

guild winter workshop

Spring Into Storytelling!

March 13, 10 am-3 pm All for Kids Bookstore 2900 NE Blakeley, Seattle

Come join some of Seattle's finest tellers and teachers of storytelling. During a day-long combination of workshops and fellowship we'll share a "Stone Soup" lunch and have a chance to visit.

Stone Soup—Getting Folktales Out of a Stone. Fed up with bland, watery folktales? In this workshop, we will cook up savory story stews—adding pinches of dialogue, sense of place, and characterization. Take home a new folktale and new recipes to serve up more of your own special stories.

Led by: Sharon Creeden, an attorney-turned-storyteller who lives in a Seattle waterfront condominium in the summer and near Mexico in the winter. She tells stories and teaches classes to groups as diverse as lawyers at Gerry Spence's ranch in Wyoming and seniors at the Cow Palace in Armada, Arizona. She tells her students "the five-minute folktale is your friend!" Her favorite folktales are about goddesses, grandmas, and good-time gals. Sharon is the author of two folktale collections: Fair Is Fair: Folktales of Justice and In Full Bloom: Tales of Women in Their Prime.

The Wide-Awake Teller. Using exercises from improvisational theater, participants will learn strategies for being fully alive and fully present every moment they are telling. Experienced tellers will discover new and unexpected possibilities in familiar stories; new tellers will learn how to stay present in the story so it is alive and being discovered moment to moment. This workshop is not about improvising stories. It is about using improvisational techniques to keep our telling fresh and new, no matter how familiar a story may become.

Led by: Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman, experienced tellers both apart and together as "Two Tell." Camille is a member of Off Limits Improvisational Theater Company and has been trained in improvisation by teachers from Second City in Chicago and The Groundlings in Los Angeles.

Space is limited. The cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Both workshops and a soup and bread lunch are included in the fee. Pre-registration by March 7 is necessary. Call Pat Peterson at 206-935-5308 or e-mail peterson.pat@comcast.net.

a new book from NSN

A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling

by Jill Johnson

It's been three years in the making. The National Storytelling Network Press Committee and the National Storytelling Press announce the publication of their first new book in over five years. A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling is an eighty-page compilation of seventeen different articles by twenty-two different storyteller-writers representing a rich variety of backgrounds and points of view. The book is designed to respond to the age-old question of a budding storyteller: OK, I know that I love this and I want to do it . . . now what?

It is not exhaustive or all-inclusive. It is designed to open the door to a new storyteller—or to anyone who wants to know more—and doesn't know where to look. It connects that person to local and regional storytelling guilds and organizations, NSN, and storytelling resources nationwide. It introduces readers to twenty-two veteran professionals who share their insight and wisdom and experience on topics ranging from stage fright to storytelling etiquette. The story is the focus of many articles: choosing, developing, performing, and evaluating it. The advice is practical: how do I arrange a program? how do I handle

(continued on page 2)

(A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling continued)

interruptions? The retail price of the Guide is \$10.00. There is a mail-in order form for Storytelling Press titles that can be printed out from the NSN website (www.storynet.org). If you prefer, you can use your credit card and order by phone at 1-800-525-4514; they can usually ship within 24 hours.

NSN members may purchase single copies at \$9.00 (10 percent discount). Anyone (members, booksellers, or others) who wishes to purchase in bulk quantity may purchase ten or more copies at a discount of 40 percent (of full retail price) for returnable or 50 percent (of full retail price) for nonreturnable books. If you make this product known to booksellers who are interested in quantities of books, they should contact NSN to use a purchase order. All booksellers and others with business licenses must come to NSN for bulk quantity orders. Shipping fees are as follows:

under	\$20.00	\$4.00
	\$20.01-\$40	\$5.00
	\$40.01-\$60	\$6.00
over	\$60	free

For further information, please see the review by Aarene Storms below.

book review

A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling

by Aarene Storms

As storytellers, we often encounter people who want to learn to tell stories of their own. "But where do we begin?" they ask us.

This book provides the answers. Edited by Katie Rydell for the National Storytelling Network and published by the National Storytelling Press, A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling is a slim, gentle guide that will help new tellers get started. It is not intended to be read cover to cover; rather, it is designed as a troubleshooting guide, so that people may skip to the section addressing their immediate concerns. Topics include choosing a story, developing a personal tale, using a microphone, copyright basics, and caring for a performing voice, as well as techniques for evaluation, tips for coping with family audiences, and coping strategies for tellers dealing with interruptions. Contributors are twenty-two well-known tellers with plenty of experience on the frontlines, and they offer plenty of immediately useable advice which will be helpful to beginners and seasoned tellers alike.

All of the issues in this book are dealt with in other books in greater detail, but for an affordable, portable, and

get-to-the-point guide, this is a valuable addition for the storytelling library.

coming soon

Seattle Storytellers Guild Web Site

It's been a long time coming, but it's almost here. Mark Bassett is designing it for us, and we hope to have our first version online by April 1, 2004.

We are looking for a Web Site Coordinator to keep track of listings, updates, and payments. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marilyn Milnor (206-322-7330), Lenore Jackson (206-284-2976), or Mary Brugh (206-362-6003).

winter stories at

Tellers Night Out

Tellers Night Out is an evening of featured storytellers and open mike time sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers Guild. We meet the second Friday of every month at 7 pm at All for Kids Bookstore, 2900 NE Blakeley, Seattle.

Shake off the winter blahs as the Seattle Storytelling Guild brings you a feast for the eyes and ears!

On January 9, we welcome back the Tale Traders—a marvelously diverse group. Come hear Charlie Williams, the creative, hilarious Noise Guy; Mick Holsbeke, juggler and storyteller; Steve Estes, dynamic singer of biblical stories; Karyn Akishin, with her relaxed telling style and great flair for humor; Janice Hammons, with historical stories of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest; Georgia Nielsen, with her deep, rich voice and unforgettable stories, and Rebecca Keller, with her passion for personal stories, children's literature, and puppets.

In February, Friday the 13th brings us Urban Legends. This uncanny evening will feature eerie stories by Aarene Storms, Pat Peterson, Marilyn Milnor, and others that will knock your socks off. Bring your own strange happenings to share.

On March 12, we'll head down to Texas with Lenore Jackson and hear about a time when the State Reptile of Texas could be found in every back yard. In addition to Horned Toad Memories, Lenore will take us behind the scenes of Stranded in the Goatheads and share some of her current work-in-progress, Mesquite Chronicles. Lenore's stories evoke limestone creeks, evenings on the front porch, and small town treachery.

Frog Rock workshop

A Psyche-logical Approach to Story and Telling

January 31, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm Eagle Harbor Congregational Church 105 Winslow Way, Bainbridge Island \$45 per person for 7 or less \$40 for 8 or more persons

On January 31, Frog Rock will present Leslie Emery in a workshop for storytellers and would-be storytellers. A Psyche-logical Approach to Story and Telling will include lecture/demonstration, participant practice, and musical accompaniment. The workshop will begin with a presentation of ideas about psycho-active tales and a demonstration of these tales and their telling. Overall, this approach often involves minimizing the overtly expressive affect in the teller's presentation, allowing the story to take precedence over the performer. Participants will then be invited to experiment with this approach themselves by telling stories they have prepared. Brief stories of one page or less are best for this exercise. Tales having some peculiarity of event and those not emphasizing moralistic messages are preferable. The uses of drums and other musical instruments as enhancements to the psycho-active evocations of telling will also be addressed. Participants having some minimal familiarity with an instrument are encouraged to bring it with them.

Leslie Emery describes his work this way:

My background involves performance and study in theater and creative writing. I also hold a degree in Mythological Studies with emphasis on Depth Psychology. My work explores the mythical and psychological aspects of enactment and dramatization. Thus I focus on stories having a 'mythical modality' that tend to stimulate the unconscious aspects of psyche typically ignored by contemporary society. These stories tend to evoke experiences of mystery and 'deep feeling' that often disturb the assumptions of ordinary consciousness.

Typically, it is the tales of more ancient or archaic origin rather than those more contemporary stories that generate this type of provocation. These more 'uncanny' styles of telling often involve nonordinary vocal intonations, speech, diction, rhythmical repetitions, dance-like movement, singing, or chanting. Employing musical instruments can enhance the 'spell of telling' in a related manner. It is no accident that most storytelling in contemporary society involves music—either in the form of movie scores or song. Drumming, while greatly enhancing the teller's palette, can induce an element of

trance-like consciousness and often asserts an amazing effect upon the ability of children to remain attentive.

For more information on this workshop, contact Ed Sheridan at 206-842-4562 or sheridan@bainbridge.net.



new venue

Ravenna Third Place

Fourth Thursdays, 7:30 pm

Starting in January, Ravenna Third Place Books & Honey Bear Cafe will host an evening of storytelling on the fourth Thursday of the month. This is a cozy space with lots of new and used books and a branch of the Honey Bear Bakery. The telling will start at 7:30 pm and will be followed by an open mike.

Pat Peterson starts the series on January 22 with Honey and Fire—love stories to warm you on a winter's night.

Debra Harris-Branham takes you on a journey of stories with hip swaying, finger popping rhythms that touch the heart, soul, and spirit on February 26. Sharon Gunn comes down from Victoria to share Celtic Tales on March 25.

Ravenna Third Place is located at 6505 20th Avenue NE. There is a small lot next to the store, but you may want to plan on finding street parking and walking a block or two. Come early and have a light dinner or dessert at the Honey Bear.



Patrick Ball at Dusty Strings

Sunday, February 15, 7:00 pm

Patrick Ball is a premier Celtic harp player and a captivating storyteller in the Celtic tradition. Last year the Seattle performance of his one-man play, O'Carolan's Farewell to Music, quickly sold out. This year he will be performing his new musical theater work, The Fine Beauty of the Island. The story takes place in the Blasket Islands in County Kerry, Ireland, where the last inhabitants "vanished" in 1953, leaving behind them a deeply haunting tune floating in the winds. After 20 years, Patrick heard this tune and his life was changed forever. The Fine Beauty of the Island is an uplifting, music-filled journey in search of this legendary tune and the islanders who played it.

Tickets are \$15. Seating is limited. You may purchase tickets in advance at Dusty Strings, 3406 Fremont Avenue N, Seattle.

book review

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

15th Anniversary Edition Reconsidered, Revised, & Expanded With Twenty-Five New Essays

by Aarene Storms

Editor's Note: I had a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Robert Fulghum when he was a guest on Global Griot (KSER 90.7 FM). He told stories and talked on the air for eighty percent of the show, and we—the hosts and listeners—were begging for more!

I read his first book All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten in 1988 when it was first published. I was actually familiar with his writing before that because he had been a Unitarian minister in my hometown for several years . . . Everybody knew Robert Fulghum. We still do—the town just isn't that big, although neither he nor I still live there.

When the fifthteenth anniversary edition of the book was published, I figured it was a marketing ploy—something his publisher dreamed up to make more money and I was mad! . . . I should have known better. The new edition really is "reconsidered, revised, & expanded." It's also a lot better than the original, and that's saying something. It's worth spending the money, even if you already own the old edition. Here's a bit from that original essay:

All I really needed to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but there in the sandpile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

There's more, of course—and in the new edition, there's a lot more. Fulghum's recorded voice is gentle, rough, joyous, quiet, and loud. In the audio edition of the 15th anniversary book, he brings himself to tears at a couple of points, and he laughs out loud at his own silliness in others. If you are familiar with the original book, you will enjoy his "parentheses" in essays—including a new chapter about the Heigh-ho Lama and an update of Donny, the deaf leaf-raker, who is now grown up and doing fine. Crayons, mermaids, fiddlers, chicken-fried steaks, and grandpas are all here, and it's a delightful experience, all five CDs of it.

Storytellers, take note that the audio book does not have the "reading aloud" flavor that so many do—Fulghum's voice has beautiful intonation and variation, and when he wants to meander a bit from the written word, he just does it—it's his book, after all. This adds to the spontaneous feel of the recording and makes the listening experience even more enjoyable.

Recommended for ages 14 to adult and beyond.

Vancouver Storytelling Festival

by Mary Brugh

This was my second year to attend the Vancouver Festival and I hope to make it a habit. The festival was November 14–16, and the Friday night program featured six tellers with *The Greatest Stories Ever Told*.

All day Saturday and Sunday there were storytelling events to choose from; often three or four held simultaneously in different rooms in the Vancouver Museum. Saturday night was a blues concert, and a final concert Sunday night was billed as *A Wild and Reckless Evening of Verbal Pyrotechnics and Mime*. All together about thirty tellers participated in the festival. Visit the web site www.vancouverstorytelling.org to read more about who was there. The cost of the festival is reasonable, and Vancouver is fun, interesting, and beautiful, with all kinds of cuisines.

The deadline for the spring issue of *ln the Wind* is March 15. Newsletter articles and comments should be directed to:

Jill Johnson 360-341-2063 story@whidbey.com

Editor's Note

Well...here we are with our second issue and a new year. As I write this, a "sou'easter" is blowing up Saratoga Passage, and there are fifteen inches of new snow in the Cascades! Yup, it's winter.

There is something that I noticed—with this issue—that I want to point out to you. As I glanced through the pages, I realized that this newsletter is made up of the collective thoughts and words of many. In the last two issues alone, there were eight (!) Guild writers and two guest contributors. That—to my mind—strengthens the newsletter—and the Guild. As storytellers, we are a collection of voices—and all those voices need to be heard. Lenore and I are pleased that these members want to contribute—and we invite YOU to do the same. In 2004—join your voice with ours; it will enrich us all.

Jill Johnson

coming this summer

King County Library Storyfest International

by Aarene Storms

This year, Storyfest will be held in conjunction and cooperation with the Bellevue Art Museum Fair, which is scheduled for July 23-25, 2004. Now you have even more reasons to come to Bellevue!

Admission and parking are still—gasp!—absolutely free. We will once again be offering off-site parking and free shuttle buses throughout the event, piloted by exceptionally friendly and highly skilled drivers.

Storytellers will be delighting audiences throughout King County during the day on Thursday, at the Bellevue festival site on Friday and Saturday, and in a special *Scary Stories for Brave Listeners* performance in Kent on Friday evening.

Featured tellers include Patrick Ball, Joel Ben-Izzy, Roslyn Bresnick-Perry, Eth-Noh-Tec, Whitman Family Sampler, Carmen Deedy, Dovi Thomason, Nancy Duncan, Won Ldy-Paye, and Nadia Taibah.

Cape Clear Festival

Storytelling in Ireland

by Cherie Trebon

Ah! . . . Sure and wasn't it a grand time . . . The Cape Clear International Storytelling Festival, held September 5–7, 2003, on Cape Clear Island, was a feast not only for the eyes and ears, but for the other senses as well. From the step aboard the *Naomh Ciaran II* in Baltimore Harbor to the dynamic grand finale of storytelling, the festival was a fine collage of stories, history, cultures, and people brought together in a very special place.

The island, forty-five minutes off the coast of the southernmost point in Ireland, is small—only three miles in length and one mile across—with steep hills all around. Its remoteness makes it an ideal location for a festival.

Stepping onto the dock in North Harbor, I was struck by the beautiful ruggedness of the place. There are no shopping malls, no grocery stores (except the few shelves filled with necessities tucked into a corner of a snack bar). One van provides the only public transportation, and cars on the island make a one-way trip there—brought by barge. Many are rusting wrecks and they all have the right of way on the steep hills that comprise Cape Clear. There are no fancy restaurants—three pubs provide simple but solid food; instead of hotels, there are bed and breakfasts, or, for the more adventuresome, a hostel and a campground. The setting is a great equalizer—there's no place here for pretenses.

The line-up of tellers was a perfect balance: Michael Harvey, from Wales, breathed new life into old folktales, bringing them anew to mesmerized audiences; Carol Russell, from England, shared her English/Jamaican background with her lively, direct style; Willy Claflin, from the United States, pleased the audiences with personal tales of New England and beyond; and then the clowns—Jack Lynch, from Ireland, and Billy Teare, from Northern Ireland—who with their wit, antics, and well-honed storytelling skills kept the audience in stitches. If they were "The Ridiculous," Rosemary Woods, from Northern Ireland, was "The Sublime"; her exquisite voice and extraordinary song-writing skills stay with me still.

Workshops and daily story-swaps gave opportunity for festival attendees to share stories in small groups, and everywhere you went—pubs, history walks, sitting near the harbor—people shared stories or song. By the time I left Ireland, I was filled with the magic that occurs only when people connect on a deep level. I'll be back—all in all, it was a grand time—sure and you should've been there!

Ongoing Events

Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

Second Fridays

Tellers Night Out

Program with featured tellers and swap. 7 pm. All for Kids Bookstore 2900 NE Blakely, 206-621-8646.

Second Sundays

Stories on a Second Sunday

Featured teller and swap. 6 pm. Third Place Books.

Fourth Thursdays

Ravenna Third Place

Featured teller and open mike. 7:30 pm. 6505 20th Avenue NE (206)-525-2347.

Other Ongoing Events

First and Third Mondays

Voicework Group

Open to storytellers of all levels interested in expanding their vocal skills. Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976 for time and location.

First and Third Mondays

Story Circle of Whidbey Island

Meets at 7 pm at the Golden Otter Bookstore in Langley. Call Jean Gervais at 360-331-1273. All tellers/listeners welcome.

Fourth Mondays

Raintales Story Circle

Queen Anne Hill, 7 pm. Share stories in an informal and supportive setting. Call Lenore Jackson at 206-284-2976 for new location.

First Tuesdays

Bainbridge Island Frog Rock Story Circle

Experienced and novice storytellers from Kitsap County and beyond are equally welcomed. The Circle meets from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at 9702 Sands Ave. N.E. on Bainbridge Island. Call Alyson at 206-842-5293 or Ed at 206-842-4562.

Third Wednesdays

The Storytellers

Meets in North Bend at 7 pm. Call Sheila Hunter at 425-985-8547or email suithad@com.cast.net.

Fourth Thursdays

Bellingham Storytelling for Adults

Stuarts Coffee House, 1302 Bay Street at 8 pm. Hosted by Doug Banner of the Bellingham Storytelling Guild, (360) 752-2024.



storytelling in Poulsbo at the

Jewel Box Theater

Storytelling at the Jewel Box Theater continues with *Stories for a Winter Night* on Saturday, February 28, at 7 pm. The even will feature four splendid tellers: Cherie Trebon of Port Angeles, Mary Brugh of Seattle, OJ Mozon of Silverdale, and Nancy O'Lalley of Port Townsend. The program begins at 7 p.m. For more information and directions, call Kathy Currie at 360-779-3037



from the National Storytelling Network

Work Commissioned

The NSN Organizers Special Interest Group is offering a \$2,000 commission for a work of storytelling which will stretch our concept of form and our conventional definitions of narrative. The work will be performed at the NSN Conference in Bellingham, and there will be a discussion of storytelling structure and aesthetics by a panel from the Organizers SIG. The experience of the work should involve the audience for 45–90 minutes.

Submissions must arrive by February 28 and should be sent to the NSN Organizers SIG,132 Boone Street, Suite 5, Jonesborough, TN, 37659. *SIX duplicate packages* must be sent for submission. DVDs, CDs, videos, or audio tapes are acceptable, and printed scripts, descriptive proposals, photos and drawings are all encouraged. Submissions must include: recommendations from three people who have presented you with telephone and email contacts, a resume of your artistic background, and a three-hundred word argument for your being given this commission. (More information is available on www.storynet.org.)

to perform in Seattle

Laura Simms

Laura Simms will give a performance in Seattle in late February. No details were available as we went to press. For further information, contact Lenore Jackson at lenorestory@msn.com or (206) 284-2976.

Calendar Winter 2004

January

January 9

Tellers Night Out featuring Tale Traders—Mick Holsbeke, Steve Estes, Karyn Akishin, Janice Hammons, Georgia Nielsen, and a special guest appearance by Charlie Williams (the Noise Guy), All for Kids Bookstore, 7 pm.

January 11

Stories for a Second Sunday featuring Jill Johnson with *Mabuhay!*—stories and songs from the Philippines, Third Place Books, 6 pm.

January 22

Ravenna Third Place featuring Pat Peterson with Honey and Fire—love stories to warm you on a winter night, 6505 20th Avenue NE, 7:30 pm.

January 31

Leslie Emery workshop, *A Psyche-logical Approach to Story and Telling*, presented by Frog Rock Circle, Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, 105 Winslow Way, Bainbridge Island, 9:30 am–5:00 pm, \$40–\$45. For more information, contact Ed Sheridan at 206-842-4562 or sheridan@bainbridge.net.

February

February 8

Stories for a Second Sunday featuring Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman, Third Place Books, 6 pm.

February 13

Tellers Night Out featuring *Urban Legends* told by Pat Peterson, Aarene Storms, and Marilyn Milnor, All for Kids Bookstore, 7 pm.

February 15

Patrick Ball, Celtic harp player and storyteller, *The Fine Beauty of the Island*, Dusty Strings, 3406 Fremont Avenue N, 7 pm, \$15, tickets available at Dusty Strings.

February 17

Jill Johnson, *Chinese and Southeast Asian Tales*, Clinton Library, 2 pm.

February 18

Jill Johnson, Chinese and Southeast Asian Tales, Sultan Library, 2 pm.

February 26

Ravenna Third Place featuring Debra Harris-Branham, 6505 20th Ave NE, 7:30 pm.

February 28

Cherie Trebon, Mary Brugh, OJ Mozon, and Nancy O'Lalley, Stories for a Winter Night, Jewel Box Theater,

Poulsbo, 7 pm. Call Kathy Currie (360-779-3037) for more information.

March

March 6

Storytelling Series, **Jill Johnson**, Island Books, Mercer Island, 11 am.

March 12

Tellers Night Out, featuring Lenore Jackson with *Horned Toad Memories*, All for Kids Bookstore, 7pm.

March 13

Spring into Storytelling! Seattle Storytellers Guild workshop presented by Sharon Creeden, Camille Wooden, and Dawn Kuhlman, All for Kids Bookstore, 10 am-3 pm, \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Preregistration by March 7 is necessary. Contact Pat Peterson at 206-935-5308 or petersonpat@comcast.com.

March 13

Storytelling Series, Naomi Baltuck and her daughters Ellie and Bea, Island Books, Mercer Island, 11am.

March 14

Stories for a Second Sunday featuring Mahria Potter, Third Place Books, 6 pm.

March 19

Whidbey Commons, Jill Johnson, Story Buddies—a Workshop, United Methodist Church, Langley, 12–5pm.

March 25

Ravenna Third Place featuring Sharon Gunn with *Celtic Tales*, 6505 20th Ave NE, 7:30 pm.

(Note: Programs at All for Kids and Ravenna Third Place are followed by an open mike. All tellers are welcome.)

All For Kids 2900 NE Blakeley Seattle 206-526-2768

Third Place Books

Lake Forest Park Towne Centre 206-366-3333

Ravenna Third Place Books & Honey Bear Cafe 6505 29th Avenue NE Seattle 206-525-2347

Seattle Storytellers Guild 2003–2004 Board

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In the Wind is the newsletter of the Seattle Storyteller's Guild, a non-profit organization, and is published quarterly. Member-ship in the Guild includes a year's subscription.

Call the Guild at (206) 621-8646 for updated information on Guild events. Newsletter articles and comments should be directed to:

Jill Johnson at story@whidbey.com Spring Issue Deadline: March 15th

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In the Wind

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