

in The Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild Fall Events

December 16th
Deck the Halls!
With Diane Ferlatte
And Eric Pearson

January 21st & 22nd
Crones Tales—a two day
Storytelling Event

February 17th
"My Stroke Story"
With Shawn Cornelius

First Fridays
Story Swaps on Zoom

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Preparing this Newsletter for the Seattle Storytellers Guild has been bittersweet.

Certainly, with excitement, we celebrated our 40th Birthday in September and the wonderful story concerts with Paul Strickland and the Tellabrationtm storytellers, Alicia Mary Retes and BZ Smith. And upcoming are an evening of Holiday Stories with Diane Ferlatte and Eric Pearson in December and a two day Crones event in January. At the same time, we've experienced sadness first with news that Glenn McCauley passed on just before our Golden Circle live event. And then, Allison Cox, passed on just days before Paul's concert. We're still missing Jill Johnson and John Wasko, who had contributed so much to us in service and story. Other elder storytellers in our midst are declining in their health as well.

So this issue is brings both the usual information on coming events, but also some remembrances of friends we have lost. It can't begin to contain the myriad of story-tellers' thoughts shared on Allison's Facebook page and on the Storytell listserv.

But perhaps most fitting for the cover article of this issue are these words of tribute offered by Katherine Gee Perrone, reminding us of what treasures our elders are.



One of my storytelling mentors and good friend, Allison Cox. passed away last Sunday. I am utterly heartbroken. Allison was a gift to anyone who knew her. She had a generosity of spirit I've only experienced in a handful of humans. She was as good a listener as she was a storyteller. She taught me so much, through her stories, her example, her ferocity of spirit,

and her ability to seek out what was beautiful and true and elevate it. I thought I was at the beginning of learning from her wisdom. She and Jill Johnson gave me so many opportunities to perform alongside them, like I was their equal when I was the kid in awe of her elders.

I have been thinking a lot lately of the African proverb "When an elder dies, it is as if a library goes up in flames." Allison was like the Library of Alexandria in my world and so many others. Was it only five years ago that I was in the kitchen with these two Masters of their craft, listening to their stories of motherhood, healing, and transformation? Has it only been five years since we shared a stage in Langley, spinning yarns from the British Isles? What a gift that evening was to my wayward wandering soul. To sit with Allison and hear her stories was to be invited into a sacred space. She was a healer.

Rest In Peace, my sisters in stories. I know you won't stop your work of healing, because I'll see you in my dreams soon.

- Katherine Gee Perrone

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Deck The Halls!!

Our December StoryFest



An Evening of Stories and Music appropriate to the Holidays.

Featuring Storyteller Diane Ferlatte and her musician friend, Eric Pearson

December 16th. 2022 7 PM Pacific on Zoom

Diane Ferlatte is proud to continue an oral tradition "as old as humankind" and which has been used by people from all cultures to bond, share knowledge and make sense of the world. For more than 30 years, Ferlatte has told stories at schools, community groups and festivals in

the Bay Area and around the world. Even through a Zoom window, the charismatic Ferlatte brings her stories to life with song, gestures and the facial expressions and voices of some dozen characters. She is often joined by her friend Eric Pearson, who adds a musical note to storytelling.

In 1980, Diane Fertatte and her husband Tom adopted their second child. Fouryear-old Joey had been raised in a series of foster homes in front of a TV set. Com-

mitted to breaking him from TV and increasing his readiness for school, Diane Ferlatte started to story read/tell in the style for which she is so well known today, i.e., a dynamic characterization with animation, expression, and interaction.

Some time later her church was giving a Christmas party for foster and homeless kids and Diane was the program committee chair. She told some Christmas stories and lo and behold, a career was born. She started to receive requests to tell at parties, schools, and libraries. Eventually she had to choose between her office job of seventeen years and the ever-increasing requests to tell stories. She decided that the opportunity to make a living at something that one loves and finds so rewarding was definitely worth the risk. Happily she has never looked back.



Register at: https://bit.ly/DeckTheHalls121622

First Friday Night Zoom Story Swaps

To provide better security for our Swaps, We now require Pre-Registration with Zoom

Register for these Recurring First Friday meetings at Register at: https://bit.ly/3QqFQwB

December 2nd 7:00 PM Pacific Time

January 6th 7:00 PM Pacific Time

February 3rd 7:00 PM Pacific Time

Our Swaps are meant to be casual and informal opportunities for storytellers to try out a story they are working on, and a place for novice storytellers to begin to explore the craft. Feedback is offered, but is optional

Come to share an 8 minute or less story Family Friendly – Told, not Read or come just to listen and encourage

If you have a story to share, please let us know: Contact Marilyn Grevstad at grevstad@aol.com

The Seattle Storytellers Guild is fortunate to have been awarded a

Sustained Support grant from

4Culture - A cultural funding agency for King County, Washington, which will help us recoup many of our 2022 program expenses.

We still need and can use your donations, especially if you are attending our events.

Suggested Donations of \$5-\$20

Or more will help us pay our tellers and other expenses and expand the growth of storytelling in our community!



Donate at Seattlestorytellers.org

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Remembering Glenn McCauley (1934-2022)

One of the Seattle Storytellers Guild's long-time members, well-known for stories of family in Flagstaff, Arizona, died after an accident in September. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Ellin. Many of us have been enchanted by the story of their meeting. The couple have two daughters, one in Seattle and one in Boston, and one grandson, Harrison.

Glenn was a warm, kindly man who often greeted people at the entrance table for our SSG events. He was very reliable and dedicated to our cause, handling our treasury and accounts, and Ellin was in charge of refreshments at Guild meetings for at least a dozen years.

He had many boyhood memories of small town Flagstaff. Glenn was known for his humorous, Old West cowboy stories, but for many, his best story was of how he met Ellin. Such a romantic

tale! They were always together.

Glenn began college at the University of Arizona, but during the war was sent to language school in Monterey, where he learned Russian, and later was responsible for translating Russian radio transmissions in Washington D.C.

Later he pursued a higher degree in mathematics, where he solved one problem so difficult that it earned him at least a footnote in an important textbook, though he did not pursue teaching math as a profession.

Besides his tireless service to the Guild, Glenn and Ellin were involved in the Coast Guard Auxillary, teaching water safety to-



gether in primary schools in Seattle and Edmonds, participating in patrols on Opening Day and during SeaFair, Ellin always by his side under that favorite Tilly Hat, helping with boat safety inspections, manning a booth at Seattle Boat Fairs, and Glenn taught safety and navigation courses to boaters. They both led tours of the Alki Light house.

Until Covid, they especially enjoyed book club meetings at an Issaquah school, where Ellin substituted for the librarian, often rushing back to Seattle for a Guild event. They were both inducted into the SSG Golden Circle in 2017.

- Judith Alexander

Donations in Glenn's name to the Guild will be added to the Gene Friese Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is available to storytellers wanting to attend classes, workshops and festivals to increase their skills.

In the Wind

Volume 46 Number 1 Winter 2022

Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild Editor: Barry McWilliams

Writers & Contributors: Barry McWilliams, Katherine Gee Perrone, Anne Brendler, Judith Alexander, Jen Stone, Audra Sisak, Marte Fallshore, Naomi Baltuck, Norm

Brecke

In the Wind is published four times a year digitally by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art of oral storytelling.

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

txt files are preferred, with pictures sent as separate attachments.

Spring deadline: February 15th

Your Articles Welcomed!

Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2021-2022 www.seattlestorytellers.org

Audra Sisak President
Judith Alexander Vice President
Annie Seymour Secretary
Anne Brendler Treasurer

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Auxiliary members:

Naomi Baltuck

NSN Liaison

Special Events Under The Rainbow

Contact information is on Our Web Site

seattlestorytellers.org



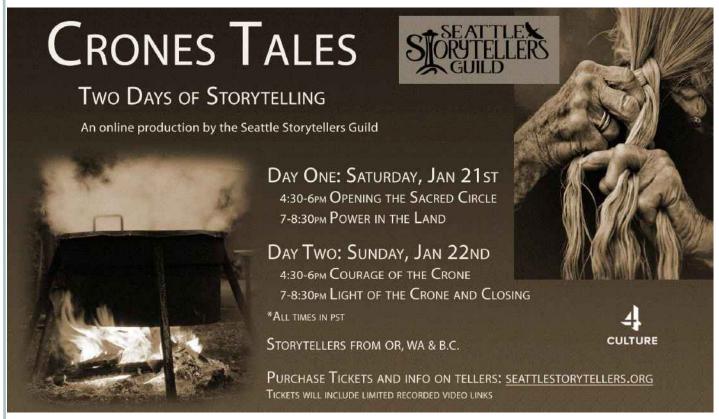
Want more Storytelling News Or want to announce an event

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 juditha5@earthlink.net

Or visit our website for more news: seattlestorytellers.org
Press the [Show All Events] Button



An old soul knows that wisdom eeks out from everything and everywhere and every time, all around us.

Please enjoy our elders' stories from women in the Seattle Storytellers Guild, Portland Storyteller's Guild, the Vancouver BC Storytellers' Guild, Victoria (BC) Storytellers' Guild, Forest Storytelling People of Port Angeles and South Sound Story Guild of Olympia.

- In Honor of Allison Cox -

DAY ONE - Saturday Jan 21st, 4:30-6PM PSD/7-8:30PM PSD

Session 1- Opening the Sacred Circle

- Abegael Fischer-Lang BC
- Faye Morgenson BC
- Rebecca Hom WA
- Melanie Ray BC

Session 2 - Power in the Land

- Philomena Jordan BC
- Lesle Slape OR
- Pat Peterson WA
- Anne Penfound OR

DAY TWO - Sunday Jan 22nd, 4:30-6PM PSD/7-8:30PM PSD

Session 3- Courage of the Crone

- Abegael Fisher-Lang BC
- Eva Abram WA
- Jen Stone WA
- Shirley Routliffe BC

Session 4 - Light of the Crone

- Anne Brendler WA
- Marilyn Grevstad WA
- Pam Maben OR
- Jennifer Ferris BC
- Nan Gregory BC

TICKETS

* Tickets will include limited recorded video links

Crones Tales BOTH Days https://www.eventbrite.com/e/446996006087

Crones Tales Day 1 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/446855836837

Crones Tales Day 2 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/446985514707

For Black History Month, Seattle Storytellers Guild February StoryFest February 17th, 2023 7 PM on Zoom

The Multi talented **SHAWN CORNELIUS** with his own very personal story.

Shawn Cornelius is a legendary rising star of the American stage, television, music and film, cherished not only for his gifts as an actor, comedian, author, musician, and motivational speaker, but also for his commitment to his community. He lives in the Bronx in New York. You may have seen him on the various Law & Order shows. He has done Stand Up comedy for many years in over 250 colleges and on cruise ships. He is a musician and songwriter. A writer, he published The Romantic Funnyman Presents Expressions of Love and Romance, available on Kindle. He is the vision and CEO of Only1NESon Entertainment founded in 1997 to provide fresh, unique, intelligent, "down home funny" entertainment in television, film, music, radio and internet.

But then, in February 2021, he suffered an ischemic stroke!

"My Stroke Story" is about his health struggles, the trials, tribulations and accomplishments he has had in his life and how he thrives in his business and life in Its aftermath and how he's helping others like him to progress with their medical conditions.



Tickets will be available on EventBrite for this Zoom Event.



https://seattlestorytellers.org/ssg/events/event-2700.html Check seattlestorytellers.org for information.

Larry Hohm Tells Chilling Tales

You are invited to his upcoming storytelling show

> on December 3. at 18th & Union in Seattle from 7:30-9:00



The venue is a funky, intimate, theater space on Capitol Hill, that specializes in supporting local solo artists.

This will be his most ambitious show ever, a solo performance of stories from some of his favorite authors, including Shirley Jackson, Anna Starobinets, Fredrick Brown, and Ursula K. Le Guin. And he has selected music to accompany each story.

Ticket Pricing: Choose your own price at these tiers: \$10, \$20, \$25, \$30, \$50. Teen Tix \$5. No one is turned away, rush comps at the door if there's room in the house.

https://www.larryhohm.org/

Have you missed some of our recent Storytelling Events?

The Golden Circle Stories

Spooky Tales

Paul Strickland's

"Fibs, Fairytales and Other Fictions"

Tellabration[™] 2022

The recordings are available on

The Guild's Youtube Channel.

Along with StoryFest Programs from 2020 and 2021. You can still enjoy them

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Seattle Storytellers Guild celebrated their 40th "birthday," with our first in-person event since Covid struck in March 2020. About 25 people gathered at the Shoreline Universalist Unitarian Church, joined by another dozen or so more via Zoom. Thanks to the technical expertise of Eric Scott and his team, we had a fine party with so many members. During a break, cake was served, as well as



other tasty snacks, and folks could visit with those present and those on-line. We thank all those who helped with refreshments: Marilyn Grevsted, Anne Brendler, Susy Irwin, and Audra Sisak. Naomi Baltuck sent copies of CD's of her two "Crazy Gibberish" books, to be gifts to attendees.

There was a brief Annual Meeting, which included electing a new President, Audra Sisak, and a new Secretary, Annie Seymour. Audra told us of her background and that she finds storytelling so important, that she is willing to serve, rather than worry that the Guild won't have enough people to fill the officer positions. We are grateful.

Barry shared remembrances of John Wasko, Tom Galt and Glenn McCauley - three Golden Circle members who had passed away this past year.

Two members were inducted into the Golden Circle, our group of founding and supportive storytellers. Mary Anne Moorman and Barry McWilliams were honored. We are so thankful for all their contributions to the Guild and the world of storytelling.

Larry Hohm introduced Mary Anne, who has served as President of the Guild, as well as hosted "Auntmama's Story Table" at Starbucks, first in Madison Park and then on Olive Way for 15 years. She still spreads stories via radio programs on KBCS, and has created a venue in a barn in Kingston called Stage3.

Judith introduced Barry McWilliams, who is stepping down as President after six years. In 2015, he agreed to be the newsletter editor. A year later Barry was talked into becoming President as well.

When Covid hit, he learned all he needed, and more, to host our events on Zoom. We were able to invite folks from all over the country and even from abroad to perform and hold workshops. Story swaps continued on-line. Barry's leadership may well have saved the Guild during these tough times.

Mary Anne told a powerful story about racism in Seattle, and Barry regaled us with a traditional tale. They were followed by other Golden Circle members: Pat Peterson, Margaret Read MacDonald, Patty Zeitlin and George Neiswanger. Marilyn Grevstad and Judith Alexander also told tales.

- Judith Alexander

Judith and Larry's remarks <u>and</u> the storytelling are available on our Youtube channel.





Ong Fun Workshop! By Anne Brendler, 11/13/2022

Paul Strickland performed for us a special Zoom show of his original stories on Friday, November 4, 2022. The following morning, his artistry as a master storyteller was again showcased with his offering of a workshop entitled "Collage Techniques in Storytelling."

Likening the building of a story to that of the creation of a collage painting, Paul's workshop was dense with information and packed with various ideas to study and develop through practice. At the start of the workshop, Paul referred to some other notable artists in coming up with this: "If music is how we decorate time, and if painting is how we decorate space, then storytelling is how we decorate the mind of the listener in a period of time."

Indeed, he reminded us participants that a story lives on in time in the mind of the listener and will live there longer than it took to merely tell the story. Paul insists that a story can be more than entertaining. He says that listeners should know why they took the time to listen to a story, and they may leave with a set of questions for which they will continue to seek answers.

For tellers, this means that a well-crafted story should include different elements, each of which is integral to the whole of the story. These elements can take the form of a description of a character or of a particular part of the setting. He says that because not all stories are strictly linear, tellers can and should feel free to weave in extra "microstories" (Paul's term) that illuminate the personalities of the characters or the peculiarities of the setting. However, the key is that the character or the feature of a setting, as revealed in straight description or in a seeming diversion (or "microstory"), must do something that furthers the plot. The microstories or anecdotes that the teller includes, the characters, the story setting, all need to go together and "want to go together" (Paul's term) to further the plot or storyline.

As when a person views and studies a painting and asks himself questions about it, a well-tailored story allows the active listener to be involved and ask himself questions. The active creation of a story by the viewer of a painting can be likened to the active creation of a story by a listener while hearing a tale being spun. Even the teller might be involved asking questions internally while actually spinning the story. Together, the teller and listener get to resolve how all the pieces do fit together and generate the wonderful whole.

With all that said, don't let the "serious" side of the workshop fool you! The workshop, besides being packed with information, was a truly fun experience as well! Paul designed it as a creative space in which he helped at least three of us work on stories we have in progress. Using his examples and ideas, we all got creative, and participated in putting these new ideas and strategies we were learning to work in assisting others. It was fun and enlightening to see these stories develop more completely, right before our eyes! The entire experience was totally enriching. If you are ever moved to take a workshop with Paul Strickland, do not hesitate!

A recording of Paul Strickland's Concert including his story, "The One About" which he used to illustrate his techniques in the workshop can be viewed on our Youtube Channel.

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

December

2* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom 7:00 PM (See Page 2)

- **3 Portland Storytellers Show** 7:30 PM LIVE and Streaming on Youtube
- 12* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ Zoom (See Page 11)
- 14 South Sound Story Swap 6 PM Live and Zoom Featured Tellers and open mike.
- 15 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM VIRTUAL
- 16* StoryFest: Deck The Halls 4- 7 PM LIVE and VIRTUAL (See Page 1)
- 17 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom 5 PM
- 27 TBD Storytellers Zoom 5 PM

For lots of other Virtual Storytelling Shows and Workshops follow the Facebook Pages

of The Seattle Storytellers Guild, Storytelling Seattle,

Portland Storytellers Guild, and The Storytellers Network

January

- 7 Portland Storytellers Show Zoom 7:30 PM
- 6* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom 7:00 PM (See Page 2)
- 9* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ Zoom (See Page 11)
- 19 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM VIRTUAL
- 21 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom 5 PM
- 21* Crones Tales Day 1 Zoom Session 1 at 4:30 PM Session 2 at 7 PM
- 22* Crones Tales Day 2 Zoom Session 1 at 4:30 PM Session 2 at 7 PM
- 31 TBD Storytellers Zoom 5 PM

For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

go to <u>Seattlestorytellers.org</u>
And Press [See All Events]

Lots of Special Events are listed in

February

- 3* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom 7:00 PM (See Page 2)
- 4 Portland Storytellers Zoom 7:30 PM
- 13* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ Zoom (See Page 11)
- 16 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM VIRTUAL
- 17* StoryFest "My Stroke Story" Zoom 7-8:30 PM (Page 5)
- 18 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom 5 PM
- 28 TBD Storytellers Zoom 5 PM

Listen to Auntmama on the Radio: KBCS's weekly show :Sunday Folks Airing alternating Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-12 p.m. on 91.3 FM (Bellevue)

> Read The Story Beast A Monthly e-Pub

Ongoing Events: Seattle Area

Please check before you go! Details may change.

Second Mondays Under the Rainbow ZOOM Stories from the LGBTQ community— See Page 11

<u>Second Mondays</u> Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma ZOOM 6:30 PM (Sept-June) Contact pmtennison@centurytel.net for details

<u>First Thursdays.</u> **Moth StorySLAM** themed, Fremont Abbey Arts Center **themoth.org/events** \$

<u>Second Thursdays.</u> North Seattle Storytellers Meetup VIRTUAL facebook.com/northseattlestorytellers/

Third Thursdays. Fresh Ground Stories. 7 p.m. VIRTUAL www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/

First Fridays SSG Story Swaps ZOOM (Monthly—except Nov, see Page 2)

<u>Usually Third Fridays</u> **Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFests ZOOM**. (See pages2, 4 and 5 for dates, times and details!!)

Third Fridays Moth StorySLAM themed, Bloedel Hall St Marks themoth.org/events \$

<u>Last Fridays</u> **Burien Culture Club's 7 Stories** at Highline Heritage Museum 7-8:30 PM **burienculturehub.org/7stories** for information (Not in December)

Regional Ongoing Events

<u>First Sundays</u> NorthVanTellers Cric Crac Vancouver, BC 7 PM Contact afisherlang@gmail.com or northvantellers@gmail.com

(Sept-June)

Third Mondays Stories at Fern. Nanaimo, BC VIRTUAL victoriastorytellers.org

<u>Third Tuesdays</u> Story People of Clallam County / South Sound Story Guild hosts Story Works 7-9 PM ZOOM www.clallamstorypeople.org (Sept-June)

<u>Last Tuesdays</u> **TBD Storytellers 5 PM ZOOM** Link to register: www.anne-norm.com

<u>Second Wednesdays.</u> South Sound Story Guild 7 PM ZOOM southsoundstory.org

(Sept-May)

<u>Second Fridays</u> Portland Storytellers Guild Story Swaps ZOOM portlandstorytellers.org

(Sept-May)

<u>Second Fridays</u> Around Town Tellers "Stories on Friday," 7:30 pm VIRTUAL aroundtowntellers.com/stories-on-friday

First Saturdays Portland Storytelllers Guild Member's Showcases ZOOM

Third Saturdays Portland Storytelllers Guild Extra Shows ZOOM



This reflects the status of these events as of late August, as best we can determine.

If venues open, things may change. Check websites.

(Sept.-May)

FGS Storytelling Workshop, Virtual 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/

It is good to see the Quimper Story Guild in Port Townsend and the Bellingham Storytellers Guild are back!

And we can welcome a new storytelling group:

ELLENSBURG WIND STORYTELLERS

had their first meeting on November 6th and will continue meeting regularly on 3rd Wednesdays from 6 to 7 PM

at Hal Holmes Community Center

(3rd and Ruby in Ellensburg, WA).

The meetings are free thanks to the Ellensburg Public Library.

You can bring personal, fanciful, whatever kind of finished stories, ones you are working on and want feedback, twinkles in your eye, or just ears to listen. No pressure to tell, but please do come! Bring your dinner, snacks, and/or drinks. All ages welcome. Questions or information? Write Marte at fallshorem@gmail.com.

The Little Liars Club:



Are you ready for NW Folklife Festival Liars Contest? Join Marte Fallshore and the group on Zoom every 4th Monday to create, provide feedback, or just listen to tall tales and other stories.

Join the meeting at: https://bit.ly/littleliarsclub

Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

Fresh Ground Stories Virtual Seattle Meetup Group meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/

The MOTH: themoth.org/events

Story People of Clallum County Virtual — Port Angeles clallamstorypeople.org/

Quimper Story Guild Port Townsend facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild

> **South Sound Story Guild** Lakewood southsoundstory.org/

Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma firesidestorytellersleague.org/

Contact: pmtennison@centurytel.net

Bellingham Storytellers Guild facebook.com/Bellingham-Storytellers-Guild-120965527946008/

Portland Storytellers Guild portlandstorytellers.org/

Ellensburg Wind Storytellers Contact: fallshorem@gmail.com

Seattle Storytellers Guild

Membership Form Circle one: New member or Renewal

Name

Address

E-mail

City _____ State ___ Zip ____

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



For More info on Local and Regional Events visit: www.seattlestorytellers.org

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



Remembering Allison Cox (1954-2022)

When word got out about Allison's sudden passing, there was a tremendous out pouring of grief and memorials from the greater storytelling community. We cannot begin to share all of it here. Such an impact she had in our storytelling communities. She was so faithful in that long commute from her woodsy home on South of Vashon Island, with a ferry crossing and a long drive to Shoreline for meetings and events. She always had good ideas at planning meetings. She was quite capable in the organizing of big events, such as the Crones and our epics—drawing storytellers from far and near as volunteers—and always meeting budgets. It was a joy to work with her on these! We shared a love for folk, myth and traditional tales. I learned a lot! She was in many ways the heart of our Board.

- Barry McWilliams

Two weeks ago, Allison Cox passed away—a staggering loss to the storytelling community. For many years, Allison served on the board of the Seattle Storytellers Guild. In addition to the many day to day duties she executed for the Guild, she championed their Epic Events. Allison booked tellers from all over the Northwest to share cooperative performances of diverse ancient epics. She coordinated and directed the programs, which could last for two or even three days, and she even found housing for visiting tellers. Allison was nationally and internationally celebrated, and she used her network to connect us with the larger storytelling community. Just one of her many accomplishments was to co-found the National Storytelling Network's Healing Story Alliance.

Allison was also a champion of the queer community. She was a co-founder of *Under the Rainbow*, and its LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series. Our Under the Rainbow friends knew her as a warm and welcoming host and a talented storyteller. She also shared her invaluable insight and experience behind the scenes. It was Allison who helped us find the words to explain our mission when we applied for the Pride Foundation grant that funds our programs.

Her experience as a therapist, social worker, and healer was apparent in everything she did. No one can forget her story about Bat, rejected by the birds for being an animal, and by the animals for being a bird. Or her haunting tale about a man who crosses a river, changing gender in the process, to make a new life, before being wrenched back into the old one, leaving behind his husband and child. She even led us in the children's classic, "Going on a Bear Hunt," an acknowledgment of all the times in life you "can't go over it, can't go under it, can't go around it...got to go through it."

Allison said that, as a storyteller, we make the journey together, and we all come back safely together. Thank you, Allison, for guiding us all these years so gently, so generously, so wisely, and with such a loving heart. We can still feel your hand on the rudder, we can still see your light, a shining beacon. You are with us still.

- Naomi Baltuck

The Northwest has lost an important leader in our storytelling community. She was very active in the Seattle Storyteller's Guild and National Storytelling Network's Healing Alliance. Her spirit will live on.

Her daughter, Shanon Shepard, and friends stated that she bravely endured a series of health problems over the past few years. Yet, Allison always seemed to bounce back with joy and verve from setbacks. She worked as a counselor for many years. As part of her life's work, she co-edited a set of books with David H. Albert: The Healing Heart — Families, and The Healing Heart — Communities, that use stories to guide therapy. These books were truly tools for healing. When I first began telling folktales in 2002, they seemed to be on every storyteller's bookshelf.

She knew Portland tellers and attended a few events in the area over the years, such as a few PSG Tellabrations and the Tapestry of Tales Storytelling Festival. She even joined the Portland Storytellers Crones for memorable shows for the Seattle Storytellers Guild. She organized several epic storytelling days and weekends for the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, which included many Portland Guild tellers as well as tellers from California and British Columbia.

Allison showed a fierce love of family, community, home, gardens,

and stories. In my conversations with her, I always felt she saw great hope in the nurturing of these things. Allison showed a great belief that hope and renewal were eternally possible and hiding around every corner. She will be missed.

- Norm Brecke



Allison's home was on Vashon Island with her partner Mark Bassett. Cards and condolences can be sent to him at: 25714 Wax Orchard Rd SW, Vashon, WA 98070.

If anyone has recording or video or whatever else: Allison
That you would like to share with the family,
Please email them to Allisonlegacystories@gmail.com

Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series for Teens and adults 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.



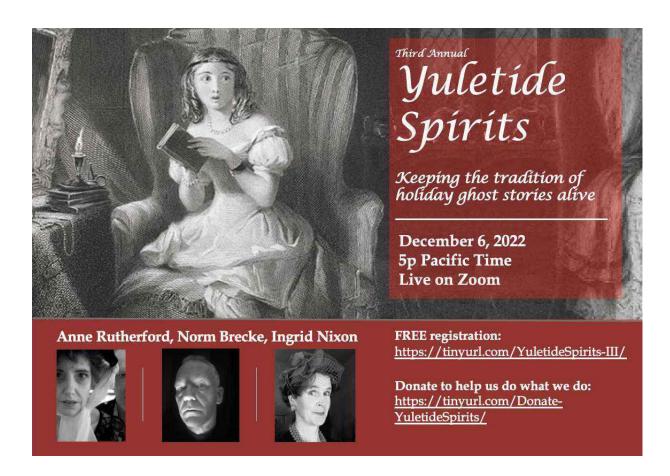


December 12th Riley Silverman

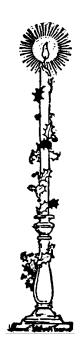
Check their website for other Winter Events at https://edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/

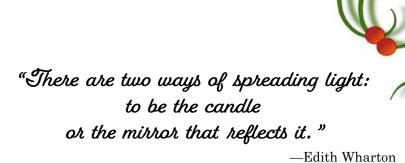
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83671133469

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



Anne Rutherford, Norm Brecke and Ingrid Nixon present the Third Annual *Yuletide Spirits: Keeping the tradition of holiday ghost stories alive.* Scrooge isn't the only one who experienced ghostly visitors during the holidays. Join us as we deck the halls with boughs of holly and a ghoul or two. Ho-ho ... oh!





In the Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild P.O. Box 18361 Seattle, WA 98118



www.seattlestorytellers.org

Standard Mail