



in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Winter 1994, Vol. XVII, Number 1

A New Home for Storytelling

Starting in January, the Seattle Storytellers' guild monthly storytelling event will be held at the New City Theatre on Capitol Hill. Instead of the third Friday, we will now meet on the second Monday of each month. This issue's calendar has dates through April. We are excited about this new venue. The New City will offer an intimate cafe setting with a real theater space. There is a parking lot adjacent to the building and lots of interesting ethnic restaurants nearby. This should be a wonderful way to start the week: dinner and storytelling on Capitol Hill. The price

is the same as always: \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. We are experimenting with a format change and will be offering an open mike after the feature program. Coffee, other beverages and desserts will be available at intermission.

Our first program will be a "Northwest's Best." Six of our best regional tellers will be spinning winter tales to warm your heart and toes. support the guild and storytelling. Join us on Capitol Hill every second Monday. See insert for map and address.

Fall Festival Fantastic!

The 1993 Seattle Storytellers' Guild Annual Fall Festival was a tremendous success. the format this year showcased a variety of spectacular tellers and workshop leaders sharing their stories and talents.

The morning began with a variety of workshops. Pleasant DeSpain presented a beginning workshop filled with the wit and wisdom he's learned in his storytelling journey. As always, Pleasant had something to offer us all, from the newcomer to the to the seasoned teller. Just Say Yes, an improvisational theater group that includes board member Camille Wooden, involved us all in a fast-paced, fun-filled exploration of theater and storytelling. We were left feeling a bit tired but energized and ready to incorporate what we learned in our telling. Dawn Kuhlman enlightened us about the uses of masks in storytelling and shared her own extensive collection of masks. Step by step, she then guided us to create our

masks and story. Jennifer Forman is a real trooper; she committed to being with us in spite of being nine months pregnant! She tantalized us with her urban legends and led us to share ones we had heard. What a way to entice our audiences, especially young adults!

After a satisfying lunch and a delightful story swap, the family concert began. We were treated to laughter, fun and participatory tales presented by Gene Friese, Bonnie Anderson, Avis Jobrack, Kathy Currie, Susan Blaine, and Sally Porter-Smith.

In the evening, we were held spellbound by tales of love, loss and humor perfect for a pre-Halloween night. Our featured tellers were Naomi Baltuck, Won Ldy Pay, Gene Friese and Kathi Lightstone.

Thanks to all our many volunteers, tellers, workshop leaders, M.C.s, and all the rest whose generous gift of their time made it all possible.

Remembering Joy

by Naomi Baltuck

A handful of years ago, I was teaching Storytelling for Educators at Seattle Pacific University. Joy Anderson was one of the class participants. She was quiet, pleasant, unassuming, and always sat in the back of the room. She did very little to call attention to herself, until the first time she opened her mouth to tell a story; then Joy couldn't help but stand out from the crowd. After the last meeting of that class, Joy told me that she thought she would like to get more involved with storytelling and with the Seattle Storytellers' Guild. It was only long after we became friends that Joy confessed to me that she had stumbled into my class because the literature class she had hoped to take was already full!

It must have been a divine plan to have filled up that literature class, for in the years since Joy became a part of the Seattle storytelling community, she touched more lives than she could ever know. Not just through her service as a board member of the Storytellers' Guild, nor though the many hours of volunteer service at guild functions.

From the moment I first heard Joy tell "Brown Shoes," I knew that she had a special gift and a rare one. She was a storyteller and a writer who seemed to spring full-blown into the lap of the Seattle storytelling community. Her stories of growing up in a small town in Idaho resonate with depth, wisdom, and compassion. No one who has heard her can forget the shy little girl in brown shoes, for we have all walked in those shoes as well. Everyone who has heard Joy's bold, wry, and refreshing interpretations of the Greek myths, has come away looking at today's world, as well as yesterday's, with new insight.

For too short a time, Joy rocked us all in her story arms; she lent us peace and pleasure. She inspired us to look for our own stories. She encouraged us to face the trauma in our lives and become victors instead of victims of the past. Important Life's Work. With each story, Joy shared a part of herself that we will hold in our hearts and cherish forever.

There are many of us in the storytelling community who have loved Joy dearly off the stage as well as on it. The qualities that made

Joy such a fine storyteller were the same ones that made her such a fine human being. Her life resonated with the same depth, wisdom, and compassion that was at the heart of each of her stories. With a gentle strength, Joy set herself very high ideals, and with a firm conviction, she lived up to them.

Over the last year, Joy had been waging a long and painful battle with cancer. Instead of withdrawing into her own pain, she maintained a strong interest in the affairs of the outside world and eagerly awaited any news from the storytelling community. After each visit, I was always amazed and impressed at the grace, courage, and humor with which Joy faced her trials. Even after speech became difficult for her, she managed to communicate her concern for others. During one such visit last August, Joy had something weighing on her mind. It took me a moment to understand that Joy was apologizing because she had not been able to get out and shop for a birthday present for my daughter! Those things mattered to her.

Last September, Joy's struggle came to an end. I grieve for the loss of a loved one and my heart aches for us all when I think of the wealth of stories, yet untold, that Joy will never be able to share. But we must be grateful for the gifts she was able to give in her too short time with us. And I can look forward to a time when my daughter is old enough to appreciate those stories Joy left behind, the greatest gift a storyteller can give. And I am certain that someday, my daughter will know and love Joy through her stories.

Whether we are storytellers, teachers, or scientists, we can try, each in our own way, as Joy did, to give a part of ourselves back to the world and to each other. Let us put on our brown shoes and aspire to do so with depth of compassion and wisdom as she did, because that is what Joy would want us to do.



Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

by Margaret Read MacDonald, King County Library System

Good news for Seattle Storytellers! We have all enjoyed Naomi Baltuck's bouncy storytime stretches. When Naomi emcees she always has a just-right stretch to wake us up during a story concert that begins to go a bit long. And her own programs for children are paced with these delightful bits of audience participation. Now she has put 35 of her favorites into a handy book for all of us to use! *Crazy Gibberish* will provide many great additions for any storyteller's repertoire and is especially recommended for beginning tellers for a quick-start in program preparation. Included are chants, audience participation stories, action songs, riddles, jokes, and tongue twisters. Useful suggestions on the use of storytime stretches and good bibliographies are included. Thanks to Naomi for sharing! You will all want to see: *Crazy Gibberish and Other Story Hour Stretches from a Storyteller's Bag of Tricks* by Naomi Baltuck, illus. by Doug Cushman (Linet Books, 1993). *Crazy Gibberish* is available for \$15 paperback. An accompanying tape is \$10. The tape can be used independently of the book or as a help in learning rhythms and tunes. Ask for them at your local book store.

Brief reviews on two of the books I picked up at the NAPPS Festival resource tent this fall: Donald Davis's *Telling Your Own Stories: For Family and Classroom Storytelling, Public Speaking and Personal Journaling* (August House, 1993) is a carefully presented guide for folks wanting to develop their own personal stories. Donald provides clear instructions and lots of prompts to get you started. A small and useful \$10 paperback. Anyone just starting the journey of personal storying will want to own this.

Why the Possum's Tail is Bare and Other Classic Southern Stories by Jimmy Neil Smith (Avon Books, 1993) is another \$10 paperback just released. NAPPS' Executive Director, Jimmy Neil Smith, offers this collection in the hopes of attracting even more converts to the storytelling fold. You'll find lots of old favorites here. Most are available in other collections, but Jimmy Neil has ferreted out some interesting new variants for a few. A great start-up collection for folks who relish southern-style telling.



Caroline Feller Bauer's *New Handbook for Storytellers* (American Library Association, 1993) is chock full of ideas for library and classroom story use...including chapters on multimedia storytelling, magic, poetry, creative dramatics, booktalking, programming for preschool through adults, and much more. Caroline's insatiable creativity sparkles from every page. An excellent sourcebook for primary/preschool teachers and children's librarians. See this even if you already have her earlier *Handbook for Storytellers*. Hardback \$44. Available at your local library.



Storyteller's Start-Up Book

Local storyteller, author and librarian has once more made Washington proud. Written for the beginner, Margaret Read MacDonald has published a very thoughtful, practical and thorough primer for storytellers. *The Storyteller's Start-Up Book: Finding, Learning, Performing, and Using Folktales* (August House, July 1993) is not, however, for beginners only—even veteran storytellers will find her extensive bibliographies and approaches to selecting and learning stories helpful. A useful and affordable guide to storytelling.

Gesture

by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

In a recent training class on religious ritual, it was observed that we recognize and recall people primarily by gesture, that others' thoughts, even those of close friends, remain essentially unknown to us. Yet we recognize people at a distance by body shape and motion; we remember people in characteristic gestures. In this observation, I recognized a "reason" for the objectivity of most fairy tales.

For example, in Chase's "Ashpet" one sees: "One time there was a woman who had two daughters, and they kept a hired girl. They treated this girl mean." There is no reason given for the meanness, only examples: "had to do all the hard work, little as she was," "never let Ashpet go anywhere" etc. Jealousy is implied but in concrete terms: "they knew she was prettier than the old woman's two girls, and if anybody came to the house they always shoved Ashpet under a washtub." Emotion (motive, thought) is described by action (gesture).

When emotion is presented, it is explicitly stated and illustrated. For example, in the Grimm's "Little Red-Cap" immediately after rescue by the huntsman you hear: "...the little girls sprang out, crying 'Ah, how frightened I have been! How dark it is inside the wolf.'" There is no attempt to evoke the emotion of her fear in the listener as there would be in "literary" works. Typically, as in "The Six Swans," the emotional motive is not even mentioned: "The maiden, however, firmly resolved to deliver her brothers, even if it should cost her life."

Toastmasters Pop Up With Storytelling Night

Come one! come all! Overlake Toastmasters along with two other Eastside Toastmaster Clubs invite you to join the fun and festivities of a storytelling night! The date and location are to be determined based on the response from the Storyteller's Guild Members. If you are interested in participating, please call Judi Hanson at 885-0507. A fun evening will be had by all!



What one finds in fairy tales is a stock of emotional motives: "but she was afraid of the stepmother" ("The Six Swans"), "the King could not contain himself for joy" ("Little Briar-Rose"), "[the King] was very angry, and swore she could have for her husband the very first beggar that came to his doors" ("King Thrushbeard"). But these emotional motives have no individual content making them unique to the character.

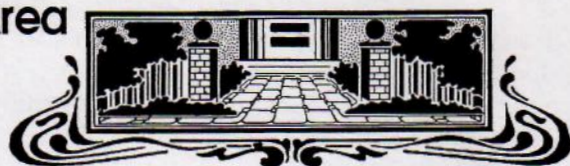
Similarly, events which in life would engender an extreme response in fairy tales engender none. For example, miraculous gifts engender no mentioned response. For example, in Grimm's "Cinderella" she daily went to the tree and had her wish fulfilled by a white bird, yet there is not mention of thanks of wonder although tears and prayers are mentioned. Max Luthi in *The Fairytale as Art Form and Portrait of Man* suggests that his lack of response is indicative of the hero/heroine's place in a fairy tale as an isolated character—only child, child of magical origins, weak youngest child—who is not master of his own fate but rather is a "puppet" to the forces of the story. Thus Luthi makes the thought-provoking observation: "His dependence on help from without, especially from otherworldly sources, is parallel to what is referred to in theology as grace."

This "grace" is illustrated, as Luthi says, by the story "The Golden Bird." Note that the youngest son's discouragement is not recreated but described: "...but he sighed and was sorrowful, for how was he to find the Golden Horse?" Yet for each test, Fox gave him advice which led to the successful completion of the quest despite most tests being direct results of the son's transgression of earlier advice.

There is, perhaps, just as there are psychological interpretations of fairy tales, appropriately religious interpretations of fairy tales pointed at by Luthi's comment and analysis.

Calendar of Events

In Area



January

8 Debbie Deutsch, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

8 "The Way We Like It" — tandem team Dawn Kuhlman and Camille Wooden tell stories with paper puppets and audience participation. 1 p.m., Waverly Books, Kent, 852-8325.

9 Stacia Keogh, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

10 Second Mondays on the Hill, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. NORTHWEST BEST— a potpourri of regional tellers followed by open mike. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general.

15 Folk Voice Band, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

15 Camille Wooden tells winter tales for children. 1 p.m., Oasis Books, Gilman Village, Issaquah, 392-3766.

15 Storytelling and Craft Hour, 10:30 a.m., all ages welcome, Theme: Wolves, Puss 'n Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, call 885-6828 for reservations.

16 Debbie Deutsch, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

22 Gene Friese, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

22 (through March 5) Life Stories Writing Seminar, for writers who wish to get their stories down on paper, both as a tool of self discovery and as a way to share uniquely personal stories with family, friends or a general audience. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon at Nordic Heritage Museum, \$60/\$70. For further information call Elizabeth Schilling at 789-3854; to register call the museum at 789-5707.

23 Cathy Spagrolis, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

27 STORY 'n SNACK potluck dessert and story swap. For information and directions, call 524-1485.

27 "Story Corner" featured teller, Michale Gabriel. For all ages. 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 - 110th NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

29 Cathy Spagnoli, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

29 Spontaneous Storytelling Workshop. Learn improvisational games and storytelling techniques with facilitator Susan Warner, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., 324-9725.

30 Gene Friese, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

February

5 Kathi Lightstone, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

5 Drama activities with Don Fleming of the Seattle Children's Theatre in conjunction with SCT Productions, 1 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

6 Debra Harris-Branham, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

12 **Cindy Easterson**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

12 **Storytelling and Craft Hour**, 10:30 a.m., all ages welcome, guest storyteller Officer Charlie Gorman of Redmond Police Department, Puss 'n Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, call 885-6828 for reservations.

13 **Pleasant DeSpain**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

14 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. HEART FIRE— Pat Peterson tells adult stories of love. Followed by open mike. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general.

18-19 **The Heritage '94 Conference**, coordinated by the Washington Heritage Resource Center, theme: "The Importance of Being Folk: Communities and Their Folk Heritage," focusing on western folk arts, folklore, oral history and local traditions. Information: 586-0219 or 211 West 21st Ave., Olympia, WA 98501.

19 **Stacia Keogh**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

19 **Susan Warner** performs stories for children, 11 a.m. at Island Books, Mercer Island, 232-6920.

19 **Storytelling and Craft Hour**, 10:30 a.m., all ages welcome, Theme: Cats and Hearts, Puss 'n Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, call 885-6828 for reservations.

20 **Spencer Shaw**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

24 **STORY 'n SNACK** potluck dessert and story swap. For information and directions, call 524-1485.

26 **Pleasant DeSpain**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

27 **Cindy Easterson**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

27 **"Story Corner"** featured storyteller for all ages. 1:30 p.m. Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

March

5 **Storyteller TBA**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

6 **Storyteller TBA**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

8 **Poetry Workshop** for children and adults. Reservations required. Secret Garden Children's Bookshop, Seattle, 524-4556.

12 **Naomi Baltuck**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

12 **Drama activities** with Don Fleming of the Seattle Children's Theatre in conjunction with SCT Productions, 1 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

13 **Naomi Baltuck**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

14 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. A BIT OF BLARNEY - Leprechauns and other tricky folks. A potpourri of tellers followed by open mike. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general.

19 **Storyteller TBA**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

19 **Storytelling and Craft Hour**, 10:30 a.m., all ages welcome, Theme: Leprechauns and Fairies, Puss 'n Books, 15788 Redmond Way Redmond. Call 885-6828 for reservations.



20 **Spencer Shaw**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

22 **Family Concert** - Simcha Songs: Joyous Jewish Holidays and Folk Songs. Reservations required. Secret Garden Bookstore, Seattle, 524-4556.

26 **Storyteller TBA**, 11 a.m. at University Book Store, 990 - 102nd Ave. N.E., Bellevue, 632-9500. Free.

27 **Storyteller TBA**, 2 p.m. in Children's Books, University Book Store, 4326 University Way N.E., Seattle, 634-3400. Free.

27 **"Story Corner"** featured storyteller for all ages. 1:30 p.m. Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 - 110th NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

30-4/3 **Second Annual Cedar Tree Conference**, story circles on traditional teachings, the applications of storytelling to community, the Cedar Tree Process and the Healing of the Waters. South Puget Sound Community College, 2011 Mottmann Road SW, Olympia, WA 98512. Call Tom Heidlebaugh, (206) 564-8350.

31 **STORY 'n SNACK** potluck dessert and story swap. For information and directions, call 524-1485.

April

11 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. Stories on the Spot with improvisational theater group Just Say Yes. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general.

Out of Area



Jan. 23-28 Orlando FL, **Storyfest Journeys**: annual seminar on storytelling as a sacred art. Contact Robert and Kelly Wilhelm, 18934 Rolling Road, Hagerstown MD 21742, 800-277-7035.

Jan. 25-30 **10th Comboy Gathering**, with Waddie Mitchell, Ian Tyson, Wallace McRae, Hawaiians, vaqueros, Aussie drovers. Western

Folklife Center, P.O. Box 888, Elko NV 89803, 800-748-4466.

Feb. 12-14 **Making Stories From Your Life** workshop, Storytelling Collective of Boston, 33 Prospect St. Marblehead MA 01945.

March 4-6 Boston MA, **Sharing the Fire**, New England Storytelling Conference, LANES, Contact Barbara Lipke, 799 Commonwealth Ave., Newton Centre MA 02159, 617-244-5606.

March 11-13 **Third Vancouver Storytelling Festival** lights up three different locations in Vancouver's West End. Yukiko Tosa, Lorny Metchooyeah, David Woods, Ted Stone, Random Acts featured, Workshops by Margaret Read MacDonald and Cathryn Wellner. Contact Helen O'Brian, 4629 W. 2nd Ave., Vancouver BC V6R 1L2, 604-228-1274.

March 26 Keene NH, **New England Conference on Storytelling for Young Children**. Contact Mary Marshark, Keene State College, Main St., Keene NH 03431, 603-358-2218.

Begin Anticipating



9th Bay Area Storytelling Festival, May 21 and 22, with Tom Ammiano, Brenda Wong Aoki, Joseph Bruchac, Diane Ferlatte, David Holt, Kathryn Windham. For information and brochure contact BASF, #1 Rochdale Way, Berkeley CA 94708.

NAPPS 1994 National Storytelling Conference, July 6-10, Ft. Worth TX. Contact P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough TN 37659-0309.

Get Ready for Folklife

Applications for a storytelling slot on the Northwest Folklife Festival program are due back to the Folklife office by January 24, 1994. The Festival is traditionally held at the Seattle Center on the Memorial Day weekend which falls this year on May 27-30. If you do not receive an application from past participation or would like to be considered for a performance, phone 684-7300 to be added to the mailing list. Call Gene Frieze 284-9469 for details about storytelling schedules and program details.

Co-Presidents: Cherie Trebon (525-0382) and Dawn Kuhlman (939-7117);
Vice President: Margaret Read MacDonald (827-6430);
Secretary: Gene Friese (284-9469);
Membership and Festival Directors: Debra Harris-Branham (772-0415) and Phyllis Silling (246-7636);
Newsletter Editor: Susan Veltfort (322-2385);
Publicity: Kathleen Sider (524-1485);
Volunteer Coordinator: Avis Jobrack (206-752-7297);
Member at Large: Camille Wooden (854-2909).

The position of Treasurer is vacant and the Board is looking for a replacement. Ideally, the person should have either relevant work or volunteer experience and be involved with the Guild. Please contact either Co-President: Cherie Trebon or Dawn Kuhlman.

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 issue is March 10, 1994.

For information about the Guild, call 284-9469.

Design by Julie Reimer

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

New: _____ Renewal: _____

____ Individual, \$15

____ Family, \$20

____ Institutional, \$30

____ Donor, \$35

____ Lifetime, \$150

____ Muse, over \$150

____ 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.
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Seattle Storytellers' Guild

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