

## In the Wind

### Laura Simms in Concert

#### Daughter of the Night

A New Telling of the Myth of Demeter and  
Persephone  
created and performed by Laura Simms

January 22, 2000 - 7:30 p.m.  
The Nordic Heritage Museum  
3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle (Ballard district)

Laura Simms is an internationally acclaimed storyteller and performing artist, an award-winning author and a recording artist. She has been a two-time artist in residence for the Lincoln Center Institute for Arts and Education in New York; performed for the 50th Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize; and won the 1999 SUNNY DAYS AWARD presented by Sesame Street Parents Magazine for contribution for children in the world. She has performed in theaters, festivals, colleges and special events throughout the world. This spring she will be featured in Belfast and Botswana. She is presently working on a one-woman show commissioned by The Traveling Jewish Theater to be performed in San Francisco in 2001. She teaches regularly at Naropa University in Colorado, directs one of the finest storytelling residencies in the United States, and is a contributing editor for Parabola Magazine. Her concerts are considered on the cutting edge of the storytelling arts.

*The archetypal myth of Demeter and Persephone is an uncanny and potent tale of the unrelenting grief and rage of The Mother (The Goddess of*

*the Earth, The Wrathful-One, The Laughing-One, The Horse-Headed One) willing to risk the fecundity of life on earth to ensure that her daughter Persephone (The Silent One, The Kore, The Queen of the Underworld) does not remain underground forever. Its central dilemma reflects our own crisis, psychologically, socially and ecologically. Not only must we retrieve the feminine principle long thrust underground within us, but we must come to a new understanding of the nature and power of feminine rage.*

In this monumental and contemporary retelling of the ancient myth of Demeter and Persephone, Laura Simms interweaves personal narrative and fragments of other mythology that illumine the story. It is a moving, symbolic and humorous performance. Laura embodies characters ranging from gods and goddesses to herself as a child and a woman, to bag ladies on a subway in Manhattan. Structured on the rites of the Eleusinian Mysteries, the performance takes the audience on a profound inner journey joining mythic understanding with ordinary life. It is a woman's tale and at the same time a story relevant to both men and women about love and obsession, fierce regard for the natural world, and a ritual transformation of grief into abiding joy.

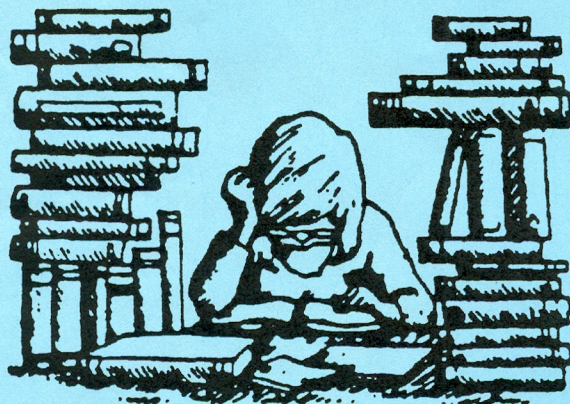
At the end of the performance the audience will be invited to stay for a short discussion.

Tickets for the Laura Simms concert are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. A \$2 discount for SSG members applies to either fee. An advance ticket order form will be found on page 7. For further information call: 206-621-8646.



## SOURCES: ABOUT STORIES AND THE FOLKS WHO TELL THEM

By Margaret Read MacDonald,  
King County Library System



Another lovely new book by one of Seattle's tellers! Sharon Creeden's *IN FULL BLOOM: TALES OF WOMEN IN THEIR PRIME* (August House, 1999) is now available. Many of our readers will have loved her earlier collection, *FAIR IS FAIR: WORLD FOLKTALES OF JUSTICE*. Once again Sharon has done extensive research to develop just the right pairings of folktales and true events. She pairs, for example, a retelling of the Demeter and Persephone myth with the story of Elizabeth Morgan, who went to jail to protect her daughter. The Turkish tale of "The Lady and the Unjust Judge" lies alongside the story of Belva Ann Lockwood, a lawyer who overturned an unjust judge. Some of her pairings are surprising and delightful . . . she places the African folktale, "Why Cat Lives With Woman" alongside the story of Mabel Stark, a tiger tamer! Sharon includes thirty folktales each set alongside the true story of a strong woman. And of course she includes excellent tale notes with sources and added information at the book's end. Sharon divides her tales into two halves . . . "Roses" and "Not Roses." Lady readers will have to read the book and decide for themselves which have they fall into! This collection would be a treat for either its 30 tales OR its 30 strong women. Together they make a collection sweet as a rose, which you will not want to miss.

At Northwest Bookfest this fall I had the pleasure of moderating a panel of authors of folktale collections. Won-Ldy Paye and Meg

Lippert talked about their *WHY LEOPARD HAS SPOTS* (which just won an American Folklore Society Aesop Award and was winner of the 1999 Children's Book Award for Older Readers from the African Studies Association!). Cathy Spagnoli talked about the wonderful *JASMINE AND COCONUTS: SOUTH INDIAN TALES* which she and her husband Paramasivam Samanna co-authored. I have already reviewed those books here. But two other panelists, Kira van Deusen and Colleen McElroy, presented books about which I have not yet written.

Colleen J. McElroy's, *OVER THE LIP OF THE WORLD: AMONG THE STORYTELLER'S OF MADAGASCAR* (University of Washington Press, 1999) is a fascinating storytelling travelogue of her trip around Madagascar. Engaging a translator, Colleen spent several weeks touring and visiting storytellers. Colleen is a professor of English and creative writing at the University of Washington, known for her poetry and short story collections. She writes lovingly of the countryside and the tellers she met. Sample translated tale texts from tellers are included.

Kira Van Deusen's *RAVEN AND THE ROCK: STORYTELLING IN CHUKOTKA* (University of Washington Press, 1999) is a wonderful work. Kira, a Vancouver B.C. storyteller, met tellers from Siberia while attending the Yuko storytelling festival. Her undergraduate degree in Russian language and literature, plus her master's in ethnography and folklore from Antioch and her own storytelling background prepared her perfectly to begin collecting tales in Chukotka. Visiting her newfound friends across the Arctic Circle, Kira began to listen and learn. And to finance her trips, Kira rented out her island summer cottage! The resulting book is at once a travelogue, a tale collection, and an insightful study of storytelling traditions in Chukotka. I recommend this book highly to anyone interested in ways in which the art of storytelling is carried on in today's world. I have read a lot of studies of storytelling in recent years, and Kira's is one of the best I have seen.



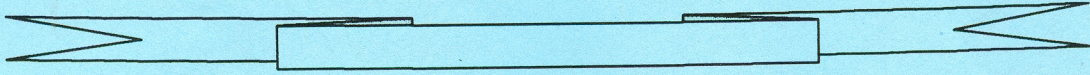
## The President's Note

He didn't want to go. There had been a commitment every night for the last week and he was tired. This would just be another meeting. How many meetings can one person endure? He figured he wouldn't get much out of it anyway. Besides, it was raining and dark out. But as he finished his dinner, he remembered how much he had enjoyed that last one. He remembered coming home actually refreshed. Silently he shook his head. How often does a meeting actually refresh a person? If he did go, maybe, just maybe he'd get some new ideas and some help in his own struggle of living. So after he finished his dinner, he cleaned up the dishes, put on his coat and forced himself to go.

The other members greeted him with smiles, handshakes and genuine warmth. Immediately he was feeling better about his decision. The program was excellent. He learned about another aspect of storytelling. The open mike was delightful. Some of the stories shared were funny; some thought provoking. He came away from the meeting refreshed, just like last time. He was glad he had made the effort to be there, for it had been good.

The Seattle Storyteller's Guild is only as strong as it's members' commitment and enthusiasm. Therefore, on those nights you don't want to drag yourself to another meeting or obligation, I hope you will reconsider, show up, share a story, listen, and be refreshed.

**John Clauson**



## Storytelling on Live Radio

By **Mary Miroslavichwicker**

There are few things I have found that are more fun than storytelling live on the radio with other tellers. The energy that moves through and builds in the broadcast booth is contagious and the listeners enjoy it, too. **Come tell with us.**

**Global Griot**, KSER 90.7 FM's weekly program of stories and music from around the world, is broadcast every Sunday from 8 - 11 a.m. It is great fun. KSER is located in Lynnwood. KSER's broadcast area is from Bellingham to north Seattle to Port Angeles and Port Townsend to Whidbey Island. It can be heard live on-line at [kser.org](http://kser.org). KSER is community public radio. It is the only station of its kind in western Washington and sees itself as eclectic. "Adventurous radio for the adventurous listener." Listeners hear Celtic, bluegrass, jazz, reggae, international music of all kinds, live musicians, youth forum, Made in America, Floating World, Sonar Map, BBC theatre, Amnesty International editorials, to mention a few, and of course, stories. We have featured

many tellers live on our program. Most recently, Doug Banner from Bellingham, Renee Diaz de Leon Harvey from Mt. Tahoma, and Debe Edden from Olympia were up in November. Myrna Hecht told me in May when Erica Helm Meade was a guest how much she loved KSER. Other guests have been: Eileen O'Malley Hanna, Allison Cox, Victor Elizondo, Barb Stevens-Newcomb, Daniel Stokes, Kristi Busch, Allan Hirsch (Alley Oop), Zelda Foxall, Pam Thompson, Chris Meyer, Marilyn Milnor, Linda Scott-Cummings, Leslie Slape, Dunc Shields, Tom Galt, Duncan MacIntosh, and Aarene Storms. Musical guests included: Gregg Schneeman, Steve and Darlene Durfee, Talia Markus, Charlie Murphy, and Lydia MacCauley. Early next year, we are looking forward to hearing Bronn Journey, Victor Elizondo, and Ecuador musicians, Quichua Mashis.

**Come tell with us.** Contact me at [marystoriesmusic@excite.com](mailto:marystoriesmusic@excite.com). My home number is 360-568-3320, or toll-free at my office: 1-888-240-8572 ext. 3327. Ask the folks who have told on the radio. They'll tell you it is something else. Radio isn't a good story medium? Then ask the thousands of listeners who think we are telling just to them and smiling over their Sunday morning coffee.



## "Cockroach Party!: Folktales to Sing, Dance, and Act Out"

Reviewed by **Naomi Baltuck**

"Cockroach Party!", a compact disc recording by storyteller Margaret Read MacDonald with musical accompaniment by Richard Scholtz, is a lively collection of stories and songs. Included are tales from Siberia, Pakistan, and Britain, as well as a sampling from the rich and varied cultures in our own United States, including the Louisiana French and Makah traditions.

The stories in this collection are drawn primarily from two of my favorite written sources for participation tales, *Look back and See: Twenty Lively Tales for Gentle Tellers* and *Celebrate the World: Twenty Tellable Folktales for Multicultural Festivals*, both by Margaret Read MacDonald. The tales are lively and varied, and all of these folktales invite and incite listeners to participate through actions, song, and dance.

While this collection far exceeds the Shake-the-ants-out-of-their-pants quotient, the appeal goes beyond that. The jolly good nature of the old woman in "The Teeny Weeny Bop" and her catchy songs will amuse and delight. In "Ms. Cricket Looks for a Husband," I also appreciated little Ms. Cricket's spunky nature, and the fact that she is a woman who is rewarded rather than scorned for her strong will and independent nature. After listening to "Grandfather Bear," a gentle Eiven tale from Siberia, I will never see a chipmunk in the same light. "Elk and Wren," from the Makah tradition, is not only a delightful tale laced with sassy humor, but on a deeper level, the story gave me some insight and a new perspective on the recent Makah whaling controversy.

Probably because I am a storyteller and my focus is on the spoken word, I found the musical accompaniment somewhat distracting, and would have preferred that the music be used more as an accent than as a constant presence.

This recording could be a valuable resource for teachers, librarians, and storytellers who would like to liven up their story hours. As for its listening appeal, I watched my five year old daughter's face as we listened to the stories together. She wiggled in time to the music, she laughed at the antics of Ms. Cricket, she crowed with satisfaction when Cockroach's wife caught onto his tricks, and she could hardly wait until her older sister came home so that she could listen to the stories all over again.

## Notes from the 1999 Laura Simms Storytelling Residency

By **Lenore Jackson**

In August guild members Terralea Allen, Anita Graham, and I completed an eight-day journey into the magical realm of storytelling. Our trip back from Oregon paled in comparison to the mountains and oceans and deserts we had crossed during the Residency. It was a many-layered experience. On one level we were at a retreat center near Clackamas, but on another we were transported to the dazzling realms of Hasidic, Hindu, and Celtic lore. We created a community with storytellers of all kinds—including a second grade teacher, an advertising executive, and an oncology nurse—but we were also interacting with goddesses, kings, and holy men.

Behind it all was Laura Simms, a leading force in the revival of storytelling as a global art form. Her vast experience in gathering and telling traditional stories has enabled her to create what she calls "a path for individuals to discover the means of developing heightened skills of awareness and mythic perspective to work with story." Laura is known for her uncanny ability to ask questions that help reveal symbolic imagery, and she has developed an array of techniques for letting go of the text and bringing the story to life.

Our days were filled with movement work, sitting meditation, master classes with Laura, and time with Angela Lloyd and other Residency staff. We immersed ourselves in the story by making maps, building the landscape, decoding images, and through repeated improvisation. As we told our stories in different ways and different settings, we began to understand what Laura means when she says, "People are far more interested in feeling they are part of the story you are telling than they are in hearing a very profound and well-spoken recitation."

The last day of the Residency was a festival. As Terralea put it, "Our day of performance was like no other I have ever experienced—inviting our ancestors and influences to feast with us, eating and listening and storytelling together—it was the most holy human expression I have ever had the joy of participating in!"

And then we came home, changed by the journey. We had slain giants, kissed hags, descended to the underworld, found the golden tree, let down our hair, and danced with princes. We brought back a treasure of memories and insights. And each of us had found what Laura feels is "the great liberation of the Residency—to suddenly let go of whatever we thought the story or storytelling was about."



## Classes

### EXPLORE THE ART OF STORYTELLING

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, including: 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 Mondays beginning 2/14/99; 6:30-9:00 p.m.; \$45.00. (No class Feb. 21)  
Register by calling NSCC. 206-516-2955 or 206-527-3705.

### HONING THE STEEL

As a follow-up to the beginning class, or for those who have some experience with storytelling and want to learn more, **Cherie Trebon** will also offer an intermediate storytelling class. The breath control and relaxation techniques, character identification and development, shaping the story, and sharpening performance skills will be covered. Minimum enrollment is 6, maximum is 12. Last class will include a potluck lunch. Register by calling Cherie at (206) 525-0382 and placing a 50% deposit on the total fee of \$50.00.

Mondays, March 20th and 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 25th 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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### **Raintales Story Swap**

Share favorite stories, try out new ones and get to know other tellers of all levels in a supportive, informal meeting.

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.  
2125 First Avenue West  
Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976.

## **Joseph Sobel in Concert**

### **Voids of Passage: Puberty Rites of the 60's**

#### **House Concert**

**February 20, 2000 - 7:00 p.m.**

A cycle of stories of growing up in the late 1960s, in the shadow of Vietnam, hippies, the sexual revolution, the cold war and the comfortable desolation of suburbia. Hilarious, earthy, yet subtle and numinous, the stories seek the altitude at which the facts of personal experience loft into the mythic. Interwoven with familiar songs that bring back the peculiar ache of the era, old favorites from the Beatles, Johnny Rivers and the Beach Boys.

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild presents Joseph Sobel in Concert at the home of Cherie Trebon. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear this talented storyteller and musician in an intimate setting. Only 25 tickets will be sold.

The cost is \$10.00, which includes the Concert and homemade desert. This event will sell out quickly - don't be disappointed. To reserve your place call Cherie Trebon at 206-525-0382.

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### **Mukilteo Story Circle**

Story Circle in Mukilteo sponsored by the Mukilteo Library meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Call 425-493-8202 (Aarene) or 425-353-7410 (Eileen).

### **Tale Traders**

This story circle meets twice per month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in Renton and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).



## ONCE UPON A STORY

By **Linda Cummings**

Every year in September I start thinking about visiting my family in Southern California. This is not the only time I think about visiting them, but if I can swing a trip in October then I can also get in on the San Juan Capistrano Festival "Once Upon A Story".

Each year it is held mid-October and they always have a great lineup of tellers. This year I was able to attend. Bill Harley, Gay Ducey, David Novak, Izzi Tooinsky, Ed Stivender and The Healing Force gave some wonderful performances and workshops.

One workshop that I particularly enjoyed was a panel of the tellers discussing ways in which they work on original stories. One common practice was keeping an idea folder or notebook to compile ideas as they present themselves. Also brought out was the importance of noticing in everyday occurrences those little gems that might work themselves into a story.

Izzy, who juggles as well as tells stories gave an example of turning an "oops" into a creation. He had forgotten to bring to an assembly one of the objects that he normally juggles with. So he looked around for something he could juggle. The band had performed and a trumpet player had a toilet plunger that Izzi borrowed. He told us the story that he began to ad lib using the plunger. It turned out to be a hilarious addition to his repertoire.

Also discussed was borrowing instruments, chants and story games from different cultures as either a starting point for an original story or to add another dimension to an existing one. It was great to hear some things I had forgotten and to learn new ideas for keeping that creative process going.

The weather was great- sunny and HOT, but I wasn't complaining- a beautiful location, and great to see some of my favorite tellers again. Maybe if I start planning now for next October.

### WINTER PICNIC POTLUCK SUPPER AND STORY SWAP

When: January 30<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.  
Where: Home of Cherie Trebon

The summer one was so much fun we decided to have another indoor version. Bring a dish to share (hot dish, salad or desert). The Guild will supply beverages. Cherie will light the fireplace and we'll share good food and great stories. Come as a teller or come to just listen. All are invited. Call for directions call 206-525-0382



## Monthly Membership Meetings

Tuesdays, 7p.m. at All For Kids Bookstore  
2900 N.E. Blakeley,  
Seattle 206-526-2768

### January 11

**John Clauson** presents *Sacred Stories*.

### February 8

In honor of Valentine's Day, **Marilyn Milnor** hosts *Affairs of the Heart*. Won't you join us? Bring a 'heart' story for the story swap.

### March 14

*Story Telling - Story Listening*. Professional storyteller and oral historian **Jon Lee Joseph** will share stories, techniques and a video from an oral history project she recently completed with the elders of West Seattle at the Log House Museum.

## The Calendar

January 11 - Membership Meeting

January 22 - Laura Simms in Concert

January 30 - Winter Picnic

February 8 - Membership Meeting

February 14 - Classes begin: Explore the Art of Storytelling

February 20 - Joseph Sobel -  
Concert-Bothell Regional Library - 2 p.m.  
House Concert - Cherie Trebon's - 7 p.m.

March 14 - Membership Meeting

March 17 - Irish Tales and Malarkey with Linda Scott  
at Lake Forest Park Library 7:00

March 18 - Irish Tales and Malarkey with Linda Scott  
at Woodinville Library 1:00pm

March 20 - Classes begin: Honing the Steel



## Where Stories Live Winter Storytelling Intensive

with **Merna Ann Hecht**

February 26, 2000 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
624 Olympic Hot Springs Road  
Port Angeles, Washington 98363

Among our consideration of where stories live will be a number of questions. How do we shape stories, how do stories shape us? How do stories work in both the hard edges and soft places in us? How do we find solace in language? How do the conventions of oral tradition sustain us even as we are in the midst of technological wizardry and daily read about a crass and violent culture? How do we enliven our own lives and the lives of our children with the inner world of myth and story?

Drawing on years of experience as a storyteller and drama teacher with at risk youth and special populations and as a teacher of language and literacy and an artist in the schools Merna will present a spirited exploration of the inner and outer places where stories live. Expect lively participation with voice, gesture and writing exercises. The workshop is for anyone interested in the oral tradition--seasoned or beginning tellers, classroom teachers, librarians, poets at heart, wise ones, and fools.

Cost: \$100.00. Please pre-register to:

The Story People  
297 Wellman Road  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

For more information contact Don Patzman,  
360-452-5501

**Correction! Apologies to Merna for misspelling her name in the last issue.**

*Volunteers are needed for the Laura Simms Concert. If you are a guild member and would like to help set up chairs, take tickets and tidy up, call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976. Such virtue will be rewarded with a \$5.00 discount. Only 5 such opportunities are available.*

## Folklife Festival

Applications were mailed in the fall but if you want information about possible space availability call their program department at 206-684-7300.

*Sorry if we didn't list your event. To be included in The Spring 2000 edition, send your information to the editor prior to March 15, 2000*

## Kitsap Story Circle

By **Ed Sheridan**

Our group is called the Kitsap Story Circle, and we have a core membership of 6 tellers. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at 9702 Sands Ave. NE on Bainbridge Island. You may call Alyson Neils at 206-842-5293 or Ed Sheridan at 206-842-4562 for more information. Experienced and novice storytellers are equally welcomed. We hope that we might be able to connect with other tellers on this side of Puget Sound, and link up with other storytelling groups in western Washington.

During the week of November 15th, we joined with other tellers from around the world and celebrated the Tellabration with three events. Two were held for children at the Bainbridge Island Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library. The third event took place on the evening of 11/20. It was designed for adults and young adults, and co-sponsored by Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation. An enthusiastic crowd of 40 were delighted, saddened and mesmerized by 6 stories well told.

## Laura Simms in Concert Daughter of the Night

### Registration Form

Saturday, January 22, 2000 - 7:30 p.m.

The Nordic Heritage Museum  
3014 NW 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle (Ballard district)

Cost \$12 - Non member  
\$10 - active SSG member  
(\$15.00 at door)

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

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

City / Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to SSG and mail to:**

**John Clauson  
15501 SE 179<sup>th</sup> St.  
Renton, WA 98058**



## Seattle Storytellers' Guild 1999 - 2000 Board

President - John Clauson, 425-277-5090 / 425-228-5464 WK  
Secretary - Marilyn Milnor, 206-322-7330  
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Member at Large - Suzy Irwin, 206-784-0704  
Newsletter Editor - Pat Peterson, 206-935-5308

*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.

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

Newsletter articles and comments should be directed to:  
patpeterson@Home.com  
Spring issue deadline is March 15, 2000

## Membership Form

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$20. \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$30. \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional, \$35. \_\_\_\_\_

Seattle Storytellers Guild  
P.O. Box 45532  
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

**First Class Mail**