

in The Wind



Upcoming SSG Events on Zoom

<u>December 2rd</u> 'Zine Workshop with Eli Martel

<u>December 15th</u> StoryFest Good Tidings with Ingrid Nixon

<u>January 19th</u> Rendezvous—a Gathering of Pacific Northwest Storytellers

<u>February 16th</u> StoryFest Let's Talk about Love With Eva Abram

<u>February 17th</u>
Braided Stories Workshop
with Eva Abram

First Fridays Story Swaps on Zoom



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CATHY SPAGNOLI TRAVELED THE WORLD,

TO MOUNTAIN TEMPLES, VILLAGE GATHERINGS AND JAPANESE INNS
SHARING AND COLLECTING STORIES.

WITH A FLASH OF HER BLUE-GRAY EYES,
A SWISH OF HER CLAY-COLORED KAFTAN,
OR A PATTERN
HER FINGERS
WEAVE IN THE AIR.

THE STORY WAS BORN ...

IT FLEW AROUND THE ROOM,

CAME ALIVE

AND ENTERED THE LISTENERS' SOULS.



AN AMBASSADOR OF WORLD CULTURE, FASCINATED BY THE ORAL TRADITION, SHE SAW HERSELF AS SOMEONE WHO KEEPS STORIES IN THE AIR.

From A tribute to Cathy Spagnoli by Uma of Chennai https://myhero.com/Spagnoli India 05 UL

A Free Zine Workshop



Saturday morning, December 2nd 10AM On Zoom

A ZINE (pronounced "zeen," as in magazine) is a simple DIY self-published booklet. Zines can be made at home with simple materials that you may already have lying around.

So what does that mean for storytellers?

Use as a brainstorming tool to develop stories to share with an audience. Illustrate simple stories. Great handouts at storytelling events. Gifts.

This Workshop is taught by Eli Martel, an experienced storyteller and the winner of the 2020 Washington State Zinemaking Contest

Register at https://bit.ly/SSGZineWorkshop





presents

GOOD TIDINGS

STORIES FOR THE SEASON



SEATTLE STORYTELLERS GUILD'S DECEMBER STORYFEST



Featuring storyteller INGRID NIXON

Friday ~ December 15, 2023 7 p.m. Pacific Time on ZOOM

Free to register: https://bit.ly/SSGDecStoryFest

\$10 - \$20 suggested donation to the guild to support this event.

For more info and to donate go to SeattleStorytellers.org / click the donations tab.

Ingrid Nixon is an award-winning professional storyteller, who loves taking audiences on journeys of the imagination. She had a long career as a National Park Service Ranger. Through her work in expedition tourism, she tells stories on expeditions from the North Pole to the Antarctic. She hosts/produces "Story Borealis," a storytelling program on National Public Radio affiliate KBBI.org. Ingrid holds a Masters in Storytelling and performs at festivals throughout the states, including the National Storytelling Festival. She hails from Alaska. More at ingridnixon.com



SeattleStorytellers.org

IN THE WIND

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

https://bit.ly/SSG1stFridaySwap

December 1st 7:00 PM Pacific Time January 5th 7:00 PM Pacific Time February 2nd 7:00 PM Pacific Time March 1st 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 <u>8 minute or less</u> story Family Friendly – Told, not Read or just come to listen and encourage!



ELLENSBURG WIND STORYTELLERS

Stories! We all have them; we all tell them, all the time, whether true, fanciful, folkloric, or whatever.

Come to listen or to tell as

The Ellensburg Wind Storytellers hosts live storytelling on 3rd Wednesdays, 6 to 7 PM at Hal Holmes (3th and Ruby) in Ellensburg. It is 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! All ages are welcome. Have questions or need information? **Email Marte at** <u>fallshorem@gmail.com</u>.

The Little Liars Group:

Join Marte Fallshore and the group on Zoom every 4th Monday at 6 PM to create, provide feedback, or just listen to tall tales and other stories.

(Not meeting in December)

Join the Zoom meetings at: https://bit.ly/littleliarsgroup

In the Wind

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Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild Editor: Barry McWilliams

Writers & Contributors:

Judith Alexander, Barry McWilliams, Eva Abram, Ingrid Nixon, Margaret Read Macdonald Uma of Chennai

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.

Mailed copies have been discontinued. But please feel free to print it out!

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

Send pictures as separate attachments.

Spring Issue Deadline: February 15th

Your Articles are Welcome!

Seattle Storytellers Guild Current Board www.seattlestorytellers.org

?? President

Judith Alexander Vice President

Marte Fallshore Secretary

Anne Brendler Treasurer

At large members

Eva Abram Larry Hohm Bu Huang Barry McWilliams

Auxiliary members:

Jen Stone Tech Consultant Naomi Baltuck Under The Rainbow

Volunteers are needed for our Board.

Contact information is on Our Web Site

seattlestorytellers.org



Want more Storytelling News

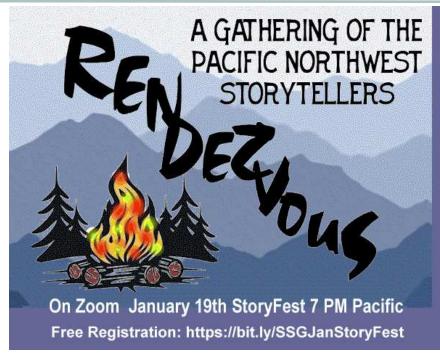
Or want to announce an event between newsletters?

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



Seattle Storytellers Guild
South Sound Story Tellers
Story People of Clallam County
Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma
Around Town Tellers
North Shore Storytellers
Ellensburg Wind Storytellers
Portland Storytelling Guild



The Seattle Storytellers Guild is having a "storyteller exchange" Zoom program this January 19th. We thought it would be good to connect and network with these neighboring storytelling guilds and organizations here in the Northwest.

So we have invited them to gather with us and share one of their storytellers with a tale for us all. Each also has an opportunity to tell us about what their group has going on.

We are also inviting their members—it will be good for all of us to get together and warm our hearts with story!

Register at https://bit.ly/SSGJanStoryFest - Everyone is invited!

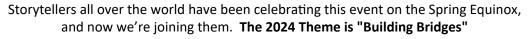
Recordings of many of our StoryFest Events are available to view on SSG's Youtube Channel!!

https://www.youtube.com/@seattlestorytellersguild982/videos



Folk-tellers Wanted!

We're celebrating World Storytelling Day - March 15th, 7pm on Zoom





Storytelling <u>does</u> build bridges between people, and between cultures, and leads to cultural understanding. We'd love to hear some stories that reflect that, but all folktales from anywhere around the world are welcome.

<u>If you have a favorite "international" folktale</u> of 8 minutes or less, and <u>would like to share it with us</u>, please let Judith Alexander know the name of the story and how long it runs, so she can include you in a program that will be most delightful. **Email Judith at <u>juditha5@earthlink.net</u>**

Our February StoryFest with Eva Abram February 16th 7PM Pacific Time on Zoom

Let's Talk About Love

Love is a force that covers many emotions.

Love is triumphant; Love is powerful; Love is romantic; Love is challenging.

Love crosses boundaries of race, gender and species.

Love is universal through space and time. Love is comfort, and devotion.



Join us for an evening of stories with Eva Abram on experiences of love.

Register at https://bit.ly/SSSFebStoryFest or use the QR Code



Eva Abram has been a Seattle Storyteller for many years. She has often emceed our Zoom events and is on the Seattle Storytellers Guild board. Eva received the 2022 J.J.Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant.

She tells African/American and multicultural stories. Her masterful use of gestures, body language, character voices and expressions brings her characters to life and her acting skills enhance the storytelling. Especially interested in making African-American stories and history better known, she has done a number of well-researched solo theatrical performances sharing stories of lives from American history, including Aviatrix Bessie Coleman, Activist Nettie Craig Asberry & others.

Her website is: www.rainwaterstorytelling.com

Braided Stories: A Workshop with Eva Abram

Connections that enhance the telling and listening experience

February 17th 10AM Pacific on Zoom

This workshop is for anyone who is interested in storytelling and learning how to create stories in new ways. Drawing from their experiences and imagination, participants will examine various types of stories, including folktales, history, literary and family stories to discover connections that, braided together, will create new and interesting stories. Story sharing will be offered.



Register at https://bit.ly/SSGEvaAbramWorkshop

Cost \$20—Pay at seattlestorytellers.org—Designate it for the workshop

Watch a video about Eva Abram https://w
Eva on The Value of Storytelling (2015) https
And Eva tell a story https://

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbCtHHDaeqY
) https://vimeo.com/138924788/evastoryteller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHwbF4TtfbM

Cathy Spagnoli (February 10, 1950—October 20, 2023)



Cathy Spagnoli was one of the early members of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, and she was honored by the Guild as a Golden Circle Member in 2015. Yet for many newer members in the Guild, she is unknown to them due to her long battle with cancer.

Cathy was born February 10th, 1950 and raised in Nanuet, a hamlet in New York state to Italian / German parents - her father, a newspaperman, her mother, a biologist. She attended Tufts University near Boston and began telling tales there, learning sign language and using it teaching at a school for the deaf, sharing poetry and song and dance in sign as well.

Cathy was among the many at Woodstock and like some of that generation, she took off time off from the University in 1970, at the age of 20, for the first of a life of many travel adventures, hitchhiking from Europe through Asia to Kathmandu and climbing in the Himalayas, and to India, before returning to finish her degree. Later trips would take her to much of South East Asia and Indonesia, immersing herself in those lands and their rich cultures and variety of storytelling styles. Fellowships enabled her to spend extensive time with the storytellers in Japan and Korea and elsewhere, learning their techniques and styles. Her son says "her knowledge of foreign cultures, through her travels in India, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Laos, and Vietnam and vast amounts of research, has rounded her off as a very open person."



While she was in India, that she met her husband, Indian sculptor Paramasivan Samanna, They married in December, 1977 and built a home on Vashon Island, where they raised her son, Manu, and it was a base for many more adventures and travels. She became a professional storyteller in 1977, using her extensive travels and teaching experiences in 20 different countries to research storytelling, and to collect and share stories. She has published numerous books on Asian tales and storytelling - from picture books and collections of stories for older readers. Some were also published in Tamil.

Cathy has been described as the Godmother of Storytelling in India. Spagnoli's work was like that pebble thrown into a pool. It created waves in many directions – inspiring, teaching, motivating people from around the world. Her arrival in Chennai, which became her second home after Vashon in the US, opened the floodgates for a revival of storytelling there. Cathy Spagnoli played a significant role in the formation of the Storytellers Circle in Singapore, which is still going strong. Besides various storytelling communities in Asia, she was also involved with various Asian communities in the Seattle area.

She was a marvelous storyteller with children. She had a gentle, natural connection with them which was simple, low key and warm. And she never let the props and performance overpower the purpose of the story. The many tributes given in an **online remembrance by the Eureka Kids Club** are worth your reading. "As a storyteller, Cathy conveyed the wonder of the world to children through her narratives and imparted the wisdom needed for them to navigate life."

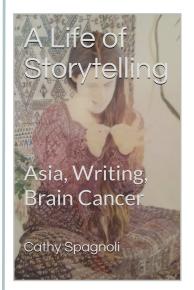
In 2008, Cathy was diagnosed with brain cancer and the prognosis was not good. The next fifteen years would be a struggle with operations, with seizures, losing her speech and the ability to use sign language. However she coped, learning to use social media, even returning to India twice, the second time in a wheel chair in 2019. She passed away on Vashon Island in October 20th, 2023.

- Contributed by Barry McWilliams



A Life of Storytelling: Asia, Writing, Brain Cancer

by Cathy Spagnoli. (Kindle Edition \$2.99.)



For those who knew Cathy, her autobiography is a delight. Fun watching her very young self negotiate traveling through Europe, then across the huge continent to India by land! And you will be fascinated by her many experiences throughout India, from Dharamshala to the artists' colony where she and Paramasivan lived in Chennai. Her adventurous, warm and giving spirit is a wonder to watch as she grows into the woman she becomes.

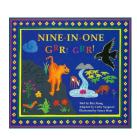
Her later visits with traditional tellers in Japan and Korea are great insights into the unfortunately contracting world of traditionally told story. You can read about those discoveries also in her *Asian Tales and Tellers (available on Kindle)*.

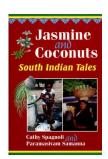
We know her own tale eventually ends sadly with brain cancer, but she managed to battle that for 15 years before her recent passing. But she gave us one final gift before leaving...this little autobiography.

Review by Margaret Read MacDonald

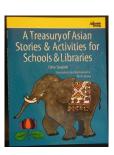
Cathy published 18 books including a number of collections of Asian stories some still in print, most available used — including Asian Tales and Tellers, Jasmine and Coconuts: South Indian Tales (World Folklore Series) and A Treasury of Asian Stories & Activities for Schools & Libraries. She also published out a number of beautifully illustrated Asian folktales in both English and Hindi.











Cathy Spagnoli is still an inspiration for those who want to tell stories, or anyone who wants to know more about storytelling in Asia. **Her website** was fortunately archived on the WayBack Machine, and her **Telling Tips** are a rich resource well worth a online lingering visit.

There are tips there for anyone who wants to tell or collect stories, with ideas on getting started, on collecting tales, suggestions for all who would teach/encourage storytelling, for librarians, babysitters, parents and families, or in using stories to teach English.

There is also an extensive section on Asian storytelling styles many of which use props, including *Kamishibai* which uses sets of picture cards used to tell tales today in Japan, Singapore, Laos, and Vietnam. She loved to explore the possibilities of props—a dupatta, a story scroll, a Kalamkari painting. In short, anything that evokes the setting for a tale.

Her archived website is at: https://web.archive.org/web/20050205013614/http://www.cathyspagnoli.com/index.htm

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

December

1* SSG Story Swap 7:00 PM ZOOM (See Page 3)

- 2* Zine Workshop 10 AM ZOOM
- 9 Portland Storytellers Show 7:30 PM
- 11* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ 6 PM **ZOOM** (See Page 9)
- 14 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 15* SSG StoryFest 7 PM ZOOM Good Tidings w/ Ingrid Nixon (Page 2)
- 16 Portland Storytellers Extra 5 PM

Read The Story Beast

A Quarterly e-Pub for those who love story Check out their Youtube Channel!

January

- 5* SSG Story Swap zoom 7:00 PM (See Page 3)
- 8* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ 6 PM **ZOOM** (See Page 9)
- 13 Portland Storytellers Show 7:30 PM
- 18 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 19* SSG StoryFest 7 PM ZOOM (Page 4) Rendezvous: w/ NW Guilds' Tellers
- 20 Portland Storytellers Extra 5 PM ZOOM
- 22 Little Liars Group 6 PM ZOOM
- 30 TBD Storytellers 5 PM ZOOM

(Oct.-June)

Some Events are now both Live and Streamed and are marked as HYBRID Check their websites for details

For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

go to Seattlestorytellers.org And Press [See All Events]

February

VOLUME 47. NUMBER I WINTER 2024

- 2* SSG Story Swap ZOOM 7:00 PM (See Page 3)
- 10 Portland Storytellers Show 7:30 PM
- 12* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ **6 PM ZOOM** (See Page 9)
- 15 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 16* SSG StoryFest 7 PM ZOOM (Page 5) Let's Talk about Love w/ Eva Abram
- 17* Braided Stories 10 AM ZOOM A workshop w/ Eva Abram (Page 5)
- 17 Portland Storytellers Extra 5 PM ZOOM 26 Little Liars Group 6 PM ZOOM
- 27 TBD Storytellers 5 PM ZOOM

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)

Find Both at storybeast.org

Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

Second Mondays Under the Rainbow 6 PM ZOOM Stories from the LGBTQ+ community— See Page 9

Second Mondays Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma 6:30 PM LIVE (Sept-June) at Puyallup Public Library 324 Meridian, Puyallup, WA

Fourth Mondays, Little Liars Group 6 PM ZOOM (See Page 3)

First Thursdays. Moth StorySLAM LIVE at Fremont Abbey Arts Center themoth.org/events \$

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

Third Thursdays. Fresh Ground Stories. 7 pm. LIVE at Chabad of Queen Anne-Magnolia in Seattle www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/

First Fridays Seattle Storytellers Guild Story Swaps ZOOM (Monthly) See Page 3

Third Fridays Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFests ZOOM. (See pages 2, 6 for dates, times and details!!)

Third Fridays Moth StorySLAM LIVE, at Bloedel Hall St Marks

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

Regional Ongoing Events

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

(Sept-June)

(Sept-Nov, Jan-May)

Third Mondays Stories at Fern. Nanaimo, BC VIRTUAL See website for details: victoriastorytellers.org

7-9 PM **ZOOM** www.clallamstorypeople.org

Third Mondays Clallam Story People / South Sound Story Guild Story Works (Sept-June)

First Wednesdays. Story People of Clallam County Story Swaps 7 PM LIVE Carver Room, Port Angeles Library, 2210 S. Peabody Street, Port Angeles

Second Wednesdays. South Sound Story Guild Story Events 7 PM ZOOM southsoundstory.org

Third Wednesdays Ellensburg Wind Storytellers 6 PM LIVE (Sept-May) At Ellensburg Public Library 3rd and Ruby, Ellensburg

Second Fridays Portland Storytellers Guild Story Swaps LIVE (Sept-May) At St Philip Neri Parish Hall, 2408 SE 16th, Portland, OR

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

Second Saturdays Portland Storytelllers Guild Showcases 7 PM (Sept—June) At the Artichoke Café, 2007 SE Powell, Portland, OR LIVE



This reflects the status of these events as of late November, as best we can determine. Things may change. Check websites.

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/



Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series

for teens and adults

Second Mondays:

Live Streamed on Zoom.

December 11th - January 8th - February 12th

6:00 pm Socializing:

6:30–7:45 pm—Featured and open-mic storytelling Each story followed by group conversation. **No admission fee**.

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

Other Under the Rainbow Activities:

Writing Rainbow 1st Wednesdays

Queer Movie Discussion 4th Mondays

Gayme Nights at Around the Table in Lynnwood

Check the website for details on these Events at https://edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/

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

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 Clallam County

Port Angeles clallamstorypeople.org/

Quimper Story Guild

Port Townsend

facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild

South Sound Story Guild

Lakewood

southsoundstory.org/

Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma

Puyallup

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

City _____ State ___ Zip ____

Phone Today's Date

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

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

Tarring \$60790ar ____ \$6070 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 <u>and</u> Regional Events visit: 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 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.





National Storytelling Network invites you – the storyteller and listener – to join us in four unique days of programming that encourages a perception of the future as one filled with opportunities, hope, and connection. While celebrating our roots and honoring the paths already traveled, we open a space to create, innovate, and imagine a world renewed.

Registration opens January 20th storynet.org



WANT TO EARN FREE REGISTRATION FOR THE NSN CONFERENCE AT DUMAS BAY JULY 11-14 .2024?

Here are three jobs that can earn you free registration.

Contact mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com to sign up for one.

- 1. DRIVERS: Must have a car and be available during the conference to run errands (someone need to pick up muffins from COSTCO each morning) and be available to drive folks back to their hotel in case of emergency.
- 2. PARKING DIRECTOR: Direct parking from 8:30-9:30 each morning and from 5-7 each evening.
- 3. AUCTION MANAGER: Runs auction with help of vounteers. Set up, take down, be sure it is manned during breaks.

And one job that earns \$100 off registration: Auction Helper. Works 2-3 hours Thur, Fri, Sat in auction space.

There will be plenty of opportunity to sign up for other volunteer jobs later, but these are the difficult ones that earn big rewards.



The Seattle Storytellers Guild welcomes your donations, especially when you attend our events. Consider what they are worth to you!

Suggested Donations of \$5—\$20 or more help us present featured storytellers, cover our expenses as a Guild, and grow the art of storytelling in our community!

Please Donate at Seattlestorytellers.org in the Tip Jar



The TBD storytellers are

Anne Rutherford, Simon Brooks, Paul Strickland, Norm Brecke, Ingrid Nixon, Jeff Doyle, & Antonio Rocha.

Upcoming Shows:

Last Tuesdays

5 PM Pacific time on Zoom

For more Virtual Storytelling Shows

(Click Fb for their Facebook Page)

Six Feet Apart Productions — Fb

Healing Stories Alliance — Fb

Artists Standing Strong Together — Fb

Michigan Storytelling — Fb

Better Said Than Done — Fb

Northeast Storytelling Guild — Fb

Stories with Spirit: Fairy Tale Variations — Fb



First Saturdays 8-10 AM Pacific Time \$5—\$25 w/ Recording