



In the Wind

NSN Conference

Seattle Tellers Selected for Regional Concert

by Jill Johnson

Every Northwest storyteller who hasn't been vacationing on Mars knows that this year, the annual NSN National Storytelling Conference is being held right here in our own backyard. (All right . . . for those of you who have just landed, it's July 7–11 in Bellingham.). For local and regional tellers, one of the biggest opportunities of the conference is the Regional Concert, a showcase each year of some of the finest talent from that part of the country. This year there were almost one hundred applications for tellers for that concert. And two of our own Seattle Storytellers Guild tellers were selected! In individual interviews, Elizabeth Falconer and Pat Peterson share some thoughts about how they prepared, their reactions to being selected, and their hopes for the conference.

Elizabeth Falconer

When the call for proposals came out, my first thought was, "Don't even think about it."

I had applied before—when the Conference was in Denver—to do a music and storytelling workshop. I had taken a lot of time fulfilling all the steps for that process, and had come up with what I thought was a unique, useful workshop. During the process, I became excited about what I could offer, and more and more sure that it would be chosen. I sent it off, and marked my calendar for the Denver dates, fully expecting that my workshop would be chosen. But . . . it wasn't!

Now, two years later, the conference was to be so close to home . . . I studied the application and realized that I have a story that was both fitting to the summer season, and also fit into the time limit. But there was a difference: this time when I sent my materials in, I had already let go of it, and was not expecting anything. I was truly surprised and of course thrilled when word came that my story had been selected. And I was very glad that I had persisted.

What am I looking forward to? Well, as usual, I am excited about sharing my instrument, the koto, with others. And the story, which is a legend from Japan, is one of my favorites, one that has taken on more and more meaning for me as I tell it. Because so many of my programs are children's programs, I am delighted to be in among adults! (Actually, I would probably be most relaxed if a stuffed animal goes whizzing by my head in the middle of the story!) And I am happy that our region will be showcased for so many that wouldn't otherwise have a chance to visit storytellers and thinkers, who will take home a piece of the beautiful Northwest. There is one more thing . . . I am looking forward to hearing the stories of others, to take home in my heart.

Pat Peterson

When the Conference was held in Seattle in 1993, I was given the choice of telling or MCing. I chose the latter and had a dandy time doing it. It started me on a path that gives me—and I hope the tellers and audiences I host—much delight.

This time I had a story—an old favorite—a tale of a journey, the sea and a feisty old woman—that I wanted to share. I have not made any commercial recordings so one afternoon I sat in my husband's workshop, a place off-limits to cats and other distractions, and told my story into a recorder. I listened to it, thought "That sounds right", and sent it off.

I am aware of the large number of excellent tellers in the Pacific region and I'm not a betting woman so I just let it go. Being chosen means that my story will have a chance to reach people who themselves have traveled far, maybe seen the sea for the first time—and I know there will be feisty women of all ages in attendance.

There are rumors of a ghost haunting the Mount Baker Theater where we'll all be telling and listening. I have never knowingly told for a ghost before. The mere thought sends shivers down my spine. Kathryn Windham would be proud!

More on NSN Conference...

The Conference, sponsored by the **National Storytelling Network**, by **Woodring College of Education** and by **Bellingham Storytellers Guild**, promises to be an inspiring interdisciplinary event. Workshops, keynotes and seminars will interest those in fields such as Education, Anthropology, Folklore, Business Administration, Environmental Education, Healing Arts, Event Planning, Theatre, Creative Writing and more.

A 3 credit course is being developed through EESP in conjunction with conference attendance. This course will cater to students in any field of study. Clock hours will also be available.

There are still volunteer opportunities for the conference.

- We still need an official Volunteer coordinator.
 - Village Books will be running the conference bookstore and will need help with set up on Tuesday July 6th, this will require lifting and moving boxes, taking goods out and setting them on tables by categories. Help during hours of Operation and tear down on Sunday late afternoon and Monday reverse of set-up.
 - Bus coordinator's: Thursday PM for the Regional Concert at the Mount Baker Theatre. Busses will start shuttling people down around 5:30 PM, the Show is 7:30 PM – 9PM, then transport everyone back to campus. Friday loop shuttle between campus downtown and Fairhaven.
 - Stage Decoration: Wednesday set-up Saturday PM teardown (The Sunday concert is in a different hall)
 - Hospitality for speakers- Day depends on which speaker
 - Help with Sponsor Reception on Thursday before the Regional concert set up, replenish, clean-up.
 - For every regular session A-H: Room Monitors-take a count of session attendees, help with set up, hand out presenter materials. Host-helps with room set up, introduces presenter.
 - Porters to help registrants get to their rooms. Tuesday and Wednesday will be the busiest days
- Tote bag stuffers Tuesday and early Wednesday
 - Message center monitor-Make sure needed supplies are stocked. Take down out dated notes/ messages
 - Sign monitors- Insure correct daily signs are up for the session rooms.
 - Gallery walk buddies- Knowledge of Bellingham needed. Help direct attendees who look lost on Friday night.

Volunteering inquiries should be directed to conference central 360-714-9631 or e-mail lynspangler@juno.com

Full information on conference sessions, keynotes, performances, registration, etc. is now available online via www.storynet.org website of the National Storytelling Network or directly at www.wvu.edu/~rvohs/NSC.html

Gene Friese Scholarship

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild announces the 2004 Gene Friese Scholarship process. Gene was a much-loved member of the storytelling community who passed away in 1995. The scholarship fund was created to honor his memory.

The award of \$100.00 must be used to attend any storytelling conference, workshop, or class. If selected, proof of your use of the scholarship (receipt, ticket stub, etc.) will be requested. To qualify for this scholarship you must be a resident of Washington or Oregon and be a member of a storytelling Guild in Washington or Oregon or of the National Storytelling Network.

Your application must include:

1. Your name, address, phone number and the storytelling Guild to which you belong,
2. Your storytelling experience (beginners are encouraged to apply),
3. How you would like to use the scholarship money, i.e., a description of the events limited to 300 words.

Send your application by **May 15, 2004** to the Seattle Storytellers Guild, attention Gene Friese scholarship committee, Post Office Box 45532, Seattle, Washington 98145-0532

Folklife 2004 -

Cherie Trebon, Coordinator

Plan now for the NW Folklife Festival, to be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 28-31, at the Seattle Center. Again storytellers from the Northwest and Canada, voices familiar and new, will perform at this well-attended, fun-filled festival. Incredibly, there is still no admission charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. While NW Folklife was again generous with providing stage time for storytelling, applications still exceeded the number of time slots available. Even if you are not a selected teller the traditional Liar's Contest and Story Swap will offer you the opportunity to tell a whopper or share a favorite tale (10 minute limit for each). There are many changes in times and venues from prior festivals. We're excited that the Ghost Story Concert will be located in the beautiful new McCaw lecture hall in the Opera House. A tentative listing is shown below but do check the Festival Program as changes could occur between now and print date.

Friday: 7:00-10:00 pm NW Storyteller's Showcase - Ages 10 and up - Center House Theatre

Saturday: 12:00-1:00 pm Children's Stage concert - Bagley Wright Lawn Stage
1:00-3:00 pm Family Concert - Center House Theatre

Sunday: 12:00-1:00 pm Children's Stage concert - Bagley Wright Lawn Stage
4:00-6:00 pm Liar's Contest (open mic) - Exhibition Hall Lawn Stage

7:00-9:30 pm Ghost Story Concert - Ages 10 and up - McCaw Lecture Hall

Monday: 12:00-1:00 pm Children's Stage concert - Bagley Wright Lawn Stage
1:00-3:30 pm New Teller Show & Story Swap (open mic) - Exhibition Hall Lawn Stage

I am looking for a **volunteer** to fly to Jakarta, Indonesia to tell stories to PreK-6 children at a religious school (20 hours per week). I will provide the economy class round-trip airfare, free accommodations (homestay) and free meals for the two months stay (and there might be a little stipend). I am expecting the volunteer to leave for Jakarta around April 21, 2004.

Please send a resume to me. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,
Doddy Ervondy
(206) 624-7083

Ravenna Third Place

Fourth Thursdays, 7:30 pm

April 22--Merna Ann Hecht has been teaching creative writing, literacy and storytelling for over 20 years. She is a well known Pacific Northwest storyteller and a 1999 recipient of a National Storytelling Network Community Service Award. Merna works for the Seattle Arts and Lectures Writers in the Schools program. A strong advocate for progressive education, Merna uses storytelling and poetry to help provide young people opportunities for creative self expression and spirited participation in community.

PROGRAM

"Tales of Longing and Belonging from Many Cultures" --Stories from ancient times and our own time that touch on themes of loneliness, longing, belonging, forgiveness, and living peacefully.

May 27--Anne Rosamund FitzGerald was born in England of peculiar parents: a pip-pip-up-the-empire bandmaster and a "refayned" teacup reader. She attended an Anglican parochial school where Bible stories were told by a marvelously eccentric old Jewish teacher. When she was 12, her family migrated to Toronto, Canada, became spiritualists and held weekly seances in the living room. In the 1960s she went to San Francisco, dabbled in Tarot, I Ching, Taoism, Zen, Spanish dance and Little Theater.

When the New Age became Old Hat, she moved to Seattle and became Catholic, feeling she had always really been part of that morphic field. Discovering the Bible was *terra incognita* to Catholics, she began telling Bible stories. She undermines patriarchy by a hearty focus on women's stories. She recently retired to write the novel she began in 1968 and never had time to complete.

PROGRAM

"Mary Magdalene - speaks for herself". (created years before the current hubbub)

"Jonah" - a lighter moment from the Bible

"A Cure for Hiccups" - an absolutely true, well almost, doggy dialogue

June 24

Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman tell "Stories for a Summer Night"

Retreat Report

by Jill Johnson

The board of the Seattle Storyteller's Guild held its annual retreat on Saturday, February 7. Mary Hobbs was unanimously elected to the board in the position of web site coordinator. The board identified as goals for 2004: the website; full board configuration for annual meeting in June; NSN conference participation and sponsorship; membership- new members and retention of old members; attendance/venues; publicity/promotion; community outreach; mentoring; linking to the "web" of area storytellers (outside SSG) and education.

Of the above, we are now working on the website. (See article from Mary Hobbs p __) We expect to do conference participation and possibly sponsorship and are awaiting more information. Increasing and retaining membership was a third priority, with many of the other goals connected to it.

Tellers Night Out

Second Fridays, 7:00 pm – All for kids Bookstores.

Mary, Mary

On Friday, April 9, Two Mary's, Mary Brugh and Mary Hobbs will share a double bill at Tellers' Night Out. The Mary's will share with you some of the songs and poems that wove into the fabric of daily life simply because they are named Mary. Of course, they'll be telling as well.

Mary Brugh --

My grandmother, Mary Campbell Conger, was the first storyteller I can remember. She made up stories about the clouds and what we were seeing and where we were going to keep my brothers, my cousins and myself quiet on car trips. Since that time, stories have led me or followed me, beckoning me at times in my life. Sometime around 1992, in Hau'ula Hawaii, I caught the desire to tell stories. Each story I learn and tell is a new adventure and each time I tell a story it is different from any other time.

Myths and stories from Ireland are my favorite to work on and tell. To add some variety I sometimes try weaving music into a story. The

stories I will tell are not from Ireland, nor are they myths. They are two new stories I love to tell. One story is from India and is called WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO REALLY LISTEN TO A STORY. The other is from the Republic of Georgia and is called THE SNAKE OF DREAMS.

Mary Hobbs --

My childhood home was in the hills of Southern Illinois. Sitting on the porch and listening to visiting relatives tell the stories of their lives, past and present, was a common Sunday afternoon pastime. After I grew up and moved away, I searched out the storytelling communities in my native Illinois, in my travels to New Mexico, and here in Washington, looking for a sense of community and connection in my adult life. I tell stories that inhabit me and insist that I tell them. My stories this time are three in number; first, THE TREASURE IN THE CLOSET, a personal story in the tradition of my upbringing, then DIVORCE a West African Folktale which tells a story to explain the behavior of the stars and planet, and, finally, THE PIGEON'S BRIDE, a story from Yugoslavia about an uncommon Princess and her equally unusual consort.

Healing Stories From Frog Rock Tellers

April 9- For the past fourteen years, Elizabeth Shepherd has been lifting words from the page and releasing them into the realm of story. It is her belief that story has the ability to transport people from one place to another, heightening awareness and deepening the sense of presence within us. It is from this place that healing can occur.

Alyson Neils has been living on a cliff overlooking Puget Sound for thirty-five years, and intentionally telling stories for the past twelve, mostly at church and local schools. She's delighted that stories will transport her off the rock to the other side of the pond.

Come join Alyson and Elizabeth as they share Stories for Healing.

See What You Missed!

What fun we had at January's **Tellers Night Out**. Watching the Tale Traders perform at "All for Kids" was a bit like being part of a lively and fun! family gathering. The tellers - Charlie (the Noise Guy) Williams, Rebecca Keller, Georgia Nielsen, Steve Estes, Mick Holsbeke, Karyn Akishin, and Marilyn Milnor - all knew one another well and observing the dynamics between them was almost as much fun as listening to the stories. And how different they were... Steve's syncopated "David and Goliath" with guitar accompaniment!, Georgia's gentle and moving rendition of the Korean tale, "The Tiger's Whisker", Karyn's humorous tale of why dogs sniff each other, Becky's thought provoking wisdom tale, Mick's witty presentation of "The Lorax" of Dr. Seuss fame, Marilyn's flat-out funny story of "Chicken Little" - in mouse form and Charlie's 'noisy' comical rendition of camping with his father! A good time was definitely had by all. A big THANK YOU to the Tale Traders for coming and making it such a great evening.

What a thrill we had in February on Friday the 13th with the telling of Urban Legends! Marilyn Milnor took us on quite a storytelling adventure at a summer camp near a burnt out section of a forest, Aaron Storms had us quivering with her story of the mysterious hand prints that appeared near a cemetery in Bellingham and Pat Peterson made our hair stand on end with what happened in a house in West Seattle! The tellers that told at open mic afterwards put the frosting on the cake. A spooky evening was had by all. A big THANK YOU to all the tellers that made it such an exciting evening.

And March's TNO with Lenore as the featured teller -- outstanding! Totally engaging, Lenore interwove humor, nostalgia, geography, myth and poetry as she told her personal story of growing up in Texas. Also, we all learned about the horned toad which can squirt it's own blood. At open mic three tellers we hadn't heard from before treated us to their stories. A big THANK YOU to Lenore who made it such a wonderful evening.

Stories & Tea'...

...is finding an audience in Snohomish. The Stories are told by Mary Marguerite, local performer, storyteller, and radio host. She is a host and the coordinator of KSER 90.7FM's unique weekly program, Global Griot, stories and music from around the world. Mary tells a variety of tales, accompanies the stories with her harp, flute and psaltery. Mary has been a member of local storytelling guilds for several years, done numerous performances, and her article, "Using Storytelling in Addiction Treatment," was published in 2003 in the acclaimed anthology, The Healing Heart. Mary also performs regularly at several local assisted-living facilities.

'Stories & Tea' happens at and is cosponsored by the Victorian Manor, 610 First Street, Snohomish

The current schedule of performances is (4th Wednesdays):

April 28- Creation Stories

May 26 - Mothers

Admission of \$8 includes tea and desserts. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Reservations are recommended: 360-568-2267 or everythingtea@prodigy.net

Not Just Another Toga Party!

Be ye God or Goddess, patrician or plebeian, you are welcome to join us as we gather in the secret, sacred grove at Thom and Naomi's house.

It is all Greek to us, so guests are requested to bring Greek (and Roman) cuisine for a potluck dinner. First bread, then circus, with guests earning their laurels by regaling the revelers with a story.

Saturday, June 19, 6PM.

B.Y.O.B. (Bring your own bedsheet).

For more info, call Thom and Naomi at (425) 776-1175

Coming soon to a computer near you !!

After over a year of dedicated work by the Website Development Committee the Seattle Storytellers' Guild is pleased and excited to announce the coming launch of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild Website.

Designed by Mark Bassett of **Dancing Leaves Web Design and Hosting**

(<http://www.dancingleaves.com>) the new website will feature information about storytelling, upcoming local, regional and national events, special storytelling performances and, best of all, a listing of tellers. The listing will be open to Guild members in good standing for a yet-to-be-determined yearly fee. If you are interested in posting a listing on the new Seattle Storytellers' Guild website, please contact **Mary Hobbs, Website Coordinator** at marykssn@earthlink.net, and watch for details in the summer '04 edition of *In the Wind*. Be sure to let Mary know your current e-mail address so we can let you know how to find us if we are online sooner than expected.

See you in cyberspace!

guild events

♦ Second Sundays

Stories on a Second Sunday

Featured teller and open mike. 6 pm. **Third Place Books**, Lake Forest Park Towne Centre, 206-366-3333.

♦ Fourth Thursdays

Ravenna Third Place

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

♦ Second Fridays

Tellers Night Out

Program with featured tellers and open mike. 7 pm. **All for Kids Bookstore** 2900 NE Blakeley, 206-621-8646.

other ongoing events

♦ 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.

Voicework Group

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

♦ 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.

♦ First Tuesdays--Bainbridge Island Frog Rock Story Circle

Experienced and novice are equally welcomed. 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.

♦ Fourth Thursdays--Bellingham Storytelling for Adults

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

Could this be You?

WANTED: Board Members

The Seattle Storytellers Guild is looking for individuals to fill vacating positions on its Board. The Guild, as do all non-profit organizations, relies on volunteers to guide it's business and direction. Qualifications for Board members include a love of storytelling, good ideas, great enthusiasm, and willingness to take on a little extra work. Previous board experience is NOT required. To be considered for a position, you should be an active member of the Seattle Storytellers Guild.

All positions are open for election and are held for one year, beginning in June. Board members take an active part in the events of the Guild and are asked to attend monthly meetings. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest including your first choice for board position by **June 1**. If you need more information, call the Guild number, leave a message, and someone will return your call.

Calendar

April

April 9- Tellers Night Out " Mary, Mary"
Mary Brugh and **Mary Hobbs** tell. All for
Kids Bookstore, 7 pm

April 11- NO stories on a Second Sunday this
month. Go find the eggs and eat the Peeps!

April 22- Ravenna Third Place Featuring
Merna Hecht with "Tales of Longing and
Belonging". 7:30 pm.

April 28- **Mary Marguerite** Stories & Tea
"Creation Stories" (see page 5)

May

May 1- **Pat Peterson, Sharon Creeden, Mary
Hobbs Claudia Charlton** Stories for a Spring
Night, Jewel Box Theater, Poulsbo, 7 pm. Call
Kathy Currie (360-779-3037) for more
information.

May 9- Stories on a Second Sunday **The
Baltuck-Garrard Family Storytellers** will
celebrate Mother's Day with tandem tales of the
family, by the family and for the family. Third
Place Books , 6 pm.

May 14- Tellers Night Out **Alyson Neils** and
Elizabeth Shepherd share " Healing Stories"
All for Kids Bookstore, 7 pm.

May 26- **Mary Marguerite**, Stories & Tea
"Mothers"(see page5)

May 27- Ravenna Third Place **Anne
FitzGerald** tells "Mary Magdalene", "Jonah
"and " Cure for Hiccups". 7:30 pm

May 28-31 **Folklife!** (See page 3)

June

June 11- Tellers Night Out Annual Meeting
(very short), **Dessert Potluck, and old
fashioned Story Swap.** Come to tell, come to
listen, come to share the goodies. All for Kids
Bookstore, 7 pm.

June 13- Stories on a Second Sunday **Lenore
Jackson** tells "Stories for Cats and People Who
Love Them". Third Place Books, 6 pm.

June 19- Toga Party at Naomi Baltuck's. See
article below.

June 24- Ravenna Third Place **Camille
Wooden** and **Dawn Kuhlman** tell Stories for a
Summer Night 7:30 pm.

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

Ravenna Third Place

6505 20th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA
206-525-2347

Summer Issue Deadline is June 15, 2004.
**Newsletter articles and comments should
be directed to:**

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

Seattle Storyteller's Guild 2003 - 2004 Board

Co-Presidents: Pat Peterson 206-935-5308

Cherie Trebon 360-417-5031

Vice President - 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.

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

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First Class Mail