:

1. Keeping online schedules of SSG events (google calendar for people to view in order to avoid scheduling conflicts--currently, we have monthly show times, monthly swaps, board meetings, and UTR events)
2. Making digital posters for monthly shows, and get printed copies to advertise at places when we "re-open."
3. Promoting events on Meetup and Eventbrite (schedule events and send out emails)
4. Taking photos at events for publicity purpose (I have been taking photos "randomly", I am thinking about maybe doing event photos more methodically and organizing them in a shared folder for us to access)

I "chose" this role because it was available, and because I thought with my background in tech, I can try to do more on "digital marketing". Hence I made the meet-up group. Now we have over 150 people in this group. There are several others already doing publicity on our homepage, in email blasts, etc. I am trying to think about other ways to promote the Guild's activities. I originally thought I could manage a Youtube channel. I did open that channel, but getting video clips from each teller and every event is hard and not all people would like to have videos online. Even if they do, getting releases for this would be difficult logistically. I don't have much graphic design experience. If there is a member who can help us with that, that would be great. The virtual world is working for me. The advantages of being on the Board and volunteering is that I get to know a group who are great storytellers, who are devoted to promoting the art of storytelling and sharing their happiness and wisdom with the community. I am proud of being part of it, even though I am not good at telling stories. It inspires me to try to be a better listener and writer."

**Bu Huang**



**Allison Cox** recently stepped down to an auxiliary role on the Board after many ferry trips from her home on Vashon Island for meetings and events for a number of years. Allison continues organizing our Epic Events.

*"I have tracked membership and sent out renewal notices. I produce special events - especially the yearly epic where we would pick an epic from another country and tell it in an evening or weekend. I have advertised events and sent out e-vites to our membership and posted on Facebook and in local papers. I've helped to decorate the stage and room for events. I hosted or helped with our yearly planning meetings."*





When I again got involved in the Seattle Storytellers Guild Community in 2014, it was a time of transition for both me and the Guild. I say “again” for I had attended SSG events during its glory years in the late 1980’s thru the mid 90’s, when there were annual Festivals and a membership of 400 – climaxing in the hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of N.A.A.P.S. (now NSN) in Seattle in 1993. I did some storytelling in schools and at church, built a collection of lots of stories, and uploaded **Eldrbarry’s Story Telling Page** ([www.eldrbarry.net](http://www.eldrbarry.net)) to the internet in 1994. By the later 90’s the Guild was struggling with declining membership

and lost venues. For me, working swing at a grocery and assisting my church through years without a pastor, my Guild involvement ceased, and “eldrbarry” mostly put his storytelling on a back burner until retirement was approaching.

In 2014, my wife and I resumed attending SSG Story programs at Haller Lake. It was again a time of transition for the Guild’s Board with significant changes in leadership taking place. In particular, with the multi talented Norm Brecke leaving, I took over as editor of *In The Wind* in 2015 – and began attending SSG board meetings – a time for learning about how the Guild operates and produces and promotes events. I took on the task of President in June, 2016.. Through the years, I told many stories, with my website, I have learned graphic design and web skills, and had years of leadership experience in my church, so I was equipped for those roles.

Working on the newsletter led me to preparing a variety of promotional materials; it drives our program deadlines and includes keeping up with our larger storytelling community. I saw a need for attractive back drops, such as my wife’s quilts, and a sound system especially for our older folks, both of which have needed storage, transport and set up. I have, along with the Board organized programs, and assisted in planning and preparing for our Epic events. I have worked on Bylaws and other written guidelines. I’ve emceed from time to time, and somehow, managed to slip in telling a story from time to time at program swaps, epics, or to seniors at Elder Tales. As President, I’ve prepared meeting dockets and overseen the Guild’s activities along with the Board in both face-to-face and virtual meetings, and in masses of email; and dealt with a number of “issues” that have arisen along the way. After three years, I need more time for family and other interests. But overtaken by the shutdown, I took on the additional challenge of moving SSG into that virtual world of organizing and presenting Zoom events.

Probably the best part of Guild involvement is working with the other board members – each of whom brings unique talents and experience and skills to pursuing our organization’s goals. The Guild has a long history from its beginnings in the early 1980’s for four decades to the present. I cannot begin to list all the talented storytellers and people that have carried that work along. Many others have worked on and off the Board through the years. A few are in our Golden Circle, but there have been many more. It has been a delight to hear them all tell their tales!

**Barry McWilliams—President and Editor**

## YOUR DONATION TO THE SEATTLE STORYTELLERS GUILD



*Passing Our Hat!*

supports today’s storytellers and funds our events  
with Suggested Donations of **\$5 or more!**

Please Give in the **TIP JAR** on our home page:

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

or with Paypal - [www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers](https://www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers)

Or you may mail a check to :

Seattle Storytellers Guild,  
PO Box 18361, Seattle, WA., 98118

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

## December

- 4\* SSG Zoom Story Swap VIRTUAL**  
7-9 PM (See Page 11)
- 14\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+ **VIRTUAL** (See Page 13)
- 10 Pocketgrass on Youtube** (Page 13)
- 18\* Storyfest: Anne Glover 5-6 PM VIRTUAL**
- 18\* SSG After Party 7-9 VIRTUAL**  
(See Page 2)
- 24 Fresh Ground Stories 7 p.m., VIRTUAL**
- 24\* Auntmama's Story Table 7 p.m., CANCELED**

For lots of other Virtual Storytelling Shows follow the **Facebook** Pages of **Storytelling Seattle**, **Artists Standing Strong Together**, and **Storytellers**

## January

- 8\* Briarcrest Neighborhood Zoom Swap VIRTUAL 7:00 pm** (See Page 11)
- 11\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+ **VIRTUAL** (See Page 13)
- 14 Pocketgrass on Youtube** Page 13)
- 15\* StoryFest: Naji Abi-Hashem 5-6 pm VIRTUAL** (Page 2)
- 21 Fresh Ground Stories 7 p.m., VIRTUAL**
- 26 TBD STORYTELLERS VIRTUAL 5PM** (See page 13)
- 29\* Auntmama's Story Table CANCELED**

### For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

go to [Seattlestorytellers.org](http://Seattlestorytellers.org)  
And Press [See All Events]

Lots of Special Events are listed in Judith's Storytelling News (see page 3)

And Check the On Line Calendars of the Storytelling Communities on p. 11

## February

- 5\* SSG Zoom Story Swap VIRTUAL 7 pm** (Page 11)
- 8\* Under The Rainbow VIRTUAL** (See Page 13)
- 11 Pocketgrass on Youtube** Page 13)
- 18 Fresh Ground Stories VIRTUAL**
- 19\* StoryFest: Ty Fance 5-6 pm VIRTUAL** (See Page 2)
- 23 TBD STORYTELLERS VIRTUAL 5PM** (See page 13)
- 26\* Auntmama's Story Table CANCELED**

### Look for Auntmama on the Radio: KBCS's weekly show

[airing alternating Sundays,  
9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.  
on 91.3 FM (Bellevue)

and Streaming at **Pocketgrass wintergrass.org** (see page 13)

## Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

*Please check before you go! Details may change.*

Second Mondays Under the Rainbow VIRTUAL Stories from the LGBTQ community—  
See Page 9 for changes in Fall Schedule

First Thursdays. Moth StorySLAM themed, **VIRTUAL** [themoth.org/events](http://themoth.org/events) \$  
**No local events**

Second Thursdays. North Seattle Storytellers Meetup, **CANCELED FOR NOW**

Third Thursdays. Fresh Ground Stories. 7 p.m. **VIRTUAL** [www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

Last Thursdays. Auntmama's StoryTable, **CANCELED FOR NOW**

First Fridays SSG Story Swaps Months VIRTUAL See page 9 for details

Seattle Storytellers Guild. Third Friday Story Fests. **VIRTUAL**. \$ Donations,  
Sept.-May, **See Page 2 dates and details!!**

Third Fridays Moth StorySLAM themed, **VIRTUAL** \$ **No Local eventst**

Saturdays- Children's Storytelling at 3rd Place books, Ravenna, **NO EVENTS NOW**  
[thirdplacebooks.com](http://thirdplacebooks.com)

First Saturdays Island Books Family Story Time. **VIRTUAL**  
[Mercerislandbooks.com](http://Mercerislandbooks.com)

Second Saturdays Kat Tales **CANCELED**

## Regional Ongoing Events

Fourth Fridays. The Story Today, Featured tellers and open mike. **CANCELED FOR NOW.** [vancouverstorytellers.ca](http://vancouverstorytellers.ca)

Second Mondays. Fireside Story League of Tacoma **CANCELED FOR NOW**  
(Unknown). Stories at Fern. **VIRTUAL**., \$. [victoriastorytellers.org](http://victoriastorytellers.org)

Third Tuesdays. Story People of Clallam County **Members only Virtual Swaps**  
[www.clallamstorypeople.org](http://www.clallamstorypeople.org)

First Tuesdays. Ellensburg Storytellers- The Yarn Spinners, **CANCELED FOR NOW**

Second Wednesdays. South Sound Storytellers Guild **VIRTUAL—CHECK WEBSITE**  
(Sept-May)

Third Wednesdays. Stories on Tap and Open Mike **PRIVATE—CLOSED TO PUBLIC**

First Friday Quimper Guild StoryNight, 7-9 pm **CLOSED FOR NOW**

First Fridays Urban Tellers at the Fremont **POSTPONED TILL 2021**  
[www.pdxstorytheater.org/shows/urban-tellers/](http://www.pdxstorytheater.org/shows/urban-tellers/) (Oct-Jun only)

First Saturdays Portland Storytellers Guild Themed Shows **VIRTUAL**

Second Fridays Portland Storytellers Guild Swaps **VIRTUAL** (Sept-May)

Third Fridays The Bellingham Storytellers Guild: Storytelling for the Love of It.  
**CANCELED FOR NOW** [BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org](http://BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org)

**This reflects the status of these events as of early December, as best we can determine.  
If venues open, things may change. Check websites.**

**FGS Storytelling Workshop, ZOOM event** usually first Sunday of the month in the Afternoon

Bring a story up to eight-minutes long to work on; give and receive feedback.

More info: <https://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories-Storytelling-Workshop/>

## First Friday Night Zoom Story Swaps

This Winter, we are alternating the hosting for our First Friday of the month Story Swaps between the Briarcrest Folks on odd numbered months and the Haller Lake Folks on Even numbered months. Exception: in January — on the Second Friday, January 8th. Of course, everyone is welcome to listen or tell at either swap. Stories are 8 minutes max, family-friendly and told, not read.

The Swaps are Seven to Nine PM on Zoom. Waiting room at 6:45 Each will have a unique sign in link — so if you would like to attend, or have a story to share, contact Barry to get your email added to our invitation list. A zoom link will be send out about a week before.

Contact Barry McWilliams at [eldrbarry@gmail.com](mailto:eldrbarry@gmail.com)  
For other information contact Patty Zeitlin at [pattipaz.z@gmail.com](mailto:pattipaz.z@gmail.com)  
about the Haller Lake Swap or Afifi Durr at [afifidurr15@gmail.com](mailto:afifidurr15@gmail.com)  
about the Briarcrest Neighborhood Story Swap



### *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://meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

##### The MOTH : Virtual

No Local Programs  
[themoth.org/events](https://themoth.org/events)

##### Seattle Public Library: Calendar

[spl.org/calendar-of-events](https://spl.org/calendar-of-events)

##### Story People of Clallum County

Port Angeles  
[clallamstorypeople.org/](https://clallamstorypeople.org/)

##### Quimper Story Guild

Port Townsend  
[facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild](https://facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild)

##### South Sound Storytellers Guild

Lakewood  
[southsoundstory.org/](https://southsoundstory.org/)

##### Fireside Story League of Tacoma

[firesidestoryleague.org/](https://firesidestoryleague.org/)

##### Bellingham Storytellers Guild

[BellinghamStoryTellers.org/](https://BellinghamStoryTellers.org/)

##### Storytelling Club—Yarn Spinners

Ellensburg - See Facebook

##### Portland Storytellers Guild

[portlandstorytellers.org/](https://portlandstorytellers.org/)

##### Portland Story Theater

[portlandstorytheater.com/](https://portlandstorytheater.com/)

For More info on Local and Regional Events  
visit: [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)

**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](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.





## The Timpanogos 2020 Storytelling Festival Encore

All those stories are available again  
from midnight on 12/25/20 to midnight on 1/03/21.



The Encore Festival offers the opportunity to watch the stories you missed, share stories you loved with family and friends, or even give the gift of stories to those who need a little extra holiday cheer.

Tickets will be \$25 until 12/21. Beginning 12/22/20, tickets will be \$30 and will be sold directly through Bizzabo. To purchase tickets, please visit their website, [www.timpfest.org](http://www.timpfest.org), click on "Purchase Encore Pass," and use your

Timpanogos Storytelling login and password.

## Story Crossroads Workshops

is offering monthly **All Things Story Virtual Storytelling Workshops**, usually on first Saturday mornings at 9-10:30 am (Mountain Time) which are affordably priced on a Sliding Scale Tuition: \$5 minimum, \$25 suggested donation, on up to \$50.



### December 5<sup>th</sup> - [Nannette Watts](#) Coaching Storytellers and Performers

Coaching performers and storytellers can feel intimidating. Am I doing this right? Is there more I could help them with? What should I be looking for? Gain confidence, whether you coach student storytellers, those in your community, or people who want to tell stories better. Learn tips, tricks, and ideas to gain skills, from one who has taught hundreds of youth storytellers and many adults as well.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> - [Heather Forest, PhD](#) - The Magic of Words: Storytelling Art and Technique** Explore the intuitive, creative process of the storyteller's art in selecting, composing, and performing both folkloric and personal stories. Examine voice, body, imagination, words, and metaphor as tools of telling. Consider ways to develop storytelling repertoire that is relevant, engaging, and age appropriate.

**February 6, 2021, Karl Behling** Topic to be Announced

**Story CrossRoads** recently announced **Annual Memberships** which offer Monthly and Quarterly Benefits of articles and e-workbooks on oral storytelling topics, a Bi-annual Benefit of Zoom "hang-out" with story artists along with various Discounts and a lot more. See their website for details!



The National Storytelling Network is staying active during the corona virus. <https://storynet.org/calendar/> gives a snap shot of what is coming up through next year. This past year there was an 11-day festival which was dynamic with tellers from all over the world. The Irish contingent told primarily outside with one act being a singer on the banks of the ocean off the north coast. Fabulous. If you would like to renew your membership please contact Susy Irwin and she can help facilitate that. Seattle Storytellers Guild members are eligible for a discount on their membership! Website: [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)

## ***Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series***

**Second Mondays: Live Streamed on Zoom.**

6:00 p.m Socializing; 6:30–7:45 pm — featured and open-mic storytelling;

Each story followed by group conversation. Ages: teens and adults. No admission fee  
LGBTQIA+ tellers prioritized; allies welcome in the audience and in post-story conversation.

Check their website at [edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/](http://edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/)

A link for their Zoom Programs is on the website.

In January, the Zoom Link changes to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83671133469>



### **December 14, 6:00-7:45 p.m. Meysha Harville is the guest storyteller.**

A teacher, musician, writer, and spoken word artist from Youngstown, Ohio. Meysha writes on common anxieties of everyday Black queer life, descriptive character, and comedic relief to curate a dialogue on Blackness and queer femininity.



### **On January 11, 6:00-7:45 p.m. Greg Colucci is the guest storyteller,**

A 60 year old author, storyteller, and an elder in his community, who is living with HIV/AIDS and Huntington's Disease, a genetic neurological illness. He uses storytelling to challenge negative impressions of aging in the Gay community from the perspective of an elder..

**Under the Rainbow** is supported by Seattle Storytellers Guild, Edmonds Library, Edmonds Arts Commission, Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition, and Pride Foundation.



## **TBD Storytellers features some great stories!**

Put the last Tuesdays of the Month on your Calendars for this Great "Cohort of Eight Storytellers" which includes Our Northwest friends Norm Brecke, Anne Rutherford and Ingrid Nixon.

TBD resumes on January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm (Pacific Time)

Check [anne-norm.com](http://anne-norm.com) or their Facebook page for upcoming "To Be Determined" themes and performers

**Our own MaryAnne Moorman hosts Pocketgrass**—a 45-minute variety show with monthly episodes on second Thursdays. Each features music, magic, a story, a lightning workshop and fun for everyone in the family. A theme built around a recipe and a story will be the core of every single episode – all designed to transport us on a sensory journey around the world and back home again.

The theme for December is **Pineapples** and **Greens** for January. It is streamed via the **Wintergrass YouTube Channel** and is free, through they are earnestly seeking donations. More Info and a Sign up for their e-newsletter at <https://wintergrass.com/>



## **The next installment of Susy Irwin's You Can tell Stories!**

8 week evening storytelling class is starting online in mid-January and runs till March.

Susy has been studying with Doug Lipman, and will focus on the process of growing stories through various processes. Registration Information at <https://continuinged.northseattle.edu/courses/you-can-tell-stories-meeting-online>

**Susy Irwin** [www.havestorywilltravel.com](http://www.havestorywilltravel.com) [livewildpuppets@gmail.com](mailto:livewildpuppets@gmail.com) 206-784-0704



"To have a Cricket on the hearth  
is the luckiest thing in all the world!"

- Charles Dickens



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## *In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

*P.O. Box 18361*

*Seattle, WA 98118*



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

**Standard Mail**

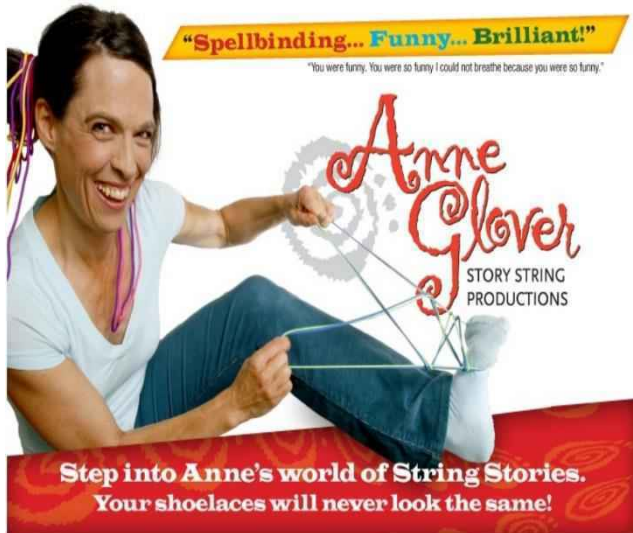


# A Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFest and Holiday Party

Featuring Storyteller and String Artist  
**Anne Glover**

on Friday, **Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020** from **5:00 to 6:00 pm (Pacific Time)**

Waiting Room opens at 4:30 – Admitting at 4:45 pm



**Anne Glover** is a Canadian national award winner of storytelling. She entralls audience with her dynamic storytelling and unforgettable string figures. From Buenos Aires to Tokyo to Dublin, Anne leaves communities in a merry tangle of string wherever she goes.

Her website: <https://anneglover.ca/>

Anne's program for Seattle Storytellers includes a chicken that can't count, a voracious tiger, an old hag with breasts so long she flings them over her shoulders, greed, stupidity, wisdom, and luck, all woven together by mind-bending string figures and Anne's comedic sense of balance.

**After Party**  
**from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (Pacific Time)**

Connect with some fun activities with other members and friends of the Seattle Storytellers Guild.  
*"No Dessert Potluck, but plenty of Holiday Cheer"*

Register in advance for both the Show and Party here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2lsf4r7>



A Zoom link will be sent upon your Registration. You are welcome to invite friends, but please share the Registration link above, rather than the login link which you will be sent for this event.

A Suggested Donation of \$5-\$10 or more helps support our StoryFests and our featured Tellers!

Donations to The Seattle Storytellers Guild to help fund this event can be made :

Via our Tip Jar on our home page: [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)

Via a link to Paypal - [www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers](http://www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers)

Or you can mail a check to:

Seattle Storytellers Guild, PO Box 18361, Seattle, WA., 98118

For more information go to: [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)