

# in The Wind

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

### SSG StoryFests

March 18th  
Tom Rawson and his Banjo

April 22nd  
Earth Day 2022  
with Sheila Arnold

May 14th  
Voice Workshop with Cris Reidel

May 20th  
A Special StoryFest  
With Carmen Agra Deedy

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## The CELEBRATION Issue!

**Congratulations to our own Eva Abram!!**



**NSN is delighted to announce that Eva Abram of Seattle, Washington, has been awarded the 2022 J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant.**

Born and raised in New Orleans, Eva writes, "I grew up collecting rainwater for household use; now I collect stories. My experience as a water-collector taught me that water is essential for life. I believe the same is true of stories. Through storytelling, I help others understand how we fit into this puzzle of life; that we are fun, interesting and mischievous beings; and that we have a valuable part to play in making life the best it can be."

Eva's particular calling is to make African-American stories and history better known. "The trials and tribulations of African Americans go hand-in-hand with the trials and tribulations of this nation," she points out. "When people only know history from one perspective, that is a problem." Eva's vivid, beautifully crafted stories accentuate the positive – but work powerfully for social change.

The J. J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award is presented to a storyteller of major and unique performing talent who has not yet received wide public recognition. J.J. Reneaux was a storyteller, children's book author, singer, and songwriter who grew up poor in the Delta bayous and rich in the lore of her Cajun people. She succeeded by virtue of a native talent fired by passion and uncompromising dedication to her heritage and storytelling. Never forgetting her own struggle, she dreamed of helping talented people succeed. J.J. died too soon in the winter of 2000, but she left her family instructions to create a fund that would support exceptionally gifted tellers in the early stages of their careers.

J.J.'s family and NSN are proud to make J.J.'s dream a reality and proud to support Eva Abram's storytelling growth.

Eva's Website is: <https://www.rainwaterstorytelling.com/>

You can hear Eva Abram and previous grant honorees tell at NSN's  
**IN HER NAME: THE LEGACY OF J.J. RENEUX CONCERT**  
April 2nd 7:30 PM EDT \$20 suggested donation to Fund



## Seattle Storytellers Guild turns 40!



SGG has a glorious 40 years to celebrate — from gatherings in Naomi and Thom’s apartments for “Story ‘N’ Snack,” to the Boiserie (under the old Burke Museum), to All for Kids Books and various other bookstores, living rooms, coffee shops, even a lounge for a time, to Haller Lake Community Club, then to our computers using Zoom. House concerts and storytelling visits to senior residences were recent pre-Covid highlights. From the renaissance of oral storytelling in the 1970’s and 80’s, to festivals and conferences, to the world-wide connections available to us on the internet today, the Seattle Storytellers Guild has supported and enjoyed storytelling through four decades!!

Through the years, SSG has organized and contributed to local festivals, with both storytellers and financial support, such as the Forest Storytelling Festival, a favorite October destination, especially for those who love to hear Pat Peterson as Emcee. Under Cherie Trebon’s leadership our presence at the Northwest Folklife Festival grew to 12 hours of storytelling. Festivals of epic storytelling, magnificently organized by Allison Cox, shared retellings of “The Wonder Smith and His Son,” The Finnish “Kalavala,” “Nordic Myths and Tales” (at the newly opened Nordic Museum), and “1001 Nights” with 30 storytellers. (If you want to explore the history of the Guild, all the newsletters are archived on our website, our replay of Virginia Rankin’s articles continues on page 12. It will be brought to the present in our Fall 2022 issue.

### LET'S CELEBRATE!!

In March, long time Guild member **Tom Rawson** comes with his banjo on March 18th.

In April, nationally known **Shelia Arnold** with tales for our Earth Day concert on April 22nd.

In May, a birthday gift to ourselves, we invited **Carmen Agra Deedy** to entertain May 20th.

We have planned a workshop by **Cris Riedel** on Voice Techniques on May 14th,

Followed by a hybrid NW Folklife Festival, with both in-person and digital storytelling events.

The Annual Meeting and additional partying will come later. This year will see us transition to a new president, as Barry, after five years, hopes to decrease his workload – and hopefully increase his storytelling. He will continue to be the newsletter editor and our Zoom “guy behind the curtain” as needed. We are seeking your feedback as to how and when to continue our celebration — let us know what you would like to see, and how you can help us.

— Judith Alexander [juditha5@earthlink.net](mailto:juditha5@earthlink.net)

**The Seattle Storytellers Guild is looking for volunteers in many areas.**

If you are good at or want to learn to:

**Help with publicity, Create online flyers and advertisements,  
Host or Co-Host Zoom events, Learn to or Help plan events,  
Emcee a Program, Teach a Workshop, Serve on our Board,  
Help index articles or books, Write an article for our newsletter,  
Write Grants, or Explore the tech needs for a Hybrid Event,**

**Or just want to meet friendly people who  
love storytelling ... then join with us!**



**For more information Contact Judith Alexander at [judith\\_tells@earthlink.net](mailto:judith_tells@earthlink.net)**

## Words from that “guy behind the Curtain”



We are evaluating our **StoryFest Zoom Program Format** in light of a number of recent hosting frustrations. We want get started on time , avoid the interruptions of people popping into the middle of a story, of mikes left unmuted, as well as any potential offensive behavior – like what happened at two recent events. Other online storytelling programs are making similar changes.

We are now requiring Registration for our Zoom programs. It provides additional security and is a convenient way to for you to attend without having to request from us links and passcodes. Those who register receive a Confirmation Email from Zoom with the link they should use to join. If you have lost it, just reregister—it only counts you once. Please don't wait till the last hour or so to register, we would rather know you intend to come.

For the sake of both listeners and tellers, we want to start on time, with a minimum of delays. So you need to be in the Waiting Room about 5-10 minutes at least before “Curtain Time.” While the Waiting Room is open 30 minutes ahead, that time is when the host and co-hosts are busy checking connections. Most storytellers would prefer composing their thoughts in a “green room” over visiting with the early arrivals. So please be patient, we know you are there, and we will admit you into the meeting when everything is ready.

When folks are admitted from the Waiting Room, they will be muted and unable to unmute, and use of the Chat will be limited to the Host and Cohosts. We would like to keep the chatter and socializing in its proper place following the event. While a few may enjoy the small talk and chatter beforehand, for many it is tedious. The time will come when we unmute everyone and open up the chat for applause and socializing when the storytelling is done.

At a stage show, you don't expect the curtain to open till the performers are ready. Nor do you want the distractions of people wandering in late either. About 15 minutes after the storytelling starts, we may no longer admit people who arrive late. If you arrive too late to be admitted, even if you are registered, you may just have to wait till the recording is available – if so, we'll send the link. However, some storytellers ask not to be recorded or limit access to a recording.

Please feel free to give us **your feedback** about these changes.

— Barry McWilliams —that “guy behind the curtain”

### *In the Wind*

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Editor: Barry McWilliams

#### Writers & Contributors:

Barry McWilliams, Allison Cox, Larry Hohm, Anne Brendler, Judith Alexander, Virginia Rankin, Afifi Durr, Margaret Read MacDonald, Pat Peterson, NSN.

*In the Wind* is published four times a year digitally by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the art of oral storytelling.

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

txt files are preferred, with pictures sent as separate attachments.

**Summer Supplement deadline:  
May 15th**

**Your Articles Welcomed!**

### Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2021-2022 [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Barry McWilliams | President      |
| Patty Zeitlin    | Vice President |
| Marte Fallshore  | Secretary      |
| Anne Brendler    | Treasurer      |

#### At large members

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Afifi Durr | Judith Alexander |
| Larry Hohm | Colleen Bollen   |
| Eva Abram  | Bu Huang         |

#### Auxiliary members:

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Susy Irwin    | NSN Liaison       |
| Allison Cox   | Special Events    |
| Naomi Baltuck | Under The Rainbow |
| Larry Hohm    | Folklife liaison  |

Contact information is on Our Web Site

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



### Want more Storytelling News

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

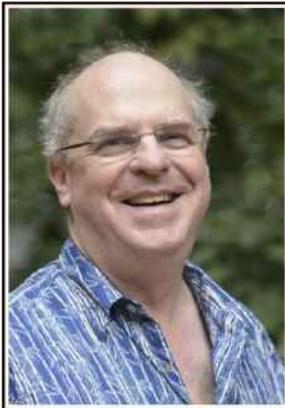
Judith Alexander sends out her e-mail blast generally on the Sundays before the first and third Fridays of each month. She will also forward items to the Guild webmaster Larry Hohm and to Barry McWilliams for In The Wind.

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

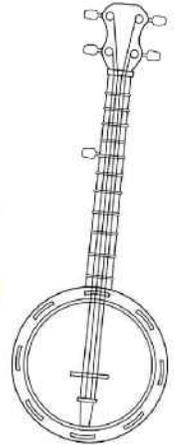
## Seattle Storytellers Guild's March StoryFest

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 7:00 PM (Pacific Daylight Time) on Zoom



**Folksinger & Storyteller Tom Rawson** has spun yarns for over three decades. A retired teacher who lives on Orcas Island, he shares humorous anecdotes from his travels as well as traditional folktales from around the world.

Armed with banjo and other weapons of mass delight, Tom enjoys involving his audience in the experience, often telling stories with catchy chants that get everyone singing along together.



Join Tom for some tall tales, user-friendly songs, and acoustic folk philosophy that's guaranteed to leave you smiling. Tune up your vocal chords; you'll need 'em!

Register at <https://bit.ly/3K6uDPp>

Suggested Donations of \$5 - \$10 can be made at

**[seattlestorytellers.org](https://seattlestorytellers.org)**

Scroll to the SSG Donations Jar – add a note.

Nationally Known Storyteller, Sheila Arnold is visiting the Northwest and is joining us from Portland, OR for the Seattle Storytellers Guild's



## Earth Day StoryFest 2022

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 - 7 PM PDT on Zoom

*Sheila Arnold tells stories with a warmth that draws you in, and her contagious laughter leaves you smiling!*

Register at : <https://bit.ly/3fjy8UG>

Donations of \$10 to \$20 requested. Donate in the Tip Jar at [seattlestorytellers.org](https://seattlestorytellers.org)

**Sheila Arnold** has been performing since she was 8 years old. A graduate of UNC-Charlotte with a B.A. in African-American & African History, Sheila has been a professional master storyteller since 2003, presenting storytelling programs and historic character presentations for schools, storytelling festivals, and organizations throughout the US.



A member of the [Virginia Storytelling Alliance](#), Sheila has been a featured storyteller at several Storytelling Festivals, including the National Storytelling Festival (Jonesborough, TN). She helped found [Artists Standing Strong Together \(ASST\)](#) to help storytellers and artists through the covid crisis. She tells frequently on a variety of virtual platforms. She often begins with *Indigenous People Land Use Acknowledgements* which show her concern for both for people and the proper care of our local environments.

## The Voice of the Storyteller : A Workshop on Using your Voice with Cris Reidel - Sponsored by the Seattle Storytellers Guild

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 10 AM PDT on Zoom Register at: <https://bit.ly/3qmRnmB>  
Cost: \$15 for SSG Members, \$20 for non-members  
(Pay at [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org) in the Tip Jar)

People communicate, tell stories in lots of different ways—one of the most common is with our voices. Voices are part of our bodies, and our imaginations. Each person's voice is unique, no one has a voice like yours! Learn how to use your voice effectively in the creation of character and story. Through games of imagination and exercises in technique, you will discover how your personal, unique voice functions. Use that one-of-a-kind voice of yours to put stories across most expressively. And there will be take away exercises and activities to use on your own!



**Cris Reidel** serves on the Board of **Northeast Storytelling (NEST)**, and is the co-founder of the **Worldwide Virtual Storytelling Guild**. Her background was in theater, and she recently retired from a career as a school librarian which got her started telling stories. She has been telling professionally for over twenty years in New York State and all over the Eastern part of the country. Cris has just been awarded her fourteenth grant to tell stories in her home county's summer activity programs for all ages.

Her website [www.storiesconnect.com](http://www.storiesconnect.com) includes some videos

## The Seattle Storytelling Guild is featuring in a virtual concert **Storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy.**

A part of the Celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Guild!

Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:00 PM PDT – on Zoom



This New York Times bestselling children's author has won numerous awards and has been an invited speaker at venues that include Columbia University, The Library of Congress, TED, and the Kennedy Center. Born in Havana, Cuba, Carmen Agra Deedy came to the United States as a refugee and like most immigrants sees the world from multiple perspectives. Her personal stories culled from her childhood in Decatur, Georgia, first appeared on NPR's All Things Considered.

Funny, insightful, and frequently irreverent, she will be sharing with us a mixture of personal and traditional tales. Check out her website: <https://carmenagradeedy.com/> for much more on this outstanding storyteller.

*"Whenever Carmen tells stories, this Americanized Cuban Comet leaves a bright trail of laughter ... and healing." – Kathryn Windham*

Register for this delightful hour of tales on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3FqLWqW>

**Please note:** This program will start right on time at 6 PM PDT, and latecomers may not be admitted, so please come a little early to the Waiting Room. And unlike many of our StoryFests, it will not be recorded and will not be available afterwards. Registrations are limited to 100, so don't put it off. **Donations of \$10 - \$20 can be made in the Tip Jar at [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)** – Add a Note to your donation is for Carmen's program.

**Carmen Agra Deedy** has been a keynote speaker at National Storytelling Network (NSN) conferences. She is the author of 12 children's books and her most recent audio recording is her CD for *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*, which includes a reading of the book in both English and Spanish, as well as a performance version of the story. That CD is an ALA Notable Children's Recording and an Odyssey Award Honor. She is host of the four-time Emmy-winning children's program, *Love That Book!* Her audio collection of twelve short stories, *Growing up Cuban in Decatur, Georgia*, (Peachtree Publishers, 2004) was named Publishers Weekly 1995 Best Audiobook—Adult Storytelling and received the Parents' Choice Gold Award 1996.

**Join us for an exceptional event!**



*"It all began with a story and a piece of paper.*

*On a dark and stormy night I took my young son Sam to hear a storyteller at the Burien library. The teller was Laura Simms. We sat on the floor as Laura told folktales that caught me up.*

*During intermission Clare Cuddy offered a newsletter. It was mimeographed and the purple ink was still damp. Both the stories and the newsletter opened possibilities. I began my storytelling journey in the early 80s and am still on the path.*

*So many Guild activities, conferences, story and snack and workshops resulted in friendships that have stood the test of time. All of those events required commitment of time and effort to make them happen and that is true today. I am grateful to those who serve on the board so we may continue offer storytelling in these digital times.*

*The Guild is celebrating 40 years....and I realized that I have been a Guild member for almost half of my life."*

*With gratitude, Pat Peterson*



## First Friday Night Zoom Story Swaps

To provide better security for our Swaps,  
We now require Pre-Registration with Zoom

March 4th 6:30 PM Pacific Time

Register at: <https://bit.ly/34IYVot>

April 1st 6:30 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3uD9DL6>

May 6th 6:30 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Register at: <https://bit.ly/3gB1r5G>

Our Swaps are meant to be casual and informal opportunities for storytellers to try out a story they are working on, and a place for novice storytellers to begin to explore the craft. Feedback is offered, but is optional

**Come to share an 8 minute or less story  
Family Friendly – Told, not Read  
or Come just to Listen and encourage**

If you have a story to share, please let us know:  
Contact Barry at [eldrbarry@gmail.com](mailto:eldrbarry@gmail.com)

Contact Marilyn Grevstad at [grevstad@aol.com](mailto:grevstad@aol.com)  
about the Haller Lake Swap

Affi Durr at [afidurr15@gmail.com](mailto:afidurr15@gmail.com)  
about the Briarcrest Neighborhood Story Swap



## Here are some familiar faces



Do you remember who they are ?

## A Remembrance of Jon Lee Joseph by Margaret Read MacDonald.

Jon Lee Joseph passed away November 13, 2021 in Albany, Oregon. Jon Lee was a member of our guild when she lived in the Seattle area. I wish I knew enough about her life to write a proper obituary, but I don't. I do want to say something about my experiences with this remarkable woman though.

One evening when I was taking tickets for a storytelling event, Jon Lee asked me if I had any idea how she might go to Turkey to teach. I said no, but I could give her a contact if she wanted to go to Thailand. She went to Mahasarakham to teach for several years, working with our good friend, Dr. Wajuppa Tossa (who also passed away this year). Jon Lee took part in many of the storytelling events Wajuppa sponsored there. Then she went to China for a couple of years, teaching English again.

Later she moved to Oman to teach at English at a college there. I was flying through Qatar and she invited me to visit in her sweet little bungalow in a palm grove in Oman. Jon Lee arranged a night in the Empty Quarter! She drove us up and up over the shale covered hills to meet our guide, who took us out into the desert where he had a camp set up. I remember lying on the sand with my eyes wide open all night watching stars fall through the belt of Orion...it was a night of the Orionids. Jon Lee owned a camel while living there and visited it often at a mountain home of one of her students.

When I was telling stories in Egypt and wanted to take a Nile cruise, Jon Lee agreed to fly over and go with me. What an amazing cruise, with the very curious Jon Lee, who was up for any touring adventure. Our "group" ended up consisting of one very knowledgeable lady guide and the two of us!

Jon Lee spent her last few years in Lebanon, Oregon, emailing frequent epistles lauding the beauty of that spot. When I talked to her in September, she ended our phone conversation by just mentioning... that she would be leaving this plane soon. A strong woman, who devised a unique and pleasing life for herself.



## Please Join Us

Let's come together in celebration and remembrance of a life well lived. We will gather on what would be Jill's 81st birthday to share stories, songs and memories. We are pleased to finally be able to celebrate and honor her with you.

Sunday April 3, 2022  
1-4 pm

### Freeland Hall

1515 Shoreview Dr  
Freeland, WA 98249



This will be an informal celebration of Jill Johnson and her legacy. We look forward to meeting those whose lives she touched, and hearing stories from the many facets of the rich life she lived. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP online at <https://tinyurl.com/4jill>  
Email [bj3553@gmail.com](mailto:bj3553@gmail.com) with questions.

Hosted by her children, Phil Johnson and Beth Short.

Over the forty years that the Seattle Storytellers' Guild has been in existence, many people have been associated with the Guild in one capacity or another.

Reading through the Archives, here are twenty different ways individuals have "donated" to us all and made our lives richer through their contributions to the Guild.

1. Current Board members
2. Past Presidents
3. Native American Tellers
4. Tellers from other Countries
5. Frequent *ITW* contributors
6. Northwest Folk Life Festival organizers
7. Workshop/Class instructors
8. Website creators and managers/ Tech specialists
9. Financial donors who came to our rescue
10. Prolific book authors
11. Founders of new storyteller groups associated with us
12. Emergent tellers
13. Artists combining story and other performance arts
14. Members we have lost but honor always
15. Golden Circle members
16. Story heroes/heroines
17. Original members of the Board of Directors of the Guild
18. Non-member Guest Tellers
19. Members mentioned at least ten times in *ITW*
20. Tellers from other US states/guilds/associations who "visited" via Zoom



## The SSG Membership Quiz! Part Two:

### Brought to you by *SSG's In the Wind Archives*

**Having listed the ways that folks have been part of our Guild, here are your questions.**  
There may be several correct answers for each question. Read carefully.

1. **Native American tellers** (Category 3) who have graced SSG's stages, actual or virtual, over the years include: A) Floating Eagle Feather, B) Paul Che-Oke Ten Wagner, C) Gene Tagaban, D) Harvest Moon, E) Vi Hilbert, F) Dayton Edmonds, G) all of the above  
Extra Credit: Who exactly was Vi Hilbert?
2. **Frequent *ITW* contributors** (Category 5), with articles on storytelling techniques or book reviews or performance announcements or story-travel reports include:  
A) Margaret Read MacDonald, B) Pat Peterson, C) Berte Olsen, D) Barry McWilliams, E) Chauni Haslet, F) Jill Johnson, G) Rebecca Ebey, H) Marsha Eshelman-Smith.  
Extra Credit: How exactly does Chauni Haslet fit into Guild history?
3. **Members or Friends of Story whom we have Lost, but Honor Always in our Hearts** (Category 14) include:  
A) Vi Hilbert, B) Jill Johnson, C) Gene Friese, D) Peter and Kay Chelemedos, E) Mary Gavan, F) Cathryn Fairlee, G) Jackie Torrence, H) Bergith Kayyali, I) Spencer Shaw, J) Syd Lieberman, K) all of the above.
4. **Artists who have told for us and have combined Story and other Performance Arts** (Category 13) include:  
A) Susy Irwin, B) Patty Zeitlin, C) Edward Curtis, D) Mary Dessein, E) Tom Rawson, F) Eth-Noh-Tec (Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang), G) Anne Glover.  
Extra Credit: How exactly does Edward Curtis fit into Guild history?
5. **Our Website and Tech requirements (Category 8) have been in the capable hands of:**  
A) Mark Bassett, B) Liz Weir, C) Barry McWilliams, D) Larry Hohm, E) Maia London-Hammer, F) Arthur Hill, G) Lance Lambert
6. **Back in the "Good ol' Days", when our events were not virtual, we had tellers come from farther away than the great Northwest.** Included in this group are:  
A) Donald Davis, B) Bill Harley, C) Naomi Baltuck, D) Sharon Creeden, E) Rinjing Dorje, F) WonLdy Pye, G) Kevin Kling, H) Allison Cox, I) Diane Wolkstein, J) Cathy Spagnoli, K) Ephat Mujuru, L) Chana Mills.
7. **There have been many SSG Presidents over our 40 years.** Some graduates of this School of Hard Knocks and Enduring Effort are:  
A) Norm Brecke, B) Naomi Baltuck, C) Barry McWilliams, D) Barack Obama, E) MaryAnne Moorman, F) Berte Olsen, and G) Rebecca Ebey.
8. **One of our members was famously terrified once upon a time to speak before a group.** This person not only worked hard and learned to overcome that but became a frequent teller, a teacher of multiple workshops and classes in storytelling, an organizer extraordinaire, who purchased Winners' Trophies for huge storytelling events and served on the Board over and over again. This person has a treasure trove of books of stories and materials for storytellers which she has sought to donate to our elusively located library. She has been a human dynamo for the Guild. Can you identify the person?
9. **Founders of new groups of storytellers** associated with us (Category 11) include:  
A) Naomi Baltuck, B) MaryAnne Moorman, C) Paul Currington, D) Jacob Grimm, E) Wilhelm Grimm, F) Hansel N. Gretel.
10. **The Original Board of Directors of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild** (Category 17), without whom there would have been no guild, include:  
A) Clare Cuddy, B) Merna Hecht, C) Elana Freeland, D) Harold Shapiro, E) Cathy Spagnoli, F) Tobiatha Tucker, G) Audrey Bennett.  
Extra Credit: Of the original Board, can you identify the two people who signed our Articles of Incorporation?



Yours in Fun and in Story, Anne Brendler

(Answers to [Quiz One \(Fall Issue\)](#): 1. b 2.c 3.b 4.f 5.d)

## Telling Your Personal Stories by Afifi Durr

Stories are like grocery shopping; or quilt making; or weaving nice carpets, or collecting material for building a house or shag. Let us first gather the scraps, then put them together and bring our stories to life. To tell your story, you have to collect material first. Then, start putting it together to create your own personal story.



**GATHER** - Remember your EARLY memories, your RECENT memories, as well as your IN BETWEEN memories.

For example, see my example to the right:

Remember your first home that you lived in. Bring it up closely and vividly in your memory; smell the food; hear the birds, listen to songs and remember the stillness at night and in the early mornings.

### Starting your story:

Think about what did you learn? How did you help? What did you do to fix your life? Then consider who are your audience? Be sure your story tells "what is in it for them."

**OUTLINE** - To tell your story, make an outline of what you want in your story.

- \* PLACES - Where are we?
- \* PEOPLE - Who are the people?
- \* CRISIS/TROUBLES - What are the unexpected moments or troubles that will move your Story!!

Go deeper, deeper. When your troubles are coming by,  
your story is going to move forward.

**PLOT** - The plot only exists after the story is finished.

**Craft the beginning** to shine the light on your challenge or problem.

**Shape the middle** around the struggle to meet that challenge.

**End with a resolution** that ignites your story.

What have you learned from these episodes? Did you run away from the problem and avoid it? Or did you fix your life!

### FINALLY:

Movement is important in storytelling. Your tone of voice. Focus on the audience! Act!

Capture the attention of the audience; be interactive with the audience, if possible

Use Humor in story - Make funny and sad voices; jump, laugh, sing, and act, if possible.

Keep telling your story more, more and more, you will tell it better.

And, after telling your story, check – did you share with the audience, the smells, sounds, tastes, etc. that you remembered in your story!

### My Early Memories

*I remember my little house in Jeddayer, Lebanon - It is a long house, like an American/Indian house, made of thick white stones, stuffed mud walls very wide. My house is divided into many sections; one section as a kitchen; one as a dining room, one as bed rooms; and one as a living room.*

*In front my house there is a water fountain and a big mulberry tree. I used to climb it as a little kid and hide from people. My two very ill little twin sisters were ritually placed under this healing tree in the hopes that they will survive, but unfortunately they did not.*

*Soccer in my little village was so popular. We kids and teenagers looked forward to walking and playing with the boys. I also remember the butcher in my village who butchered a lamb only on Sunday mornings. His name was Victor. He was weird and smart too. And the Tarneeb card games at Elmaz's, my neighbor, when I was seven years old.*

*Munsif, my village school, was so far away. I would go there walking as there were no cars at that time. One day, during Spring, I fell in the mud water after closing my eyes. My only teacher, Adieb Fiayd used to tell stories about me to all the students.*

*My early memory when father took me for the first time out of my village. I felt as though I was running away as a bird from my cage.*

*And I remember my boarding school in Schweifat: After my father's death, I offered to fix 40 beds daily before going to class in the morning in return for my education fees as my mother said, she can not pay to educate me, but she wanted to educate my remaining four siblings.*



A View of Jeddayer, Lebanon



## THE 2022 WOMEN'S STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The festival weekend starts at 7:00pm Eastern on Friday, March 18, 2022 and will wrap up Sunday, March 20, around 6:00pm ET. All attendees, whether attending in-person or virtual only, will receive links to watch the live stream. The video of the festival will be available for all ticket holders to watch for one month.

Storytellers: Sheila Arnold, Noa Baum, Margaret Burk, Mary D'Alba, Lyn Ford, Heather Forest, Bonnie Gardner, Lindsey Lange-Abramowitz, Carol Moore, Miriam Nadel, Vijai Nathan, Laura Packer, Denise Page, Jessica Robinson, Susanne Schmidt, Linda Schuyler Ford, Ria Spencer, Jude Treder-Wolff, Diana Veiga, Kim Weitkamp, Cyndi Wish, and Andrea Young!

<https://www.bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/>

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

### March

- 4\* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom** 6:30 PM  
(See Page 9)
- 5 Portland Storytellers Show Zoom** 7:00 PM
- 14\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
**Zoom** (See Page 11)
- 17 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 18\* Storyfest: 7 pm PDT Zoom** (Page 4)  
**Tom Rawson**
- 18—20 Women's Storytelling Festival**  
**Hybrid** (Link on Page 9)
- 19 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom** 7 PM
- 29 TBD Storytellers Zoom** 5 PM

For lots of other  
Virtual Storytelling Shows and Workshops  
follow the Facebook Pages  
of **Storytelling Seattle**,  
**Artists Standing Strong Together**,  
and **Storytellers**

### April

- 1 \* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom** 6:30 PM  
(See Page 9)
- 2 Portland Storytellers Show Zoom** 7:00 PM
- 11\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
**Zoom** (See Page 11)
- 16 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom** 7 PM
- 21 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 22\* StoryFest 7 pm PDT Zoom** (Page 4)  
**Shelia Arnold—Earth Day 2022**
- 25 TBD Storytellers Zoom** 5 PM

### For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional Storytelling Events

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

Lots of Special Events are listed in  
**Judith's Storytelling News** (see page 3)  
And Check the **On Line Calendars** of  
the **Storytelling Communities** on p. 9

### May

- 6\* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom** 6:30 PM  
(See Page 9)
- 7 Portland Storytellers Zoom** 7:00 PM
- 9\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
**Zoom** (See Page 11)
- 19 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 14\* The Voice of the Storyteller: A**  
Voice Workshop with Cris Reidel on **Zoom**  
**10-11:30 AM** \$15 Members \$20 non-  
members
- 20 StoryFest 6-7 PM Zoom** (Page 5)  
**Carmen Agra Deedy**
- 21 Portland Storytellers Extra Zoom** 7:PM
- 24 TBD Storytellers Zoom** 5 PM

Listen to Auntmama on the Radio:  
**KBCS's weekly show :Sunday Folks**  
Airing alternating Sundays,  
9:00 a.m.-12 p.m.  
on 91.3 FM (Bellevue)

### Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

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

Second Mondays **Under the Rainbow ZOOM** Stories from the LGBTQ community—  
See Page 11

Second Mondays **Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma ZOOM** 6:30 PM (Sept-June)  
Contact pmtennison@centurytel.net for details

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

Second Thursdays **North Seattle Storytellers Meetup VIRTUAL**  
[facebook.com/northseattlestorytellers/](https://facebook.com/northseattlestorytellers/)

Third Thursdays **Fresh Ground Stories**. 7 p.m. **VIRTUAL**  
[www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

First Fridays **SSG Story Swaps ZOOM** See page 9 for details (Monthly)

Usually Third Fridays **Seattle Storytellers Guild Story Fests ZOOM**.  
(see pages 4 and 5 for dates, times and details!!) (Sept.-May)

Third Fridays **Moth StorySLAM** themed, Bloedel Hall St Marks [themoth.org/events](http://themoth.org/events) \$

### Regional Ongoing Events

First Sundays **NorthVanTellers Cric Crac** Vancouver, BC 7 PM  
Contact [afisherlang@gmail.com](mailto:afisherlang@gmail.com) or [northvantellers@gmail.com](mailto:northvantellers@gmail.com) (Sept-June)

Third Mondays **Stories at Fern**. Nanaimo, BC **VIRTUAL**  
[victoriastorytellers.org](http://victoriastorytellers.org)

Third Tuesdays **Story People of Clallam County / South Sound Story Guild**  
hosts **Story Works 7-9 PM ZOOM** [www.clallamstorypeople.org](http://www.clallamstorypeople.org) (Sept-June)

Last Tuesdays **TBD Storytellers 5 PM ZOOM**  
Link to register: [www.anne-norm.com](http://www.anne-norm.com)

Second Wednesdays **South Sound Story Guild 7 PM ZOOM**  
[southsoundstory.org](http://southsoundstory.org) (Sept-May)

Second Fridays **Portland Storytellers Guild Story Swaps ZOOM**  
[portlandstorytellers.org](http://portlandstorytellers.org) (Sept-May)

Second Fridays **Around Town Tellers "Stories on Friday," 7:30 pm VIRTUAL**  
[aroundtowntellers.com/stories-on-friday](http://aroundtowntellers.com/stories-on-friday)

First Saturdays **Portland Storytellers Guild Member's Showcases ZOOM**

Third Saturdays **Portland Storytellers Guild Extra Shows ZOOM**



This reflects the status of these events as of late February, as best we can determine.  
If Venues open, things may change. Check websites.

**FGS Storytelling Workshop, Virtual** usually first Sunday of the month in the Afternoon  
Bring a story up to eight-minutes long to work on; give and receive feedback.  
More info: <https://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories-Storytelling-Workshop/>

## The Benefits of Joining the Seattle Storytellers Guild!

As a SSG member, you have a personal connection with an active storytelling community—with lots of opportunities to volunteer and help us promote oral storytelling in a variety of ways. Sure, anyone can attend our programs whether a member or not. But without our members, we would not have been here for forty years. Our organization since its beginning, has depended on the support and activity of its members—all volunteers who contribute a great deal to The Guild’s regular and special storytelling events, the swaps, and workshops. We are not kidding when we say on page two that “we need you!”

### Now more comes with your Seattle Storytellers Guild membership

The **Seattle Storytellers Guild** recently became an **Organizational Member** of **Story Crossroads** – a non-profit Utah Based Storytelling Festival and Organization. That means that paid-up Guild Members will have access to their exclusive content and connections (including monthly articles, quarterly e-workbooks, Zoom hangouts, discounts with businesses, and reduced prices for Story Crossroads offerings like the Story Crossroads Academy with self-led tuition-based online storytelling courses. A \$50 value). If you are already a member—contact [Treasurer@seattlestorytellers.org](mailto:Treasurer@seattlestorytellers.org) to be added to our Organizational Membership group!



SSG Members also get a membership discount when joining or renewing memberships with the **National Storytelling Network**. NSN members have exclusive access to lots of resources on its web site —[storynet.org](http://storynet.org), including Greenwood’s World Folklore and Folklife Resource and Database Guide, their **Storytelling** magazine archive, and discounts for NSN programs. Contact [Barry McWilliams](#) or [Susy Irwin](#) for the Guild’s membership discount code.

And Professional SSG members can have a listing in the “Find a Storyteller” section of the Seattle Storytellers Guild website. Contact [Larry Hohm](#) regarding that.

### Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

**Fresh Ground Stories Virtual**  
Seattle Meetup Group  
[meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](https://meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

**The MOTH :** [themoth.org/events](http://themoth.org/events)

**Story People of Clallum County**  
Virtual — Port Angeles  
[clallamstorypeople.org/](http://clallamstorypeople.org/)

**Quimper Story Guild**  
Port Townsend  
[facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild](https://facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild)

**South Sound Story Guild**  
Lakewood  
[southsoundstory.org/](http://southsoundstory.org/)

**Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma**  
(Website in the works)

Contact: [pmtennison@centurytel.net](mailto:pmtennison@centurytel.net)

**Bellingham Storytellers Guild**  
[BellinghamStoryTellers.org/](http://BellinghamStoryTellers.org/)

**Portland Storytellers Guild**  
[portlandstorytellers.org/](http://portlandstorytellers.org/)

**Portland Story Theater**  
[portlandstorytheater.com/](http://portlandstorytheater.com/)

(Blue are Open—Red are Shut down)



## 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.

## Part 3 — Changes and Challenges, 1994-2007

by Virginia Rankin—Reprinted from *In the Wind* Vol 31.1 Winter 2007



In 1993, the 400 member Seattle Storytellers Guild was riding high. Nobody anticipated the challenges of the next decade, when slowly but surely both membership and attendance at events would decline.

Dawn Kuhlman, who served as Guild president and treasurer during some of those years, hypothesizes that storytelling enjoyed enormous local popularity in the eighties, because people were still curious about heritage and roots. The same sixties impulse that had prompted an interest in folk music and crafts led to a fascination with storytelling.

Now things were changing. Seattle lost several highly regarded theatres. Older audiences didn't get out as much. Younger audiences increasingly found their entertainment in technology, and fast-paced, interactive performances like improv and stand-up comedy

The Guild lost its regular performance home at the Burke Museum, and became nomadic. A variety of venues were tried but none proved as comfortable. Sometimes parking was an issue. Sometimes a place became too expensive. For a variety of reasons, the Guild was on the move, and not always easy to find.



At some point in the late nineties, nobody can remember exactly when, Chauni Haslet offered the Guild the use of her wonderful bookstore, All for Kids, and it became the home for "Teller's Night Out." AFK hosted the Guild's story swap on the second Friday of each month.

There were fewer willing volunteers, but those who served on the board and the others who turned up to help, managed a number of achievements, not least of which was surviving. At one point, there was almost no money in the treasury, but creativity and determination kept the organization going.

The Guild produced several small festivals at the Nordic Heritage Museum. By telling for the museum's own program, the Guild managed to pile up a credit that meant the facility was rent-free. (Watch for us to continue to spend down that credit in 2008 by running a series of workshops in the museum's classrooms.)



At the end of the nineties, Bill Ptacek, Director of the King County Library System, decided KCLS would sponsor a celebration of storytelling. From 2000 to 2005, the library budgeted \$40,000, and committed considerable staff time to an annual Storyfest International. The festival ran all weekend at the Bellevue Regional Library, with as many as three events happening at the same time. But the large, anticipated audiences never came. By 2005, the library felt it could no longer justify the expense in dollars and staff time.



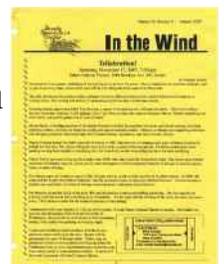
Debra Schneider, director of programming for KCLS, believes that with the event might have become a success with the addition of music, and puppets. She believes most people don't see storytelling as something for adults. "They don't understand the live theatre aspect — movement, gesture, voice, facial expressions." It is a message the Guild is still trying to communicate.

Though not entirely successful, Storyfest was an opportunity for the Guild. For some of you, it was the gateway to membership. Folklife is another such gateway. Thanks to Cherie Trebon's efforts, we have storytelling events on all four days, and we attract audiences who would never have come out specifically for storytelling. But they try it and they like it.



In 2004, Lenore Jackson was the driving force in establishing an electronic gateway. Our website has proved vital in attracting the attention of people who are searching for stories, but are unaware of the Guild. Kim Pearson is now updating the website with features like online dues payment and ticket ordering.

Both Guild membership and attendance at events have been rising in the past year. 140 people celebrated the Guild's 25th anniversary at Tellabration 2007 in the Ethnic Cultural Theatre in Seattle. Tellers included Tom Rawson, Merna Hecht, Sharon Creeden, Cherie Trebon, Eva Abram and Pat Peterson. It was the biggest audience we have attracted in a long time. Our second quarter century was starting out well. To quote the always quotable Pat Peterson, "We are still here!"



Anne Brendler will bring us from 2007 to the present in this series of articles about The Seattle Storytellers Guild's history in the Fall 2022 Issue of *In The Wind*

***Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series*** for Teens and adults

Second Mondays: Live Streamed on Zoom.

6:00 p.m Socializing; 6:30–7:45 pm — featured and open-mic storytelling;

Each story followed by group conversation. Ages: teens and adults.

No admission fee. LGBTQIA+ tellers prioritized; allies welcome in the audience and in post-story conversation.



**March 14th, 6-7:45 p.m.** Our guest storyteller will be **Kelli Dunham**, self-described as the “ex-nun storytelling nerd so common in modern life.” Kelli has appeared on Showtime and the Discovery Channel, the Moth Mainstage, PBS’ Stories From the Stage and at colleges, fundraisers and the occasional livestock auction. You can check out Kelli’s latest stop motion Lego storytelling creations at [www.youtube.com/c/KelliDunham](http://www.youtube.com/c/KelliDunham)

Check their website for other Spring Events at  
[edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/](http://edmondsnac.net/under-the-rainbow/)

Zoom Link : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83671133469>

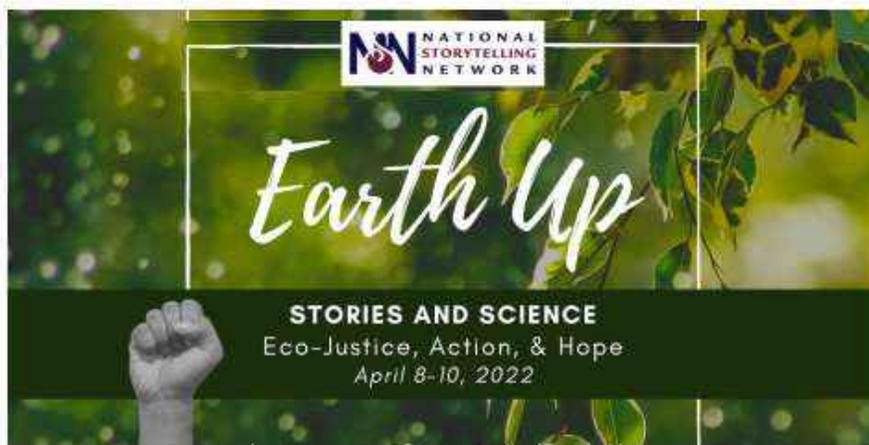
Under the Rainbow is supported by Seattle Storytellers Guild, Edmonds Library, Edmonds Arts Commission, Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition, and grants from the Pride Foundation.



**Northwest Folklife** will once again be gathering on Seattle Center grounds to celebrate their 51<sup>st</sup> annual Northwest Folklife Festival May 27-31, 2022.

***Metamorphosis: In with the Old, In with the New***, this year’s focus, celebrates people’s natural propensity for change. This will be their first hybrid Festival, some events will be live, some virtual, and many events are still being scheduled—but we know that there will be at least two Storytelling events—including the popular Ghost Stories. We hope to have the Liars’ Contest as well.

Check the Northwest Folklife website for more information : <https://nwfolklife.org/>

***Earth Up***

NSN will bring together a virtual international group of artists, scientists, teachers, students, and activists to explore the use of story in addressing the climate crisis and issues of environmental justice.

[Storynet.org/Earth-Up](http://Storynet.org/Earth-Up)  
For more information

**YOUR DONATIONS TO THE SEATTLE STORYTELLERS GUILD**

support storytellers and help fund our events.

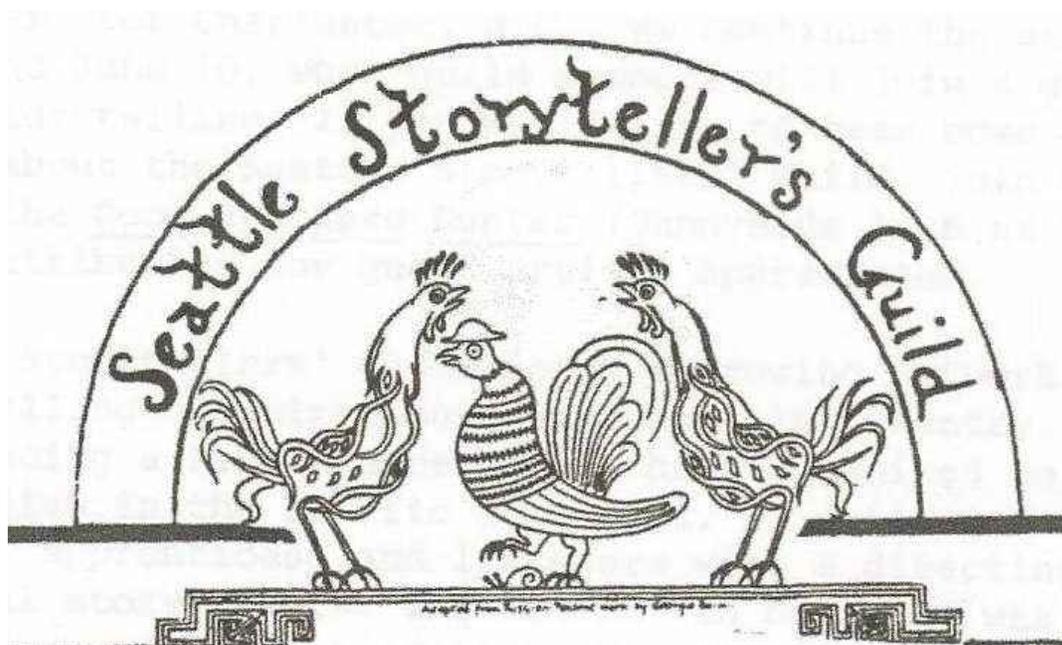


Passing Our Hat!

Please Give in the **DONATION JAR** on our home page:  
[seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org)

or with Paypal - [www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers](http://www.paypal.me/seattlestorytellers)

Or you may mail a check to :  
Seattle Storytellers Guild,  
PO Box 18361, Seattle, WA., 98118



## *In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

*P.O. Box 18361*

*Seattle, WA 98118*



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

**Standard Mail**