

In the Wind

STORYTELLING DINNER THEATER

FEATURING Debbie Dimitre

**With stories from Avis Jobrack and
Dick and Nancy Holmes
Harp Music – Susan Strick**

**Saturday, October 23, 1999
From 7-10pm**

**Valdi's Ballard Bistro
5410 Ballard NW
Seattle, WA 206-783-2033**

\$22.00 - dinner, beverage, tax and tip.

Once again the Seattle Storyteller's Guild offers an evening of good food and stories to feed the spirit. Doors open at 6:30 with dinner being served at 7pm. The showcase begins at 8:00 featuring Avis Jobrack and Dick and Nancy Holmes. Dick delights in telling Irish tales with humor and wit. Nancy brings stories from many lands. Avis Jobrack has been too long absent from the storytelling scene in Seattle. She returns with a twinkle in her eye and the promise of enchanting tales. After dessert, our featured teller Debbie Dimitre will take the stage to present Nellie Bly, one of the most rousing characters of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She was a pioneer in the field of investigative journalism.

Space is limited so advanced ticket sales are required. Call 206-621-8646. Guests may preselect their entrée: Chicken Parmesan with rice and vegetable or vegetarian lasagna with

garlic bread. Dinner includes salad, coffee, tea and soda drinks. A double fudge chocolate brownie creation will be served during intermission. Out of consideration to our tellers no food will be served during performance and dinner serving will cease 15 minutes prior to the show.

A few words from our featured teller, Debbie Dimitre....

"Long, long ago before television or computers, even before there were books, there were storytellers. The teaching power of story has been recognized as far back as primitive times, when story was the only form of literature and the storyteller the only medium for keeping alive significant events and characters. Through oral tales stories passed from one generation to another. I think that is how it was meant to be, for our history is a story that belongs to each of us.

Eleven years ago, as I was beginning my own storytelling journey, two things greatly influenced my decision to focus my time and energy on the stories of women in history. First, my belief that no study of American history can be complete without an understanding of how women helped shape our nation, and second, my growing awareness of how my children's schoolbooks were practically void of women's stories. Thus was born "Patchwork Tales" a series of storytelling docu-dramas intended to honor the memories of some remarkable women in history... Eleanor Roosevelt, Rachel Carson, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Annie Oakley just to name a few. In costume and in character, my goal is to bring these women to life so they can share with you their own stories, stories of courage, sacrifice, dedication and achievement."

Myrna Hecht Receives National Service Award

Myrna Hecht was recognized by the National Storytelling Membership Association for her storytelling work in the community with an award at the National Storytelling Conference in San Diego. Myrna is truly a 'working storyteller' and has taken her work far beyond the traditional presentational school assemblies. We asked her to share with us some of her recent projects.

"In 1996 I began in depth work with incarcerated kids under the auspices of the King County Arts Commission. I worked with several other artists at Fairview Academy which is a lock up school. We developed a multicultural arts curriculum and I worked intensely with these kids doing storytelling, drama, Story Theater and Writing.

I am involved in several projects with Community Activators. Their mission is to bring people of disability into community. I facilitate a mixed age, mixed ability group. I do use narrative and story in the group and we do a lot of writing. The age range is 21-71.

I also work with a larger group of people of disability and use many storytelling and drama techniques to get them to express their feelings about their disabilities and abilities and to tell stories about times they have felt a sense of belonging in community and times they have felt left out. The idea of this project is to give voice and expression to the desires of people of disability to be seen as whole and creative and complex as anyone else. A video will be produced about this story-based project to be shown to social service workers to help them use storytelling in their work with people of disability.

The Orion Center is Seattle's High School for homeless and street kids. I love working with these kids. I bring in musicians, street performers and tell a lot of stories, which this population loves. People think of these kids as threatening and marginalized. They have been teachers to me. They are inspiring and brave and

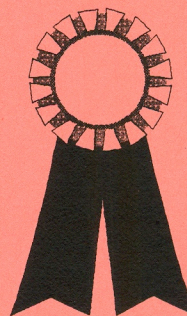
remarkably open to storytelling and to finding their own vehicles of expression through the arts.

I have also worked with "at risk" kids in various Seattle public school. We used many cross cultural tales and found ways to tap the rich cultural histories of many of the student and got them involved in writing family stories and telling folktales from their respective backgrounds. We wrote and performed original stories and toured at other schools for younger audiences. We also wrote and illustrated three original folktale books for first and second graders.

We performed at First Place, which is Seattle's school for homeless elementary age kids. Thus, I had "at risk" kids who had all been in detention putting on an original play for homeless kids and feeling great about it. I can see how this work has helped kids with major self-esteem issues.

Last year I worked in a school in Tacoma in the Hilltop area with younger kids as part of a crime prevention program. I used a lot of storytelling, drama and poetry. It reached the kids and I could see it working to increase their belief in their ability to be creative, positive, honest and expressive.

A "sideline" of my community storytelling work is to use stories which I create from oral history interviews with elders from different backgrounds and ethnic traditions to help children re-imagine history through storytelling."



We are fortunate indeed to have a storyteller in our region who cares so passionately about her work.

Myrna Hecht is using her gifts as a storyteller to make a difference in so many lives.

Notes on the National Storytelling Conference

By Lenore Jackson

*Where the sand meets the sea,
the shoreline is ever-changing.
The tides of science and technology,
education and ecology,
culture and communication
ebb and flow to create . . .*

Voices at the Water's Edge

The National Storytelling Conference held July 7-11 at the University of San Diego began for me as I shared a shuttle from the airport with Brother Blue (Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill) and his wife. The guardian angel of storytelling was so mesmerizing, I hardly noticed anything else until there we were at the Spanish Renaissance campus of the University of San Diego—cream-colored stucco, palm trees, courtyards, jacaranda, fountains, and hibiscus.

Then came the first of 400 rich and varied voices. I met storytellers from Buffalo, Amarillo, Memphis, Albuquerque, Sitka, Ann Arbor . . . not to mention Yakima and Camano Island. There were wonderful tellers like Gay Ducey, Harlynne Geisler, Doug Lipman, Tom Weakley, and Elizabeth Ellis—and of course our own Margaret Read MacDonald and Sharon Creeden. And what a joy to see Allison Cox represent Washington at the regional concert.

I heard stories of every kind, ranging from Ed Stivender's *Lady Ragnell* (lots of schtick and the sweetest ending I have ever heard) to *The Star Spangled Banner* in ASL by Alan Schwartz. I also loved Lorna Czarnota's rap on *Little Red Riding Hood* and the way Carol Birch told *Why Weren't You Zusia?* at her workshop on nurturing.

I had to miss some of the things others just raved about—Sister Ellen Secci's workshop on storytelling as the language of the divine, the Moonlight Madness storyswap, Bellingham storyteller Doug Banner playing the wooden flute early in the morning in the church—but I can still see the unveiling of the new National Storytelling Network logo, Dianne de las Casas at the Storytell Listserv swap, the labyrinth we

walked Friday night, Brother Blue dancing in the aisle on Sunday morning, and all the beautiful clothes—isn't it a blessing that we don't feel compelled to dress in industrial grunge?

Saturday night I sat entranced at the Mexican buffet as a dazzling collection of wearable art floated across the patio and I can report that no one was more radiant than Renee Diaz Harvey of Tacoma.

Then it was Sunday afternoon and the final concert. Tearing myself away from the brilliance of Eth-Noh-Tec, I caught the shuttle back to the airport—exhausted, inspired, nourished—and already thinking about next year's conference in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Tellabration !...

...Issaquah

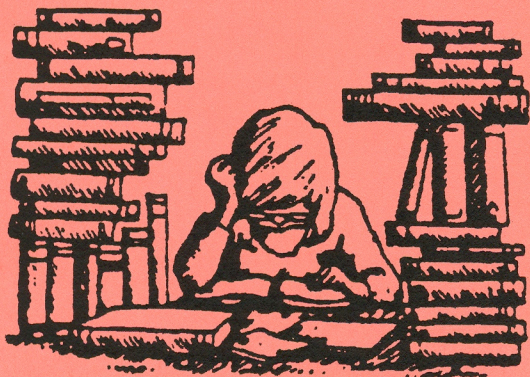
Tale Traders is sponsoring its Second Annual Tellabration on Saturday November 13th in Issaquah. The two-hour program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets (\$12) on sale Monday Oct. 11th; (includes a homemade dessert, available at intermission. **ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY!** Call Kathy Murphy at (425) 391-4312. Driving directions to the Issaquah location with ticket purchase; free parking available

...Port Angeles

Award-winning storyteller, author and recording artist Rafe Martin will be featured with local tellers on Friday, Nov. 19 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. Call Josephine Pederson (360) 457-3169.

...Seattle

It's time to celebrate storytelling with tellers and listeners around the world. Some of the area's finest tellers will share their favorite tales. Bring someone who has never been to a storytelling event or invite a fellow story-lover to spend an evening caught up in the magic. November 20, 7pm, Seattle Mennonite Church, 3120 NE 125th St. Tickets-\$5.00.



Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

By Margaret Read MacDonald,
King County Library System

Some fascinating reading this summer. A friend put me onto **THE HERO WITH AN AFRICAN FACE: MYTHIC WISDOM OF TRADITIONAL AFRICA** by Clyde W. Ford (New York: Bantam, 1999). Ford is described as a chiropractor, Swahili scholar, and professor of African History at Western Washington University. He has written three previous books dealing with healing and with racism. In this well researched book Ford tackles head on Joseph Campbell's African blind-spot and dives in brilliantly to fill this gap. A must-read addendum for anyone who was engaged by Campbell's **HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES** and an introspective introduction to myth and epic for any reader. Highly recommended.

And yet another wonder. **DREAMS OF TRESPASS: TALES OF A HAREM GIRLHOOD** by Fatima Mernissi (Reading, MASS: Addison-Wesley, 1994) fell off the shelf into my hand one day. Mernissi tells of her youth in a Moroccan extended family in which women are kept sequestered. The delight of the book is that the women are constantly telling stories! Not a source for stories here, but such fun watching the ladies share tales in their various styles.

And the very scholarly **GRIOTS AND GRIOTTES: MASTERS OF WORDS AND MUSIC** by Thomas A. Hale (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998) is now available in local libraries. 410 pages of commentary about West African griots, including both

historical accounts and contemporary performers. Turgid reading but fascinating material.

Usually I pass my own publications on to other guild members for review. But my latest is such a massive undertaking, even for a reader, that I will just note its arrival here.

TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING TODAY: AN INTERNATIONAL SOURCEBOOK by

Margaret Read MacDonald (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999) is a compendium of 100 articles by contemporary folklore scholars discussing the art and practice of storytelling in their many areas of ethnic expertise. Contributors were asked to discuss performance style, context and function of storytelling events. Some did. In general each contributor just wrote about his or her own research topic. Each had been selected because previous publications showed them to have first hand knowledge of storytelling events in the culture of their study. The resulting 627 page tome is amazing. Examples: Abu Abarry on the Ga Folktales; Ode Ogede on Igbo storytelling; Mohammed Taib Osman on Malaysian telling; Ilona Nagy on male and female repertoires in Hungary; Ramadan Sokoli on Albanian tales; Manuel Danneman on Chilean folktales; Daniel Mato on Venezuelan telling; Sylvia Grider on children's ghost stories; Chan Park on Korean P'ansori, Mark Bender on Zuzhou Chantefable, and much much more. The book costs nearly \$100 but copies will be in libraries soon. Take a browse.

Change of Address ?

Please let us know of your address change as soon as you can. While we've just changed to using first class, which the post office will forward, we need to enter your change into the database so that you will continue to receive issues after your forwarding request expires at the Post Office.

Membership Renewal

In the past, there was an extended grace period for membership renewal. Our current policy is to send a notice shortly after your last issue is mailed. We need to hear from you as soon as possible so we can be sure to get your next issue to you. Thanks.

President's Note

John N. Clauson, President

Storytelling in Seattle is alive and well. The whole Puget Sound region provides ample opportunities to hear storytellers as well as tell stories to audiences of all ages. Various guilds and groups of tellers abound. Because of this enormous interest in storytelling, we have an opportunity as a Guild to provide leadership and venues for tellers. However, for the Seattle Storyteller's Guild to do this, we need the help of all our members. Please, do not be afraid to offer your ideas and your help in regard to ongoing projects of the Guild and possible new projects as well.

You can call the Guild phone number at anytime to give input, ask questions, or volunteer to help. The phone number is: 206-621-8646.

One of the questions non-guild people call to ask is, where they can take classes or workshops about storytelling. If you teach storytelling, please let the Guild know so that your name can be given to people looking for that kind of help. This is a very easy way you can help Seattle Storytellers in our mission to promote the love of stories and telling throughout the area.

As opportunities arise, don't wait to be asked. You can assume that your help is needed and you can volunteer. We need the help of all members. We need your help. Let's make the 1999-2000 year in the Seattle Storyteller's Guild the best year yet.

SSG Picnic Update

The Seattle Storyteller's Guild annual picnic was held in August. While the weather was stormy, we were warm and cozy inside. Everyone agreed it was a GREAT way to spend a rainy, Sunday afternoon with delicious food and wonderful stories. It was such a fun day that this annual event may become a twice-yearly one. Plans are abreast for a winter indoor picnic and story swap. Look for details in your winter edition of *In the Wind*.

Storytelling Classes

North Seattle Community College Continuing Education Department will once again offer a series of three beginning storytelling classes taught by storyteller and SSG board member, Cherie Trebon. This interactive series covers the basics of storytelling, i.e., dynamics of storytelling, voice control, choosing and learning a tale, and aspects of performing.

Strengthen your ability to express yourself with power and sensitivity while learning to create verbal magic out of special memories or a treasured folktale. Add vitality to public speaking, teaching, and conversation. Sweaty palms and stomach butterflies can enhance, not inhibit, the natural storyteller within you.

Three consecutive Mondays beginning 10/18/99; 6:30-9:00 p.m.; \$45.00.
Register by calling: 206-516-2955 or 206-527-3705.

Monthly Membership Meetings

(Note: the regular monthly meeting day has changed from the second Thursday to the second Tuesday of the month.)

**Tuesdays, 7pm at All For Kids Bookstore
2900 NE Blakeley, Seattle
(206) 526-2768**

October 12

Thrills! Chills! And Horror! Come descend into the depths of the Halloween spirit --- if you dare . . . Bring a "Halloween story" for the story swap at your monthly membership meeting.

November 9

TANDEMONIUM

Ever wondered about trying some tandem storytelling? Dawn Kuhlman and Camille Wooden, who tandem tell as Two Tell, will give us the ins and outs of telling with a partner. They will also treat us to some stories. Instead of a regular open mike, we will learn a short "tandemable" story and have a chance to pair up with someone and try it out together.

December 14

A Holiday Sampler - Stories of the Season

The Calendar

October 2 - Debbie Deutsch

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

October 5 - Margaret Read MacDonald

11 a.m. Boulevard Park Library

Tuck-Me-In Tales & Author Signing

October 9 - Camille & Dawn - Two Tell

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

October 12 - **Monthly Guild Meeting**

7 p.m. All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle

October 16 - Susy Irwin

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

October 18 - Cherie Trebon

6:30 p.m. - Beginning Storytelling Class

October 23 - Cindy Easterson

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

October 25 - Cherie Trebon

6:30 p.m. - Beginning Storytelling Class

October 30 - Kathy Currie

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

November 1 - Cherie Trebon

6:30 p.m. - Beginning Storytelling Class

November 9 - **Monthly Guild Meeting**

7 p.m. All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle

November 13 - Margaret Vance

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

November 15 - Margaret Read MacDonald

7 p.m. Valley View Library SeaTac, WA

Tuck-Me-In Tales & Author Signing

November 20 - Linda Scott Cummings

11:00am - Island Books Mercer island

November 21 - Rafe Martin

3:00 p.m. - Bothell Library

November 21 - Erica Helm Meade

12:00 - 5:00 Lunch and Workshop

Sacred Stories of the Feminine

Woman Spirit Center 18528 SE 58th St.

Issaquah 425-641-1527

December 4 Linda Scott Cummings -

4:00 - Milton Activity Center Tree Lighting

Celebration - Family Holiday Stories Call 425-702-4723

December 4 - Margaret Read MacDonald

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

December 4 - Maggie Bennett

11 a.m. - Island Books Mercer Island

Holiday songs with harp music.

December 7 - Linda Cummings

7 p.m. - Federal Way Regional Library - "Gifts of the Heart" Holiday Stories

December 14 - **Monthly Guild Meeting**

7 p.m. All For Kids Bookstore, Seattle

December 15 Linda Scott Cummings - "Old

Fashioned Christmas" aboard Waterways

Cruiseship - "The Gift of the Magi" and other

holiday stories. Call 206-223-2060

Bill Harley

Songs & Stories for Everybody

King County Library System proudly presents

Bill Harley, nationally known storyteller,

performer and musician. He has won acclaim as

a songwriter and author and is known as one of

the finest family performers in the United

States. He is one of the National Public Radio's

most popular commentators of All Things

Considered. Harley has also been described as

"the Mark Twain of kids music" by

Entertainment Weekly. Harley's concerts feature

original material about today's world bringing

insight and humor to his observations about

growing up and parenting like no other

performer can. Families welcome.

November 14, 2 p.m. - Issaquah Community

Center - 301 Rainer Blvd. S., Issaquah

November 15, 2 p.m. - Shoreline Library

November 15, 7 p.m. - Highline Performing Arts

Center - 401 S. 152nd St.

November 16, 2 p.m. - Federal Way Regional

Library

November 16, 7 p.m. - Kirkland Performance

Center - 350 Kirkland Avenue

Seattle Area Children's Book Illustrators

All For Kids will make available original art for show and sale. The art exhibit will be open to the public Nov. 20th through Dec. 8, Mon.-Sat. 10-6pm, Sun. 12-5pm.

This is a great chance to view original art and purchase special gifts for the holidays. Many artists will be available to meet with the public on Nov. 20 at 1pm.

All For Kids, 2900 NE Blakeley, Seattle

Vancouver Festival

Vancouver Society of Storytelling's 8th Annual Festival, WINTER TALES is planned for November 5-7. Call (604) 876-2272 to receive the festival brochure.

Raintales Story Swap

Raintales Story Swap meets every 4th Tuesday on Queen Anne. Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976.

Stories at Stuart's

In Bellingham—Stories at Stuart's—Every Monday night 8 p.m. Stuart's Coffee House, 1302 Bay St., Bellingham. Call (360) 752-2024 for information.

Red Cedar Circle

October 7. -Port Angeles - Johnny Moses leads a Red Cedar Circle.

For time and other information call Josephine Pedersen 360-457-3169

Tale Traders

This story circle meets twice per month on the 2nd Tuesday in Renton and the 3rd Thursday in Issaquah from 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00. If you love storytelling and are looking for an informal place to share stories and network please come and join us. Call (425) 235-0566 (Renton group) or (425) 391-4312 (Issaquah group).

Mukilteo Story Circle

Story Circle in Mukilteo sponsored by the Mukiteo Library. 3rd Monday of the month from 7-8:30 pm. Storyteller and listeners are welcome. Snacks provided. A storytelling discussion group will follow the story hour. Call Aarene at 425-493-8202 or Eileen at 425-353-7410.

Sorry if we didn't list your event. To be included in The Winter 2000 edition, send your information to the editor prior to December 7, 1999

Storytelling Dinner Theater Registration Form

Saturday, October 23, 1999 from 7:00 – 10 p.m.

Valdi's Ballard Bistro – 5410 Ballard NW – Seattle

Cost \$22 including dinner, beverage, tax and tip.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____

Dinner entrée (please check one for each ticket):

_____ Vegetarian Lasagna

_____ Chicken Parmesan

Make checks payable to SSG and mail to:

**John Clauson
15501 SE 179th St.
Renton, WA 98058**

Seattle Storytellers' Guild 1999 - 2000 Board

President - John Clauson, 425-277-5090
Secretary - Marilyn Milnor, 206-322-7330
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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.

Call the Guild at 206-621-8646 for updated information on Guild events.

Newsletter articles and comments should be directed to:
patpeterson@Home.com

Winter issue deadline is December 7, 1999

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Today's Date: _____

NEW _____ Individual, \$20. _____

RENEWAL _____ Family, \$30. _____

Institutional, \$35. _____

Seattle Storytellers Guild
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Seattle, WA 98145-0532

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