



# Seattle Storytellers' Guild

Newsletter

IN THE WIND

Winter, 1982

Dear Friends,

We have wonderful news!! On Friday, February 26 the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will sponsor A MIDWINTER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL. We are thrilled to present nationally known and loved storytellers Laura Simms and The Folktellers (Connie Regan and Barbara Freeman) as our featured artists. The concert will be held at Monroe Center, 1810 NW 65th St., Seattle. The program will be best suited for ages 8 years to 100. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. You can order your tickets by sending a check and self-addressed stamped envelope with the enclosed ticket form. We are expecting to fill the room to capacity so be sure to order your tickets soon! Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door. To learn more about these exciting storytellers, see the profiles on the next page.

Because of the time and energy involved in producing the MIDWINTER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL we will not have the Guest Artist Series or Story 'n' Snack nights in January or February. These programs will begin again in March. Page 3 describes the March and April storytelling programs.

We're gearing up now for our winter workshops and classes. Beginning, intermediate and advanced level classes will be offered. Descriptions of these classes and registration information are on page 4 of this newsletter.

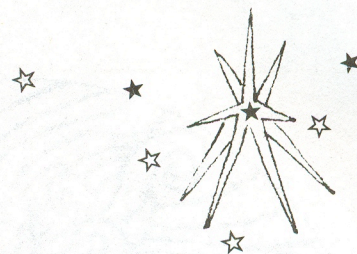
Augusto Paglialunga, faculty member of the Music Department at the University of Washington, has graciously agreed to conduct another voice workshop beginning January 12. Enthusiasm for his three hour September workshop was so great that we have expanded the course into a three week workshop geared specifically to storytelling. Registration will be limited so be sure to call Clare right away at 634-1634. This workshop will be repeated in March and April for new and continuing students. See the calendar for details!

The apprentice program is going very well! A number of apprentices have participated very successfully in storytelling events throughout Seattle including the Seattle Public Library's Book Week events and Holiday Storytelling Nights. We will be seeing more of these fine apprentices in the coming months.



# A Midwinter Storytelling Festival

February 26, 1982

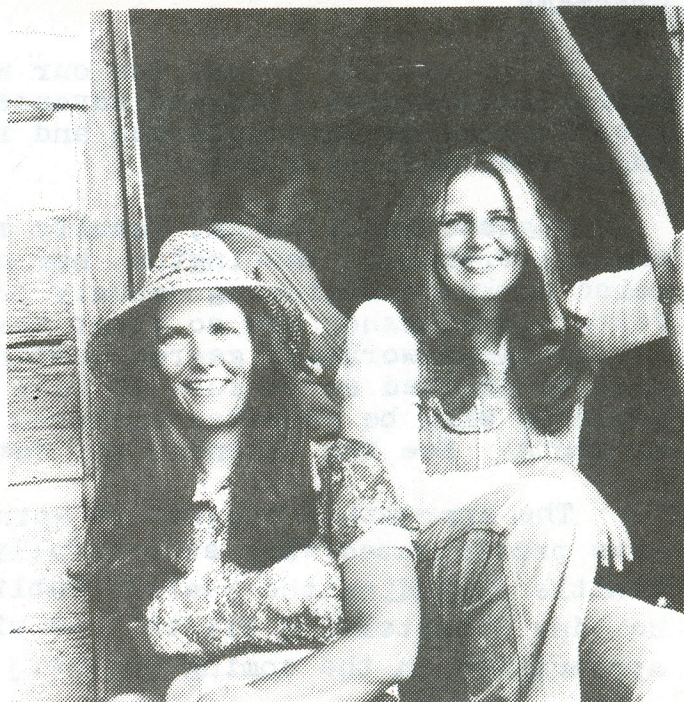


LAURA SIMMS is a master storyteller. One critic wrote: "she performs with the elegance and precision of a Japanese print." (Herald Citizen, Tennessee) Since 1973 she has told stories in schools, colleges, theatres, museums, festivals and special events throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. In 1977 Laura founded the Oneonta Storytelling Center in Oneonta, New York to re-inspire and perpetuate storytelling in a rural community. She is a storyteller for the Museum of Natural History and the Hans Christian Anderson Society in New York. whether performing alone or with musicians, Laura's programs create an unforgettable theatre experience. As Diane Manuel wrote in the April 15, 1981 Christian Science Monitor "Laura was (a) whirling dervish. Fingers snapping, tongue clicking, body swaying to the flow of an unseen current, she took us on a ride down a noisy African river... we chanted with her, whispered

with her, clapped with her and jumped in with the chorus whenever we got the chance."



THE FOLKTELLERS - CONNIE REGAN  
and BARBARA FREEMAN are cousins who were raised in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and Alabama. They began telling stories while working for the Asheville, North Carolina Public Library in the early '70's. More and more, the stories became the focus for their lives. In 1974 they performed at the 2nd Annual Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee. Since then they have been captivating audiences throughout this country and Canada with a unique blend of humor, mountain tales and contemporary stories. As Rex Weyler wrote, they "rose on a flood of ancient lore to become storytellers, magicians of emotion, jugglers of smiles and tears, reminders of what is precious..." (New Age, July 1980)





# Calendar

- Jan. 12/ First meeting of three week voice workshop with Augusto Paglialunga. 7-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$25.00. Advance phone registration required. Call 634-1634. Wallingford location.
- Jan. 12-18/ Last days to register for storytelling classes at the Experimental College. Class descriptions on page 4.
- Jan. 19/ Cathy Spagnoli will present "India: An Ocean of Stories" at Seattle Central Community College. 12 p.m. Call Melora at 587-3800 for room location.
- Feb. 22-25/ Second annual Storytelling Symposium at Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA. See Special Notes for details.
- Feb. 26/ A Midwinter Storytelling Festival! 8 p.m. at Monroe Center, 1810 NW 65, Seattle. \$5.00.
- March 10/ Seattle Storytellers Guild presents an evening of Women's Stories told by Guild storytellers. Good Shepherd Center 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle. 7:30 p.m. \$2.00 non-members. \$1.50 members.
- March 25/ Story 'n' Snack night at Clare Cuddy's, 1850 N. 53rd St. in Wallingford. Beginning and intermediate storytellers share stories and pot-luck dessert with other Guild members in an informal setting. 7:30 p.m.
- April 14/ Seattle Storytellers' Guild presents Marjorie Kennedy, storyteller and librarian from the Lakeside School. Good Shepherd Center. 7:30 p.m. \$2 non-members \$1.50 members.
- April 29/ Story 'n' Snack night at Clare's. 7:30 p.m.
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## Guest Artist Series

Once again plan to spend the second Wednesday of the month hearing stories told by the best of the national and local storytellers. The programs continue to be held at the Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle. Please Note: The March and April programs are specially suited for ages 8 through adult.

- March 10: In celebration of March as Women's Heritage Month, the Guild will present an evening of Women's Stories from around the world. Guild storytellers will be featured. 7:30 p.m. \$2.00 non-members, \$1.50 members.
- April 14: Come hear stories told from the literary tradition by Marjorie Kennedy, storyteller and librarian from the Lakeside School. 7:30 p.m. \$2.00 non-members, \$1.50 members.



## Classes

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild offers two 8 week storytelling classes through the Experimental College. (Course # 2101 La Raconteur)

\* Section 1, on Mondays from 7-9 p.m., is an Apprentice class for Beginning storytellers. Professional storyteller Clare Cuddy will provide the class with speech and drama exercises to lay the groundwork for fundamental story preparation. Students will have a chance to hear stories told by guest storytellers as well as a chance to select and tell stories. The fee is \$24.00. Guild membership is included in the fee. The class runs January 18 - March 8. Register through the Experimental College. Call 543-4375 for more information.

\* Section 2, on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m., for Advanced storytellers is taught by Elana Freeland. Strengthen the capacity for inner visualization through serious study of folk tales, legends, fables and myths. Section 1 prerequisite to Section 2. Class runs January 19-March 9. Register through the Experimental College. The fee is \$24.00. Call 543-4375 for more information.

Students who have completed the beginning storytelling class can register for an Intermediate class through the Seattle Storytellers' Guild (634-1634). In addition to telling stories, there will be drama exercises and performances in the community. Mondays, beginning January 26 8-10 p.m. The fee is \$12.00.

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## National Events

The First National Conference of Storytelling has been postponed until the Spring of 1983. Prominent storytellers from around the country will be invited to participate in the event, which will be co-sponsored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the American Storytelling Resource Center. For more information, write American Storytelling Resource Center, 1471 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. 95062.

The National Association For The Preservation And Perpetuation Of Storytelling (NAPPS) schedules a National Conference on Storytelling each year on a June weekend near Jonesboro, Tennessee. For membership, newsletter and Conference information, write NAPPS, P.O. Box 112, Jonesboro, Tennessee 37659.

February 21-27, 1982 -- A Mayan Festival: Carnival Week in San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico. Robert Bela Wilhelm will conduct a travel seminar on the stories, myths, and legends of Native American peoples in the midst of an Indian Mardi Gras. For a brochure, write Robert Bela Wilhelm, 4912 California Street, San Francisco, CA. 94118. (415) 751-8326.



## Special Notes

Whitman College will hold its second annual Story Symposium beginning at 9 a.m. on February 22 and ending at 2 p.m. February 25. This years event features Jay O'Callahan, Laura Simms, Ron Evans, The Folktellers, Spencer Shaw and Clare Cuddy. The event will take place on the Whitman College Campus in Walla Walla, Washington. For further information contact Karen Morton, Director of Public Events, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA 99392.

Storyteller Cynthia Orr will be in Seattle the week of April 19th. She is available for bookings for that week and can be reached by calling (503) 726-7078 or writing to her at 1735 Lexington, Eugene, OR 97403.

Bob Polishuk, Coordinator of Children's Services for the King County Library system and founding member of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild is compiling an anthology of ideas about storytelling. He invites you to join in this project by sending him interesting quotes and anecdotes on storytelling. Bob asks that you be sure to include the full citation; author, title, place of publication, publisher, date and page reference. Include your own name and address so you can be credited in the book too. Profits from the anthology will be donated to the Guild. The following is an example:

"Storytelling is our oldest form of remembering the promises we have made to one another and to our various gods, and the promises given in return; it is a way of recording our human emotions and desires and taboos. Whoever dares to tell a story must bear in mind that the story is an essential part our humanness. But of course it had better be an engrossing, well-told tale as well."

From Jane Yolen in Touch Magic, Fantasy, Faerie and Folklore in the Literature of Childhood. New York, Philomel Books, 1981, p.25.

Send your ideas to: Bernard Polishuk, Children's Services, King County Library, 300 8th Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109

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As the Guild reaches its first birthday, it's exciting to realize how quickly its grown in such a short time. Our membership is now made up of over 100 story tellers and listeners of all ages. As we grow as an organization we become better equipped to perpetuate the art of storytelling. Without your support we could never have attempted to produce A MIDWINTER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL. We know that this festival will be an exceptional storytelling event! We hope that you will continue to show your support by bringing your friends who have yet to discover the joy of storytelling.

We would also like to know what our members hope for and expect from the Guild. What kind of workshops would you like? What types of storytelling programs? (We're working on a program of trickster tales...) Any comments in general?

Happy New Year!

Clare Cuddy, Director  
Tobiatha Tucker, Newsletter Editor



Once upon a time there was a man and his wife who had nothing in the whole world to call their own, but potatoes. Every day they used to dig in an old dried field for potatoes. Sometimes they'd find four: two potatoes they'd cook and two potatoes they'd sell at the market.

One day while the man was digging for potatoes in that old dried field, he hit something hard and lifted up a wooden box. Well, if you're poor, and you don't have very much, everything you find has a use. So he took it home and gave it to his wife. She began to clean it. She cleaned the outside and then she lifted it up and cleaned the inside when a red ribbon in her hair fell into the box. Lo and behold! The box filled up with red ribbons. She took those red ribbons from the box and it filled with red ribbons again. She took those red ribbons out of the box and it filled up with red ribbons again. She took those red ribbons out of the box and it filled up with red ribbons again. Now they took all those red ribbons to the market and they sold them. They had a little bit of money and they loved each other still.

One day while the wife was coming back from the market, (it was her turn to go to work, now they both didn't have to go everyday), she decided to look inside that box and see all those red ribbons that had brought her all such good luck, when a gold coin she was holding in her hand fell into the box. Lo and behold! The red ribbons disappeared and the box filled up with gold coins. She took those gold coins out of the box and it filled up again. She took those gold coins out of the box and it filled up with gold coins again. She took those gold coins out of the box and it filled up with gold coins again. Now they didn't have to go to the market anymore at all. All they had to do was stay home and take the gold coins out of the box.

Well, they moved into a new house and they got servants. They began to be so rich they had anything at all they ever wanted. They grew greedy. And they grew lazy. And they didn't want to take those gold coins out of the box. And they weren't about to trust their servants. So they called their old grandfather who was living up in the hills and was retired and hadn't worked for many years--to come on down and take the gold coins out of the box. Poor old man, he didn't want to work, but it was family. So he came down and he took the gold coins out of the box. And he took the gold coins out of the box. And he took the gold coins out of the box. Poor old man, sometimes he was tired and would lean down and rest on his elbow, and the husband and wife would beat him and beat him and beat him and tell him to just keep taking those gold coins out of the box. Poor old man, he was so tired and so old, one day he died and fell in the box. They took him outside and lo and behold! when they came back indoors there was another dead grandfather in the box. They took him out and buried him and there was another grandfather and another grandfather and another grandfather.

Well, they had to bury all those dead grandfathers and it cost them every single gold coin they had. At last they had to get rid of their house and their servants and everything else they had. And the last gold coin was gone and the last dead grandfather was buried, and the box disappeared. And they ended up with exactly what they began with, nothing but potatoes.





## Executive Committee

Clare Cuddy

Elana Freeland

Merna Hecht

Bob Polishuk

Harold Shapiro

Cathy Spagnoli

Tobiatha Tucker