



VOL. IV

NO. 1

IN THE WIND

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

We are happy to welcome many new members into the Guild. 1984 promises to be a busy and exciting year, and we appreciate all of your help and support.

The first big project coming up is the Third Annual Midwinter Storyfest on February 25 and 26. We've really outdone ourselves this year to bring out the Master Storyteller, himself--Jay O'Callahan! Time magazine has called Jay "a genius among storytellers." He was the Olympic bard for the 1980 games in Lake Placid and has been recognized world wide for his unique contribution to the art of storytelling. Jay will have two concerts: an evening adult program on Saturday, February 25, at 8 pm, and a family concert (most appropriate for children over 5) on Sunday afternoon at 1 pm. Thanks to the generous financial support of Nordstrom's, we will be able to offer family tickets at reduced rates. Tickets will be available at Ticketmaster outlets and through the Guild (634-1634). Both concerts will sell out, so please be sure to get your tickets early. We will need lots of volunteers. (See "HELP!" below.) Please call the Guild answering machine at 634-1634, and leave your name and number. We'll get back to you!!! THANK YOU!

The Guest Artist Series will resume in April with Michael Meade and Erica Helm Meade, Robert Bela Wilhelm in May, and a Guild potpourri in June. More on these programs in the Spring newsletter.

There is enough to do for any interested members who would like to gain some experience in arts organizing and production. Please call with your specific interests and talents, and we'll put you to work.

Welcome to Robert Bela Wilhelm, a noted storyteller and head of Storyfest Productions, who will be moving to Seattle in the near future.

Welcome also to Cathy Wellner, a storyteller from Rochester, NY, who moved here in September and has just agreed to become the new Newsletter editor.

SPACE SEARCH: The Guild is looking for a small, friendly space, 20 x 20' minimum, to be used 2-3 days/week for classes, library, the phone, Board meetings, etc. If you know of a low-cost space, please call Tobiatha, 524-2149.

HELP!

For Jay's program we need volunteers to

- poster the city (7 cars, with 3 people per car. Meet Saturday, Feb. 3, at 9:30 a.m., 1850 N. 53rd. complimentary coffee & croissants. Call 634-1634 & leave name, number, & if you can drive.)
- bake cookies
- take tickets
- help chauffeur
- usher
- give information
- sell food & records

Please call 634-1634 or 524-2149 to volunteer.

CALENDAR:

JANUARY:

- 14 Naomi Baltuck and Tom Gault, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, Edmonds, 10 am, \$1.00, 775-5040.

Erica Helm, Celtic Tales, the new Vashon Library Open House, Ober Park, Vashon, 11:30 am. (also included, films and music)
- 19 Cathy Spagnoli, Storytelling Workshop, Puget Sound Assoc. Ed. of Young Children, Mt. Zion Church, Madison & 19th, 7 pm, 863-3928.
- 21 Tobiatha Tucker, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 10 am, see above.
- 26 Story 'n Snack, Bring a story and a snack to 846 NE 98th, 7:30 pm. For details, call Thom or Naomi, 525-2560.
- 28 Naomi Baltuck and Gene Gousie, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 10 am., see above.

Clare Cuddy, Erica Helm, and others, "Stories Celebrating the Spirit of Feminine Creativity," at a Brigit's Day feast, Blue Heron, Vashon Island, 463-2292. (Feast, music, dance for women of all ages.)

Spencer Shaw, University Bookstore, 2:00 pm, 634-3400.
- 31 Cathy Spagnoli, Snohomish Library, 4:00 pm, 568-2898.

FEBRUARY:

- 2 Katherine Bell, Donald Braid, Marilyn Murphy, Cathy Wellner in Julie's Kouzina, Room 207, Monroe Center, 1810 NW 65th, 7 pm, Cover \$1.50, 782-0584. (No children under 12.)
- 5 Clare Cuddy, A Telling of Family Stories, Museum of History and Industry, 2:30 pm, \$1.50 adults, \$.50 children, 324-1125.
- 8 Stories and Songs for the Very Young (ages 3-6), Secret Garden Bookstore, 11 am.
- 9 Debra Harris, Afro-American Stories, Rainier Beach Public Library, 7 pm, 625-4922.
- 10 Erica Helm, Michael Meade, Transformation Stories for Women and Men, North Central Washington Museum, Wenatchee, 8 pm.
- 11 & 12 Workshop, Women's and Men's Transformation stories: Explore the stories through movement and drumming. North Central Washington Museum, Wenatchee. For info. call Bill Layman.
- 11 Cathy Spagnoli, University Bookstore, 2:00 pm, 634-3400.
- 15 Debra Harris, Afro-American Stories, Northeast Branch of Seattle Public Library, 7 pm, 625-4915.
- Deadline to send information for Storytellers° Directory.
- 20 Jay O'Callahan at Nordstrom's in Bellevue Square, 1-2:30 p.m.--an informal time to meet the teller, hear a story, and have a record autographed.
- 23 Story 'n Snack, Bring a story and a snack to 846 NE 98th, 7:30 pm. For details, call Thom or Naomi, 525-2560.
- 24 Jay O'Callahan at Secret Garden, (as at Nordstrom's) 4 pm.
- 25 Jay O'Callahan, workshop, MOHAI, 9-12 am, \$15.
- Jay O'Callahan, concert, MOHAI, 8 pm, \$5 members & seniors, \$6 non-members.
- Erica Helm, Stories for Kids, Blue Heron Center for the Arts, Vashon Island, 10:30 am.
- Spencer Shaw, University Bookstore, 2:00 pm, 634-3400.
- 26 Jay O'Callahan, family concert, MOHAI, 1 pm, \$2 children, \$3 adults.

MARCH

- 1 Katherine Bell, Secret Garden, 1 pm (ages 6-12)
- 3 Cathy Spagnoli, Storytelling Workshop, "As a Child Grows" Conference, Clover Park H. S., Lakewood, 1 pm, 964-6543.
- 22 Story 'n Snack, Bring a story and a snack to 846 NE 98th, 7:30 pm. For details, call Thom or Naomi, 525-2560.
- 31 Spencer Shaw, University Bookstore, 2:00 pm, 634-3400.

NOTES

Mailing List--Various local groups have asked to use the Guild's mailing list to publicize their storytelling events. If you do not wish your name to be given out, please call 634-1634 and leave a message.

Visiting Storytellers Floating Eagle Feather and Laura Simms will be stopping in Seattle in April and May. To book Eagle Feather, call Carol Leofsky, 725-6346. For information on Laura Simms, call Laura at 212-674-3479.

Joe Heaney, master Irish storyteller, is available for school bookings, with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts. Call Jill Linzee, 545-8050 or 543-0949.

The Northwest Teller is a fine newsletter for storytellers published in Eugene. To subscribe for one year, send \$6 to P.O. Box 1645, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

Storytelling in the Schools: Cathy Spagnoli will be a storyteller-in-residence in Snohomish schools (January), Renton Schools (February-March), Bremerton Schools (March 27-30). Guild members in those areas are urged to swap stories with her over tea! She will continue at Summit School, Seattle, in 1984. Give her a ring if you'd like to come in and storytell to some great story listeners (323-5026).

Storytelling over the air: Seattle storytellers are regularly featured on KRAB (107.7 FM), Sunday mornings: 9-10 am on "Skip to My Lou," and on KUOW (94.9 FM), Saturdays, 11 am, on "Our Own Folk."

Storytelling in Edmonds will be a regular feature at Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238 SW & Hwy 99. The programs will be held on Saturdays, 10-11 am, \$1.00 admission. For more information call 775-5954 or 775-5040.

Stories from Laos, Cambodia, & Vietnam. Cathy Spagnoli, with the aid of a mini-grant from the WA Commission for the Humanities, is now collecting stories from these cultures to be shared in spring programs. If you or someone you know has stories to share, please call 323-5026.



THE MAKING OF A STORY

NOTES from Jay O'Callahan's June 1983 workshop in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

We gathered in a room with a tall, quiet, modest, warm-hearted master storyteller and author, Jay O'Callahan, to hear him discuss the making of his original tale of Nova Scotia during World War II, The Herring Shed.

In surprisingly low, soft tones (don't force an audience with your voice, he says) he asked us first to think and feel where we were--in this state, this town, this room, with these people--to relax and be aware of our surroundings, to relish the moment. A calm settled on us. Then we stood, moved about, stretched, bent over, exercised a bit, then warmed up our voices by singing vowels up and down the scale in different keys. This physical and vocal warm-up is a necessary prelude to relaxed breathing, good posture, and successful storytelling.

Becoming in turn each character of his story, Jay asked us to interview each, eliciting information and finding clues--the detective part--as he had done when he went to Nova Scotia for a vacation with his family and met the people who inspired the story. He put all the bits of information into what he calls a compost heap, a notebook of all sorts of facts and impressions. Sometimes in this process you have to let go of preconceptions as to what the story is going to be about. Maybe the person you first thought would be central will turn out to be secondary.

Often the rhythm of a craft will be good for the structure of a story. Jay made a melody to go with the routine of the stringing of the herring on rods for drying and shipping. This he repeated with great effectiveness, ending the story with it, too.

Thumb in the gill
Open the mouth
Slip it on the rod
In the herring shed.

Jay then showed us what he had done with the information that he gathered by telling his powerful, sad, but immensely satisfying story about the strength and integrity of some plain folk who endured hardships and heartbreaks and survived without bitterness, their characters shining through to make the listener realize that these are good people. We get to know them through the story, and our spirits are lifted and our hearts are filled with love and admiration.

(By Martha Holloway. Reprinted, with thanks to Harlynn Geisler, from the Storytellers of San Diego Newsletter, 4182-J Mt. Alifan Place, San Diego, CA 92111.)

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS:

Le Raconteur--The Storyteller, Clare Cuddy. Rediscover the ancient art of storytelling. Hear stories from different cultures told by professional storytellers. Then choose two stories to tell to class members. Some speech and drama coaching. Wallingford, Mondays, 7-9 p.m., 1/16-3/12. Register through Ex. College, U. of Washington, 543-4375.

Storytelling Workshop: JonLee Joseph, adjunct professor, storytelling, University of Puget Sound, has designed a workshop to provide people with stories of transformation. Participants will research source material and develop skills through the telling of stories that affect the teller as well as the listener. Fables, myths, poetry, and stories will be investigated. Saturdays, 11 am-4 pm, 1/14, 2/11, and 3/3/84. \$50 per session. 1-598-4296.

Master class with Jay O'Callahan. Techniques and exercises to enrich the storyteller's art. For all levels. Museum of History & Industry, February 25. 8:30, donuts, coffee, and registration. Class, 9-12 am.

Jewish Folktales & Children's Literature, Merna Hecht, Seattle storyteller, writer, and librarian. Congregation Beth Shalom, 6800 35th NE, Seattle. Mondays, 7:30 pm, beginning January 2. 329-5858.

STORYTELLERS' DIRECTORY

We are compiling a directory of local storytellers who are available for performances. If you would like to be listed in the directory, please send the following information by February 15 to Cathy Wellner, 1917 15th E., Seattle 98112.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Description of available programs (and age levels): [Please limit to 50 words.]

Experience & Background: [Please limit to 50 words.]

Fee:

Membership: Please check your mailing label to see when your membership expires. An apology to those who mailed memberships to the address printed in the last newsletter. Note correct address.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Membership: ___ Individual \$10 ___ Family \$15 ___ new ___ renewal

___ I am interested in volunteering. Please call me to discuss how I may help.

___ Please include my name on mailing lists for related storytelling events.

Mail to: Seattle Storytellers° Guild
1850 N. 53rd
Seattle, WA 98103

SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

Cathy Spagnoli, who has done such a superb job with the newsletter during the past year and a half, is leaving the newsletter to devote full time to storytelling. We all owe her thanks for the high quality of the newsletter during her tenure as editor.

I°ll need your help in order to keep up that standard. Please send any news items, calendar entries, article suggestions, criticisms and comments to me at 1917 15th Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112.

Cathy Wellner

