

in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild

Fall 1985

Vol.V, #4



Jay O'Callahan Returns!

Jay O'Callahan is a pioneer, an explorer taking storytelling along uncharted paths, blazing a trail into the theatre. On November 13 he brings "Village Heroes" to Seattle for a three-week run at The Courtyard Theatre in Edmonds.

In O'Callahan's Village, people small in the eyes of the world assume heroic stature. Edna Robinson, independent but lonely, learns of love and life from a drifter. Hary Janos, the village fool, boasts of defeating Napoleon singlehandedly. Two children born in the same town at the same instant become a poet and a fool, but who is to say which one is greater? Tom Nelson, 14-year-old lighthouse keeper with a "smile like the crack of an apple," struggles to save the family farm.

Wayne Johnson, Seattle Times drama critic, called O'Callahan's performance "breathtakingly good." From the Boston Globe came, "a pastoral Lily Tomlin," and from the Washington Post, "a mix of drama and humor that Mark Twain would be proud to sign his name to." "Un barde d'aujourd'hui," exclaimed France's L'Express. Joyce Kulhawk of Boston's WBZ-TV raved, "Magic! He is just so incredible."

Gala Evening

On November 16 the Seattle Storytellers' Guild welcomes Jay O'Callahan back to Seattle with a Gala Evening and reception. Last year O'Callahan performed for sell-out audiences at the Museum of History and Industry. This year he performs in a stunning setting in Edmonds. Wayne Johnson describes the Courtyard Theatre this way: "By several degrees of magnitude, it is the most attractive venue for dinner theater the Seattle area has had." Of the dinner he writes that it is "light years beyond the usual dinner theater fare."

At \$25, dinner/theatre tickets for the Gala Evening are one of the best deals around. A perfect dinner in romantic surroundings. A show a Washington Times critic called "as large and as full as the wide realm of imagination." And a no-host reception with a man Time Magazine called "a genius among storytellers."

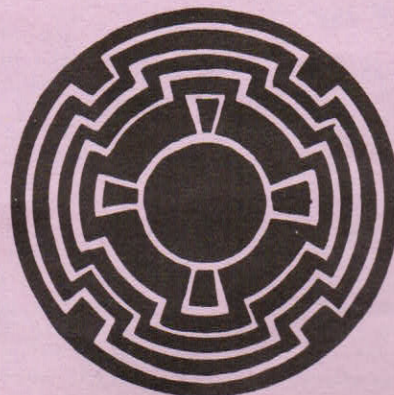
Both dinner/theatre tickets and balcony tickets (\$9 for plush red seats close enough to catch every nuance) will go quickly. Profits from the Gala Evening will support Guild activities. (With no producer this year, we won't be having a Midwinter Storyfest. This is our chance to enjoy an internationally known storyteller, learn from a workshop, and raise funds for the Guild. It's a Storyfest without the months of volunteer effort.) Join us to welcome Jay O'Callahan back to Seattle and to help assure him of a successful run in a town that lost its heart to him last year.

The Courtyard Theatre, with plenty of free parking and only 20 min. from downtown Seattle, is at 238th SW & Hwy 99 (Exit 177 from I-5). Dinner at 6:30 pm, performance at 8, reception immediately following. For tickets to the Gala Evening, send \$25 (dinner/theatre) or \$9 (theatre only), along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, Seattle 98109, 283-7378. Reserve your seats early, as the tickets will sell quickly.

Workshop

Saturday, November 16, 10-12 am, Jay O'Callahan will be giving a special workshop, "Creating Stories, Scenes, & Moods." (Friends Center, 4001 9th NE) I was a part of this workshop two years ago in Jonesborough and strongly recommend it. As Jay describes it, "Using the Herring Shed as a model, we treat the composition as a detective story. Ask the right questions, and the characters emerge."

To reserve a space in the workshop, send \$20 to 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, Seattle 98109, 283-7378. Two scholarships are available from the Sylvia Herom Memorial Fund. If you wish to be considered, please send a letter to the address above by November 1, describing your interest in the workshop.



The Elders Have a Way of Teaching: Stories of Puget Sound

by Rebecca Chamberlain

Storytellers, here's a chance to share in the ancient traditions of storytelling found right here in the Northwest! "The Elders Have a Way of Teaching," the evening premier of a video documenting the storytelling of Salish Elders, along with a live storytelling exchange, will share the humor and context of traditional stories and their importance in the Puget Sound area. It will be held at 7:30 pm, Oct. 18, in the McEachern Auditorium at the Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th E; so mark your calendars and invite your family and friends. A \$3 donation to help the work will be accepted.

This event is a way to renew and introduce the stories and teachings of the Puget Sound Salish People. The sharing of stories is part of an ancient training that connects people through the power of myth and humor to a tradition of living wisely with the earth and with each other. Of course Coyote is still getting his education in these matters in a wonderful story shared on the video by Skagit Elder Vi Hilbert. The humor and joy, the training and discipline that these stories transmit, are something that all people who now live in this place can learn from.

The videotape of Salish Elders, filmed in March '85, is a powerful reflection of the storytelling skills of the remaining perpetuators of a living oral tradition; a sharing of stories, jokes, songs and personal experiences with the infectious humor and power that only those who have lived the traditions can give to authentic performance. As Laura Edwards, one of the elders, said in response to the stories, "In the old days, we had small gatherings in our longhouses where we shared these things with our families and friends." They were part of the fabric and context of life. So it is not often that the general public has the opportunity to experience the intimate and humorous exchange that is transmitted by those who are steeped in tradition. The many layers of shared context that the elders evoke from and share with each other, along with their priceless tellings of the stories, is a valuable contribution to the study of oral tradition, the enjoyment and skill of storytelling and the heritage of future generations. (For more information on the videotape, see May issue of NW Ethnic News.)

The live storytelling event that will precede the video will include a variety of stories and cultural teachings shared by Skagit elder Vi Hilbert and storytellers Ron Hilbert and Rebecca Chamberlain. They have traveled and shared stories together on a number of occasions, and the audience will be treated to tellings of Lady Louse, Tachika and Mink, and be introduced to a whole spectrum of animal and mythic beings that inhabit the legends and reflect the mountains, forests and saltwaters of Puget Sound.

Vi Hilbert is recognized throughout the Northwest and nationally, as well as by Tribal Communities, as a storyteller, researcher and teacher of the language and traditions of the Lushootseed-speaking People. A highly acclaimed folk artist, she has been nominated for a National Heritage Fellowship and has been a featured artist at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, as well as other numerous appearances. She helped pioneer one of the first programs of Indian language and literature offered in a university and has been teaching at the University of Washington for nearly twenty years. She has written various articles and translated and transcribed volumes of traditional literature. Her most recent work, *Haboo*, is currently being released by the University Press. Her

work is a true monument and legacy to preserving the power and beauty of these ancient stories and teachings for the future generations.

Ron Hilbert, Vi's son, is a native artist and frequent storyteller throughout the Northwest, appearing in both tribal and educational settings. He is active in the important ceremonial traditions of the Salish People.

Rebecca Chamberlain is a longtime friend and a graduate student learning the language and cultural traditions. She performs as a storyteller both locally and nationally, including the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center with Laura Simms and the National Storytelling Festival. Ms. Chamberlain has also developed educational and training programs on aspects of traditional culture and storytelling for the Pacific Science Center, The Seattle Audubon Society, The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and Otherworld Children's Media.

The storytelling performance and videotape have been sponsored and developed by members of Lushootseed Research, a nonprofit agency dedicated to the preservation of the language and cultural traditions of the Puget Sound Salish People, as well as by generous donations from the Washington State Commission for the Humanities, the Seattle Arts Commission, the Museum of History and Industry, Tribal Communities and private donations. Any storytellers interested in contributing to the setup on the 18th, please contact Rebecca Chamberlain, 725-2394.



Second Sunday Storytelling at the Boiserie

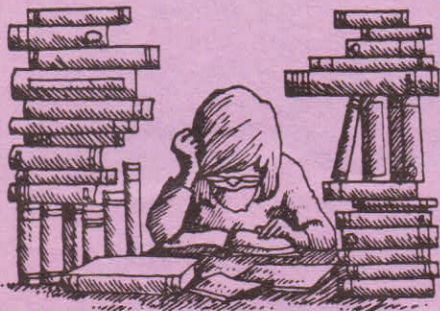
Our Second Sunday Storytelling at the Burke Museum's coffee shop has been a great success. Seattle is discovering that good coffee, pastries, adults, and storytelling go together very well.

On October 14 the Seattle Storytellers' Guild is sponsoring a special Halloween program. Those daring spirits who attend in costume will be admitted for half price. We will feature an impressive spectrum of local tellers that is guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of your neck.

On November 10 Seattle storyteller Naomi Baltuck will be our featured guest and will present a lively program of stories called "Traveling Light."

On December 8 the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will present a holiday program of stories in celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year. We will have a variety of local storytellers to help add some spice to the holiday punch.

Come join us at the Boiserie for some good coffee, good company, and good times!



About stories and the folks who tell them
by Margaret Read MacDonald

Sources

Halloween is upon us. A season when every child becomes a storyteller. Those who bemoan the death of storytelling in our culture have not taken into account the staying power of the "ghost story." As any camp counselor can tell you, once the lights go off, the folktale comes out.

While the need to fantasize about travel, romance, and adventure may have been partially stilled by other media, the need to deal with our fears of the unknown remains strong. Incidentally, though our culture blames the decline of storytelling on popular media such as TV and the movies, a 19th century lover of tales had another complaint. Leo Frobenius (1873-1938), writing of the loss of oral storytelling, complained "our own children will never feel that particular spell again, for nowadays they read stories from books instead of listening to them."

When looking for Halloween material, you may want to spurn those books and turn to your next door neighbor or the kid down the block. A great deal of ghost legendry is still about these days. Jan Harold Brunvand has published two fascinating collections of the "urban legend," a modern euphemism for those tales of the unnatural and supernatural which still circulate in our culture, told usually as the honest truth. (Jan Harold Brunvand. The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends & Their Meanings. NY: W.W. Norton, 1981; The Choking Doberman and Other "New" Urban Legends. NY: W.W. Norton, 1984.) Short story versions of such materials have been published by several authors. My favorite is Alvin Schwartz's Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (NY: J.B. Lippincott, 1981).

Most of us have experienced children's ghost story tellings. For an interesting discussion of the use of folklore in a Boy Scout Camp, see Jay Mechling, "The Magic of the Boy Scout Campfire," in Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 93, No. 367. Jan-March 1980, pp 35-56. Sylvia Grider's dissertation, "The Supernatural Narratives of Children," is also interesting (Indiana University, 1976; available through inter-library loan). These two authors are useful for their theoretical discussion rather than as a source for tales.

I hope this will get you thinking about the stories available to you "without benefit of book." If your Halloween storytelling setting allows it, you just might let the young folks themselves tell a tale or two. Their repertoire is often amazing!



Notes



ROBERT BELA WILHELM of Gig Harbor and Joan Bodger of Toronto, Canada, will lead a storytelling tour to Great Britain on July 2-16 entitled "The Mysteries of Britain." They will explore Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Arthurian storytelling traditions. For a free brochure write or call Bob Wilhelm at 11011 Creviston Dr., Gig Harbor, WA 98335, 857-5026.

CAPTAIN DICK AND OLD SALT made the news in August, with an article in the Ballard News-Tribune. From his Dummy Depot and Ventriloquist Studio in Ballard, Dick Wightman is teaching what he considers to be a lost art. He and Old Salt, his dummy sidekick, weave folk singing and storytelling into their performances.

On October 5 KIRO radio premieres a new syndicated show, **AMERICA '85**. Storytellers will find a wealth of material on this good-news broadcast. The show's producers--Melody Tucker, Tim Hunter, and Ruth Walsh--will be scouting the country for odd bits and interesting characters. One of the first shows will feature the organizers of a North Carolina Woolly Worm Contest. Where else would you hear news like that? Local storyteller Cathryn Wellner can be heard telling a ghost story on the October 26 broadcast. The one-hour program will run Saturdays, probably following KUOW's broadcast of Prairie Home Companion. Stations around the West have already subscribed. We'll print a list here as soon as it's available. Then you can listen even when you're traveling.

SOUTH END STORY & SNACK. Guild members Tom Galt, Dick Wightman, Eugene Vernon, and Rose of Sharon invite the storytellers in Pierce and South King Counties to join them for story swapping on the second Thursday night of each month. The meetings are at Mike and Mara Heutmaker's beautiful Kent home. Call 631-6027 to confirm time and directions.

THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL OF WORDS is set for April 11 & 12, 1986, at Seattle University. The two-day festival will feature performances, workshops, and exhibits. The major purpose is to showcase ethnic storytelling. Everyone is invited to plan and help. Call Laverne Hall, the Paper Doll Lady, at 323-9329 with suggestions and information. Call Rose of Sharon at 631-9366 if you are interested in teaching a workshop.

The **NATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**, October 4-6, in Jonesborough, Tennessee, features Lopez Island storyteller Connie Martin. And that's just for starters. Also on stage will be Robert Creed, Seleshe Damessae, Purna Das Baul, Heather Forest, Jackson Gillman, Spalding Gray, Ray Hicks, Alice Kane, Jay O'Callahan, Simon Ortiz, Lynn Rubright, Peninnah Schram, Mary Carter Smith, and Jon Spelman.

East Carolina University has established a **NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON STORYTELLING**. They are interested in published and unpublished materials on storytelling, names and addresses of individuals and organizations, and information on the use of storytelling in nontraditional fields. To learn more, contact Constance Mellon, Nat'l Clearinghouse for Info. on Storytelling, Dept. of Library & Info. Studies, East Carolina U., Greenville, NC 27834.

FLOATING EAGLEFEATHER will be in Seattle from October 10-17. Anyone wishing to book a performance may contact Jayne Muir, 526-0237.

Calendar

(All events listed are open to the public.)

OCTOBER

4-6 **NATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**, Jonesborough, TN. Three full days of non-stop storytelling. \$30 (\$25 NAPPs members) for the entire weekend. No need to pre-register. For info, call (615) 753-2171.

5 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids**. Nationally acclaimed artist Tim Noah returns with his delightful children's songs. Tickets in advance at Andy's Corner for Kids at Dawson City or at Yvonne's Corner for Kids in downtown Edmonds. 10 am, Dawson City Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$3.50/\$2.50 children, 775-6977.

6 **Eastside Chamber Orchestra** is joined by storyteller Cathryn Wellner at Dawson City Courtyard Theatre. 7:30 pm, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds. For dinner & ticket information, call 771-3341.

Jean Redpath concert of traditional Scottish songs, sponsored by KUOW, 8 pm, Museum of History & Industry, \$8 in advance/\$9 at the door (available at Ticketmaster outlets & Galway Traders). For information call 526-0237 (or charge by phone 628-0888).

9 **Rose of Sharon** will perform "Womansong, Stories of Extraordinary Women" at South Seattle Community College Lecture Series. 11:30 am, Room 67, free, 764-5802.

10 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents "The Magic Pouch" by The Basic Theatre Company. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$2, 775-6977.

South End Story & Snack at Mike & Mara Heutmaker's home in Kent. Call 631-6027 to confirm time and directions.

10-17 **Floating Eaglefeather** returns to Seattle. To book a performance or to learn where he will be telling stories, call Jayne Muir, 526-0237.

11 **Yarn of Pearl: Women Speak through Prose**, 8 pm, Blue Heron, Vashon Island, \$4. Tickets available at Books by the Way and Blue Heron.

12 **Spencer Shaw** tells stories at the University Book Store, 2 pm, 4326 University Way NE, 634-3400.

Cathy Spagnoli tells Italian stories in downtown department stores (part of Columbus Day celebration sponsored by all-area Italian group). For information, call 937-8679.

14 **Second Sunday Storytelling** at the Boiserie presents a special Halloween program. Half price for those daring spirits who come in costume. 6:30 pm, Burke Museum Coffee Shop, UW campus, NE 45th & 17th NE, free parking, \$2, 525-2560.

18 **"The Elders Have a Way of Teaching,"** premiere of a video documenting the storytelling of Salish Elders and live storytelling exchange, with Vi Hilbert, Ron Hilbert, and Rebecca Chamberlain. 7:30 pm, Museum of History & Industry, 2700 24th E, \$3 donation, 324-1125. (See article.)

Echoes of the Sun and Moon, an evening of storytelling and music with Merna Hecht and James Lucal. 8 pm, Burke Museum, UW campus, \$6.

19 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Frank and Dina Blade, Seattle's own talented folk duo, with old-fashioned play party songs, games & music. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$1.50, 775-6977.

24 **Board Meeting** (visitors welcome), 7 p.m., 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, 283-7378.

26 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Deano the Clown. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$2, 775-6977.

Cathryn Wellner sends "Shivers Down the Spine." 2 pm, University Book Store, 4326 University Way NE, 634-3400.

Cathy Spagnoli presents a morning storytelling program and workshop for children sponsored by PACE and the Parks Dept. For information, call 937-8679.

28-Nov. 8 **Naomi Baltuck** on tour as the "Storyteller from Fruit Corners." Seattle/Tacoma area is part of the tour. (See article.)

29 **Tom Galt** tells stories to make you giggle and shiver, 4 & 7 pm, Bothell Public Library, 9654 NE 182, 486-7811.

Merna Hecht tells Halloween Stories, 7 pm, Greenwood Library, 8016 N. Greenwood, ages 8+, 625-4925.

31 **Tom Galt** tells Halloween Tales at a holiday carnival. Kids of all ages welcome. Wear a costume and bring an adult (required if you're 4-6). 6-8 pm, Queen Ann Community Center, 1st W. & W. Howe. Call Erin Powell, 625-4040.

Story 'n' Snack. Bring a ghost story & a snack for an informal evening of story swapping. 7:30 pm, 846 NE 98th. For details, call Naomi or Thom, 525-2560.

Talespinning to Chill the Bones. Traditional Ghost Stories told by Merna Hecht. 4:30 pm, Blue Heron Center for the Arts, Vashon, ages 8+, 463-5131.

NOVEMBER

2 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Evo & Jemey, folk singers for children. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$2, 775-6977.

4,5 **Abigail & Harvey**. Compelling story of the political rivalry between Oregon's leading suffragist & her conservative brother. Starring Jane Van Boskirk & Bill Douglas. 8 pm, Broadway Performance Hall, \$7.50/\$6 st & sn, 587-4166.

8 **Garrison Keillor** performs at the Fifth Avenue Theater, along with Seattle musician Stan Boreson, guitarist Chet Atkins, the Butch Thompson Trio & fiddlers Peter Ostroushko & Johnny Gimbel. For more information call Ticketmaster, 628-0888.

9 **"Prairie Home Companion"** broadcast live from Fifth Avenue Theater. Hear the news from Lake Wobegon first hand. For more information call Ticketmaster, 628-0888.

Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids presents Leo the Clown. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, \$1.50, Edmonds, 775-6977.

10 **Second Sunday Storytelling** at the Boiserie presents Naomi Baltuck with her lively program of stories, "Traveling Light." Ages 10 & up, 6:30 pm, Burke Museum Coffee Shop, UW campus, NE 45th & 17th NE, free parking, \$2, 525-2560.

13-30 **JAY O'CALLAHAN** performs VILLAGE HEROES, Wed.-Sat., in Dawson City's romantic Courtyard Theatre. Village Heroes was a smash hit in a 10-week run at Boston's Next Move Theatre. 8 pm, Courtyard Theatre, Edmonds (one traffic light north of Aurora Village on Hwy 99), \$8.50. Dinner 6:30 (prices vary). Take Exit 177 from I-5. Free parking, just 20 min. from downtown Seattle. Box office: 731-3341. (Tickets for Sat., 11/16 available only through the Guild.)

14 **South End Story & Snack** at Mike & Mara Heutmaker's home in Kent. Call 631-6027 to confirm time and directions.

16 **GALA EVENING** to celebrate JAY O'CALLAHAN'S RETURN to Seattle. Dinner and performance of the critically acclaimed "Village Heroes," Courtyard Theatre in Edmonds (see 11/13-30 above). Special reception immediately following the performance. Dinner/theatre (\$25) and theatre-only (\$9) tickets available by sending a check (and a stamped, self-addressed envelope) to 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, Seattle 98109, or by calling 283-7378. Dinner 6:30; theatre 8 pm. Join us in welcoming back one of America's finest storytellers.

Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids presents Craig Menteer, "Especially for Children," plus the "Skiptirriors." 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$1.50, 775-6977.

Spencer Shaw tells stories at the University Book Store, 2 pm, 4326 University Way NE, 634-3400.

Robin Williamson & Magical Strings, a very special harp collaboration. Robin Williamson is a renowned Scottish magician, storyteller, and founder of The Incredible String Band. 8 pm, Kane Hall, UW Campus, \$7 in advance/\$8 at the door. Tickets at Rose & Thistle, Galway Traders, Ticketmaster, and Scottish Shopper. 526-0237 (or charge-by-phone 628-0888).

- 21 **Board Meeting** (visitors welcome), 7 pm, 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, 283-7378.

Tom Galt tells Totem Tales of the NW. 7 pm, Harborview Hospital Cafeteria. Call Debbie Beckmeyer, 223-8711.

- 23 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Tickle Typhoon. Tickets in advance imperative. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$3.50/\$2.50 children, 775-6977.

- 29,30,1 **Theatre-in-Sign** presents a theatre piece based on American Sign Language, movement & voice. Title TBA. Fri. 8 pm, Sat. 3 & 8 pm, Sun. 3 pm, Broadway Performance Hall, 587-4166.

- 30 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Steve Russell, comedy for kids. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$1.50, 775-6977.

* **Naomi Baltuck** tells Appalachian stories at the University Book Store. Fun for all ages. 2 pm, 4326 University Way NE, 634-3400.

DECEMBER

- 1 **BENEFIT CONCERT FOR YOUNG STORYTELLERS FOR PEACE USA/USSR EXCHANGE 1986.** A not-to-be-missed performance featuring Tim Noah, Deano the Clown, Merna Hecht, James Lucal, Michale Gabriel with several Young Storytellers for Peace, and other surprise guests. 2 pm, Museum of History & Industry, 2700 24th E., \$6 children/\$4.50 adults.

* (repeated January 2) **Cathryn Wellner** gives a storytelling gallery tour, "Shake Hands with Uncle Sam." A storyteller's view of the current exhibition, "American Folk Art: Expressions of a New Spirit." 1 pm, Seattle Art Museum, Volunteer Pk, free w/admission, 447-4710.

- 2-7 **Seattle Storytellers' Guild Book Week at the Secret Garden Children's Book Shop**, 7900 Greenlake Dr. N., 524-4556. A great place to buy gifts, and 10% of your purchases will be credited to the Guild. Be sure to tell them you're from the Guild. (See "Gift Giving, Guild Style," this issue.)

- * * 5 **Story 'n' Snack.** Bring a story & a snack for an informal evening of story swapping. 7:30 pm, 846 NE 98th. For details, call Naomi or Thom, 525-2560.

- 6,7,8 **Theatre-in-Sign** presents a theatre piece based on American Sign Language, movement & voice. Title TBA. Fri. 8 pm, Sat. 3 & 8 pm, Sun. 3 pm, Broadway Performance Hall, 587-4166.

- 7 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Mark Mayo, storyteller. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, \$1.50, 775-6977.

* 8 **Second Sunday Storytelling** at the Boiserie presents a holiday program of stories in celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas, and the New Year. 6:30 pm, Burke Museum Coffee Shop, UW campus, NE 45th & 17th NE, free parking, \$2, 525-2560.

- 12 **South End Story & Snack** at Mike & Mara Heutmacker's home in Kent. Call 631-6027 to confirm time and directions.

- 14 **Crackerbarrel Mornings for Kids** presents Tim Noah's Christmas show. Tickets in advance only. 10 am, Dawson City's Courtyard Theatre, 238th SW & Hwy 99, Edmonds, 775-6977.

Merna Hecht tells Holiday Stories for the Family. 3 pm, Greenwood Library, 8016 N. Greenwood, 625-4925.

- 16 **The Psyche & Eros Myth**, a lecture by Jungian analyst Gilda Frantz. 7:30 pm, Kane Hall, UW Campus, \$7/\$5 st, sr, & members of Friends of C. G. Jung, 525-3487.

- 19 **Board Meeting** (visitors welcome), 7 p.m., 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, 283-7378.

- 20 **Stories of Dark & Light**, a winter solstice evening of music & stories with Merna Hecht and James Lucal. Blue Heron Center for the Arts, Vashon. For information call 463-5131.



Classes & Workshops

Saturday Morning Drama Workshops for Kids, ages 5-8 and 9-14. Taught by Francine Hemphill-Lumbard. Ages 5-8 will dramatize simple traditional folktales; ages 9-14 will learn beginning acting techniques from an approach that includes storytelling and story dramatization. Everett Community College, September 28-December 7. For more information contact Cathy Miner, 259-7151.

Storying from the Heart, taught by Cathryn Wellner. Weave magic through storytelling. Integrate mind, voice, and body as you hear, learn, and tell stories. Sweaty palms and stomach butterflies will be put to work to enhance, not inhibit, your storytelling. We will explore a variety of techniques to make a story so vivid that neither you nor your listeners will forget it. Capitol Hill, 4 weeks, Mon., 7-9 pm, starting October 7. \$16 instructor's fee, \$5 supply fee. Register through ASUW Experimental College, 543-4735.

Improvisation Workshop, taught by Roberta Maguire. Learn improvisational theater techniques w/a former member of Second City Theater in Chicago & a co-founder, director & performer w/None of the Above in Seattle. We will begin w/physical & vocal trust exercises & quickly move on to the scene work. Participants will be encouraged to produce a range of work that includes both serious and comedic scenes. Sat. & Sun., 10/26 & 27, 10 am-4 pm, Capitol Hill. \$25 inst. fee, \$5 supply fee. Register through ASUW Experimental College, 543-4735.

"Creating Stories, Scenes, & Moods," with JAY O'CALLAHAN. We will treat the composition as a detective story. Ask the right questions, and the characters emerge. 10-12 am, Sat., Nov. 16, University Friends Center, 4001 9th NE. To reserve your space in this workshop, send \$20 to the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, 1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5, Seattle 98109, 283-7378. Two scholarships are available from the Sylvia Herom Memorial Fund. If you wish to be considered, please send a letter to the address above by November 1, describing your interest in the workshop.

Fairy Tales: Reflections of the Inner Life. A one-day workshop exploring traditional fairy tales from the perspective of Jungian psychology. Learn about how these tales mirror the struggles and triumphs of the soul familiar to all of us. Bring a favorite story. The instructor, James Lucal, M.A., is a therapist, storyteller and teacher. Sat., 11/16, 10 am-5 pm, Wallingford. \$15 inst. fee, \$4 supply fee. Register through ASUW Experimental College, 543-4735.

Power, Passion and the Mature Male, with Tom Pace and Michael Meade. The mythic hero of our American west embodied power, passion and integrity, and as such he defined an American notion of manhood, a notion which transcends the changes of recent years because it touches the male soul so deeply. In this workshop we will help the reawakening of this quest by actively encountering ourselves and each other through stories both real and mythic. The leaders of this workshop have extensive experience in helping men get unstuck and back on track in their personal journeys. Fri., 12/6, 7:30-10:30 pm; Sat., 12/7, 9 am-9 pm; Sun., 12/8, 10 am-4 pm, Antioch University, 1165 Eastlake Ave. E., Seattle, 98119, 343-9150.

Basic Ventriloquism: Captain Dick and the Old Salt (Dick Wightman). Another voice-breathing based skill that can add to storytelling, puppetry, etc. 8 sessions covering breathing and voice production, ventriloquial voice and alphabet, figure manipulation and construction, character development, and selection of material--a "doing" course. Students will build a simple figure and perform. Wed., 7-9 pm, beginning Oct. 9 in Ballard. \$29 plus \$3 materials. Register through ASUW Experimental College, 543-4735.

Creative Myths from Around the World. These ancient stories, told by storyteller James Lucal, will highlight this evening's Solo Series lecture at the University Unitarian Church. The lecture portion of the evening will focus on learning about the human faculty of creativity as it is reflected in the stories. All interested adults are welcome. James Lucal, M.A., is a therapist, storyteller, and teacher. Sun., Oct. 13, 7-9 pm, 6556 35th NE, \$4. For more information call 524-8249.

The Art of Storytelling. Rose of Sharon will teach a four-week class at Green River Community College, Auburn. 10/14-11/4, \$20. For information call 631-9366 or 833-9111, ext. 231.

Creative Visualization, taught by Sewa Singh. Expand your awareness through visual art. Learn techniques to enhance creativity, inventiveness, imagination & visualization as well as enrich your life in general. Class will help artists break through blocks in creativity as well as anyone who would like access to more creative choices. Tues., 10/22 & 29, 7-9:30 pm, Hamilton Middle School, \$12. Register through YMCA, 1708 NW Market St., Seattle 98107, 789-8300 (or University Office, 5003 12th NE, 524-1400).

Like Giving Birth

CONVERSATION WITH DIANE WOLKSTEIN
February 26, 1985

The audience was expectant but uncertain when Diane Wolkstein began to tell the myth of Isis and Osiris. She had performed it only once before her February 1985 appearance in Seattle. The story is so complex that losing the thread, failing to include any of the necessary details, would leave the audience adrift in a sea of gods. The first half is a stately dance, each move stylized and heavy with meaning. The second half is comic and earthy. The audience, made somber by passion, was suddenly teased into laughter with one absurdity after another. Diane so dignified and fervent in the first half, became impish and bawdy. The audience was hers.

Few professional storytellers turn to mythology for material. The stories are too dense, too demanding, too unfamiliar to today's audiences. To bring such stories to life requires enormous preparation, a complete immersion in ancient culture, an understanding of the religious significance of the myths. The telling itself is exhausting. As Diane explained later, it is like giving birth. In this second part of the interview, Diane gives some insight into her work with myths. (See Spring 1985 for Part I.)

It began in '77, when I did "Winter Tales for Adults" at the Theater of the Open Eye. For me moving from folk tales to long myths was like increasing my abilities on the piano. You play little pieces in the beginning, and then your fingers and your whole self are wanting to do more and looking for something larger and more complex because you can.

One thing I usually do when I am to tell a long myth in the evening is to lie in bed all day. If I'm out moving around and talking to people in the day, I'm connected to the people, not the story. When I lie in bed by myself all day, then I'm connected to myself and connected to the story, and then I can be connected to the people in the audience.

I had a massage two hours before I told Inanna for the first time at the Museum of Natural History, and the woman who gave me a massage said, "I'm getting green. Everything's green. You're about to give birth. What are you doing? Something is coming out of you. I can feel it." Then I told her I was about to tell Inanna. Storytelling is giving birth. You don't know what's going to come out or if it will be okay.

In the moment right before giving birth, you think to yourself, "Is this excruciating pain really worth it?" I remember when Rachel was born the pain I was in before she came out. But as soon as she came out, I never thought of that again until people talked about pain, and I remembered, yes, it was horrible. It was the worst pain I had ever had. It's just horrible pain, so it seems like it's not worth it. Why would anyone want to do it, except for when it comes out it's so incredible.

Creation stories demand a real seriousness. Nothing is more serious than life and death and how things come into birth, especially in the context of Isis and Osiris. It is sacred material, and it isn't done in a humorous manner. I haven't lived with it long enough to feel easy in it. I still feel stilted by it. Inanna also was impossible to do, and I did it. That's how life is. Everything's too hard to get through, and you get through it. But there is often a moment when you tell your friend, "Oh, God, it's just

too hard." So Isis and Osiris was too hard, and it will be for another four or five or ten times, and then it will be easier.

The first part of Isis and Osiris is fifteen different texts. The entire second part is one text, except for the ending, which is pieced together. The second part is fun. That's the nature of the material, so it is easier to do. But the pleasure comes because you have gone through the first part. What makes for humor, especially Jewish humor, which this is a little bit--Jewish humor is based on Egyptian humor--is suffering. It's funny because you know about all the suffering. That's why you can laugh in that kind of a way. It's not just little light stuff.

It's very hard to present mythic material. It's challenging, and it's rewarding, but it's very hard. What's helped me is working a lot with the stories from the Bible. I realized that the Bible was an anthology. The stories in the Old Testament are the stories that were selected to appear. The legends are some of the other stories which fill in the gaps, the stories which weren't selected. When I work with Biblical texts, I use the legends and make the story bigger. I include both the things that were excluded and the things in the Bible. That permits me to feel more freedom with the text and easier with it because I know it was humanly selected. I know we're talking religion, but this is religion. That's what myth is, religion.

For those interested in acquiring a background in mythology, Diane suggests the following:

- Campbell, Joseph. The Hero with a Thousand Faces. Princeton Univ. Pr., 1968.
- Eliade, Mircea. Rites and Symbols of Initiation: The Mysteries of Birth and Rebirth. Harper, 1958.
- Graves, Robert. The Greek Myths. Penguin, 1955.
- Kirk, G. S. Myth: Its Meaning and Function in Ancient and Other Cultures. U. of California Pr., 1970.
- MacLagan, David. Creation Myths. Thames Hudson, 1977.
- Scholem, Gershom. Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism. Schocken, 1954.
- Sproul, Barbara. Primal Myths: Creating the World. Harper, 1979.
- Thompson, William I. The Time Falling Bodies Take to Light. St. Martin, 1982.
- Turnbull, Colin. The Forest People. Touchstone, 1968.
- Von Franz, Maria. An Introduction to the Interpretation of Fairy Tales. Spring Publications, 1970.
- _____. Patterns of Creativity Mirrored in Creation Myths. Spring Publications, 1972.
- Wolkstein, Diane. Inanna: Queen of Heaven and Earth. Harper, 1983.



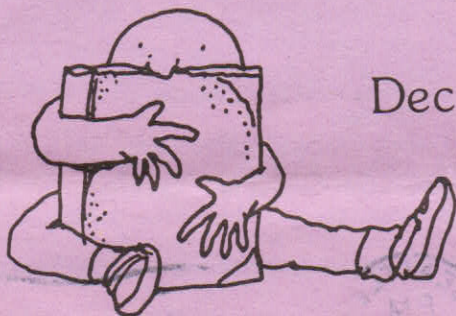
Michigan storyteller Pamela Vander Ploeg has produced a second cassette, **RAINBOW CAT & OTHER TAILSPINS**. On Side 1 are three tales by Terry Jones of Monty Python, all with original twists that add to their charm. Vander Ploeg has created the stories on Side 2, two of them pieced together from pieces of Michigan narratives, the other two personal anecdotes. To order send \$9, plus \$1.25 postage/handling for each cassette, to Great Lakes Storytellers, 715 Washington, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Gift Giving, Guild-Style

Eminently portable, never turning to crumbs in the mail, always appreciated--BOOKS for holiday gifts...and CASSETTES and RECORDS. Your nieces and nephews live in Florida? Price of postage making you think of sending feathers? Book Rate is still one of the cheapest means of sending your love. And the first week in December is the time to do it. (Don't forget the adults on your list. Many children's books are so beautiful anyone would enjoy owning them.)

December 2-7 will be the Seattle Storytellers' Guild Book Week at the Secret Garden Children's Bookshop, 7900 E. Greenlake Dr. N. (524-4556). Shop Mon.-Sat., 10-6 (Thurs., 10-8), and 10% of your purchases will be credited to the Guild. (Be sure to mention the Seattle Storytellers' Guild.) You'll be helping support Guild activities and making friends and family happy at the same time.

If you haven't yet visited the Secret Garden, you have a delicious treat in store. In addition to the best in children's literature, owner Sher Smith boasts a fine collection of folk and fairy tales, books for parents, beautiful cards, and recordings of many children's entertainers (including storytellers). So between December 2 and 7, drop by the Secret Garden. Buy a gift for your favorite relative (and another for yourself) and help to support the Seattle Storytellers' Guild.



Dec. 2-7

National Story Banner Project

A very exciting opportunity to speak out for international understanding is the national project tied in with Young Storytellers for Peace. The **NATIONAL STORY BANNER PROJECT** will give tangible tokens of friendship to Soviet schools, children's museums, and Pioneer Palaces. To send your good wishes along with the Young Storytellers, create a banner or quilt graphically illustrating your favorite personal folktale, fable or personal story. These stories, some of which will be translated into Russian and recorded on cassettes, will be presented along with the banners when the children travel to the Soviet Union in March 1986. For more information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Young Storytellers for Peace, Suite 1986, 1075 Bellevue Way, Bellevue, WA 98004.

FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT: Benefit for Young Storytellers for Peace, USA/USSR Exchange 1986. A Holiday Extravaganza not to be missed! Presenting TIM NOAH, DEANO THE CLOWN, MERNA HECHT, JAMES LUCAL, MICHAEL GABRIEL with several YOUNG STORYTELLERS FOR PEACE, and other surprise guests. Sun., Dec. 1, 2 pm, Museum of History & Industry. \$6 adults, \$4.50 children.

Naomi Baltuck to Spread the Word

When General Mills wanted a wholesome ad campaign to promote their Fruit Corners products, they turned a corporate eye on storytelling. Between September 9 and 16 they held auditions in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, with two storytellers from each city traveling to LA for a final audition on September 17. Naomi Baltuck and Holly Cummings were Seattle's representatives (with Debra Harris-Branham runner-up).

Naomi's "Magic Fiddle" and Holly's "Three Little Pigs" took top honors in the Seattle audition. Everything moved swiftly. Selected in Seattle on September 9, they flew to Los Angeles on September 17. Showing some of her impressive versatility, Naomi chose a story with a very different flavor for the Los Angeles auditions.

The only one calm enough to down breakfast the next morning was Bob Jackson, General Mills spokesman and one of the program's organizers. Trying to make clever conversation so early in the morning made the start of the auditions almost a relief. Naomi drew first slot and was interviewed by Ann Weeks of the American Library Association. The tellers performed in the same order, so after telling "The Monkey Who Asked for Misery" from Diane Wolkstein's *The Magic Orange Tree*, Naomi was able to relax, plagued only by such normal fears as: "Did I tell the wrong story?"

Judges Ann Weeks and a local librarian and radio personality debated long before making their decision. Gayle Tarin, of the NY advertising agency, and Bob Jackson then conferred and announced that Seattle's Naomi Baltuck and Laguna Beach's Ken Hazen would each be making a tour of five cities--he in the Southwest, she in the Northwest--between October 28 and November 8. By 12:30 the auditions had ended, and Naomi and Ken were feeling the surge of joy and the following letdown that come with taking risks and succeeding.

Next step for Naomi and Ken will be a trip to Minneapolis, where they will be briefed by General Mills nutrition experts and given a quick course on how to deal with the media. The company expects to make friends by doing something beneficial for families--like promoting storytelling--so we probably won't see Naomi and Ken on TV singing and dancing for Fruit Corners (at least not yet). But we will see them performing and talking to the media about storytelling.

Naomi has always loved the non-competitive aspect of storytelling. "I don't like to have my accomplishments take away from anyone else's." So she has a sense of purpose about the upcoming tour to San Francisco, Oakland/San Jose, Sacramento/Lodi, Yakima, and Seattle/Tacoma. "I see it as a chance to learn and to get good exposure. But just as important, I see it as a chance to educate people about storytelling."

From the Seattle Storytellers' Guild to Naomi: We love you, and we're proud of you.



Our own **CATHY SPAGNOLI** is a featured teller this year at the Bay Area Storytelling Festival on October 19. Anyone wishing to hear some topnotch storytelling should call Cathy for more information, 93-STORY.



Wind Motes

"This feeling, an **inexplicable renewal of enthusiasm after storytelling**, is familiar to many people. It does not seem to matter greatly what the subject is, as long as the context is intimate and the story is told for its own sake, not forced to serve merely as the vehicle for an idea. The tone of the story need not be solemn. But I think intimacy is indispensable--a feeling that derives from a listener's trust and a storyteller's certain knowledge of his subject and regard for his audience." (Barry Lopez, "Story at Anaktuvuk Pass." *Harper's*, December 1984. Thanks to Jan Hoem.)

Storytelling is "...the oldest and the most real literary bond between man and man. Neither music, nor the dance, nor verse, nor painting, nor sculpture, makes the general appeal which is made by story-telling; for all of these require a training if a man of one continent is to understand a man of another. The appeal of story is instantaneous from pole to pole." (Arthur Burrell, *A Guide to Storytelling*)

IN THE WIND is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild and is published quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. \$10 individual and \$15 family memberships in the Guild include a year's subscription. For back issues of the newsletter (Spring 1984-Summer 1985), send \$1 to 1917 15th E., Seattle 98102. PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR LABEL.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY-MARCH NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 15. Please send all news items, articles, notes, photographs (b & w stats), queries, complaints, and faint praise to **Cathy Wellner, 1917 15th Ave. E., Seattle 98112, 328-1328.**

Seattle Storytellers' Guild

1921 Taylor Ave. N., #5
Seattle, WA 98109

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
1921 Taylor Ave. N., Apt. #5
Seattle, WA 98109

Call Us for Answers

Information about the Guild, local storytellers, upcoming activities--Suellen Adams, Director, 775-5954
Newsletter--Cathy Wellner, Newsletter Editor, 328-1328
Membership, publicity--Mary Mercer, Publicity Coordinator, 283-7378
Volunteering--Gwen Delmore, Volunteer Coordinator, 485-3036
Programs, both planned and proposed--Donald Braid, Program Development Director, 324-6870
Story 'n' Snack, Annual Membership Meeting, social gatherings--Naomi Baltuck, Membership Activities Director, 525-2560
Ticklish questions--Eugene Vernon, Legal Advisor, 747-3207.
Financial matters--Ann Schuessler, 523-0438.
Straight scoop about storytelling--Bob Polishuk, 344-7455.

