

in The Wind

Ahoy, one and all! Greetings from the Captain of the SS Guild!

As we navigate our “storytelling ship” through some heavy seas and strong headwinds, I’d like to bring you up-to-date on our voyage so far: Some of you may have already noticed that our ship’s log, this ‘In the Wind’ newsletter, about our upcoming events, has been delayed in reaching port. That is the result of two powerful forces hindering our normally speedy progress: one is our diminishing number of active sailors and the other stems from Typhoon COVID, which sent us into the tentacled arms of the sea-monster, ZOOM!



Alas! In ordinary, non-seafaring terms, our membership is dwindling (as well as aging). Compounding that, during the pandemic, our older audiences got so used to listening to our storytelling programs on Zoom that they now do not want to surrender their devices and come back into the real world. For storytellers who prefer live, in-person audiences, that is a big problem!

So at this time, those of us on the Board (and our supporters) are looking for ways to boost our audience share in the live entertainment world. We seek to widen our appeal to younger audiences and involve them in traditional storytelling, in storytelling that is meaningful to them. At the same time, we see a need to welcome our older audiences back to our live performances. As you all are well aware, it is an electronic world, and we have not found how to fit back into the real world just yet. We are certainly trying to meet that challenge.

We ask: where should we hold our shows? That is quite a conundrum because we are not sure who will be in our audience! Do we opt for smaller more local venues, hoping for audiences specific to neighborhoods throughout Seattle? Do we try to fill a larger, more centralized hall, which may involve undesirable travel for older folks as well as a loss of younger listeners who may prefer a tavern scene or sports bar venue? Do we value one listening population over another? How do we balance these competing preferences?

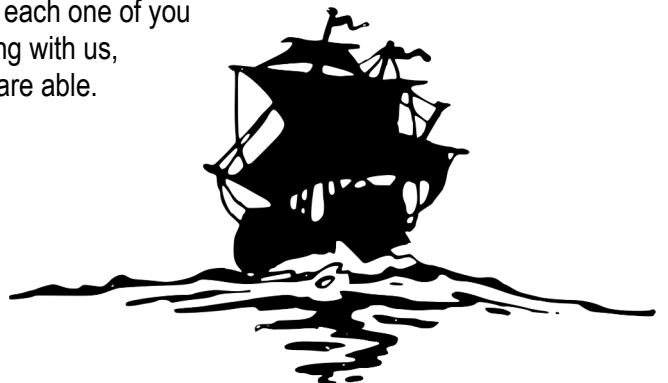
Thus, our scheduling for this season has lagged behind our normal pace. Usually by now, we are set with tellers and programs from September through April or May. This year, we could not even have a September program: we had the place, but, when even several of the Board members could not attend, we had to cancel our event. We will continue to have our Friday StorySwaps on Zoom, the first Friday of every month (except November, because of the Forest Festival in Port Angeles and January, which falls on New Years Day).

This is an All Hands on Deck situation! We want to urge you all, each one of you reading this message, not to abandon ship! Keep on sailing along with us, but please help pull the oars or summon favorable winds if you are able. Help us reach “StoryStrong Harbor”!

At the very least, please let us know your thoughts:

Board@seattlestorytellers.org

Thank you, Anne Brendler,
President, SSG





Seattle Storytellers Guild's Forest Storytelling Festival 2026 A Prelude StoryFest



October 16th, 2026 7 PM Pacific time on Zoom
Register at <https://bit.ly/SSGOct16StoryFest>

After a pause, **The Forest Storytelling Festival** is back
live and in-person - on November 5-7th
with three days of Story Concerts and Workshops
in the new Field Arts and Events Hall in downtown Port Angeles, Wa.

In anticipation of its return, we invited for our October StoryFest
Pat Peterson and John Bertholl, from the Story People of Clallam County,
to bring us some tales and share memories



Pat Peterson

Pat is as well known to us, as she is to the Story People in Port Angeles where she resides. She has been a member of both guilds for many years. Now one of our Golden Circle, Pat was featured at the 1995 Forest Festival. She has a long history of involvement in the Forest Festival through over its three decades since. It is likely that she honed her skills as an Emcee extraordinaire there. Doubtless, we may be joined by one of her cats as well.

John Bertholl

Well known to the Story People, John was the featured teller at their Story People Swap last March. He grew up in Juneau, Alaska, and spent the next 60 years surrounded by its mountains, rain and mischief which resulted in a book about his childhood adventures I survived the Starr Hill Gang: *The True Story of Kids Playing in Wild Alaska*. His play "The Man in the Green Truck" about his journey from Alaska was presented by the Port Angeles Community Playhouse in March 25. Now living in nearby Sequim, he is also a "Driftwood Artist" and some of his works have been featured in local galleries.



The **Forest Storytelling Festival** was started in 1995 and made its home at the Peninsula College in Port Angeles, WA., hosted there by the Story People of Clallam County. It has featured many nationally known as well as regional storytellers with concerts and workshops over its 26 year active history.



Even if you don't anticipate attending the Festival,
we are sure you will enjoy our evening of stories
told by these Story People of Clallam County storytellers.



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>

October 2nd 7:00 PM Pacific Time
Not in November - Forest Festival
December 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 4 Fall 2026
Publisher: Seattle Storytellers Guild
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.

Winter Issue Deadline:
November 15th

Your Articles are Welcome!

Seattle Storytellers Guild Current Board

www.seattlestorytellers.org
Anne Brendler President
Barry McWilliams Vice President
Pat Bannwarth Secretary / Treasurer

At large members

Eva Abram Larry Hohm
Bu Huang Judith Alexander
Marte Fallshore

Auxiliary members:
Jen Stone Tech Consultant

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
and the Portland Storytellers Guild

Sign up in advance to tell. Feedback offered

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



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

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.

Judith's e-mail address is
juditha5@earthlink.net

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

27th (not quite annual)

FOREST STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**November 5-7**

Featuring award winning national and international tellers



Andy Offutt Irwin

Gene Tagaban

Megan Wells

Ingrid Nixon

3 DAY EVENT :Presented by the Story People of Clallam County
in partnership with Field Arts & Events Hall

- ✓ Ghost Stories
- ✓ Storytelling Performances
- ✓ Humor/Laughter
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Story slam/Story swap
- ✓ Camaraderie

**How to purchase a Festival Pass**

Go to <https://fieldhallevnts.org/forest-storytelling-festival/> and click on the Purchase Festival Pass button. It will take you to a page where you select the number of passes that you wish to purchase (\$70+a \$6.04 service fee each).

Select that and hit Continue. A page opens with your pass purchase showing in a box on the right and a column of the individual events in boxes on the left (for \$30 each).

Because Ludus is not set up for multiple events, you will then need to click on Show Event Times for each event, select a seat and click to select a ticket for each of the seven events – which will each be added to your cart on the right at \$0.

It will give you an option to purchase a sandwich for Friday Lunch for \$22.50 as well. Once you have done this for all the events, you can go to the payment page and complete your payment.

Digital, Email or Will Call Options to receive the ticket(s) are offered. A 15% discount coupon for the Red Lion inn is offered as well.

**Field Arts and Events Hall**

201 W FRONT STREET, PORT ANGELES

Within walking distance of the Black Ball Ferry Terminal and downtown shops, restaurants, and hotels, and just two blocks from the Gateway Transit Center.

There are lots of things to see
and do in PortAngeles!
visitportangeles.com

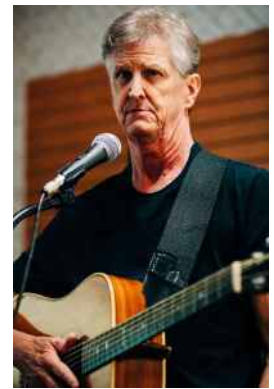
The 2026 Forest Festival's Featured Tellers



Megan Wells has been touring as a storyteller and historical portrayalist for over thirty-five years. Megan loves to encourage others to "jump in" and experience the purposeful joy of the expressive arts. If there is an artform simpler and more effective at community building, Megan hasn't found it yet! STORIES! She is a six-time national award winner, as well as a sought-after coach in both the Theater and Storytelling worlds. Megan is a full time Professor of Theater where she runs the theater program at Concordia University Chicago. **More at Meganwells.com**

Andy Offutt Irwin with his Silly Putty® voice, heart-filled humor, and world-class whistling, Andy has been described as Eudora Welty meets the Marx Brothers with a touch of the Southern balladeer. One of the most sought-after storytellers in the country, he's best known for the unforgettable adventures of his 85-year-old Aunt Marguerite, a newly minted physician who embraces growth and love in the ever-changing New South. Andy is a favorite at the National Storytelling Festival and has appeared twenty times as Teller-in-Residence at the International Storytelling Center.

More at andyirwin.com



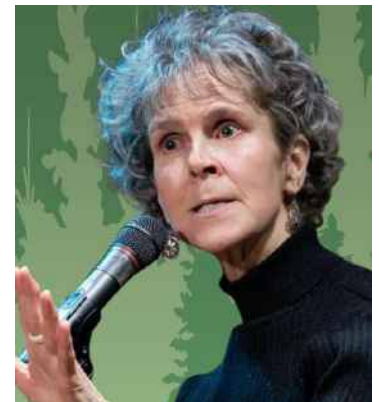
Gene Tagaban/*Guuy Yaau*

Gene is always open to share a good story, spirit and inspiration with people of all ages. For 35 years, "One Crazy Raven" has told his stories to audiences of all ages that entertain and heal through song, dance, movement and transformation. Gene shares traditional Native American stories as well as stories from his personal experience, family and historical events. In the words of one participant, "Gene has the ability to make the audience feel safe while holding our hearts in his hands." Gene has been a featured teller at storytelling and folk festivals nationally and internationally.

More at: storytellingraven.com

Ingrid Nixon is a retired National Park Service ranger and an award-winning, world-traveling storyteller, who loves to whisk away listeners on journeys of the imagination. Exploration nail-biters, lies, ghost, traditional, personal stories—she tells them all. She tells at festivals across the country, including the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough.. Though she lives in Alaska, Ingrid is a long-time Story People member and emcee of their Almost-Annual Liars Contest. She holds a M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University.

More IngridNixon.com



Festival Schedule

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 - GHOST STORIES PERFORMANCE 7pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - MORNING WORKSHOPS + STORY SLAM

9-10:15am - Morning Workshops with Andy Irwin and Megan Wells

10:30- 11:45am Pacific Northwest Guild Tellers Performance: Sandra Niman, Bonnie Anderson, Steven Henegar, Jennifer Ferris, Barry McWilliams, & TBD

11:45 - 1:45pm Break for Lunch

12:15-1:30pm Story Slam "Light" - Open Mic

AFTERNOON FEATURED TELLERS in Solo Performance Performance

1:45 - 2:35pm . Gene Tagaban

2:45 - 3:35pm . Megan Wells

3:45 - 4:35pm . Andy Offutt Irwin

No Host Dinner with Featured Tellers, Sunset Lounge 5-7pm .

FRIDAY EVENING PERFORMANCES 7pm Megan Wells, Gene Tagaban, Andy Offutt Irwin.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

9am FREE PNW STORYTELLING COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

10:30 - 11:30a: Morning Workshop with Ingrid Nixon

11:45 - 1:45p: Lunch service available

12:15 - 1:30p: Open Mic, Sunset Lounge Tellers can sign up to tell any kind of story, 8-minute time limit.

FINAL PERFORMANCE 1:45 - 3:45 with Megan Wells, Gene Tagaban, and Andy Offutt Irwin.

The Final Performance will be Live Streamed! Details TBA.

A FREE PNW STORYTELLING OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 9-10:30AM

Join the Story People of Clallam County for a free open house with friends from storytelling guilds across the region including The Fireside Story League (Tacoma), South Sound Guild (Olympia), Portland Storytelling Guild, Seattle Storytelling Guild, Victoria Storytelling Guild, and of course – the Story People of Clallam County! Connect with other storytellers and learn more about memberships during this free open house event.

FOREST FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

Friday morning: 9-10:15am

"Pin the Tail on the Narrative, Sort of Lawn Darts meets Eudora Welty," with Andy Offutt Irwin

This raucous workshop involves the careless dropping of pens* and carefully guided steps for developing personal narratives, freeing participants to delve into the past and chip away at the unmovable stone of self-doubt to reveal the treasure of new stories.

"Story Dynamics: Connecting with Your Audience," with Megan Wells

We can know a story in our bones, AND, the magic of delivering that story to an audience requires an extra layer of skills. In this engaging hands-on workshop, Megan will lead you in exercises that will further amplify your audience impact.

Saturday Morning: 10:30-11:30am

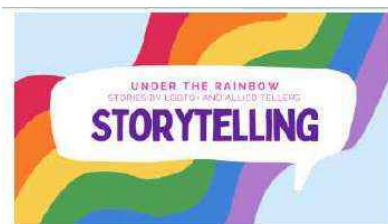
"Vividness, Verve and Vigor: Playing with Words" with Ingrid Nixon

In this active workshop we'll explore creative, compelling ways to use language to enliven the tales you tell. Bring a story you are working on and leave with practical ideas you can readily put into play.

"Storytellers Journey: Our Life is a Story" with Gene Tagaban

We are the tellers of Personal and Historical stories, Legends or Mythic stories, cultural or tradition stories but often we have barriers that stop us from telling the story. How do we recognize and move past these barriers in a good way?





Under the Rainbow

LGBTQIA+ Storytelling Series for teens and adults

Edmonds Public Library
650 Main St, Edmonds, WA

Under the Rainbow is now an LGBTQIA+ arts community based in Edmonds, Washington. Their mission is to create spaces for LGBTQIA+ folks to share stories, be creative, and connect. a Non-Profit 501 C 3 Under the Rainbow is switching to **quarterly performances**, starting in October with Leila Norako telling true stories from history for Queer History Month.

They are adding **zinemaking** and **Talking Circles**, with informal telling and sharing as alternative approaches to storytelling. Interested parties will be able to find the schedule on our website: undertherainbowedmonds.org

They run four event series throughout the year including a **writer's group**, an all-ages **gayme night**, a **movie club**, and a **storytelling series** where you can come listen to featured guest tellers or practice sharing stories of your own.

See undertherainbowedmonds.org for details on all these events.



Story Crossroads **All Things Story Virtual Workshops:**

Staying Close to Home: Finding Consistent Storytelling Gigs in Your Region with Elizabeth Rose

Saturday, October 10, 2026 9:00am-10:30am MDT (UTC -6)

What if your next storytelling gig is closer than you think? Learn how to identify local opportunities, build relationships, and develop a niche that can lead to more consistent work—without constant travel. Elizabeth Rose shares strategies she has used for decades to balance storytelling, education, family, and a sustainable career close to home.



Cost: Sliding scale tuition, \$5-\$50, suggested \$25 that includes audio/video/handout

<https://storycrossroads.org/AllThingsStory/>



Story Work

**Presented by the Story People of Clallam County
The South Sound Story Guild and the Portland Storytellers' Guild**

invite you to Story Work, the third Monday of the month
from 7 - 9 p.m. Pacific Time on Zoom. (See the link below.)

The next Story Work session will be September 21st.

A Story Work session looks like this:

Tellers sign up in advance for the opportunity to share all or part of a story no more than 8 minutes in length. Slots are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Tellers can ask for feedback –from “what do you think?” to “I don’t want any feedback. I just wanted to say it out loud for the first time.”

There will be a maximum of seven tellers, plus two alternates – should someone not show or if there is extra time.

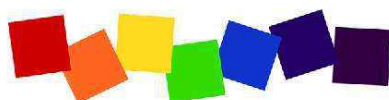
These are working sessions, NOT performances. People of all skill levels are welcome. Others are welcome to tune in, listen and offer feedback as the teller desires. The goal is to create a supportive environment to test out stories and grow our storytelling skills.

To reserve a space to tell and/or to get on the mailing list
for monthly reminders, please email clallamstorypeople@gmail.com.

If you just want to listen, no need to sign up. Just follow the link below at the appropriate date/time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184308172?pwd=Y2RncU8rOU9FbS9Nc0ordTI5SEQ5QT09>



**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. These stories are told from the heart.

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](#). To find out more about telling your story read our [Rules & Guidelines](#).

September 25: Lessons Learned October 23: Skeletons in the Closet

Due to Holidays, not meeting in November and December

Portland Storytellers Guild Story Speak Easy - in person or on Zoom.

In-Person

***When:** The Third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

***Where:** The Riff, a cozy performance space inside B-Side Records and Vintage, 10801 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon, 97222.

***Parking:** There's a large, free lot right across the street.

On Zoom

***Request the link by email:** storyspeakeasy@portlandstorytellers.org

***Please** send it no later than the Sunday prior to the Story Speak Easy.

***In** the subject line, please let us know if you wish to be a TELLER or a LISTENER.

Featuring:

Barb Fankhauser and John Wylder in September
Steven Henegar and Sarah Stein in October

Then, after a short break, the mic opens to anyone who'd like to share a family friendly story, (out of consideration for all our tellers, please keep your story under seven minutes). Any audience member (virtual and in person) can put their name in the hat for a chance at being chosen to tell their story.

You don't have to be a member of the Portland Storytellers' Guild –you just need to love a good story. Beginners are encouraged! Old-timers are always welcome!



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/>

Fall Calendar of Seattle Area Events

* indicates Seattle Storytellers Guild Events

September

- 6* SSG Story Swap 7:00 PM ZOOM (Page 3)
- 15 Portland Story Speak Easy 6-8 PM (Page 3)
- 17 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 28* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 3)



Read The Story Beast

A Quarterly e-Pub
Next Issue: September 15, 2026
"Cascading Colors"
Find it at storybeast.org

October

- 2* SSG Story Swap 7:00 PM ZOOM (Page 3)
- 12* Under The Rainbow Stories for LGBTQ+ (Page 7)
- 15 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 16* SSG StoryFest - Forest Festival Preview
- 20 Portland" Story Speak Easy Hybrid-ZOOM 6-8 PM
- 26* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 3)

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

November

- 5-7 Forest Storytelling Festival, Port Angeles See Pages 4-6
- 17 Portland Story Speak Easy Hybrid-ZOOM 6-8 PM
- 19 Fresh Ground Stories 7 PM LIVE
- 20* Tellabration TBA
- 23* Little Liars Club 6 PM ZOOM (Page 3)



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 -
kbcs.fm/programs/sunday-folks/

Ongoing Events : Seattle Area

- Quarterly Second Mondays Under the Rainbow 6 PM Stories from the LGBTQ+ community
- Fourth Mondays, Little Liars Group 6 PM ZOOM (See Page 3)
- 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 3 - Not in November due to Forest Festival
- Sometimes Third Fridays Seattle Storytellers Guild StoryFests ZOOM.
- 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 afisherlang@gmail.com or northvantellers@gmail.com
- Third Mondays Stories at Fern. Nanaimo, BC VIRTUAL
See website for details: victoriastorytellers.org
- Third Mondays Story Works --_Clallam Story People / South Sound Story Guild / Portland Storytellers Guild 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
- First Wednesdays. South Sound Story Guild Story Swaps 7 PM
New Traditions Cafe - Hybrid southsoundstory.org
- Second Fridays Around Town Tellers "Stories on Friday," 7:30 pm ZOOM aroundtowntellers.com/stories-on-friday

This reflects the status of these events as of late August, 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/

7 Stories - Burien
burienarts.org/7stories

Fireside Storytellers of Tacoma
have disbanded

Bellingham Storytellers Guild:
doughanner@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.

