STATEMENT OF FIANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE (PROFIT – LOSS)

	Storytelling Network	Г.,		
Statement of Final				
January through December 2024				
Income				
Donations	16,549.97			
Donated Pro Services	5,000.00			
Total Contributed Support		21,549.97		
Conference & Other Programs	84,088.35			
Memberships	34,925.00			
Advertising Revenues	6,945.00			
Interest/Savings	4,879.44			
Teller Directory	3,540.00			
Other Revenues	4,036.70			
Total Earned Revenues		138,414.49		
Special Events		3,329.00		
Total Income			\$163,293.4	
Expense				
Salaries & Related Expenses		12,403.16		
Professioinal Fees Donated		5,000.00		
Computer Equipment & Software	2,149.03			
Supplies	1,344.22			
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	2,695.60			
Printing & Copying	3,345.88			
In-house Publications	1,015.00			
Hicks Expenses	4,627.71			
Other Expenses	1,340.92			
Total Non-Personnel Expenses		16,518.36		
Comp Conference Fees	1,155.38			
Travel	5,688.27			
Conference	37,426.15			
Sound, Technology, Zoom	4,259.64			
Presenter Payout	5,345.00			
Honoraria	150.00			
Total Travel & Meeting Expense		54,024.44		

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STATEMENT OF FIANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE (PROFIT – LOSS)

Depreciation		754.00	
Insurance	3,328.00		
Non-NSN Event Sponsorship	1,968.65		
Program Related Fees	4,704.61		
Outside Computer Svcs/Website Dev.	11,141.81		
Other Expenses	4,501.73		
Total Misc. Expenses		25,644.80	
Bank Fees	4,896.52		
Taxes	1,003.35		
Other Business Expense	666.65		
Total Business Expense		6,566.52	
Total Expense			\$120,911.28
Net Ordinary Income			\$42,382.18
Transfer to Restricted Funds			-\$5,754.04
Net Income (shown on Financial Position)			\$36,628.14

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SATURDAY, JULY 19 - CONTINUED

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 PM

Silent Auction Final Closing

3:30 - 5:00 pm



Jessica Piscitelli Robinson | Stillwell Theater 133 | Presentation "We Are Women: Hear Us Tell"

- Tellers: Carmen Agra Deedy, Karin Amano, Lona Bartlett, Lyn Ford, Bonnie Gardner, Jennifer Munro, and Jessica Piscitelli Robinson
- These storytellers are among the best in the world. They have performed on TV, radio, podcasts, conferences, and festivals all over the world. They write and perform folktales, personal stories, literary, historical, and tall tales. Their voices are all different, and yet they have one thing in common: they are all women.



Cooper Braun | Onyx Theater 1001 | Workshop (PRO) "The Technical Things You Didn't Think Of"

 Do microphones leave you baffled? Do you feel blinded by the lights? Have you ever had a major wardrobe malfunction? Do you just not know where to stand on stage? Never fear, Cooper brings 18 years of experience as a theater technician to the world of storytelling. Let him show you the ropes of sound, lights, and the rest of the technical process so that you are free to tell your story.



Sarah Beth Nelson | Room 114 | Workshop (HSA, PRO) "Gathering Bravely: Creating and Holding a Brave Space"

• Many of us believe our programs are "safe" spaces. But how do we make these spaces safe? Are ground rules at odds with free speech? What happens when someone is unsafe? Do safe spaces even exist? Sarah Beth shares her research on brave spaces along with lessons learned from open mic shows and storytelling workshops. We will plan strategies for creating and holding brave learning and performance spaces.



Margaret Read MacDonald | Room 138 | Workshop (HSA, YES)

"Tales of Peace and Kindness: A Hands-on Workshop"

• Participants leave ready to tell six audience-participation folktales suggesting pathways to peace. Easy to learn, fun to tell!



Fran Stallings | Room 108 | Workshop (ECO, YES)

"SCIENCE: Tell It Like A Story"

 Stories provide an appealing way to slip ideas in under the radar of people who fear or distrust science – as well as a time-tested way to teach. Learn to use the same story elements that work in time-tested folk tales to craft science information into "fact-tales" that can make complicated ideas easy to remember and help listeners see meaning in masses of facts, while sharing your love of nature.

SATURDAY, JULY 19 - CONTINUED

3:30 - 5:00 PM



Patti Smith | Room 221 | Workshop (SIO, YES)

"Technology & Storytelling or How I learned to Stop Worrying and Embrace AI"

• The genie is out of the bottle. **Chat GPT** is everywhere as are legitimate concerns about its use. Will it replace storytellers? COULD it replace storytellers?! Let's learn about this technology together and see how it can help us – but not REPLACE us – in our storytelling!



Katie Knutson | Room 225 | Workshop (YES)

"Planning a High-Quality School or Community Residency"

Performing and teaching are two very different things. If you are looking to
use storytelling in the classroom or community to help teach specific topics,
this workshop is for you! We will go over co-teaching models, goal setting,
state/national standards, lesson planning, and the most important questions
to ask teachers/administrators. As we go, you will create a sample plan for
your first/next residency. Please bring a computer or tablet, if possible.



Linda Yemoto | Room 227 | Workshop (YES)

"Asian Feast of Stories: Culture, Identity, and Community Through Food"

- Tellers: Alton Takiyama-Chung, Joel Ying, Bowen Lyam Lee, and Linda Yemoto
- At an Asian household, you are often greeted with, 'Eat! You! Come eat!'
 Asian cultures have developed rich and complex traditions around food and
 its preparation. Hear traditional tales, personal narratives, and reflections on
 Asian culture, all through the lens of food. In this workshop you will have
 opportunities to share your own food memories, delve into the sensory
 experience of food, taste some Japanese New Year's Day dishes, and
 make authentic Chinese Mooncakes."

5:00 - 5:30 PM

Bookstore Final Closing: Pick up unsold Bookstore items and winning Auction items

5:30 - 6:30 PM

- Dinner | The Commons
- ECO SIG Dinner (Dining Hall)

6:30 - 6:45 PM

Break

SATURDAY, JULY 19 - CONTINUED

6:45 - 8:45 PM

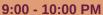
ORACLE Awards & Concerts | Stillwell Theater 133

Recipients:

- Regional Service
 - Clinton Atwater, Meghna Bhat, Jim Brule, Jo An Dadisman, and Jennifer Pahl Otto
- Talking Leaves
 - Sherry Norfolk
- Distinguished National Service
 - Sara Armstrong, Trudy Hanson, and Robert (Bob) Johnson
- Lifetime Achievement
 - Susan O'Connor

8:45 - 9:00 PM

Break





Kuumba Collective | Stillwell Theater 133 | Fringe

"A Taste of Kuumba Stew"

Tellers:

- Chetter Galloway, Gwendolyn J. Napier, and Vernice Bailey
- From the Gold Coast of Ghana to the sandy shores of South Africa, The Kuumba Collective serves a cultural calabash flavored with music, songs, and stories of the African diaspora!
- Ensemble Performance
- Suitable for Family and General Audiences

KUUMBA STORYTELLERS GEORGIA.

Jane Ogburn Dorfman | Room 114 | Fringe

"Calamity Jane Comes Home Again"

- Calamity Jane returns to Deadwood and addresses the Ladies Auxiliary. Jane answers their questions, telling her life story and adventures. Essentially, Calamity Jane gives a TED talk.
- Adult, Solo
- No Warnings



"Feedback Loops"

- Our living climate is going haywire, and that is because of human activity. How can an individual face the truth and continue to live a vibrant life?
- · Adult. Solo
- Any kind of nudity at this age would have the audience rampaging toward the exits. The material will be dark and real.



- Denise Mount | Room 114 | Swap
- Delanna Reed | Room 138 | Swap





Shuttle PM

Leaves from Wilson Building to Housing runs from 9:00 - 11:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 20 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 selflearning, deeper willingness, and bravery to look at ourselves. 8:00 - 8:30 AM 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 Jen and Nat Whitman | Onyx Theater 1001 | Morning Activity "Wake Up and Sing!"

SUNDAY, JULY 20 - CONTINUED

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Barry Stewart Mann and Deborah Strahorn | Stillwell Theater 133 | Presentation (YES)

"The Strange Case of Lady Liberty - An Historical Investigation"

You know the statue in New York Harbor and the words that invite "your tired, your poor, your huddled masses ..." But the story of the Statue of Liberty is complicated and conceals shameful resonances from our nation's past. In this workshop presentation, Barry and Deborah will weave historical figures, personal narrative, and forgotten facts into a long-form tandem telling and then invite discussion and feedback from the NSN brain trust.



Heather Forest | Room 103 | Workshop

"Collective Telling: The Power of Audience Participation"

Joyful, collective energy rises when an audience unites to help the teller tell
the tale. Through lecture, demonstration, and playful, improvisational
activities, this experiential workshop will explore audience participation
techniques to enrich stories for audiences of all ages. We will explore
musical refrains, call and response, sound effects, rhythmic refrains,
physical movement, gesture, and audience suggestion. We will examine
effective ways to actively engage the audience and to amplify the message
of a story.



Meghna Bhat | Room 114 | Workshop (SIO)

"Storytelling As Restorative Community-Based Approaches to Intergenerational Healing"

Storytelling has been an ancient practice passed on from our ancestors
across generations. True and personal storytelling, when practiced in safe,
trauma-informed, accessible, and culturally sensitive spaces, has the power
to foster solidarity, strengthen community connections, and reclaim
intergenerational healing. Using guided creative activities, this interactive
session will explore how anti-oppressive and ethical storytelling can be
used for promoting individual and collective care and finding strength and
wisdom in our and each others' stories.



Cora Newcomb | Room 108 | Workshop (PRO, YES)

"Creating A Strong Stage Presence Live and Online"

All the work storytellers do in the days, weeks, and months prior to stepping
onto a stage is critical. You have practiced your story; you know how to tell
it, and now it is time to walk onto the stage (live or online). This 90-minute
workshop is designed to give you steps to follow, ideas to use, and ways to
make your stage performance the best ever – for you and for your
audience.



Steve Daut | Room 221 | Workshop (SIO, YES)

"Finding the Funny: Adding Humor to Wow Your Audience"

 Humor is a powerful technique in telling stories, not only for tall tales and funny stories, but also to help audiences open emotionally to more difficult stories. What makes humor work, and what should you avoid? Through discussion, examples and exercises, students will discover different types of humor and will learn techniques that are used by humor professionals to discover the humor inherent in your stories and how to present that humor effectively.

SUNDAY, JULY 20 - CONTINUED

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Laura Packer | Room 227 | Workshop (SIO)

"Storycoaching: How to help others become great tellers, and learn more yourself"

Laura Packer has been coaching for decades to help others craft their best
work. Now you can learn her coaching techniques to help others become
better storytellers, plus learn more about storytelling along the way. This
workshop includes coaching background, deep listening exercises, how to
give powerful and effective appreciations, and how to give effective,
supportive feedback to help tellers make their stories even better. Expect to
listen, be coached, coach others, and have fun.



Richard Stone | Room 230 | Workshop (HSA)

"THE MASTERSTORY JOURNEY: The Seven Story-Paths to Your Best Life"

• "Story" is the hidden language of the imagination. Those who can master both the science and art of story will become the next generation of masterful leaders that the world desperately needs. In this program, we'll introduce you to the 7 Powers of Story and how to effectively draw upon these powers to become a formidable, persuasive leader who can effectively engage communities to embrace change.

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Dot Cleveland | Onyx Theater 1001 | Sacred Tellers Swap



11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Outdoor Sunbrella Closing Circle (song sheet at end of this booklet)



12:15 - 1:15 PM

Lunch | The Commons

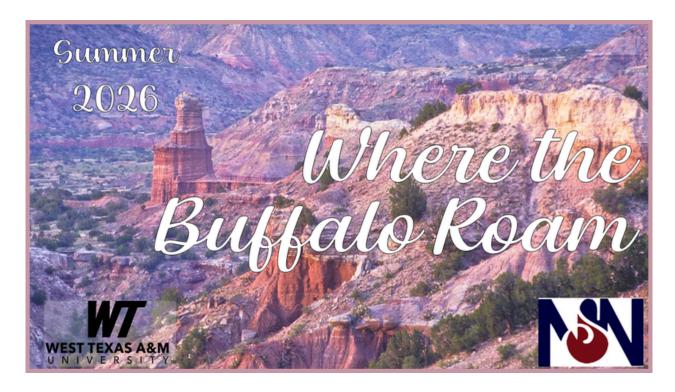
12:15 - 1:15 PM



Virtual Gathering Space | Online via Zoom | Courtesy of Healing Story Alliance

Lee-Ellen Marvin, Host

SUNDAY, JULY 20 – CONTINUED		
Shuttle	From Wilson Building to Housing runs from 1:00 – 2:00 PM	
2:00 PM	Check-out	



Get ready to stampede towards adventure because the National Storytelling Network is heading to the wide-open plains of the Texas Panhandle!

In 2026, we're converging on the stunning campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon, just a stone's throw from the vibrant city of Amarillo and adjacent to Palo Duro Canyon (the second-largest Canyon in the Nation).

We're talking stories as vast as the Texas sky, where the buffalo roam and the spirit of the frontier ignites our imaginations. Get ready to explore, connect, and let your stories run wild in the heart of the Texas Panhandle!





The **ORACLE** can be an award given for:

O rganization / Originality

R eliability

A chievements

C reativity

L eadership

E xcellence

in the Storytelling Community

2025 Committee

Mary Hamilton, Chair Ray Christian, Mary Gay Ducey, Cora Newcomb, and Toni Simmons



Regional Service & Leadership Award

Clinton Atwater

• Have you ever wondered how separate lives intertwine? Imagine a vast, intricate puzzle—each moment of laughter, reflection, and shared truth a unique piece waiting to find its place. Clinton Atwater isn't just revealing this puzzle; he's guiding the pieces together, showing us how our stories connect in ways we never expected. Through mesmerizing performances, transformative mentorship, and the deeply connective energy of Let Me Tell Ya!—both a thriving storytelling community and dynamic storytelling events—Clinton brings his mission, Connecting Stories and People, to life. He doesn't just tell stories; he awakens them in others, empowering voices, fostering understanding, and turning individual experiences into shared moments of meaning. Because your story isn't just yours—it's a vital piece of something greater. And with Clinton Atwater leading the way, we don't just listen to stories—we become part of them, witnessing the extraordinary beauty of the human experience, woven together, one story at a time.





Regional Service & Leadership Award

Meghna Bhat

• Dr. Meghna Bhat (she/her) is an award-winning creative disruptor and consultant based in California, committed to creating safe, healthy, and thriving communities. As a first-generation South Asian immigrant, she is a passionate multidisciplinary storyteller, feminist scholar-practitioner, and educator. Meghna has led interactive and trauma-informed sessions at national conferences, using personal storytelling to ignite conversations, shift cultural norms, promote collective care, encourage intergenerational healing, and drive meaningful change. In 2022, she received the Seeding Creativity Artist Grant and founded Gulabi Stories: A South Asian Healing Initiative, which is focused on storytelling that highlights healing within the South Asian diaspora. Her work has been featured on ABC News and Solving Sacramento. Meghna has shared her stories at various events, including Capital Storytelling's Immigrant Stories, Intercultural Reflections: A Festival of the Arts, and the Sacramento Storyteller Guild. Her story "Metamorphosis" was published in the 2024 anthology of South Asian survivor stories SANCTUARIES by South Asian SOAR. She works parttime at Capital Storytelling and coaches fellow storytellers in their creative journeys.



Regional Service & Leadership Award

Jim Brulé

• Jim Brulé is a transformational storyteller, death doula, teacher, and mentor, drawing on a unique background that encompasses advanced degrees in both clinical psychology and artificial intelligence. For the past seven years, he has directed Transformational Storytelling, an online school accredited by the National Storytelling Network. This global community trains spiritual storytellers from diverse traditions to craft narratives that inspire healing and foster spiritual growth. Beyond his school, Jim serves as a multifaith chaplain and spiritual storyteller for hospitals, Omega homes, and correctional facilities. Deeply committed to interfaith dialogue, he co-founded The Brothers Three over two decades ago with a Muslim scholar and Baptist minister, continuing their impactful work in schools, faith communities, and organizations to cultivate understanding and healing. Jim's classes, workshops, and communities embody his dedication to multicultural wisdom, grounded in the belief that true abundance arises from interconnected generosity and gratitude.





Regional Service & Leadership Award

Jo Ann Dadisman

• As a storyteller and career educator, Jo Ann Dadisman interwove the two practices in her home state of West Virginia. She taught in public schools and higher education for more than 40 years, while continuing to develop her own love of the tale. For 20 years, she and a partner told tandem tales under the name of Mountain Echoes, as they worked in schools, parks, and libraries and with groups to promote an understanding of the mountain heritage and the importance of preserving stories. For 21 years, she taught at West Virginia University. She also co-directed the National Writing project at WVU for several years and won the coveted Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award in 2011. She has worked to promote storytelling through partnership with the Gabor, West Virginia, Folklife Center at Fairmont State University, and she founded the Youth Storytelling Camp at Glenville State University and has co-directed it for the past 3 years.



Regional Service & Leadership Award

Jennifer Pahl Otto

Jennifer Pahl Otto creates and tells original stories. Her personal narratives and contemporary tales hit the universal themes we all relate to – love, death, humor, grief, family, and growth. She has told at numerous festivals and events in Michigan, where she lives. She has been on stage at North East Storytelling's Sharing the Fire Conference and was a frequent teller at the Northlands Annual Conference. Her children's stories, which she tells at schools, parks, libraries, and other locations, are fun and quirky, and any life lessons come with a light touch. Mead Hill has published four books of her children's stories, which are available on Amazon. She is currently President of the Michigan Bright Water Storytelling Festival, which produces an annual festival and supports other storytelling opportunities in Michigan. She is a past president of Northlands Storytelling Network and has sat on the National Storytelling Network Board.







Sherry Norfolk

· Sherry Norfolk is an award-winning storyteller, author, and teaching artist, performing and leading residencies and professional development workshops nationally and internationally. A dynamic storyteller, Sherry has appeared in the Manitoba International Storytelling Festival, Taiwan International Storytelling Carnival, International Art of Storytelling Festival (Miami, FL), International Storytelling Center (Jonesborough, TN), Singapore International Storytelling Festival, Manila International Storytelling Festival, and many more festivals, schools, libraries, museums, and universities nationwide. A Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist, Young Audiences Teaching Artist, and an Arts Integration Teaching Artist on the rosters of several state arts commissions, she leads residencies in pre-K through high school classrooms across the country and southeast Asia. As co-editor and/or co-author of five books that explore rigorous, standards-based storytelling strategies for learning across the curriculum and a former Adjunct Professor at Lesley University, Sherry is a recognized leader in integrating learning through storytelling.



Distinguished National Service Award

Sara Armstrong

From telling stories to her elementary school students to making connections with stories in her teacher professional development workshops, Sara Armstrong, Ph.D., developed her passion for the importance of storytelling to make connections and build bridges over many years. Sara serves as the Board chair for Storytelling Association of California (SAC – storysaac.org) and Board chair for Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST – asst.art). It's by telling each other our stories and listening deeply to those stories that we can bring peace to our world.





Distinguished National Service Award

Trudy Hanson

• Trudy L. Hanson (BS, MA Speech, Louisiana State University; Ed.D., Higher Education, Texas Tech University) retired from the position of department head of the Department of Communication at West Texas A&M University in 2021. Hanson has served as President of the Texas Speech Communication Association, as editor of the Texas Speech Communication Journal, and as President of the Southern States Communication Association. She has received recognition for outstanding service in the discipline from the Texas Speech Communication Association, the Tejas Storytelling Association, and the Southern States Communication Association. She has presented over 40 papers at state, regional, and national academic conferences, published 4 chapters in academic monographs, published 30 journal articles, compiled 4 public speaking textbooks, and written an anthology of fractured fairy tales. Her academic research has been concentrated in rhetorical criticism of popular culture, gender communication, department head leadership, scholarship of teaching and learning, and storytelling. She directed the WTAMU Storytelling Festival for 28 years, bringing nationally known tellers to campus to perform with graduate students. She has served as an NSN Board member and as Chair of the NSN Board during the organization's transition to its current SIG-centered governance. She continues to spin tales for her 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.



Distinguished National Service Award

Robert C. Johnson (Bob)

• Bob was born in Knoxville, TN. His early childhood was spent in Greeneville, TN, about 30 miles from the seat of Storytelling in Jonesborough. He has a BA from the College of Wooster and took considerable graduate accounting courses at ETSU, earning a CPA designation in 1974. He worked at Arthur Andersen & Co. in the accounting division for a few years before moving into administration and eventually managing technology for the Northeast region, retiring in 1999. Bob became involved with NSN in 2008 when Nancy Kavanaugh called wanting to convert the NSN accounting system from Peachtree to QuickBooks. After brief stints on the Board and as Finance Chair, he has held the position of Corporate Treasurer ever since. Bob currently lives in Greeneville and has a small accounting practice. He is married with 3 grown children living in Texas and North Carolina.





Lifetime Achievement Award

Susan O'Connor

• Susan O'Connor holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from the University of Tennessee. After teaching English for a community college, she came to work part-time in marketing for what was then the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. Later, it became the National Storytelling Association, and ultimately, the International Storytelling Center. Shortly after being hired, Susan moved into the full-time role of Director of Programs, where she was responsible for the operation and artistic direction of the National Storytelling Festival and all programmatic events. Accomplishments during her tenure included initiating new features of the National Storytelling Festival, developing Storytelling Live (ISC's six-month, annual teller-in-residence program), establishing the weeklong Kids Storytelling Institute for 5th graders, and inaugurating ISC's foray into online programming. Although Susan retired from her job in early 2025, she continues to work for ISC as a consultant on special projects. Her priority has always been the success of the artists with whom she works.

Congratulations



SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 RECIPIENTS



Jennifer Armstrong

 Jennifer Armstrong is a musical storyteller extraordinaire weaving bagpipe, fiddle, banjo, and folk toys through her stories and songs. She delights all ages from preschoolers (with the handkerchief mouse) to seniors (with the sit down square dance). She has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival, interviewed on NPR's All Things Considered and in 2023 moved to Asheville, NC to live next door to her youngest daughter! www.jenniferarmstrong.com



Rachel Briggs

Rachel Briggs is a member of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers, a non-profit based out of Providence, Rhode Island that is dedicated to promoting the awareness, appreciation, and application of Black storytelling. She considers herself a 'culture keeper' and adheres to the African tradition of oral storytelling to pass on wisdom, history, and cultural information to nurture a sense of community. Rachel is an emerging writer and spoken word poet. She is 'solar powered' and loves cookouts, gardening, camping, and hiking. She is also known for dancing to live bands and eating dessert before dinner! Unfortunately Rachel had to cancel her trip to NSN.



Loralee Cooley

• The Windham Scholarship Committee was disappointed to learn that Loralee cannot attend the 2025 Atlanta conference. She had written eagerly of her desire to come but had to decline the scholarship because of health issues. Loralee wrote: "There might not have been a storytelling group in Atlanta if it were not for me. Actually, yes...someone would have started it; but I'm the one who did, along with about two dozen others who became the 'Southern Order of Storytellers' on a hot August afternoon in 1982. It was in the Cup and Chaucer Coffee Shop of Oxford Bookstore in downtown Atlanta (at Peachtree Battle), where we were first the 'Georgia Association of Storytellers' until we said 'Oops!' upon recognizing what that acronym would be! (Might be appropriate!)." Loralee is a Lifetime Member of NSN.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Thomas Freese

• Thomas Freese is a Kentucky storyteller, author, artist, and teaching artist. He performs educational and entertaining programs, playing guitar and other instruments. His programs include stories from his books, which detail encounters with ghosts, spirits, and angels. He performed as a Shaker singer at Pleasant Hill Shakertown for ten years, was on storytelling tour in Argentina, and works through arts agencies to visit schools, libraries, veterans, children's homes, festivals, and corporate and private parties. He also crafts a line of wood jewelry, wands, spoons, and animal figures, wood burning Celtic and other designs. His website is www.ThomasLFreese.com.



Mary Jo Huff

 Mary Jo Huff is a storyteller, author, songwriter, and Early Childhood Educator. Her work has received NAPPA GOLD, iParenting, Parent's Choice, Dove, Teacher's Choice, Kid's First, and Mom's Choice awards. Storytelling for Kids! was awarded CD of the year by Creative Child Magazine. Mary Jo travels nationally, doing workshops with teachers and librarians in 47 states. Pre-K to 5th grade school visits are filled with stories, puppets, and music. Her publications include Story Play; Puppet Play; No, No, Ebenezer; Chicken Fun; Going on a Gator Hunt; and The Predictable Persimmon. www.storytellin.com



Marisa Luse

• Marisa Luse is a proud Black American woman with deep Southern roots, a rich Northern experience, and a profound appreciation for the diverse cultures that inspire her passion for truth-telling, connection, cultural expression, and social change. A recent graduate of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers' Legacy Academy, she is embarking on her storytelling journey with a clear vision: to leave a legacy of empowerment and healing. Through stories that challenge power, privilege, and resilience—while exploring the complexities of identity and universal human truths—Marisa creates spaces for self-reflection, connection, and transformation, all grounded in truth-telling, humor, and heart. Born and raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts, she now lives in North Providence, Rhode Island, with her two favorite legacy-building creatives, embracing life with wonder, purpose, and authenticity. Marisa has accepted a new position and starts July 1 so she will not be able to attend the conference.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Cynthia Orr

 Cynthia Orr became a full time storyteller in 1977. She left the storytelling world in 1986 and is now happily returning to it. She tells original tales, folk and fairy tales, and teaching stories from multiple traditions.



Denise Manning Keyes Page

• Denise Manning Keyes Page began storytelling when a dear friend in her last months of living with ALS urged her to do so. Denise excavated a story she had written about her mother's family, edited it so that it was an appropriate oral story, and shared it at a community story event. She did so to honor two people she loved; her mother and her friend. She had no intention of telling again, but she has. That was 2019. She tells stories to bring contemplation, joy, insight, and healing. She has not only continued to study and perform, but has also founded Ubuntu Storytellers who tell stories to heal, challenge, inspire, and inform. They tell stories of being and of being in the skin we're in. Ubuntu Storytellers received a third place Alliance in Community Media Award. Denise also produces a series of shows, Women Tell by the Decades, with Jennifer Munro. She serves on the NEST Board and is past president of Connecticut Storytelling Center. www.denisekeyestells.com



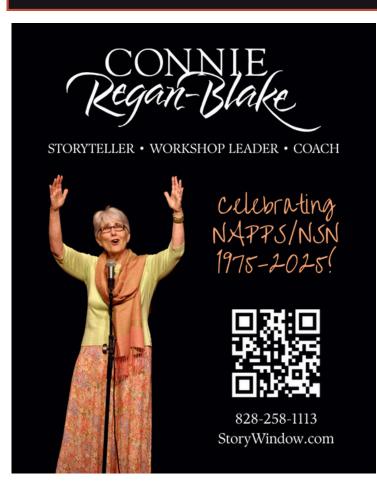


to Georgia!

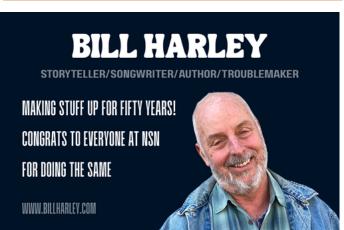


Promoting Storytelling in Georgia for Over 40 years!

Visit www.georgiastorytellingnetwork.org for more info









Where can you find Kuumba Storytellers at the 2025 NSN Conference?

kuumbastorytellers.org



Daily Outdoor Morning Activity (July 17- 20)

(7:30 am) Laughter Yoga for Health and Happiness by Josie Bailey (8:00 am) Wake Up Your Body's Energy with Qigong by Gloria Elder

(July 17 at 6:45 pm - Stillwell Theater 133) Regional Tellers: Josie Bailey, Julie Bradshaw, Natalie Jones, Amanda Lawrence, Barry Stewart Mann, Denise Mount, Mike Mount, Cora Newcomb, Emcee Chetter M. Galloway

(July 17 at 9:00 pm - Room 114) Fringe: Hagnificent by Deborah From (July 17 at 10:05 pm - Room 138) Story Swap Emcee: Gwendolyn J. Napier

(July 18 at 8:20 am Onyx Theater 1001)

Morning has Broken: Kanute Rarey and Gwendolyn J. Napier

(July 18 at 9:00 am - Room 230)

Coaching (YES): Make Your Story Do What It Do! Brenda Griffin

(July 18 at 12:15 pm - Room 225) Workshop (ECO, YES) STEAM-Telling Using Storytelling to Teach Math and Science by Barry Stewart Mann

(July 18 at 3 pm - 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....? by Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Pheasant, Chetter Galloway, moderated by Anne Wheeler

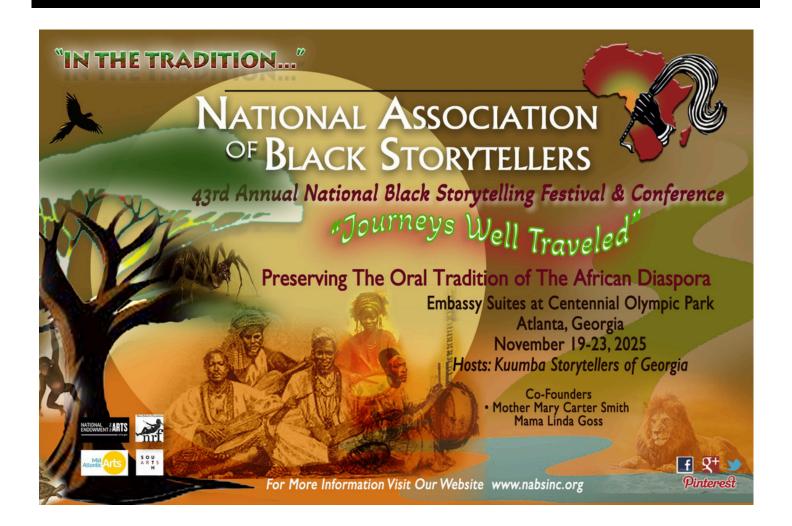
(July 19 at 10:45am - Stillwell Theater 133) Youth Teller Showcase: How to Perform a Story by the Kuumba Tattle Tales emceed by Debor<u>ah Strahorn</u>

(July 19 at 9:00 pm - Stillwell Theater 133) Fringe: A Taste of Kuumba Stew-Kuumba Collective (Vern Bailey, Chetter Galloway, Gwendolyn J. Napier)

(July 19 at 10:05 pm - Room 114) Story Swap Emcee: Denise Mount

(July 20 at 9:00 am- Stillwell Theater 133) Presentation (YES) The Strange Case of Lady Liberty – an Historical Investigation by Barry Stewart Mann and Deborah Strahorn

(July 20 at 9:00 am - Room 108) Workshop (PRO, YES): Creating A Strong Stage Presence Live And Online by Cora Newcomb





STORYTELLERS

The National Storytelling Network Conference will be hosted where the buffalo roam in Canyon. TX on the campus of West Texas A&M University.

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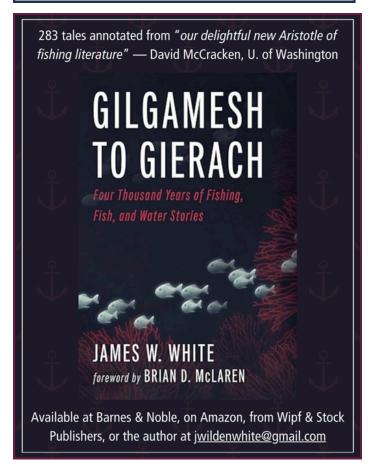


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Storytelling Looks Like This

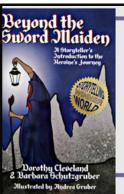
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Stories of the Heart

Journey into Dying and $L_{i
u i\eta g}$ Jim Brulé and Rebecca Clai_{re} Lemaire



We are in safe hands as Jim and Rebecca guide us through their sharing of carefully chosen traditional tales; an invaluable Liz Weir, MBE

Sensitively curated stories and questions that explore the mortality we all face. You will be lovingly held and thoughtfully carried. Lani Peterson, PsyD

A gentle, lovely read. The authors are not only accomplished storytellers, but also caring professionals. Their deep sense of respect and responsibility shines through.

Csenge Virág Zalka

We are given the opportunity to participate in the life-giving love of being present for the most difficult truth of our Laura Simms

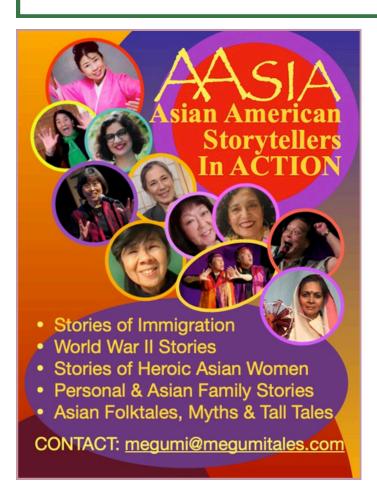
Stories

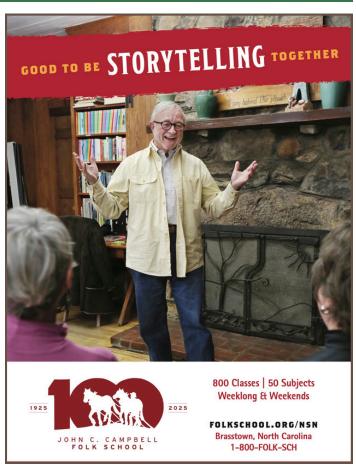
of the Heart

I've never before seen such a collection of meaningful, timeless stories about grief and death with such thought-provoking questions. Merilynne Rush

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–Alton Takiyama-Chung, Storyteller (altonchung.com) and Editor-In-Chief of *The Story Beast,* a quarterly e-Publication dedicated to the art of storytelling (storybeast.org)

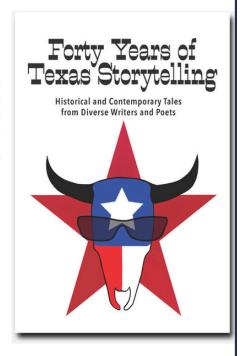
"A gleaning of engaging tales from the Texas Storytelling Festival that will leave you chuckling and, in some cases, weeping. I loved the chance to peek into the Texan lifestyle via tales of living in ... or moving to ... Texas."

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-Geraldine Buckley, storyteller and author

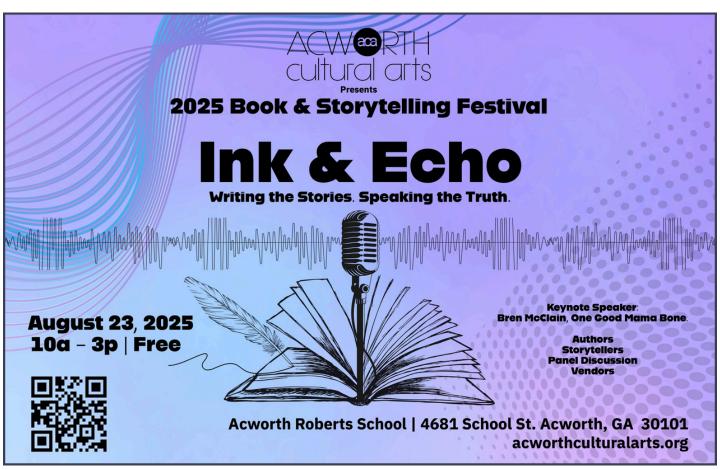


The TSA Fortieth Anniversary Book Committee of Jaye McLaughlin, Hank Roubicek, Peggy Helmick-Richardson, and Chester Weems would like to make a special tribute to Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, for its part in development of *Forty Years of Texas Storytelling*. To them, this was more than a business project.

Ted Parkhurst has been a longtime supporter of the Tejas Storytelling Association. He has provided exhibits, moderated sessions, and given overall support for many years, and not just to Tejas, but storytelling across the nation. Ted and his wife, Linda, the lead graphic designer on this project, have gone an extra mile to see this book through to completion. We appreciate them. Photo by Paul Porter

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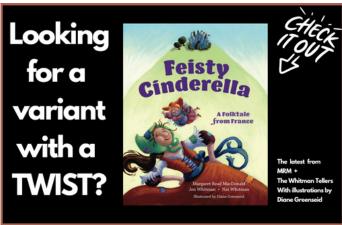


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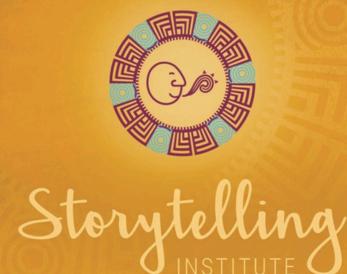






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YOUR NOTES



YOUR NOTES



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Will the Circle be Unbroken?

Words created by

Charlotte Blake Alston, Roslyn Bresnick-Perry, Diane Ferlatte, Bill Harley, and Robert Kikuchi Yngojo (2007)

Chorus (2x)

Will the circle be unbroken -

By and by Lord, by and by?

All the stories need our voices

It's through us, they stay alive.

Verse 1

I was wondering, who would join us

In this circle with no end.

May the circle ever widen

So that others may come in.

Chorus (1x)

Verse 2

Every culture has a story

Every person has one too.

And you've got to tell your story,

And you've got to listen too.

Chorus (1x)

Verse 3

We are walking on the pathway

Blazed by those who've gone before.

We are all part of the story

Headed for tomorrow's shore.

Verse 4 Solo (revised 2017 CBA)

Some no longer walk among us

Their memories never wane

Let us bring them into our circle

By calling out their names.

**(Instrumental music continues

As all gathered speak the names

of those passed on)

Verse 5 (Final 2016 added by CBA)

Solo or Song Leader

Feel them gently tap our shoulders

In our hearts can you hear them say

"Keep on walking - altogether

In that kindred spirit way."

Final Chorus (2x With Energy!)

Repeat last line at the end

It's through us, they stay alive. (2x)





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Are you involved in planning or organizing storytelling events? Have you been "volunteered" into this role? Whether you're brand new, or have years of experience, the Producers & Organizers Special Interest Group (PRO SIG) is here to support you every step of the way!

WHAT WE DO:

- We have monthly virtual informal meetings
- We host quarterly virtual workshops (free for PRO members)
- We have produced a Storytelling Event Production Guide (available on Amazon! see to the right..)

AND....

We have a new Peer Consulting Program! Interested? Check us out at our PRO SIG table!



