

in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Winter 1992, Vol. XV, Number 1

Traditional Telling In Japan

by **Cathy Spagnoli** from travel in 1991 under an artist's fellowship from Japan Foundation

"I remember my grandmother holding me and whispering stories as we drifted to sleep. Her words shared such a feeling of closeness, of caring," says an older teller from Aomori who now tells these tales to her grandchildren. Storytelling around the *iroori*, the fireplace, was a warm and vital part of an older Japan.

Then factories grew, needing labor for long hours outside the home. And hard times hit the farms, sending the young listeners to the cities for work. The invasion of television and the demands of a competitive school system further weakened the folktelling tradition. But luckily, in the recent past, new listeners have been found and they are seeking out elder tellers throughout Japan.

"My grandmother told many stories," says soft-spoken Shugi Ahiko, storyteller and professor of American literature in Yokohama. "But I never really valued her tales until one day when some young folklore students came to do fieldwork in my community. They wanted to collect her stories! I decided then that I should be doing that, not them. So I joined a folklore class."

In my travels, I met many dedicated folklore collectors, from all walks of life, each eager to keep folk storytelling alive. But for some traditions, it is almost too late:

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Floating Eagle Feather

by **Geoff Manasse**

Floating Eagle Feather is gone. He used to come through Seattle and tell stories to children and adults, his life's calling. We were just one of his many stops because the road was his home.

He was 38 years old when he died on Sept. 19, 1991, in New Orleans from complications of AIDS. His parents were by his side.

Eagle Feather was very smart. He could speak English, French, Spanish, and American Sign Language fluently in addition to being competent in Italian and Japanese. He told stories in these traditions and many others. He was prolific in his writing and his inventiveness. He wrote several books, articles and compiled others as an editor.

Eagle Feather was a great teacher. He would weave stories with his whole body and soul and decorate them with colorful bits of paper he would fold into Origami animals. I saw him communicate with audiences in Palermo, Italy which could not understand his dialect but still got the meaning of his story.

He could always make me laugh. He had the timing of a great comedian. But he could just be silly too. I will greatly miss his humor.

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"I heard so many tales when I was 5, 6, and 7 and I told them then, too," sighed 86 year old Nabe Shirasawa, one of the few remaining Ainu storytellers in Hokkaido. "My father once told me I would be important in preserving our culture. But I forgot his words when I grew older. I married and was too busy trying just to survive." Suckily, a young scholar some years ago gathered several Ainu elders together and for the first time in decades, Nabe Shirasawa told one of the old yukaras the stories.

"Everyone was thrilled to hear the real thing," she smiled. Ever since she has shared the stories she can remember. As she told a tale to us one day, her kind eyes looked down to the floor. Her voice chanted soft words, richly repeated; her hands, too, sang a rhythm, the right fist tapping lightly against the left palm. We moved in storytime from her tiny home today to the older, prouder times of hunters free in their land.

"She is very special to us," said Ogawa, an Ainu leader. "We have almost lost our words and our stories. Our language was banned for years in this century and the few elders who remember the old tales are weak, many in nursing homes." We finished our tea after her stories and she showed us the Ainu grandmother's greeting. She held my hand and rubbed my back, behind my heart, three times to the right. It was a good way to say goodbye.

Most of the other traditional tellers I met were also over 65, with storyriches carved on their faces. Some, like 86 year old Babasan of Shikoku, seem drawn to funny, very earthy tales. When we pulled muddy feet up to his floor one evening, he welcomed us, his long hair sliding down to his kimono.

"Today I chose stories to go with my name: Baba can mean stool, so I'll tell tales of the toilet," he said, eyes twinkling. He first launched into a history of toilet customs in Japan including an actual demonstration over his thermal underwear of how the traditional fundoshi (loincloth) was tied. Then with his extravagant mime-like gestures, he moved on to very earthy stories. We were soon laughing fiercely at tales which might have made many Americans a bit uncomfortable. And yet no one in that room was bothered at all.

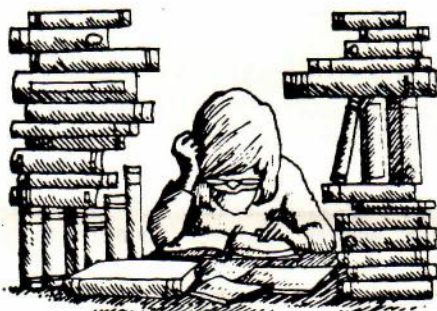
Although the tales were different, the listening was also relaxed when 84 year old Ito Takeyo began her tales in northern Yamagata. We sat in her family's old farmhouse, near rice fields shadowed by mountains. In a large, airy room, our legs curled up on tatami floor mats, we feasted on mountain greens she had just picked. Near us was the Buddhist altar and above it, a scroll which advised: "Have big ears to hear and a small mouth to speak little as you listen with kind eyes."

Dressed in the old-style farmers' pants and top, Ito Takeyo told quietly, her hands content with small gestures, her face sliding often into smiles. And as the words floated out, her grandsons, their eyes closed, nodded and urged her on with frequent "hahs" and "ohhs". Then a 14 year old girl in shorts came in, knelt close to her great-grandmother, and started a tale. The eyes in Ito Takeyo's comfortable face closed but her lips moved silently with storywords that flowed from the past through this child into tomorrow.

"I don't try to teach others to tell tales," said Sakonjisan, one of Japan's youngest traditional tellers, in her modern apartment near Koriyama city. "I heard these stories from my grandmother and I just want to pass her tales on." She keeps her grandmother's words alive through storytelling programs in community centers, libraries, and festivals. And six years ago, Sakonjisan put 32 tales into a book to keep her own spirit alive during a most difficult time.

"My son had just passed the exam for medical college, as his father wanted," she said, staring at me with a fixed smile. "But the boy became very confused and depressed. He stayed that way for some time and then suddenly committed suicide. He left us a note that said, Arigato, sumimasen, gomen nasai' (thank you, I'm sorry, forgive me'). Come, see his picture. Sometimes I practice my stories in front of it, for him." We walked to the Buddhist altar in the next room and stared at the photo of a serious young man, now surrounded by offerings of sweets, fruits, even a cup of the same coffee I had just finished. And as we later shared our stories, closer for having shared her sorrow, I hoped that our tales, too, might be an offering well received.

I have never seen or known anyone with such an abiding spiritual sense. Eagle Feather was the person who modeled the best of humanity for most of the people he came in contact with. I rarely heard him speak poorly of another person. Recently I was in Atlanta for an international gay soccer tournament and had planned to visit Eagle Feather in New Orleans. I knew he was sick but the news of his death coming just the day before our departure was fresh in my mind and heavy in my heart as I played. In the early morning following the tournament I was awoken by a dramatic change in the weather - a spectacular thundershower. Was it Eagle Feather saying a final goodbye? His spirit was/is/will always watch over me the rest of my life.



Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

by Margaret Read MacDonald,
King County Library System.

Many of our readers will remember Floating Eagle Feather, the small, bright eyed young storyteller who floated through here about every two years on his continuous journey around and around the world. I believe Floating Eagle Feather told me he was born into a Mayan family but adopted and raised in New Orleans. He began his work with children in a Montessori school there, but story soon took over his life. In a dream he saw an eagle feather float down to him and in this way his new name was born. He truly did float for the rest of his life, asking of his hosts only room and board and just enough cash to get on to his next destination. He accepted any gift

with joy...and gave it away at his next stop. As he grew with his travels Floating Eagle Feather began to concentrate more and more on stories of peace, love, and caring for our planet. Now and then he published small collections of the materials he had gathered in his travels. *And The Earth Lived Happily Ever After...Old and New Traditional Tales to Wage Peace.* (Wages of Peace, 309 Trudeau Drive, Metairie, LA 70003) is a collection of stories and articles on themes of peace.

Also fascinating is his collection of interviews with women met in his travels, *Daughters of Fearlessness: A Medicine Bundle of Interviews With Spiritual Activists.* (Friends of Unicef & Greenpeace, Unicef Australia, 14th Floor, 80 Mount Street, North Sydney, NSW 1060). He interviews women of Haiti, Japan, Honduras, Samoa, and our own Vi Hilbert.

Floating Eagle Feather collected tales wherever he traveled and possessed an exciting repertoire of tales on themes of peace and ecology. I hope he managed to record some of these before he passed on. If some of you remember hearing his tellings why not start telling those stories yourself? In this way his work can continue through us.

Northwest Folklife Festival

Storytellers who would like to be considered for program slots for the 1992, Northwest Folklife Festival during the Memorial Day weekend in May should be aware of a February 27, 1992, deadline for applications which will be mailed beginning in December, 1991. Call 206-684-7300 to receive the form and information.

Liars and tellers of tall tales should begin stretching the truth now to be ready for the annual Tall Tales Contest that is part of the Festival. Sign-up for that popular program is prior to the event at the performance location listed in the festival schedule.

Changing Traditions

by **Martha Eshelman-Smith**

"That's not how it goes." - but stories are not static. They are modified, consciously and unconsciously, to fit the time and place of their telling.

Unconscious changes are often simple - the forgetting of a detail, the adding of a detail (often from a similar story), the replacement of the general with a specific (often to include the familiar). Many of our local tellers, however, also consciously change stories. A consideration of some well-done stories illustrates appropriate techniques for changing stories.

Gene Friese, for example, tells *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* as though it were family history. Part of the enjoyment of the story is the gradual recognition that he has played with your expectations. A related technique, telling the story as if it were a personal memory, was illustrated by Sandra MacLees' telling of *Hansel and Gretel* from the witch's point of view. At Story 'n Snack, Mary Hamilton reversed the process. She strung together several hound dog tall tales which are often told in first person and told them as if they happened to her brothers. This provided a comfortable cover for a female to tell traditionally male stories.

Margaret Read MacDonald modifies stories to appeal to a young audience. In *Turkey Girl*, for example, she takes a traditional Zuni tale, strips it down to the essential story line using simple action and language. Then she adds repetition and participatory chants to appeal to a young audience. Her success depends on the accurate identification of the story's essential elements.

Sharon Creeden modifies stories to suit modern sensibilities. In *The Quality of Mercy* she changes the "marry the princess" ending to one in which the princess becomes a judge and the youth becomes an apprentice. This is successful because the new ending is a logical alternative outcome of the story's movement not a twisting in a new direction.

Some versions of stories demand that the listener know the original story. The comparison may be a

source of humor as in Sharon Creeden's *Three Little Pigs in Legalese*. A story may carry the weight of "traditional" only if the original is recognized as in my own *Texas Cinderella*. Or a story may be told in a new form that assumes knowledge of the plot as in Naomi Baltuck's "Little Rap Riding Hood".

Similarly, stories may have traditional form but not content. Joy Anderson's *Shoes for the First Day of School* and Pat Peterson's *The First Valentine* are excellent examples of personal experience given universal meaning through telling in a traditional form.

Finally, there are new stories in traditional form woven out of traditional elements: Bruce Wolcott's tall tales, my own *The Man Who Lived Life Backwards*, Naomi Baltuck's *An Aptitude for the Job* (written by her sister Deborah) come to mind.

Unfortunately there are dozens of mutilated stories for each successful, consciously modified story. Success depends upon an intuitive understanding of traditional story structure, the primary thrust of the particular story, and a willingness to let the story have its own integrity even if contrary to the teller's misconceptions.

Reprint from *The Arts*

(Newsletter of the King County Arts Commission)

The King County Arts and Landmarks Commissions are compiling a directory of artists, arts organizations, heritage organizations, specialists, and individuals who provide educational programs and/or services to K-12 schools and teachers. The directory will be used as a resource for schools and teachers in developing arts and heritage educations.

Applications will be reviewed by an advisory committee of community arts and heritage professionals prior to inclusion in the directory.

For complete outline of program requirements and materials required for application, please contact: Rob Roth in the King County Cultural Resources Division, (206) 296-7580. Deadline for application is February 1, 1992.

A Call For Festival Tellers

The fifth annual Northwest Storytelling Festival is scheduled for September 19, 1992. We have had four fantastic casts of tellers and are looking for a fifth. Featured tellers must be prepared to give a workshop (an hour) as well as tell in an afternoon children's program (fifteen minutes) and an evening adult program (half-hour). To apply send a letter of interest including a workshop proposal, letters of recommendation, publicity materials and a tape to the selection committee at Seattle Storytellers' Guild, P.O. Box 45532, Seattle, WA 98145-0532. Tellers who have submitted applications in the past may request that their application be reactivated or reapply.

Hints from the application committee: (1) We don't have time to peruse a long tape. If you send a full-length time, indicate the portions most relevant to your application. Preferably, make a short tape that includes a portion of your program for children and a portion of your adult program. (2) Don't assume that members of the committee have heard you. Include references likely known by some member of the committee. When the quality of a teller's workshop or performance is not known, references are checked. (3) Don't bother to apply if you are not willing to provide workshop, children and adult programs. No two-out-of-three tellers will be selected. (4) Be specific in your workshop proposal, preferably offering the choice of two. We select tellers to provide a balanced, varied, quality program. (5) If you know a terrific teller, encourage them to apply. While we do not book tellers in consecutive years, telling in the past does not prohibit repeat bookings. (6) If selected, a teller must be able to provide quickly biographic and program information for use in grant applications and publicity. An unorganized, unprofessional application creates the impression you're not prepared to be accepted.

What a Deal

The *Storyteller's Sourcebook* by Margie MacDonald, which usually sells for \$95 is \$66.50 if ordered before Jan. 31 through Gale Research. Call toll free 1-800-877-GALE. Mention "Gale Sale" and the number M99127. Credit cards accepted.

Mount Tahoma Storytelling Guild

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild welcomes its new and active siblings:

The Mount Tahoma Storytelling Guild now has a monthly newsletter consisting of minutes and agendas as well as a calendar of events. Membership, including the newsletter is \$1 per month. This new neighbor drew 130 people to their Tellebration event - a terrific start for our new neighbor. For more information on this Tacoma/Sumner area guild, call Susan Blain 863-5681.

Victoria Storytellers' Guild

The Victoria Storytellers' Guild is now publishing a semi-monthly newsletter "Roots" available at \$10 (Canadian) through the editor Penny Draper, 1821 Valencia Place, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8N 5W1. The guild is sponsoring several events each month, usually on a Monday evening. If you are headed to Victoria, here is another entertainment opportunity.

Storytellers Northwest Directory and Showcase

In previous editions, Storytellers Northwest has proved an invaluable resource for people wanting to find storytellers for performances in schools, festivals, conferences and private gatherings. Still, many people responsible for booking storytellers call asking for recommendations for specific events. The Storytellers' Guild does not endorse the tellers listed in the directory. To help storytellers connect with people wanting their stories, an idea was born - produce a directory of storytellers and provide them an opportunity to tell their stories for people responsible for booking tellers. The showcase is planned for late spring, 1992. Specific information will be provided to all tellers returning the directory questionnaire by March 16, 1992 (questionnaire included in this quarter's newsletter). Listing is free, but individuals may purchase additional space to supplement information.

Calendar of Events

Announcement

Joel ben Izzy, a featured teller at the Second Northwest Storytelling Festival, has released a tape *Stories From Far Away*. It includes tales he told at the festival such as *Tale from Jerusalem and Tokyo* and *Stories of the Fools of Chelm*. It also includes a salute to our festival at which a bee stung him on the tongue - *A tale of Curses, Blessings & Bee Stings*. The tape is available (\$11.15 including shipping, excluding California taxes) from Joel ben Izzy, 1545 Acton Street, Berkeley, CA 94702.

Dues Increase

For the first time in ten years, the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will increase its due structure. Effective April 1, 1992 the schedule will be as follows:

Individual, \$15.00
Family, \$20.00
Institutional, \$30.00
Donor, \$35.00
Lifetime, \$150.00
Muse, over \$150.00

Membership in the Guild is open to everyone interested in storytelling. The fee includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, "In the Wind" and members receive discounts on tickets for such activities of the Guild as the Friday storytelling at the Boiserie Coffeehouse in the Burke Museum on the University of Washington campus and the Annual Northwest Storytelling Festival in the fall. The Guild also sponsors free events such as Story 'n' Snack (story swapping with a potluck dessert buffet) on the last Thursday of each month.

To renew your membership at 1991 rates mail your renewal to the SSG by April 1, 1992. Envelopes postmarked after April 1, will be subject to 1992 rates. Support storytelling in the Seattle/King County area by renewing your membership and encouraging friends to become new members. Your support is both needed and appreciated.

*Editor's Note: The calendar of events covers a three month period. Please send information for April, May and June to **In the Wind** by March 10.*

January

7 *The Ordinary and the Fabulous*, Cric?Crac!, Vancouver BC's Storytelling Circle's monthly story swap at 7:30pm, Hodson Manor, 1254 W. 7th. \$2 members, \$3 non- members. 604-688-5626

11 *Leaping Lizards and Foolish Frogs* by Naomi Baltuck, who will be telling world folktales featuring reptiles and amphibians. A family story hour at Elliott Bay Book Store Cafe. 11am. \$2 individuals, \$5 families. 621- 8646

12 Friday Nite Expressions presents ***Less Miserableness***, an evening of improvisation and theatrical high-jinx. **Bruce Wolcott** returns with his theatrical group, "Contents Under Pressure", for an evening of comedy. Each member of his team has a background in commercial radio, television and theater. Doors open, 7:30pm, open mike until 8:00. Featured speakers at 8pm. University Congregational Church, 4515 - 16th Ave. NE, U district. \$3. For more information, call Rod Winget at 439-7588

13 *Story Circle* meets 7:30pm (and the 2nd Monday of the month thereafter) at Auchinachie Farm, just north of Duncan on Vancouver Island. Bring a story and a snack to share or just come and enjoy the relaxed, supportive atmosphere. For directions contact Richard Wright or Cathryn Wellner, 604-748-7896

15 Seattle Storytellers' Guild board meeting. 7pm. For more information, call Cherie Trebon, 525-0382

17 *Won-Idy Paye*, a dynamic Liberian storyteller and drummer will be telling stories. 7pm. Open mike to follow. Burke Museum, U of W Campus. \$5 general public, \$3 members. Recommended for adults and children over ten. 621-8646

30 *Story 'n Snack*. Potluck snack & story swap. 7:30-10pm. Call Cherie at 525-0382 for information or directions.

February

8 Asian tales with **Cathy Spagnoli**, for the opening of the Asian galleries at the new Seattle Art Museum. Free with museum admission (\$5 adults, \$3 seniors, students; children under 12 free) 654-3145

8 Scrap Bag Tales with **Debbie Dimitre and Kathleen Weiss**. Stories of heroines from American history. 11am. \$2 individuals, \$5 families. Elliott Bay Book Store Cafe. 621-8646

9 Asian tales (See Feb. 8) 1:00pm.

14 Friday Nite Expressions presents **Surprised By Love, Joy Anderson** returns with a World War Two love story. A contemporary story about the devil and a beautiful woman, and a story about love in the broadest sense, eg. effecting life changes. Doors open, 7:30pm, open mike until 8:00. Featured speakers at 8pm. University Congregational Church, 4515 - 16th Ave. NE, U district. \$3. For more information, call Rod Winget at 439-7588

18 - March 1 A Contemporary Theater will present **Stephen Wade** in **Banjo Dancing**, or the 48th annual **Squitiens Mountain Song, Dance, Folklore Convention and Banjo Contest...and How I Lost**. In this unique one man show, Wade entertains with ghost stories, classic literature and folk legends including famous tales by Mark Twain and Davey Crockett, interspersed with great bubbling bursts of banjo playing and clog dancing. **Banjo Dancing** arrives in Seattle after a record breaking run of over 10 years at Washington DC's Arena Stage. He has appeared on Broadway and was invited to perform at the White House. \$10-\$21 ACT box office. 2855110. Group rates available.

19 Seattle Storytellers' Guild board meeting. 7pm. For more information, call Sally Porter Smith, 284-2315

21 Phyllis Silling, a librarian in the Renton School District, will tell stories of Latin America. 7pm. Open mike to follow. U of W Campus. \$5 general public, \$3 members. Recommended for adults and children over ten. 621-8646

23 Melanie Ray with **Rosalie Sorrels** at Vancouver East Cultural Center, 604-254-9578

27 Story 'n Snack. Potluck snack & story swap. 7:30-10pm. Call Cherie at 525-0382 for information or directions

March

7 Cathy Spagnoli, storyteller at Island Books, Mercer Island, 11am. Free. 232-6920

13 Stories for a Family Night Out, with **Cathy Spagnoli**. Hiawatha Community Center, West Seattle. 7pm. 684-7441

13 Friday Nite Expressions presents **Story & Song** with **Dee Dee Mack** and friends. Ms. Mack's moving performance during the Christmas, The Story of the Other Wise Man, earned her and invitation for March. Doors open, 7:30pm, open mike until 8:00. Featured speakers at 8pm. University Congregational Church, 4515 - 16th Ave. NE, U district. \$3. For more information, call Rod Winget at 439-7588

14 Naomi Baltuck presents **Stories and Songs for the Irish at Heart**. 1pm. University Bookstore. Free. For more info, call 634-3400

14 Irish Tales with **Tom Galt**, "a merrily mischievous leprechaun whose brogue is thicker than Irish Mist", according to the L.A. Times. Elliott Bay Book Store Cafe. 11am. \$2 individuals, \$5 families. 621-8646

18 Seattle Storytellers' Guild board meeting. 7pm. For more information, call Sally Porter Smith, 284-2315.

20 Antoinette Botsford presents **The Journey of Women** as revealed in Native American Stories from different traditions. A storyteller from the Washington Humanities Commission, she comes to us from Orcas Island. Burke Museum, U of W Campus. \$5 general public, \$3 members. Recommended for adults and children over ten. 621-8646

26 Story 'n Snack. Potluck snack & story swap. 7:30-10pm. Call Cherie at 525-0382 for information or directions.

April

3 The Seattle Waldorf School presents, *The Betrayal*, as told by **Daniel Stokes**. 7:30pm. \$8 Adults/\$6 Seniors and Students at the door. \$6/\$4 In advance. "I had a brother once, and I betrayed him...I came to know my betrayal as something that grew out of seemingly small things, not at all obvious or dramatic in its beginning." (See April 4)

11 *A Festival of Tales* presented by **Cathy Spagnoli**. Celebrate the Japanese Festival of Haru Ichiban or the First Wind of Spring with stories collected by Cathy on her many journeys to Asia. Elliott Bay Book Store Cafe. 11am. \$2 individuals, \$5 families. 621-8646

May

9 *Stories for Little People*, tales, songs and poetry presented by **Allan Hirsch** whose original stories have musical accompaniment. Elliott Bay Book Store Cafe. 11am. \$2 individuals, \$5 families. 621-8646

Workshops, Classes, Festivals, & Conferences

January

15 - March 4 *Creative Uses of Myth & Tradition*. Let simplicity unlock the rich creativity of the unconscious while learning to write modern, minimalist stories using themes, archetypes and devices from folktales, mythology, parables. Ideal for writers, educators, storytellers, professional caregivers. Wed. 7-9pm on U of W campus, Denny Hall Rm. 213. ASUW Experimental College. \$55. **David Sparenberg** 323-2115

16 - March 5 *Creative Uses of Myth & Tradition* with **David Sparenberg** (See Feb. 15-March 4) At Seattle Central Community College. Thurs. 7-9pm.

21 - Feb. 11 *The Art of Storytelling* taught by **Naomi Baltuck**. Tues. 7-9:30pm. Whether spinning a traditional yarn or telling stories 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 same and friendly atmosphere. Instructor is a professional storyteller. Edmonds. Gen. Public \$40, UW Student \$30. Register through the ASUW Experimental College at 543-4375

25 *Humor Workshop* with **Carl Grant**, *The Humor Connection*, 10am-4pm Sat. Remember how "tuned in" you were the last time someone was really funny? Learn to use humor in storytelling or just being funny in social situations. Instructor is a former coach, teacher, and presently a professional comedian and seminar leader. Credits include "Not So Idle Chatter," and featured performer on Showtime and National Public Radio. On campus. \$19. Gen. public, \$13 UW student. Register through ASUW Experimental College at 543-4375

25 & 26 *Improvisation Workshop* with **Roberta Maguire**. Enhance your storytelling performance by learning improvisational theater techniques with former member of Second City Theater In Chicago and a co-founder, director, and performer with "None of the Above" in Seattle. Participants will begin with trust exercises, and quickly move on to the scene work. They will be encouraged to produce a range of work that includes both serious and comedic scenes. Open to all. Capitol Hill. Gen. Public \$38.50, UW Student \$28.50. ASUW Experimental College 543-4375

February

4 - March 24 *Improvisation Classes* with **Roberta Maguire** (see Jan. 25 & 26 above) Enhance your storytelling performance. 8 weeks. Tues. 7-9pm. \$95. 789-5403 Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N.

5, 6 & 7 *Multi-Cultural Storytelling Festival*: Eugene, Oregon. With **Clara Yen**, **Diane Ferlatte**, **Olga Loya**, & **Ed Edmo**. 503-343-9094

March

20 & 21 First Annual Vancouver Storytelling Festival. (Congratulations!) Friday evening, Sat. all day & evening. Contact Helen O'Brian, 604-228-1274

22-23 The Sixth Annual Texas Storytelling Festival. Denton, Texas. Featuring **Carol Birch, Allen Damron, Heather Forest, and Gayle Ross.** For registration information call 817-387-8336.

April

4 Daniel Stokes will offer a **storytelling workshop, Bring Your Story Alive**, to help participants find their own storyteller. Stokes trained in Sydney, Australia at the Rudolf Steiner Studios for Speech and Drama. Dedicated to the revival of the oral tradition, he founded Mythos Storytellers in 1983 and has toured internationally as an actor and storyteller. Limited to 15 people, so register early. \$20. 9-12 Sat. 2728 NE 100th, Seattle. 524-5320.

May

16 & 17 Bay Area Storytelling Festival. Ed Stivender, Rex Ellis, Gayle Ross, Patrick Ball, Ken Haven will provide stories and some music. Kennedy Grove. Contact Kate Frankel, #1 Rochdale Way, Berkeley, CA 94708

June

17 - 22 The 1992 National Storytelling Congress will be held in San Antonio, Texas. TSA and NAPPS (the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling) will co-sponsor the event. The story of the Storytelling Congress began 4 years ago. NAPPS recognized the need for a yearly meeting of storytellers to address issues relating to storytelling. Since, storytellers and listeners from all over the nation have gathered once a year to discuss storytelling issues and allow regional storytelling guilds to showcase their tellers. Past congresses have raised issues of ethics, cultural diversity, artistry and technology. The fifth

congress, in June of 1991 in Connecticut, discussed storytelling and education. The focus of the 1992 congress will be on storytelling as folklore and folkway.

July

8 - 12 National Storytelling Conference, San Antonio. Three major emphases: Dialogue between folklorists and storytellers; tensions between Preservation and Innovation, Traditionalists and Revivalists; Censorship - Defending Traditional Tales in your Community. NAPPS P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, Tenn, 37659, (615) 753-2171

Puppet News

January/February

31, Feb. 1, 2 & 7, 8, 9 Northwest Puppet Center presents **Paul Mesner Puppets in Wiley and the Hairy Man.** Paul is a solo puppeteer from Kansas City that has been delighting audiences nationwide with this African-American folktale of great zest, humor, and beauty. Young Wiley gets in a jam with that ugly hairy guy out in the swamp, but his mama straightens things out. If you are very nice, you might even get a fractured encore of **Little Red Ridinghood.** This performance features rod and hand puppets. \$4 child, \$6 adult, subscription rate available. NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle March

March

* **6, 7, 8, & 13, 14, 15 Thistle Theater** presents **Baba Yaga and Dumb Ivan.** That crazy Russian Witch, with her chicken-legged house is coming to town! Thistle Theater is a newcomer on the scene but director **Jean Enticknap** got her start in puppetry at the UW Drama School and has been applying her talents for years producing theater and puppetry at Highline College and recently in Ellensburg. Jean uses Black Theater and Bun Raku techniques to create big spectacles. \$4 child, \$6 adult, subscription rate available. NW Puppet Center, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle 782-3955

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 the Spring 1992 newsletter is March 10 and covers events from April through June.

Newsletter comments are encouraged. Address them to Attn: Jerry Deneke, Editor.

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, 772-0410; Debbie Dimitre, 823-1081; Martha Smith, Grants & Mailing Lists, 522-8788; Cherie Trebon, Treasurer, 525-0382; Rod Winget, Publicity, 439-7588; Sally Porter-Smith, 284-2315

**Call Us For Answers
621-8646**

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Individual, \$10 ☐ Family, \$15.
☐ Institution, \$20. ☐ Donor, \$ 25.
☐ Liar, \$49.95
☐ Fairy godparent (lifetime), \$100
☐ Muse, be creative & generous, \$.

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

☐ Please include my name on mailing lists.

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

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