

Georgia 2025

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE



JULY 17-20, 2025
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
KENNESAW, GEORGIA

www.storynet.org

The only MASTER'S DEGREE IN **COMMUNICATION & STORYTELLING STUDIES**

A degree for:

performance storytelling — gain a foundation for professional telling

applied storytelling — build key skills for work in a variety of fields from business and healthcare to education and ministry

advocacy — our alumni engage the public and policy makers to improve their communities

industry — move into careers in marketing, higher education, and more.



ASK ABOUT GRADUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES!

Christine Anzur, Ph.D.

Relational Communication | Dark Side
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*Scan here for
more information!*



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Department of Communication
Studies and Storytelling

CONTACT

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Graduate Program Director
anzurc@etsu.edu



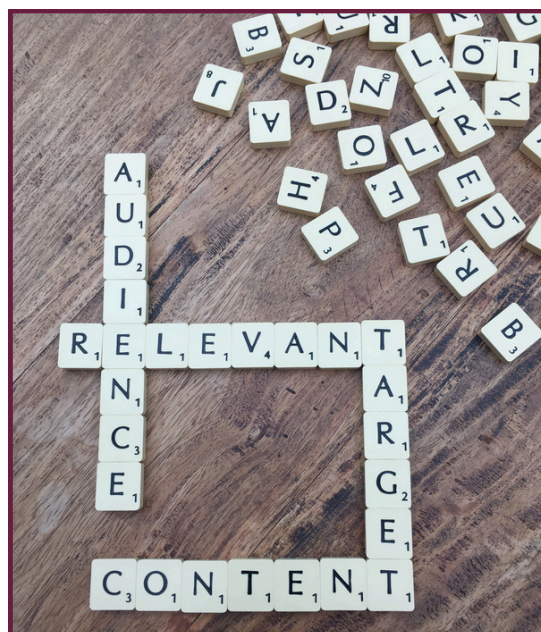
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WELCOME!

The NSN “Georgia 2025” Storytelling Conference

Dear Storytellers and Enthusiasts,

Welcome to the **NSN National Storytelling Conference** in Kennesaw, Georgia! This in-person and virtual conference maintains a longstanding tradition of the **National Storytelling Network** to connect storytellers across the nation to celebrate the timeless art of storytelling! As the 2025 Chair, I am honored to greet you, imagine stories with you, and learn from you.

Storytelling is vital to building human connections, uniting diverse cultures, and sharing our truths. This creative force is needed now, more than ever. This conference is a tribute to that power—a space where we can explore, create, and share stories that resonate deeply with our hearts and minds.

Over the next few days, you will be able to immerse yourself in a wide array of events. The conference officially begins with an opening mixer led by Susan O'Halloran at 3 PM on Thursday. Each morning, wake up with energizing activities like laughter yoga, qigong, and singing. Days are filled with workshops and panels, while evenings feature fringe performances and our cherished story swaps. Each day has something special to offer.

Highlights include:

- **Thursday night:** Regional Storytelling Concert
- **Friday morning:** Kennesaw State University Student Storyteller Concert, coached and taught by Dr. Charlie Parrott
- **Friday evening:** National Teller Showcase
- **Saturday afternoon:** The annual General Membership meeting. Find out about the work being done to strengthen and support NSN
- **Saturday evening:** The ever-popular Story Slam, hosted by Loren Niemi. Be ready to put your name in the hat!
- **Sunday morning:** Say your goodbyes at the Sunbrella Closing Circle, named in honor of our dear friend, Angela Lloyd



WELCOME!

The NSN “Georgia 2025” Storytelling Conference

As you explore the conference, we encourage you to make new friends, reconnect with old friends, and exchange ideas that spark new stories. Visit with representatives of our special interest groups (SIG) to see how they might fit your needs. Or gather with like-minded individuals and propose a new SIG that appeals to your interests. If you are joining us virtually, don't miss the opportunities to connect with others on Zoom, led by Heather Forest and Lee Ellen Marvin of **Healing Story Alliance**. Whether you're here to refine your craft or simply revel in the magic of storytelling, you are an integral part of this vibrant community.

Thank you for joining us on this adventure. Let's embrace this time to celebrate creativity, nurture our shared humanity, and reignite our love for stories.

Let the storytelling begin!

Delanna Reed, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors
National Storytelling Network





ATTENDEE NOTES

Emergency Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dot Cleveland (at Registration) or 651-703-8191• Gwendolyn J. Napier 404-310-4833• Rishi Nixon 240-780-1321• Leslie R. Shelley 770-286-2074• Delanna Reed 423-943-6782• KSU Security:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Emergency 470-578-6666◦ Non-Emergency 470-578-6206
Nearest Hospital	Wellstar Kennestone Hospital 770-793-5620 677 Church St. Marietta, GA 30060
Accessibility	For those with accessibility concerns, there are elevators in each of the buildings.
No Scents, Please	Please refrain from wearing scents during this conference as some of the participants have chemical sensitivities.
Photography	Notice to all conference attendees that photos, video, and audio taken and used by NSN for marketing purposes are agreed upon as okay to use.
Water Bottle Refills	Located throughout the Wilson Building and a hospitality table near the entryway of the Wilson Building (bottled water and snacks)
Rides between Buildings	If you need a driver to travel between buildings, cell numbers will be available at check-in.
Key Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wilson Building (all presentations)• The Commons (dining hall)• University Village Suites, Bldg. 3000 (housing)• North Parking Deck, Basement Level (attendee parking) • Silent Auction & Bookstore: Room 119• Quiet Space: Room 112• Registration & Info Desk: Lobby of Wilson Building



KSU CONFERENCE FACILITIES

KSU	Kennesaw State University Kennesaw Campus 1000 Chastain Road Kennesaw, GA 30144
Housing Location	University Village Suites Building 3000 1074 Canton Place NW Kennesaw, GA 30144
Conference Location	The Wilson Building 471 Bartow Avenue Kennesaw, GA 30144
Meals	The Commons Student Culinary Center (dining area) Located across the road from the Wilson Building
Conference Assigned Parking	North Parking Deck Basement Level 1085 Canton Place NW Kennesaw, GA 30144
Parking Note	There are public parking lots near the Wilson Building for commuters but the rate in these lots is not discounted. We will have additional conference rate parking passes available for commuters if they wish to purchase them.
Shuttles	The morning Shuttle to breakfast and the Wilson Building begins at 7:30 AM The evening Shuttle to Housing will run from 9:00 – 11:00 PM



1. All Presentations: Wilson Building
2. Dining Hall: The Commons
3. Housing: University Village Suites, Bldg. 3000
4. Parking: North Parking Deck, Basement Level



THANK YOU!

Host	The Georgia Storytelling Network 
Conference Committee	<p>Rishi Nixon and Leslie Shelley: NSN Conference Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwendolyn J. Napier: GSN President • Kanute Rarey: GSN Representative • Denise Mount: GSN Representative • Delanna Reed: NSN President • Caleb Hubbard: NSN Vice Chair-Elect • Lisa Overholser: NSN Finance Chair & PRO SIG Representative • Emily Stamets: NSN Volunteer Coordinator • The Late Angela Lloyd / Karin Amano: YES SIG Representatives • Lisa Williams / Jim Brulé: SIO SIG Representatives • Linda Yemoto: ECO SIG Representative • Bob Johnson: NSN Corporate Treasurer • Dot Cleveland: NSN Office Manager • Heather Forest: HSA President <p>Advisors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Read MacDonald: NSN Secretary & Conference Advisor • Anne Wheeler: GSN Counsel & Conference Advisor
Special Thanks (in alphabetical order)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dot Cleveland for all-encompassing support (registration and program) • Heather Forest for creating and hosting the Virtual Ticket • Bob Johnson for financial stewardship • Amanda Lawrence for exceptional proofreading eye on the conference program • Angela Lloyd especially for her dedication to the youth showcase • Chuck Meacham—Chair of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University—for generously hosting NSN • Gwendolyn J. Napier as president of GSN • Charlie Parrott—associate professor of theatre and performance studies—for KSU student teller engagement • Delanna Reed for her eagle eyes in proofing the conference program • Jessica Robinson for videography • Emily Stamets for coordination of volunteers • Alton Takiyama-Chung for promoting the conference in the <i>Story Beast</i>
Logo Design	The Jamieson Agency



THANK YOU!

Housing Contact	Gwendolyn J. Napier 404-310-4833	
Our Wonderful Volunteers!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vernice Bailey • Elizabeth Beamon • Walt Belcher • Meghna Bhat • Meredith Brown • Thomas Freese • Ken Greene • Melinda Gisco • Trudy Hanson • Caleb Hubbard • Mary Jo Huff • Robin E. Kitson • Vecepia Leonard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marilyn McPhie • Sandra Measels • Bobby Norfolk • Jennifer Otto • Denise Page • Kanute Rarey • Delanna Reed • Nancy Riggs • Elizabeth Rose • Johanna Smith • Alton Takiyama-Chung • Deborah Terrell • Janel Woodland
NSN Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delanna Reed, Chair delanna@storynet.org • Rishi Nixon, Vice Chair rishi@storynet.org • Caleb Hubbard, Vice Chair Elect cghubbard@storynet.org • Margaret Read MacDonald, Secretary mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com • Trudy Hanson, Past Chair hansontrudy@outlook.com • Karin Amano (YES) Japanesestoryteller@gmail.com • Melissa Fees, Public Relations Dir. nsn-social@storynet.org • Upasna Kakroo, Publications Mgr. namaste@peerbagh.com • Barry McWilliams (PRO) eldrbarry@gmail.com • Gwendolyn J. Napier (At Large) misslurved@yahoo.com • Claire Nolan (ECO) cbnolou@gmail.com • Lisa Overholser (PRO) linlis334343@hotmail.com • Leslie Shelley (At Large) LeslieRShelley@gmail.com • Emily Stamets, Volunteer Coord. Emilystamets@gmail.com • Lisa Williams (SIO) lwilliams@storynet.org • Linda Yemoto (ECO) lyemoto@sbcgloal.net 	



THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL DONORS 2024

NSN wishes to express its gratitude to the individuals and organizations who contributed to the financial success of NSN during the fiscal year of 2024. The listing of names is but a small token of recognition for their generosity.

Diamond Level \$500+

- Judith Alexander
- Emily Corcoran
- Detroit Story League
- Kate Dudding
- Marilyn McPhie
- Ted Parkhurst
- Jo Radner
- Story People of Clallam County

Gold Level \$100-\$499

- Gordon M. Adams
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- Janelle Reardon
- Andy Russell
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- Joyce Slater
- Elizabeth Snell
- Ruth Stotter
- Elizabeth Twomey
- Weir Liz
- Yemoto Linda

Silver Level \$10-\$99

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- Karen Archer
- Shirley A. Barcase
- Noa Baum
- Laurina Bergqvist
- John Bertholl
- Better Said Than Done
- Carolie Brekke
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- Melva Hargett
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- Michelle King
- Kristine Krozek
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- Barbara Rugeley
- Susan Schueller
- Seacoast Storytellers Guild of Portsmouth
- Daire Seaman
- Seattle Storytellers Guild
- Nancy Self
- Leslie R. Shelley
- Fran Stallings
- Story Aarts of MN
- Kerry Stubbs



THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL DONORS 2024 – CONTINUED

- Colin Urwin
- Donna Will
- Paula Younger

ASST-Storytellers Relief Fund

- Judith Alexander
- Mij Byram
- Kassandra Capers
- Ralph Chadis
- Marvin M. Cole
- Jean Ann Hale
- Trudy Hanson
- Claire Hennessy
- Pippa (White) Lawson
- Dorothy Lewis
- Sue Mirkin
- Mo-Tell Missouri Storytelling Inc.
- Christine Rabiega
- Delanna Kay Reed
- Connie Regan-Blake
- Barbara Schutzgruber
- Kerry Stubbs
- Tale Tellers of St. Augustine
- Elizabeth Twomey



2025 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE — TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Make sure to use scroll bar at the bottom to see additional rooms to the right of the spreadsheet >>

STILLWELL THEATER 133 (VIRTUAL TICKET)	ONYX THEATER 1001	ROOM 103	ROOM 114	ROOM 138	ROOM 108	ROOM 221	ROOM 225	ROOM 227	ROOM 230
Silent Auction & Bookstore: Room 110; Quiet Space: Room 112; Registration & Info Desk: Lobby of Wilson Building									

Thursday, July 17

1:00 Check-in Shuttle to Wilson Building									
3:00-3:50	Opening Mirror: Welcome to the Conference! Building a Community by Susan O'Halloran								
4:00-5:30									
5:30-6:30 Dinner									
6:30-6:45	President's Welcome by Delana Reed								
6:45-8:45	Regional Teller Showcase								
8:45-9:00 Break									
9:00-10:00									
9:00-10:30									
10:05-11:00									
Shuttle to Housing									

Friday, July 18

Shuttle to Wilson Building									
6:30-8:50 Breakfast									
7:30-8:00	Outdoor Morning Activity: Laughter Yoga For Health And Happiness by Josie Bailey								
8:00-8:30	Outdoor Morning Activity: This is a Wonderful Day: Practicing Joy in the Morning by Lyn Ford								

Outdoor Morning Activity (YES): Themed Morning Yoga Sunrise Stretch by Elizabeth Rose
Outdoor Morning Activity: Wake Up Your Body's Energy With Qigong by Gloria Elder

2025 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE — TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Make sure to use scroll bar at the bottom to see additional rooms to the right of the spreadsheet >>>

	STILLWELL THEATER 133 (VIRTUAL TICKET)	ONYX THEATER 1001	ROOM 103	ROOM 114	ROOM 138	ROOM 108	ROOM 221	ROOM 225	ROOM 227	ROOM 230
8:20-9:50		Morning Activity: MORNING HAS BROKEN! Come sing along as we start the new day! by Keanne Barry and Gwen Napier								
9:00			Bookstore, auction opening, ECO SIG field trip to Smith-Gilbert Gardens							
9:00-10:30	Presentation (ECO, HSA, YES): Callaloo: How Folktales Influence and Reflect Culture by Bobby Norfolk	The Power of Mimir in Storytelling by Zen: Robert Jones	Workshop (HSA): Stories as Catalysts: Community Healing through Oral Storytelling by Jim Brule and Laura Slumms	Workshop (YES): 1 See...1 Wonder...Creating Powerful Stories Through Project Zero's Deeper Thinking Toolbox by Karla Huntsman and Wendy Folsom	Workshop (HSA): Shortening the road - storytelling and conduct resolution by Liz Weir [INTERNATIONAL, STREAMED]	Workshop (SIO): How To Harness The 7 Powers of Story Intelligence by Richard Soane	Workshop (SIO): Performing For And Preserving The Voices Of Seniors by Carol Gebert	Coaching (YES): Make Your Story Do What It Do! by Brenda Griffin		
10:30-10:45 Break			ECO SIG field trip returns from Smith-Gilbert Gardens							
10:45-12:15	KSU Student Teller Showcase emceed by Charles Parrott									
12:15-1:15 Lunch			Virtual Ticket Zoom Gathering by Heather Forest							
1:15-2:45	Panel (YES): Basket Weaving or Storytelling? A College Degree by Nancy Donoval, Charles Parrott, Melissa Fees, moderated by Delama Reed		Workshop (PRO): Professional Skills Make Skilled Professionals by Adam Booth	Workshop (YES): Boo-Tickle Tales: Sharing Not-So-Scary Stories by Lyn Ford and Sherry Norfolk	Presentation (HSA, YES): Between Worlds: Addressing Racism Through Story by Bowen Lyman Lee, Karla Amamo, Alton Takyama-Chung, Joel Ying, Lillian Naumuck, Shoji, Grace 'Megumi' Fleming	Presentation (SIO): AI and Storytelling: New Tools and New Horizons by Tana Lucetford	Workshop (HSA): What's Your Dragon? : Sharing Personal Challenges through Fantasy & Sci Fi by Emily Stamets	Coaching by Milbire Burch		
2:45-3:00 Break										
3:00-4:30	Panel (PRO, YES): Telling "the Other's" Story - How do we share stories from someone else's tradition, history, or creative effort? Or should we...? by Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Pleasant, Chetler Galloway, moderated by Anne Wheeler	Presentation (YES): The Many Faces of Ylkat: Japanese Ogres, Spirits, and Grotesques by Anne Shimojima, Karin Amamo, Lillian Naumuck, Shoji, Linda Yemoto, Grace 'Megumi' Fleming	Workshop: Poetic Practice For Storytellers by Jo Radner	Workshop: Come With An Anecdote - Leave Dorothy Cleveland and Barbara Schutzgruber	Panel (YES): Stealth Storytelling: How to Teach with Story by Kevin Corbi, Janice DelNegro, Travis Wolven, moderated by Nancy Donoval [STREAMED]	Workshop (YES): Drawing To Know Your Story by Margaret Meyers	Presentation (PRO): A Model for Incorporating Storytelling as Healing into Festival Programming by Amanda Lawrence and Sheila Corbin			
4:30			Bookstore and auction closing							
4:30-4:45 Break										
4:45-5:30	Singing For Hs Supper by Ed Staveland									
5:30-6:30 Dinner			Diamond Donors Dinner with NSN Board (Dining Hall)							
6:30-6:45 Break										

2025 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE — TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Make sure to use scroll bar at the bottom to see additional rooms to the right of the spreadsheet >>

	STILLWELL THEATER 133 (VIRTUAL TICKET)	ONYX THEATER 1001	ROOM 103	ROOM 114	ROOM 138	ROOM 108	ROOM 221	ROOM 225	ROOM 227	ROOM 230
6:45-8:45	National Teller Showcase									
8:45-9:00 Break										
9:00-10:00				Fringe: Sweeps and Scholars: Legacy of a Wealthy Slave by Denise Manning Keyes Page enceed by Denise Mount	Fringe: The Stories of Three Women-Wives of King David-Michael Abigail and Butsheba by Sandra Massels enceed by Amanda Lawrence	Fringe: Leaking by Vanna Ibsister				
9:00-10:30	National Storytelling Conference Slam by Loren Nient									
10:05-11:00				Swap by Walt Belcher	Green Stories and More Swap by Fran Sallings					
Shuttle to Housing										

Saturday, July 19

Shuttle to Wilson Building										
6:30-8:50 Breakfast										
7:30-8:00	Outdoor Morning Activity: Laughter Yoga For Health And Happiness by Josie Bailey									
8:00-8:30	Outdoor Morning Activity: This is a Wonderful Day: Practicing Joy in the Morning by Lyn Ford									
8:30-8:50	Morning Activity: Wake Up and Sing! by Jen and Nat Whinnan									
9:00	Bookstore and auction opening									
9:00-10:30	Presentation: A Legend In Overall: Storytelling in the Footsteps of Ray Hicks by Connie Regan-Blake		Workshop (YES): Teaching Artists teaching Teaching Artists! The Curriculum Development Collective by Sherry Norfolk, Fran Sallings, Mj Byran		Workshop (ECO): From Information Download To Creating A Compelling Story by Judith Black	Presentation (PRO): Create Professional Event Flyers - For Non-Designers by Kate Dudding	Workshop (HSA): Healing Stories: Listening to our Anger, Acting from Love by Elisa Pearmain	Workshop (SIO): Build Your Own Economy: An Interactive Storytelling Experience by Sonya Squires Caesar	Workshop (YES): The Wolf is at the Door, Now What?? Telling World Folklore to Children by Natalie Jones	Coaching by Bill Hanley
10:30-10:45 Break										
10:45-12:15	Youth Teller Showcase: How to Perform a Story by the Kumbla Turtle Tales enceed by Deborah Steinhorn									Coaching by Carmen Agra Deedy
12:15-1:15 Lunch	HSA and SIO SIG Lunches (Dining Hall)									
1:15-3:15	Annual General Membership Meeting									

2025 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE — TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Make sure to use scroll bar at the bottom to see additional rooms to the right of the spreadsheet >>

	STILLWELL THEATER 133 (VIRTUAL TICKET)	ONYX THEATER 1001	ROOM 103	ROOM 114	ROOM 138	ROOM 108	ROOM 221	ROOM 225	ROOM 227	ROOM 230
3:30-5:00	Presentation: We are Women. Hear us Tell, by Carmen Agra Deedy, Karm Amano, Lona Bartlett, Lyn Ford, Bonnie Gardner, Jennifer Munro, and Jessica Robinson	Workshop (PRO): All The Technical Things You Didn't Think Of by Cooper Braun		Workshop (HSA, PRO): Gathering Bravely: Creating and Holding a Brave Space by Sarah Beth Nelson	Workshop (HSA, YES): Tales of Peace and Kindness: A Hands-on Workshop by Margaret Read MacDonald	Workshop (ECO, YES): SCIENCE: Tell It Like A Story by Fran Sallings	Workshop (SIO, YES): Technology & Storytelling or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Embrace AI by Patti Smith	Workshop (YES): Planning A High-Quality School Or Community Residency by Katie Kurison	Workshop (YES): Asian Feast of Stories: Culture, Identity, and Community Through Food by Alton Takayama-Chang, Joel Ying, Bowen Lyum Lee, Linda Yenoto	
5:00-5:30										
5:30-6:30 Dinner										
6:30-6:45 Break										
6:45-8:45	ORACLE Awards & Concert									
8:45-9:00 Break										
9:00-10:00	Fringe: A Taste of Kumbia Stew by Kumbia Collective, endorsed by Barry Stewart Mann			Fringe: Calamity Jane Comes Home Again by Jane Ogoun Dorman	Fringe: Feedback Loops by Judith Black endorsed by Claire Nolan					
10:05-11:00				Swap by Denise Mount	Swap by Delanna Reed					
Shuttle to Housing										
Bookstore final closing, pickup of unsold bookstore items and winning auction items										
ECO SIG Dinner (Dining Hall)										

Sunday, July 20

Shuttle to Wilson Building										
6:30-8:50 Breakfast										
7:30-8:00	Outdoor Morning Activity: Laughter Yoga For Health And Happiness by Josie Bailey									
8:00-8:30	Outdoor Morning Activity: Wake Up Your Body's Energy With Qi Gong by Gloria Elder									
8:20-8:50	Morning Activity: Wake Up and Sing! by Jen and Nat Whitman									
9:00-10:30	Presentation (YES): The Strange Case of Lady Liberty - an Historical Investigation by Barry Stewart Mann and Deborah Straborn	Workshop: Collective Telling: The Power of Audience Participation by Heather Forest	Workshop (SIO): Storytelling As Restorative Community-Based Approaches To Intergenerational Healing by Meghna Bhat		Workshop (PRO, YES): Creating A Strong Stage Presence Live And Online by Cora Newcomb	Workshop (SIO, YES): Finding the Funny: Adding Humor to Wow Your Audience by Steve Daut		Workshop (SIO): Storycoaching: How to help others become great sellers, and learn more yourself by Laura Packer	Workshop (HSA): THE MASTERSTORY JOURNEY The Seven Story-Paths to Your Best Life by Richard Stone	
10:30-10:45 Break										
10:45-11:45	Sacred Tellers Swap by Dot Cleveland									
11:45-12:15										
12:15-1:15 Lunch	Outdoor Umbrella Closing Circle									
Shuttle to Housing	Virtual Ticket Zoom Gathering by Heather Forest									

	STILLWELL THEATER 133 (VIRTUAL TICKET)	ONYX THEATER 1001	ROOM 103	ROOM 114	ROOM 138	ROOM 108	ROOM 221	ROOM 225	ROOM 227
2:00 Check-out									



PROGRAM DETAILS

All programs in the Stillwell Theatre will be livestreamed. A ticket including all livestreamed events is available on the NSN website for \$99.

Full Conference tickets include the Virtual programs.

All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

1:00 PM

Check-in at the Wilson Building

- Lobby - Registration and Info Desk
- Room 119 - Silent Auction & Bookstore
- Room 112 - Quiet Space

Shuttle

To Wilson Building from Housing begins at 2:00 PM

3:00 - 3:50 PM

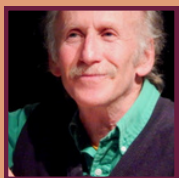


Sue O'Halloran | Stillwell Theater 133 | Opening Mixer

"Welcome to the Conference! Building a Conference Community"

- In this opening, interactive session, newcomers and old-timers alike feel immediately welcomed and connected. Everyone leaves the session excited to get started having met colleagues with whom they can share meals and conference fun and learning.

4:00 - 5:30 PM



Jackson Gillman | Room 114 | Workshop (ECO)

"Close Encounters of the Natural Kind - An Environmental Story Exploration"

- One's love of nature is often sparked by a memorable incident. So, what's your story of a peak moment? Whether it being witness to a dramatic sighting, or a pastoral outdoor experience, share your tale. Jackson will model some encounters of his own and encourage others to recount theirs. Tellers might be re-informed in the process, and we'll help each other widen our appreciation of natural wonders.



Kathleen Santopietro | Room 138 | Workshop (SIO, YES)

"Right From the Start: Engaging Story Beginnings"

- How do we bring audiences over into story time? Norma Livo, a pioneer in storytelling education says that the storyteller "learns to trust the power of the ritual." This workshop focuses on that ritual. Participants discuss the purpose of story introductions vs. story openings. Then the presenter will demonstrate techniques that entice listeners right from the start. We'll practice crafting beginnings that encourage listening using a story that participants bring or samples provided.

THURSDAY, JULY 17 – CONTINUED

4:00 - 5:30 PM



Nancy Donoval | Room 108 | Presentation (HSA)

“Listening Between the Lines: Deepening How We Hear Hard Stories”

- This interactive presentation uses storytelling concepts to strengthen listening skills, particularly when hearing difficult/trauma stories. Our culture focuses on speaking skills—public speaking, presentation skills, telling stories, performance techniques—with little emphasis on listening: the foundation of empathy. It requires seeking to understand others rather than--or at the least before--seeking to be understood. Listening is essential to resolving conflicts, finding common ground, and connecting across cultural divides. Deep listening truly is an underappreciated superpower!



Jenni Cargill-Strong | Room 221 | International Stream | Workshop (ECO, YES) Livestreamed

“Learn How to Harness Storytelling to Catalyze Regenerative Change”

- Show me a graph and I may or may not understand it, but tell me a relatable story, and I will not only remember it better, I am likely to retell it. Stories can help us imagine ourselves doing something new. Together, in a safe community of learning, we will explore how to harness this power to catalyze shifts in thinking and behaving that contribute to regenerative change.



Karen Golden | Room 225 | Presentation (HSA)

“Erased Voices: Creating Pilviskiai: My Father’s Village, A Cautionary Tale”

- In 2018, I visited my father’s birthplace, Pilviskiai, Lithuania, hoping to find something tangible that connected me to the place where my family had lived for over 400 years. Instead, I found that all traces of my family had been erased by war, occupation, and genocide. This presentation delves into the process of creating my one-woman multimedia show and underscores why this topic remains deeply important and relevant to all of us today.

5:30 - 6:30 PM

Dinner | The Commons Student Culinary Center
(located across the road from the Wilson Building)

6:30 - 6:45 PM



Delanna Reed | Stillwell Theater 133

“President’s Welcome”

THURSDAY, JULY 17 – CONTINUED

6:45 - 8:45 PM

Regional Teller Showcase | Stillwell Theater 133

Storytellers:

- Chetter Galloway, Emcee
- Josie Bailey
- Julie Bradshaw
- Natalie Jones
- Amanda Lawrence
- Barry Stewart Mann
- Denise Mount
- Mike Mount
- Cora Newcomb



8:45 - 9:00 PM

Break

9:00 - 10:00 PM



Deborah From | Room 114 | Fringe

“Hagnificent”

- Embark on a mythic journey of aging and womanhood that blends humor, wisdom, and heart. This journey will resonate with anyone who has experienced the highs and lows of life's transitions, offering a perspective on a very human experience. It will leave you laughing, reflecting, and celebrating.
- Adult - Solo
- Adult Subject Matter



Sarah Beth Nelson | Room 138 | Fringe

“Exile”

- The stories of exiled Classical women, Medea, Helen, and Dido, are reimagined and interwoven with the story of the exiled Roman poet Ovid who wrote about them.
- Adult, Solo
- Language, Adult Subject Matter, Violence



Katherine Eid Wild | Room 108 | Fringe

“Inheritance: An Intergenerational Show”

- In this deeply moving performance, Katherine traces her Lebanese family across four generations—until the story becomes her own, as she returns to uncover the roots that shaped her identity.
- Adult, Solo
- Adult Subject Matter

THURSDAY, JULY 17 – CONTINUED

10:05 - 11:00 PM



Kanute Rarey | Room 114 | Swap



Gwendolyn J. Napier | Room 138 | Swap

Shuttle PM

From Wilson Building to Housing runs from 9:00 – 11:00 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Shuttle AM

From Housing To Wilson Building and Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM

6:30 - 8:50 AM

Breakfast | The Commons

7:30 - 8:00 AM



Josie Bailey | Outdoor Morning Activity
“Laughter Yoga for Health and Happiness”

- This is a 30-minute demonstration session of Laughter Yoga (LY). LY is a proven stress reliever, involving deep breathing, stretching, songs, and light aerobic activity, all in a spirit of fun! It is appropriate to people of all ages and levels of fitness, including the mobility limited. I am a certified LY presenter and use LY to enhance my storytelling practice in schools, libraries, and senior centers.



Elizabeth Rose | Outdoor Morning Activity (YES)
“Themed Morning Yoga Sunrise Stretch”

- These morning yoga sessions will be “Themed with Stories” that convey meaning. Selected themes and postures will issue an open invitation for participants to unblur the lines between how they are on the mat and how they are in their lives. Themes are stories that convey meaning, a way to embody the practice of life on and off the mat and a tool to facilitate self-learning, deeper willingness, and bravery to look at ourselves.

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

8:00 - 8:30 AM



Lyn Ford | Outdoor Morning Activity

“This is a Wonderful Day: Practicing Joy in the Morning”

- Relax and play to start the day! Thirty minutes of easy, adaptable exercises in deep breathing, gentle stretching, self-awareness, self-care, and laughter. We'll reflect on the words of poet and philosopher Maya Angelou: "This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before," and carry that feeling of wonder into the conference experience.



Gloria Elder | Outdoor Morning Activity

“Wake Up Your Body's Energy with Qigong”

- Qigong (Chee-Gung) are slow moving and gentle exercises which include deep breathing, visualization, and meditation. Qi means "energy" and Gong means "practice" or "work". Put them together, Qigong means working with the body's energy to maintain optimal health. These morning exercises will wake up the body's energy and help you to feel energized throughout the day. Dress comfortably and be prepared to stand or sit and participate these gentle exercises, ending with a short meditation.

8:20 - 8:50 AM



Kanute Rarey and Gwendolyn J. Napier | Onyx Theater 1001 | Morning Activity

“Morning has Broken!”

- Come sing along as we start the new day!

9:00 AM

• Opening of Bookstore and Auction

- **Field Trip to Smith-Gilbert Gardens (ECO)**
(bus pickup spot is in front of Housing)

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Bobby Norfolk | Stillwell Theatre 133 | Presentation (ECO, HSA, YES)

“Callaloo: How Folktales Influence and Reflect Culture!”

- The profound metaphors in the Trinidadian folktale Callaloo encompass not only the spiritual world, but also the technological, environmental, geopolitical, and historical spheres. The story, in true fashion of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey, reflects a battle between good and evil as it unfolds. After viewing the film that Bobby created of this story, participants will join a Talk-Back discussion on how the elements of this story resonate so powerfully with the human experience today.



Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr. | Onyx Theater 1001 | Workshop

“The Power of Music in Storytelling”

- A renaissance man who has been a professional musician for more than forty year. In 2007, he was recognized for his work as a leading blues educator by the National Blues Foundation.

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

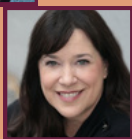
9:00 - 10:30 AM



Jim Brulé and Laura Simms | Room 114 | Workshop (HSA)

“Stories as Catalysts: Community Healing through Oral Storytelling”

- In “Stories as Catalysts: Community Healing through Oral Storytelling,” join Jim Brulé and Laura Simms in an immersive exploration of storytelling’s role in communal healing. Learn how to use traditional tales to inspire transformation in communities, analyzing deep-rooted values and crafting your own healing narratives. Perfect for storytellers seeking to impact communities, groups, and organizations, this workshop offers practical tools for inviting healing and connection through the ancient art of storytelling.



Karla Huntsman and Wendy Folsom | Room 138 | Workshop (YES)

“See... I Wonder... Creating Powerful Stories through Project Zero’s Deeper Thinking Toolbox”

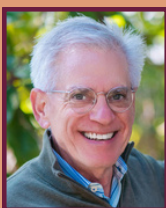
- Powerful thinking leads to powerful stories. This highly interactive workshop is for anyone who wants to deepen their ability to create more compelling stories. It is also for educators who want to be current with contemporary educational trends. Participants will move through the steps of story creation through the use of Harvard’s Project Zero thinking routines and will be able to analyze and create stronger, more significant stories through the use of these tools.



Liz Weir | Room 221 | International Streamed Workshop (HSA)

“Shortening the Road – Storytelling and Conflict Resolution”

- Growing up in Northern Ireland, Liz Weir saw the impact of civil strife. So, how can stories help? Taking the time to listen to another’s story pays them respect, even if the other person holds views which are diametrically opposed to our own. In this practical workshop we will look at how we create opportunities to work with stories to promote understanding and build more peaceful communities.



Richard Stone | Room 225 | Workshop (SIO)

“How to Harness the 7 Powers of Story Intelligence”

- Today, we need a new paradigm for being fully human and reauthoring our lives. What we need to do is to develop our Story Intelligence. It’s an entirely new way of thinking about what it means to be a human being, to be self-aware, and to have agency in the world. In this workshop, participants will learn how to tap into the Seven Story-Paths to self-discovery that will enable them to re-author their lives.



Carol Gebert | Room 227 | Workshop (SIO)

“Performing For and Preserving the Voices of Seniors”

- Learn from someone in the field how to perform for and preserve the stories of the senior population. Learn from a storyteller and activities coordinator at a senior living facility how storytelling is used to entertain, entice, and preserve the stories of those living at Timbercrest Senior Living, North Manchester, Indiana. Learn practical ideas for independent living, health care, and memory unit residents.

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Brenda Griffin | Room 230 | Coaching (YES)

“Make Your Story Do What it Do!”

- If you're ready to develop an engaging and influential story, let COACHING TIPS AND STRATEGIES start you on your way. Let's get your gifts ready to make an impact and gain influence using artful speaking styles and your own unforgettable story! So, come on in the room! Move from the back to the front! And let's “Make Your Story Do What It Do!”

10:30 - 10:45
am

- Break
- Field Trip returns from Smith-Gilbert Gardens (ECO)



10:45 AM -
12:15 PM



KSU Student Teller Showcase | Stillwell Theater 133

“Five Live Lessons in Personal Storytelling with the KSU Tellers”

Emcee: Charles Parrott

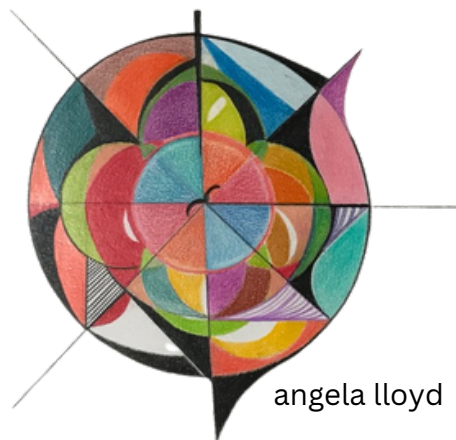
- This presentation features five stories by The KSU Tellers, a nationally recognized student storytelling ensemble housed in the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies at KSU. Each story in this presentation demonstrates The KSU Tellers' trademark style of personal storytelling while illustrating the particular techniques that they use. These techniques include, but are not limited to, innovative narrative structure, the use of humor, handling difficult subject matter, and much more.



12:15 - 1:15 PM



- Lunch | The Commons
- PRO SIG and YES SIG Lunches (Dining Hall)
- Virtual Community Gathering on Zoom – courtesy of Healing Story Alliance and Heather Forest, Host



angela lloyd

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

1:15 - 2:45 PM



Delanna Reed, Moderator | Stillwell Theater 133 | Panel (YES)

“Basket Weaving or Storytelling? A College Degree”

- **Panelists:** Nancy Donoval, Charles Parrott, Melissa Fees, and Delanna Reed, Moderator
- During this panel and round table discussion, college professors from ETSU, Kennesaw State University, and South Mountain Community College will discuss the history of their storytelling and performance programs, what they have become today and how they might evolve in the future. Meet a few of the people who are promoting storytelling as a valuable discipline and a degree worth pursuing. Find out how storytelling spans the art of performance, is applied across careers and disciplines, and can be incorporated into the curriculum of other disciplines.



Adam Booth | Room 103 | Workshop (PRO)

“Professional Skills Make Skilled Professionals”

- Whether you are interested in how to start your business as a storyteller, or you are looking for ways to increase professionalism in an established career, this time is for you. Adam will interactively share knowledge and mistakes learned from thirteen years of running a storytelling concert series (thus, dealing with most industry professionals) as well as two decades of work as a self-employed storyteller. Broad topics include contacts, paperwork, promotions, goals, and career longevity.



Lyn Ford and Sherry Norfolk | Room 114 | Workshop (YES)

“Boo-Tickle Tales: Sharing Not-So-Scary Stories”

- Young ones like to be surprised, not scared. They like unexpected, they like funny, they like to laugh, and they like to feel safe and content with the ending when the story is over. That's what we offer in our collection of stories, **Boo-Tickle Tales**, plus tips for telling the stories and resources for more.



Grace ‘Megumi’ Fleming | Room 138 | Presentation (HSA, YES)

“Between Worlds: Addressing Racism Through Story”

- **Tellers:** Bowen Lyam Lee, Karin Amano, Alton Takiyama-Chung, Joel Ying, Lillian Nantucket Shoji, and Grace ‘Megumi’ Fleming
- When we walk between worlds but are not fully accepted in any of them, where do we belong? What goes through the minds of those who feel they are “between worlds?” We all have stories of struggling with different value systems. Hear from Asian American storytellers who have experienced and are addressing racism in America. How can we as a community extend compassion to others and ourselves, and move beyond our limiting stories?



Tama Lunceford | Room 108 | Presentation (SIO)

“AI and Storytelling: New Tools and New Horizons”

- Discover how AI can enrich your storytelling in this 90-minute workshop. Learn the basics of AI, practical tools for idea generation and character development, and explore immersive, audience-driven storytelling techniques. Gain insights into balancing ethics and authenticity while protecting your creative work. Leave with actionable strategies, resources, and tools to harness AI's potential responsibly, enhancing your craft and deepening audience connections. Embrace the future of storytelling with confidence!

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

1:15 - 2:45 PM



Barry Stewart Mann | Room 225 | Workshop (ECO, YES)

“STEAM-Telling – Using Storytelling to Teach Math and Science”

- STEAM is everywhere - and we know that storytelling is a great vehicle for engaging audiences and teaching important lessons. Come see and hear strategies for using storytelling across the Math and Science curriculum, with examples on fractions, waves, the number line, animal adaptations, weather, space exploration, coins, sustainability, the invention of television, and more. This workshop will be fully interactive, with stories and resources to share – so come for a fun, and inspiring, experience!



Emily Stamets | Room 227 | Workshop (HSA)

“What’s Your Dragon?: Sharing Personal Challenges through Fantasy and Sci Fi”

- Some personal stories are too raw, private, or risky to tell. But these are often the stories and lessons that the world most needs to hear from you. Fantasy, sci fi, and other genres create a generative distance, allowing us to safely share about issues that are too difficult to work with directly. In this workshop, each participant will develop a fantasy or sci fi tale about a challenge or lesson from their own lives.



Milbre Burch | Room 230 | Coaching

“Coaching in Community”

- For decades, Milbre Burch has coached storytellers, working one-on-one and in group sessions. Her intuitive coaching style is based on deep listening, reflecting back what she has heard and focusing on the story world that's unfolding. Bring an eight-minute story sample and put your name in the hat for one of four 20-minute coaching slots. Or come to listen and support others. Either way, please plan to stay for the entire session.

2:45 - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 - 4:30 PM



Anne Wheeler, Moderator | Stillwell Theater 133 | Panel (PRO, YES)

“Telling ‘The Other’s’ Story - How do we share stories from someone else’s tradition, history or creative effort? Or should we...?”

- **Panelists: Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Pheasant, Chetter Galloway, and Anne Wheeler, Moderator**
- Ever wanted to tell a story from another's tradition and wondered how to do it respectfully? Been disturbed when someone told a story from your culture and "got it wrong"? Pondered how to tell a story from the distant past with integrity or craft a story derived from someone's else creative efforts? Bring your questions, concerns, and insights as we seek to address these critical and sometimes difficult issues with candor and mutual respect.

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

3:00 - 4:30 PM



Karin Amano | Onyx Theater 1001 | Presentation (YES)

"The Many Faces of Yōkai: Japanese Ogres, Spirits, and Grotesqueries"

- **Tellers:** Anne Shimojima, Karin Amano, Lillian Nantucket Shoji, Linda Yemoto, and Grace 'Megumi' Fleming
- Why are Yōkai, the whimsical, resourceful and terrifying supernatural creatures from Japan, so popular? Why are there so many? Are they purely superstitions or for entertainment, or have they significant ancestral or cultural roots? Come and find out about the sultry kitsune, anus-grabbing murderous kappa, grotesque baby ghosts, magical tengu, the silly shirime (butt cheeks with an eyeball in the middle), and others. Their stories may capture your heart, too!



Jo Radner | Room 103 | Workshop

"Poetic Practice for Storytellers"

- This workshop is a playground for creative storytellers. Seeing our stories through a poetic lens and playing with poetic techniques as we craft stories can sharpen our attention to the sounds and rhythms of words, to verbal economy, to metaphor and allusion, and to the overall shape of the story. We'll experiment in interesting ways with the wordcraft storytellers know and love. Bring paper, pencil, and a playful mind!



Dorothy Cleveland and Barbara Schutzgruber | Room 114 | Workshop

"Come With An Anecdote - Leave With A Story"

- Do you have a favorite anecdote that you would like to tell in performance but something is missing? This workshop offers a method to transform your anecdote into a story with a well-developed plot and relatable characters. Discover the true meaning of the anecdote as it becomes a story that paints a vivid narrative journey for your audience.



Jennifer Munro | Room 108 | Workshop

"The Blended Story: Its Joys and Challenges"

- Add depth, dimension, and power by blending your personal story with a myth, legend, or traditional story. Blended stories resonate with the wisdom of the ages that your audiences will recognize in their bones. But – and there's always a "but" – they are challenging to create. Jennifer Munro, a Circle of Excellence Award-winning storyteller, invites you to come and play with this most tricky of genres and leave buzzing with ideas for a blended story.



Nancy Donoval, Moderator | Room 221 | Panel (YES)

"Stealth Storytelling: How to Teach with Story"

Panelists: Kevin Cordi, Janice Del Negro, Travis Wolven, and Nancy Donoval, Moderator

- How can educators incorporate storytelling into their classes? This round table discussion among college faculty who teach with storytelling provides an opportunity to brainstorm ideas among the panelists and the audience for incorporated storytelling into workshops, lectures, and classes. In sharing our techniques and building off each other's ideas, we can promote storytelling as a communication tool for teachers and their students from kindergarten to graduate study and in private practice. (live streamed)

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

3:00 - 4:30 PM



Margaret Meyers | Room 225 | Workshop (YES) “Drawing To Know Your Story”

- We are word people. Drawing unlocks a different part of the brain. Drawing your story helps clear confusion and find depth. Adding color brings richness. Drawing on one page, you can know your whole story. This workshop is a hands-on, no judgment experience. I know kindergarteners who draw better than I do. Maybe you do, too. Bring a story you are still struggling with or use one of the stories I will provide. I will supply drawing materials. You will leave with a map of your story.



Amanda Lawrence and Sheila Corbin | Room 227 | Presentation (PRO) “A Model for Incorporating Storytelling as Healing into Festival Programming”

- Since 2018, the Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival has offered an annual workshop on “storytelling as healing” as part of its festival programming. Created in response to community needs, it provides a safe and accepting space for the sharing and honoring of difficult personal stories. Learn about the workshop series—what worked and what didn’t—and explore how you might incorporate healing work into a festival or other storytelling event in your community.

4:30 PM

Bookstore and Auction Closing

4:30 - 4:45 PM

Break

4:45 - 5:30 PM



Ed Stivender | Stillwell Theater 133 | Concert “Singing for His Supper”

5:30 - 6:30 PM

- Dinner | The Commons
- Diamond Donors Dinner with NSN Board (Dining Hall)

6:30 - 6:45 PM

Break

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

6:45 - 8:45 PM

National Teller Showcase | Stillwell Theater 133

Storytellers:

- Carmen Agra Deedy
- Lyn Ford
- Bill Harley
- Rev. Robert Jones
- Connie Regan-Blake
- Adam Booth, Emcee



CARMEN AGRA DEEDY is the host of four-time Emmy winning children's program *Love That Book!* and a New York Times bestselling author of 16 children's books. Her stories are insightful, funny, and sometimes irreverent narratives pulled from her childhood as Cuban refugees in Georgia. She is an accomplished lecturer, editor, and lifelong advocate for libraries. Her stories lead the audience through laughter, bring up memories of family, and subtly begin a journey towards hope and healing. Carmen was honored with National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence Award in 2008. Website: carmenagradeedy.com



LYN FORD is a nationally recognized fourth-generation Affrilachian storyteller, author and educator. She shares original stories from her family's multicultural African-American Appalachian (Affrilachian) heritage as well as spooky tales, and her own folktale adaptations. Lyn is a certified laughter yoga instructor, and has shared laughter yoga with the National Storytelling Conference four times. She is an author of five books, a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers Circle of Elders, and was the first Ohio storyteller to be nominated for a Governor's Award for the Arts. Lyn was honored with National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence Award in 2013. Website: storytellerlynford.com



BILL HARLEY, a two-time Grammy winner, is vibrant, outrageous, unpredictable and genuine with songs and stories about growing up, schooling, and what it is to be human—our connections with one another and with the planet we share. Recognized by audiences and peers as one of the finest performing storytellers in the country, his work has influenced a generation of children, parents, performing artists and educators. He tours internationally as a performing artist, author and keynote speaker from his home in New England. Bill was honored with National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence Award in 2001. Website: billharley.com

FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

6:45 - 8:45 PM



REVEREND ROBERT JONES, SR is a nationally known and acclaimed storyteller, singer, and musician. Robert has been a professional musician for more than forty years, originally performing country blues guitar, now an award winning multi-instrumentalist. He celebrates the history and power of American Roots music, embracing many styles of traditional African American folk music, including spirituals and gospel. Performing worldwide, he has been recognized by the National Blues Foundation as a leading blues educator in 2007 and a recipient of the Kresge Arts Fellowship for his music performance and composition as well as other awards. Robert has been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival multiple times as well as Teller In Residence at the National Storytelling Center. He is an ordained minister and a Baptist pastor, and at the heart of his message is the belief that our cultural diversity tells a story that should be celebrated, not just tolerated. Website: revrobertjones.com



CONNIE REGAN-BLAKE is one of America's most celebrated storytellers, and one of the leading figures in the American storytelling revival. She has captivated the hearts and imaginations of people around the globe with her powerful performances and workshops. Her stories range from hilarious traditional Appalachian Mountain tales to poignant true-life drama. She has taken the stage at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee every year since the first festival in 1973. A founding board member of NSN (then known as the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling), she chaired the organization's Board of Directors for ten years. Connie was honored with National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence Award in 1996. Website: storywindow.com



ADAM BOOTH, emceeding the National Teller Showcase, is a nationally celebrated touring artist who skillfully blends traditional mountain folklore, music, and an awareness of contemporary Appalachia creating unique forward-thinking storytelling performances. Adam is the 2022 West Virginia Folk Artist of the Year, and has performed at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, International Storytelling Center, the National Storytelling Festival as well many performances Nationwide. He is the founding artistic director of Speak Story Series, a premier storytelling concert. Website: adam-booth.com

Ray and Rosa Hicks



FRIDAY, JULY 18 – CONTINUED

9:00 - 10:00 PM



Denise Manning Keyes Page | Room 114 | Fringe **“Serfs and Scholars: Legacy of a Wealthy ‘Slave’”**

- A story recently unearthed by research at Yale. The journey of a formerly enslaved man sending his sons to Yale University, and according to the NYT, dying “A Wealthy Slave.”
- Family, Solo
- Only possible warning – the story reveals truths about enslavement that may be unsettling to some



Sandra Measels | Room 138 | Fringe **“The Stories of Three Women – Wives of King David – Michal, Abigail, and Bathsheba”**

- Married to the most powerful man in the kingdom, each woman was courageous, intelligent, and outspoken. They were three of David’s many wives, but they were individuals whose stories matter.
- Solo Performance
- Family



Vianna Isbister | Room 108 | Fringe **“Leaking”**

- Through fractured fairy tales and crafted personal stories, Vianna invites you to join them in putting the puzzle together of their experiences and to creating a new narrative of relevance.
- Adult, Solo
- Language, Adult Subject Matter

9:00 - 10:30 PM



Loren Niemi, Host | Stillwell Theater 133 | NSN SLAM

- Any story, any style - traditional or personal. There are no preliminary bouts, just one and done
- 10 tellers - 7 minutes each. Names will be drawn to decide on order of tellers

10:05 - 11:00 PM



- **Walt Belcher | Room 114 | Swap**
- **Fran Stallings | Room 138 | Swap**

Shuttle PM

From Wilson Building to Housing runs from 9:00 – 11:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 19

Shuttle

From Housing to Wilson Building and Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM

6:30 - 8:50 AM

Breakfast | The Commons

7:30 - 8:00 AM



Josie Bailey | Outdoor Morning Activity

“Laughter Yoga for Health and Happiness”

- This is a 30-minute demonstration session of Laughter Yoga (LY). LY is a proven stress reliever, involving deep breathing, stretching, songs, and light aerobic activity, all in a spirit of fun! It is appropriate to people of all ages and levels of fitness, including the mobility limited. I am a certified LY presenter and use LY to enhance my storytelling practice in schools, libraries, and senior centers.



Elizabeth Rose | Outdoor Morning Activity (YES)

“Themed Morning Yoga Sunrise Stretch”

- These morning yoga sessions will be "Themed with Stories" that convey meaning. Selected themes and postures will issue an open invitation for participants to unblur the lines between how they are on the mat and how they are in their lives. Themes are stories that convey meaning, a way to embody the practice of life on and off the mat and a tool to facilitate self-learning, deeper willingness, and bravery to look at ourselves.

8:00 - 8:30 AM



Lyn Ford | Outdoor Morning Activity

“This is a Wonderful Day: Practicing Joy in the Morning”

- Relax and play to start the day! Thirty minutes of easy, adaptable exercises in deep breathing, gentle stretching, self-awareness, self-care, and laughter. We'll reflect on the words of poet and philosopher Maya Angelou: "This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before," and carry that feeling of wonder into the conference experience.



Gloria Elder | Outdoor Morning Activity

“Wake Up Your Body's Energy with Qigong”

- Qigong (Chee-Gung) are slow moving and gentle exercises which include deep breathing, visualization, and meditation. Qi means "energy" and Gong means "practice" or "work." Put them together, Qigong means working with the body's energy to maintain optimal health. These morning exercises will wake up the body's energy and help you to feel energized throughout the day. Dress comfortably and be prepared to stand or sit and participate in these gentle exercises, ending with a short meditation.

8:20 - 8:50 AM



Jen and Nat Whitman | Onyx Theater 1001 | Morning Activity

“Wake Up and Sing!”

SATURDAY, JULY 19 – CONTINUED

9:00 am

Opening of the Bookstore and Auction

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Connie Regan-Blake | Stillwell Theater 133 | Presentation

“A Legend in Overalls: Storytelling in the Footsteps of Ray Hicks”

- “Ray was a godfather of folklore and a master storyteller by any account. But beyond his contributions to his art, Ray, who died in 2003 at age 80, was a precious piece of Appalachian history, and a man whose simple mountain wisdom has long outlasted his days on the front porch of his cabin in Beech Mountain.” - Casey Blake



Sherry Norfolk, Fran Stallings, and Mij Byram | Room 103 | Workshop (YES)

“Teaching Artists Teaching ‘Teaching Artists’! The Curriculum Development Collective”

- This workshop welcomes teaching artists and storytellers of any level of experience to join in peer-to-peer learning. Bring 1-2 curriculum-focused questions you'd like peer feedback on: a lesson plan in progress, new program ideas to try with a class, or a nagging question about best practices. You're also welcome to just "listen by the fireside." Come for the inspiration, and stay for the connection!



Judith Black | Room 138 | Workshop (ECO)

“From Information Download to Creating A Compelling Story”

- Facts sit in an open space. Stories organize them, give them theme, character, and an opportunity to authentically educate and move your listener. Do you ever present to any official body or your family around the Thanksgiving table, and you want them to, for instance, understand that massive use of nitrogen and phosphorus in our agriculture and lawns are killing the viability of our waterways? We will create those stories.



Kate Dudding | Room 108 | Presentation (PRO)

“Create Professional Event Flyers – For New Designers”

- Attendees will learn the basic concepts of: (a) graphic design (proximity, alignment, repetition and contrast); (b) color in a flyer; and (c) typography (types of font, when to use bold, italics and other enhancements). Then they will learn how to apply these concepts when designing flyers. After the workshop, the attendees can use a series of short online videos which will demonstrate how to implement these concepts using Microsoft Word to create their own flyers.



Elisa Pearmain | Room 221 | Workshop (HSA)

“Healing Stories: Listening to our Anger. Acting from Love.”

- Anger is uncomfortable, often taboo, sometimes dangerous, and a very necessary emotion. It informs us of our unmet needs, of injustice, and when action is required. Anger covers more painful emotions. Understanding how our anger is trying to help us is a crucial step in the forgiveness/healing process. By listening to our anger stories and feelings with compassion, we connect to what we love and live more authentically. Highly participatory.

SATURDAY, JULY 19 – CONTINUED

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Sonya Squires Caesar | Room 225 | Workshop (SIO)

“Build Your Own Economy: An Interactive Storytelling Experience”

- Build Your Own Economy is an interactive storytelling experience that uses fictive micro-stories and poetry based on real-life happenings to discuss transformative communal economies, which can be defined as group-based economics. Attendees engage in collaborative decision-making to ‘choose their own adventures’ by imagining how to respond to specific financial scenarios. The activity showcases ways attendees can reimagine economic agency and perhaps consider starting economic projects in their own families and/or communities.



Natalie Jones | Room 227 | Workshop (YES)

“The Wolf is at the Door. Now What?? Telling World Folklore to Children”

- Engage young audiences with stories of hope and empathy. Folklore illustrates cooperation and kindness while also teaching the danger of Fox’s Den and the truth of the emperor’s clothes. This workshop demonstrates creative techniques including puppets, music, drama, flannel boards. If we give children the gift of magical heroes and sheroes, we give them role models who chose to make the world a better place. Come try-out these field-tested tricks of the trade from a teller of children’s tales for over 25 years.



Bill Harley | Room 230 | Coaching

10:30 - 10:45
AM

Break

10:45 AM -
12:15 PM

Kuumba Tattletales | Stillwell Theater 133 | Youth Teller Showcase

“How to Perform a Story”

Deborah Strahorn, Emcee

Tellers: Javon Culver, Jarell Allen, Madison Culver

- How do you become an award-winning youth performer? Learn what it takes straight from “the Mouths of Babes.” Hear youth talk about their journey to becoming seasoned storytellers through their experiences from libraries and local festivals to a national storytelling conference. Hear stories from inspiration to stage fright and how they overcame obstacles to create their own stories and tandem tales.



SATURDAY, JULY 19 – CONTINUED

10:45 AM -
12:15 PM



Carmen Agra Deedy | Room 230 | Coaching

12:15 - 1:15 PM

- Lunch | The Commons
- HSA and SIO SIG Lunches (Dining Hall)

1:15 - 3:15 PM

Annual General Membership Meeting | Stillwell Theater 133



Meeting Time



NSN General Membership Meeting Agenda July 19, 2025

Welcome	<p>Delanna Reed, NSN Board Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of Current NSN Board Members
Reports	<p>Chair Report: Delanna Reed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiatives: Storyteller Relief Fund (SRF) collaboration, donation to NABS, member grants, Kathryn Windham fund• Memories: The Late Angela Lloyd and Jimmy Neil Smith <p>Vice Chair Elect Report: Caleb Hubbard</p> <p>Treasurer's Report: Lisa Overholser or Dot Cleveland</p> <p>Webmaster Report: Dot Cleveland</p> <p>Membership Update: Dot Cleveland</p> <p>Committee Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Committee—Lisa Overholser, Chair• 2025 Conference Committee—Leslie Shelley and Vice Chair Rishi Nixon <p>Special Interest Group(SIG) Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental Storytelling (ECO)—Linda Yemoto/Claire Nolan• Storytelling in Organizations (SIO)—Lisa Williams• Producers and Organizers (PRO)—Barry McWilliams/Lisa Overholser• Youth, Educators and Storytellers (YES)—Karin Amano
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This conference marks the beginning of the 50th year birthday celebration of NAPPS/NSA/NSN! In celebration, we will conduct an oral history project by interviewing those who founded and served on the board over the years
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ray Hicks Memorial Fund



AGENDA - CONTINUED

Question and Answer	Question and Answer: Members may ask questions of the Board
Announcements	ORACLE Award Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins at 6:45 PM, July 19 in the Stillwell Theatre• The presentation of awards and the concert will be live streamed and open to the public
Pass the Gavel	Pass the Gavel to incoming NSN Board Chair, Rishi Nixon
Adjournment	Rishi Nixon, Board Chair
Upcoming Board Meetings	5:00 pm CT – online via Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday, August 20• Wednesday, September 17• Wednesday, October 15• Wednesday, November 19• Wednesday, December 17



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET)

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National Storytelling Network			
Statement of Financial Position			
As of December 31, 2024			
Assets			
Checking	7,873.42		
Savings	110,162.76		
Savings - Ray Hicks	6,598.99		
Accounts Receivable	990.00		
Other Current Assets	2,774.00		
Total Current Assets		128,399.17	
Total Fixed Assets		752.50	
Long Term Assets (Savings CD)		62,468.74	
Total Assets			\$191,620.41
Liabilities & Equity			
Credit Card	225.00		
Payroll Taxes Payable	1,733.26		
Ray Hicks Payable	6,598.99		
Total Current Liabilities		8,557.25	
Equity			
Net Assets w/o Board Restrictions	90,448.49		
Net Assets w/ Board Restrictions (SIGS)	40,065.75		
Net Assets w/o Donor Restrictions		130,514.24	
Scholarship Grants	4,644.00		
Member Grants	11,276.78		
Net Assets w/ Donor Restrictions		15,920.78	
Net Income (from P&L)		36,628.14	
Total Liabilities & Equity			\$191,620.41
32.6% increase from 2023			