

## *in the Wind*

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Spring 1991, Vol. XIV, Number 2

### **GOING PROFESSIONAL** Copyright 1991 by Naomi Baltuck

As the art of storytelling experiences a renaissance, there is an increasing number of revivalists who want to step over that intimidating line between amateur and professional storyteller. What is the next step?

#### ***GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS***

1. Put the word out that you are telling stories professionally. Contact local libraries, schools, scout troops, senior centers, and arts organizations.

You might offer to do some volunteer performances to establish connects and to let potential sponsors hear you in action.

2. Get business cards made up right away. Don't worry if you haven't got a flashy pamphlet or a catchy "stage name", so long as you have your name, telephone number, and the word "storyteller" printed on your cards. There will be time enough later to design more elaborate publicity materials.

3. Get an answering machine right away if you haven't already got one. It will be one of your most practical investments. Not only is it a sign of professionalism, but if a potential sponsor calls repeatedly and gets no answer or a busy signal, that person will call someone else.

4. Set a standard fee for your services. It sounds unprofessional to hem and haw about your fee. but if an opportunity to perform on a volunteer basis provides enough exposure or experience to make it worthwhile, then tell them, "My regular fee is such and such, however, this time I would be willing to go out for gas money." You get the show and they feel like they are getting a bargain.

5. Find a support group. Storytelling can be an isolating business; no one can learn or tell stories for you. But in most areas, there is a local group of storytellers within driving distance. Find out what is happening in your local storytelling community and get involved. Having others with whom you can exchange ideas will help to keep your energy and enthusiasm strong.

6. If you have had a particularly warm response, ask your sponsor to write a letter of reference. Keep these on file and make them available upon request.

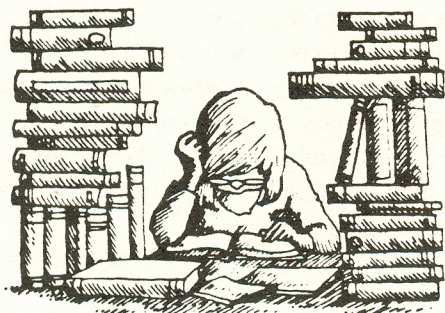
7. Set yourself reasonable goals, both short and long range. Design a five year plan, balancing your current circumstances with your dreams. One person's five year plan might be another's ten or fifteen year plan. Here is an example of an ambitious, but attainable goal. **Year One:** Tell in local schools, bookstores, and libraries. Become a valuable and contributing member of the local storytelling organization. Attend a national festival.

Continued on page 9



## Potluck Dinner and Story Swap

Following the business meeting and election of the board, SSG members are invited to bring a dish and story to share with other SSG members. This year's meeting will be held at 321 Newton St., Seattle, WA. Mark your calendar for June 8 at 5:30 PM. For directions call Joy Anderson, 284-0400.



## SOURCES: ABOUT STORIES AND THE FOLKS WHO TELL THEM

by Margaret Read MacDonald,  
King County Library System

Recent events show us the need for more talk and thought about peace. Clearly until we humans learn to love peace more than war the future of our kind is at peril. It is going to take a lot of talk about peace to counteract the stirring excitement of the U.S. beating an aggressor into the ground. Here are some places to begin.

*The Big Book for Peace*, edited by Ann Durell. Dutton, 1990. \$15.95.

Amazingly timed to appear just before the war's outbreak, this collection features short story and picture book texts compiled from noted authors of children's literature. The illustrations were donated by equally known artists. The

collection is handsome and should find good use in classrooms and in families. It would make an attractive gift. Since most of the material is literary in tone, it might be best used as a read aloud, though storytellers will find some tellable material here as well.

*The Hungry Tigress: Buddhist Legends and Jataka Tales* as told by Rafe Martin. Parallex Press, 1990. \$15.

Rafe Martin does a fine job in bringing these ancient tales to life. They are retold with love and exuberance by a master teller. The selflessness of many Buddhist tales makes this an especially useful collection for those seeking tales of non-violence. On the darker side, I found "The Black Hound" and "The Legend of Avalokitesvara" thought provoking glimpses of man's penchant for self-destruction. Martin includes useful commentaries at the book's end, which cite his sources and discuss the tales. At \$15, this handsome paperback will make a useful addition to any storyteller's library. Every public library should own a copy and this should be a first purchase for jr high and high school Buddhist study collections.

*And The Earth Lived Happily Ever After. . . Old and New Traditional Tales to Wage Peace by Floating Eaglefeather*. Available from: Wages of Peace, 309 Trudeau Drive, Matairie, LA 70003.

Floating Eaglefeather's self-published paperback contains several useful stories for telling and much to think about. Eaglefeather travels the world collecting and telling stories of peace.

*Stories for Positive World Change*. A useful bibliography of peace tales is available from John Porcino, 253 Long Plain Rd., Amherst, Maine 01002. Write to him for details.

**NOTE:** This reviewer is in the process of preparing a compilation of peace tales for publication by Linnet Books in the fall of 1992. If you have a favorite folktale which promotes peaceful thinking and you would like to see it in such a compilation, give me a call at 827-6430.



## Seattle Storyteller's Guild Annual Report 1990

One of the SSG Board's primary goals for 1990 was to rebuild the treasury after losing money on two SSG events in 1989. The Board is pleased to report that goal was reached. Following is a breakdown of expenses and income.

EXPENSES		INCOME
Archive	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bois	\$850.00	\$1628.00
Festival	\$378.00	\$801.42
Library	\$12.93	\$0.00
Mailing/Postage	\$658.80	\$0.00
Membership	\$42.50	\$3378.00
Miscellaneous	\$796.77	\$204.56
Newsletter	\$1736.00	\$0.00
Petty Cash	\$0.00	\$.13
Resources	\$0.00	\$101.00
(Shirts/Directories/Tapes)		
Story 'N Snack	\$6.02	\$0.00
Special Events	\$861.56	\$1064.90
Workshops	\$402.17	\$895.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,745.57</b>	<b>\$8,073.74</b>
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>January 1, 1990</b>	<b>\$3,966.63</b>
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>December 31, 1990</b>	<b>\$6,294.80</b>

## SSG Annual Meeting and Election of Board Saturday, June 8, 1991, 5:30 PM

On Saturday, June 8 the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will hold its annual meeting and election of board members by the general membership. The SSG board invites members to send letters of interest in becoming a board member, stating the position desired and skills/expertise the member could bring to the board. Nominations to the Board may be submitted to the President who shall appoint a nominating committee thirty days prior to the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The board determines Guild policy, sets guidelines for committees and determines the duties of the committees. Attendance of board members to monthly meetings is mandatory. Board positions are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Youth Activities, Grants and Mailing lists, Volunteer Coordinator, Festival Director, Publicity and Editor. Current board members should submit a letter stating whether he or she is interested in continuing on the board and in what capacity.



## Calendar of Events

**April 5** *At the Boiserie* - **Kristen Quigstad** tells Hulder Tales from Norwegian folklore, stories that she learned from her parents and translated from the Norwegian. 7PM, Burke Museum Coffeehouse, UW Campus. \$3. SSG, \$5. general public.

**April 6** - *Springtime Stories for Children 5 - 8* with **Merna Hecht** at Books By the Way, Vashon Island at 10:30 AM.

**April 11** - **Merna Hecht** presents a Children's Storytime at the Secret Garden Bookstore 2PM.

**April 13** - **Susan Warner** performs spontaneous and prepared stories and poems at the University of Washington Bookstore. 1PM. Audience participation encouraged. Free.

**April 16** **Naomi Baltuck** presents *Earth Day, Every Day*, stories to celebrate the earth. Free. 7PM, Camas Public Library. For more information, call 834-4692.

**April 17** **Rebecca Chamberlain** tells Medieval Ballads and Legends. The stories will incorporate a riddle theme. 7PM, Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery at 5445 Ballard Ave. NW. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

**April 17**, *Cowichan Theatre Cabaret* presents Cowichan Folk Tellers. Cathryn Wellner will host Cowichan Valley's long-time residents tell their tales. \$8.25, Duncan, B.C. For more information, call 604-748-7986.

**April 19** **Stacia Keogh** will be helping celebrate Seattle Public's centennial. Stacia will be roving the various departments from 1 - 4PM as a visitor from the future, telling tales of how the future is impacted by what we do today.

**April 19** *At The Boiserie* - **Richard Wright**, author, columnist and raconteur will present

"Seeing the Elephant," a series of stories about the westward movement by men and women seeking British Columbian gold. 7PM, Burke Museum Coffeehouse, UW Campus. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public. For more information, call 621-8646.

**April 20** **Stacia Keogh** visits the Fremont branch of the Seattle Public Library telling stories about **Then, Now and Next**. 4pm. Call 322-4011 for more information.

**April 21** **Naomi Baltuck** presents *Earth Day, Every Day, Stories to Celebrate the Earth* and It's Gifts. 1 PM, For more information, call Bloedel Donovan at (206)676-6985.

**April 25** *Story 'n' Snack*, Potluck dessert and story swap. For more information, call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

**May 1** **Ron Vernon** tells traditional, original and improvisational stories at the Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery. 5445 Ballard Ave. NW. 7PM, \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

**May 3** *At the Boiserie* - Sumner Storyteller **Susan Blain** presents "*Clever Silver, Secret Gold*" stories of lost children and Kings, found treasures and dreams. 7PM Burke Museum Coffeehouse, UW Campus. \$3. SSG, \$5. general public. For more information, call 621-8646.

**May 4** - **Naomi Baltuck** presents "*Traveling Light Around the World*", folk and fairy tales from all corners of the earth. 1PM, for school age children. Free. University Bookstore. For more information, call 634-3400.

**May 6 - 10** - ASUW Women's Commission hosts a week long celebration of women in the arts. On May 8th, "Stories of the Goddesses", will be presented by **Susan Warner**. This performance will include audience participation as we create our own goddess story. On the UW campus. For exact location and time as well as other information, call the ASUW Women's Commission office at 543-1817.



**May 15 Susan Warner** tells spontaneous and prepared stories, transformational and humorous stories with lots of audience participation. 7PM Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery, 5445 Ballard Ave. NW. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

**May 16 - Vi Hilbert** presents Tales of the Upper Skagit, native stories in Lushootseed and English from Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert. \$8.25, seniors, \$6.25. For more information contact the Cowichan Theatre Cabaret, Duncan, B.C., 604-748-7986.

**May 17 - At the Boiserie - Merna Hecht** presents "Bringing It Home", traditional Yiddish and Ozark folktales. 7PM, Burke Museum Coffeehouse. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public. For more information, call 621-8646.

**May 30 - Story 'n' Snack**, Potluck dessert and story swap. For more information, call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

**June 5 The Way We Like It - Duo Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman** present a program, "Once Upon A Time and Dragon" - an evening of fantasy with traditional and contemporary fairy tales. 7PM, Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

**June 5 Cathryn Wellner and Richard Wright** present *Partners for the Long Dance*. In the long dance over life's fields, we have many partners - lovers, friends, family. Through story and song, Wellner and Wright will explore the laughter and the struggles. Duncan, B.C., \$8.25, seniors \$6.25. Cowichan Theatre, Duncan B.C. For more information, call 604-748-7986.

**June 7 - At the Boiserie** - After a four year estrangement Cynthia Orr returns to storytelling. She will feature shamanistic tales of power from the Native American, African and Jewish traditions. The mix may seem improbable but Cynthia guarantees its' potency. 7PM, Burke Museum Coffeehouse, UW campus. \$3. for SSG

members, \$5. general public. For more information, call 621-8646.

**June 8 - Annual Board Meeting, Election of Officers and Potluck Dinner and Story Swap.** 5:30PM at Joy Anderson's home. For directions, call 284-0400. See related article on election of officers and annual board meeting.

**June 19 Joy Anderson** presents, "*Mostly Greek*" a medley of stories from Greek Myths highlighting the exploits of kings, heroes, gods and goddesses with perhaps a tale or two of ordinary folk. 7PM Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery. \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

**June 21 - At the Boiserie** - To celebrate the first day of summer we will have a potpourri of Seattle Storytellers spinning yarns of midsummer magic. 7PM, Burke Museum Coffeehouse, \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public. For more information, call 621-8646.

**June 27 - Story 'n' Snack - Potluck dessert and story swap.** For more information, call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382.

## Workshops and Conferences

**Speaking Voice Improvement: Are you getting the most out of your voice?** Linda E. Eblen is a certified speech-language pathologist who specializes in voice. She has appeared on KING and KOMO television, speaking about voice improvement and voice care. During this workshop your voice will be analyzed and learn practical tips for using your best voice. Two workshops offered: **April 2,9,16,& 23 at 5:30 to 7:30 PM or May 8,15,22 & 29 at 6 - 8 PM.** For more information, call 361-4811.

**Remembering the Future: Applications of Storytelling on April 5-7 with Tom Heidlebaugh.** Participants will learn different ways to tell and hear the stories of their lives. Through song and



## ***Workshops and Conferences continued. . .***

storymaking we will come to know legends from NW traditions and learn new techniques, including "storytelling circles" and "whole self picturing". \$163. fee includes two overnights and 6 meals at Rosemary Inn. Tom Heidlebaugh is a teacher, storyteller and author. he has performed at such places as the Institute for American Indian Arts. For more information, contact the Olympic Park Institute, 206-928-3720.

### ***5th Annual Storytelling Weekend, Pennyrite Forest State Park, April 19, 20, and 21***

sponsored by the International Order of E.A.R.S., INC and the Kentucky Department of Parks. Call 1-800-325-0059.

### **Northwest Women's Studies Association**

presents *"Living in the Margins: Class, Race and Gender"*, April 19 - 21 at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. For more information about registration call the Women's Resource and Research Center at (509) 335-1794 or (509) 335-6830.

*Shaping Your Life Stories with Richard Wright and Cathryn Wellner* is a featured workshop on April 20, 9-12 AM, Poverty Playhouse, Port Townsend. Participants will go through the process of identifying a tellable story and shaping it into a memorable tale. For more info, call Mike Majors, 385-4156.

*The Humor Connection with Carl Grant, April 20, 1991 from 10AM - 4PM.* Remember how "Tuned In" you were the last time someone was really funny? Learn to harness that same power in business presentations, public speaking and private conversations in the context of a class that is both entertaining and informative. The instructor is a professional comedian whose credits include appearances on Late Night With David Letterman and "National Public Radio. For more information call 543-4375 UW Experimental College for course #4311.

*Telling Your Story with Cathryn Wellner and Richard Wright on Saturday and Sunday April 27 and 28.* This is a seminar on researching, preparing, shaping and telling your story. Conducted by two well known and respected storytellers this intensive workshop will focus on storytellers who have passed the beginning stages of telling. It is designed for tellers who have stories to which they want to add depth, those who are looking for new material and sources, and tellers wanting to hone performance skills. Participants should come ready to work on a story and prepared to perform. Sessions will run from Saturday 9 AM to 4:30 PM, with an evening participant's performance at 8 PM and Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM. Session is limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is \$165. It will be held at the Cowichan Community Centre Theatre Cabaret. For more information contact, Winter Quarters, 5051 Langtry Road, RR. No. 3, Duncan, B.C. Canada. 604-748-7896.

*Storytelling taught by Naomi Baltuck.* Tuesdays from 7-9:30 PM, May 7 - 28. Whether spinning a traditional yarn or telling from your own personal experience, there is joy in the sharing of a story. We all tell stories every day. In this course you will expand your storytelling skills in a safe and friendly atmosphere. Edmonds. \$35. Register through ASUW Experimental College. 543-4375.

*Sweaty Palms and Stomach Butterflies Can Enhance, Not Inhibit Storytelling.* Spend a morning learning to create verbal magic out of memories or take the fear out of public speaking. Workshop designed for beginners. Open to University Congregational church members first, then general public if room allows. Contact Cherie Trebon, 525-0382. May 11 from 9AM to 1PM.

*Tales and Traditions with Vi Hilbert on Wednesday, May 15, 7 PM.* Vi Hilbert of Seattle is internationally recognized for her work in recording and preserving the stories of the her most requested stories, "Lady Louse," or examining the meaning of "Coyote and the Rock,"



Lushootseed-speaking people. Her workshops are an exploration of the importance of storytelling as cultural expression and passing on of heritage. Whether through creating new versions of one of Duncan, B.C. V9L 2X1.

***Myths, Legends and the Northwest with Susan Wallace, May 17-19***, an Olympic Park Institute program. The unique qualities of the Olympic region, mountain and tree, coast and stream, raven and whale, inspired stories and shaped world views. Through the process of observing and recording the features of the Olympics and writing our own stories based on those features, we will come to better understand how myths and legends originated, what purpose they serve in their cultural contexts and how they are perpetuated. This is a workshop on writing, observing, storytelling and absorbing the culture of the Olympics. The instructor is an Associate Professor of English Composition at Pierce College. For more information call 206-928-3720. Fee \$163.

***The Power of Story, Breathing Life Into the World*** - the second annual conference on storytelling at the Ojai Foundation featuring Laura Simms, Naomi Newman, Stephen Clorfeine, Terry Tempest Williams, Frances Harwood, Bruce Bochte and Jack Zimmeran. **May 17 - 24**. Cost of weekend: \$195 (\$35. deposit) includes meals and land fee. Cost of entire program: \$450. (deposit \$75.) includes all meals and land fee. For more info, call 1-800-253-2868.

***11th Annual Writer's Workshop and Stories in the Cave, June 2-8***. Sponsored by the International Order of E.A.R.S., INC. and the Kentucky Department of Parks, 1-800-325-0059

***5th Annual National Congress on Storytelling Conference: Storytelling in Education, June 12-16***, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut. Featured speakers include: Julius Lester, Peninnah Schram, Doug Lipman, Dr. Batholomew O'Connor, Marni Schwartz, Fran Stallings and many more. Topics include: The

Story The Child Keeps: Honoring the Diversity and Integrity of Childhood; Justifying Storytelling to Your Administrator; Storytelling as Whole Language; and many more. NAPPS members, \$190. or \$220. non-members. For more information, write or call NAPPS, 615-753-2171.

***4th Festival of Storytelling on Martha's Vineyard, June 21 - 22***. Storytelling from the Inside Out featuring Rex Ellis, Beth Horner, Susan Klein and Steve Sanfield. For more information write: Susan Klein, P.O. Box 214, Oak Buffs, Mass. 02557.

***2nd Perennial Methow Valley Storytelling Workshop and Festival 1991***. Join in for a weekend of classes and storytelling at the North Cascades Basecamp, a secluded lodge on the Methow River north of Mazama. Basecamp facilities include six bedrooms and four shared baths. Up to 20 workshop participants can be housed (\$25-50./day including meals). Participants rooming elsewhere may share the family style meals at Basecamp. See our Pass It On flyer for more information.

***Stories: Old Friends, New Favorites, July 25-28***, University of Wyoming at Laramie. Featured are: David Holt and Mary Carter Smith. For information or brochure, call 800-448-7801. Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, Performances

***July 13, 9 - 5 PM Guemes Island Storytelling Retreat taught by Margaret Read MacDonald***. Features audience participation folktales. \$60. 1 credit S.P.U. costs additional \$24. For SPU credit follow-up session required Friday, July 26, 7-9 at a Mercer Island site or Saturday, July 27 at Guemes Island site. For more information, call 827-6430.

***August 4 - First Ever SSG Family Picnic*** to be held at Lincoln Park. More details in the Summer newsletter!

***October 4 - 6, 1991 National Storytelling Festival***, Jonesborough, Tennessee.



## Storytelling At the Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery

Seattle Storyteller's Guild and Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery will present a new storytelling series on the first and third Wednesdays of each month beginning April 17. The Crystal Star is at 5445 Ballard Ave. NW just off Market Street. The Crystal Star is a non-smoking environment with a cafe and shop of puppets and books of interest to storytellers. Programs begin at 7PM and admission is \$3. SSG members, \$5. general public.

After the main performance there will be an open mike. Stories more than ten minutes in length must be scheduled in advance with Martha Smith (522-8788). Shorter stories will be scheduled at the door, with preference given to tellers who have not told in the preceding two months. See Calendar of Events for more information about individual performers and their programs.

## Volunteer Storytellers Needed

Phil Johnson is looking for volunteers as part of an outreach program to retirement homes, nursing homes, and hospitals. If you are interested in telling stories or know of groups interested in such services call Phil at 527-0383.

## Newsletter Editor Sought

Editor slot opens providing a terrific opportunity to support storytelling and become involved in a non-threatening environment. Volunteers interested in becoming the newsletter editor of *In The Wind* should call Sally Porter Smith, 284-2315 for more information.

## Michale Gabriel Awarded the Parent's Choice Silver Honors

Michale Gabriel's newly released, *"Tales from other Russia"* just received a Parent's Choice Silver Honors for 1990 and was a finalist for the ALA 1991 Notable Recording List. In granting the

Parent's Choice Award, Diana Huss Green, President of Parent's Choice Foundation said, "your fine work is an example of diligence, talent and caring. It honors children."

Her second tape, *"Word Dreams"* has also been receiving excellent reviews. Jimmy Neil Smith, Director of NAPPS says, "Michale's choice of stories, quality of delivery and professional production values make her award-winning cassettes as good as any I've heard". Original music was created by Seattle musician David Templeton.

## 14th ANNUAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

The University of Washington, Graduate School of Library and Information Science presents the Fourteenth Annual Storytelling Workshop, May 3 and 4, 1991, featuring Margaret Moore Hodges, distinguished Author, Educator, Folklorist. Workshop topics include: A Dialog with Margaret M. Hodges; Art and Techniques of Storytelling; Lore of Urban Legends; and the Role of Video in Storytelling. Schedule of fees: master class only, \$20.; storytelling workshop, \$50.; storytelling workshop and master class, \$70.; storytelling workshop, master class and one credit option, \$135. For more information, call Judith Nyman-Schaaf, GSLIS 543-1794.

## Call for Storytellers for KSER 90.7 on your FM dial...

On February 2, KSER, Everett and Snohomish County went on the air. KSER is a non profit, listener supported radio station operated by the Jack Straw Foundation of Seattle. Holly Cummings, Coordinator Children's Programming is seeking storytellers to fill four and a half hour slots. Tellers will record stories, at their convenience, for broadcast. She is especially interested in people willing to take a full week of programming - 2 1/2 hours, 5 half hour segments.

How daring are you? A story at a time! Or, are you brave enough to plunge right in and attempt a full week? Holly will be happy to work with you on scheduling and training. Please give her a call as soon as possible. Holly's number is (206)778-0899 Lynnwood, WA.



Year two: Broaden your audience. Design and produce an attractive brochure. Attend the national festival and tell a short story at the swapping ground there. Year three: Develop a storytelling workshop, write an article for a storytelling publication based on your growing knowledge and experience. Audition for an artist-in-residence program. Produce an audio cassette of your stories. And so on...by the end of five years, perhaps your goals will be to make your living as a full-time storyteller.

#### **IN THE MEANTIME...**

\* It is important to select stories that are meaningful to you, but it is also practical to start with a wide variety of stories. You will undoubtedly be called upon to tell a holiday story, a humorous story, an inspirational story, a ghost story, etc. You will have more occasion to tell stories which are ten minutes or less.

Always have a couple of 3-5 minute stories ready, in case you are asked to audition or do a short spot on the radio. Put together several basic programs with pleasing titles, from which sponsors might choose, for example, world folk tales, ghost stories, or a pre-school program.

\* Look for fresh material. If there are already a dozen storytellers in the area who tell "Come Again in the Spring" or "Wicked John and the Devil", then you might as well learn a story no one else is telling.

\* Credit your sources. Once you take that step into the professional field, you are legally responsible for the material you use. If you don't have legal ownership of a story that is not in the public domain, then you must get permission to use it from the one who does. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

\* Find your own style and material. Once you step over the line from amateur to professional, you cannot build your reputation upon someone else's work. For example, it is distracting when a storyteller has obviously affected the mannerisms of Jay O'Callahan or the inflections of Laura

Simms in his or her telling. Nor will you establish a national reputation by telling someone else's signature story.

\* Stretch yourself. Don't get too comfortable once you have found a story, a program, or a style that works for you. Stay open to new possibilities; that will keep storytelling challenging and exciting for you and your listeners.

#### **POSSIBLE PITFALLS...**

As a new professional, you will have many things on your mind, but there are some important pitfalls to avoid as you establish your career.

\* A story can be very powerful and people can be hurt when a story is told to the wrong listeners. A well-meaning teller visited my elderly friend who was dying and told her Robert Munsch's "I'll Love You Forever", which depressed and upset her terribly. Avoid telling stories simply for shock value or to evoke an emotional reaction. Watch out for stories which perpetuate stereotypes. Be responsible and sensitive about what stories you tell.

\* You may get so anxious to be rich and famous that you take the fun out of it. If you have talent, persistence, and patience, you will be recognized when you are ready. You don't want to rush into the spotlight before you have had time to build your repertoire and establish your own style.

\* You may be tempted to take jobs when your heart is not in them, simply because it has been offered to you or you need the money. In the long run, the money that you make is not worth the time and energy spent learning a story or putting together a program that you don't particularly care for and will never use again. It would be much more practical to use that time to create a program that you are excited about and will be a valuable addition to your repertoire.

\* No one's career in storytelling has to be built upon the bones of those who came before. Remember that someone else's success is not your



*Continued from page 9*

failure. As a community, storytellers are building a broader market for the oral tradition. The success of each storyteller helps to create more work for all of us.

\* You may find yourself putting every ounce of your energy into your storytelling goals and losing the balance in your life. Other experiences, such as quilting, teaching, weaving, communing with nature, raising children, scuba diving, dancing, and traveling, help prevent Storyteller's Burnout and add a richness to your life that will be reflected in the depth of your storytelling.

\* You want the world to realize that storytelling is your livelihood, and you should not feel obliged to donate your services to every cause that requests them. However, if you pick and choose your causes carefully, your valuable skill naturally lends itself to sharing and is an excellent way to give something back to the community which supports you.

*In the Wind* is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, a non-profit organization and is published quarterly. Membership in the Guild includes a year's subscription. Please check the expiration date on your label. Deadline for summer issue is June 10, 1991.

**Seattle Storytellers' Guild**  
P.O. Box 45532  
Seattle, Washington 98145-0532

## Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City /State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Individual, \$10. \_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$15. \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional, \$20. \_\_\_\_\_ Donor, \$25. \_\_\_\_\_

Fairy Godparent, \$100. \_\_\_\_\_ Liar, \$49.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Muse, be generous and creative, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ Please include my name on mailing lists for related events.

Mail to: Seattle Storytellers' Guild  
P.O. Box 45532  
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

**Board Members:** Naomi Baltuck, President, 776-1175; Margaret Read MacDonald, VP, 827-6430; Joy Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator, 284-0400; Gene Friese, Secretary, 284-9469; Debra Harris-Branham, 772-0415; Ken Jackson, Youth Coordinator, 324-0071; Martha Smith, Grants & Mailing Lists, 522-8788; Cherie Trebon, Treasurer, 525-0382; Richard Wells, Festival Director, 236-0730; Rod Winget, Publicity, 439-7588; and Sally Porter Smith, editor, 284-2315.

**621-8646**

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# IT ON! A Quarterly Flyer for Friends of Storytellers

Help pass the word about storytelling performances and workshops by sharing with friends and colleagues information about upcoming events. For more info about these programs and others, call 621-8646.

## Methow Valley Storytelling Workshop & Festival Friday, June 28 - Sunday, June 30

### Schedule of Events:

**Friday, June 28** 6-8 PM Welcome & Light  
Buffet hosted by Word Works  
8 PM Dinner at Basecamp (by reservation)

**Saturday, June 29** 9 AM Morning Workshops:

The Life of the Story with Dayton Edmonds  
A Storied Walk Through Chinese History with  
Kate Stevens

**Noon to 1:30 PM** On Your Own Lunch

**1:30 PM** Afternoon Workshops:  
Bandanas, Socks & Broomsticks: Puppets Coming  
Alive with Dayton Edmonds or  
Poems, Clappers and Humor as Doors to the  
Imagination with Kate Stevens

**6 PM** Dinner at Basecamp by reservation: limited  
to 40 dinners

**8 PM** Campfire Tales at Rocking Horse Ranch

**Sunday, June 30** Morning free for hikes, bikes,  
worship

**1 PM** 2nd Perennial Methow Valley StoryFest -  
Open Mike at Rocking Horse Ranch

### Accommodations:

North Cascades Basecamp, a secluded lodge on the  
Methow River north of Mazama will be the site  
of our workshops. Dick and Sue Roberts will be  
our hosts. Basecamp facilities include six  
bedrooms and four shared baths. Up to 20  
workshop participants can be housed here (\$25 -  
\$50./day including meals).

Participants rooming elsewhere may share the  
family style means at Basecamp. Call  
509-996-2334 for room and/or board reservations  
at Basecamp.

**Additional accommodations:** Mazama Country  
Inn, 509-996-2681; Lost River Cabins,  
509-996-2537; Early Winters Cabin, 509-996-2355;  
Chokecherry Inn, 509-996-2049.

**Registration before May 5, \$25.; after May 5,  
\$35.** Credit from Wenatchee Valley Community  
College is pending. **For more information, write  
Word Works, P.O. box 434, Winthrop, WA  
98862. Remember Facilities and services are  
limited in this area. Winthrop is 16 miles south  
on Hwy 20.**



## At the Boiserie

Twice a month the Seattle Storytellers' Guild sponsors storytelling at the Burke Museum on the University of Washington campus. Cost is \$3. for SSG members, \$5. general public. The stories are generally appropriate for adults and children age ten and older. For more information call, 621-8646. Below is the schedule of performances:

April 5 - *Kristen Quigstad* tells **Hulder Tales** from Norwegian folklore.

April 19 - *Richard Wright* will present "**Seeing the Elephant**", a series of stories about the westward movement seeking British Columbian gold.

May 3 - Sumner storyteller, *Susan Blain*, presents "**Clever Silver, Secret Gold**" stories of lost children and Kings, found treasure and dreams.

May 17 - *Merna Hecht* presents "**Bringing It Home**", traditional Yiddish and Ozark folktales.

June 7 - *Cynthia Orr* presents **shamanistic tales of power** from the Native American, African and Jewish traditions.

June 21 - Potpourri of *Seattle Storytellers* tell tales of **midsummer magic**.

## Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery

Twice a month the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will sponsor a Wednesday night storytelling event at The Crystal Star Concert Cafe and Gallery located at 5445 Ballard Ave. N.W. \$3. SSG, \$5. general public.

April 17 - *Rebecca Chamberlain* tells **Medieval Ballads and Legends**.

May 1 - *Ron Vernon* tells **traditional, original and improvisational stories**.

May 15 - *Susan Warner* tells **spontaneous and prepared stories, transformational and humorous stories** with lots of audience participation.

June 5 - **The Way We Like It** - duo *Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman* will present "Once Upon a Time and Dragon".

June 19 - *Joy Anderson* presents "**Mostly Greek**" a medley of stories from Greek myths