

# SEATTLE STORYTELLERS' GUILD

VOL. II

IN THE WIND

No. 4

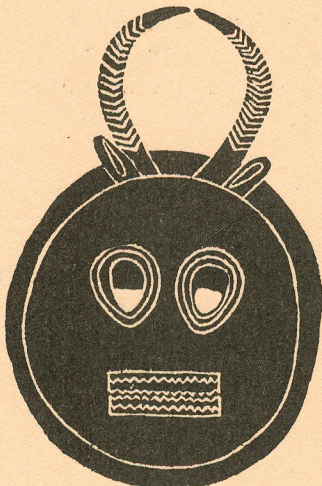
Greetings. Hope that this summer has brought you time to relax and dream. Several members of the Guild have spent the summer sharing tales from various cultures in the Seattle Public Libraries, supported by a grant from the Robert C. Bunn Fund Trust. In fact, the good news now is that the grant has been extended to cover a number of Halloween and Holiday programs in the upcoming months. We are very grateful to the Seattle Public Library and the Bunn Fund for this opportunity.

You may notice a different look to this issue. Tobiatha spent much time and energy developing this newsletter. After a year as editor, she has now rather gleefully handed over the task to me. Thank you, Tobiatha. We want to keep the newsletter simple, low-cost, and easy-to-do (to give us all more time to storytell!). If you have suggestions, a word processor, access to cheap printing, or an offer to fold and staple, call 323-5026.

I thought that one interesting idea might be to highlight a cultural area each issue, through the story, designs, etc. We start the year with material from West Africa.

In an effort to keep the Guild simple and easy-to-do, the Executive Board has defined three broad areas of concern: program development (Midwinter Story Fest, Guest Artist series, etc.); education (see our list of classes); and finances (keep those memberships coming!). Please contact Clare (634-1634) if you can help out in any of these areas. The general body meeting in June attracted a number of members. The Board, after hearing their opinions, has continued its work of restructuring the Guild. You'll hear more in the next newsletter, I promise. Stay tuned.

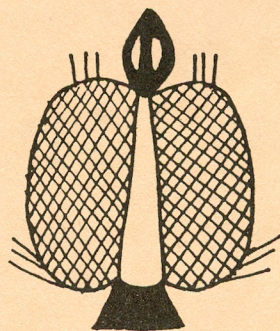
Cathy Spagnoli



The weaver bird says that repeated trips make the nest.

The housefly says that life is both ahead and behind.  
(Ewe proverbs)





## WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

We have an exciting line-up of classes for fall; we've tried to offer material both on storytelling content and technique. Tell a friend, we've something for everyone from writing stories to singing games. Please let us know what other types of classes you'd like to take ( or offer). Unless otherwise noted, call 634-1634 to register, leaving name, number, and the class of your choice as a message.

**Beginning Storytelling**, Clare Cuddy, 7-9 P.M. Mondays, Oct.4-Nov. 22,\$30.

Fundamental story preparation is explored through speech and drama exercises. Students will get a chance to hear stories as well as an opportunity to select and tell 2 stories which will be critiqued in a supportive environment. 1850 N. 53rd

**Developing Storytelling Programs**, Clare Cuddy, 7-9 P.M., Tuesdays, Oct.5 - Dec. 7, \$20.00

For students who have told stories but would like guidance and the opportunity to present a full program of stories from a theme or culture of their choosing. Each student will prepare and perform two 20 minute programs in a local private elementary school. 1850 N. 53rd

**Voice Techniques**, Julian Smedley, professional singer/violinist, 7-9 P.M., Wednesdays (except Guest Artist times), Sept. 22 for 8 wks., \$48.00

Exercises from classical singing will be used to help the storyteller train his/her voice. Students will learn the basic mechanics of voice production, including breathing and support exercises geared towards good tonal production and projection. Good Shepherd Center

**Writing and Telling**, Margaret Scarborough, PH. D. ,U.W. faculty,7-9 P.M., Oct.5,12,19,26 \$ 25.00, Good Shepherd Center

A workshop which explores the elements of a story. The class is valuable not only to fledgling writers but to storytellers as well, for it focuses on techniques and exercises directly applicable to the preparation of oral programs. Bring writing material and past work.

**Advanced Tutorial**, Cathy Spagnoli, Clare Cuddy, times to be arranged, four 1½ hour sessions. This is a chance for intermediate students to study with a professional storyteller, working towards four tandem public performances. The weekly sessions, starting in late September include direction on material selection, program development and rehearsal. Small performance stipend available. Call Cathy, (323-5026) or Clare (634-1634) to apply. Classes with Cathy on Capitol Hill, with Clare,N.53rd.

**Folktale Sources for the Storyteller**, Margaret Read MacDonald, Ph.D., librarian, 7-9 P.M., November 18, \$4.00 Good Shepherd Center

A critical examination of children's collections; scholarly works, journals, and folktale indexes. Hints on: Where to look for your "perfect" tale, and What to look for in a printed tale.



**Working with Rhythm**, Michael Meade, storyteller, 1-4 P.M., Oct. 16, \$12.00, Good Shepherd Center

A workshop on basic rhythms, pulse, tempo, drumming, rhythm and voice, rhythm in story. Bring rhythm instruments.

**Singing Stories**, Cathy Spagnoli, 10 A.M.-12 P.M., Nov. 27, \$5.00 adult, \$1.00 child 6-12, Pelican Bay Artists' Co-op, Capitol Hill

A lively introduction to a variety of songs/games from around the world which will add interest to storytelling programs, classrooms, etc. This is our first class offering for children, too, so bring a favorite child.

Riddles are often used in parts of West Africa to begin a storytelling session:

The master is inside the hut, but his beard  
remains outside.                      a fire (Yoruba)

The daughters of our house are always  
washing.                      gourds to hold water (Hausa)

Wooden man, seeing death, yet plunges his  
head into it.                      a cooking spoon. (Gola)

A very tiny thing can bind up all the  
traders' loads.                      a needle (Hausa)



## GUEST ARTIST SERIES

The Guest Artist Series is regularly held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Good Shepherd Center: 4649 Sunnyside N., Seattle. Each program begins at 7:30 P.M. \$3. non-members, \$2.50 members, \$1. under 12.

**OCTOBER 13: AN EVENING OF MABINOGION** (ancient Celtic stories)

Erica and Michael Meade share tales of wonder and power from Welsh mythology. Magic is afoot, the cauldron is stirred, noble people seek their fates!! Come and partake.

**NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:** As we go to press, we have two wonderful evenings not yet confirmed which will help complete this fall's exploration of the British Isles. For December, we hope to have Louis Killen, and for November...Guess??!



## CALENDAR



### SEPTEMBER

#### TIME TO REGISTER FOR GUILD CLASSES

- 26 **KRAB fundraiser:** Myrna Hecht storytelling live at 9:00 A.M.
- 30 **Story 'n' Snack** pot-luck dessert & story swap for members, at the home of Thom Garrard & Naomi Baltuck, 6028 3rd Ave. NW, Apt. 1, 7:30 (784-7016)

### OCTOBER

#### STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR GUILD CLASSES

- 1,2 **Celebration of Folly & Political Change**, Belden C. Lane, (323-1040)
- 2,3 **Animal Tales**, Myrna Hecht, Cathy Spagnoli, Woodland Park Zoo. 12,1,2 P.M.
- 2 **Northwest Logging Stories**, Cathy Spagnoli, Museum of History, (see Notes)
- 8 **Talking Pictures**, visual imagery workshop, Cathy Spagnoli, W.S.U., Pullman
- 18 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Myrna Hecht, Rainier Beach Library, 9125 Rainier Ave. S. 7 P.M., (625-4922)
- 23 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Broadview: 12755 Greenwood Ave. N., 2:30 P.M. (625-4929)
- 25 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Greenwood, 7:30 P.M. (625-4925)  
**Spine Chilling...Tales**, Sylvia Herom, Southwest, 7 P.M. (625-4928)  
**Spine Chilling...Tales**, Cathy Spagnoli, Henry, 7:30 P.M. (625-4911)
- 27 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Green Lake: 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N. 4 P.M. (625-4908)
- 28 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Cathy Spagnoli, Lake City: 12501 28th Ave. NE, 7:30 P.M., (625-4907)
- 29 **Halloween Tales**, Sylvia Herom, Burien Public Library (243-3490)
- 30 **Halloween Tales**, Sylvia Herom, Federal Way Library, 11 A.M., 2 P.M.  
**Spine Chilling...Tales**, Cathy Spagnoli, Downtown, 2 P.M. (625-4989)  
**Spine Chilling...Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Ballard, 2:30 P.M. (625-4926)
- 31 **Spine Chilling...Tales**, Cathy Spagnoli, West Seattle: 2306 42nd Ave. S.W. 2 P.M. (625-4927)



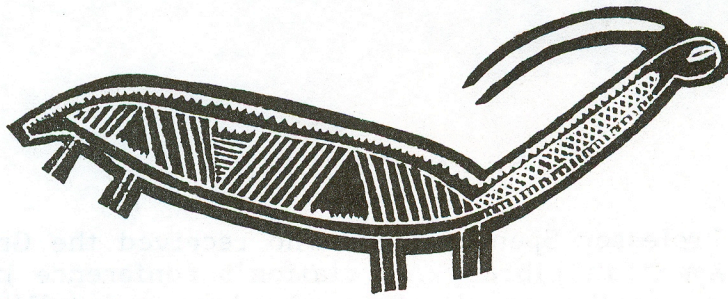
### NOVEMBER

- 14 **Talking Drums: tales of West Africa**, Clare Cuddy, Seattle Art Museum, 1 & 3 P.M.
- 28 **Tales of the Hodja**, Seattle Art Museum, Clare Cuddy, 1 and 3 P.M.

### DECEMBER

- 16 **Festival Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Cathy Spagnoli, University: 5009 Roosevelt Way NE, 7:30 P.M. (625-4918)
- 18 **Festival Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Cathy Spagnoli, Downtown, 2:00 P.M. (625-4989)
- 20 **Festival Tales**, Clare Cuddy, Cathy Spagnoli, Magnolia: 2801 34th Ave. W., 7:30 P.M. (625-4902)





If the wealth of nations is measured in terms of their culture, then the people of the West African countries are surely the richest of humans. Riddles, praise poems, proverbs, tales and much more form the oral tradition of West Africa. All of these forms can add interest and depth to a storytelling program. Here are two traditional poems to try:

#### INVOCATION OF THE CREATOR

He is patient, he is not angry.  
He sits in silence to pass judgement.  
He sees you even when he is not looking.  
He stays in a far place—but his eyes are on the town.

He stands by his children and lets them succeed.  
He causes them to laugh—and they laugh.  
Ohoho — the father of laughter.  
His eye is full of joy.  
He rests in the sky like a swarm of bees.

Obatala — who turns blood into children.

[ Obatala is the orisha(Yoruba god/demigod) who shapes humans.]

from African Poetry, An Anthology, edited by Ulli Beier

#### DEATH

There is no needle without piercing point.  
There is no razor without trenchant blade.  
Death comes to us in many forms.

With our feet we walk the goat's earth.  
With our hands we touch the God's sky.  
Some future day in the heat of noon,  
I shall be carried shoulder high  
through the village of the dead.  
When I die, don't bury me under forest trees,  
I fear their thorns.  
When I die, don't bury me under forest trees,  
I fear their dripping water.  
Bury me under the great shade trees in the market.  
I want to hear the drums beating,  
I want to feel the dancer's feet.

from Penelope Naylor, Black Images: The Art of West Africa



## NOTES...

Congratulations to Professor Spenser Shaw who received the Grolier Foundation Award at the American Library Association's conference in July. You continue to be an inspiration to all of us who love storytelling.

If you'd like some further inspiration, contact Clare (634-1634) who still has the Folkteller's fine records on hand as well as order forms for Laura Simm's record and Jay O'Callahan's tapes.

Since the Storyteller's Guild is no longer giving Intermediate/Advanced classes, we suggest that interested students wishing further support in telling form themselves into study groups. These informal groups could meet once a month for storytelling and critique. Thom Garrard, (784-7016), offers his apartment for a group on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Call!

For those seeking extra income, we've received word about a six week television/radio voice-over class. Call Steve Lawson (625-9153) for details.

A "Logger's Club" for children 6-12 will meet Saturday afternoons in Oct. at the Museum of History. Storytelling by Cathy Spagnoli will introduce misery whips, choker holes and more to the uninitiated; related arts activities will help children further explore this fascinating world. \$5.00/series of 4. Call 324-1125 to register. 1:30-3:00 P.M., parking available.

Deadline for the next newsletter is January 15 ( so we can get an issue out right before the Midwinter Story Fest). Please send items to Cathy Spagnoli, 606 19th Ave. East, Seattle, 98112.

Special thanks to Paramasivam for his help, and to Jackie Bates for her Olivetti miracle machine. If you'd like to help with the next edition and see your name in print, call 323-5026. African designs courtesy of G. Williams African Designs from Traditional Sources, Dover Publications.

Knowledge is like a baobab tree; no one can encompass it with both hands.  
(Ewe proverb)

The wise child is spoken to in proverbs, not in simple language. (Akan)

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