



## *In the Wind*

### MEG PHILP IN CONCERT

House Concert

Saturday, January 13, 2001--7 P.M.

Australian storyteller Meg Philp is celebrating the launch of her new CD, a cycle of stories about rebirth. A native of Scotland, Meg draws upon her Celtic roots to tell a variety of stories about taking back your future, from a Cinderella pantomime story to a personal story about love at sixteen. A perfect way to start out your own new year.

The Seattle Storyteller's Guild is pleased to present Meg Philp in concert at the home of Naomi Baltuck in Edmonds. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear one of Australia's premier storytellers in an intimate setting. Only 30 tickets will be sold. The cost is \$10, which includes the concert, coffee and desert. For reservations and directions, call Naomi Baltuck at (425) 776-1175.

### LAURA SIMMS and VI HILBERT *The Healing Power of Story and Tradition*

Friday, January 19, noon to 1:30 p.m.  
Bastyr University Chapel, \$5 donation,  
14500 Juanita Drive NE, Kenmore  
For information call (425) 602-3272

Laura will be joined by Salish elder and historian Vi Hilbert for this exciting noon hour event at the Bastyr University Chapel, a unique setting legendary for its exceptional acoustics. This program on the healing power of story and tradition is a first for Bastyr University, which is internationally recognized as a pioneer in the study of natural healing.

### Laura Simms House Concert:

#### *Reconciled in the Book of Secrets*

Saturday, January 20, 8:00 p.m.

North Beacon Hill, \$15

For reservations call Diana Hass at (206) 322-8247

Excerpts will be presented from Laura's new performance piece *Reconciled in the Book of Secrets—or How to Get to Romania*, which will have its premier in April at the Traveling Jewish Theater in San Francisco.

Laura describes the performance as "a story within a story about my quest for spirituality and storytelling. It maps my childhood passion for Jewish ritual and play, my adolescent turning away from religion, and my extraordinary international experiences as a storyteller, which ultimately bring me to reconciliation with my tribal roots and Romanian heritage."

Intermeshed with a retelling of a mystic tale from the Jewish Arabian Nights, it is a profoundly moving, often hilarious one-woman show in which Laura becomes a host of characters ranging from an overbearing father to an obsessed rabbi to a demoness on an invisible island. There will be a discussion afterward. Space will be limited so please call early for reservations.



## LAURA SIMMS WORKSHOP

### *Thinking Like a Storyteller*

**Sunday, January 21, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**All For Kids Bookstore, \$75 (\$5 discount for**  
**Guild members)**  
**To register call Lenore Jackson at (206) 284-**  
**2976**

This workshop will explore the unique tools and awareness of the storyteller. Laura will focus on looking beneath the obvious content and structure of a text, methods of resting the mind and opening the voice and the heart, and how to bring a story alive through a spontaneous retelling that makes the most resonant and profound meaning active. Open to all levels of experience ranging from beginners to advanced tellers and lovers of tales. Please bring a story to work on and a notebook. There will be movement so plan to dress informally. Registration is limited to 18 people.

### **About Laura Simms**

Internationally renowned storyteller Laura Simms is an award-winning author and recording artist who has performed in theaters, festivals, colleges and special events throughout the world.

She teaches regularly at Naropa University in Colorado, directs a weeklong summer residency on storytelling, and is a contributing editor for Parabola. Connecting contemporary audiences to mythic times, Laura's concerts are considered on the cutting edge of the storytelling arts.

## ROY HART THEATRE VOICE WORKSHOP

Teachers from the Roy Hart Theatre in France will give an in-residence workshop March 4-9 in Healdsburg, California. Registration is \$880 and includes room and board for four days and five nights.

This annual workshop is intended for singers, actors, and storytellers. It will include movement and breathing exercises, theatrical and musical improvisations, individual attention focused on stretching the voice into new areas and strengthening its familiar range, working on a spoken or sung performance piece. For more information call Lenore Jackson (206) 284-2976.

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## TELLABRATION!

### **We told and listened for Jackie!**

What a night it was—Nov. 18—Stories were being told around the world and here in Seattle we had a special purpose. The evening was a fundraiser for long loved storyteller Jackie Torrence.

The tellers donated their time and talents. The space was donated as well as the gourmet deserts. All of the contributions went to Jackie. Those who were unable to attend sent in tributes.

A total of \$800 was raised.

There were people in the audience who didn't really know who Jackie was but by the time our tellers had introduced her with their stories, they knew why she is so important to the storytelling community.

Vi Hilbert, Spencer Shaw, Michale Gabriel, Allison Cox and Cherie Trebon presented stories that sent our spirits soaring. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated by telling or listening. We made a difference.



## Classes:

### EXPLORE THE ART OF STORYTELLING:

North Seattle Community College Continuing Education Department is again offering 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: Storytelling dynamics, voice control and diction, 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 Tuesdays beginning 1/23/01; 6:30-9:00 p.m.; \$45.00.

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 teach an intermediate storytelling class. This class is offered only two times each year. 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 10. Last class is a brown-bag lunch. Class is held in the Sand Point area of Northeast Seattle. Register by calling Cherie at (206) 525-0382 and placing a 50% deposit on the total fee of \$45.00. Tuesday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 PM

### FOLKLIFE

The Northwest Folklife Festival will be held Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28 at the Seattle Center. As in the past, The Seattle Storyteller's Guild will be sponsoring several events in conjunction with the Festival. For the past several years we have standing-room only audiences at the popular event. Hopefully would-be tellers submitted their applications prior to the December deadline. If you did not do so, and want to be considered, you might send it in now on a space-available basis. For those of you who wish to participate in the Liar's contest,

sign up is on a first-come, first serve basis at the Festival. Start working on your story now! Call 206-684-7300 for more information.

### A SACRED STORYTELLING JOURNEY TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

May 14 - 23, 2001. Departing from Seattle.

You are invited to share in the experience of a lifetime as Dennis Dewey, one of the world's only full-time Biblical storytellers, leads a group from the Pacific Northwest on a Biblical storytelling pilgrimage through the Holy lands. Dennis will be assisted on this trip by Northwest professional storyteller Debbie Dimitre.

Imagine hearing the stories told by these two gifted tellers, on the sites where they happened! You can find out more about Dennis and this tour at his WebSite [www.sacredstoryjourneys.org](http://www.sacredstoryjourneys.org) or contact Debbie Dimitre 425-823-1081.

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## STORY CIRCLES

### 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 **Monday** of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

2125 First Avenue West

Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976

### 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 - 9:00 p.m.

Call 425-493-8202 (Aarene) or 425-353-7410 (Eileen).

### Tale Traders

This story circle meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in Issaquah from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If you love storytelling and are looking for an informal place to share stories and network, please come and join us.

Call Kathy Murphy 425-391-4312 for directions.

### Frog Rock Story Circle

Experienced and novice storytellers from Kitsap county and beyond are equally welcomed. The Circle meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 9702 Sands Ave. N.E. on Bainbridge Island.

Call 206-842-5293 (Alyson) or 206-842-4562 (Ed).



# Building Coalitions for Storytelling and Children's Literature in Indonesia.

by Margaret Read MacDonald

Dr. Murti Bunanta, chair of the Indonesia chapter of IBBY (The International Board on Books for Youth) is an amazing role model for those who seek to build coalitions to support storytelling and children's literature projects. Our year 2000 storytelling tour to six cities and three villages found Dr. Bunanta arranging sponsorship with: the botanical garden in Bogor, a Catholic University in Surabaya, a publisher in Jogjakarta, an Art Institute in Jakarta, a Cultural Center in Denpasar, and a Fertilizer Factory in Palembang, Sumatra! And each site formed its own coalition with local library and teacher organizations to publicize and co-sponsor the event. We were also sponsored in Cigugur town by the local prince, who hosted us in his home-cum-cultural center, and in Klaten village we were hosted by G. M. Sudarta, a leading political cartoonist, in his home, which also serves as a cultural center for the village. This sponsorship of the arts by turning a portion of one's own home into public space for performance and art training I found amazing. Other cultures could learn from this Indonesian model.

The press were engaged in great numbers throughout our tour by several strategies employed by Dr. Bunanta. One of which was providing the young reporters with a free dinner-cum-press conference at the outset of our tour! By assembling a critical mass of performers she was able to attract considerable press attention. In addition to myself (an author/storyteller from the U.S.), the group included Anne Pellowski (well-known author/storyteller of international repute), Suyadi (artist/puppeteer who is known throughout Indonesia for his children's television puppet series), and the political cartoonist, G. M. Sudarta (who says he tells stories to children to ease his heart after his difficult, satirical, and sometimes dangerous work with political criticism). Dr. Bunanta's own energetic students from the University of Indonesia filled out the team.

Suyadi (costumed as Pak Raden, his TV persona) was followed avidly by both public and press wherever we went. And a performance event at the home of G. M. Sudarta drew a camera crew from the evening news of a major TV station. They shot enough film to feature segments in programs on several evenings. In addition each city we visited had brought out their own local press in numbers to photograph Pak Raden and the rest. And Pak Raden's posturing and very photogenic work with the children always made the papers in a large color print. None of this was accident. Dr. Bunanta had thought through her publicity possibilities and planned the trip to take full advantage. She saw the storytelling tour as a seed, intended to cement coalitions, draw attention to her books-for-children project, and enable future projects to grow.

Caring intensely about the state of children's book in Indonesia, Dr. Bunanta has managed to arrange publication of three high quality bi-lingual (Bahasa Indonesian/English) folktale picture books. She has a pile of future projects ready for publication and is seeking publishers for those projects. Using her many contacts in the arts community, Dr. Bunanta has matched artists with writers to produce this series of excellent books for children. Next step is finding publishers to produce them and convincing the libraries to spend a few rupiah more than usual to acquire fine books rather than the shabby paperback pamphlets offered to children today. (a few of these feature quality writing and illustration but most do not). This is not an easy task. In the three Jakarta public libraries I visited I saw only a handful of hardback children's books and these were all in glass cases. Admittedly only a few good quality hardback picture books are available in the bookstores, but even these were not in evidence in the local libraries. But with folks like Dr. Murti Bunanta and her Kelompok Pencinta Bacaan Anak at work, the quality and distribution of high quality books for children in Indonesia will increase.

## Touring in Indonesia...

was amazing. The most alarming event was the Palembang gig at the Fertilizer Factory. They brought in 1,000 kindergarteners plus their caregivers. For THREE hours! Sitting in chairs (at least to start with). With gift lunch boxes full of goodies to peruse and toss at one another. The first hour was speeches by visiting dignitaries. The last two hours was us.



When Suyadi came on with his puppets someone grabbed a mike and called the kids to "come closer" so they could see better. They CHARGED THE STAGE. Clamored up over ferns and potted plants from every side and surrounded us. I feared the stage would collapse but it held firm under their teeming bodies. Of course now no one could see at all. So at last they were beaten back enough for the performance to continue. After about an hour of charges and beating backs someone stationed a phalanx of teenagers around the stage to cordon it off from the teeming tots. As the organizer said, "After all one cannot EXPECT to control 1,000 kindergarteners." No one felt free to say a word like "no" to the tykes. By the time of our second stop I had learned "DUDUK!" (sit down) and used it freely. As the Ugly American I felt I could get by with that. The kids were shocked in disbelief but occasionally did comply.

Our tour include performance at the home of a minor prince and at the village home of Indonesia's most famous political cartoonist, G. M. Sudarta. Both gentlemen have given over at least half of their compound to performance and class space for the arts. Their wives teach music and dance, a corps of artists teach carving and painting. It seems every child in Indonesia can draw beautifully AND sing from numbers in "do-re-me" style written on the board! They are FAR ahead of us when it comes to the arts.

Perhaps most alarming performance was that in Jakarta where we had another large auditorium full of children, though this time only a fourth were kindergarteners and a fourth mentally challenged. Anne Pellowski had joined our tour by this time and ended up billed AFTER a most unexpected performance by a fellow who had told Murti he was a teller of folktales using hand-made grass puppets. It sounded so idyllic. The puppeteer turned out to be a virtual GIANT. Larger than most sumo wrestlers. He roared into the room surrounded by taunting teenage boys sucking pacifiers who jumped onto the stage and began to play drums as loud as they possibly could beat while he stomped about lunging at the kids to terrorize them. Then he threw off his shirt. !!! Donned a shaggy black wig, proclaimed himself a rakshasha ogre, and began to REALLY make the littlest ones scream in terror. Of course the media LOVED this and all Murti's hopes of getting her message about good books for children across was lost in their race to film monster-man. After an eternity of drumming and terrorizing, his troupe tore

away offstage and Anne was left to try and tell a sensible and sane story to the emotionally drained audience.

Most fun of the trip? Telling "Squeaky Door" with Suyadi doing the simultaneous Indonesian telling while we brought up kids to act the parts of cat, duck, goat, and horse. Had to drop the dog and pig in this Islamic country. Our "ducks and goats" were especially wonderful in their quacks and baa's. When we did use a dog (in Hindu Bali) it made the most unusual sound more like an American frog! But how they all loved making the "American" sound "SQUEEAK!"

Would I do it again? Despite the rioting kindergarteners, tense political situations, less-than perfect plumbing arrangements, and hours spent sitting in a true puddle of perspiration in the humid heat I'd go back for more in a minute!

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## Books by Vivian Paley

Reviewed by Jean Pollock

Vivian Gussin Paley is the author of several books on early childhood education. She received a MacArthur award for her groundbreaking work on storytelling as a teaching tool with preschool children. However it is Ms. Paley's insight into the powerful and very broad uses of storytelling which makes her work compelling for storytellers in general. If you are interested in storytelling, especially if you tell to children, the value of her books cannot be overstated. Her work is a primer in the bond between storyteller and audience that is the source of power. From it comes the laughter, the gasp, the rapt awe, the sigh of satisfaction that says "Just so." And happily, her vital and impassioned expression of her work with children and its significance in their lives makes for great reading.

In her work Paley discovers that storytelling improves language skills, advances social development, and helps children to problem solve. They work through issues of fear, social inter-action, behavior limits, and responsibility through the creation and exploration of storytelling. Their teacher, Ms Paley, is convincing and utterly delightful as she describes the process of storytelling in her classroom.



As they arrived at school, children went to Ms. Paley to announce "I have a story". As the day proceeded, the story became a drawing, a play, a drama acted out. Each change in form brought out details, clarity, and understanding. The stories are simple. "There was a bear that he stood on his head." What burdens of meaning and effect could that sentence carry. It is plot, character, and setting all in one. For the child who tells it, it will illuminate a time of confusion or curiosity and allow her to own the resulting growth. For the children who listen there is that blessed moment of recognition. Oh yes! I had such a bear - or perhaps it was a baby brother. It did puzzling, daring things too. Oh yes, I was ill prepared for life and had to sleep in the ashes, but I was courageous and loving and my life is good - or will be.

The process of storytelling and the amazing proof of its power is described in **THE BOY WHO WOULD BE A HELICOPTER: THE USES OF STORYTELLING IN THE CLASSROOM**. The boy, Jason, lives, in school, as a helicopter. Very often, daily, a blade is broken, and Jason must withdraw to fix it. His response to the other children who do not have to be helicopters is to stop their play and work. He spins out of control, crashing into constructions, upsetting story dramas, and withdraws to fix his broken self. The other children are angry with Jason, but at the same time know that the solution lies in bringing him into their stories. Again and again they try, and Jason fails. This miracle of a book touched me and informed me greatly.

Other books by Paley are: **THE GIRL WITH THE BROWN CRAYON**. **YOU CAN'T SAY YOU CAN'T PLAY**. **THE KINDNESS OF CHILDREN**. They, along with other Paley titles, are available at the King County Library.

--Jean Pollock is a King County Librarian.

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## New Board Member

Aarene Storms is a welcome addition to the Board of the Seattle Storyteller's Guild. She is a Youth Librarian for King County Libraries and a host of Global Griot, a weekly program to international stories and music on KSER radio. She helped create the Mukilteo Story Circle that meets at the Mukilteo Library. Aarene says, "Most of my life I've spent telling stories and riding horses. The rest, I've just wasted."

## LIVE RADIO LIVES !

We do things a little bit differently Up North. Oh, sure, we sit around the hearth fires and tell stories. We gather in coffeeshops to tell stories. We even tell stories in public libraries. But here in Snohomish County, some storytellers get up on Sunday mornings before God turns on the porchlight, drive through the cold dark streets, arrive at a cold, dark radio station, flip a few switches and....tell stories.

The radio station is KSER, a tiny community station which prides itself on broadcasting great programs that commercial stations won't touch. You won't find 'N Sync, Garth Brooks, or even Garrison Keillor. For fans of storytelling, KSER features something even more fabulous than the Prairie Home Companion: the Pacific Northwest's only program of live, local radio storytelling.

The program is "Global Griot--Stories and Music from Around the World" and it airs every Sunday morning from 8-11 on KSER 90.7 fm. Global Griot is *LIVE* radio, with all the hiccups and giggles that are only possible by combining very early mornings and very old broadcasting equipment with local storytellers and a huge music and sound effects library.

Griot hosts like to keep the listeners guessing. Will the next selection be a classic Jackie Torrence recording? Will it be music from Zimbabwe or Greenland or Brazil or Egypt? Or perhaps a tale spun by a local storyteller--maybe accompanied by a local musician? Or even a conversation with the Global Griot mascot: a 1200-pound racehorse named "Story," who is known for barging into the studio and hunting for pizza scraps in the trashcans!

Global Griot is always looking for new listeners and new performers. Why not tune in this Sunday for a few stories to begin your day? The program airs from 8:00 to 11:00 on KSER 90.7 fm, and is also available via the World Wide Web at [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org).

If you like what you hear, maybe you'd like to try telling a few radio stories yourself! You can contact the station during the show at: (425) 742-4541, or email the hosts directly at our personal email addresses:

- Mary Marguerite: [marystoriesmusic@excite.com](mailto:marystoriesmusic@excite.com)
- Aarene Storms: [aarenex@earthlink.net](mailto:aarenex@earthlink.net)
- JimBeidle: [nwstoryteller@yahoo.com](mailto:nwstoryteller@yahoo.com)



## The Calendar

Jan. 12- All For Kids Bookstore – 7:00 p.m.  
Dialogue with Meg Philp, Australian Storyteller  
She'll share experiences and a tale or two.

Jan. 13 -Seattle Art Museum –10:30am. and  
11:15am.

"Shaker Art and Shaker Stories" by storyteller  
Debbie Dimitre

Jan. 13 Meg Philp House concert. 7 p.m. See  
page 1 for details.

Jan. 14—Bothell Regional Library --2 p.m.  
Meg Philp, Visiting Teller from Australia  
shares tales for families.

Jan. 14—Third Place Books -- 6:30 p.m.  
"Sharing the Fire." Junior Girl Scout Troop 500  
will be telling stories, Australian storyteller Meg  
Philp will make a guest appearance, and we  
invite you to come and share a story of your own  
at the open mic portion of our program.

Jan. 19-Laura Simms and Vi Hilbert , noon at  
Bastyr University Chapel, Kenmore

Jan. 20-Laura Simms House Concert

Jan. 21-Laura Simms workshop 10-4 p.m.  
All For Kids Bookstore

Jan. 23 Class begins. Explore the Art of  
Storytelling. See article for details.

Feb. 9-All For Kids Bookstore-7 p.m.  
Teller's Night Out  
Call 206-621-8646 for the program topic.

Feb. 10—Bothell Regional Library--10-12 am  
Storytelling Workshop. Learn short, audience-  
participation folktales to share. A beginning-  
level class with Dr. Margaret Read MacDonald.  
FREE!

Feb. 10- Antionette Botsford- "The Lost  
Journals of Pauline Johnson" - Auburn  
Library Meeting Room-- 2:00 p.m. sponsored by  
American Association of University Women and  
INQUIRING MIND PROGRAM, WCH

February 11- Nordic Heritage Museum- 2 p.m.  
"The Story of Harriet Beacher Stowe" as told by  
Debbie Dimitre sponsored by Ballard Historical  
Society.

February 11—Third Place Books – 6:30 p.m.  
"The Cockroach's Wedding and Other Tales of  
Romance" by our featured tellers Jen and Nat  
Whitman. Come hear tales told in tandem by  
the Whitman Story Sampler, then you tell us a  
good love story for Valentine's Day.

Friday Feb. 16- The Big Red Barn in  
Woodinville WA  
"Stories from the Heart" by Debbie Dimitri  
Join us for afternoon Tea at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
For reservations call Lila Chapman 425-806-  
4646

Feb. 27-Honing the Steel-Intermediate  
storytelling class-series begins. See article.

March 3 – Lake Washington United Methodist  
Church--7 p.m.  
"Dashed Dreams And Diamonds"  
Stories from Seven Women of the Gospel  
Dramatically told by Storyteller Debbie Dimitre  
Accompanied by Jane McGrath on Hammer  
Dulcimer and by the Lake Washington liturgical  
dancers.  
7525 132nd Ave. NE, Kirkland  
For information call 425-823-1081.

March. 9-All For Kids Bookstore-7 p.m.  
Teller's Night Out  
Call 206-621-8646 for program topic.

March 11—Third Place Books – 6:30 p.m.  
"The Way We Like It." Dawn Kuhlman and  
Camille Wooden, premier storytellers of the  
Northwest, and a dynamic duo, will be our  
featured tellers sharing a mix of traditional and  
contemporary stories.

March 12- Antionette Botsford "Tales from a  
Metis Childhood" -Sunnydale School, Burien

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## Key Addresses and Numbers for the Calendar

### Third Place Books

Lake Forest Park Towne Centre  
206-366-3333

### All For Kids

2900 N.E. Blakeley  
Seattle, WA  
206-526-2768



## Seattle Storyteller's Guild

### 2000 - 2001 Board

President - John Clauson 360-275-5386  
Secretary - Marilyn Milnor 206-322-7330  
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*In the Wind* is the newsletter of the Seattle Storyteller's 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, 2001**

## Membership Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *In the Wind*

Seattle Storyteller's Guild  
P.O.Box 45532  
Seattle, WA 98145-0532

**First Class Mail**