

National Storytelling Network

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JOIN ME ON NSN'S RECONSTITUTED MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



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

NSN is reconstituting its Membership Committee, and I am looking to appoint members to join it. My priorities for the committee are to:

- (1) survey the membership on NSN membership benefits,
- (2) examine existing membership benefits and recommend new initiatives,
- (3) work with NSN's PR and publishing directors on projects to recruit new members,
- (4) create new partnerships, and maintain many existing ones begun this year, with NSN member organizations,
- (5) and personal outreach work to help win back lapsed members who have left NSN.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage further in our revitalizing organization and contribute your time to sustain NSN! The time commitment is estimated to be one monthly meeting (less than 2 hours), and approximately 1-2 additional hours of work per month by email.

Please email me at rishi@storynet.org by the end of this month (April 30th) if you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, and what area(s) you would be most interested in working on! You may also email me if you have questions or would like more information about it to decide.

NSN members from all backgrounds—new members, returning members, and longtime members alike—are invited to apply! Experience in membership work for your storytelling organization, marketing in any capacity, survey research, partnerships, or fundraising are all pluses.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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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](#).



The **NATIONAL**
STORYTELLING NETWORK

invites you to the

2026 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

Prairie Voices

HONORING HERITAGE
INSPIRING TOMORROW

July 23 – 26 · Canyon, Texas
West Texas A&M University



JOIN US *for* **NSN's 50th**
ANNIVERSARY!

*Scan QR or visit storynet.org
to learn more and register.*

Image credit: Clinton Steeds; Palo Duro Canyon, vectorized.

*15 minutes away from conference, Palo Duro Canyon is
the largest in the U.S. after the Grand Canyon! Reserve a
spot to visit Palo Duro on the NSN ECO Tellers' guided
field trip, with your conference registration.*

2026 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

ENJOY THE BEST OF AMERICAN STORYTELLING AT WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY'S MAGNIFICENT SYBIL B. HARRINGTON FINE ARTS COMPLEX



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

2026 National Storytelling Conference attendees will enjoy having all conference sessions and concerts in the Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex's distinguished spaces.

The Branding Iron Theatre is the space where the featured tellers will perform. Stadium-like seating for 304 allows everyone to have the "best seat" in the house.

The Hazel Kelley Wilson Grand Lobby in the Fine Arts Complex is the site of evening gatherings for conference attendees. Its stone walls are reminiscent of Palo Duro Canyon.

The Fine Arts Complex Recital Hall is an excellent space for workshops, with its special soundboard construction. This intimate setting provides seating for 125.



[VIEW SCHEDULE & REGISTER!](#)



MEMBER GRANTS PROGRAM

WINTER AUCTION BENEFIT A SUCCESS! MEMBER GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN THROUGH APRIL 30.

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



Bravo! Our storytelling community is amazing. Despite current economic conditions, the grand total, \$5,070, exceeded our expectations for funding the NSN Member Grants Program.

The next exciting phase of the auction is happening NOW. NSN members can apply for a Member Grant - see storynet.org/member-awards.

Deadline: April 30.

Imagine how the selected storytellers will enrich our world via these grants! Many thanks to all for fueling their efforts.



Raise Funds for Member Grants!

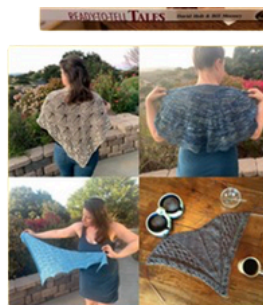
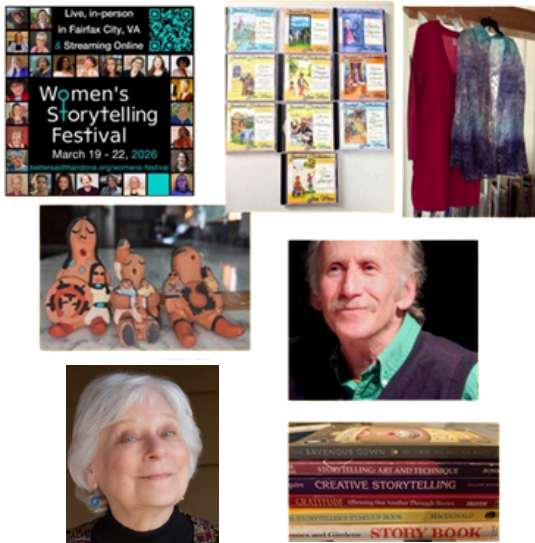
Winter 2026 Online AUCTION



\$5,070 Raised!

- 66 Bidders
- 176 Bids
- 47 Donors
- 74 Donations

Thank you ALL very much 😊



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 PRESENTS

STORY LAB

Hidden Treasures: Your Story as a Gift

with Noa Baum



**FREE FOR YES MEMBERS
\$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

8PM ET/7PM CT/6PM MT/5PM PT

AN INTRODUCTION TO CRAFTING PERSONAL NARRATIVES

This workshop offers an introduction to crafting a story from a memory. With her dynamic and interactive approach, Noa Baum invites us to experience the power of personal stories to heal and inspire.

**FIND MORE
INFORMATION AT:**

[STORYNET.ORG/EVENTS](https://storynet.org/events)

**OUR EMAIL
JAPANESESTORYTELLER@GMAIL.COM**

NSN PRO SIG presents



WHO'S NEXT?: A SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP

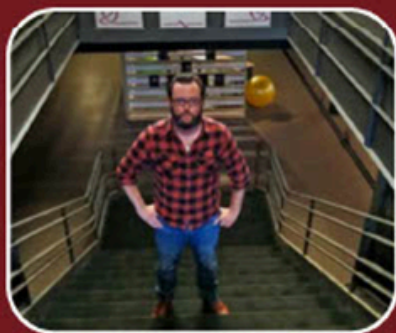
THURSDAY May 14, 2026 - 6 pm (Central)

\$15 (\$5 For PRO members)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

It's never too early to plan for leadership transition!

Learn how Storytelling Arts of Indiana navigated succession while moving from cofounder leadership to a successor—what worked, what didn't, and lessons learned.



Ronan Marra

- Executive Director of Storytelling Arts of Indiana.
- Previous Artistic Director of Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis & CoArtistic Director of Chicago's Signal Ensemble Theatre.
- Directed, written, or produced over 60 productions



Ellen Munds

- Retired from Storytelling Arts of Indiana in 2024.
- Managed all operations, including finance, marketing, programming, fundraising, volunteers, board relations, and more as the organization's sole employee

IN MEMORY

DOUG LIPMAN

"I have spent decades finding the most effective and efficient ways to teach storytelling—so that you will succeed as quickly and easily as possible."

~Doug Lipman, *Storydynamics.com*



2026 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE DOUG LIPMAN CELEBRATION STORY: APRIL 19 AT 2 PM EASTERN



Tony Toledo
Dear friend of Doug's

Please put on your calendar The Doug Lipman Celebration Story on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm ET. You're invited!

There will be tellers lined up ahead of time who will to share their memories of Doug. As time allows we will open the floor for other folks memories of Doug.

Doug's widow Pam McGrath will be with us too.

Zoom meeting ID **820 8472 2332**

Passcode **578150**

Please be sure to have your name visible in the waiting room. I will need to see your name to welcome you in. Just trying to keep every thing polite.

MEMBER NOTES

ONAWUMI JEAN MOSS HONORED AT THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE

Tim Van Egmond
New England Folksinger and Storyteller




Congratulations, kudos, applause and admiration to a beloved member of our storytelling community, Onawumi Jean Moss!!! The article at the top of the Cities & Towns section of the March 19 Daily Hampshire Gazette (Northampton MA area) begins with the following:

“Amherst storyteller, educator, and author Onawumi Jean Moss was recently honored at the State House in Boston as part of the 2026 Black Excellence on the Hill awards.... The annual awards, hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus each February, celebrate Black community leaders and influential figures in communities throughout the commonwealth.”

We’re lucky and blessed to have such a gifted woman and inspiring elder in our circle.

CLICK ADS FOR LINKS (IF AVAILABLE)



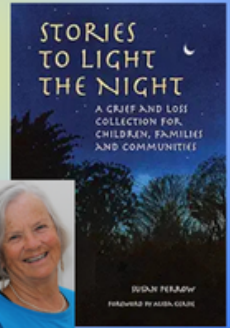

When Storytellers Write about Healing

An Author Interview Series
LIVE on ZOOM

An Interview with
Susan Perrow about her book
Stories to Light the Night
Facilitator: Elisa Pearmain

April 26 . 2026
7:00pm-8:30pm EDT

Tickets: \$16.50

Eth-Noh-Tec Presents
STRONG LIKE BAMBOO 3.0



**The Marsh
San Francisco**
SAT
MAY 2
1:00 PM

**Oakland
Asian Cultural
Center**
SUN,
MAY 3
1:00 PM



Johnny Morales



Olga Loya



Asma Ghanem



Tivreda Mikail



Eth-Noh-Tec



Archi-Jerman



Laura Gomez

1062 Valencia St. SF, CA

388 9th Street, Ste
290, Oakland, CA

Facing racism with
wisdom & courage,
sharing our voices,
our many stories in community,
-we are so much
STRONGER!

Oakland Asian
Cultural Center

NATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT
ARTS

ETH-NOH-TEC
EDUCATION
FUND

SF
Int'l Arts
Festival

Private
Donors

www.ethnohtec.org

CLICK ADS FOR LINKS



101st House Concert TALES FROM THE 1,001 NIGHTS

Featuring Karl Behling & Janine Evans

Saturday
April 25, 2026
7:00pm-8:00pm MDT (UTC -6)
Streamed & In-Person



storycrossroads.org/HouseConcerts

WEAVING FOLK & FAIRY TALES *with Your Personal Narratives*

**ZOOM
WORKSHOP**

Saturday
April 11, 2026
11am-12:30pm EDT
9am-10:30am MDT



storycrossroads.org/AllThingsStory



2026 Summit & Festival



May 2 & 4-6, 2026

In-Person & Virtual

storycrossroads.org/Festival



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

APRIL 2026 STORYTELLING EVENTS

Dominican University • Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic featuring Jennifer Armstrong

April 4, 2026 • 7:00 pm Central

VIRTUAL

Email jdelnegro@dom.edu for the Zoom link or if you want to tell a story (7-10 minutes)

The NYC Fringe Festival 2026 • Hagnificent

April 4, 2026 • 3:40 pm Eastern • IN-PERSON

April 8, 2026 • 6:30 pm Eastern • HYBRID

April 9, 2026 • 9:50 pm Eastern • HYBRID

April 10, 2026 • 8:10 pm Eastern • HYBRID

April 11, 2026 • 2:00 pm Eastern • HYBRID

The Rat Theatre | 68 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York

hiphag.com/upcoming-events

True Tales Live Storytelling Workshop Series

April 7, 2026 • 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Eastern

VIRTUAL

us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/p2w-6wFgTX-tJC_Ag1b83w

Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival

April 10–11, 2026 • 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Eastern

HYBRID

The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge | 3499 US-76, Hiawassee, Georgia

gamountainstoryfest.org

Storytelling Arts of Indiana • Talk of the Town featuring Donald Davis

April 11, 2026 • 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Central

HYBRID

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

storytellingarts.org/event/talk-of-the-town-featuring-donald-davis

NSN's Storytelling in Organizations Special Interest Group (SIO SIG) presents

Storytelling to Shape Culture Mindset in Organizations with Vinod Krishna

April 14, 2026 • 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Central

VIRTUAL

zoom.us/meeting/register/1589KUwhTs-GaMjCoh416w#/registration

Voices in the Glen Online Story Swap

April 18, 2026 • 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Eastern

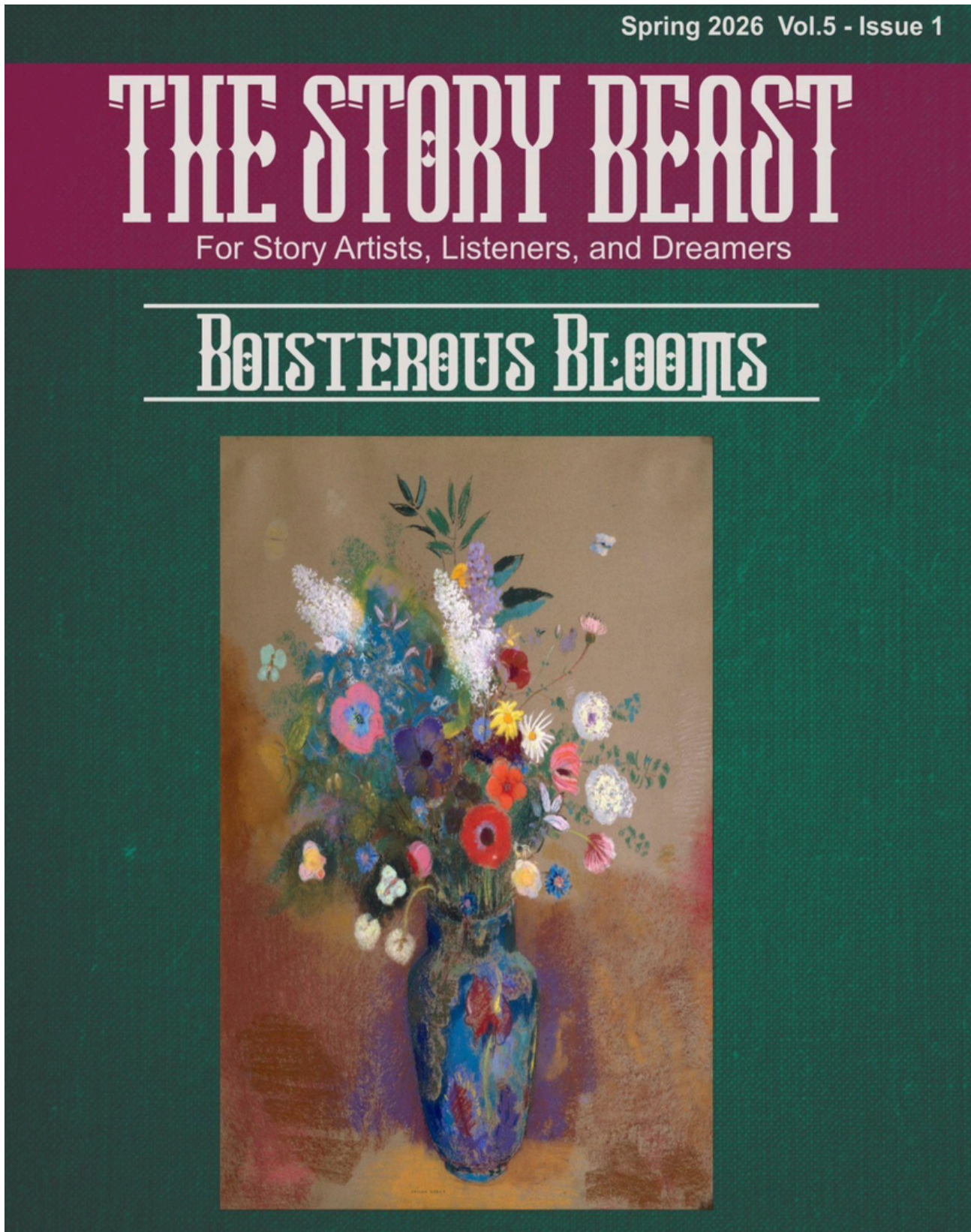
VIRTUAL

voicesintheglen.org/event/vitg-monthly-story-swap-online-56

THE STORY BEAST

Click the cover below to access the Spring 2026 Story Beast issue: *Boisterous Blooms*.

Visit storybeast.org for submission information.





NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Sara Armstrong	Copy Editor
Nick Smith	Editor
Cassie Selleck	Editor

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.