

# *in The Wind*

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

Swap June 3rd

Enjoy the Summer!

Golden Circle in September

### Inside this issue:

NW Folklife LIVE Events!! Other upcoming events	2
Help Wanted, Volunteer!! In The Wind Publishing Info	3
SSG Board Report Library Books Report	4
A Tribute to John Wasko	5
The Year in Review	6
The Good Liars Club Festival—August 6th	7
Memorial Articles	8
Treasurer's Annual Report	9
Events Calendar Finding Summer Events	10
June Swap Membership Friends of the Guild	11
NSN Conference Changes Mary Dessein's Book	12
Under the Rainbow Report	13
Address Page	14



## Seattle Storytellers Guild Annual Reports Issue



The Guild's Main Task has always been to create places to fill with the magic of stories! All sorts - personal narrative, folk, fairy and tall tales, trickster and animal fables, literary stories and epic myth. For 40 years we have gathered people to listen and be inspired at events both big and small, live or virtual. We have provided opportunities for folk of all backgrounds, cultures, and ages to discover the joy of Storytelling. We have supported novice and veteran storytellers in improving their skills in sharing their craft and love of story. We on the board are grateful for all Barry's hard work and willingness to learn to keep us going during the Pandemic!

The Seattle Storytellers Guild has an opportunity to take the best of what we have had before, and what we and others are discovering now, and apply it to our shared vision as a storytelling guild as we move into the future.

As we begin our fifth decade, we look forward once again to sharing our stories face-to-face. We will strive to attract audiences of all ages to the joys of storytelling. We will extend our tradition of sharing our love of storytelling and encouraging new storytellers in their craft. We want to pass on our skills, both in storytelling and in producing events to new volunteers and members.

We plan to continue serving various local communities – seniors, youth, and ethnic groups, while further providing teachers, librarians and museum personnel with options for storytelling. At the same time we want to continue to connect with our many new online friends In this exciting new world of virtual storytelling, which is here to stay!

### President's Report

This past season, 2021-2022, The Seattle Storytelling Guild has kept its President very busy. There have been ten monthly Board meetings on Zoom plus the planning meeting on Zoom, with plenty of email. I appreciate Judith, Marte, Anne and Patty's assistance. Anne and I met on the 4 Culture Grant and with others to work out Zoom safety protocols.

I have hosted on Zoom along with those meetings, nine StoryFests, nine swaps, plus three workshops, including promoting those events. I have edited and uploaded the video recordings for most of those, a time consuming process. Four more issues of *In The Wind* have been published, I appreciate Anne's and Judith's proofreading help, and Anne for mailing them out. I have also attended a number of online workshops related to Guild concerns. Running Zoom has required my keeping up with new features, dealing with safety issues, and learning and sharing new techniques.

After six years as President, it is time for me to step down as President. It's time for someone else to take the gavel. I need time for other things. While serving on the Board, I have had all sorts of opportunities such as learning the ropes of producing programs, introducing attractive backdrops and a sound systems. I learned how to be the man behind the Zoom curtain keeping us going and helping us connect with the growing virtual storytelling community. There are lots of possibilities for anyone on our board. (See the qualifications on pages 3 and 14.)

Barry McWilliams, President



**Northwest Folklife** will once again be gathering on Seattle Center grounds to celebrate their 51<sup>st</sup> annual Northwest Folklife Festival May 27-30, 2022.

***Metamorphosis: In with the Old, In with the New,***

This year's focus, celebrates people's natural propensity for change.

Their first hybrid Festival, some events will be live, some virtual.

***These events are Live in PERSON only!***

**The Liars Contest**

**Armory Court Stage, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA**

**Sat May 28, 3pm-4:15 pm PDT**

This storytelling competition for fun original or personalized tall tales has happened at folklife for over 25 years. Norm Brecke MCs the fun, and former 5-time winner Anne Rutherford tells a whopper while the judges deliberate. Sign up at the Armory Court one hour before the event to participate and tell your own tall tale! 8 tellers have 7 minutes each.

**Ghost Stories**

**Cornish Playhouse, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA**

**Sun May 29, 7 – 9 pm PDT**

Anne & Norm join expert terror-meisters Larry Hohm & Auntmama for this popular Folklife event. MC Karen Shaw. Come get your chill on!

7 – 7:25 Norm Brecke	7:30 – 7:55 Auntmama
8 – 8:25 Larry Hohm	8:30 – 8:55 Anne Rutherford

**The Portland Storytellers' Guild presents**

**The Sarah Hauser Festival of Stories: Saturday, June 4th 5 pm Pacific,**

**CELEBRATING INSPIRATION**

A dazzling array of tales told by seven, feisty storytellers sparked by the inspiration of friends, family and mentors!

Storytellers: Janice Alexander, Steven Henegar, Barb Fankhauser, Eric Foxman, Patrick Gannon, Anne Penfound, Pam Maben

Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gXy\\_WqvnQ5Km4dHNjKAisg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gXy_WqvnQ5Km4dHNjKAisg)



**TBD Storytellers: Last Tuesdays on Zoom, 5 pm Pacific**  
**June 28th, July 26th, August 30th**

**Information at :** <https://www.annerutherford.com/tbd/>



**The Worldwide Virtual Storytelling Guild**

The entire guild is live online and we welcome participants from all over the world. We are storytellers who are interested in sharing stories, learning about storytelling, and enjoying peer feedback and community. This project began with the goals of reaching isolated tellers, encouraging novice tellers and sharing across cultures.

We welcome tellers of traditional tales, historical stories, personal stories, stories with music, stories with puppets, rhymed stories, improv stories, digital stories, stories with mime and more.

Sponsored and hosted by **Northeast Storytelling**. Information: <https://www.nestorytelling.org/virtual-storytelling-guild/>



**The WWSG meets three times monthly:**

- the first Thursday night of each month at 8:30 pm (NY time)
- the second Saturday of the month at 6:00 pm (NY time)
- the third Sunday of the month at 12 noon (NY time)

Please remember to adjust your time and date accordingly if you are in another time zone. <https://timeanddate.com>



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



If you are good at or want to learn to:

*This is The Place!*  
*We Learned it Here*

**Learn to or Help plan events    Create online flyers and advertisements**

**Host or Co-Host Zoom events    Help with media publicity**

**Emcee a Program    Volunteer to Serve on our Board    Teach a Workshop,**

**Help index articles or books    Write an article for our newsletter,**

**Write Grants and raise support    Explore the tech needs for Hybrid Events**

**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)



**On Monday, May 30th, at 3:30 p.m. in The SIFF Film Center at the Seattle Center** there is a film/music/story multimedia creation about climate change, featuring both "Terra Nostra," a film by Charlie Spears set to a symphony composed by Christophe Chagnard and "The Myth of Rain," a story written by Seanan McGuire interspersed with the film and told by our own Larry Hohm.

## *In the Wind*

Volume 45 Number 3 Summer 2022

Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild  
Editor: Barry McWilliams

### Writers & Contributors:

Barry McWilliams, Eva Abram, Judith Alexander, Naomi Baltuck, Anne Brendler, Mary Dessein, Larry Hohm, Margaret Read MacDonald, Loren Niemi, Anne Rutherford,

*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.

**Fall deadline:  
August 15th**

**Your Articles Welcomed!**

### Seattle Storytellers Guild Board 2022-2023 [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)

Judith Alexander	President
Marte Fallshore	Vice President
Anne Brendler	Secretary
	Treasurer

### At large members

Afifi Durr	Larry Hohm
Colleen Bollen	Eva Abram
Bu Huang	Patty Zeitlin

### Auxiliary members:

Barry McWilliams	ITW, Zoom Host
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 Board's Report :

The Board, made up of **Barry McWilliams**, **Patty Zeitlin**, **Anne Brendler**, **Marte Fallshore**, **Larry Hohm**, **Afifi Durr**, **Eva Abram**, **Bu Huang**, **Judith Alexander**, **Susy Irwin** and **Colleen Bollen**; along with **Allison Cox** have met monthly on Zoom for 2 to 2 ½ hour meetings. We start the meeting with checking in, led by **Patty Zeitlin**. **Judith Alexander** has assisted in preparing Dockets. Several moderated. **Marte Fallshore**, who lives in Ellenburg, continues in the role of Secretary and prepares our Minutes. **Anne Brendler** has handled our finances, paid our bills and tellers, managed donations and accounts. She has emailed welcomes and thank you's, and spear-headed along with Barry in obtaining a \$5,179 grant from [King Country 4Culture](#) to help cover our event expenses. **Larry Hohm** maintains our website: [seattlestorytellers.org](http://seattlestorytellers.org).

Attendance at our meetings has been very good, though at times conducting business on Zoom is not easy. We have worked at determining a Performer Payment Policy for featured tellers. The details of upcoming events took a lot of discussion time. We started using Mailchimp. We created a Guild Zoom Account. A big step was taken in January 2022 when the Guild became an Organizational Member of Utah-based [Story Crossroads](#). This gives our membership access to all sorts of e-resources. Contact [Anne Brendler](#) if you are a member and want access to them! Membership also gives a discount on NSN membership.

We must recruit a new generation of volunteers. That continues to be a real need as some of us carry a large load, and others are getting older. A number of our Board members have had to deal with significant health issues as well, and we appreciate their dedication to the Guild in spite of these. This summer, we need take on the difficult task of moving back to face-to-face events while continuing with an online presence as well. This will not be easy. We really need your help.

**Changes to the Board:** **Barry McWilliams** will continue to a lesser degree as a Zoom Host and publishing the Newsletter - but is stepping down from the demands of President. **Anne Brendler** continues as our Treasurer, and is also our liaison with Story Crossroads. **Judith Alexander** will be our Vice President. She will continue to prepare meeting agendas and deal with other Board concerns via e-mail. While living much of the year in Germany, she continues to keep the e-mail "blasts" coming. **Patty Zeitlin** is continuing to help with some venues and various tasks as she is able. **Marte Fallshore** will continue as our secretary as the [Board will continue their meetings on Zoom in 2022-23](#). **Bu Huang** is handling Membership. She has been key in finding for the Guild different sorts of financial support. **Colleen Bollen** is helping with Publicity. **Larry Hohm** maintains the Guild Website and lobbying for PNW Folklife events. **Eva Abram** is handling our growing library of donated books, and **Susy Irwin** continues as our NSN Liaison. **Allison Cox** will continue the organization of some Epic and Special Events. We need a President and could use someone to write Grants—dues can't sustain us anymore. We could use someone with a vision and the tech skills to bring our live events online as well, aka create "hybrid" events.

**We will be planning the new season on a Saturday yet to be determined in July on Zoom, and would welcome anyone who would like to join with us. [Email, if you are interested.](#)**



## The SSG Library Books Report

As of May 13, 2022 we have a list of 239 books (There are a few books with 2 copies. Only one is counted on this list. If more than one copy exists, that information is noted next to the title.) These books are donations from Jill Johnson and Meg Lippert. Each book has been stamped with "This Book Belongs to SSG" and the name of the person who donated the book. The books are now housed at the **Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, 14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155**



Naomi Baltuck also has books to donate, and we have some from John Wasko, a member who recently passed away, also left to the Guild books that will be included in our library. I will collect, record, stamp, and deliver those books when the church is ready to house more.

We will later determine a loan system so that our members can take advantage of our library.

Respectfully, Eva Abram





## **"You are the Story, Yes, You Are" : A tribute to John Wasko** (January 13, 1951 - May 6, 2022)

John Wasko found a passion in life in storytelling. He even gave himself story telling Birthday parties. He had his "AHA" moment when he took his young daughter to hear storyteller Jackie Torrence tell at a program in Ballard and he realized what storytelling could be. It was sometime later, in the early 2000's, that he told his first story at an open mike at All For Kids Bookstore. Ironically, that story of "The Ultimate Alki Snowball Fight" would also be one of the last stories he told at the Village by the Sea Storytelling Festival in March of 2019.

John's stories were unique in character. He had quite a range - always memorable, skillfully delivered with a patient and gentle pace. Eva Abram comments: "When I first listened to him tell, I noticed a certain peacefulness about him and a certain sincerity in his stories. I soon learned that those qualities come out in his stories because they are very much a part of who John is." He often told at Guild open mikes. Most memorable to me were his personal stories, stories of Alki, where he lived - snowballs, a crow, a life changing bolt of lightning on the West Seattle bridge. A tale of a walk through woods with a pair of dogs turns into a touching realization.

Recruited onto the Guild's Board, from 2007-2011 John handled membership. Attending events was not easy, as he worked nights as a counselor of troubled men. But he worked it out to have Fridays off. In those years, he pursued the recording of stories. He produced a CD for the 25th Anniversary of the Guild in 2007 - recorded the tellers in a park, none the less, offering 150 copies - for sale or as perk for joining the Guild. Membership grew!! His own CD was done in 2010.

Norm Brecke says: "My first meeting I attended with the Seattle Storytellers Guild was a story swap at All For Kids Bookstore, John greeted me with enthusiasm. We hit it off right away. Encouragement from John always meant something special to me. He was also the person who asked me to be on the board. In meetings he was very good at keeping us on track and reminding us of Robert's Rules of Order- in the nicest way."

After a number of years struggling to find a venue, the Guild settled into the Haller Lake Community Club in Shoreline. Quite a drive from West Seattle, but John was usually one of the first there, setting up chairs, warmly greeting people. A mark of his inventiveness was "stage" lighting - he fashioned footlights out of light sockets, tupperware, and a slide viewing box from Goodwill we needed a ladder to hang.

In 2011, John helped organize the first Earth Day event held at the Duwamish Longhouse. In 2013, John took a bus to attend the 7th Annual Northwest Indian Storytelling Festival in Portland, Ore. Three days of drumming and song and tales! The next weekend he attended another such gathering at the Daybreak Star Center. John would go on to organize SSG April events at the Duwamish Longhouse from 2013 through 2017, giving us opportunities to hear those same tellers - events that drew large crowds despite the lack of parking.

That same passion for fostering connections with the indigenous peoples of the Northwest drove John in a project begun in 2009 - a one-man show on the life of the Seattle Photographer, Edward Curtis, who published 20 volumes of photos of the North American Tribes between 1907 and 1930. It was the perfect story for John to tackle. He found on Ebay a camera and tripod like Curtis used. We joked that he had been working on it so much, he began to look like Curtis. Sadly, John had hoped to premiere this with 10 shows in 2018, but was unable to do so because of some booking issues. And again he was finally set back because of the onset of his cancer.

Naomi Baltuck says "It is a terrible loss to our whole community, as he was universally loved and appreciated." Margaret Read Macdonald says "John will be sorely missed. He was always there, ready to lend a helping hand. The Guild will miss his kind presence." Pat Peterson said he twice left her speechless - with gifts he went to great lengths to procure. The title of this tribute is actually the refrain to one of his stories: Twinkle, Twinkle. "You are the Story. Yes, You are!" For most of us, John was just that. His stories reflected the one who was telling them. Gentle, humble, giving, frugal, sincere and warm - what a friend to all of us, John Wasko was!

By Barry McWilliams

## Seattle Storytellers Guild's StoryFests: The 2020 – 2021 Season In Review:

September – **“Olio: A Story I would Love to Tell”** (19 attended) featured a "miscellany and potpourri" of 8 stories told by Seattle Storytellers Guild members. Susy Irwin gave us a taste of Storytelling with her Workshop.



October – **“You Won't Believe This!”** with **Jo Walter** and **Eric Foxman**. (30 attended) gave us some shivers and surprise.



November: Tallabration™ 2021 “Harvest and the Coming Dark of The Year” with Canadian Tellers Philomena Jordan, Nan Gregory and Abegael Fisher Lang coming to us on Zoom from British Columbia. (53 attended)

December: “A Holiday Story Potluck” (22 attended ) featured a smorgasbord of seven storytellers with tales on Holiday themes.



January: “Crone’s Tales: The Maiden, The Mother, The Crone” with Barbara Fankhauser, Allison Cox, Julie Strozyk, Pam Maden and Anne Penfound. (72 attended with another 10 on the Live Stream)

February: “Te Moana Nui O Kiva: South Pacific Tales” with Tuaratini (32 attended) was a colorful presentation coming to us from New Zealand. She also had a Workshop: **Te Moana - Turou Takitua** on the techniques and role of storytelling in Cook Islands culture. (9 Attended)



March: “Songs and Tales” with Tom Rawson (48 attended) helped us remember the Hootenannys and the early days of the Storytelling Revival. The video has been viewed over a 100 times.

April: “Earth Day StoryFest 2022” with Sheila Arnold (26 attended) encouraged us to care for our Mother Earth.

May: “StoryTeller Carmen Agra Deedy ” (31 attended) told some fun tales of her family, and life growing up in Georgia.



A Workshop on **The Voice of the Storyteller** with Cris Reidel of Northeast Storytelling. ( 13 attended)

Thanks to Anne and Susy helping as co-hosts as it always seems like we have a last minute surge of registrations and people arriving. Eva gets Kudos for her frequent Emceeing. Generally about 15-20% more had registered, but didn't join the meeting for various reasons. They are followed up by email and pointed to our Live Streamed or Posted videos, if available.

**Videos are now available** online for most of these on the [Seattle Storytellers Guild Youtube Channel](#). Some of the storytellers did not wish to have the recordings available indefinitely, which explains those no longer available to view.

# Anne & Norm Present The GOOD Liars Club Festival

**Saturday, August 6, 2022**

Free registration: <https://tinyurl.com/goodliarsclubfestival2022>

Donate: <https://tinyurl.com/donategoodliarsfest2022>

[www.goodliarsclub.com](http://www.goodliarsclub.com) or [www.anne-norm.com](http://www.anne-norm.com)



11 AKDT/12 PDT/1 MDT/2 CDT/3 EDT Anne, Anne, Anne, Antonio & Andy MC Norm Brecke Anne Rutherford, Oregon Anne Penfound, Oregon Anne Shimojima, Illinois Antonio Rocha, Maine Andy Offutt-Irwin, Georgia	12 AKDT/13 PDT/2 MDT/3 CDT/4 EDT Three Ladies & a Gentleman MC Anne & Norm Jane Dorfman, Maryland Vicki Bryan, New Jersey Bernadette Nason, Texas Allen DeBey, Kansas	1 AKDT/2 PDT/3 MDT/4 CDT/5 EDT Four Gentlemen & a Lady MC Anne Rutherford Norm Brecke, Oregon Noah Hansen, Kansas Tim Lowry, South Carolina Simon Brooks, New Hampshire Motoko, Connecticut	2 AKDT/3 PDT/4 MDT/5 CDT/6 EDT Northwest Teller Showcase MC Pat Peterson Al Hirsch, Washington Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, WA & CA Bob Nuffer, Washington Tobey Anderson, Washington Eric Foxman, Oregon Ken Iverson, Oregon Eva Abram, Washington Steven Menegar, Oregon	3:30 AKDT/4:30 PDT/5:30 MDT/ 6:30 CDT/7:30 EDT Knee Slappin' Golly Whoppers MC Norm Brecke Anne Rutherford, Oregon Jessica Robinson, Virginia Priti Modyler, Singapore Kirk Waller, California Linda Yemoto, California Ingrid Nixon, Alaska	5 AKDT/6 PDT/7 MDT/8 CDT/9 EDT The Prevaricators MC Ingrid Nixon Chetter Galloway, Georgia Paul Strickland, Kentucky Ty Fance, California Donna Ingham, Texas	6 AKDT/7 PDT/8 MDT/9 CDT/10 EDT Liars After Dark (Rated R for Risqué) MC Chetter Galloway Ingrid Nixon, Alaska Jeff Doyle, Michigan Diana Velga, Washington DC Norm Brecke, Oregon Anne Rutherford, Oregon May contain strong language or situations.
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## Live on Zoom, Anne & Norm present: The Good Liars Club Festival

**Saturday, August 6, 2022 / 7 Showcases! / 32 Liars, er, storytellers**

including national tellers Andy Offutt-Irwin, Motoko, Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo (Eth-Noh-Tec),  
Antonio Rocha, Jeff Doyle, Eva Abram, Tim Lowry, Ingrid Nixon, Simon Brooks,  
Paul Strickland, Anne Rutherford and many northwest tellers.

Register NOW at: <https://tinyurl.com/goodliarsclubfestival2022/>

Donate to the storytellers: <https://tinyurl.com/donategoodliarsfest2022/>

You may donate to a specific showcase or to the entire festival.

Contributors will receive a link to watch a recording and have access for 10 days after that.



Anne Rutherford & Norm Brecke have produced a series of shows on Zoom during the pandemic called the Good Liars Club. The first show was concocted as a programming alternative to the Presidential debates. The success of that show has borne 5 more shows and they are now producing them quarterly. They have curated a nice variety of tellers over the months but always feature Anne, Norm, and their friend Ingrid Nixon. "We started with just northwest tellers and have expanded to become more diverse in who we select," said Anne. "We really like that we have mixed known and unknown tellers to really showcase some great tellers." "We have really hit gold with having tall traditional folktales added to the mix," says Brecke. "Lies are not a new concept in storytelling. We've had African tales and quite a few stories from Asia that stretch the truth over our six-show run. We are lucky to have friends, old and new, who are willing to tell for the fun of it."





## Jill Johnson's Memorial

The life of Jill Johnson, beloved storyteller, a member of our Golden Circle, our liaison to the National Storytelling Network, an enthusiastic volunteer and Board member over many years, was honored with memorial festivities on what would have been her 81st birthday, April 3rd, 2022. The event was held in the welcoming Freeland Hall on Whidbey Island, attended by many family members and friends, including some via Zoom. Many large posters of photos from Jill's life stood on one side of the large hall, and a slide show ran on a screen showing Jill as a young wife and mother, Girl Scout leader, during her time in Africa, the Peace Corps, military, and international teaching. A luncheon feast was also provided.

Katherine Gee Perrone presented a song with her guitar and spoke of Jill's mentoring her. The Shifty Sailors presented some of the songs from shows done under Jill's direction. Mary Dessein retold a condensed version of the story of a Persian rug that Jill had began working on, after she found that rug, from her childhood, among the belongings she was winnowing. What a magnificent story, so well told.

So many people spoke of Jill as mentor and encourager, a person who met challenges with grace and charm. The most touching speech on Zoom was her goddaughter from Cameroon, who remembers Christmas and birthday gifts always arriving, on time, year after year along with Jill's encouragement. Her granddaughter's favorite memories were read by Jill's daughter-in-law. I was able to point out how well Jill had served the Seattle Storytellers Guild, and give thanks for all her talents. Thank you to Jill's children, Beth Short and Phil Johnson, who donated a significant amount to the Guild in her memory, and offered to match donations from others.

Submitted by Judith Alexander

## A remembrance of Dr. Wajuppa Tossa by Margaret Read MacDonald

Many of you will remember Wajuppa Tossa from her many storytelling visits to our area. I was invited to teach with Wajuppa at Maharakham University in 1995 and from then on we were fast friends. She picked up on the values of storytelling immediately and trained a corps of student storytellers each year. Wajuppa spurred storytelling throughout SE Asia, inviting young tellers from Indonesia, The Philippines, Burma, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore to Maharakham for festivals and traveling to their countries to participate in festivals they went home to sponsor. She leaves behind an amazing legacy of thriving storytelling throughout the SE Asia, India, Bangladesh and Korea. One of our Guild members, Jon Lee Joseph, taught with Wajuppa in Thailand for several years.



Photo (Left to Right): Jon Lee Joseph—Grandmother Panya Tossa—Wajuppa Tossa

I sent this photo for Jon Lee's obit in the last issue, but it got cropped to show only Wajuppa's 100+ year old Grandma, Panya Tossa. At well over 100, that fine lady is the only one in this photo who still survives.



## Annual Treasurer's Report Seattle Storytellers' Guild May 15, 2022

Checking Account Balance, May 2021 \$253.68  
Savings Account Balance, May 2021 \$19,302.74 (incl. YTD interest of \$1.26)  
 Total Account balances, May 2021 \$19,656.42

Checking Account Balance, May 2022 \$1785.87  
Savings Account Balance, May 2022 \$22,321.92 (incl. YTD interest of \$1.47)  
 Total Account Balances, May 2022 \$24,107.79

For this year's report, this year of virtual/ZOOM meetings, StoryFests, and workshops, let's take a closer look at our expenses and income.



**First**, a focus of Gifts SSG has made, and Gifts SSG has received:

- 1) For various causes/people, we have made donations totaling about \$400.
- 2) From various people/organizations, we have received donations totaling about \$4140.

**Second**, a focus on Expenses for StoryFests and Receipts for StoryFests:

1. For Guest Tellers, Emcee, ZOOM, and Publicity, we have paid: \$2610.
2. For Guest Tellers, Emcee, ZOOM, and Publicity, we have received: \$345 in checks. We received PayPal payments totaling: \$3119. Please note that these PayPal receipts also include some membership renewals. We have received membership renewals by check totaling: \$400.

**Third**, a focus on Workshops/Classes, we have paid out about \$500 (\$400 to workshop leaders, and \$100 to pay for Board members to attend Story Crossroads workshops on budgeting and fund raising). The two workshops we offered were not well-attended. They were our loss-leaders.

**Fourth**, we had costs for printing, postage, licensing fees, our Story Crossroads Founding Organizational membership, website fees, and miscellaneous office expenses totaling about \$800.

**Fifth**, **The Under the Rainbow Fund** (within Savings) currently stands at about \$9,630. UtR received another grant of \$5000 in November, from the Pride Foundation, and we most recently (in October 2021) paid UtR for its expenses \$3135.

**The Gene Friese Scholarship Fund** (kept in Savings) balance is currently: \$492.50. We continue to be able to receive donations through the Amazon Smile program, and we have received a total of about \$11.

We continue to average about \$14-15 per donor at our events, usually with not even half of the attendees donating.

We are expecting to receive a Sustained Support grant of \$5179 from 4Culture sometime this month or next. We also expect to be paying \$500 to Carmen Agra Deedy for her performance on May 20th.

Anne Brendler, Treasurer, SSG

### 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

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

## June

**3\* SSG Story Swap** Zoom 6:30 PM  
(See Page 9)

**4 Portland Storytellers Show** Zoom 7:00 PM

**13\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
Zoom (See Page 11)

**16 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM LIVE  
At Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle

**28 TBD Storytellers** Zoom 5 PM

## July

**11\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
Zoom (See Page 11)

**21 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM LIVE  
At Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle

**26 TBD Storytellers** Zoom 5 PM

**30 National Storytelling Network's  
Connected One day event** with a member  
meeting, Grand Story Slam, Oracle Award ceremony,  
and concert Zoom

## August

**6 Good Liars Club Festival—8 hrs  
and 35 Tellers—Honest**

**8\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
Zoom (See Page 11)

**18 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM LIVE  
At Starbucks, 1600 E Olive Way, Seattle

**30 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)

**Where can we find  
Some Virtual Storytelling  
This Summer?**

Storytelling Seattle

Artists Standing Strong Together

Storytellers

World Wide Virtual Storytelling Guild

Storytelling Association of California

## 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



## 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. LIVE!  
[www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](http://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

First Fridays **SSG Story Swaps** ZOOM See page 9 for details (Sept-June)

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 Showcases** ZOOM (Sept-June)

Third Saturdays **Portland Storytellers Guild Extra Shows** ZOOM (Sept-June)



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

**FGS Storytelling Workshop, Virtual** usually the 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/>

## First Friday Night Zoom Story Swaps

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

**June 3rd 6:30 PM Pacific Time**

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

**Summer Break: See you in September!**

Our Swaps are meant to be casual and informal opportunities for story-tellers to try out a story they are working on, and a place for novice story-tellers 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)

Our thanks to Marilyn Grevstad for the "Check Ins"  
she has provided to our Swaps this past year.

## Defining our Membership

We have 67 members on our Membership Rolls as of May 11th;  
of those, 8 are Professional and 38 are Golden Circle, Lifetime, and Board members.

On our media lists, 288 receive Meetup announcements

592 receive our Email Eblasts - about 30% are opened.

268 receive our StoryFest Emails - about 50% are opened.

173 receive *In The Wind* - our quarterly Newsletter - about 50% are opened

Of course, many folks are on multiple lists. And we do hope more folks will open our emails!

We post event announcements on 7—8 different Facebook Pages, as well

Attendance at our Monthly StoryFest Zoom Events has averaged 37 - ranging from between 19 to 72 .



**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](https://themoth.org/events)

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

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

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

**Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma**  
[firesidestorytellersleague.org/](https://firesidestorytellersleague.org/)  
Contact: [pmtennison@centurytel.net](mailto:pmtennison@centurytel.net)

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

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

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







Hello NSN Members and the larger storytelling community.

Loren Niemi, Chair of the NSN Board of Directors here to tell you that at the Board of Directors meeting held on Saturday, March 26th, the NSN Board passed a motion to "postpone a full conference and hold a single day event with a member meeting, Grand Story Slam, Oracle Award ceremony, and concert." These elements are the minimum for a single-day event, though we are continuing to consider what else might be included as we determine the logistics and participation cost.

This was done in response to three considerations: The first is our current staff and volunteer capacity, especially on the heels of our Earth Up environmental storytelling conference. The second is the many conversations we have had with members who are suffering from Zoom fatigue and economic stress. The desire for a shorter and cheaper conference has come through loud and clear. The third is the fact that those same conversations come back again and again to wanting to gather together. We are committed to produce a physical conference as soon as possible and "safe" but that cannot happen in the near term. We do want to see you and to highlight when we are together again the many and varied approaches to storytelling as an art and as transformational or preservation work.

We deeply appreciate the work that has gone into planning for the conference by members who are serving on committees, proposing workshops and performances, and more. Thank you for your work and we hope that we will be able to look to you for your support in making upcoming NSN events a success.

Once again, let me be clear, we are not shortening the conference due to a lack of funding. We want to keep costs low and minimize the burden on our staff and volunteers.

<https://storynet.org/events/conference/>

Submitted by Loren Niemi



## Mary Dessein is writing a book!

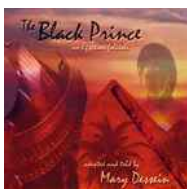
"It is a collection of my essays, many of them about story and storytelling. One called *'Emeralds in Orange,'* is about when I told the Guatemalan tale, *'The Emerald Lizard,'* at the juvenile justice detention center in Everett, and the incarcerated kids' responses to it. I learned the story from hearing Pleasant DeSpain tell it at a Seattle event and bought his book, *'The Emerald Lizard: Fifteen Latin American Tales to Tell.'* I sent him a copy of the essay, he said it was excellent and he has written an endorsement for my book!



"One of my essays was in the Guild newsletter about three or so years ago called, "I Just Had To" about a storytelling experience at a grade school with fifth and sixth grade classes.

"My book will be published on Amazon KDP, available on June 12. Yay! I will be asking for help from everyone I know to get the book, hard copy or Kindle, and put a review up on Amazon. This will help me so much get into searches and Amazon lists. I may be able to offer a special price for buyers the first forty-eight hours it is available.

"The title? Still working on that. It will likely be one of the titles from my blogs - I am considering 'Subway to My Heart,' or 'Lace, Grace, & Scars,' with the tagline *'Thoughts on Being Present in the World.'* Lol, there is one essay called, *'I Forgot I was a Genius,'* which delights me to think about as a title. "



People can search my name on Amazon and find the book.  
My award-winning CD, 'The Black Prince: an Egyptian folktale'  
is currently available digitally on Amazon or I can provide a hard copy CD.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Black-Prince-Egyptian-Folktale/dp/B077Y66DLF/>

## ***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.



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

## **Still Telling Tales Under the Rainbow** By Naomi Baltuck

**Under the Rainbow**, the Seattle Storytellers Guild's LGBTQIA+ storytelling series, has been ticking along for six years now. In a climate of increasing intolerance, storytelling has continued to heal, inspire, and strengthen our LGBTQIA+ community.

We still meet every Second Monday, 6:30-8PM. We have weathered the pandemic by switching to Zoom meetings. We miss socializing over cookies and veggie plates, but we open our virtual doors early to make room for socializing online. We have featured local tellers, including Chris Spengler, Allison Cox, Joselito Castillo, Chris-Tiana Obey Sumner, Matt Lawrence, Ginger Chien, Greg Colucci, Kent Whipple, Cynthia Orr, Manny and Berry Lopez, Gina Siciliano, and many more. Meeting via Zoom allows us to bring in storytellers from across the United States and Canada, including Sue Searing and Howard Lieberman, both from Minnesota, Pernell Quinlon, Jen Curcio, Riley Silverman, from California, Chetter Galloway from Atlanta, Rico Rodriguez from Toronto, Kelli Dunham from New York, Shirley Routliffe from Victoria, B.C., Melanie Ray from Vancouver, B. C., Cindy Rivka Marshall from Massachusetts, and many more.

We follow our featured performer's stories with group discussion and Q&A, as well as an open mic, giving our members an opportunity to share their own stories, to support each other and be supported.

**Writing Rainbow**, a natural offshoot of **Under the Rainbow**, now meets twice a month via Zoom, for brainstorming, workshopping stories, and to connect with other LGBTQIA+ writers. We have expanded our programming to include a monthly Queer Movie Night, where we discuss the plots, characters, and the meaning of LGBTQIA+ themed movies—what makes them work, what about those stories touch us.

We also produced our third **Queer Zine Workshop and Exchange**, taught by Daniel Martel and Elijah Janka, winner of the **2020 Washington State Zine Contest**. Participants wrote and exchanged stories with each other in zine form.

We work closely with the **Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition**, and the **Edmonds Library**, but none of this would be possible without the support of the **Pride Foundation**, which funds all of the above activities, and of the **Seattle Storytellers Guild**, our parent organization, which lends its non-profit status for our grant-writing .

**The Pride Foundation** awarded us two years of funding, \$5000 per year, to streamline the grant application process. Thanks to the SSG and Pride Foundation, we can continue to provide these services, and the gift of story, to our LGBTQIA+ community.



QUALIFICATIONS?

A Love of Storytelling!

Good ideas!

Enthusiasm!

Eager to try new things!

Willing to give of your  
time and energy!

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*In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*

*P.O. Box 18361*

*Seattle, WA 98118*



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

Standard Mail