

National Storytelling Network

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 3 • MARCH 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

NSN RELAUNCHES ANNUAL MEMBER GRANTS PROGRAM



Rishi Nixon
President & Chair of the Board of Directors
National Storytelling Network

The NSN Board of Directors is thrilled to re-launch NSN's Member Grants Program, and grateful for the support of our auction and conference donors in replenishing this fund!

I want to take a moment to recognize our Auction Co-chairs, **Marilyn McPhie** and **Kate Dudding** for their years of dedicated work organizing NSN's annual fundraiser for member grants. Along with NSN's recent conference fundraising efforts, their work has allowed us to accumulate a sustainable five-figure fund by which to issue these grants.

I also want to thank Immediate Past President **Delanna Reed** for her leadership of our grants committee in refining and modernizing the application process.

"Supporting NSN's mission of advancing all forms within the storytelling community through promotion, advocacy and education, funding is available for the development of individual story research and crafting, for collaborative projects with one other person, and for scholarly research. The project might expand a professional storyteller's repertoire, involve applied storytelling such as in schools, museums, health fields, and corporations while contributing to the body of knowledge surrounding storytelling from performance to social justice."

I am particularly looking forward to NSN continuing our existing work, through this program, to fund projects that amplify stories from communities whose stories are being silenced in our current arts climate.

We are accepting proposals until **April 30th, 2026**.

[CLICK HERE for APPLICATION DETAILS](#)

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DID YOU KNOW?

NSN Board of Directors meetings are open to all members!

Read minutes and learn how to attend [here](#).



PRAIRIE VOICES

HONORING HERITAGE, INSPIRING TOMORROW

National Storytelling Conference
West Texas A&M University

JULY 23-26
CANYON, TX



NATIONAL
STORYTELLING
NETWORK

REGISTRATION OPEN

[CLICK HERE](#) to LEARN MORE and REGISTER!

PLAN NOW to JOIN US FOR NSN's 50th YEAR!

MEMBER GRANTS PROGRAM

MARCH 7 IS LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO ATTEND NSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE!



Margaret Read MacDonald
Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship Chair
National Storytelling Network

Want to attend the NSN conference in Texas in July but are low on funds? Here is your chance to attend. We offer full registration plus campus housing and meals!

Application Terms

This application is due March 7th, 2026. Scholarship attendees will be notified of their application status by the end of March. Five scholarships will be awarded.

[CLICK HERE for the SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)

NEW TELLERS NOTE! We are setting aside two of the Windham Scholarships for new tellers (those who have been involved in the art of storytelling for less than ten years). We hope to encourage tellers new to the field to attend our annual conference and become involved in NSN.

Conference Scholarship Benefits

- One year of membership to the National Storytelling Network
- Free registration to the full conference (including the regional, national, and ORACLE awards concerts)
- Free on-campus housing for the full conference, possibly with a roommate (of your choice, if another conference attendee)
- Free meals at the campus dining hall

Please note that the scholarship does not cover transportation to West Texas A&M University. As university housing does not provide linens, please bring your own twin bed sheets, pillow, pillowcase, blanket, and towels. NSN can provide these linens for you for a fee.

During the conference, Windham Scholars are required to volunteer for 2 hours. Following the conference, Windham Scholars will be asked to submit to newsletter@storynet.org a reflection essay of their experience to be published in the National Storytelling Network's monthly newsletters.



*Kathryn Tucker Windham
Selma journalist and founding member of
the National Storytelling Network.*

Image credit: The New York Times (2010)

2026 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

GETTING TO AND STAYING AT THE CONFERENCE JULY 23–26 • WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



Caleb Hubbard & Trudy Hanson
Conference Co-Chairs
National Storytelling Network

Transportation

As NSN members make travel plans to attend the 2026 in Canyon, Texas, here is information about ground transportation. Conference attendees will fly into Rick Husband Airport in Amarillo, Texas. The conference will take place on the campus of West Texas A&M University, located 25 miles south of the airport (about a 27 minute drive.) Rental car companies who serve the airport include Avis, Alamo, Enterprise, National and Budget. (Click on this link for more information: <https://www.fly-ama.com/parking-transportation/rental-cars>). There is no airport shuttle but there are taxis and rideshares (click here for more information: <https://www.fly-ama.com/parking-transportation/shuttles-taxis>).

A statue of astronaut and Amarillo native, Rick Husband, who died in the space shuttle Columbia crash stands ready to greet you.



Housing

We are excited to welcome you to the West Texas A&M campus for the 2026 NSN Summer Conference. We know you are wondering about accommodation, so let me explain housing. When you register for the conference, there is a separate registration for housing. The information on the NSN website will look similar to this:

Housing is available for the full conference only; use as needed. Buff Hall - suite with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room (full size beds), full size refrigerator

Guenther Hall - two twin XL beds, communal bathrooms, micro-fridge

- Buff Hall Shared Suite per bed \$250
- Guenther Hall Shared Single Room per bed \$200
- Guenther Hall Solo Single Room - no roommate \$300

To help you visualize the space, here is a diagram of the space in Buff Hall which shows the individual bedrooms and the 2 bathrooms that are part of each suite.



BUFF HALL FLOOR PLAN
SUITE TYPE "A"

Buff Hall housing has the following amenities:

- Furnished living area
- Ethernet ports and wireless computer access
- Full-size beds
- Full-size refrigerators
- Microwave
- Moveable furniture
- Temperature control



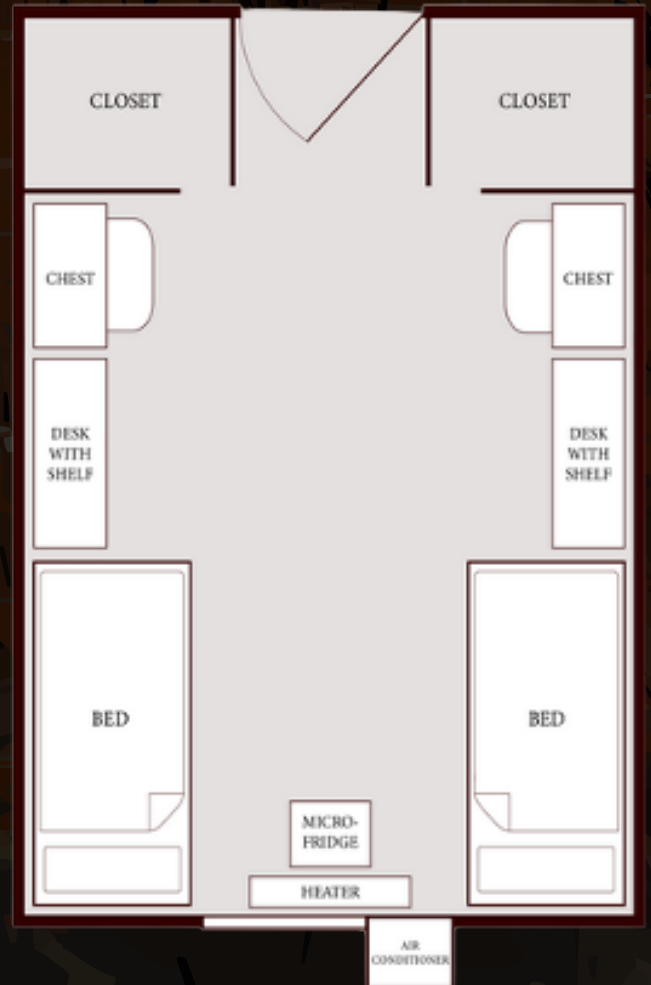
Exterior of Buff Hall

The other on-campus housing option will be in Guenther Hall with the choice of a shared single room with 2 beds or a solo single room with no roommate. Guenther Hall has communal showers and toilets.

Amenities in Guenther Hall include:

- Built-in furniture
- MicroFridge unit
- Extra long twin mattresses
- Ethernet connections

Both residence halls are a short walk from the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Center where the conference workshops and concerts take place.



GUENTHER HALL
FLOOR PLAN

Exterior of Guenther Hall





We have also secured a discount rate at the Holiday Inn Express in Canyon of \$119.00 per night for the duration of the conference. The rate also includes a complimentary breakfast. To reserve a room at the discount rate, call the Holiday Inn Express directly at 806-655-4445 and let them know you are attending the NSN Conference. Reservations must be made by July 2, 2026 to get the discount rate. (There are 10 rooms available at the discounted rate.) There is a breakfast nook area and a snack bar.

Field Trip to the Palo Duro Canyon

While attending the NSN 2026 Summer Conference, you will have the opportunity to see Palo Duro Canyon—the Grand Canyon of Texas. On Saturday, July 25, we have scheduled a tour of the canyon. Cost per person is \$8.00, which covers the park admission fee. The ECO SIG will be overseeing this field trip. Transportation is provided by Holiday Motor Coach. **There are 50 spaces available on a first come, first served basis.**

You'll get to see amazing vistas and hear stories about the history of the canyon. Attendees should bring water, sunscreen, and wear hats! (It's typically 10 degrees hotter at the bottom of the canyon than at the top.) Be sure to register for this amazing experience.

Linens Option for Dorms: You will also have the option of purchasing linens if you are staying in the residence halls and are not planning to bring your own sheets and towels. The linen package includes a pillow, sheet set, pillowcase, towels, and a blanket. These are yours to keep at the end of the conference. Or you can choose to donate them. We will take all donations to local charities in the Amarillo/Canyon area at the end of the conference.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Trudy at hansontrudy@outlook.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you in July!



NSN Youth Educators & Storytellers presents

ANGELA LLOYD SUNBRELLA AWARD



The Sunbrella Award fuels dreams and honors excellence in memory of Angela and her unique voice and vision.

You could receive \$1000 for your work with youth and honor her legacy:

WHO should Apply

- You work with youth - students between Pre-K through 12, AND
- Your primary art form is live, oral storytelling, AND
- Incorporating music, dance, or visual art into your live oral storytelling is welcome, but not required.

HOW to Apply

- <https://storynet.org/the-angela-lloyd-sunbrella-award/>
- The deadline is **May 31st at 12:00 pm EST**
- The winner will be announced at the NSN conference, July 23-26 in Canyon, TX



NATIONAL
STORYTELLING
NETWORK

MEMBER
GRANTS
\$1000



Apply Online



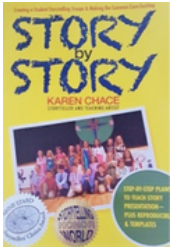
storynet.org/member-awards/



Deadline: April 30

Info@storynet.org

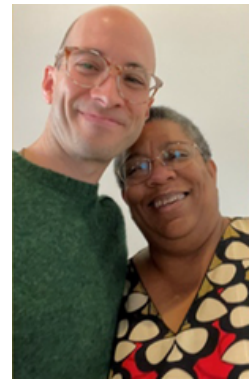




MEMBER GRANTS PROGRAM

BIDS OPEN NOW FOR NSN's ONLINE AUCTION & MEMBER GRANTS BENEFIT

Marilyn McPhie & Kate Dudding
Auction Co-Chairs
National Storytelling Network

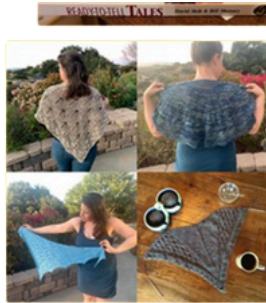


Get ready to bid for a great cause! The National Storytelling Network's online auction opens Monday, February 23 at 8:00 a.m. Central and features an exciting mix of treasures and experiences — from festival tickets, books, coaching sessions, apparel, jewelry, and workshops, to unforgettable opportunities like a seven-day Alaska cruise and a stay in beautiful Northern Ireland. Every bid helps strengthen the storytelling community, with all proceeds supporting member awards that nurture tellers, programs, and creative work across the country. Mark your calendar and join the fun: the auction runs through Friday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m. Central. Your participation can help bring more stories to life.



Ready! Set! Bid!

32auctions.com/nsn26



Storytelling In Organizations Presents:

Culture, Connection, Capacity:
Strategic Storytelling for Purpose Driven Organizations

When: Thursday, April 23, 2026 **Time:** 7:00 p.m to 8:15 p.m. EDT

Where: Zoom

Build Practical Skills and Knowledge to:

- *Identify six major external forces driving the need for storytelling in today's organizations.*
- *Understand how storytelling supports seven domains of organizational capacity.*
- *Recognize the alignment between the six external forces and internal organizational capacity needs.*
- *Determine simple storytelling practices to build alignment, trust, and engagement in today's work settings.*

Free to SIO Members and Non-Members



Facilitator: Paula Younger

Executive Director for Government,
Community, and Constituent
Relations at Ithaca College

Executive-in-Residence
Executive Master of Public Administration
(EMPA) Program
Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy



[REGISTER HERE](#)

YES AND COMMUNITY STORYTELLERS
PRESENT

STORY SWAP!

Hosted by Karen Golden

SUNDAY
MARCH 22 | 6 ET 5 CT 3 PT

**THEME: STORIES FOR YOUNG LISTENERS
(INCLUDING HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS)**

**COME BRING A 5-MIN STORY YOU'D
LIKE TO TRY OUT—OR SIMPLY JOIN
US AND ENJOY LISTENING!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FEATURED EVENTS

MARCH EVENTS AT THE STORYTELLING RESOURCE PLACE IN JONESBOROUGH



Tama Lunceford
Interim President
Storytelling Resource Place

The Storytelling Resource Place in Jonesborough, Tennessee, is a gathering space dedicated to preserving storytelling's history and strengthening its future. Through collections and programs, SRP invites the storytelling community to learn, connect, and participate.

The Storytelling Resource Place in Jonesborough, Tennessee invites colleagues and friends to join us for two March offerings:

Tea with a Teller – March 18 at 4:00 PM (EST)
We're pleased to welcome storyteller and author Stephen James for an afternoon of conversation and connection at SRP (115 Fox Street, Jonesborough, TN). This in-person gathering offers a relaxed opportunity to hear from Stephen and engage with fellow storytellers in an intimate setting. Admission is free for Storytelling Resource Place members and \$10 for non-members. Learn more about membership and upcoming programs at <https://www.oursrp.org/get-involved>

Spotlight Series – Featuring Ed Stivender (March, date TBA)
Our March Spotlight highlights Ed Stivender, building on his interview with the Storyteller's Legacy Project. This online event will combine curated excerpts from the interview with live conversation and audience questions. Registration details will be announced soon.

We welcome those who may be traveling through East Tennessee—and invite storytellers everywhere to connect with us virtually for the Spotlight conversation.

FEDERATION OF ASIAN STORYTELLERS PRESENTS: WORLD STORYTELLING DAY “LIGHT IN THE DARK” STORY SWAP

March 24th, 2026; 7:30 – 9:00 PM Singapore Time [FREE & OPEN TO ALL]

FEAST warmly invites you to celebrate World Storytelling Day 2026 with an inspiring evening of stories filled with hope, wisdom, and positivity. Submit the tale that lights you up. It may be a folktale, myth, fable, personal narrative, historical anecdote, or something original that fits the theme - Light in the Dark. Tellers will be selected by a small panel to create a balanced and engaging programme. Selection is not first come first served.

To be considered as a teller, you must complete two separate steps:

Submit your story using the Story Submission Form by 10 March 2026:

[WSD 2026 Story Swap Proposal](#)

Register for the event using the general Event Registration Form: [Click here](#)

Both forms are required. Submitting a story does not register you for the event, and registering for the event does not enter your story for selection.

The panel will review all story submissions. Selected tellers will be informed by 17 March 2026.

If you prefer to attend only as a listener, just complete the Event Registration Form.



FEDERATION OF ASIAN STORYTELLERS

Presents our

WORLD STORYTELLING DAY STORY SWAP



24 March 2026

Singapore Time 7:30pm, on Zoom

Theme: Light in the Dark

Apply to Tell Now!!!



FEATURED EVENTS

2026 CHENNAI STORYTELLING FESTIVAL RECORDINGS



Eric Miller
Director
World Storytelling Institute (Chennai)

Links to recordings of Workshops and Storytellings in the 2026 Chennai Storytelling Festival so far are at:

https://storytellinginstitute.org/CSF_Video_Library.html#CSF26

The Storytellers are currently listed by session only. Eventually they will also be listed by name, alphabetically.

Lyn Ford

Liz Weir

Joel ben Izzy

Alton Takiyama-Chung

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

Social Justice in Action:

STORIES OF COURAGE & RESISTANCE



FREE!

**Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

Emcee



JIM BRULÉ

**SUNDAY
MARCH 8TH
7-8:30PM EDT
ON ZOOM!**

Community Tellers



JIM MCKEEVER



MALLORY DEJOHN



LANI PETERSON



SHERRY NORFOLK



NANCY WANG



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

MARCH 2026 STORYTELLING EVENTS

Better Said Than Done | 5 Weeks of Winter Workshops

March 2, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Central

VIRTUAL

bettersaidthandone.org/event/winter-workshops

Dora Hughes Featured at Story Space Online

March 3, 2026 • 5:45 pm – 8:00 pm Central

VIRTUAL

storyspace.org

In the banner click on “Meeting Invitation”

True Tales Live Storytelling Workshop

truetaleslivenh.org

March 3, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Central

VIRTUAL

Register: [us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/p2w-6wFgTX-tJC_Ag1b83w](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=invitation&meetingRef=us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/p2w-6wFgTX-tJC_Ag1b83w)

Six Feet Apart Productions | Paul Strickland Workshop and Concert

sfapshows.com

March 4, 2026 • 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm Pacific

Orinda Community Center | 28 Orinda Way, Orinda, California

Healing Story Alliance | Kind Stories In Concert: Social Justice in Action

March 8, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

VIRTUAL

Register: [simpletix.com/e/social-justice-in-action-march-8-2026-tickets-257775](https://www.simpletix.com/e/social-justice-in-action-march-8-2026-tickets-257775)

NSN Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) Special Interest Group presents:

“Storytelling to Shape Culture Mindset in Organizations”

Every 2nd Tuesday • March 10, and April 14, 2026 • each at 7:00 – 8:00 pm Central

VIRTUAL

Register: [zoom.us/meeting/register/1589KUwhTs-GaMjCoh416w#/registration](https://zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=invitation&meetingRef=zoom.us/meeting/register/1589KUwhTs-GaMjCoh416w#/registration)

Six Feet Apart Productions | Open Mic StorySlam

sfapshows.com

March 11, 2026 • 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

VIRTUAL

Tejas Storytelling Association | Texas Storytelling Festival

tejasstorytelling.com

March 12 – 15, 2026

Denton Civic Center | 321 E McKinney Street, Denton, Texas



Storytelling Arts of Indiana | “The Heron’s Journey” featuring Adam Booth

March 14, 2026 • 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Eastern

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center | 450 W Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana

Register: storytellingarts.org/event/the-herons-journey-featuring-adam-booth

Voices in the Glen | In-Person Story Swap

voicesintheglen.org

March 15, 2026 • 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern

Silver Spring, Maryland

RSVP to anne.sheldon1@verizon.net

RISK! Live Show and Story Slam

risk-show.com

March 17, 2026 • 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Eastern

Caveat | 21A Clinton Street, Manhattan, New York

Northeast Storytelling | The Stories That Shaped Us!

March 19, 2026 • 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Central

Register: nestorytelling.org/?event=the-stories-that-shaped-us-2

The Women’s Storytelling Festival

March 19, 2026 • 6:00 pm – March 22, 2026 • 8:00 pm Central

Sherwood Community Center | 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax, Virginia

Register: bettersaidthandone.org/wsf-tickets

Howell Opera House Live: The Storytellers

howelloperahouse.com

March 19, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Central

Howell Opera House | 123 W Grand River Avenue, Howell, Michigan

NSN Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) Special Interest Group presents:

Stories Inside Words with Madelyn Blair, Ph.D.

March 28, 2026 • 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Central

VIRTUAL

Register: zoom.us/meeting/register/swo2mxNxT36_YWCRXzr-aw

Storytelling Arts of Indiana | If These Walls Could Tell: Electric Works

March 29, 2026 • 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Eastern

HYBRID

Indiana Landmarks | 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana

Register: storytellingarts.org/event/if-these-walls-could-tell-electric-works

True Tales Live Storytelling Show “Never Again”

truetaleslivenh.org

March 31, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm

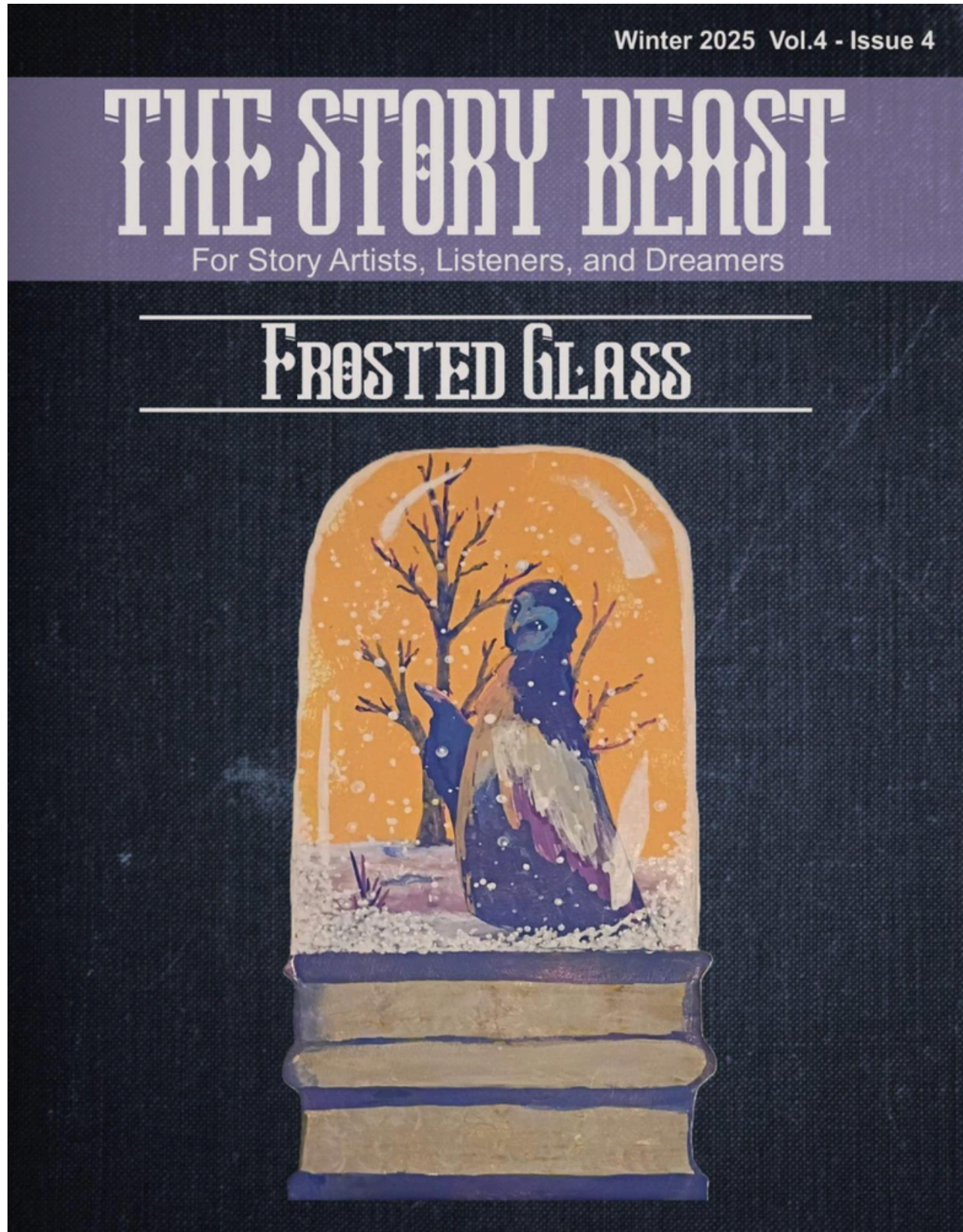
Virtual

Register: us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xfPDnoEkR6awfwqrIWxcDQ

THE STORY BEAST

Click the cover below to access the Winter 2025 Story Beast issue: *Frosted Glass*.

Visit storybeast.org for 2026 submission information.





NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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HOW TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER:

Send us your events, articles, opportunities, storytelling, or storyteller news, and more in an email to newsletter@storynet.org to go out to the national storytelling community!

1. Contributions due on the 25th of the month.
2. Membership in the National Storytelling Network *not* required.
3. Content subject to editing and inclusion in final issue not guaranteed.
4. If you are the author of your contribution, please also attach a headshot photo of yourself to go next to your byline.