

# In The Wind

## 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 7:30pm Details on pgs 4 & 5.
- **Auntmama's Storycorner** Last Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., at Madison Park Starbucks, Details on page 6 or [www.auntmama.com](http://www.auntmama.com)

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## Earth Day Storytelling, 2015: The Tradition Continues

By John Wasko

Every April for oh so many years, the Seattle Storytellers Guild has helped to celebrate Earth Day with a storytelling event. This will be our 10th! For the fourth time, we will again be gathering at the Duwamish Longhouse with both Native and non-Native tellers. Mark your calendars now for this free event, Sunday, April 19th, at 2pm.

Last year's Earth Day Storytelling at the Duwamish Longhouse was quite wonderful. / Paul Cheoketen Wagner, Allison Cox, and Blake Shelafoe delighted and moved us with their well-told tales.

And there was more:

inspired by the original story told by Blake, students at the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center painted a 210' mural about the history of the Duwamish River. And then there was documentary film made about the painting of the mural! You never know how far a good story will go. Check it out: ([youngstownarts.org/support/awaken-delridge](http://youngstownarts.org/support/awaken-delridge)) Look for the "Awaken: Community through Art" video. )

This year looks to be every bit as exciting. World-class storyteller Gene Tagaban will be telling (find out more about Gene at [storytellingraven.com](http://storytellingraven.com)). I guess you can rightly call someone world-class, when he has performed before the Dalai Lama of Tibet and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Gene has entertained audiences at storytelling events around the country including the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee. His ancestors are Tlingit, Cherokee, and Pilipino, and he honors all



Gene Tagaban poses with Raven.

of his traditions. He is one of those amazing tellers who creates an indelible memory every time you hear him. If you have seen him tell in full regalia as the raven dancer, you know what I am talking about. Joining him will be our own Aunt Mama, Mary Anne Moorman ([auntmama.com](http://auntmama.com)). Our former Guild president, and transplant from Windy Gap, Virginia, Mary Anne has that uncanny knack for telling homespun stories that always go a little deeper to reveal things in a new way. Never shy about sharing a point of view, she always serves it up deliciously, southern style. You'll find yourself wanting second helpings. You can hear her stories regularly on KBCS-fm radio and at Starbucks in Madison Park the last Thursday evening of every month.

We will also have James Rasmussen, Duwamish tribal member and director of the Duwamish River Cleanup

Coalition [duwamishcleanup.org](http://duwamishcleanup.org) on hand to give us a brief update on efforts to clean the Duwamish River, the federally designated toxic superfund clean-up site in our own back yard. John Wasko will again act as master of ceremonies. Tasty refreshments will be on hand.

This is a free event, but donations are always welcome. Some years we have been able to secure grant funding to help with the cost: other years not. We are still in process regarding grants for this year's event, but the Guild's Board of Directors have made the commitment to hold this event with or without outside funding. So come, be inspired, delighted, and moved. Be a part of the celebration. Join the fun, and bring a friend. You'll both be glad you did.

Earth Day Storytelling  
Sunday, April 19th, 2pm-4pm  
The Duwamish Longhouse and  
Cultural Center  
4705 West Marginal Way SW  
Seattle, WA 98106

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

By Margaret H. Lippert

This is the conclusion of an article we began last month on finding and adapting folktales. Look in last quarter's issue of "In the Wind" for information on finding, adapting, respecting the origins of the story, and preserving what drew you to the story in the first place.

### A once over

Tell the story aloud - to yourself, to your pet, or to the wall. Note places where you are captivated and places where you are bored. Sometimes the language will bog down. Other times the action moves too slowly. Or the setting is described in too much length. Condense portions that seem to drag.

### A detailed look at the plot

List the major scenes. Ask yourself if they follow a clear pattern. If there are scenes that seem tangential, try eliminating or condensing them to improve the flow of the action. If the conflict and resolution aren't clear, you may need to embellish a scene or two.

### Checking out the characters

Chances are, one or more of the characters in the story you chose appealed to you. Identify which qualities of the characters are engaging and infuse your telling with these qualities. You may wish to add gestures, language, or movement to convey a sense of wiliness, sloth, or wisdom.

### Playing with language

I look for stories that have rhythmic language

patterns, like "Fee Fi Fo Fum". If there is dancing in a story, I often add words and/or a tune. When I tell a story about a dancing turtle who plays the flute, I play a bamboo flute and repeat the tune throughout the story. One of our Dan stories from Liberia has a repeated song:

Kokoloko,  
Dukoloko,  
Chay, chay, chay.

Students love rhythmic language and stories with this element are often favorites of theirs. You may hear them chanting story refrains in the classroom or on the playground. Some may incorporate story language in their own writing.

### Infusing your story with humor

Most, but not all, stories benefit from humor. I capitalize on any explicit or implicit humor I find in stories, whether it is word play, funny characterizations, unexpected events, or ridiculous turns of plot. If there are places you can insert humorous elements, try them. They may fall flat, but they may become treasured moments of your told story. As you are telling, too, you may be inspired to add entertaining language or gestures. I've discovered many funny punch lines while retelling familiar stories.

### Clarifying the setting

In your focus on plot, character, language and humor, remember setting. If your listeners cannot root your story in a physical location, you may lose them. I find this element is often missing from folktales in collections, yet it is

important to hunt down and share clues that will let your listeners know where and when the story takes place. They don't need long descriptions, but mentioning a palm tree or a blackberry bush will help them to relax into the setting and join you in the imagined story place. See Judith Black's article on "Culture Sensitivity" for tips on respecting a story's culture.

### Anchoring the story

Amid all your tinkering with the story, remember the underlying story message. Is it about overcoming pain, about dealing with adversity, about hope, about caring? After I have adjusted the story for the elements listed above, I always ask myself, "Did I retain the heart of the story?"

### Onward!

Finding, developing and telling folk tales is a great way to invigorate yourself and your students. When I was a classroom teacher, in addition to the weekly stories I told related to the curriculum, I also told a folk tale at 3:00 every Friday to send students off for the weekend with a story gift. Parents, teachers, and childcare workers have an eager audience and a multitude of opportunities to tell folk tales for fun and for learning. So, go for it. "Once upon a time, long ago...."

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

### *In the Wind*

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

Summer issue deadline: May15

## Class Offered *You Can Tell Stories*

I've heard it said that we are hard-wired for storytelling. If that is true, then we all can learn to do it. Join us for a supportive class where you can learn and practice developing your oral storytelling technique. Whether you want to use storytelling in your work or for personal enjoyment, we'll flex our story muscles through class exercises, writing, and small group work. Suggestions for finding stories will be covered. Optional field trips to local events will be entertained. Susy Irwin is your instructor. She has been telling stories for over 20 years.

The class will meet at North Seattle College (room TBA) from 7:00PM to 9:00PM on Tuesdays. Dates 4/14/15 to 4/28/15 (3 sessions). Tuition \$55.00. Maximum class size=12. Phone 206-784-0704, or <https://continuinged.northseattle.edu/courses/you-can-tell-stories>. Or [www.learnatnorth.org](http://www.learnatnorth.org)

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## Telling Personal True Stories

Notes from a talk with **Paul Currington** of *Fresh Ground Stories*

I've been hosting the Fresh Ground Stories (FGS) program at Roy Street Coffee and Tea since 2010 and producing it since 2012. We started out as a MothUP group and it turned into its own thing when the Moth formally came to Seattle. At least half the audience every month is new and it's great to see all these people discover storytelling. Here are some of the guidelines I give people for the show:

1. The story should mean something to you. If you aren't really invested in the story the audience won't be either. People are looking for stories that tell us something about you. Your investment in honesty helps you and the listener. Not every story has a moral but there should be something in there that tells us why the story is important to you and maybe how it's shaped your life or your beliefs. It doesn't have to be serious. Funny stories can be just as meaningful as sad ones.
2. At FGS we keep our stories under 8 minutes. Editing is a good thing. We used to go 10 but since we moved to 8 the quality has improved and we've been able to get more people onstage. We run from 7:00-8:30 and I try to end it on time.
3. No notes onstage. I know the storyteller's guild frowns on notes and I agree. I tell people it's always better to tell the story naturally. Practice in the

living room, the car, the bathroom, wherever. Tell it to friends and family, or that guy on the bus. Whatever it takes to remember it.

4. A story needs a beginning, middle and an end. Sometimes I think I have a story but it turns out it's just a collection of memories and a feeling. I usually figure this out when I practice out loud. There's something about practicing out loud that makes it easier to tell when something isn't working or doesn't make sense.

5. Write from your scars not your wounds. I heard that from a Lutheran minister in Denver but it applies to telling personal stories. If your story still makes you angry then you should let it sit for a while. Angry stories turn into rants or speeches and that's not what anyone is really looking for at a storytelling show.

6. Know your last line first. The best advice I ever got for storytelling was to know the last line of your story before you start telling it. The last line should be something that wraps everything up and gives the story meaning.

7. At our show sharing is more important than performing. Don't worry about the performance. Tell the story as if you were in the living room with friends.

8. Great stories come from a place of humility and vulnerability. That doesn't mean they can't be funny and lighthearted. Most of the stories at FGS

are very funny but they're more self-deprecating than what you hear at a comedy show.

9. If you put some thought into it you can tell a story about almost any subject. Choose your words carefully. I tell folks to tread carefully on stories with dirty words or sexy subject matter. Use a euphemism when possible. Some euphemisms have turned into great laughs. Tread carefully and respect the whole audience. There are ways to tell those stories but it takes a lot of thought and nuance and the version you tell your buddies at the BBQ is not the version FGS is looking for.

I try to make the show as accessible to everyone as possible. FGS is a story swap where names are pulled randomly. Everyone who wants to tell a story puts their name in the Mr. Coffee Carafe. I use different colored papers for 1<sup>st</sup> timers and veterans. I try to get as many first timers on stage as possible. I alternate between first-timers and people who have told before. This has worked well to mix things up and find new people.

I'm not a professional storyteller so take my advice with a grain of salt. I try to keep the show as casual as possible while still making everyone use a microphone.

*Paul Currington lives in Olympia. He will tell stories from a few of his scars at the Haller Lake Community Club on March 20 at 7:30 for the Seattle Storyteller's Guild.*

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

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

## Powellwood Garden Storytelling Festival

### SAVE THE DATE! July 24 & 25

Monte & Diane Powell along with festival director Margaret Read MacDonald are excited to announce the Fourth Annual Powellwood Garden Storytelling

Festival is coming July 24-25, 2015 in Federal Way, Washington.

This year the tellers are Antonio Rocha, Kevin Kling, Motoko, Lyn Ford, and Donald Davis. With Antonio's mesmerizing mime, Motoko's delightful Japanese tales, Lyn's heart-warming Appalachian stories, Kevin's humorous personal tales, and Donald's inimitable life tales, we should have a great time! Saturday will include 7 hours of telling, from 10-5, in three beautiful gardens. Storytellers and story lovers from all over the country are asking about this wonderful yearly event. Admission for Saturday is \$20



for adults and \$30 for a family pass.

On Friday the festival will offer three workshops: Kevin Kling will offer Chicken Soup for the Chicken: *Stories of Healing* from 9:00am to 12 noon for \$60. Antonio Rocha will teach Transitions

in Eloquence from 1:00 to 3:30pm for \$55. Donald Davis has a Personal/Family Story Intensive from 9:00am - 3:30pm for \$115. Tea with the Tellers on Friday is a unique experience only offered at the Powellwood Garden Storytelling Festival. Participants sip tea and rub elbows with the featured tellers and friends to debrief or just talk story. This affair is available for \$15. A pass for the whole festival, Friday (Kevin & Antonio or Donald's intensive workshop) and Saturdays wonderful day of stories. See website for more information and to register: <http://powellwoodfestival.com>



## Stories From The Heart

By Cynthia Westby

The Bridge Coffee House *Stories From The Heart* continues this Spring on the first Friday of every month from 7-9 pm. This magical evening of stories invites you in from the moment you step into our welcoming, friendly community. Whether you come to tell a story or listen you will be surrounded by great stories. The themes we offer each month are intended to stimulate finding and developing your stories. If your story doesn't fall within the theme you are still welcome! We begin each evening with a few tips on telling stories to foster the ancient and intimate tradition of oral storytelling.

Tellers will have up to 8 minutes to tell either a personal story or folk tale. Please practice your stories before coming so you know the beginning, ending, and core of your story. In addition to purchasing a warm

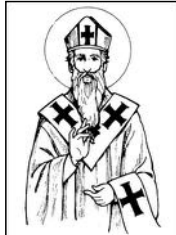
cup of coffee and treats we ask each participant to donate \$2 to the Bridge to cover their cost of staying open for our storytelling over four hours past their closing time.

The themes of the spring *Stories from the Heart* circle will be:

**St. Patrick's Day Fever**  
**March 6, from 7-9 pm**

**Transformation and Rebirth**  
**April 3, 2015, 7-9 pm**

**May Day Memories**  
**May 1, 2015, 7-9 pm**



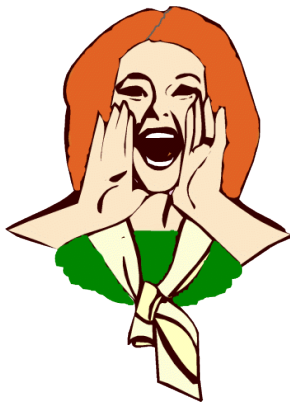
Host Cynthia Westby, President of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, has a passion for personal narratives evoking encounters with mystery. She can be contacted at [cynthia@cynthiawestby.com](mailto:cynthia@cynthiawestby.com) for more information. We look forward to your joining our story circle - now in its fourth year! The Bridge Coffee House is located at 2150 North 122nd Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

## Calling for New Board Members

Would you like to help preserve storytelling as an art form? Do you want to encourage new storytellers? Create opportunities? Want to be proud of making a contribution to a worthy cause? Wonderful!

Do you like planning special events - are you a great host or hostess? Do you have a talent for publicity? Do you have ideas about new and different venues for storytelling events? Do you love to edit and write? Would you like to meet other people dedicated to storytelling, including internationally known tellers? Fabulous!

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions please consider joining the Seattle Storytellers Guild board! We will be voting for new board members at our annual June meeting on June 19, from 6:00-9:30 pm at Haller Lake Community Club. The annual meeting starts with a potluck dinner of dishes coming from countries you might have a great story to share about. Qualifications for Board members include a love of storytelling,



good ideas, enthusiasm and willingness to plunge in and make it all happen! Previous board experience is not required. To be considered for a position you just need to be an active member of the Seattle Storytellers Guild. You can renew or become a member now to be considered for the board. The main positions on the board are President, Secretary, Treasurer, and

Membership Director. These positions are vital to the running of the Seattle Storytellers Guild. Other key positions are Vice President, Publicity, and Special Events of Volunteer Coordinators.

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 attend a board meeting once a month.

Interested? Please send an e-mail to Cynthia Westby, the current president of the Guild; [cynthia@cynthiawestby.com](mailto:cynthia@cynthiawestby.com), indicating your interest and your choice of board position.

## Haller Lake Evenings

3rd Fridays, 7:30-9:30  
At Haller Lake Community Club

The Guild continues 2015 with a variety of highlighted tellers; some long time favorites and some relatively unknown at Haller Lake Community Club.

One little-known storyteller to Guild supporters is Paul Currington. This may be remedied when he is the featured teller at Haller Lake March 20. The theme will be "Let's Get Personal." Paul is a member but lives in

Olympia, so he doesn't make it to many events up in Seattle.

He first arrived to us at a few story swaps back in 2010. Paul spoke like a true bard. He told funny, high stakes stories to a small group in the back of the Couth Buzzard. Around the same time, Paul started attending a storytelling meet-up group at Roy Street Coffee and Tea. He ended up volunteering as a host and has been producing the show called Fresh Ground Stories on his own since 2012. Paul's personal, true stories will make us think, laugh, and maybe even gasp a little, but you'll leave with a smile. Norm Brecke will be the emcee that evening. There will be a short break after Paul tells and a chance for a few people to tell a personal story of 8 minutes or less to end the evening.

April 17, the theme at Haller Lake will be; "Every Day is Earth Day." **Eaglesong** will be in the spotlight to share some stories from the earth and her garden with us. She is a delightful soul who truly celebrates our Earth every day. There will be an extended open mic after Eaglesong educates us with a smile. We will break for snacks but try to get as many 8 minute or less stories or songs in as people can tell before the end of the evening.

May 15 a long time favorite member of the Guild, **Allison Cox**, will perform **The Princess in Disguise**; An adventure story of a many gendered hero! This will be a fundraiser for the guild and there is more information about the evening on page 5.

Snacks and tea are provided. Donations for featured teller & nibbles appreciated.



## Guild Fundraiser!

Distinguished Guild member **Allison Cox** is doing a special performance at the Haller Lake Community Club on Friday, May 15 at 7:30. She will perform **The Princess in Disguise**; An adventure story of a many gendered hero! Allison invites you to meet wizards, witches, giants, cursing monks, talking horses, an emperor, and a princess who disguises herself as a prince, only to fall in love with the fairest woman of all! Throughout her 33 years as a storyteller Ms. Cox has woven threads of social justice and themes of understanding through her tales. When Allison came upon **The Princess in Disguise**, she knew this was a story that needed to be shared! Allison Cox edited and contributed to **The Healing Heart** books. This story will begin the upcoming **The Wind Move the Porch Swing**; A Collection of Women's Wisdom by Northwest Women Writers to be published in 2015. Ms. Cox is a co-founder and current coordinator of the Healing Story Alliance and co-edits their E-journal, *Diving In The Moon*. She lives in the woods of Vashon Island with her 4 and 2 legged family. Allison Cox is offered this as a fundraiser for the Seattle Storyteller's Guild. Our 3rd Friday at Haller Lake will be free as always but donations would be much appreciated.

### 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.

## Fanning the Embers 2015

"Tradition does not mean guarding the ashes, but **fanning the embers**." Ben Franklin.

For storytellers in the northwest Fanning the Embers Retreat, held April 17 -19 this year, provides an opportunity to gather informally to share successes and frustrations, dreams and nightmares. Ask questions and tell of our aspirations. And share stories! Lots of stories! Cherie Trebon writes, "I have personally attended this event several times and highly recommend it, as it is a great opportunity for storytellers of all levels to

be in a relaxed, sharing and caring environment." Fanning the Embers has become a northwest storytelling tradition. Sponsored each year by South Sound Story Guild, this year the retreat is a NSN Regional Spotlight Event sponsored by NSN & Parkhurst Brothers Inc. Publishers. It is held at St. Andrews Retreat House, Hood Canal, Union, WA. To find out more or register visit the website at [www.Fanningtheembers.org](http://www.Fanningtheembers.org) or email Rebecca Hom at [backroadsteller@gmail.com](mailto:backroadsteller@gmail.com)

## Pitching a Story to NPR's Snap Judgment

Hello storytellers, I'm Ana Adlerstein. So you have a good story and you want to pitch it to air on NPR's Snap Judgment. We are always looking for great live stories. We love good stories, and we love to help people tell their stories, but how does a story go from an idea to being on the radio. It all starts with the pitch. That tells us what your vision is for your story and whether it's good for Snap.

Why should you go through the trouble of pitching? Well, first there's the fame (we broadcast to over a million listeners a week), and then there's the cash money (we pay \$95 bucks a minute).

We can consider any prerecorded story from any show apart from The Moth. I'm also always available to talk through stories you've not yet recorded so that when you do go to perform them they are Snapstastic. Generally, Snap stories need to be action packed, unique/novel and have high stakes.

Here are our current list of themes:

### Lord of the Flies

A story in which any group of people (adults, kids, dogs) find themselves stuck together for whatever reason and things go south. Think classrooms, summer camps, business conferences, family reunions, lifeboats, and — yes — deserted islands.



### The Peerage

Stories that take place in (or on the periphery of) an elite circle. The House of Lords, Skull & Bones, the first 50 Google employees, the cool

clique at school. Stories about being inducted (or kicked out of) of a special world. Stories about people who think they're special and learn that they're not, or vice-versa. Stories of people who want in ... or out.

### Any Really Good Story

Remember, the themes are there just to get your mind churning. If you have a good story that doesn't fit one of these themes (or even fits a theme that already aired!), we're going to help you produce it anyway, because we want it on our show ASAP.

Before submitting your pitch, head on over to [www.snapjudgment.org/pitches](http://www.snapjudgment.org/pitches) just to double check that it's really the type of story we're interested in, and then email a written description along with a link to the story (if it's already recorded) to: [performers@snapjudgment.org](mailto:performers@snapjudgment.org). Thanks in advance!

<http://www.npr.org/programs/snap-judgment/>

Global Griot: Stories and Music from Around the World has aired live on KSER 90.7 FM [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org) for 16 years.

Sadly, March 29 will be the last live broadcast. Starting either the first or second week of April, Mary will be do "Conversations" segments. *Global* will be revamped for one hour and will not be broadcast in the regular line-up on KSER. Instead they will be put on the SoundCloud, accessible from the KSER webpage. Mary will pre-produce a couple 3 minute 'short spots' to be aired during the week prior to describe what her show that week will be. At the end of the 'short spot' will be the info on how to find the show/podcast. The info will also be on Mary's website, [www.marydessein.com](http://www.marydessein.com).

## Changes Afoot for Global Griot



*Global* revamped also means a new name. Mary is open to ideas - please feel free to send her any you may have!

Mary invites all who want to tell live in the broadcast studio on Sunday March 22 please wander up to Everett and for a big blowout on March 29! The address is 2623 Wetmore Ave, Everett 98201. Reach Mary at [Mary@kser.org](mailto:Mary@kser.org), [marystories@hotmail.com](mailto:marystories@hotmail.com) or 425-879-4650.

Bill Harley has signed on for one of these, but catching him in one place long enough is a

challenge! Upcoming writers include Bernadette Pajer, Erica Bauermeister & Tracy Wilen, PhD.

## Storytelling at NW Folklife Festival

Folklife festival is just around the corner. The Guild will be there but organizers are still piecing together the schedule. **The times & locations of these programs are probable but not certain:**

**\*Roots: The Stories that Make Us**, Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Folklife Café, 4-6

**\*Shake It Up Stories:** Stories for the Whole Family: Discovery Zone Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 11-Noon

**\*The WORLD famous LIAR'S Contest:** Folklife Café, Saturday, May 25 8-10 Sign ups will be at 6:00 at the entrance lobby to the Folklife Café. (8 min. limit)

**\*Ghost Stories** – Possibly Center Theatre, Sunday, May 24th 8-10

**\*Moving Tales:** From Folks to Fiction, Folklife Café, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8PM.



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

## March

**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.

**5, Defeating Racism Today** a discussion with **Eva Abram** 6:30pm, NW African American Museum, S Mass. St & 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, **free parking**, [www.naamnw.org](http://www.naamnw.org)

**\*6, Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme is "St. Patrick's Day Fever" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

**7, Nancy Stewart** at Island Books 6:30pm 3014 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA free.

**\*20, World Storytelling Day; Paul Currington** tells personal stories as featured teller at Haller Lake, Open mic follows, donations welcome. See page 4.

**21, Norm Brecke** at Ravenna 3rd Place Books **11am**, 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free.

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

**26, Fresh Ground Stories** 7pm Storyswap 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).

## April

**2, 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.

**\*3, Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme is "Transformation and Rebirth" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

**4, Norm Brecke** at Ravenna 3rd Place Books **11am**, 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free.

**4, Norm Brecke** at Island Books **6:30pm** 3014 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA free.

**\*17, Earth Day Every Day** spotlight teller is **Eaglesong** @ Haller Lake, 7:30 Open mic follows, donations welcome. See page 4.

**\*19, Earth Day Storytelling Concert-** 2pm **Gene Tagaban & Auntmama** will tell! Duwamish Longhouse, 4705 West Marginal Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106, More on Pg 1, free.

**23, Fresh Ground Stories** 7pm. Storyswap 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).

**\*30 Auntmama's Storycorner**, 7–8:15 pm, Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison, free.

## May

**\*1 Stories From the Heart** at the Bridge Coffee House. Theme will be "May Day Memories" (story exchange). 7p.m. See page 4. \$2 donation suggested.

**2 Pat Peterson** at Island Books- 6:30 pm, 3014 78th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA, free.

**7 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.

**9, Norm Brecke** at Ravenna 3rd Place Books **11am**, 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, free.

**\*15, The Princess in Disguise; Allison Cox** tells an adventure story of a many gendered hero! @ Haller Lake, 7:30 open mic follows, Guild Fundraiser donations very welcome. See page 5 for more info.

**\*22-25, Northwest Folklife Festival** Various Locations at Seattle Center. Stories, Lies, Thrills, Chills & Merriment! Pg 5 for more.

**\*28 Auntmama's Storycorner**, 7–8:15 p.m., Starbucks at Madison Park, 4000 E. Madison, free.

**28, Fresh Ground Stories** 7pm. Storyswap 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).



## 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/>

## 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 Senior Center, 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. [www.themoth.org/events](http://www.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. More info. See page 4

Second Mondays. **Fireside Story League of Tacoma** story circle & lesson, 6:30 pm Please go to [www.firesidestoryleague.org](http://www.firesidestoryleague.org) & click Newsletter for location. 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 4.

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.

## Spring Calendar of Out of Town Events

### March

**3 The Yarn Spinners** present **World Storytelling Day** "Wishes" Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, 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.

**6 Norse Tales** by **Barbara Fankhauser** 7:30 pm Portland State University's Cramer Hall Room 171.

**7 Urban Tellers** at Alberta Abbey, 8pm, 126 NE Alberta Avenue, Portland. Tickets \$15 advanced, \$18 at door, 21 and over. [portlandstorytheater.strangertickets.com/Home](http://portlandstorytheater.strangertickets.com/Home)

**14 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Gretchen Peterson, Sam Butler, Rebecca Hom, Patrick Gannon**, at Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter from parking lot side of building), Portland, OR, \$8-\$10

**21 Workshop** Jumpstarting a journal for Regular Storytelling Practice with Avery D. Hill & Joy Corcoran, 9-11 am Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave **Portland**, OR \$15-\$20 More info? Visit [www.portlandstorytellers.org](http://www.portlandstorytellers.org)

**29 American Tales** Eric Foxman **3:30 pm** a benefit for Milwaukie Community Club Building 10666 SE 42nd Avenue, Milwaukie, OR 97222 Donation \$12.50.

### April

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

**7 The Yarn Spinners** present "Personal/Family Stories" Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, Questions— Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347. FREE

**11 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Norm Brecke, Frans van der Horst, Howard Adler & Steven Henegar** at Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter, parking lot side of building), Portland, OR, \$8-\$10

**17-19 Fanning the Embers** storytelling retreat on the Hood Canal. For more info see page 5 or learn more & register at [www.fanningtheembers.org](http://www.fanningtheembers.org).

**18 Yarn Spinners Free Family Event** in Ellensburg with **Anne Rutherford**.  
10:30-11:15 Telling at Hal Holmes Center.  
11:45-1:00 Book signing of *Who Are You in Wonderland?* at Jerrol's bookstore.  
2:00-3:45 Workshop at Holmes Center.  
Must Preregister for workshop at Children's Desk at Library or call Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347.  
4:00 Stories with workshop participants & Anne.  
ALL EVENTS FREE



### May

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

**5 The Yarn Spinners** present "Round Robin Stories" Spin a yarn, tell a tale, share a story, 6:00 pm 209 S Ruby St, **Ellensburg**, WA, Questions— Elaine Bleggi 509-962-6347. FREE

**9 Portland Storytellers' Guild** Monthly Concert with **Rick Huddle, Thomas Schroyer, Brianna Barrett, & Brian Rohr** at the Hipbone Studio, 1847 East Burnside Street, Suite 101 (enter from parking lot side of building), Portland, OR, \$8-\$10.

**16 Workshop** Rock Your Storytelling! easy ways to add music to your storytelling. With **Anne Rutherford**, 9-11 am Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave **Portland**, OR \$15-\$20 More info? Visit [www.portlandstorytellers.org](http://www.portlandstorytellers.org)



**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.

### Storytelling ON THE AIRWAVES



Sundays. **Global Griot**, KSER 90.7 FM or online at [www.kser.org](http://www.kser.org), 9-11am through March 29. More details page 5.

Sundays. **'Walkin' the Floor'** with **Storyteller Auntmama**, KBCS 91.3 FM, 8:30 am, also on Mondays at 3:20pm.

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)

Sundays on KUOW 94.9 FM  
10am to noon **Prairie Home Companion**, with Garrison Keillor.  
Noon to 1:00 **Vinyl Café**, Host, Stuart Mclean.  
1:00 to 2:00 **Moth** Story Hour.  
2:00 to 3:00 **Snap Judgment** with Glynn Washington

**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.



## 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 \_\_\_\_



## The Show isn't Over Once it's Over!

By Anne Rutherford

After planning, rehearsing, promoting and performing a storytelling show, it's natural to think the show is over once we've taken

our final bow. I have learned to remind myself that while it is wonderful to relate to the audience after the show, I need to stay in performer mode to serve the audience and take care of myself. Here are some ways to do that:

1.) People want to say thank you when they have enjoyed a performance. Come up with a way to acknowledge that you are comfortable with, so that you never "dismiss" their thanks with a "Oh I really messed up the middle part" confessional response. Even if I am not feeling great about how the performance went, I know I can always genuinely say, "I'm so glad you enjoyed it." "Thank you so much for coming," or "It was wonderful to look out there and see you!"

2.) Asking the name of a person who is thanking you, if you don't know them, helps the person feel personally acknowledged. (I know I like it when performers do it to me).

3.) Hear the intent not the exact words. I used to feel deflated when someone would say, "I've heard that story before." Now I realize people often enjoy hearing a story again. (A recent study showed people actually relax and enjoy it more the second time because they are prepared for what is going to happen.) I usually say, "Great! What was different in the version you heard?"



4.) Expect the occasional unintentional slam. Years ago someone said to me "I haven't been confident using different voices in my storytelling; but when I heard you perform I realized the bar wasn't that high." Ouch! I smiled and said, "Well I'm glad I was helpful." Since then I have worked hard on my voices to raise that bar!

5.) Be prepared to be compared. Audience members often say "Do you know XYZ? Now he/she is a REAL storyteller!" I choose to take this as a compliment - great, they like my storytelling so much they want to share someone else who is terrific.

6.) Do not start the REAL debrief ("What was with that person in the 2nd row? It looked like he had a stomach ache!")

until you are off-site with a trusted colleague. My rule is to wait until we are in the car, driving away, with the windows rolled up. Or, at the very least - be sure your microphone is off!

Happy tales to you!



## In the Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild

P.O. Box 45532

Seattle, WA 98145-0532



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

First Class Mail