

# in The Wind

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

North Seattle First Friday  
Haller Lake Methodist Church  
Story Swaps Page 7

Briarcrest Neighborhood  
Swaps Page 7

SSGuild "Big" Events:  
Sept 20—Oct 5—Nov 16  
See Pages 2, 4 & 5

Auntmama's Storytable  
Olive Way Starbucks  
Last Thursdays Page 7

Under the Rainbow Page 9



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## A great Start to the 2019-2020 Season

### A variety show of Tales with a bit more in September

An itinerant Puppeteller with a marvelous chair, Lost Keys, String, Original Song, Pu Ili Sticks telling tales. Magic done with Invisible Cards, About life in Moscow and giving up hula to teach music, And best of all ... A three year old teller. Wow!



Rebecca Teeters

### October: Harps, Ballads and Welsh Tales

SpookyTree is back! It was great to have Jane and Deb together again. We have new Welsh friends with great stories and songs. We enjoyed Andrea Wild's Bad Wolves, Irish bagpipes and wonderful snacks.



Max Eberhard Eicher  
Itinerant Puppeteer

### An Appalachian Tellabration in November

We learned that all Auntmama's stories are Appalachian stories, That Catskin's flying box has dresses with all sorts of colors, we shouldn't mess with death and The Piney Gals can fiddle up lively tunes. And half the audience was dancing before the evening was done.

There are more pictures taken at our Fall events which are attached as a supplement to the e-mailed edition of this newsletter.



We are all saddened to hear of the passing of two storytellers who told frequently at our epic events. Our sympathies are with their families and their storytelling communities. We will miss them both.

**Storyteller Cathryn Fairlee** of Cotati, California passed peacefully at her home on Sunday, October 13.

*Cathryn was recently honored at the National Storytelling Summit earlier this year with NSN's International Storybridge Oracle Award, for her exemplary work, dedication, and spirit, building bridges through storytelling with travel and research through China, India, and Uzbekistan. In California, she was a tireless advocate for traditional storytelling, encouraging tellers to learn and tell epic myths and legends of world cultures, through events like Myth Off and her semi-annual Epic Days.*



**Storyteller Mary Gavan** of Vancouver, B.C., Canada passed away of a heart attack while hiking in India.



*Mary grew up as a Celtic storytelling tramp. As her family wintered in Scotland and summered in Ireland. Enamoured by the traditional legends, drawing deeply on her Celtic heritage, Mary began storytelling at festivals and storytelling was an integral part of her work as a nurse. Coming to Canada, Mary opened up the traditional legends of her Celtic heritage in order to explain their uniquely Celtic significance. By weaving strands of ordinary life with Celtic understandings, Mary began creating her own style of Celtic storytelling and becoming a professional storyteller.*

# The **Seattle Storytellers Guild** Presents

at Haller Lake Methodist Church – 13055 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Seattle

## Holiday Stories from Around the World



on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 From 7 – 9 PM

**An Open Mike and Holiday Desserts Potluck**  
for sharing all sorts of seasonal personal and cultural tales

Winter is a season of many traditions, feasts and celebrations!

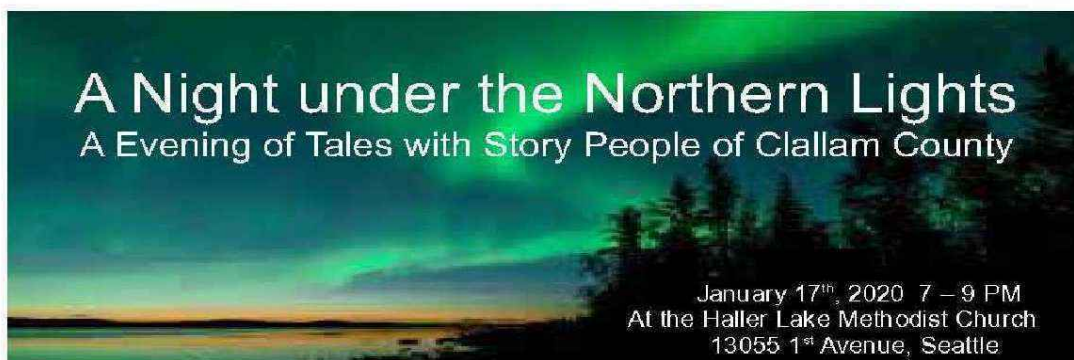
*Whether Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Yule, Solstice, Boxing Day,  
New Years, or Epiphany? Grinches and Gifts, Santa and Scrooge,  
Nicholas and Lucia, Rudolph and the Chipmunks!*

*Chestnuts and Figgy Pudding, Yulecaka and Fruit Cake, Brownies and Sugar Plums!*

**Whatever your Holiday – Come to listen or share!**

**Bring along Treats to share and Tasteful, 8 minute stories to be Told, not Read!.**

**This Event is Free** – though we will pass the Purple Hat for donations



January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 7 – 9 PM  
At the Haller Lake Methodist Church  
13055 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Seattle

**Erran Sharpe** and **Alice Susong** are storytellers from our sister storytelling guild in Port Angeles. Erran is the President and Alice oversees Programs on the Story People's Board of Directors.

**Cherie Trebon**, our MC and also a teller for this evening, has divided her story energies between both guilds.

**Bring your friends for a family friendly evening of stories.**

**Refreshments are provided.**

**Suggested Donations \$5 for members, \$7 for Non-members, no one turned away.**

**Erran Sharpe** blames The Story People Of Clallam County for stealing his mind away from the dry words of academia to start telling stories to innocent clients in his work as a therapist, to eager children, and eventually selling himself to audiences near and not so far. He has told at Peninsula College, Port Townsend, grade schools, and the Port Angeles Library. **Erran loves international tales, fairy tales, and ancient Greek myths and will share traditional stories from the North.**

**Alice Susong** spent over 30 years living in national parks where her husband Dunbar worked as a Park Ranger. They have lived in the Rocky Mountain, Great Smokey Mountains, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Alice started telling stories to her children while camping lying in the tent on a rainy night, "Mom tell us a story" and so the stories started. Alice has been telling in the schools, Olympic Park Institute, Olympic Park, churches, clubs and cruise ships for The last 18 years. **Alice tells stories about what life was really like living in the National Parks.**

**Cherie Trebon** received the 2015 NSN Pacific Regional Service and Leadership Award. A guild member and former president, and a leader in the storytelling community in the Puget Sound Region for many years. She has taught storytelling through North Seattle Community College, from which several of our present Board members received great benefit. She oversees our storytelling presence at the Northwest Folklife Festival. After moving to Port Angeles she joined the Story People of Clallam County and became involved in the Forest Storytelling Festival each October. She has recently moved back to the Seattle area and we expect to see much more of her.





## Some notes from our President and Board Members.

Now well into our 2019-2020 Season, we have had some great Fall programs, while meeting the challenges of date, venue and storyteller changes.

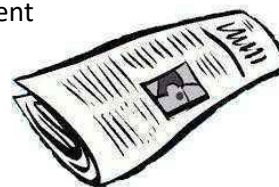
We needed a portable sound system - stories need to be heard! The Guild has purchased equipment that complements Barry McWilliam's Portable PA System, using multiple styles of microphones and offering a much improved sound quality. We encourage anyone with hearing difficulties to sit up front, near the speakers. Storytellers like their audience up close anyway! And if you are planning to share a story, come early and take time to learn how to hold and speak into the mics correctly.

Last year, we held several open mic Third Friday programs, but attendance dwindled. Our goal is to offer quality storytelling events while adequately compensating our featured tellers. In order to meet these goals and costs, we are now asking for donations at the door, or for special events, suggesting donation amounts, depending on the costs of the event. Please know that no one will be turned away for lack of donations. We will post or pass our Purple Hat at some events for donations as well. Our books indicate that while donations at the door help a lot, the Guild's operation is supported primarily through your membership dues, and the grants we have received for some of our events. If you want continued quality storytelling programs, then please keep your membership current, bring in even more members, and feel free to drop something in the Hat!

Recently there were questions about our guild's standards regarding what stories are appropriate for our audiences. The Guild can neither censor content nor discriminate against those who tell stories. We can ask that those who do tell, tell stories appropriately to our audiences. There is an excellent article by Laura S. Parker, for which we have permission to include in this newsletter, and we are including a revised **Tips for Open Mics along** with this newsletter as well to clarify what the Guild means when we ask "Tasteful, 8 Minutes, and Told, not Read."

We have some really great storytellers coming still. Plan to come and bring along your friends! While our featured programs may have a few less open mics, our monthly swaps are a great place to share your stories and improve your skills.

- Barry McWilliams, President



### *In the Wind*

Volume 43 Number 1 Winter 2019

Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild  
Editor: Barry McWilliams

Writers & Contributors: Barry McWilliams, Allison Cox, Laura S Packer, Margaret Read MacDonald, Judith Alexander, Naomi Baltuck, Jill Johnson, Bu Huang, Cynthia Westby

*In the Wind* is published three times a year by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art of storytelling. A one year subscription is included in guild membership. See Page 7.

Articles and comments should be directed to [eldrbarry@gmail.com](mailto:eldrbarry@gmail.com) txt files are preferred, with pictures sent as separate attachments.

**Winter issue deadline: February 15**

### Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2019-2020

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

Barry McWilliams	President
Patty Zeitlin	Vice President
	Secretary
Anne Brendler	Treasurer

#### At large members

Afifi Durr	Judith Alexander
Larry Hohm	Bergith Kayyali
MaryAnne Moorman	Eva Abram
Chris Spengler	Bu Huang

#### Auxiliary members:

Allison Cox	Epic Events
Naomi Baltuck	Under The Rainbow
Jill Johnson	NSN Liaison
Cherie Trebon	Folklife liaison

Contact information is on Our Web Site

### Want more Storytelling News

**Or want to announce an event  
between newsletters?**

Judith Alexander sends out her e-mail blast generally on the Sundays before the first and third Fridays of each month. She will also forward items to the Guild webmaster Larry Hohm and to Barry McWilliams for *In The Wind*.

Judith's e-mail address is  
[judith\\_tells@earthlink.net](mailto:judith_tells@earthlink.net)

Or visit our website for more news:  
[seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)  
Press the [Show All Events] Button

## The Seattle Storytellers Guild Presents



### Storyteller Loren Niemi

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 7-9 PM

In the Friendship Room of  
Haller Lake Methodist Church\*

13055 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Seattle, Wa  
(Parking in the back)

"Fata Morgana" is a traditional story of adventure and romance. Our storyteller offers the audience choices. Should he begin his tale with the baker, the Contessa, the mapmaker or the widow? And what shall be their destiny? No two tellings of this tale have been the same!

Following our break, there will be an open mike for stories about "*Unexpected Journeys*".

Eight minutes please, Tasteful, and Told, not Read.

Refreshments are provided.

Suggested Donations \$10 for members, \$15 for Non-members, no one turned away.

**Loren Niemi** is an innovative storyteller who has 40 year history of creating, coaching/directing, performing and teaching stories about what matters to audiences of all ages in urban and rural settings. He has been a circus ringmaster, a humanities scholar in residence and appeared the stages of Fringe Festivals across the country. He received the National Storytellers Network Lifetime Achievement Oracle Award in 2016. He is an author and co-author of several books including *Inviting the Wolf In: Thinking about difficult stories*, *The New Book of Plots* (with Elizabeth Ellis) and his newest, *What Haunts Us*, a collection of unconventional ghost stories.

His web site is [www.lorenniemistories.com](http://www.lorenniemistories.com)



Loren Niemi is also teaching a **two hour workshop** for Intermediate or advanced tellers:

### **"When the Traditional and the Personal Meet"**

on Saturday morning, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 10- Noon in the Friendship Room of Haller Lake Methodist Church.

The cost is \$20 and Participation is limited to the first paid twenty applicants.

Description: "*In the beginning Traditional Stories begat Personal Stories and as it grew forgot that the traditional story is always a personal story in the telling. This workshop will focus on 1) finding the personal in the traditional, 2) crafting personal stories using traditional tropes, and 3) reinterpreting traditional stories for contemporary audiences. This is a hands-on experience to which he invites participants to bring a traditional story they want to work with.*"

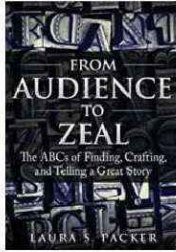
See [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org) for more information on the concert and workshop

Loren is also available for individual coaching sessions the week of the February 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> contact him at [niemistory@gmail.com](mailto:niemistory@gmail.com) if you would like to make an arrangement.

Loren Niemi will also be in Port Townsend, Wa. telling "*Bad Brother: Religion and Politics in '69*" on February 7th for the Quimper Storytelling Guild, and has a workshop there on "*The Emotional Arc of Stories*" on February 7th as well. He will be at the Port Angeles Library telling: "*Finding Gregory and Other Tales*" on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Other events may be arranged – check the Seattle Storytellers Guild web site or Judith's e-blast in February.

\*These are sole productions of the Seattle Storytellers Guild and not affiliated with Haller Lake UMC





## *Cursing and other ways of transgressing boundaries*

by Laura S. Packer



Language conveys meaning. Some storytellers use harsher language than others or enjoy being a little more shocking, and we must decide what kinds of boundaries we are willing to transgress. Each time you tell a story you make choices about the aesthetics you present.

Some of this is generational. and cultural. These kinds of issues have been around since there were generations and are present in every aspect of human life. I imagine Australopithecus parents shaking their heads at the outrageous antics of their young.

I find value in telling stories that deal with difficult or challenging material, but I make sure it's appropriate to the audience. I check with the curator and I make my own decision in the moment (for example, there may be children in an audience I was told would be only adults). Kids in the audience may change my content though I have been known to talk with parents when they bring children to a show advertised as adults-only. Every venue I have ever run has a free-speech clause, asking only that tellers let the audience know if they are including PG-13 or greater content so the audience can decide if they want to hear it. If you are including transgressive material in your shows, make sure the organizers know and consider including a free speech clause in the contract.

Copyright 2019 Laura S. Packer from her book, "From Audience to Zeal: The ABCs of Finding, Crafting, and Telling a Great Story." ISBN: 9781947408036. Reprinted with the permission of The Small-Tooth-Dog Publishing Group LLC. All rights reserved.

Even as someone who finds value in transgressive storytelling, I still want to behave professionally, so I take other factors into consideration.

### **Use common sense.**

If you are hired to tell to preschoolers, tell stories that don't include swear words. Give parents forewarning if they show up at an adult-oriented gig with their kids. If you're telling to go-year-old nuns, you may need to mind your manners. Common sense goes a long way.

### **Authenticity matters.**

If the language makes sense in the context of the story and who you are, then it belongs there. I would never, ever ask a teller to be anything but authentic.

### **Let the audience self-censor.**

I make sure my curator and my audience know what they are in for. I believe in free speech. I also believe that everyone can choose what they are exposed to. Let your audience know you use salty language so they can decide if they want to hear it or not.

### **Diversity and presentation matter.**

This includes having a wide range of stories available for audiences. Some tellers who are uncomfortable with transgression have audiences who adore them because those are the stories they need. So too will the tellers who push boundaries.

**Ultimately, you need to decide what is most appropriate for your story, your audience, and yourself.**

Be aware that there may be consequences to your choices and know that you are being deliberate in what you choose to say on stage.

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

## December

**5 MOTH StorySLAM** Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 7 pm 4272 Fremont Ave N, Seattle \$

**6\* Haller Lake Story Swap** Haller Lake Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. N.E. N. Seattle (Page 7)

**9\* Under The Rainbow** LGBTQ+ Story Event at Edmonds Library (Page 9)

**14\* Kat Tales for Children** 10:30 AM 16958 158th Pl SE, Monroe, WA (Page 9)

**19 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 p.m., Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way

**20\* Holiday Stories from Around the World** Open Mike and Dessert Potluck — a chance to meet, greet, tell and listen, and enjoy each other's gifts Haller Lake Methodist Church 7 PM (Page 2)

**20 MOTH StorySLAM** Bloedel Hall 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle 8 PM \$

## January

**4 MOTH StorySLAM** Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 7 pm 4272 Fremont Ave N, \$

**4\* Briarcrest Neighborhood Swap** at 16010 25th Ave NE, Shoreline (Page 7)

**13\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+ Edmonds Library (Page 9)

**17\* A Night under the Northern Lights — Story People of Clallam County** Haller Lake Methodist Church 7:00 pm \$d (Page 2)

**3 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 p.m., 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle

**17 MOTH StorySLAM** Bloedel Hall 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle 8 PM \$

**30\* Auntmama's Story Table** 7 p.m., Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way,

## February

**6\* Haller Lake Story Swap** Haller Lake Methodist Church Haller Lake Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave. N.E. N. Seattle (Page 7)

**6 MOTH StorySLAM** Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Ave N, Seattle 8 PM \$

**10\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+ Edmonds Library (Page 9)

**17 MOTH StorySLAM** Bloedel Hall 1245 10th Ave E, Seattle 8 PM \$

**21\* Unexpected Journeys — Loren Niemi and Open Mike** at Haller Lake Methodist Church, 7:00 PM \$d (Page 5)

**20 Fresh Ground Stories** 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle

**27\* Auntmama's Story Table** 7 p.m., Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way.

For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

go to [Seattlestorytellers.org](http://Seattlestorytellers.org)  
And Press [See All Events]

Check the On Line Calendars of

\$ indicates Event Fees

\$d indicates Suggested Donations

## Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

*Please check before you go! Details may change.*

Second Sundays **Story and Dance Folk Tales, 6pm**, hosted by Marion Moat Kalia Indian Cuisine, 4520 200th Ave. SW #202, Lynnwood, 206-992-7606 No cover; tips welcome. Updates or request a storytelling spot, e-mail [marion.moat@frontier.com](mailto:marion.moat@frontier.com)

Second Mondays **Under the Rainbow** 6:30-7:30 PM Edmonds Library, Stories from the LGBTQ community— See Page 9

First Thursdays **Moth StorySLAM** themed, Doors open at 7 pm, mic. 8 p.m., Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Seattle, [themoth.org/events](http://themoth.org/events) \$

Third Thursdays **Fresh Ground Stories**. 7 p.m. Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 Olive Way, Seattle ,free. [www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

Last Thursdays **Auntmama's StoryTable**, 7-8:15 p.m., Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 Olive Way, Seattle Free See Page 7 **Monthly except Nov and Dec**

First Fridays **Haller Lake Story Swaps Even Months** Haller Lake Methodist Church See page 7 for details **Even Months**

Usually Third Fridays **Haller Lake Story Fest** 7:00 p.m., Featured Tellers Haller Lake Methodist Church \$ Sept.-May, **See Pages 2 & 5 for Winter Dates!!**

Third Fridays **Moth StorySLAM** themed, open mic. 8 p.m Bloedel Hall, Seattle \$

Saturdays **Children's Storytelling** at 3rd Place books, Ravenna, 11:00am. 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA, Free. [thirdplacebooks.com](http://thirdplacebooks.com)

First Saturdays **Island Books Family Story Time**. 6:30 p.m., 3014 78th Ave. SE, Mercer Isl., for children ages 3+ and their families. Free [Mercerislandbooks.com](http://Mercerislandbooks.com)

Second Saturdays **Kat Tales** 10:30 AM Stories for all ages at Katherine Gee Perrone's home 16958 158th Pl SE, Monroe [kategeestories@gmail.com](mailto:kategeestories@gmail.com)

## Regional Ongoing Events

Fourth Fridays **The Story Today**, Featured tellers and open mike. 7 p.m., Centre for Peace:1825 West 16th Avenue at Burrard B.C., \$7. [vancouverstorytellers.ca](http://vancouverstorytellers.ca) (Sept. to May)

Second Mondays **Fireside Story League of Tacoma** Story Circle and Storytelling Lesson, 6:30 pm Go to [www.firesidestoryleague.org](http://www.firesidestoryleague.org) & click newsletter for location. Details contact: Penny Tennison 253-265-2113. (Sept-Jun)

Third Mondays **Stories at Fern**. 7:30 p.m., 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., \$5. [victoriastorytellers.org](http://victoriastorytellers.org) (second Mondays in Dec & June)

Third Tuesdays **Story People of Clallam County** 7-9 pm Port Angeles Library, 2210 Peabody St., Free [www.clallamstorypeople.org](http://www.clallamstorypeople.org) (Sept—June)

First Tuesdays **Ellensburg Storytellers - The Yarn Spinners**, 6:00 p.m., Hal Holmes Center, 209 S Ruby St., Ellensburg, WA Contact: [bleggi@charter.net](mailto:bleggi@charter.net)

Second Wednesdays **South Sound Storytellers Guild** Featured teller and open mike. 7 p.m., The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA, Free (Sept-May)

Last Wednesdays **Stories on Tap** and Open Mike hosted by Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke 7-9 PM Lucky Lab Taproom 1700 N. Killingsworth PDX **Not in Nov/ Dec**

First Friday **Quimper Guild StoryNight**, 7-9 pm Quaker Friends Meeting House, 1841 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend. Facebook or Contact [QuimperStoryGuild@gmail.com](mailto:QuimperStoryGuild@gmail.com)

First Fridays **Urban Tellers at the Fremont** 2303 NE Fremont, Portland OR [www.pdxstorytheater.org/shows/urban-tellers/](http://www.pdxstorytheater.org/shows/urban-tellers/) (Oct-Jun only)

Second Fridays **Portland Storytellers Guild Potluck and Story Swap** 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 Southwest Capitol Highway, Portland, OR (Sept-May)

Third Fridays **The Bellingham Storytellers Guild: Storytelling for the Love of It**. Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room General Meeting and Workshops 6:00 to 7:00 PM Storytelling Showcase 7:00 - 8:00 [BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org](http://BellinghamStorytellersGuild.org)

First Saturdays **Portland Storytellers Guild -- Themed Storytelling Shows**, 7:30-9:30 pm, The Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St, Portland, OR 97202. For adults and mature teens. ([www.portlandstorytellers.org](http://www.portlandstorytellers.org)), [keniverson13@gmail.com](mailto:keniverson13@gmail.com) (Sept-May)

## Guild Events

### First Friday Night Story Swaps

**December 6th and February 7th 7pm to 9, Haller Lake Methodist Church**

13055 1st Ave. N.E. N. Seattle (enter front door on 1st Ave only)

Telling starts promptly at 7:00 - Snacks, beverages and social time at the end of the evening at 8:45 pm. Listeners and tellers are welcome. There will be an 8 minute limit for stories. Feedback will be offered if time allows. Personal or folk tales are welcome. We'll have a timer and feedback guidelines. Donations are welcome, but not required.

For more information contact Patty Zeitlin at [pattipaz.z@gmail.com](mailto:pattipaz.z@gmail.com)

### The Briarcrest Neighborhood Story Swap

**January 3rd:** at Jon and Amy Anscher's home 16010 25th Ave NE, Shoreline

(Park across the street as the East Hamlin Park Lot)

Join the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association for an evening of storytelling. **Bring a five- to seven- minute story to share or just come to listen.** A free, all ages event sponsored by the Briarcrest Neighborhood Association—an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote community.

For more information contact Afifi Durr at [afifidurr15@gmail.com](mailto:afifidurr15@gmail.com)



### Auntmama's StoryTable

**Last Thursdays, 6:45 PM- 8:00 PM, free**

**No Storytable in December**

**January 30th: featuring Eva Abram**

**February 27th: Poetry Night**

Olive Way Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle, WA — 206 329 3736

Music and stories for fun and enlightenment. Come and share!

**Text 206-473-9522** Or contact [auntmama@gmail.com](mailto:auntmama@gmail.com)

### Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

**Fresh Ground Stories**

Seattle Meetup Group

[meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

**The MOTH : True Stories told Live**

Seattle and Portland

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

**Story People of Clallum County**

Port Angeles

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

**Quimper Story Guild**

Port Townsend

[facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild](https://facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild)

**South Sound Storytellers Guild**

Lakewood

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

**Fireside Story League of Tacoma**

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

**Bellingham Storytellers Guild**

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

**Storytelling Club—Yarn Spinners**

Ellensburg - See Facebook

**Portland Storytellers Guild**

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

**Portland Story Theater**

[portlandstorytheater.com/](http://portlandstorytheater.com/)

## 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 \_\_\_\_

**For More info on Local and Regional Events  
visit: [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)**

**To join the SSG** You can fill out the form below and send it to:  
*Seattle Storytellers Guild*  
P.O. Box 18361  
Seattle, WA 98118

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.

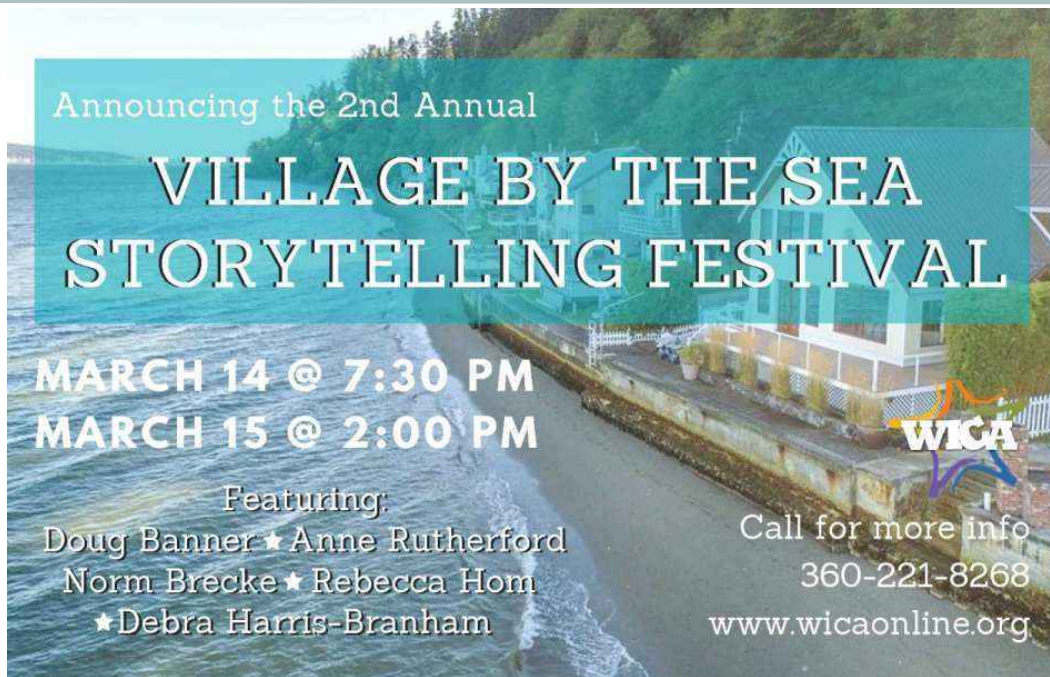
**Employer matching funds?** Check if your employer will match your SSG membership donation.

**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.







Announcing the 2nd Annual

# VILLAGE BY THE SEA STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

**MARCH 14 @ 7:30 PM**  
**MARCH 15 @ 2:00 PM**

Featuring:  
Doug Banner ★ Anne Rutherford  
Norm Brecke ★ Rebecca Horn  
★ Debra Harris-Branham

Call for more info  
360-221-8268  
[www.wicaonline.org](http://www.wicaonline.org)

**WICA**

## FESTIVAL IS EXPANDING...

TWO days  
of concerts:

Saturday  
March 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

Sunday  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm.

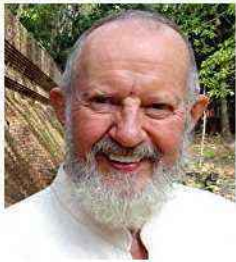
And THREE  
Storytelling Workshops

Saturday afternoon  
between 1 – 3 pm

A chance to stay  
and play on beautiful  
Whidbey Island.

## Vagabond Tales: In Search of Light and Life

Pleasant DeSpain's new autobiography: A Review



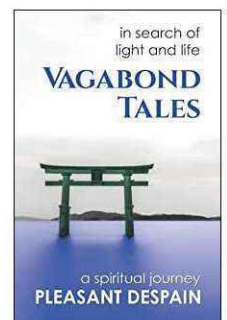
Many of you will remember Pleasant DeSpain, who hosted "Pleasant Journeys" on KING TV for several years in the early seventies. Pleasant created a perfect format for television storytelling...sitting quietly on a stool under a tree with children gathered in front of him. The simple set provided only this tree and a backdrop of clouds. Pleasant used no props or puppets, just his own quiet voice and well-honed tales. My two little girls piled up onto our bed each Sunday morning to hear this magical storyteller.

Working to prepare a new set of tales every single Sunday, Pleasant soon had searched out a great trove of good tales and retold them in a brief form which happened to make them easy to learn. Fortunately, he chose to publish some of these in his *Pleasant Journeys. Books One and Two*. Librarians, teachers, and storytellers found great material to use here and I still recommend them as good, easy-to-learn source material for any teller.

[Republished by August House as *Twenty-Two Splendid Tales to Tell from Around the World. Vol. 1 and 2.*] When Seattle's moist weather caused health issues Pleasant retreated to the SW and from there to upstate New York and finally...to Chiang Mai! I was able to reconnect with Pleasant last year when Dr. Wajuppa Tossa invited us both to tell at her new Story House in Mahasarakham, Thailand.

Pleasant has just released an autobiography: *Vagabond Tales, in search of light and life: a spiritual journey* [StoryProPress (August 8, 2019)] In this look back at the roads he has traveled, I was struck by Pleasant's never-give-up approach to life. When three Seattle TV stations turned him down, he kept on polishing his presentation and convinced KING to try a storytelling show. He opens each chapter with a folktale that echoes the life-lessons he learned in that life period. Meditation has played a large part in his life, and he has much to say about the values of this. It is fascinating to follow the life path of one of our storytelling pioneers, and this book reminds us to search out his many folktale collections...all still great grist for our own storytelling mills.

Submitted by Margaret Read MacDonald



Pleasant DeSpain is a world traveler, storyteller, the author of 18 published books, and more than 350 stories, much of which is available on Amazon or your local libraries. Like Pleasant, Margaret Read MacDonald is also a world traveler, and a teller of tales who has authored numerous collections of stories. Margaret Read MacDonald was just honored by the National Storytelling Network with the 2019 Life Time Achievement Oracle Award..



## *Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series*

Seattle Storytellers Guild's Under the Rainbow has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,000 for an Existing Project/Program by the Pride Foundation as part of their 2019-20 Community Grants Cycle.



### Winter Schedule for Under The Rainbow:

Storytime reserved for LGBTQ. Allies welcome to listen  
At the Edmonds Public Library Doors Open at 6 pm  
Program at 6:30—7:45 pm Free Admission— Refreshments

#### December 9<sup>th</sup> - John Cummings

is a litigator, activist, and unrepentant extrovert. He was raised in Butte, Montana among loud Italians and soft-spoken Irish, all of whom loved a good story and a witty retort. He told his first public story at a Tacoma Pride event, after which he proposed to his husband Ross. John and Ross now host Homegrown Stories, a salon storytelling event held in their home in Fircrest, featuring true stories and delicious food.

#### January 13<sup>th</sup> - Robin Elan and L.M. Zoller

are co-authors of *The Corners of Their Mouth* and *The Queer Language of Flowers*, and will share stories from their journey to answer pressing questions like, "*How do I say 'sapphic angst' with flowers?*" and, "*Just what is the queerest food?*"

**L.M. Zoller** (they/them or ze/zir) is a writer and queer food blogger. In zir spare time, L.M. enjoys swimming, cake decorating, and watching bad movies.

**Robin Elan** (they/them) is an illustrator and zinester. They draw inspiration from their childhood as an anxious only child growing up in the woods, and from the urban trans/queer community they now call home.

#### February 10<sup>th</sup> - Johnny Townsend

has published stories and essays in *Newsday*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Humanist*, *The Progressive*, in the anthologies *The Kindness of Strangers*, *Queer Fish*, *Latter-Gay Saints*, and in many other publications. His books include *Mormon Underwear*, *Zombies for Jesus*, *Gayrabian Nights*, and *Human Compassion for Beginners*. He was also an associate producer for the documentary *Upstairs Inferno*. His latest collection of essays, *Breaking the Promise of the Promised Land: How Religious Conservatives Failed America*, was published in October 2019.

#### March 9<sup>th</sup> Joselito Castillo

is inspired by the poetry of storytelling, memories of his grandfather's dramatic tales, and the myths and corridos that filled his childhood. He weaves movement and music to embody the stories, and delights in the power to transport listeners to another time and place.

Presented by Under the Rainbow, the Seattle Storytellers Guild,  
the [Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition](#)  
and sponsored by a grant from the [Pride Foundation](#).



John Cummings



Johnny Townsend



Joselito Castillo

## KAT TALES! *Second Saturdays* at 10:30 AM

16958 158th Pl SE, Monroe, WA 98272

Award-winning storyteller and singer Katherine Gee Perrone invites you to her home in Monroe every second Saturday of the month at 10:30 A.M. for a lively and interactive program of stories and songs for children. Refreshments and playtime to always follow. All ages welcome, including babes in arms. Contact: [katgeestories@gmail.com](mailto:katgeestories@gmail.com)



## For your 2020 Calendars

### Seattle Storytellers Guild's Featured Story Fests

March 13th **The Crones**

*"Strong Women, Wise Women, Goddesses and Crones"*



April (date and venue TBA) **Earth Day: Native American Tales**

### **The Mabinogion: An Epic Event of Storytelling and Music**

*A Cycle of Tales from Welsh culture, folklore and myth.*

**May 15-16th, 2020** at Haller Lake Methodist Church, 13055 1st Ave NE, Seattle

**The Seattle Storytellers Guild and the Puget Sound Welsh Association.**

Featuring Hugh Lupton (England); Peter Stevenson (Wales) and NW Storytellers.

Contact [allison@dancingleaves.com](mailto:allison@dancingleaves.com) for Info



### **Fanning the Embers: a Northwest Storytelling Retreat**

**March 20th—22nd, 2020**

"For story lovers in the northwest region, and beyond, Fanning the Embers retreat provides an opportunity to gather informally in a relaxed environment. We share success and quandaries, our dreams and our nightmares, our questions and aspirations. And we share stories! Lots of stories. "

**Fanning the Embers** has become a northwest storytelling tradition. We are sure this year's gathering will be as rejuvenating for participants as it has been in years past. Fan the flame and spread the word!

Registration opens January.—check their web site for details: [www.fanningtheembers.org/](http://www.fanningtheembers.org/)



## *In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

*P.O. Box 18361*

*Seattle, WA 98118*



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

**Standard Mail**