



in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Spring 1995, Vol. XVIII, Number 2

A letter from the presidents

Dear Members,

It is truly surprising how quickly a year passes. It seems like it was just a few months ago that we gave you an annual report on the Seattle Storytellers' Guild. But 1995 is well upon us and it's time to recap 1994.

We are happy to report that financially the Guild finished in the "black" with a net profit of \$742.02. A copy of the year-end profit and loss statement is printed in this newsletter.

We kicked off 1994 by inaugurating the new City Theatre as our monthly storytelling venue. Each month brings greater attendance and high-quality featured tellers. Familiar voices and exciting new ones fill up the popular open mike portion of the event.

The guild once again co-sponsored the Liar's Contest storytelling stage and open mike at the Northwest Folklife Festival with standing-room only crowds.

The fall brought our annual festival and Tellabration which were both successful. Tellabration will be held again in 1995, while the annual festival will be held again in spring 1996. Story 'n Snack continues as a gathering place for new and experienced tellers to share tales in an intimate, relaxed atmosphere. For the second year running, volunteers from Story 'n Snack reached out to the community to share an evening of stories with residents of the Exeter House Retirement Center.

By public demand, updated T-shirts, sweatshirts and mugs were made available and can now be ordered via mail-order for extra convenience. Each item advertises its owner's interest in storytelling and proceeds benefit the guild's efforts to perpetuate the art of the oral tradition.

We're happy to announce that in addition to our on-going events the Guild will present a series of storytelling workshops to be held in June. Look for information in this newsletter. They'll be fun and full of ideas to broaden your storytelling talents.

The annual meeting and election of officers will be held this year on June 4. We invite you all to be a part of this process and the potluck dinner and story swap which will follow the business meeting.

In closing, we extend hearty thanks to all of the volunteers who did so much to make SSG events successful this year. Special words of appreciation go to our fellow Board Members who spend many hours each month to bring you quality programs and handle the administrative function of this organization.

With the continued support, energy and enthusiasm of all of you we know that 1995 will be another great year.

Sincerely,

Dawn Kuhlman and Cherie Trebon
Co-Presidents

Seattle Storytellers' Guild

Profit and Loss Statement 1994

	EXPENSES	INCOME
NAPPS	\$71.74	\$0.00
Archive	0.00	0.00
New City	2090.00	1253.75
Festival	600.82	1216.71
Library	0.00	0.00
Mailing/Postage	532.87	0.00
Membership	270.89	4065.00
Miscellaneous	605.77	120.75
Newsletter	2987.90	0.00
Petty Cash	48.05	0.00
Resources	1145.00	348.70
Story 'n Snack	7.95	0.00
Special Events (Tellabration)	183.16	312.60
Conference	31.34	2000.00
Total:	\$8575.49	\$9317.51
Net Profit:		\$742.02
Bank Balance	Jan. 1, 1994	\$6,706.51
Bank Balance	Dec. 31, 1994	\$7,448.53



Storytelling at Folklife

Storytelling is an important part of the Northwest Folklife Festival. This year, construction at the Seattle Center means the schedule is yet to be firmed up. At this time the plans include Swapping Ground on Saturday, May 27, from 5 to 6 p.m. featured tellers on Saturday and Sunday night from 7 to 10 p.m., and the Liar's contest on Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday events will be held in the Eve Alford Theater at Pac Hall and Monday's will be in the Charlotte Martin's Children's Theater. To get the latest information, check the Seattle Weekly issue of May 17. The complete program for Folklife is included. For more information, call Pat Peterson at (206) 935-5308...but please, before 9 p.m.

Volunteers Wanted!

Mt. St. Vincent Adult Daycare (Providence Hospital) in West Seattle is looking for Volunteer tellers between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please contact Lyn Dillman for more information: 938-1997, 4831 35th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98126.

If you are interested in telling stories at birthday parties or in volunteering at nursing homes, hospitals, etc., please call Margie MacDonald at 827-6430.



Cele-bear-ating the life of Gene Friese

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild and the board members mourn the loss of our beloved and active member Gene Friese who will be missed. The following is a reprint from the *Seattle Times* (March 11, 1995):

Eugene H(ugh) Friese, aka The Grand Teddy, a teacher of teachers, professional storyteller, and a friend of children, is telling stories that we can no longer hear, but fondly remember. His heroic battle with cancer came to an end March 10, 1995. But, as Gene would say, that brings to mind a story. This is Gene's story.

Born in Everett, WA on April 11, 1933, only child of Eugene F. and Lucille Theo Friese. Graduate of Western Washington University, Gene first taught in 1955 at Sylvester Jr. High in the Highline School District. He was drafted into the army and served from 1956 to 1958. He continued his teaching in the district at Sunset Jr. High.

Gene became the librarian at Seahurst Elementary and then coordinator of Library Services in 1960. He received a Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Washington in 1961. He was soon named Director of Learning Resources, a position he held for 23 years until his retirement in 1985. He taught graduate classes for Central Washington University and the University of Washington for many terms. Upon retirement, he became a professional storyteller, known as "Bard and Bears Enterprises," working for the Seattle Public Libraries, and school districts throughout the state.

"Cele-bear-ate" Gene's life whenever you read aloud to someone you love. His gentle manner was an inspiration to many. No services at his request. Remembrances may be sent to Gene Friese Storytelling Collection Fund, King County Library System, 300 8th Avenue N., Seattle 98109.

A storytelling sampler: a class for beginning storytellers

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild is offering a four week series of introductory classes in the art of storytelling. This sampler will introduce you to a variety of styles and approaches to storytelling. The class will be held Saturdays from 10 to 12.

June 3: Introduction to storytelling; instructor, Sally Porter Smith.

June 10: Fun with audience participation folktales; instructor, Margaret Read MacDonald.

June 17: Body, voice and creativity; Instructors, Dawn Kuhlman and Camille Woodin.

June 24: Finding your personal stories; instructor, Pat Peterson.

Classes will be held at the home of Sally Porter-Smith, located near Seattle Center. To register call Sally Porter Smith, 283-5984, or Margaret Read MacDonald, 827-6430. Leave a message and we will return your call and provide directions to Sally's apartment.

Enrollment is limited. A \$20 deposit is required with the balance due on the day of the first class. Please send your name, address, phone number and occupation with your deposit to the SSG address. You will receive a packet of information including directions.



Hawaiian storyteller Makia Malo tours Eastside

Makia Malo is stopping over in Seattle en route to his performances at the St. Louis Storytelling Festival. Makia began telling stories at age 37 during rehabilitation classes in Honolulu. He had been sent to Kaluapapa at age 12, diagnosed with Hansen's disease (leprosy) and became blind at age 30. Overcoming the rage and terror of his blindness, Makia boldly moved to Honolulu and prepared to enter the workplace. Discovering his talent for storytelling, Makia toured with an artists-in-the-schools group for several years. Makia and his wife Ann now tour as a team. Ann speaks to the audience about Hansen's Disease and disabilities and Makia shares his tales, both humorous and poignant, of life at Kalaupapa and of his childhood in Papekoleo,

near Honolulu. Makia's joyous persona is an uplifting pleasure for all who experience his presence.

Makia will be performing for family audiences at the following public libraries: Bellevue (Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.) Bothell (Sunday, April 23 at 4 p.m.) Redmond (Monday, April 24 at 7 p.m.) North Bend (Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m.) Shoreline (Wednesday, April 26 at 7 p.m.) Issaquah (Thursday, April 27 at 7 p.m.).

A potluck supper for Makia will be held on Sunday, April 23, after the Bothell Library performance, at the home of Margaret MacDonald. All Guild members are invited. RSVP to 827-6430.

Whales and Tales

Do you long for a unique storytelling experience? Clark Casebolt of Outdoor Odysseys is looking for a teller to enhance a weekend of kayaking and camping in the San Juan Islands this summer. You will need to take the ferry from Anacortes to Friday Harbor where you will spend the afternoon kayaking—instruction provided. After a superb dinner, you will spin stories around the campfire. Morning may bring a pod of whales visible from your tent. Consider a bit of adventure. The cost of the tour, kayaking, meals and camping gear as well as a small stipend are provided. Interested? Call Clark at (206) 361-0717.



Kent Canterbury Faire

Performers are sought for the 1995 Canterbury Faire, August 19 and 20 at Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks Park in Kent. The Faire has two performance stages, a crafts market, Renaissance and Medieval villages and children's activities. Jurying will be by video or audio tape. Call 859-3991 during business hours for an application, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Kent Canterbury Faire Applications, c/o City of Kent Parks and Recreation Department, 220-4th Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032-5895. Specify performer, craftperson or food vendor application.



Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

by Margaret Read MacDonald, King County Library System



A number of beautiful and well written folktale picture books have appeared recently. So, for those who are sharing stories in picturebook format, here is a list of new delights!

***The Rabbit's Judgment* by Suzanne Crowder Han, illus. by Yumi Heo. (Henry Holt, 1994).**

The Rabbit's Judgment by Suzanne Crowder Han is a truly distinguished folktale picture book. The familiar tale of a villain freed from a pit who turns on his rescuer seems fresh and newly discovered here. Yumi Heo's stylized yet imaginative illustrations carry the story well and Crowder's spare text is given in both Korean and English. Useful introductory notes tucked into the front matter tell us about other Korean variants of this tale and even inform us about the nature of the Korean alphabet we are going to encounter in the book. And the whole is designed to evoke a luscious pleasure as the pages are turned.

***Wind Says Good Night* by Katy Rydell, illus. by David Jorgensen. (Houghton Mifflon, 1994).**

Wind Says Good Night by our California neighbor Katy Rydell is a more modest little book which is carried along beautifully by the wonderful voice of Katy's storytelling. David Jorgensen's soft pencil illustrations work well with this quiet bedtime tale. Following a folktale format, Katy sets forth a story of child who won't sleep until mockingbird stops singing. Bird won't stop singing until cricket stops fiddling, etc. Wind finally carries cloud to cover earth so moon will stop shining so moth will stop dancing, so cricket...Designed to work well in storytime.

***The Naughty Little Rabbit and Old Man Coyote: A Tewa Story San Juan Puelo* told by Estefanita Martinez. Illus. by Rick Regan. (Children's Press, 1992).** This title is part of the "Adventures in Storytelling" series. Each title in the series includes a tape of a storyteller's voice and a wordless picture book to be examined as the tape is played. A brief note about the teller is at the book's rear, along with the text of the telling. Some of these sets work better than others, but *The Naughty Little Rabbit and Old Man Coyote* is especially fine. The endearing voice of the elderly Estefanita Martinez enthralled the mothers and children in my library pre-school storytime.

Stotter publishes new book

Ruth Stotter, director of the Dominican Storytelling Certificate Program, has written and published many articles on storytelling over the years. At last she has gathered them together in one volume: *About Story: Writings on Stories and Storytelling, 1980-1994*, Stotter Press, P.O. Box 726, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, (415) 435-3568.



Free stories by e-mail

Children's author Aaron Shepard is offering to storytellers a series of free folktale retellings and original stories, sent on an occasional basis as e-mail. "Gifts of Story" are complete texts of Shepard's own picture books and other works. Storytellers are welcome to tell the stories in any live performance or broadcast.

If you would like to receive the stories, just send an e-mail request to: AaronShep@aol.com. Specify "Gifts of Story" to make sure you get on the right list. Stories will be sent to your return e-mail address.

Chaos and Storytelling

by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

Recently I have been reading books related to my work—managing a team of “information engineers” i.e. programmers. In *Exploiting Chaos: Cashing in on the Realities of Software Development*, I found a thought provoking question: “How often do you read books unrelated to storytelling that can provide a new perspective?”

It need not be books that nudge one into a different perspective. Recently a friend was browsing through my books and found Elffers and Schuyts classic *Cat's Cradles and Other String Figures*. My friend was apologetic over her interest in “a kids book.” Her apologies started me asking why we consider string figures, paper cutting, finger games, chalk drawings etc. children's activities and relegate them to storytelling programs for children, if we use them at all.

Contrast that with the use of music in storytelling. Music, most notably ballads, may carry the story as a song, may tell the story in music parallel to the narrated word (Prokofiev's “Peter and the Wolf”) or may use music as repeating refrain accenting the story (e.g. Serwadda's *Songs and Stories from Uganda*).

String figures, origami and the like work in a different manner and are, perhaps, harder to use effectively to enhance rather than detract from the story. Their dangers include redirecting the listener's attention away from the story or being a “cutesy” addition that does nothing to enhance the story. Most seriously, visual representations can be too precise, discouraging the listener from creating their own images—turning storytelling from a cooperative effort of the teller and the listeners into an autocratic presentation of the teller which is passively watched.

At their best, paper cuttings, string figures and the like can add an element of surprise and interest. In humorous stories they can enhance the misdirection of attention that frequently creates the surprise of the punch line. They can provide a “hook” into the listener's experience so that their interest is piqued—in this sense, they work



much like recitations which older audiences find so nostalgic. Likewise jump rope rhythms and jokes can provide a change of rhythm—many stories that use them being very short pieces. (See, for example, Pellowski's *The Story Vine*).

In thinking of these “physical/visual” elements of story (in comparison to the “aural/oral/gestural” elements I normally consider), I remembered something important: the first stories I remember hearing were triggered by physical events. When my father lit a fire in the fireplace, he would tell me the story of the littlest blue flame struggling for survival. When I was naughty (more often than I usually admit), my mother would quote Longfellow: “There was a little girl and she had a little curl...”

On clear winter nights walking in from the barn, my father would tell me the history of the constellations pointing each out in the night sky. It seems that the story as strictly words was situational—stories told while riding in the car at night, stories told while hands were busy repairing machinery or canning fruit.

I am led to wonder: is it not possible that the “props” used primarily for children's programs are actually the more natural storytelling techniques—story speaking to the visual and tactile sense as well as the aural?

Calendar of Events



March

25-26 Hear storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** tell the story of Kirsten Larson (an American girl) and Another Quilt Tale at 11 a.m. at Park Place Books, Kirkland, WA. Call 828-6546 for more information.

26 Bellevue Regional Library Storycorner, with **Dawn Kuhlman and Camille Wooden**, 1:30 p.m., 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

30 **Story n' Snack**, potluck dessert and story swap, 7:30 to 10 p.m., For information and directions, call 621-8646.

April

2 Storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** tells the dramatic story of Mary Magdala. 10:30 a.m., St. Peters United Methodist Church, 377 122nd Place N. Bellevue, WA.

6 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

7 Storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** tells the dramatic story of Mary Magdala. 7:30 p.m. Mary Queen of Peace, 1121 228th SE, Issaquah, WA.

10 **Earthsongs: Stories for the Environment**, a potpourri of tellers share tales of the earth, its riches and the responsibility we have to protect it. Second Mondays on the Hill, SSG's monthly storytelling event, 7 p.m. New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave. Seattle, \$4 SSG/\$6 general.

13 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

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23 Bellevue Regional Library Storycorner, with **Makia Malo** (see Hawaiian storyteller, page 4), 1:30 p.m., 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

27 **Story n' Snack**, potluck dessert and story swap, 7:30 to 10 p.m., For information and directions, call 621-8646.

27 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

29 Storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** tells the immigrant story of Kirsten Larson (An American girl) 11 a.m. at the University Book Store, 990 102nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA.

May

4 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

5-6 16th Annual **Storytelling Workshop: Treasured Gifts from the Oral Tradition**, (see "Workshops" on page 9 for more information).

6 **Sharon Creedon** presents a storytelling concert at St. Andrew's church in Port Angeles at 7:30. Call Pat at 935-5308 for more information.

7 Hear Storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** share the story of Mary Magdala, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Lake Washington United Methodist Church, 7525 132nd Avenue NE, Kirkland, WA.

8 **Kathy Currie: A Northwest Evening**, Fall City storyteller Kathy Currie spins tales that are uniquely Northwest and sure to please. Second Mondays on the Hill, SSG's monthly storytelling event, 7 p.m. New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave. Seattle, \$4 SSG/\$6 general.



Nominate board members

SSG Members at large are invited to submit names of individuals to nominating committee chair Kathy Sider (524-1485) before election of board members at the June annual meeting. See calendar, June 4.

11 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

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21 Bellevue Regional Library Storycorner, speaker TBA, 1:30 p.m., 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

25 **Story n' Snack**, potluck dessert and story swap, 7:30 to 10 p.m., For information and directions, call 621-8646.

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June

1 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

4 **SSG Annual meeting** and election of officers, 3 p.m., potluck dinner and story swap after business meeting. Call the Guild at 621-8646 for location.

8 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

12 **Maggie Bennett**: Stories and Songs: the Ballad, Maggie finally returns to do a feature program. You won't want to miss Maggie's beautiful story ballads and haunting harp. Second Mondays on the Hill, SSG's monthly storytelling event, 7 p.m. New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave. Seattle, \$4 SSG/\$6 general.

15 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

22 **Western District Convention**: A Wave of Stories: Times, Tribes, Tides and Tall Tales, hosted by Chief Seattle Story League, La Quinta Inn, 1425 East 27th Street, Tacoma, WA 98421. For more information, call Eileen Beckowitz, 4810 N. 30th Street, Tacoma, WA 98407, (206) 759-0941.

22 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

26 Come listen as storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** tells the tale of Annie Oakley, 2 p.m., Carnation Library, 4804 Tolt Avenue, Carnation.

29 **Story n' Snack**, potluck dessert and story swap, 7:30 to 10 p.m., For information and directions, call 621-8646.

29 Storytelling with **Deborah Hudson**, 11:30 a.m., Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052.

July

6 Join storyteller **Debbie Dimitre** as she tells the tale of Annie Oakley, 2 p.m. Fairwood Library, 17009 140th SE, Renton.

10 **Sharon Creedon**, Second Mondays on the Hill, SSG's monthly storytelling event, 7 p.m. New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave. Seattle, \$4 SSG/\$6 general.

Out of Area

The 4th Annual **Vancouver Storytelling Festival**, March 31-April 2, with Tony Montague, Melanie Ray, Mas Tell, Gerardo Avila, Meah Martin, Jeff Smyth, Abegél Fisher-Lang, and David Ohiambo (all from the Lower Mainland); Jerry Alfred from Yukon; Cathy Spagnoli and Tom Heidelbaugh from Washington State; Duncan Williamson from Fife, Scotland; Amy Douglas from Shropshire, England and Jean Guillon from Marseilles, France. Call (604) 876-2272 for more information.

The 10th **Bay Area Storytelling Festival**, May 20-21, El Sobrante, CA (510) 525-1533.

11th Annual **Sierra Storytelling Festival**, July 21-23, featuring Donald Davis, Brenda Wong Aoki, Bill Harley, Gay Ducey, Milliam McLane and Rosalie Sorrels. Write Sierra Storytelling Festival, 17894 Foote Road, Nevada City, CA 95959, (316) 265-8141 for information.

Workshops

16th Annual **Storytelling Workshop: Treasured Gifts from the Oral Tradition**, May 5-6, UW campus, with keynote speaker Eric Kimmel, author and folklorist. Other individual workshop sessions leaders are Margaret Read MacDonald, author folklorist and librarian, King County Library System; Sam Sebesta, author and educator, University of Washington; and George Shannon, author and storyteller. Guest storytellers are Merna Hecht, storyteller and drama educator; Avis Jobrack, librarian, King County Library System; Sam Sebesta; and George Shannon, author and storyteller. Master storytelling class evaluators are Carol Doll, University of Washington, and Margaret Read MacDonald. To register call (206) 543-2320 or 1-800-543-2320. \$85 for both days. Course credit available.

Telling Life Stories, an experiential workshop with Donald Davis, Eugene Oregon, May 13 and 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Limited to 12 participants, \$180. Send \$50 deposit to Yvonne Young, 1975 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97405. Deposits refundable until April 7. Only a few spaces are left. For more information, call Pat Peterson at 935-5308.



Co-Presidents: Cherie Trebon (525-0382) and Dawn Kuhlman (939-7117);
 Vice President: Margaret Read MacDonald (827-6430);
 Secretary: Sally Porter-Smith (283-5984);
 Membership and Festival Directors: Debra Harris-Branham (772-0415) and Phyllis Silling (246-7636);
 Newsletter Editors: Julie Miller (935-1471) and Susan Veltfort (322-2385);
 Publicity: Kathleen Sider (524-1485);
 Volunteer Coordinator: Avis Jobrack (206-863-5025);
 Programs: Camille Wooden (854-2909);
 Folklife Coordinator: Pat Peterson (935-5308)

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 Summer issue is June 1, 1995.

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. Box 45532, Seattle, WA 98145-0532.

Seattle Storytellers' Guild
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