

# in The Wind

## Seattle Storytellers Guild Fall Events

**September 17th**  
Golden Circle Party

**October 21:**  
Mary Gay Ducey

**November 4th & 5th**  
Story Concert and Workshop  
with Paul Strickland

**November 18th**  
Tellabration™ with  
Alicia Retes and BZ Smith

**December 16h**  
Diane Ferlatte & Eric Pearson

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## A SSG Celebration & Golden Circle Event

**Saturday, September 17, 2022 4-7 PM PDT**

**At Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church,  
14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155,**

### Live In Person! and Virtual!

Those joining online will have opportunity to participate  
in the program and stories, and visit with those who attend live.

(Zoom Registration: <https://bit.ly/3zy4On6>)

**Come, one and all to celebrate  
the Guild's 40th Birthday !**

**Let's party !! Stories galore, Awards, Cake  
and Snacks !**

**Meet Our Board members,  
Election of New President,  
Remembrances of John Wasko and Tom Galt.**

**Inducting New Golden Circle members:  
Mary Anne Moorman and Barry McWilliams**

**Stories by Golden Circle members,  
followed by an open mic time**

Contact Judith at [juditha5@earthlink.net](mailto:juditha5@earthlink.net) if you wish to tell.

### Directions to Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church,

14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155

- From I-5:** North on I-5, exit at 145th. Turn left, cross over I-5, turn right onto 1st Ave.  
South on I-5, exit at 145th. Turn right, then again right onto 1st Ave.  
(Get in right lane because 1st Ave comes up immediately.)

Drive on 1st about 1/4 block until, on your right, you see the UU church sign. There's a large church one door beyond it, and you might see that sign first, just past the SUUC church driveway.

- From Aurora Ave.** turn East on 130th to 1st Ave. Left on 1st, go about 1/4 block past 145th. Shoreline UU church driveway is on your right and follow rest of #2 directions, above



## Our October StoryFest !!

Friday, October 21st, 2022 at 7:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time on Zoom

Register for this Zoom Event at <https://bit.ly/3Qw30BJ>



**Mary Gay Ducey** is widely known for her Southern-soaked family stories, traditional tales, personal and family narratives, and historical scrappers. In October, she will bring to us a hour of eerie experiences from the world of story. She is descended from generations of southern women who prized independence and a sassy mouth. She grew up in New Orleans with its ancient charms and parades and now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area in a culture of shifting social landscapes. Her style has been described as funny, eloquent, and close to the heart.

*"I wish we could all tell stories like Gay Ducey." – Mister Rogers*

Mary Gay Ducey has performed on a professional level for decades, and knows that there's no stopping those stories that want to be told. *"You don't choose the art; it chooses you,"* she says. *"If I weren't storytelling on a stage, I'd be down at the local school, or in my beauty salon—any place and every place."* We will have her in our homes via Zoom this October.

She has shared her work across the U.S., Ireland, and Canada, a commissioned artist at the Smithsonian Institution, she has received the NSN ORACLE Circle of Excellence and Lifetime Achievement award. A retired librarian, she is the co-author of *A Crash Course in Storytelling*, a volume called "an essential purchase" for every librarian, according to the School Library Journal.



### First Friday Night Zoom Story Swaps

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

Register for these Recurring First Friday meetings at

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

September 2nd 7:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time

October 7th 7:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time

No Swap in November—Paul Strickland Concert

December 2nd 7:00 PM Pacific Standard Time

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 Marilyn Grevstad at [grevstad@aol.com](mailto:grevstad@aol.com)

The Seattle Storytellers Guild  
is fortunate to have been awarded a

**Sustained Support grant** from

**4 Culture** - A cultural funding agency  
for King County, Washington,  
which will help us recoup  
many of our 2022 program expenses.

**We still need and can use your donations,**  
**especially if you are attending our events.**

**Suggested Donations of \$5 -\$20**

will help us pay our tellers  
And other expenses  
and expand the growth of storytelling  
in our community!



Passing Our Hat!

**Donate at**  
**[Seattlestorytellers.org](http://Seattlestorytellers.org)**

**Audra Sisak** has volunteered to serve as our 2022—2023 Board President. Audra went from research scientist, to a mental health therapist and an autism/epilepsy advocate. She has found joy, expression, and true healing making others laugh and now is an entertainer doing storytelling and comedy. Audra lives in Puyallup, WA.

Here is how Audra describes herself:

*“Audra Sisak, stage name **Polite Kitty**, is a comedic storyteller by nature. They tell about their life experiences as an autistic, disabled superparent with epilepsy, raising kids, hyper fixations, and dysfunctional family fun. A brilliant style of entertainment that leaves an audience participating and laughing! They work full time as a performer, host, comedian, storyteller, and actor. Performed with Story Collider, 7 Stories, Open Mic Collective PNW, Geeky Comedy Seattle, and more!*

*“When Polite Kitty is not on stage, they enjoy time with family and their fur babies (7 dogs and 7 cats). They also love gardening, reading, music, dancing, binging favorite TV shows on repeat, comedy, improv, 1950’s look, frogs, mermaids, and making others feel good about themselves. Most relatable animal is a Manul Cat. They have two sons, 10 and 19 years old, and lives in a home with their parents as a community. They were probably a hippie in another life.”*

**Other recent changes to the SSG Board:** Judith Alexander will serve as Vice President, Marte Fallshore as Secretary, Anne Brendler as Treasurer. Barry continues as Newsletter Editor and Zoom Host. Patty and Afifi will remain on a limited basis for health concerns. Jen Stone will consult with the board on a number of technical issues. The Board meets virtually on Zoom—usually on the second Wednesday evening of each month. Members are welcome to come.

Contacts: Audra - [audrasisak@gmail.com](mailto:audrasisak@gmail.com)  
Judith - [Juditha5@earthlink.net](mailto:Juditha5@earthlink.net)  
or everyone - [board@seattlestorytellers.org](mailto:board@seattlestorytellers.org).



## In the Wind

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Editor: Barry McWilliams

Writers & Contributors:  
Barry McWilliams, Audra Sisak, Anne Brendler, Judith Alexander, and the Seattle Storytellers Guild board.

*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.

**Winter deadline:  
November 15th**

**Your Articles Welcomed!**

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

Audra Sisak	President
Judith Alexander	Vice President
Marte Fallshore	Secretary
Anne Brendler	Treasurer

### At large members

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

### Auxiliary members:

Susy Irwin	NSN Liaison
Allison Cox	Special Events
Naomi Baltuck	Under The Rainbow

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  
[juditha5@earthlink.net](mailto:juditha5@earthlink.net)

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



The Seattle Storytellers Guild is excited to host a Special Double Header

**A Concert and a Workshop with **PAUL STRICKLAND** on November 4th and 5th.**

Both the Concert and the Workshop will be on Zoom.

**"Fibs, Fairytales and other Fictions"**

on Friday Evening, November 4th at 7:00 PM PDT

Register for this Zoom Event at <https://bit.ly/3bNzQj4>

Paul Strickland is an American storyteller and comedian based out of Cincinnati, Ohio. His award-winning solo and collaborative performances have been featured at the National and Timpanogos Storytelling Festivals among others, and in comedy clubs, and Fringe Festivals across the United States and Canada.

Perhaps you heard, during the TBD Storytellers' programs, some of his stories that were told to him by his *Ain't True and his Uncle False*, who live in Big-Fib Cul-de-sac, a small trailer park just off the coast of Factual in the mythical American south.

Bill Lepp says "**Paul Strickland's got a whole bunch of tall –tale type stories from his fictional trailer park with a whole host of quirky, sweet, smart, and hilarious characters.**"

Paul's hilarious and heartfelt tall-tales and songs have won "Best of Fest" over sixteen times at Fringe Festivals in the U.S. and Canada, and he has performed in virtually every imaginable environment, from Off-Broadway and comedy clubs to elementary and middle schools, corporate events, and even two prisons—where he was NOT an inmate at the time.

**Suggested Donations of \$5-\$20 are welcome for this Special Storytelling Concert**



**Then on Saturday Morning, November 5th, at 10 AM PDT,**

**Paul brings us a Workshop:**

**"Making A Story that's More Than the Sum of its Parts: Collage Techniques in Storytelling"**

. . . in which we will work with the uses of anecdotes, micro-stories, genre shifts and other smaller devices within a story to create or maintain interest in the whole.

Cost is: \$15 for Guild Members, \$20 for non-members



Register for this Workshop at <https://bit.ly/3A9Luhr>

Pay at [seattlestorytellers.org](https://seattlestorytellers.org) in the Donations Jar.

# November Brings Tellabration™!! A Indigenous Offering of Gratitude With Storytellers Alicia Retes and BZ Smith

**November 18, 2022 7:00 - 8:30 PM Pacific Standard Time**

Register for this Zoom Event at: <https://bit.ly/3dhAiXf>



**Alicia Mary Retes** has performed interactive storytelling all over the San Francisco Bay Area for many years. Thousands of people of all ages have enjoyed her presentations at festivals, schools, libraries, recreation centers, and just about any location where people gather to learn, enjoy, and be entertained. Alicia is an active member the National Storytelling Network, Storytellers Association of California and the Sierra Foothill Storytelling Guild.

Growing up in a bilingual Mexican American household sparked her fascination with cultural diversity and natural history. She resides in Marin County, the unceded lands of the Coast Miwok Tribal Council of Marin. She brings Native American stories to life, and plays native musical instruments and weaves songs into stories that uplift the listener. As the former Education Director at the Museum of the American Indian in Novato, Alicia has provided Indigenous cultural education and natural history tours along the Southern and Central California Coast since 2005.

In her lively tales of Tricksters and Shape Shifters such as Coyote, Raven, Rabbit, Spider and Frog, she fully embraces the character, body, movement and spirit of the Animal People. She finds them to be extremely fun, interesting characters to portray who express a range of human conditions while providing opportunities to transform preconceived ideas and unite us with good group laughs.



**BZ Smith** was born with the gift of gab. Storytelling runs in her family. One day she tripped over the threshold of her local library, and landed face-down, smack-dab, into the best job ever: Being the Story Lady for Tuolumne County families.

BZ Smith launched her professional life as a teacher in 1973. Now retired, six decades later, with a slew of nice awards for her work in children's education literature and storytelling hanging on her wall, she still hears The Teller's Call - telling stories in Sonora and Tuolumne County, California. Her positive attitude just overflows.

Even Covid couldn't slow her down. With no prior experience with Zoom nor comfort with video-recordings, she discovered Facebook Live. *"I made the leap! With help from the Mother Lode Storytelling Guild, I started weekly Story Time programs for different ages. We put out the word, and by two weeks out we had reached over 1500 households. I was humbled. By the end of Summer 2020, the Mother Lode Storytelling Guild had produced 77 Shelter-In Story Times. Pretty good for a bunch of almost-Luddites!*

She received an Oracle Award from the National Storytelling Network for Service & Leadership in the Pacific States Region in 2011, and was chosen for the Storytelling Association of California's Regional Gem Award in 2018.

**Suggested Donations of \$10—\$20 or more will go to the National Storytelling Network!**



## The Bright Side: The Seattle Storytellers' Guild's Past Fifteen Years

By Anne Brendler



Fifteen years ago, Virginia Rankin wrote a three-part history of the first twenty-five years of The Seattle Storytellers' Guild. Published in 2007 and 2008 issues of *In the Wind*, Virginia took us through "The Early Days", "The Golden Years", and "Changes and Challenges". As we come upon the Guild's fortieth anniversary, I will make a brave attempt here to pick up where she left off and make a record of our most recent fifteen years.

In the first paragraph of her Part III, Virginia reflects on our drop in membership and attendance numbers. In the following paragraphs of this third chapter in her history, Virginia explains the decreases and what various very creative volunteers have attempted to turn the situation around. She cites lost venues, an aging audience that used to get out more to theater-type events, an upcoming younger audience that seeks out more interactive and fast-paced entertainment, and a loss of ready volunteers.

Fifteen years later, we note the same problems. However, we can also look on the bright side and note many achievements and accomplishments of which the Guild can be proud. We have abided by our Mission and sustained our presence.

### Let's take a look:

We have had a number of enthusiastic and very capable Presidents, including Naomi Baltuck, Avery Hill, Norm Brecke, MaryAnne Moorman, Cynthia Westby, Samantha Desmond, and Barry McWilliams. Some of these generous volunteers served more than one term as President.

We have contributed (with financial and/or volunteer support) to the Forest Storytelling Festival, the PowellsWood Story Festival, and the Northwest Folklife Festival. (For many years, this was Cherie Trebon's pet project!)

We have maintained a Guild membership in the National Storytelling Network and in the new Story Crossroads, both of which expand the learning opportunities for storytellers of all levels.

We have created and sponsored presentations of Irish myths, the Finnish National Epic (the Kalevala), Nordic Myths, and the great Arabian tales, "1001 Nights" (with Arabic music and dance). We also co-created, with the Puget Sound Welsh Association, a special evening of Welsh stories and music.

We have sponsored expanded Earth Day programs, and lately these have included tellers such as Paul Che-Oke-Ten Wagner, Harvest Moon, and Gene Tagaban. Originally with the leadership of John Wasko, we have continued our focus on inclusion of Native American tellers, having been guided years ago by the great Salish teller Vi Hilbert. That focus persists in our upcoming November 2022 Tellabration™ with Indigenous Tellers Alicia Retes and BZ Smith.

We have had a hand in bringing to our area tellers representing many different places in the United States and even the world, for example: Eth-Noh-Tec, Charlotte Blake Alston, Donald Davis, Antonio Rocha, Kevin Kling, Motoko, Lyn Ford, Tuaratini Ra, Johnny Moses, Sheila Arnold, and Carmen Agra Deedy. From the Middle East, we have welcomed and listened to the stories of Noa Baum and Dr. Haji abi-Nashem, and our own Afifi Durr.

We have offered all kinds of story guides and information in our newsletter of forty years, *In the Wind*. We have also added to storytellers' education and promoted the art of storytelling (part of our Mission Statement!) through numerous workshops, sometimes featuring famous tellers and often offered through our connection with the Nordic Heritage Museum. We have had the opportunity to learn from the likes of: Diane Wolkstein, Eva Abram, Norm Brecke, Nancy Mellon, Doug Lipman, Margaret Read Macdonald, Jennifer Ferris, Will Hornyak, Annette Botsford, Susy Irwin, Naomi Baltuck, Loren Niemi, and Anne Rutherford, just to name a few.

Members of the Guild have taught story classes at local colleges or universities, and we have extended complimentary one-year memberships in the Guild to those taking the classes. Cherie Trebon taught classes for years, and Susy Irwin has continued that tradition.

Teaching articles and reviews of books that are story resources have frequently appeared in *In the Wind*. We have seen, for example, articles by Jay O'Callahan, Allison Cox, Jill Johnson, Barry McWilliams, and Margaret Read Macdonald.

The use of story in fostering mental health has been a powerful tool in our reaching out to others. Allison Cox has been involved with this for many years, and her stories often reflect her intense compassion in this endeavor.

We have been represented at other events in other cities and countries by our travelling members, who have brought us back reports on storytelling in places they visited and told stories there as well as here from those places when they returned. A few of these "troubadours" who have helped spread the joy and the art of story include: Jill Johnson, Cathy Spagnoli, Margaret Read Macdonald, Chana Mills, Judith Alexander, and Allison Cox.

We have kept alive funds for members who want to attend story workshops or classes or learning events in the form of the Gene Friese Fund, specifically established for that purpose by Gene Friese before he passed away. This fund has even enabled some of our members to have subsidized story learning adventures in Vancouver, Canada!

We have furthered the establishment of our offshoot groups of tellers, one being Under the Rainbow, designed for the LBGTQIA+ community (although open to all), and its own offshoot, Writing Rainbow. These have been largely the creation of Naomi Baltuck, our longtime member. Naomi and her family have been the frequent hosts of story concerts in their home in nearby Edmonds. Another new group has been the Little Liars' Group, for learners of that particular genre of storytelling, with Marte Fallshore at the helm. Workshops in this field have been offered by Ingrid Nixon and, coming soon, this November, Paul Strickland.

MaryAnne Moorman (aka AuntMama), one of our Past Presidents, has established yet another offering, this one for stories and music, at her home on Bainbridge Island. Totally funded by donations to her specific project, not to the Guild, she has created The Third Stage, a venue for creative artists to learn and create. It is mentioned here because with her roots in story, AuntMama has extended near and far the art of storytelling in the Northwest. AuntMama maintained her presence and furthering story on radio, on KBCS 91.3 FM now on alternate Sunday mornings.

We have also recently had for some years a story program for folks at senior living facilities. This was called Elder Tales, ably organized by Judith Alexander. In small groups of two or three tellers, we would present an hour's program of stories at various retirement homes. Unfortunately, this had to be paused during the pandemic.

Many of our less-active members now have donated over 200 books to our fledgling Storytellers' Library. We have storybooks of all kinds, including "how-to" books to help story beginners. The library is currently housed at the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, through that organization's generosity.

We have maintained various venues for our monthly gatherings, at All For Kids Bookshop, Santoro's Bookshop, Home Street Bank, The Couth Buzzard, and the Nordic Heritage Museum. and more recently, The Bridge Coffee House, Haller Lake Community Center and the Haller Lake United Methodist Church. We have been especially fortunate that Under the Rainbow has been offered space at the Edmonds Public Library. Story Swaps (opportunities to learn and practice stories) were also held at the homes of Afifi Durr or of her neighbors; and the home of Virginia Rankin and David Klein.

Perhaps our largest venue, of course, has been the World of Zoom, where we have been forced by the pandemic, to hold our events for two years and running. We have all learned Tech skills from our Tech Guru and outgoing President, Barry McWilliams. He has not only learned how to run these events, but he has taught those of us willing to learn how to assist. This has allowed us to open new doors to tellers and listeners from all over the country and, in the case of Tuaratini Ra, the world.

Tech advances are one way the Seattle Storytellers' Guild has advanced and changed a good deal in these last fifteen years. Zoom has enabled us to reach out to a widely varied audience who find out about us through our different online advertising, such as on our website and on Facebook and with Meet-up. Through Zoom, we have listeners joining our events, performances as well as workshops, from places near and far. Our website, initiated by Maia London Hammer in 2012, has been the province of Larry Hohm since 2014. It is a varied place to visit. It brings word of upcoming story events in Seattle and the surrounding area, highlights our tellers, carries e-copies of forty years' worth of In the Wind newsletters, and allows for interested folks to join the Guild or donate to our story events.

Beginning fifteen years ago, we offered members the opportunity to receive their copies of the newsletter either by regular mail or by email. Email keeps our printing and postage costs at a minimum, and many members have chosen this method of delivery. Because the electronic version of the newsletter also carries live links for registering and/or donating for events, this makes it easy for people to sign up.

In the very last two years, when the Board has had to meet or vote on questions between the Board meetings, we have had to use Zoom. This has proved invaluable. We had already switched to meeting as a Board in-person and meeting on Zoom on alternate months, but COVID made it necessary on a more frequent basis. We have successfully used this format to change our By-Laws to reflect that nowadays it may be necessary to meet and vote electronically. Again, while we have always preferred live and in-person storytelling, electronic changes have helped our organization create a future and keep the art of oral storytelling alive in Seattle!



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

### September

- 2\* SSG Zoom Story Swap Zoom** 7:00 PM  
(See Page 2)
- 3 Portland Storytellers Show** 7:00 PM  
[LIVE and Streaming on Youtube](#)
- 12\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
[Zoom](#) (See Page 11)
- 14 South Sound Story Swap** 6 PM Live and  
[Zoom](#) Featured Tellers and open mike.
- 15 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 17\* SSG Party and Golden Circle** 4- 7 PM  
LIVE and **VIRTUAL** (See Page 1)
- 17 Portland Storytellers Extra** [Zoom](#) 5 PM
- 27 TBD Storytellers** [Zoom](#) 5 PM

For lots of other  
Virtual Storytelling Shows and Workshops  
follow the Facebook Pages  
of [The Seattle Storytellers Guild](#),  
[Storytelling Seattle](#),  
[Artists Standing Strong Together](#),  
and [Storytellers](#)

### October

- 1 Portland Storytellers Show** [Zoom](#) 7:00 PM
- 7\* SSG Zoom Story Swap** [Zoom](#) 7:00 PM  
(See Page 9)
- 10\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
[Zoom](#) (See Page 11)
- 20 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 21\* StoryFest:** [Zoom](#) 7 PM  
w/ [Mary Gay Ducey](#) (See Page 2)
- 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

### November

- 4\* Paul Strickland Special Concert**  
[Zoom](#) 7 PM (See Page 4)
- 5\* Paul Strickland Workshop** 10 AM
- 5 Portland Storytellers** [Zoom](#) 7:00 PM
- 14\* Under The Rainbow** Stories for LGBTQ+  
[Zoom](#) (See Page 11)
- 17 Fresh Ground Stories** 7 PM **VIRTUAL**
- 18\* Tellabration™** [Zoom](#) 7-8:30 PM  
w/ [Alicia Retes](#) and [BZ Smith](#) (Page 5)
- 29 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)

### Read The Story Beast

A Monthly e-Pub

<https://storybeast.org/archive/>

### 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](mailto:pmtennison@centurytel.net) for details

First Thursdays [Moth StorySLAM](#) themed, Fremont Abbey Arts Center  
[\\$](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/](https://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

First Fridays [SSG Story Swaps](#) **ZOOM** (Monthly—except Nov, see Page 2)

Usually Third Fridays [Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFests](#) **ZOOM**.  
(See pages 2, 4 and 5 for dates, times and details!!) (Sept-May)

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

Last Fridays [Burien Culture Club's 7 Stories](#) at Highline Heritage Museum 7-8:30 PM  
Themed personal stories, see [burienculturehub.org/7stories](http://burienculturehub.org/7stories) for information

### 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 August, 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](mailto:BarryMcWilliams) or [Susy Irwin](mailto:SusyIrwin) 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](mailto:LarryHohm) 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



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.

## The National Storytelling Network: Its Recent Woes and Hopes - My observations



has been supported by the Seattle Storytellers Guild for many years through our Guild and individual memberships and with donations made at our Tellabration™ events. It has been struggling with many issues that other Arts organizations are focused on, and this summer, it all came to a dramatic head.

The NSN, at one time, the **National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling** (NAPPS), first came into existence in the mid 1970's during the revival of oral storytelling at Jonesborough, Tenn. Its early focus was the annual festival there. With time, it became a National organization. It spawned many local guilds and festivals around the country. Renamed in 1998 the **National Storytelling Network**, NSN is now an international community of storytellers. Their offices and a small staff moved to Kansas City, Missouri, in 2015 - into the Mid-Continent Public Library Systems' Woodneath Library Story Center. Within NSN's orbit are the Storytell Listserv and a number of Special Interest Groups (SIG's) such as the Healing Stories Alliance, YES (Youth Educators and Storytellers) Alliance, and the Producers and Organizers SIG. NSN presents annual Oracle Awards honoring outstanding contributions to storytelling, and the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Funds. Storytelling Magazine, a membership perk, ceased publication due to costs in 2020.

Like most storytelling organizations, NSN membership has been "greying" with many members now retired. Some feel they get nothing out of paying dues other than being pressed for more donations. Many can not afford the time and expense of attending distant conferences. So memberships continue to decline, NSN losing 100 a year. NSN sponsored a National Conference (Summit) for quite a few years and expensive outside consultants were hired to run them. Then Covid had its impact - The 2020 Conference in Atlanta was canceled and replacement virtual conferences and other virtual events like Earth Up, etc., have failed to compete in a crowded online market. Membership dues and the conference had brought in about 65% of NSN's income, and contributions another 25%. So, struggling with added fiscal instability, the board was forced to reduce the virtual 2022 Connected Conference to just one day. SIG workshops and other planned events were not allowed.

Facing the increasing fiscal crunch, the board announced early in the Summer that some serious downsizing or perhaps even shutting down would need to take place. A number of online membership meetings followed - an overwhelmed board laying out fears of impending fiscal disaster to what turned out to be



a surprising response by a membership who still highly valued the organization and those who feared what would happen if NSN ceased to be. A number of somewhat drastic proposals were offered - involving reorganization, more leadership transparency and other fundraising efforts. One was the recent Auction this August, and there is a strong push towards NSN pursuing grants, and further broadening its revenue streams.

A straw that seems to have "broken the camel's back," in part, had to do with the **Story Beast** - an e-pub that had its first issue in July. Some thought it would replace the defunct Storytelling Magazine, and should carry NSN's logo, but its staff, for reasons unclear, decided to stay independent of NSN. A number of the SIGs lean toward fiscal independence as well. Needless to say, the Board's Chair, Loren Niemi, resigned at the end of July 30th meeting, staff resignations followed - Danni Altman-Newell remains still. NSN may lose its KC office space at year's end.

**Kory May**, who had been the Vice Chair was encouraged to over as Chair and has been making a real effort to be totally transparent and listening to the membership, giving us his personal email and phone number. Despite being down with Covid at first, he's had lots of lengthy Zoom meetings with members, liaisons, SIG's since taking charge. Kory lives in Iowa City, Iowa, and worked in politics for a number of years before a business career of 14 1/2 years with Proctor and Gamble. He now is a Speaker, Storyteller and Communication Coach with a personal and professional commitment toward creating relationships with people through interactive facilitation and personalized coaching.



Besides over-dependence on income from a National Event, other issues have emerged - a clear lack of connection with the regional organizations through the NSN liaisons, a need for more emphasis on networking between storytellers instead of producing events, and perhaps restructuring the board around the SIGs instead of USA regions. And a need for clarifying and application of the NSN mission statement. A leadership summit is in the works with other storytelling organizations.

Kory assures us that NSN is not dead. Members are urged to get involved—it is no time to sit back and see what happens. We need to make a clean break with the past and move forward. The digital world is here to stay. NSN has resources to carry it through the next 8-9 months.

NSN Board meetings are now open to the membership and lots of members are attending. [If you are a member, you can attend these Saturday Zoom meetings by registering using the links in the Events Tab in your NSN website dashboard.](#)

These observations by Barry McWilliams

***Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series*** for Teens and adults**Second Mondays: Live Streamed on Zoom.**

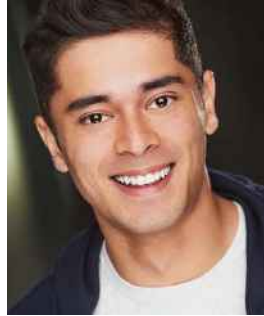
6:00 p.m Socializing; 6:30–7:45 pm — featured and open-mic storytelling;

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.



**Shanta Nurullah**  
Monday, September 12th



**Chris Renfro**  
Monday, October 10th



**Adam Booth,**  
Monday November 14th

Check their website for other Fall Events at  
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.**

**Under the Rainbow** has been hosted by the Edmonds Library, however, a two-inch irrigation pipe supporting the building's rooftop garden ruptured last June. Preliminary estimates based on the conditions indicate water was overflowing for up to 8 to 12 hours, and an estimated 60,000 gallons of water flooded the plaza level of the Edmonds Library during closed hours. The entire 17,000 sq ft library was filled with roughly two inches of standing water. There was extensive water damage to the ceiling, carpet and drywall, but the books, public computers and other materials were unharmed and quickly recovered and relocated to the library district's Service Center in Marysville. Repairs and drying out are underway, however the date for reopening is yet to be determined. **Under the Rainbow** continues on Zoom.

## A Peek ahead to our December Holiday StoryFest

**An Evening of Stories and Music  
appropriate to the Holidays.**



In 1980, **Diane Fertatte** and her husband Tom adopted their second child. Four-year-old Joey had been raised in a series of foster homes in front of a TV set. Committed to breaking him from TV and increasing his readiness for school, Diane Ferlatte started to story read/tell in the style for which she is so well known today, i.e., a dynamic characterization with animation, expression, and interaction.

Some time later her church was giving a Christmas party for foster and homeless kids and Diane was the program committee chair. She told some Christmas stories and lo and behold, a career was born. She started to receive requests to tell at parties, schools, and libraries. Eventually she had to choose between her office job of seventeen years and the ever-increasing requests to tell stories. She decided that the opportunity to make a living at something that one loves and finds so rewarding was definitely worth the risk. Happily she has never looked back.

More on **Diane Ferlatte** and her musician friend, **Eric Pearson**, in our next Newsletter.

**Put December 16th on your Calendars and join us  
at 7 PM Pacific on Zoom for a delightful evening!**



## The Seattle Storytellers Guild wants volunteers



### QUALIFICATIONS?

A Love of Storytelling!  
 Good ideas!  
 Enthusiasm!  
 Eager to try new things!  
 Willing to share your  
 time and energy!

If you are good at or want to learn to:

*Help planning events*    *Create flyers and advertisements*  
*Host or Co-Host Zoom events*    *Help with media publicity*  
*Emcee a Program*    *Teach a Workshop,*  
*Help index articles or books*    *Write an article in our newsletter,*  
*Write Grants and raise support*  
*Explore the tech needs for Hybrid Events*

### Just Volunteer to Serve on our Board

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

For more information Contact Judith Alexander at  
[juditha5@earthlink.net](mailto:juditha5@earthlink.net)

## *In the Wind*

*Seattle Storytellers Guild*  
*P.O. Box 18361*  
*Seattle, WA 98118*



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

Standard Mail