



## in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild • Summer 1996 • Vol. XIX, Number 3

### SEATTLE SWEEPS THE STORYTELLING WORLD AWARDS

Category: Tellable Stories for Ages 4-9  
Honor: "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Vinegar Bottle" by Margaret Read MacDonald (August House, 1995)

Category: Tellable Stories for Ages 10-17  
Honor: "The Most Noble Story" from *Apples from Heaven: Multicultural Folk Tales About Stories and Storytellers* by Naomi Baltuck (Linnet Books, 1995)

Category: Tellable Adult Stories  
WINNER: "The Golden Lamb," *Apples from Heaven* by Naomi Baltuck (Linnet Books, 1995)

Honor: "Truth and Parable," *Apples from Heaven*  
Honor: "Warmth of a Fire" from *Fair is Fair: World Folktales of Justice* by Sharon Creeden (August House, 1996)

Category: Storytelling Anthologies  
Honor: *Fair is Fair*, Sharon Creeden

Category: Storytelling Information  
Honor: *The Parent's Guide to Storytelling* by Margaret Read MacDonald (HarperCollins, 1995)

## President's Letter

Dear Storytelling Community:

With deep gratitude to last year's board and excellent leadership by President Dawn Kuhlman, and with excitement and anticipation, I look forward to this coming year. There seems to be more interest than ever in storytelling and the local community is thriving. The Guild would like to reach out even further to serve the needs of our current members and to those future members who are looking for a place to begin. We are considering several ideas at this time. Our Second Monday nights on Capitol Hill are not as well attended as we had hoped they might be this past year. So, we are looking at replacing the New City program with monthly membership meetings where information, special topics and feature tellers could be shared (as well as continue with open mike). Another possibility in addition to, or instead of, a monthly meeting would be a less formal monthly program held at a local Seattle cafe, again keeping the open mike at the evening's end. We would continue to sponsor special teller programs from time to time (we are looking at a Christmas Storytelling Cruise on the Sound)!

If attendance at the storytelling events at Folklife is any indication, the desire to tell and listen to stories is as strong as ever. Please come to a Guild sponsored event soon and see for yourself. There will be many opportunities in the months ahead. And if you do, find a board member and share with them what you would like to see and also your thoughts on the proposed changes.

See you soon,  
Camille

# Stories We Tell Ourselves

Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

There is a branch of psychology called narrative psychology which has fed both feminist theory and narrative psychology. Simplified, its basic principle is that our sense of who a person is is shaped not by our cause and effect knowledge about them but rather by the stories we tell about them. For example, if I were to tell you who Margaret Read McDonald is, I would describe her in terms of narrative. "When the Gulf War broke out, Marge responded by writing a book of peace tales; she collected the stories as much by asking her friends for their favorite peace tale as by searching the library..." We are already into story. Scientific explanation on the other hand would describe her in terms of anatomy, molecular biology, biochemistry—all useful for medical purposes but not for *knowing* Marge.

The premise of narrative psychology goes even further and says that the stories we tell shape us. If we consistently tell stories of ourselves as klutzes, we will behave more like klutzes than if we told stories of ourselves as competent, organized people. Thus when I laugh at myself for being too engrossed in conversation to think to push the elevator button (unfortunately a very common occurrence), I reinforce an image not only to the people I laugh with but with myself.

In this context, it is interesting to look at the choice of tales we tell. John Hoffman provides a grid to classify stories. In one dimension are stories that define the world (creating stories, how evil came into the world, end of the world, etc.), stories that illustrate the world (hero stories, moral stories, why stories, etc.), and world disruptive stories (stories that portray a different, new world view).

As story tellers, we often take a story that defines the world in one culture—Shiva's destruction of the world, for example—and tell it as a story that illustrates the world, how another group of people think. This makes it very hard to tell the story with the narrative force inherent in the story; we have changed the story

from active in the definition of a person's view of the world to a passive story illustrating something about the world.

Hoffman's second dimension is more familiar—myth, legend, natural fiction and history/biography. But moving a story in this dimension is also problematic. Depending upon one's theology, the story of creation as told at the beginning of the book of Genesis may be myth or history/biography. The difference resulted in the Scopes trial. A figure such as Johnny Appleseed began in history/biography but has become natural fiction. The difference in how we tell the story is one of freedom on changing and embellishing the story as we received it.

When we look at stories that one part of our culture wishes to suppress and another part wishes to preserve, such as evil stepmother stories, the question often revolves around to whether we see the story as defining, illustrating or disrupting the world view. The

story of the Good Samaritan, for example, was

probably first told as a story that disrupted the world view—the "correct" relationship between the Jewish and Samaritan

people—but we hear it as a world illustrating (moral) story. If Little Black Sambo is seen as a world illustrating story, then the message of the story is inappropriate to our sensibilities.

But is that the appropriate classification of the story? And can we control the classification our audience will



assign the story?

The best we can do is to convey to the audience both how we perceive the story as fitting into our world, and how we perceive the story as fitting into the world of its creators.

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*Send Your Tapes to  
The Story Tree*

"The Story Tree" showcases storytelling talent on many National Public Radio stations across the United States. They are continuing a nationwide search for suitable material. If you are interested in expanding your audience and having your work considered for broadcast, please do the following:

- Send in a tape, cassette or CD. They are especially interested in material 2 to 10 minutes in length but will consider longer stories, and

- Include information about yourself.

If your material is selected for broadcast, you will be given full credit for the story and a short introductory feature on you will precede your selected story. Tapes submitted for consideration cannot be returned and will not be used without a release from you.

Contact:

Carol A Huebner, Producer

The Story Tree

P.O. Box 2465

Johnson City, TN 37605

423/ 543-3884

*Second Mondays on the Hill*

A summer full of stories every second Monday of the month at the New City Theater, 1643 11th Avenue on Capitol Hill. Featured performance at 7 p.m. followed by an "open mike" for other tellers. Cost is \$4 for Seattle Storytellers' Guild members, \$6 for general public. Free parking available.

**July 8**

Kathy Currie. Popular local teller delights and entertains with a potpourri of stories.

**August 12**

To be announced.

**September 9**

The Story People of Clallam County bring stories to Seattle in celebration of their upcoming 2nd Annual International Forest Storytelling Festival on September 27-29.

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*Gene Friese Memorial  
Fund Scholarship*

Kevin Cotter has been named the first recipient of the Gene Friese Memorial Fund Scholarship. Mr. Cotter grew up in rural New Zealand and many of his stories tell of his childhood experiences in New Zealand. Kevin has told at Seattle's Tellabration, Northwest Folklife Festival, as well as Second Monday on the Hill. He plans to use the money to take the Donald Davis workshop which will be held as part of the Second International Forest Storytelling Festival in Port Angeles this fall.

*Forever Jung here  
Sept. 13-14*

"Forever Jung," a one-man play written and performed by British author/actor John Maxwell Taylor, will be presented at the Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle, on Sept. 13 and 14. This drama, in which Taylor skillfully portrays 20 different characters, will provide an intimate tour deep into the life, work and loves of Carl G. Jung. Hearty acclaim for Taylor's work in "Forever Jung" comes from a number of prominent professionals in Jungian psychology, among them Joseph Henderson, former colleague of Jung; June Singer, Jungian author and analyst, and John Beebe, M.D., of the San Francisco C.G. Jung Institute. For information on tickets and performance schedule, please call the C.G. Jung Society of Seattle, 547-3956.



## Sources: *About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them*

By Margaret Read MacDonald  
King County Library System

### ***Apples from Heaven: Multicultural Folk Tales about Stories and Storytellers***

by Naomi Baltuck, Linnet Press, 1995

All storytellers seem to have their favorite set of "stories about stories." Here our own Naomi Baltuck has collected 31 such stories for our delight! And they *are* a delight. I enjoyed her selection enormously and found several gems I had not seen before. How did I miss "The Gossiping Clams"? The stories all resonate with Naomi's gentle voice and sweet laughter. You will all want to read this, just for the fun of it, and will likely find several stories you want to add to your own repertoire on the way. And I am not alone in this opinion as it already received Storytelling World's award for best "Tellable Stories for Adults" (to "The Golden Lamb") and *two* honor awards! "The Most Noble Story" won an honor in "Tellable Stories 10-17" category and "Truth and Parable" won an honor in the Tellable Stories for Adults category—which makes Naomi a runner-up to her own winner? As you can see this is a book you will have to get your hands on.

### ***Storyteller Storyteacher: Discovering the Power of Storytelling for Teaching and Living***

by Marni Gillard, Stenhouse Publishers, 1995

Marni Gillard has used storytelling in her teaching for years. She presented a workshop for the NAPPS Seattle Conference, but she was going by the name of Marni Schwartz in those days. Here she uses accounts of her own work to suggest useful ways to connect kids and

adults with story. The book is a narrative account of a life using story rather than a handbook. The book is well worth reading, both for her insights along the way, and for this chance to watch a master teacher/teller at work.

### ***Who Says? Essays on Pivotal Issues in Contemporary Storytelling***

Edited by Carol L. Birch and Melissa A. Heckler, August House, 1996

This is an intriguing collection of essays on storytelling topics. Topics included are: "Jewish Models: Adapting Folktales for Telling Aloud" by Penninah Schram; "The Continuing Circle: Native American Storytelling Past and Present"; and "Old Stories/Life Stories: Memory and Dissolution in Contemporary Bushman Folklore." "Two Traditions" by Melissa Heckler discusses Bushman storytelling. "Old Stories, New Listeners" offers Kay Stone's look at the dialogue between storyteller Joe Neil MacNeil and scholar John Shaw. "Good Stories, Good Tellings, Good Times" gives us Rafe Martin's thoughts on the responsibilities of teller to audience and event; Through "Innervation and Innertext: Oral and Interpretive Modes of Storytelling Performance," Joseph Sobol takes a close look at two tellings, by Jim May and Sid Lieberman. In "Who Says? The Storyteller as Narrator" Carol Birch helps us look at the problems of presenting the literary story in oral form. "Playing with the Wall" by Bill Harley offers some specific techniques for relating to an audience. And my favorite "The Icebergs of Folktale: Misconception, Misuse, Abuse" by Barre Toelken is especially important for its discussion of the ways we all misuse folklore. Plenty of food for thought in *this* little collection!

# Storytelling in the Libraries

## West African Stories

Won-Ldy Paye, Liberian storyteller, presents authentic folktales from Liberia and West Africa. Drums will echo the voice of the people, masks will represent the tribal traditions, and the storyteller will bridge past, present and future. Families welcome.

Tuesday, July 9, 1 p.m.  
Skyway Library (*sponsored by Friends of Skyway Library*)

Wednesday, July 18, 7 p.m.  
Issaquah Library

Tuesday, July 30, 7 p.m.  
Des Moines Library

Wednesday, August 14, 7 p.m.  
Federal Way Regional Library

## Northwest Native Storytelling

Leslie Creed, local storyteller, brings to life the Northwest Native oral tradition of storytelling. Families welcome. Wednesday, July 10, 12:15-1:45 p.m., SeaTac Community Center.

## Mysteries of the Deep

What mysteries lie under the sea? Karen Haas, storyteller and musician, will answer that question in stories, songs and a craft on Thursday, July 18 at 1 p.m. at the Federal Way Regional Library. Ages 6-12, younger if accompanied by an adult. Funded by the Friends of the Federal Way Libraries.

## Mysterious Scenes

Just Say Yes Theater Company brings its unique blend of storytelling, spontaneity and audience participation to this mystery program. Stories come to life right before your eyes as the group performs "Death in a Minute," "Who Done It," and the famous "Boris."

Saturday, July 20, 1 p.m.  
Kenmore Library

Monday, July 22, 7 p.m.  
Federal Way Regional Library

Tuesday, July 30, 1 p.m.  
Muckleshoot Library (*sponsored by the Friends of the Muckleshoot Library*)

Sunday, August 4, 2 p.m.  
Foster Library

Saturday, August 10, 1 p.m.  
Skykomish Library

## Hawaiian Legends

Storytelling, chants, music and dance tell the stories and legends of Hawaii. Presented by 'Iwalani Christian of Na Lei O Manu'akepa.

Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m.  
Des Moines Library

Monday August 12, 7 p.m.  
Covington Library

For directions, call your local King County Library System library.

# C ❖ A ❖ L ❖ E ❖ N ❖ D ❖ A ❖ R

## July

8 Second Mondays on the Hill, Kathy Currie. 7 p.m. at 1643 11th Ave. on Capitol Hill.

20 Guemes Island Storytelling Retreat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Instructor, Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald. Credit available through SPU. \$60 (includes lunch and ferry). Call 827-6430 for info.

25 Story 'N Snack, dessert potluck and story swap. Sharon Creeden, 1639 Harbor Ave. S.W. #103, West Seattle. 935-2850.

## August

8 Second Mondays on the Hill, teller to be announced. 7 p.m. at 1643 11th Ave. on Capital Hill.

17-18 Outdoor Odysseys Sea Kayaking Tours, "Whales and Tales" storytelling tour. Two-day San Juan Island trip with professional storytellers around the campfire. Cost \$209 including tax. Call 206/361-0717 for registration info.

29 Story 'N Snack, dessert potluck and story swap. Jeanne Shepard, 523-5192.

## September

9 Second Mondays on the Hill. The Story People of Clallam County bring stories to Seattle in celebration of their upcoming 2nd Annual International Forest Storytelling Festival on Sept. 27-29. 7 p.m. at 1643 11th Ave. on Capitol Hill.

27-29 Storytelling Festival in Port Angeles. See article in this issue for details.

## October

26 Storytelling Festival, Nordic Heritage Museum. See article in this issue for details.

## Out of Area

**July 19-21** Sierra Storytelling Festival features Carol Birch, Eth-Noh-Tec, Uebe Gray, Susan Klein, Harol Littlebird, Bruce "Utah" Phillips, Kathryn Windham and MC Patrick Ball. Gay Ducey and Kathleen Zundell will host the critique session. Call 916/265-2826 for more info.

**Sept. 21-22** Pacific Storytelling Festival at Montaña d'Oro State Park on the coast between San Francisco and Los Angeles (just keep driving south, you can't miss it!). Featured tellers are David Hold, J.J. Reneaux, Diane Ferlatte and Joe Hays. For info and better directions, call 805/594-8856.

### *Festival News!*

A Storytelling Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Nordic Heritage Museum. At 9 a.m. we will offer pre-festival workshops. The festival officially starts at 12:00 noon. There will be more workshops (offered by the tellers who will be featured in the evening concert), time set aside for a story swap session, a children's program, and the evening concert from 7-9 p.m. This should be a fabulous experience, so mark your calendars now. You will receive further details in a special mailing. See you there!



### *Storytelling Festival in Port Angeles Sept. 27-29*

Once again the Story People of Clallam County are presenting an exciting festival bringing well known tellers from far and near. Donald Davis, Gay Ducey, Sharon Creeden, Patrick Ball and Harlynn Geisler along with fine regional tellers will provide a wide variety of tales and workshops. The festival opens with a concert featuring the major tellers on Friday night at 7:30. Workshops for both new and experienced tellers will be offered Saturday morning. Concerts and a story swap will take place Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Saturday night promises scary stories followed by a late night concert of stories for adults with Gay Ducey. Donald Davis will present a special program of stories to inspire on Sunday morning. The festival ends with a concert and line dance Sunday night. The cost is \$60 if registration is received by Sept. 1. To request a brochure call Josephine Pedersen, 360/457-3169, or write to her at 1320 S. Cherry, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

#### Where to stay

Port Angeles has all kinds of accommodations but special mention must be given to the Uptown Motel. It has much to recommend it. The festival is within walking distance, and a variety of deluxe and economy units offer something for everyone. Seattle storyteller Pat Peterson who loves exploring possibilities spent some time visiting a number of rooms available with various theme motifs. (Her personal choice—the cat room.) A hot tub is available, the location is quiet and best of all, festival attendees will receive a special rate. When you call 1/800/858-3812 for reservations, be sure to mention the festival. There is a low-cost bed and breakfast in the Sequim area, about 20 minutes from Port Angeles. For information call Josephine Pederson at 360/457-3169.

## *Guild Offers Classes*

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild is offering a series of four classes beginning this September. Dates and topics are:

Sept. 14	Beginning Storytelling	Sally Porter-Smith
Sept. 21	Participation Stories	Margaret Read MacDonald
Oct. 5	Character and Voice	Dawn Kuhlman/ Camille Wooden
Oct. 12	Personal Stories	Pat Peterson

Classes will be held at All For Kids Bookstore near the University Village, and will run from 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$60 for the four classes, which includes a one-year membership in the Guild. A deposit of \$30 is required to hold your place in class, no refunds after Sept. 1. Class size is limited to 20 participants, so register early. If demand is high, another set of classes will be offered shortly following this set; and, if there is interest, a follow-up set of intermediate classes will be offered in the spring. Please complete the form below and mail, with your deposit, to:

Seattle Storytellers' Guild  
c/o Camille Wooden  
11213 S.E. 200th St.  
Kent, WA 98031

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#### REGISTRATION FORM

Seattle Storytellers' Guild  
September 1996 Class Series

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to Seattle Storytellers' Guild. A confirmation letter will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration and deposit.

**Seattle Storytellers' Guild**  
621-8646

President: Camille Wooden (854-2909)  
Co-vice presidents:  
    Margaret Read MacDonald (827-6430)  
    Debra Harris-Branham (772-0415)  
Secretary: Zelda Foxall (323-4541)  
Treasurer: Sally Porter-Smith (283-5984)  
Members-At-Large: Kathleen Currie (222-5442) and  
    Dawn Kuhlman (939-7117)  
Membership: Phyllis Silling (246-7636)  
Newsletter Editor: Julie Miller (935-1471)  
Folklife Coordinator: Pat Peterson (935-5308)  
Publicity: Kathleen Sider (524-1485)  
Volunteer Coordinator: Avis Jobrack (206/863-5025)

**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 fall issue is September 1, 1996.

Newsletter design by Nancy Blanton, 937-1343

## Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- New     Renewal  
 Individual, \$15  
 Family, \$20  
 Institutional, \$30  
 Donor, \$35  
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 Muse, over \$150  
 I am interested in volunteering. Please call me to discuss how I may help.  
 Please include my name on mailing list for related events.

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

**Seattle Storytellers' Guild**

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