

in The Wind



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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
<https://bit.ly/SSG1stFridaySwap>

June 5 7:00 PM Pacific Time
July 3rd 7:00 PM Pacific Time
August 7th :00 PM Pacific Time
September 4th 7:00 PM Pacific 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 just come to listen and encourage!



In the Wind

Volume 49 Number 1 Winter 2026
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Editor: Barry McWilliams

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.

Mailed copies have been discontinued.
But please feel free to print it out!

Articles and comments should be directed
to eldrbarry@gmail.com

Send pictures as separate attachments.

Fall Issue Deadline:
August 15th

Your Articles are Welcome!

Seattle Storytellers Guild Current Board

www.seattlestorytellers.org

Anne Brendler	President
Barry McWilliams	Vice President
Lylum Walsh	Secretary
Pat Bannwarth	Treasurer

At large members:

Eva Abram	Larry Hohm
Bu Huang	Joanna Demarest
Marte Fallshore	

Auxiliary members:

Jen Stone	Tech Consultant
Naomi Baltuck	Under the Rainbow

Contact information is on Our Web Site
seattlestorytellers.org

The Little Liars Club:

Join Marte Fallshore and the group
on Zoom every **4th Monday at 6 PM**
to create, provide feedback,
or just listen to tall tales and other stories.
Join the Zoom meetings at:

<https://bit.ly/littleliesclub>

Story Work 3rd Mondays 7 PM on Zoom

Hosted by Story People of Clallam County
& South Sound Story Guild
Sign up in advance to tell. Feedback offered

Details: www.clallamstorypeople.org/story-work/

Portland Storytellers Guild's Story Speak Easy In Person /Hybrid

"The Riff "at B-Side Records and Vintage,
10801 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon,
3rd Tuesdays at 6-8 PM Pacific Time
Featured Tellers followed by Story Swaps

Details to attend or to tell at:
www.portlandstorytellers.org/story-swaps



Want more Storytelling News
Or want to announce an event
between newsletters?

Contact us at
publicity@seattlestorytellers.org

Our Email News Blast is sent out
generally on the Sundays
before the first and third Fridays of each
month. Items will also be forwarded to the
Guild webmaster Larry Hohm and
to Barry McWilliams for In The Wind.

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



Seattle Storytellers Guild's Annual Meeting & Golden Circle Swap

Saturday, June 20th 1-3 PM PDT
at the ARTLOVE SALON
 110 Union Street in downtown Seattle
 (It is across the street from the Seattle Art Museum)

We will be in the Meeting Room on the 4th Floor

The ARTLOVE entrance is next door to the Musubi Kai Hawaiian Restaurant
Someone will be there to let you in and direct you up to the meeting



How get there

- * **Lightrail** - The Symphony Station is three blocks away,
- * There are multiple **Bus** lines on 3rd Ave
- * And several **Parking Garages** are nearby
 - \$10 from 9am-5pm 162 Union Street, 2 blocks walk
 - \$12 1368 2nd Ave, 3 blocks walk
 - \$22 1400 2nd Ave. 2 blocks walk

(Warning: Target's is close, but very expensive.) We encourage Carpooling.

**The meeting is Free
and we really hope
you will be there!**



**Following some brief Board reports and news, and election of the 2026-2027 Board,
Our Golden Circle Celebration will continue.**

The Seattle Storytellers Guild "Golden Circle" *honors the people who have dedicated outstanding time and effort on behalf of the Guild over the years. Our Golden Circle, inaugurated in June of 2015, celebrates and applauds with heartfelt gratitude the generosity of the storytellers who have made our guild strong.*

A list to those who have been already honored is on our website
 at: <https://www.seattlestorytellers.org/ssg/goldenCircle.html>

At this meeting, we will be honoring Judith Alexander for her many years of service to the Guild.
 After Judith shares a story with us, there will be a Story Swap with other Golden Circle members,
 the Board and others contributing tales, time permitting.

We will also be serving some delicious refreshments – and the meeting will conclude at three pm.

If you are unable to come, **the meeting will also be live on Zoom**
 Register at <https://bit.ly/SSGGoldenCircleMeeting> (or <https://bit.ly/4u8tXyZ>)
A link to Join will be sent to your email.

Interested in being a Board Member? Let us know
 at president@seattlestorytellers.org



**The Guild is considering using this venue for future Storytelling Programs
– do come and check it out!**

Judith Alexander - Our 2026 Golden Circle Honoree

Judith Alexander came to storytelling as an elementary school teacher and librarian. After completing her BS degree in Education and German at Kent State University, and teaching for a time in Connecticut, she earned degrees from the University of Washington (BA, Masters in Teaching) and in the UW School of Librarianship. Judith was an Edmonds School District Elementary librarian in various schools.



Judith has volunteered in various ways at Seattle Storytelling Guild events, took over the bimonthly email “blasts” from Virginia Rankin around 2005, and joined the Board to be up-to-date on planned events. When the Guild needed a replacement for our beloved “All for Kids Books and Music” venue, she helped find Third Place Books, Ravenna, and then Santoro’s Books, before the Guild moved to Haller Lake Community Club.

Sometime in the early 1990's, she took a Margaret Read MacDonald workshop, learned several stories, told them right away, as instructed, and joined the Seattle Storytelling Guild soon after. Soon she performed at several of the Guild's monthly meetings — including “Nasruddin Stories” and “Mothers, Daughters and Other Wise Women.”

Judith retired from teaching in 2001, and began a life of commuting between Seattle and Munich, Germany, where a guild there welcomed her and she could tell in English. With a group from there, she helped to write a EU grant to work with tellers from Scotland and Latvia.

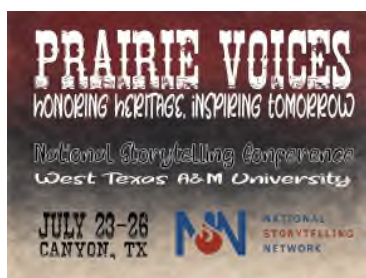
Judith has told stories at festivals in Riga, including in bookstores and open air museums, and in a repurposed church and schools in Glasgow, plus at America House in Munich during the Second Storytelling Festival. Also as a part of a storytelling workshop/festival for teachers, she told stories in schools, two castles, a repurposed Lightrail station, and a tunnel-museum which housed bats.

Locally, Judith has attended most of the Forest Storytelling Festivals, the National Storytelling Network conferences in Seattle and Bellingham, and she volunteered at the PowellsWoods Festivals, plus the 2024 NSN Conference.

With Cynthia Westby, Glenn McCauley and Ellin Huttel and Patty Zeitlin, she helped run a season with each of them taking on two months of programming, including inviting the guest performers, doing the publicity and arrangements at the venue, and being an MC at Haller Lake Community Club. After Norm Brecke invented the Golden Circle and left the area, Judith led the search for additional honorees, and arranged for the festivities every two years, generally in connection with the Annual meeting. Judith also played a role in organizing the Elder Tales programs for seniors until Covid shut that down. She also helped in proof-reading issues of In The Wind.

For many years a valuable at-large board member, she took over as Vice President in 2022, after Patty Zeitlin became ill, and then, Judith became the Acting President, when Barry McWilliams stepped back after serving six years as President, until Anne Brendler became President in the Fall of 2025. That was an especially challenging role, when Judith was overseas in Munich half the time, having to do so much through email.

Having served the Seattle Storytellers Guild in so many ways, and in difficult times as well, it is fitting that the Guild honor her as an inductee to its Golden Circle.



The 2026 Conference of the National Storytelling Network is at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas on July 23-26th.

Over a hundred Storytellers from around the nation are gathering there, and you have the opportunity to join them virtually for Regional and National Story Showcases; the Oracle Awards and the Winners Concert; and additional Conference programs including a Story Slam and a Voices of Asia Concert on Friday, Healing Story Alliance is also hosting Zoom Community gatherings on Saturday and Sunday.

A Virtual Ticket is just \$99. The videotaped events can be watched at your convenience until September 30th. To watch recordings, just click on any YouTube link in your pdf ticket. which will be sent to you via email closer to the event.

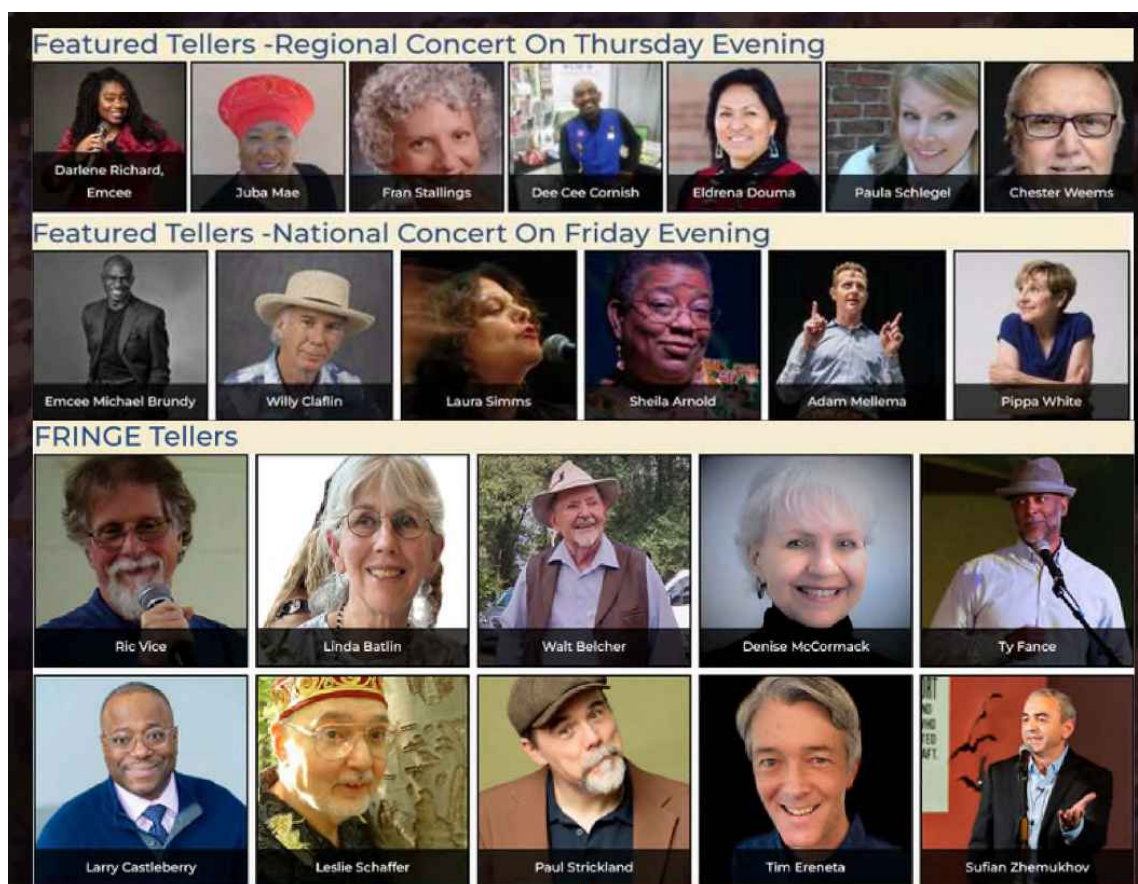
To purchase a Virtual Conference Ticket:

<https://storynet.org/civicrm/event/register/?id=201&reset=1>

All Members of NSN can also virtually attend the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 25th at 1:45 to 3:30 pm Central Time (11:45 am -1:30 pm Pacific Time) for free, along with the virtual ticket holders.

The complete list of the virtual events is online at:

<https://healingstoryalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Ad-for-NSN-2026-CONFERENCE-VIRTUAL-TICKET-1.pdf>





Garden Stories

at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden

featuring Storytellers:

Eva Abram & Barry McWilliams
Joanna Demarest

an afternoon of stories for adults and children,
 age six and above

When: Sunday, July 25th, 2026 at 4 in the Afternoon

Where: 20312 15th Ave NW Shoreline, WA

This event is free. Suggested \$5 Donation each to enter garden
 Parking Spaces are limited, nearby Street Parking available. Carpool?

There is an ADA Boardwalk down through the trees to the Gathering Grove.
 You will need to bring along your own lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

Barry McWilliams tells all sorts from trickster tales to folklore
 and always likes an ending with an unusual twist.



Joanna Demarest spins tales taking you on adventures, spinning tales old and new
 from fairies to ghosts to historical women.

Eva Abram's engaging, entertaining, multicultural folktales and historical presentations are enjoyed
 by all ages.

Come early, there is lots to see at Kruckeberg Gardens

A clickable map of the Gardens is on their website at: <https://www.kruckeberg.org/> click Visit

The Msk nursery has native and rare plants for sale.



In 1958, Dr. Art Kruckeberg and his wife Mareen moved to a farmhouse in Shoreline and began creating something very extraordinary — a naturalistic garden of 2000+ plants combining Pacific Northwest natives with rare species from around the world, nearly all grown from seed or cuttings. More than 45 different bird species have been spotted in the Gardens. In 2005, Kruckeberg became a City of Shoreline park maintained by the Kruckeberg Foundation.



More information at seattlestorytellers.org

The Seattle Storytellers Guild 2026-27 Planning Meeting

Saturday, August 8th, 10-2 PDT on Zoom



It is not just for the Board Members!!

You are invited to join us and give your input
On programs you would like to see, or see more of.
Suggestions for featured tellers we ought to hear?
Or other ideas for encouraging storytelling in the PNW?

Feel free to attend or email us your ideas.

What lies before us in our 2026-2027 Season?



New venues for more In-Person Events?
Events for our Virtual Audience?
Storytelling Workshops for Beginners or Pros?
Opportunities for Storytellers in the Seattle Area?
An enthusiastic Board and Volunteers?



To Register for the Planning Meeting
<https://bit.ly/SSG26-27PlanningMeeting>

Or use the QR Code

You will be sent Our Planning Worksheets
some time prior to the Meeting.



Monday, June 8, 6-8:30, Edmonds Library Meeting Room,

OUTLOUD !! (in June for Pride Month)

Ide Festerling, Roberto Lopez, and Ginger Chien are the featured storytellers at this special June Edmonds Pride storytelling event.

Under the Rainbow storytelling is moving to quarterly events starting in October.
No Storytelling in July - September. Check their website for details and other events.

<https://undertherainbowedmonds.org/>

June 27th Edmonds Pride Fest

Civic Center Playfields 2-6 PM

Food, Crafts, Music and Storytelling

<https://undertherainbowedmonds.org/#jp-carousel-1237>



LET US EAT CAKE !!!

(At our Annual Meeting and beyond ...)

The Seattle Storytellers Guild is the fortunate recipient of a 4Culture Grant from King County and a generous legacy from George Neiswanger. We are ready to plan a fine new year of programming, including more in-person events, while continuing to serve our virtual audiences as well.

Please consider joining us to chart the course ahead.

What we need is your help — as a Board member, an officer, or a volunteer.

Board members meet once a month, for about 60-90 minutes, and once a year for a longer planning session, all on Zoom (convenient !!). Officers attend the board meetings and have other duties, which are listed on the website (About the Guild tab, then near the bottom are the By Laws). We hope a Vice Presidential person will step forward, and perhaps agree to oversee the programming, so that all the steps for a perfect program are followed.

As we move back to in-person meetings, volunteers are needed for finding venues, helping with set-up in the venues, including refreshments.

If you are tech-savvy, there may be tasks that would help Barry, such as hosting Zoom meetings. And producing hybrid events will need people with tech skills as well.

If you like doing publicity, there are the twice monthly email blasts that need a new “editor.” As we get back to in-person events, we will need much more than social media to bring people to them. Contact Judith.

And please do support us by attending our events at the very least. Even better, invite your friends to join us online or bring them along to in-person events. Introduce them to the wonders of storytelling.



The Planning Meeting, August 8 for 3-4 hours on Zoom, is open to all our members, so we get a wide array of programming with known artists, who are paid for their time and skills. We also look to fill two workshop spots per season. Your suggestions are welcome at any time, but particularly before August, or when you come to the meeting. (see Page 8)



If you plan to come, please register on Zoom at

<https://bit.ly/SSG26-27PlanningMeeting>

We will send to you the planning sheets which we use to focus our thinking.

If you have questions, suggestions, or plans to join us, please feel free to contact

Anne (president@seattlestorytellers.org), Judith (juditha5@earthlink.net)

or Barry (eldrbarry@gmail.com)



**7 storytellers,
7 real stories,
7 minutes each**

"7 storytellers, 7 real stories, 7 minutes,"

at the **Highline Heritage Museum**, 819 SW 152nd St in Burien.
Streaming may be available the next day at the B-Town Blog,
burienculturehub.org/7stories or all stories will be recorded and added to
Highline Historical Museum archives unless storyteller declines.

Each **7 STORIES** night has a theme and storytellers sign up and are selected in advance. Real stories are spellbinding and raw. They are not a theatrical performance, but true life stories from your friends, acquaintances, or someone you have never met.

WE NEED YOU! Please consider sharing your true story...In the spirit of community and friendship. We will coach/help you as much as you would like. [Sign up using our online form.](#)

Themes **June 26:** *On the Road Again*
August 28: *Karma*

July 24: *Animal Tales*
September 25: *Lessons Learned*

5TH ANNUAL
GOOD LIARS CLUB FESTIVAL
SAT AUG 1 NOON-6PM PDT
LIVE ON ZOOM / 6 SHOWCASES / 24 TELLERS
Alton Chung, Anne Rutherford, Ed Stivender, Karin Amano, Vicki Bryan & 19 more Great Tellers!

OUR 5th Annual Festival!!!!
6 Showcases, 24 Top-Notch Truth Stretchers,
You can enter and exit the whole thing at will!
Donate and get a link to view recordings of all the showcases on demand.
To register or donate: <https://www.anne-norm.com/goodliarsclub>



Fresh Ground Stories

Third Thursdays 7-8:30pm PST

Now at the **Seattle Swedish Club NW**
1920 Dexter Ave N, Seattle

A free open mic for true, personal stories that are eight minutes or less, told without notes, and based on the monthly theme.

More information: <https://www.meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/>

Summer Calendar of Seattle Area Events

* indicates Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

June

8 Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+
6 PM (Page 9)

16 Portland Story Speak Easy 6-8 PM
Hybrid-ZOOM (Page 2)

18 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE

**20 Annual Meeting and Golden Circle
Story Swap at Artlove Salon** 1-3 PM LIVE
Hybrid-ZOOM (Page 3)

22* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 2)

27 Edmonds Pride Fest Civic Center
Playfields 2-6 PM Music and UTR
Storytelling

Read The Story Beast

A Quarterly e-Pub

Next Issue: June 15, 2026

"Cerulean Sighs"

Find it at storybeast.org

July

3* SSG Story Swap 7:00 PM ZOOM (Page 2)

16 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE

21 Portland Story Speak Easy 6-8 PM
Hybrid-ZOOM

23-28 NSN National Conference (page 5)

27* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 2)



For an Up-dated Calendar of Regional
Storytelling Events

go to Seattlestorytellers.org

And Press [See All Events]

Lots of Special Events are listed
in SSG's eblast (see page 2)

August

1 Good Liars Club Festival 12-6 Zoom
(Page 9)

7* SSG Story Swap 7:00 PM ZOOM
(Page 2)

8* SSG Planning Meeting 10am-2pm ZOOM
(Page 8)

18 Portland Story Speak Easy 6-8 PM
Hybrid-ZOOM 9 (Page 2)

20 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE

24* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 2)

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

For Playlist and archived shows -
kbc.fm/programs/sunday-folks/

Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

Quarterly starting in October: Under the Rainbow 6 PM Stories from
the LGBTQ+ community (check website: undertherainbowedmonds.org)

Fourth Mondays, Little Liars Group 6 PM ZOOM (See Page 2)

First Thursdays. Moth StorySLAM LIVE at Fremont Abbey Arts Center
themoth.org/events (Sept-June)

Third Thursdays. Fresh Ground Stories. 7 pm. LIVE at Seattle
Swedish Club (Monthly) <https://freshgroundstories.com/>

First Fridays Seattle Storytellers Guild Story Swaps ZOOM
See Page 2

Third Fridays Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFests ZOOM.
(Not in June - August)

Third Fridays Moth StorySLAM LIVE, at Bloedel Hall St Marks

Fourth Fridays Burien Culture Club's 7 Stories LIVE at Highline
Heritage Museum 7-8:30 PM burienculturehub.org/7stories for information
(Not in November or December)

Regional Ongoing Events

First Sundays_NorthVanTellers Cric Crac Vancouver, BC 7 PM (LIVE)
Contact northvantellers@gmail.com - Not in Summer

Third Mondays Stories at Fern. Nanaimo, BC VIRTUAL
See website for details: victoriastorytellers.org

**Third Mondays_Clallam Story People / South Sound Story Guild Story
Works** 7-9 PM ZOOM www.clallamstorypeople.org

Third Tuesdays: Portland Storytellers Guild Story Speak Easy Swaps
Details: <https://www.portlandstorytellers.org/story-swaps>

First Wednesdays. Story People of Clallam County Swaps 7 PM LIVE
Carver Room, Port Angeles Library, 2210 S. Peabody Street, Port Angeles

Second Wednesdays. South Sound Story Guild Story Swaps 7 PM
ZOOM southsoundstory.org

Second Fridays Around Town Tellers "Stories on Friday," 7:30 pm
ZOOM aroundtowntellers.com/stories-on-friday

Second Saturdays Fireside Tellers of Tacoma 3 pm In Person
Puyallup Library 324 Meridian, Puyallup, WA firesidestorytellersleague.org

**This reflects the status of these events as of early June, as best we can determine.
Things may change. Check the various websites.**



SEATTLE STORYTELLERS GUILD

WHERE STORIES TAKE FLIGHT!

OVER 40 YEARS OF STORYTELLING
IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.
JOIN US FOR SWAPS, PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS
-- LIVE IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM!

www.seattlestorytellers.org

We are on Facebook:

facebook.com/SeattleStorytellersGuild

SSG's Youtube Channel

youtube.com/@seattlestorytellersguild982/videos

In The Wind back issues are in
The Archive Tab in SSG Website

Mailing List Sign Up

Under The Rainbow (for the LGBTQIA+Community)
Undertherainbowedmonds.org

To Donate at seattlestorytellers.org Click on
PAY NOW in the DONATION JAR



COME VISIT

OUR WEBSITE

Linking up with nearby storytelling communities

Fresh Ground Stories
Seattle Meetup Group
freshgroundstories.com/

The MOTH : themoth.org/events

Story People of Clallam County
Port Angeles clallamstorypeople.org/

Quimper Story Guild
Port Townsend
facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild

South Sound Story Guild
Lakewood
southsoundstory.org/

Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma
Puyallup
firesidestorytellersleague.org/

Bellingham Storytellers Guild:
dougbanner@comcast.net

Portland Storytellers Guild
portlandstorytellers.org/

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 _____



For More info on Local and Regional Events
visit: www.seattlestorytellers.org

To join the SSG fill out the form to the Left and send it to:

Seattle Storytellers Guild
P.O. 166, Auburn, WA, 98071

Or go to 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. You'll be contacted for details for your web listing.

