

# In The Wind

## Halloween Storytelling with Seattle Storytellers' Guild Members

### Seattle Storyteller's Guild Events:

- **Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. First Fridays at 7:00. See page 4 for details.
- **Haller Lake Storytelling Evenings**— Third Fridays at 7:30p. Details on page 5.
- **Auntmama's Storycorner** Last Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., at Madison Park Starbucks, Details on page 6 or www.auntmama.com

### Inside this issue:

- Once Upon a Time, Long Ago: Finding and Adapting Folk Tales Part I 2  
By Margaret H. Lippert
- Developing a One Person Show 3  
By Anne Rutherford
- An "It's a Small World" Story 3  
by Rebecca Kettwig
- Stories From The Heart: A Storytelling Circle at the Bridge 4
- Global Griot Radio 4
- Taking Care of Volunteers 5  
By Cherie Trebon
- Haller Lake Evenings 5
- Fall Calendar of Seattle Area Events 6
- Fall Calendar of Out of Town Events 7
- Forest Storytelling Festival 2014 8  
By Jay O'Callahan

Halloween is a busy time for storytellers everywhere. This year Seattle Storytellers' Guild members were among them.

The Renton Museum of History hosted a fun event the Saturday before Halloween. SSG member, Anne Rutherford told and sang stories, in "Tales That Go Bump in the Night." Not only did she tell us how she (and a friend) scared- really scared, her best friend in a cemetery, but she also taught us songs like "Skeleton Dance". She told one of the best 'vanishing hitchhiker' stories I've heard where the hitchhiker was helped down the road in the dark, dark night, riding double on a horse and she was never seen again after she dismounted. You should have been there to hear all those good stories!

By Ellin Huttel

Also on the Saturday before Halloween, Katherine Gee Perrone (SSG board member) entertained a good crowd of children gathered at the Haller Lake Community Club for their annual Halloween Party. While the back of the hall was filled with hustle and bustle of Halloween crafts and fun, Katherine guided the little ones through silly and light "spooky" stories to the delight of everyone listening. By NB

On October 30th, Norm Brecke (SSG secretary) was finishing up his Storytelling Club at Kenndale Elementary school in Renton. Brecke has taught an after school club at the school for 8 years. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students choose, learn, and perform a story in 7 weeks. This year the club's culminating "Spooky Story Night" was a huge success. Nearly 300 people came to hear Mr. Brecke and his students deliver chills and thrills. By NB

At Haller Lake, Hallows' Eve' was celebrated by the Seattle Storytellers as *El Dia de los Muertos*,--'The Day of the Dead', complete with appropriate decorations. In Mexico, the day is celebrated by remembering the dearly departed. In keeping with this theme, members brought and displayed photos and shared warm and meaningful stories of their

memories. Mary Anne Moorman regaled folks with a Day of the Dead romance that featured General Jubal Early. Patty Zeitlin told *Uncle Monarch* by Judy Goldman. The evening ended with more traditional scary/spirit tales in the Halloween tradition.

By Ellin Huttel

Halloween is a hectic season for storytelling. These are just a few of the great events that happened in October with some of our members.



(Left) Norm Brecke and youth tellers (clockwise) Guinevere Brecke, Jesi Barnes, Raphael Monserate, and Mikaela Rosario at Island Books. (Right) Katherine Gee Perrone entertains the crowd at the Haller Lake Community Club Halloween party.

This is a heartfelt effort to attempt to explain our appreciation for the years of storytelling provided by members of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild at Island Books.

Just over a year ago, early last November, Island Books celebrated its 40th anniversary. In the process of collecting old memorabilia, we came across storyteller fliers from the late 1980s and 90s, which easily could be from last spring featuring so many of the same talented storytellers from the Seattle Guild as are telling currently including Margaret Read McDonald, Pat Peterson and Meg Lippert. The Guild has monthly entertained Mercer Island children for over 30 years and every time is a fresh surprise. New tellers weave into the program each season and recently have included Norm Brecke and his troop of storytelling youth.

Earlier this month on All Saints Day they came well rehearsed and in costume to carry the wee ones into the strange and slightly creepy world of the dead. Raphael Monserate, 4th grade; Jesi Barnes and Mikaela Rosario, 6th grade; and Guinevere Brecke, 12 grade, were terrific. The masterful line up included jolly dancing, singing and vaudeville-like acts. With Anne Rutherford, Nancy Stewart and Norm Brecke keeping the spirit light, no one seemed to notice all the talk of severed body parts, it was pure magic. More and more often we have had these moments that seem to "stick to the walls" with a kind of spontaneity and alchemy that can only come from years of experience. Knowing that these young tellers are coming up the ranks assures Island Books of years of more storytelling to come and we are forever grateful to all of you at the Seattle Storytellers Guild for you and your craft.

Nancy Page, Owner, Island Books

## Once Upon a Time, Long Ago: Finding and Adapting Folk Tales Part I

By Margaret H. Lippert

With their rollicking language and universal themes, folktales and folklore (including myths, legends and tall tales) are perfect stories to tell in families, schools, libraries, hospitals, day care centers - wherever you have, or can create, a few quiet moments with children. Honed by years of telling and countless tellers, folklore deepens children's awareness of story structure and enriches their vocabulary while providing new perspectives on human behavior and cultures around the world, past and present. And... folktales are fun!

“Look for several versions of the folktale, read them all through, close the books, and create your own version.”

### Finding folktales

You probably know many folk tales without reference to printed sources - they are part of our shared oral tradition. However, when it comes to finding and learning folk tales to present, the task can seem daunting. You might begin by going to your public library and mining the 398.2 section - the mother lode of folktales and folklore. I focus on collections of stories by storytellers for storytellers. You can also research stories on-line. Using a search engine like Google, look up specific folklore subjects (e.g., “folktale lions”), themes (“folktale quest”), or geographical areas (“folktales africa”).

This will lead you to story texts and endless links to related sites with still more stories. Or browse in the children's section of bookstores to find newly published folktales.

### Storytelling etiquette

The thorny question of when to tell or not to tell another person's story has been beautifully clarified in a statement published in **A Beginner's Guide to Storytelling** (National Storytelling

Network, 2003). Specific versions of folktales told or published by an individual teller are “the teller's or author's copyrighted property” which may be told in informal settings. But “you must request the publisher's/author's permission if you tell another's story in a paid professional setting.” Of course, it is always common courtesy to credit the source of your story. You can avoid copyright infringement issues by finding multiple versions of a story and telling it your way. Various versions of stories are indexed in **The Storyteller's Sourcebook** by Margaret Read MacDonald and **The Storyteller's Sourcebook 2002 Supplement** by MacDonald and Brian W. Sutton. I enjoy dipping into these volumes, available in the reference section of public libraries.

### Why adapt folktales

You may find a story that seems perfect for your needs - if so, you're in luck. Learn it and tell it, remembering to get permission and give credit if you wish to tell the story verbatim. More likely, you'll come across a story that is *almost* perfect. It has elements that you like or need - a character, a plot element, connection with a specific culture or curriculum thread, or an underlying message you want to impart to your audience. But it is too long, too complex, or the language is too fussy. If it is a picture book, the language may be too sparse. In these cases you will have to adapt it. Look for several versions of the folktale, read them all through, close the books, and create your own version.

### The core of the story

Ask yourself what appeals to you about the story. This is the quality you will want to protect and preserve as you adapt the tale. Is it a feisty character? A rhythmic refrain? An important moral message? A particular cultural setting? Hang onto those elements. Make sure that as you adapt the story you don't change the very quality that attracted you to it in the first place.

“Excerpted from an article previously published in **TELLING STORIES TO CHILDREN: A National Storytelling Guide**, edited by Betty Lehrman (National Storytelling Press, 2005).”

Part 2 will be “In the Wind” this Spring

### In the Wind

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Writers & Contributors:

Cynthia Westby, Mary Desein, Patty Zeitlin, Ellin Huttel, Glenn McCauley, Judith Alexander, Anne Rutherford, Cherie Trebon, Nancy Page, Rebecca Kettwig,, Margaret H. Lippert, and Jay O'Callahan.

*In the Wind* is published quarterly by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art of storytelling. A one year subscription is included in guild membership.

Articles and comments should be directed to [normwilltell@gmx.com](mailto:normwilltell@gmx.com)

After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world.

**Phillip Pullman**

Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today.

**Robert McAfee Brown**

Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it.

**Hannah Arendt**



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## Developing a One Person Show *By Anne Rutherford*

Developing a one-person show helps storytellers hone performance skills and develop repertoire. The beauty of one-person shows is: it's all up to you! You choose the content and presentation. The challenge of one-person shows is: it's all up to you - to keep momentum going in rehearsal and performance. There are as many types of one-person shows as storytellers; is there one in your future? I am taking what I've learned in fifteen years of producing solo and group storytelling shows, and pouring it into a one-person Alice in Wonderland. Here are some tips I am keeping in mind as I develop my solo show.

### 1. Pick story material you want to spend a lot of time with, now and in the future.

You are going to be spending a lot of time thinking about the subject matter, during initial development but then also (ideally) as a piece you will continue to perform for a long time. Typical subject matter for one-person shows are personal life experience, historical people or incidents, or a classic fictional story. It's vital to develop a through-line (especially if you are working with personal stories) that will engage the audience. The next tip helps with that.

### 2. Develop a rehearsal schedule and feedback structure.

Even before you are sure of the through-line of your story, start getting

individual scenes or stories up and running for feedback from a preview audience you trust. The investment in hiring a professional director is almost always worth it - but for those of us who are cash-strapped, enlisting colleagues to be a focus audience can serve the same function. Develop your own support group to meet regularly and workshop the pieces with one another. Inviting colleagues from other disciplines can also be energizing - last January I

worked with a group to put on a collaborative show and our rehearsal workshops included perspectives from storytellers, dancers, actors and musicians. Beginning to rehearse scenes will help you

develop the through-line of the show and stay energized. It will also save you the heartbreak of previewing the full show and realizing you have to completely re-work it - the week before opening night!

### 3. Set a performance date and book the venue.

I am listing this third but really it should be first. NOTHING will galvanize you into action more than this. The way you do the premiere can be anything from a house concert in a friend's house to an affordable theater booked for multiple shows.

Because you are the sole performer drawing the audience, it also helps to partner with another entity to amp up the

publicity. In the past I have also worked with libraries and local historical societies to sponsor my shows by giving me a venue and publicity, and I do the performance at no charge to the public (or donation only.) In January I will debut my Alice's 1-Woman Wonderland, produced by Multnomah Arts Center as part of the 2015 PDX Fertile

Ground Festival of New Works. That's 16+ characters. I've previewed 2 scenes with six characters. More than ten to go. Better go work on developing that Caterpillar - anyone got a hookah I can borrow?

Anne debuts her **Alice's 1-Woman Wonderland** in Portland, Jan. 24, 25, 31 & Feb. 1— [www.fertilegroundpdx.org](http://www.fertilegroundpdx.org) or [www.annerutherford.com](http://www.annerutherford.com) for more details. Stay tuned for a Seattle show happening this spring!

### Want more storytelling news?

Judith Alexander sends out e-mail announcements generally on the Sunday before the first and third Fridays of each month. She will also forward items to the Seattle Storyteller's Guild webmaster Larry Hohm. Judith's e-mail address is [judith\\_tells@earthlink.net](mailto:judith_tells@earthlink.net).

Or visit our website for more news:

[seattletelling.org](http://seattletelling.org)

OR for yet MORE storytelling news, visit [seattletellersalliance.org](http://seattletellersalliance.org) a collaboration of several local storytelling groups, including the Seattle Storytellers Guild.

### An "It's a Small World" Story by Rebecca Kettwig

In October I visited my mom in Virginia. She lives in the southwest corner of the state, not far from Tennessee. So one of our outings was a trip to Jonesborough.

I've never been to the National Storytelling Festival, but I've heard about it from others: the many tents of storytellers, the many listeners, the excitement and hubbub. Now that I've seen the small town that is Jonesborough, I'm even more amazed by what they put on every year.

Mom and I went to hear Sheila Kay Adams tell stories, play banjo, and sing as part of the Teller-in-Residence program put on by the International Storytelling Center. Her story had us all chuckling, and her music set toes to tapping. The auditorium was intimate and full of story listeners on a Wednesday afternoon. The Storytelling Center puts on Teller-in-Residence performances from May through October, with occasional evening concerts, Saturday children's concerts, and

storytelling workshops. It's a great way to get a taste of Jonesborough storytelling without the full festival experience.

But about that small world. Before the concert we needed lunch, so we strolled the main street of Jonesborough and sought recommendations for a good restaurant. We made our choice, stepped inside ... and sitting right there facing the entrance was Mary Brugh! Mary's a former SSG secretary and remains an SSG member although she moved to Tennessee. Let me just say that I know a total of one person who lives in Tennessee. And there she was! (And she was looking well and happy, getting ready to set out on travels of her own.)

Hi again to Mary, this time through the newsletter. And may storytelling bring y'all many "small world" experiences of your own.

## \*Stories From The Heart\*

By Cynthia Westby



Host Cynthia Westby, President of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, has a passion for personal narratives evoking our remarkable, vivid moments when we became aware of something special, significant, mysterious, haunting. She can be contacted at [cynthia@cynthiawestby.com](mailto:cynthia@cynthiawestby.com) for more information. Please join our story circle - now in its fourth year! The Bridge Coffee House is located at 2150 North 122nd Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

The Bridge Story Circle is morphing into *Stories From The Heart!* To make this wonderful venue sustainable for the Bridge Coffee House we need to **ask each participant for a \$2 donation for the coffee house** (in addition to purchasing their delicious coffee and treats) to cover their cost of staying open for our storytelling over four hours past their closing time. Additionally, there will be a **theme each month** to stimulate finding and developing your stories before you come. We will begin each evening with a few **tips on developing and telling stories** to foster the ancient and intimate tradition of oral storytelling.

In this friendly, welcoming community for both listeners and tellers, tellers will have up to 8 minutes to tell stories relating profound personal experiences (or a wisdom myth that resonates for you) that have awakened an awareness of what is deeply meaningful or true for you. We will

gather on the **First Friday of each month from 7-9 pm at the Bridge Coffee House** to listen and tell stories. Please practice your stories before coming so you know the beginning, ending and heart of your story.

From an every day encounter with a loved one to an amazing epiphany during an unforgettable sunset, our heartfelt memorable experiences take us to dimensions of mystery, inspiration and wonder. These stories are exciting to hear and tell. **The themes of the winter Stories from the Heart circle will be:**

- "Moving From Darkness to Light"  
**December 5, from 7-9 pm**
- "Inspiring Change"  
**January 2, 2015, 7-9 pm**
- "Celebrating Mystery"  
**February 6, 2015, 7-9 pm**

## Global Griot Radio: stories and music from around the world

Live on the radio Sundays 9-11 a.m. **KSER 90.7FM** [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org) Hosted by Mary Dessein. Join Mary for these great live guests:

**Dec 14** - Nicola Griffith, award-winning author. My goodness, can she tell a story. Her versatility covers a broad spectrum. Her 2013 novel, *Hild*, is a captivating, lushly told story set in 7th century Britain. Listen up for this amazing visit [www.nicolagriffith.com](http://www.nicolagriffith.com)

**Dec 28** - **Kim Weitcamp**, popular storyteller, songwriter, and musician. She is heard regularly on NPR and Sirius Radio. She tickles your funny bone, reminds you of your childhood escapades, and warms your heart as you sigh, "Aaaah." She teaches workshops,

performs in schools and national Festivals, and is a sought after speaker. What a time we will have!

[www.kimweitcamp.com](http://www.kimweitcamp.com)

**Jan 4** - **Mary Buckham**. She is a best-selling author. She is also a respected and popular writing teacher. Writers Digest has picked up her Active Writing series. She is going across the country next year teaching Power Plotting Workshops, she's also published a dozen fiction novels. [www.marybuckham.com](http://www.marybuckham.com)

**Jan 18** - **Charlotte Blake Alston** is a master storyteller, teacher, singer, and musician. She breathes life into traditional and contemporary stories from Africa. She plays a variety of instruments including the mbira and kora. She has performed

with the Philadelphia Orchestra and at Carnegie Hall. Her storytelling has taken her around the world to festivals, schools, inaugural events, dance companies, and the PBS. [www.charlotteblakealston.com](http://www.charlotteblakealston.com)  
**Feb 1** - **William Dietrich**, award-winning novelist. Such a storyteller, non-fiction writer, and college professor. His historical novels and thrillers have made all kinds of best-seller lists. His Ethan Gage series, set in the Napoleonic wars, has been sold in 28 languages! This will be a lively show! [www.williamdietrich.com](http://www.williamdietrich.com)

You can hear the show for two weeks after initial broadcast by going to the webpage and clicking on Listen to Past Shows. **KSER 90.7FM** [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org)

### Interested in being a radio program host?

Mary Dessein is looking for recruits - her two radio storytelling compatriots, Aarene Storms & Jim Beidle, have retired from *Global Griot*. **KSER** is a local, community public radio station in downtown Everett. *Global Griot* is a unique live program of stories, music, live performers, the occasional musician, and the segment, 'Conversations with Writers,' as most

all writers are storytellers. Recent guests: Jay O'Callahan, Will Hornyak, Robert Dugoni, James Blaylock, Elizabeth Ellis, Diane Ferlatte, and David Holt.

Contact Mary if you have questions, interest, or wonderments: [marystories@hotmail.com](mailto:marystories@hotmail.com) 425-879-4650.

### Our Deepest Appreciation!

Thank you to Aarene Storms and Jim Beidle for their years of service to storytelling on the radio. Aarene had been hosting *Global Griot* with Jim and Mary Dessein for, some say, 20 years. Jim "Santa" Beidle started his "hiatus" from the show on November 16. Aarene will spend more time riding her horse and writing. Jim will continue his day job and moonlighting as one of Santa's informants. Of course they will still continue telling stories. We appreciate all that you have done and will continue to do for the storytelling community.

## Taking Care of Your Volunteers *By Cherie Trebon*

*Any organization that relies on the support of volunteers knows that everyone who gives of their time and talents is worth their weight in gold. Schools, art organizations, animal advocate groups, sport leagues, political organizations, and so many other organizations, depend in part, or entirely, on volunteers. For non-profit groups volunteers are literally the life-blood of the organization. These dedicated individuals are the unpaid and sometimes, sadly and inexcusably, the unsung heroes that enable the organization to exist and function well.*

*Having personally volunteered for numerous groups or causes since my teenage years, and having managed groups of volunteers, I know first-hand what makes for a great, or not so great, volunteer experience. Here are some tips to getting and retaining great volunteers. Recognize that not everyone has the time or inclination to volunteer on a regular basis. However nearly everyone is willing to support an organization occasionally. There are those who cannot be chairperson of an event or become a board member but are willing to usher, bring refreshments, take tickets, or do other one-time tasks. Be gracious if someone declines your request to help and don't take it personally. Ask whether he or she would be willing to help sometime in the future. Respect their answer and thank them for considering the*

request. Even if you don't get a volunteer, you earn good will for your organization by your courtesy.

Clarify what is expected. Be very clear with each volunteer as to what is being asked of him or her. It is dishonest and foolish to ask someone to volunteer for a job such as a board position and tell them, "You really don't need to do anything except come to a monthly meeting." Job descriptions and time commitment expectations need to be



clearly defined and there must be an understanding as to whether the volunteer will be reimbursed for expenses they incur. Some

organizations expect volunteers to contribute not only their time but also items such as transportation expenses, sundries, cost of refreshments, etcetera. This policy is sometimes necessary and fine as long as everyone is aware up front that this is the case.

Make sure that each volunteer has everything that he or she needs to be successful at the task assigned including additional volunteer support if necessary. For complicated tasks, or ones that go on for an extended period of time, a reporting mechanism needs to be in place so that the volunteer can check in periodically with a progress report.

Take time for fun. Volunteerism is not just about getting work done. It is also about making connections, interacting with others, and having fun. A surefire way to burn out volunteers is offering "all work and no play."

Let no volunteer go unappreciated.

Recognition of every volunteer's contribution is essential. In some cases a sincere 'thank you' is enough. Other times public recognition is more appropriate. For particularly critical tasks a small gift might be in order. It is vital to let volunteers know that their contribution, of whatever size, is important. "Perks" such as free admission to an event are always appreciated and don't require an outlay of cash. Some groups have an annual celebration event to which all volunteers are invited. If this fits into your organization's plans it is a very tangible way to honor your volunteers. Using the above suggestions might very well insure that your organization finds and keeps quality volunteers and might possible mean the difference between struggling to get needed tasks done, closing your doors due to lack of support, or having a viable organization with stress levels kept to a minimum.

*Cherie Trebon was the director of the Forest Storytelling Festival for many years as well as the coordinator of storytelling events at Northwest Folklife.*

## Haller Lake Friday Evenings

The Haller Lake 3rd Fridays Storytellings begin at 7:30. Coming up this winter are:

### **December 19: Holiday Potpourri of Stories and Dessert!**

Celebrate the holiday season in the great company of new and old Seattle Storytellers Guild friends! The evening will begin with Merna Hecht sharing a collection of very lively traditional Jewish stories which she will offer to celebrate Hanukkah, the Solstice and the sparkle of the whole season. Merna Ann Hecht is a storyteller, essayist, poet, teaching artist and recipient of the 2008 National Storytelling Network Brimstone Award for Applied Storytelling. She will ensure our evening sharing the joys and beauty of this season begins with a rich array of memorable tales. Please

bring your wondrous stories of the holiday and a scrumptious dessert to share for our annual holiday tradition of potluck desserts and stories for the Winter Solstice, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Christmas. Our story swap promises to warm your heart and kindle a lasting glow to carry you through the cold, dark nights of winter.

### **January 16: Personal True Stories**

A trio of regular tellers from Fresh Ground Stories (a story swap on Capital Hill) will be our "Spotlight Tellers" this evening. They will share moving, funny stories that happened to them. An open mic will follow.

### **February 20: I LOVE a good story!**

is the theme of the night. The "Spotlight Teller" will be SSG board member Katherine Gee Perrone. She is a spirited teller who will make you laugh and make you think if she wants to. She pulled off an amazing feat last Spring by telling the truth

at the Liar's Contest at Northwest Folklife and winning! Bring your own story to share after.

Friday Evenings at Haller Lake always have a break for visiting and enjoying snacks (provided). Donations for the featured teller and snacks are requested.

### **Getting to Haller Lake Community Club, 12579 Densmore Ave. N., Seattle**

From I-5 North •Take exit 174 (130th St.) west to Meridian.

From I-5 South •Take Exit 175 (145th St.) west to Meridian.

NOW- from either direction go south (left) on Meridian to 128th (Then west (right) on 128th; 1 block to HLCC.

From Aurora

•Turn east on 125th St. to Densmore.

•Go north (left) to HLCC at end of block.

By Metro Bus

•#346 goes right by HLCC.

## Fall Calendar of Seattle Area Events \*indicates Seattle Storytellers' Guild event

### December

**4, Moth Storyslam** doors open at 7:00 show starts at 8:00; Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Avenue N. Seattle, WA, \$16 premium, \$8 general admission, [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org) for tickets.

**\*5, Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme is "Moving from Darkness to Light" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

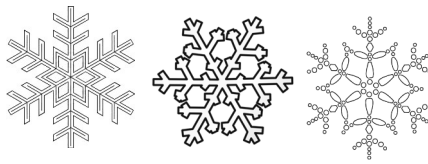
**6, Anne Rutherford** at Island Books 6:30 pm 3014 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040, free.

**9, A Guide To Visitors Live** "The Best Of..." 7:30 p.m. Theater Off Jackson 409 7th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104, \$10.

**11, Fresh Ground Stories** 7 p.m., Theme: "What doesn't kill you; Stories of making it" Roy Street Coffee & Tea, 700 Broadway E, Seattle, WA 98102, free. More info.- [www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories).

**\*19, SSG Dessert Potluck & Story Swap; Merna Hecht opens** at Haller Lake, donations welcome. See page 5

**25 Merry Christmas from Auntmama's Storycorner**, enjoy your holiday and please come next month.



### January

**1, Moth Storyslam** doors open at 7:00 show starts at 8:00; Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Avenue N. Seattle, WA, \$16 premium, \$8 general admission, [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org) for tickets.

**\*2, Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme is "Inspiring Change" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

**\*16, Personal True Stories** from a trio of tellers @ Haller Lake 7:30 Open mic follows HLCC, donations welcome. See page 5.

**17, Norm Brecke** tells at Ravenna Third Place Books 11 a.m., 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free.

**22, Fresh Ground Stories** 7 p.m., A themed story swap at Roy Street Coffee & Tea, 700 Broadway E, Seattle, WA 98102, free. More info.- [www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories).

**\*29 Auntmama's Storycorner**, 7–8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison, free.

### February

**5 Moth Storyslam** doors open at 7:00 show starts at 8:00; Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Avenue N. Seattle, WA, \$16 premium, \$8 general admission, [www.themoth.org](http://www.themoth.org) for tickets.

**\*6 Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme will be "Celebrating Mystery" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

**7 Norm Brecke** tells at Ravenna Third Place Books 11 a.m., 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free.

**7 Meg Lippert** at Island Books- 6:30 pm, 3014 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040, free.

**12 Grimm Love with Ingrid Nixon, Anne Rutherford, & Norm Brecke**, 7:30pm at the Couth Buzzard, 8310 Greenwood Ave. N. Seattle, WA, free but donations welcome.

**\*26 Auntmama's Storycorner**, 7–8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison, free.

**26, Fresh Ground Stories** 7 p.m., A themed story swap at Roy Street Coffee & Tea, 700 Broadway E, Seattle, WA 98102, free. More info.- [www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories).

### Ongoing Events: Check before you go! Details may change.

First and third Mondays: **Thrilling Tales: Storytelling for Grown ups** 12:05-12:50 at Microsoft Auditorium, Seattle Central Library, 1000 4th Ave. Seattle, free.

Fridays. **Children's Storytelling** at 3rd Place Books Lake Forest Park 10:00am 17171 Bothell Way NE, Seattle, WA, free.

Thursdays. **Maggie Bennett** leads songfests. 3 p.m., Aljoia, Mercer Island, free. [bennettmbh@yahoo.com](mailto:bennettmbh@yahoo.com)

Saturdays: **Children's Storytelling** at Ravenna Third Place Books, 11 a.m., 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, January –Nov. free.

First Tuesdays: **The Yarn Spinners** monthly story swap, 6pm 209 S Ruby St, Ellensburg, WA, free. Call 509-962-6347 with questions.

First Thursdays. **Moth StorySLAM** themed open mic. 8 p.m., Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Seattle, \$8. [themoth.org/events](http://themoth.org/events)

First Fridays. **Portland Storytellers Guild** Potluck and Story Swap 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Portland, OR, free.

First Fridays. **SSG Stories From the Heart Story Circle** (swap). 7 p.m. See page 4, \$2 donation suggested.

Second Mondays. **Fireside Story League** story circle and storytelling lesson, 6:30 pm Lakewood Library, free. Eileen 253-759-0941, Penny 253-265-2113, free.

Second Tuesdays, **Story People of Clallam County**, Sept.-June. 7:00 Raymond Carver Room, Port Angeles Library 2210 S. Peabody Street, free.

Second Wednesdays. **South Sound Storytellers Guild** Featured teller and open mike. 7 p.m., The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA, free

Third Mondays. **Stories at Fern**. 7:30 p.m., 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., \$5. Dates for Winter-December 8, January 19, February 16, [Victoriastorytellers.org](http://Victoriastorytellers.org)

Third Fridays. **Haller Lake Friday Evenings** 7:30 Story exchange and featured tellers rotating through the year at HLCC. More info see page 5.

Third Sundays. **Listen! Laugh! Enjoy!** Stories for grown-ups, Featured teller and open mike. 7 Vancouver, B.C., \$7. [vancouverstorytellers.ca](http://vancouverstorytellers.ca) Or [mary@marycelticstory.ca](mailto:mary@marycelticstory.ca)

Last Thursdays. **Auntmama's Storycorner**, 7–8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison, free.



### National Storytelling Conference

The National storytelling conference brings together National Storytelling Network (NSN) members, as well as individuals and organizations from the community, who are interested in the art and application of storytelling. In 2015 we will gather in America's heartland -- Kansas City, MO, the site of NSN's new home -- for our first hometown conference! Where our paths cross, we find and celebrate common ground; we examine our options and choose the next steps of our journey. Pathways provide opportunities to view new horizons and make new discoveries, explore new perspectives and make new connections... and find our way home.

<http://www.storynet.org/conference/>

# Fall Calendar of Out of Town Events

## December

**2 The Yarn Spinners present** “Winter & Holiday Tales” Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, free. Questions— Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347. free

**5 Portland Storytellers Guild** Potluck & Story Swap 6:30 - 8:30, Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Portland, OR, free.

**13 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Eric Foxman, John Dashney, Ingrid Nixon, Rob Luck**, at Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter from parking lot side of building), **Portland**, OR, \$8-\$10

**19, Storytelling concert by the van der Horsts, Frans and Kathy**, 7pm-9pm Portland Mennonite Church, 35th & SE Main, Portland, free and refreshments provided. Donations for international relief organization appreciated.

**19, Brian Rohr-** Honoring the Dark, Waking the Light: A Performance of Story and Myth; 7:30pm Hipbone Studio, 1016 SE 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97214 \$15.



### Local storytelling ON THE AIRWAVES

Sundays. **Global Griot**, KSER 90.7 FM or online at [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org), 9–11 a.m. To tell, call 425-303-9076 during show time or e-mail [marystories@hotmail.com](mailto:marystories@hotmail.com)

Sundays. **“Walkin’ the Floor”** with **Storyteller Auntmama**, KBCS 91.3 FM, 8:30 a.m.

Sundays. **The Storytelling Show**, Vancouver Co-op Radio, CFRO 102.7 FM or [www.coopradio.org](http://www.coopradio.org), 9–10 p.m. [thestorytellingshow.com](http://thestorytellingshow.com)

Saturdays. **Prairie Home Companion**, KUOW 94.9 FM 3-5 p.m.

**Employer matching funds?** Check if your employer will match your SSG membership donation.

**Find us on Facebook.** Be a fan, get updates, join discussions.

**Professional memberships** include guild membership and a listing on the Performing Tellers section of the guild website. Join with the form on page 9 or at [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org). You’ll be contacted for details for your web listing.

## January

**2 Portland Storytellers Guild** Potluck & Story Swap 6:30 - 8:30, Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Portland, OR, free.

**6 The Yarn Spinners present** “New Beginnings” Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, free. Questions— Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347. free

**17 Workshop** From Page to Stage with Alton Chung, 9-11 am Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave **Portland**, OR \$15-\$20 More? Visit [www.portlandstorytellers.org](http://www.portlandstorytellers.org)

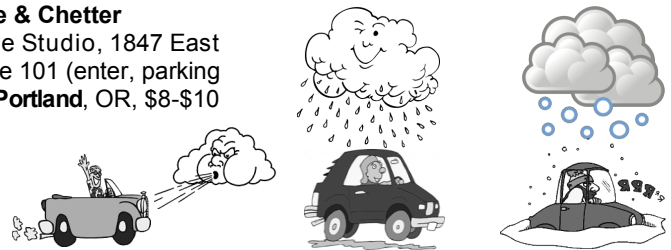
**10 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Anne Rutherford, Pam Maben, Leslie Slape & Chetter Galloway** at Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter, parking lot side of building), **Portland**, OR, \$8-\$10

## February

**3 The Yarn Spinners present** “Happy Anniversary” Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, free. Questions— Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347. free

**6 Portland Storytellers Guild** Potluck & Story Swap 6:30 - 8:30, Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Portland, OR, free.

**14 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Anne Penfound, Janet Liu, Holly Robison, & Julie Strozyk** at the Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter from parking lot side of building), **Portland**, OR, \$8-\$10



**To join the SSG** You can fill out the form below and send it to:  
**Seattle Storytellers Guild**  
 P.O. Box 45532  
 Seattle, WA 98145-0532  
 Or go to [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org) Click on “Join Now” at the top of the page, from there you can join or renew online using PayPal By clicking the “Pay Now” button or you can print and mail the form with a check.

## Seattle Storytellers Guild

### Membership Form

Circle one: New member *or* Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$25/year \_\_\_\_ \$70/3 years \_\_\_\_

Family \$35/year \_\_\_\_ \$85/3 years \_\_\_\_

**Professional Membership \$75/year \_\_\_\_**  
**(SSG membership plus Web listing)**

**Additional tax-deductible contribution** \_\_\_\_\_

OK to share your data with National Storytelling Network? name only \_\_\_\_ e-mail too \_\_\_\_



# Forest Storytelling Festival 2014 by Jay O'Callahan

Linda (Jay's wife) and I have just returned from the Forest Storytelling Festival in Port Angeles in western Washington state; a great festival! I got to tell lots of Pill Hill stories but more important I got to hear four superb storytellers: Jill Johnson, Mary Gay Ducey, Tim Tingle, and Bryan Bowers.



up to me and said, "My brother and I have grown up with your stories. We know every word. We love *The Minister of Others' Affairs*."

Isn't that what any artist, any person, wants, some sense that his or her work has been important to another?

Used with permission from Jay O'Callahan's November newsletter. [www.ocallahan.com](http://www.ocallahan.com)

Jill Johnson took a historical figure and told her story so vividly we in the audience were in the 1800s settling the land. We felt the heat, the dust, the joy and the struggle. Jill uses space beautifully and has a vast range of stories. Tim Tingle tells with a grace of a dancer and gives us an insight to the lives and souls of Oklahoma Choctaws. Tim is an extraordinary writer. Tim's books are written with great sensitivity and beauty. You'll love his books. Bryan Bowers is a thunderstorm of a man, his playing

on the autoharp is glorious as is his poetry! Bryan opens doors inside us and lets a light in. Mary Gay Ducey takes a moment of ordinary life and makes it universal. She is a sculptor with words, images and characters. One of Mary Gay's stories ends with a young woman dancer whose future is uncertain. Mary Gay tells so well I am haunted by that dancer and hope all goes well for her. Four wonderful artists. One small moment meant a great deal to me. A young woman came



Linda & Jay O'Callahan on Hurricane Ridge near Port Angeles

Photo by Jill Johnson

## *In the Wind*

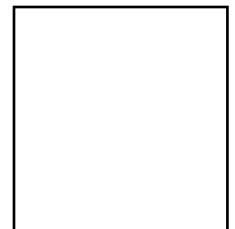
*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

P.O. Box 45532

Seattle, WA 98145-0532



[www.seattlestorytelling.org](http://www.seattlestorytelling.org)



**First Class Mail**