

National Storytelling Network

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 7 • JULY 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

NSN WELCOMES TIM LIVENGOOD AS AMBASSADOR FOR EMERGING TELLERS



Rishi Nixon

President & Chair of the Board of Directors
National Storytelling Network

I am happy to announce that Tim Livengood has agreed to serve as the National Storytelling Network's Ambassador for Emerging Tellers.

In this role, Tim will play a key role in the development of storytellers across the country by helping new tellers connect with resources within our field and partnering with our committees and SIGS to find ways to encourage them in their storytelling journeys.

Tim is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and holds a Ph.D. in physics and astronomy from Johns Hopkins University.

He has been a storyteller and performing member of greater Washington, DC storytelling guild Voices In The Glen for over 17 years, and leads the storytelling stages at the Grapevine Storytelling series, Washington Folk Festival, and Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. He is a 2026 recipient of the NSN ORACLE Award for Regional Service & Leadership.



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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.*

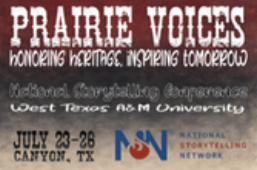
Image credit: Clinton Steeds; Palo Duro Canyon, vectorized.

*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.*

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL TICKETS! DON'T MISS THE NSN CONFERENCE JULY 23-26

Just \$99 gives you access to this amazing line-up. Join us live or watch it later.
You have until September 30, 2026 to view it all. Click [here](#) to reserve yours!

 NSN 2026 CONFERENCE VIRTUAL TICKET OFFERINGS	
THURSDAY JULY 23rd	
4:00pm-5:15 pm Central Daylight Time	President's Welcome & Conversation with the Board <i>by Rishi Nixon</i>
6:30pm-8:30pm Central Daylight Time	REGIONAL TELLER SHOWCASE <i>Eldrena Douma, Paula Schlegel, Fran Stallings, Decee Cornish, Juba Mae, Chester Weems</i> MC: Darlene Richard
FRIDAY JULY 24th	
10:45am-11:15am Central Daylight Time	Texas: The Musical Dancers
12:45pm-2:00pm Central Daylight Time	Mr. Patches, from the Appalachian 20th Century Series: 1990s <i>with Adam Booth</i>
2:30pm-3:45pm Central Daylight Time	Voices of Asia: Folktales, Memories & More <i>with Karin Amano, Anne Shimojima, Alton Takiyama-Chung, Linda Yemoto</i>
4:15pm-5:15pm Central Daylight Time	Story Slam MC: Loren Niemi
6:30pm-8:15pm Central Daylight Time	NATIONAL TELLER SHOWCASE <i>Sheila Arnold, Pippa White, Adam Mellema, Laura Simms, Willy Claflin</i> MC: Michael Brundy
SATURDAY July 25th	
9:00am-10:15am Central Daylight Time	Living History: Unifying Stories From World War II <i>with Alton Chung & Adam Mellama</i>
12:30pm-1:30pm Central Daylight Time	Virtual Community Gathering on Zoom <i>hosted by Healing Story Alliance</i>
1:45pm - 3:30pm Central Daylight Time	NSN ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING <i>This session is free to all Virtual Ticket Holders and all NSN members.</i>
4:00pm -5:15pm Central Daylight Time	FIND and TELL the STORY of YOU: PRO SIG Panel <i>with Alton Chung, Lyn Ford, Miriam Nadel</i> Moderated by Jessica Piscitelli Robinson
7:00pm-8:45pm Central Daylight Time	ORACLE AWARDS & CONCERT <i>Concert by Oracle Winners:</i>
SUNDAY JULY 26th	
9:00am -10:15am Central Daylight Time	The Future of NSN: Panel of SIG Directors <i>hosted by Caleb Hubbard</i>
10:45-11:30am Central Daylight Time	Virtual Community Gathering on Zoom <i>Hosted by Healing Story Alliance</i>

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

A BIG TEXAS-SIZED WELCOME!

To all those attending the 2026 NSN Storytelling Conference July 23-26, you can expect a Texas-sized welcome on July 24 at 10:45 a.m. in the Branding Iron Theatre. Cast members of the Texas outdoor musical, under the direction of Dr. Cloyce Kuhnert will sing and dance their way into your hearts.

This outdoor musical runs Tuesday through Sunday in the natural amphitheater in Palo Duro Canyon. Cast members come from all over the United States to participate in the summer outdoor musical which is in its 60th year.

A central musical piece is built around the beauty of the High Plains, where the character Calvin Armstrong sings to Elsie McLean about the natural music of the region:

"There's music in the open air, the stars twinkling in the night sky, the colors of the setting sun..."

The other part of the Texas welcome you will be receiving comes in the form of swag that Vice Chair Caleb Hubbard has put together with the assistance of some important sponsorships from Tejas Storytelling Association and Oklahoma's Territory Tellers. And to help you relieve any stress you encounter, there is a "squishy buffalo" inside your tote bag. The branded NSN water bottle is made of recycled materials. The branded tote bag includes logos for both NSN and TSA. And the squishy buffalo is just a reminder that we are looking forward to hearing your stories.

Looking forward to sharing our bit of Texas with you!



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE AUCTION & BOOKSTORE**CONFERENCE AUCTION**

Items may be dropped off beginning at 4 pm Thursday. Bring books, recordings, clothing items, musical instruments, puppets, anything you think another teller might cherish. You donate...our scholarship winners benefit.

ARE YOU BRINGING ITEMS TO SELL IN THE CONFERENCE BOOKSTORE?

We are working on the bookstore schedule. If you plan to bring items to sell, you are expected to volunteer for two hours in the bookstore during the conference. Email mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com to sign up. Everyone is welcome to bring materials to sell. NSN takes 20% of the sale price, so price your material accordingly. But do let us know ASAP if you want a spot on our tables.

If you plan to bring items to sell at the conference bookstore, please go onto the NSN website and "Click to apply for Bookstore Volunteers." NSN takes 20% of the sale price of your materials and asks that you volunteer two hours in the bookstore. Any attendee is welcome to bring items to sell.

ARCHIVE OF PREVIOUS NSN CONFERENCES**A TRIP INTO THE PAST! WHAT DID OUR CONFERENCES LOOK LIKE IN PAST YEARS?**

Our Executive Director, Dot Cleveland, has compiled programs from conferences 2018-2025. You can find these on the NSN website. Click on EVENTS > CONFERENCES > scroll to bottom of page OR storynet.org/events/conference/archive.

STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE AND TRANSITION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS



Lisa Williams
Director, Storytelling In Organizations Special Interest Group
National Storytelling Network

Dear Storytelling Community,

As my term as Director of Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) and member of the National Storytelling Network (NSN) Board of Directors ends, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the SIO membership and the broader storytelling community. Serving NSN has been both an honor and a privilege, and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to contribute to an organization dedicated to the power and practice of storytelling.

Reflecting on the past several years, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Through the collective efforts of our members, volunteers, and leaders, SIO expanded its programming, increased engagement in webinars and professional learning opportunities, strengthened community-building initiatives, and invited greater member participation in shaping the future of our work. Together, we advanced conversations about the role of storytelling in organizations and created opportunities for practitioners to connect, learn, and grow.

I am also grateful to have served alongside dedicated colleagues on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors during a period of significant organizational transition. Through collaboration, thoughtful dialogue, and a shared commitment to NSN's mission, we worked to strengthen the organization and position it for the future.

One of the hallmarks of a healthy organization is its ability to cultivate new leadership and embrace fresh perspectives. It is therefore with great enthusiasm that I welcome our incoming Directors of Storytelling in Organizations, Alicia Dongjoo Bang and Zenobia Judd-Williams, along with newly appointed SIO Board members Rituparna Ghosh, Vinod Krishna, and Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy. Each brings valuable experience, insight, and a deep commitment to advancing storytelling in organizations.

With Caleb Hubbard serving as Chair and this talented leadership team stepping forward, I am confident that both NSN and SIO are well positioned for continued growth, innovation, and impact. I look forward to seeing the innovative ideas, collaborations, and opportunities that will emerge under their leadership.

Thank you for your partnership, your generosity, and your dedication to this community. The relationships, conversations, and shared experiences of the past several years have been deeply meaningful to me. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you, and I look forward to remaining connected to the important work ahead.

With gratitude,

Lisa Williams, Ph.D.

Director, Storytelling in Organizations Board of Directors, National Storytelling Network Board of Directors



Alicia Dongjoo Bang

INCOMING CO-DIRECTOR, STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

Alicia Dongjoo Bang was recently elected to serve a three-year term (2026–2029) as a Director of Storytelling in Organizations and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Storytelling Network.

An international storyteller, educator, and cultural bridge-builder, Alicia has dedicated her career to advancing storytelling across cultures and generations. She is the Founder and President of the Korea International Storytellers Association, Founder and Director of the Korea International Storytelling Festival—now in its ninth year—and Founder of Story School, where she has mentored children and youth storytellers since 2018.

Alicia is recognized for expanding opportunities for cross-cultural storytelling and international collaboration. In 2022, she introduced Korean storytelling to the National Storytelling Network's Earth Up Conference through her presentation, Roaring Korean Tigers, helping strengthen connections between Korean storytellers and the broader global storytelling community. Through her leadership, she has created platforms that promote cultural understanding, artistic exchange, and storytelling education.

Statement of Contribution and Vision

Through my service, I seek to strengthen international engagement within the National Storytelling Network and Storytelling in Organizations by encouraging professional development, cross-cultural exchange, and collaboration among storytellers, educators, researchers, consultants, and organizational leaders. I am particularly interested in expanding opportunities for global participation and ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are represented within our community.

My vision is to build meaningful bridges between Asia and the broader storytelling community, creating spaces where practitioners can learn from one another, share innovative approaches, and deepen their understanding of storytelling across cultures. By fostering connections and encouraging dialogue, I hope to contribute to a more inclusive, globally connected storytelling community that supports both personal and professional growth while advancing the impact of storytelling in organizations worldwide.



Zenobia Judd-Williams

INCOMING CO-DIRECTOR, STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

Zenobia Judd-Williams was recently elected to serve a three-year term (2026–2029) as a Director of Storytelling in Organizations and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Storytelling Network.

An executive leader working at the intersection of cognition, narrative, and organizational performance, Zenobia 25+ years of experience across education, nonprofit leadership, organizational strategy, community systems, and family law.

As Executive Director of Reading Partners Mid-Atlantic, she leads literacy and systems-change initiatives across Baltimore and Washington, DC, overseeing revenue strategy, cross-sector partnerships, and program innovation.

A certified conflict negotiator, coach, and tutor, Zenobia applies a disciplined, analytical approach to leadership and organizational growth. She views storytelling as a strategic asset that shapes how individuals, communities, and organizations think, decide, and act. Her work focuses on aligning purpose, strategy, and narrative to drive measurable impact and sustainable change.

Statement of Contribution and Vision

My vision is to help create programs, resources, and conversations that demonstrate the practical value of storytelling in organizations. By highlighting effective practices, encouraging innovation, and supporting a vibrant professional community, I hope to increase awareness of storytelling as a powerful tool for leadership, culture-building, communication, learning, and organizational transformation.

Through my service, I aim to contribute to a welcoming and inclusive community that equips practitioners to make meaningful contributions within their organizations while strengthening the role of storytelling as a respected and impactful discipline.



Rituparna Ghosh

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER, STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

Rituparna Ghosh was recently appointed to serve on the Storytelling in Organizations Board for the 2026–2029 term.

Rituparna Ghosh is an international storytelling strategist, educator, and learning designer with over 20 years of experience helping people use story to learn, lead, communicate, and build culture.

As Founder of Your Story Bag, she has designed story-led learning and leadership programs for organizations including Adobe, Flipkart, HCL Technologies, Titan, Cadence, WWF India, Save the Children, and Hindustan Unilever Foundation. Her work spans leadership communication, organizational culture, learning experience design, nonprofit storytelling, and narrative strategy.

A former TV Journalist & Producer, Rituparna, brings an editorial, educational, and systems-thinking approach to storytelling. She is a TEDx speaker, podcast host, storyteller, and children's author whose work bridges the worlds of performance, learning, and organizational development.

Currently living in New Jersey, she is passionate about advancing storytelling as both an art form and a catalyst for human connection, learning, and transformation.

I bring a passion for bridging storytelling as an art form with storytelling as an applied practice, helping people and organizations use story to create meaning, connection, and impact. As a Board Member of SIO, I am excited to help cultivate communities of practice that spark innovation, share wisdom, and advance the field of applied storytelling.



Vinod Krishna

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER, STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

Vinod Krishna was recently appointed to serve on the Storytelling in Organizations Board for the 2026–2029 term.

Vinod Krishna is the founder of Storytelling at Work TM. He helps organizations use storytelling as a lever for change, influence, mindset, and communication. His storytelling journey began 38 years ago when he studied Sound & Television Production. The highlight of his career has been people & project leadership roles in companies like Motorola, WebEx, and Cisco.

As a thought leader in the business storytelling world, he has developed Storytelling OS, an approach for applying storytelling in leadership, communication, and culture mindset, and the Four Story Framework, which supports narrative leadership practice. Along with an MBA in Human Resources Management, he is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP®). For the last 26 years, he has been a certified NLP Master Practitioner.

He is also an avid trekker and barefoot ultra-runner. He finds expressions of his storytelling method through documentary-style photography and theatre acting.

Our Mission: Which aspect of the National Storytelling Network's mission are you most passionate about advancing during your term, and why?

In the early days of my career, the buzz of Information Tech was growing. I had 2 career options to choose from - Tech or People. I made a decision and chose the human factor in organizations. 25 years ago, I used stories when designing and delivering training to new hires - stories to help them understand the business, and analogies to ensure they grasped the concepts around the products.

Today, the work I do is focused on making storytelling relevant to the changing needs of organizations and their leaders. And the word from our mission that strongly resonates with me is "Education."

I am grateful for this opportunity and looking forward to contributing towards NSN's mission and vision.



Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER, STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS

Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy was recently appointed to serve on the Storytelling in Organizations Board for the 2026–2029 term.

Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy is a recognized leader in applied storytelling and organizational narrative practice. He is the founder of Historia Academy, Russia's first consulting company dedicated to helping organizations use storytelling as a strategic tool for leadership, communication, and change.

As Russia's first member of the National Storytelling Network (NSN), Artem has played a key role in advancing storytelling as a professional discipline. He is the author of *Narrative Leadership: The Art of Inspiring and Persuading Through Stories*, a respected book on the use of narrative to build trust, inspire action, and influence stakeholders. Artem has trained more than 5,000 professionals from over 100 organizations, including Sberbank, Yandex, Alfa-Bank, Sanofi, Mondelez International, and Boehringer Ingelheim. An international speaker and educator, he is widely recognized for helping leaders and teams use storytelling to strengthen communication, engagement, and organizational culture.

In 2021, he received the ORACLE StoryBridge Award from the National Storytelling Network in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of storytelling worldwide.

Our Mission: Which aspect of the National Storytelling Network's mission are you most passionate about advancing during your term, and why?

I deeply resonate with the word "community" from our mission statement. My whole storytelling journey started in 2018, when I began interviewing professional storytellers. One of them, Stuart Rothgiesser, was a member of SIO, and that's how I got acquainted with the group and the NSN. Over time these interviews grew into an annual international story conference with speakers from all over the world that I've been honored to host since 2020. As a board member of SIO, I intend to continue building connections to spread story knowledge!

' YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026



Special Interest Group of the National Storytelling Network



A Letter from the Director



Dear Storytelling in Organizations Community,

It is with deep gratitude that I present this End-of-Year Report, reflecting on another meaningful year for the Storytelling in Organizations community. Throughout the past year, our members, presenters, volunteers, and leaders have demonstrated a shared commitment to advancing the practice of storytelling as a catalyst for leadership, learning, communication, culture, and organizational transformation.

This report highlights the programs, initiatives, collaborations, and milestones that shaped our work during the year. Together, we created opportunities to learn from one another, explore diverse perspectives, strengthen professional relationships, and expand the global conversation about storytelling in organizations.

As I conclude my term as Director, I am especially grateful for the dedication, creativity, and generosity of everyone who contributed to our collective success. It has been a privilege to serve this remarkable community and to witness its continued growth and impact.

I hope this report not only celebrates what we have accomplished together but also serves as a foundation for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for Storytelling in Organizations.

Lisa Williams, Ph.D.

Director, Storytelling In Organizations

About

Storytelling In Organizations (SIO) is a special interest group of the National Storytelling Network. SIO members share a common interest in organizational storytelling. They recognize the positive impact of applying narrative techniques to business practices. By balancing logic and facts with the emotional impact of a story, companies can convey their values, inspire emotion, and create personal connections with primary stakeholders, colleagues, customers, and the community. While not all inclusive, SIO members are affiliated with communication, public relations and marketing firms, educational institutions, consulting and coaching, and publishing companies, energy innovation businesses, storytelling, and other nonprofit organizations.

Storytelling in Organizations core values serve as both compass and commitment. In every initiative we undertake—whether curating programming, selecting leadership, partnering with communities, or envisioning long-term strategies—we return to our foundational beliefs to ensure alignment, integrity, and impact.

Respect and Authenticity: We will welcome everyone's unique contributions and perspectives, actively listen, understand questions, and communicate candidly.

Teamwork: We will work together and will support each other.

Driven to Mastery: We will continuously increase our knowledge, deepen our understanding, and invest in our personal and professional growth.

Have Fun: We will celebrate, be friendly, and express gratitude.

Integrity and Transparency: We will act with honesty and sincerity. We will share information and ideas freely.

Social Responsibility: We are committed to the well-being of the communities we serve and contribute to the cause through our individual and/or group resources.

Membership Roster

Storytelling In Organizations

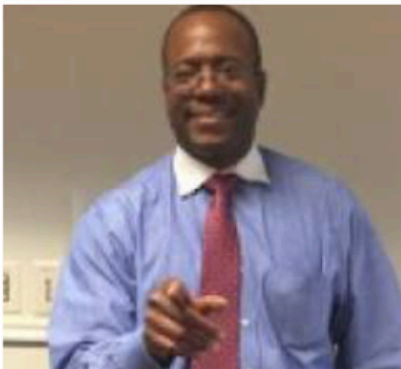
Pearl Alexander	Sara Armstrong
Jose Bailey	Alicia Donjoo Bang
Noa Baum	John Bertholl
Janet Burton-Bickel	Madelyn Blair
Jessica Britts	Jim Brulé
Michael Brundy	Bernard Bull
Sonya Caesar	Larry Castleberry
Kate Chadbourne	Jane Chesham
Lorraine Darnell	Eileen Delorenzo
Joseph DiMaso	Judith Donley
Drea Douglas	Linda Ellington
Jerry Eyster	Melissa Fees
Andres Ferreyra	Susan Garfield
Carol Knarr Gerbert	Eva Grayzel
Marilyn Grevstad	Bette Lou Higgins
Warren Holleman	Steven Holley
Sadika Kebbi	Elizabeth Kelly
Brian Kokensparger	Vinod Krishna
Gary Kuntz	Davina Lomax Burns
Carol McCormick Buchmeier	Julie McGhee
Marilyn McPhie	Michelle Mellon
Sue Mirkin	Jennifer Munro
Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy	Margo Myles
Gwendolyn Napier	Varaidzo Nyamandi
Alexandra Onno	Valentina Ortiz
Karen Page-Davies	Sally Perkins
Lani Peterson	Portland Storytellers' Guild
Natalie Rivera	Jo'el Roth
Vivian Rutherford	Julienne Ryan
Robert Sands	Stone Soup Storytelling Institution
Kerry Stubbs	Sustainability Institute of Detroit
Renu Swaney	Laconia Therrio
Lisa Tilstra	Nancy Tolson
Nelda Tone	Mary Walther
Kim Weitkamp	Pippa White (Lawson)
James White	Alfred Wiseman
Grant Wuellner	Paula Younger
Paula Younger	Elsa Zúñiga

Storytelling In Organizations' members will share their knowledge and skills with the storytelling community at the 2025 National Storytelling Network Conference (July 23-26th) at West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas.



Alicia Dongjoo Bang

"Crossing Cultures: Korean: Storytelling Traditions Inspiring the Future"



Larry Castleberry

Fringe: "38 Years of Aikido"



Allison Downey

"The Storyteller Lens: Craft Your Stories Shape Your Life"



Eva Grayzel

"Yes: To Life, To Life, Your Stories: Interactive Storytelling Techniques"



Carol McCormick

"Weave Us Together Community"

7



Matrilyn McPhie

"AI Tools for Storytellers "



Paul Strickland

Fringe: "Ease Dropping on the Dead"



Pipa Lawson White

*National Storyteller Showcase
*Minding the Gold in History Books:
Finding Captivating Stories in History



Nat Whitman

Wakeup and Sing



Michael Brundy

Emcee: National Storyteller Showcase



Darlene Richard/Nelda Tone

Emcee: Regional Storyteller
Showcase

Teamwork: We will work together and will support each other.

Similar to the last two years, Lisa Williams, the Director of Storytelling in Organizations, made a strategic decision to appoint **Jim Brulé**, a member of SIO, to serve as the SIO conference representative. Jim selected five other SIO members, **Alicia Dongjoo Bang, Vinod Krishna, Renu Swamy, Lisa Tilstra, and Kim Weitkamp** to serve under his guidance. This structure reflected a commitment to participatory leadership and honored the collective voice of the storytelling community. This resulted in the creation of a supportive and dynamic group who shared the responsibilities and brought diverse perspectives to the evaluation and the selection of the proposals.



Jim Brulé



Alicia Dongjoo Bang



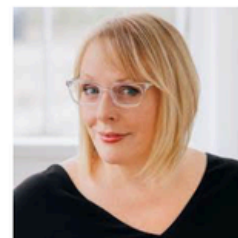
Vinod Krishna



Renu Swamy



Lisa Tilstra



Kim Weitkamp

Teamwork: We will work together and will support each other.

SIO Volunteers for the NSN Oracle Award Committee

Ray Christian, Dre Douglas, and Nancy Tolson, members of Storytelling In Organizations, have committed to serve on the National Storytelling Network Oracle Committee for 3-years. They will play a crucial role in determining the recipients of the following NSN Oracle Awards: Lifetime achievement, Circle of Excellence, Regional Excellence, Distinguished National Service, Talking Leaves, International StoryBridge, and Regional Services and Leadership.



Left to Right: **Drea Douglas, Ray Christian, and Nancy Tolson**

Join National Storytelling Network and choose Storytelling In Organizations as your special interest group. Please visit the NSN website to learn more about membership and its benefits. Website: <https://storynet.org/membership/>

Offerings of Storytelling In Organizations

Networking: Provides a platform for members to connect with other professionals interested in organizational storytelling.

Facilitate a Webinar: Lead interactive webinar sessions, fostering discussion and promoting audience engagement.

Resources: Offers access to information, tools, and best practices related to storytelling in organizational contexts.

Educational Opportunities: May include workshops, webinars, or presentations on specific storytelling techniques or applications.

Community Building: Fosters a sense of community among individuals who share a passion for storytelling within their organizations.

NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AWARDS

INTRODUCING THE NSN BOOK AND MEDIA AWARDS



Margaret Read MacDonald
Chair, National Storytelling Awards
National Storytelling Network

Dr. Flora Joy and our President, Rishi Nixon, have been in discussions regarding the Story World Awards, which Dr. Joy created and continued from 1995 through 2024. Rishi formed a small committee to discuss the possibility of NSN sponsoring a similar award program. Since the ending of the Story World Awards, the only awards honoring storytelling materials are the Anne Izard Award (given bi-annually by the Westchester Library System) and the Aesop Award (giving annually by the American Folklore Society, Children's Folklore Division). The NSN Board has approved the commencement in 2026 of a set of National Storytelling Network Awards. We will be honoring books and media in these categories:

The National Storytelling Network Book Award & Honors. This will honor works aimed at adult audiences.

The National Storytelling Network Media Award & Honors.

The National Storytelling Network Resource Awards & Honors. This will honor reference books and books on the art of storytelling.

The National Storytelling Network Children's Book Award & Honors.

The National Storytelling Network Picture Book Award & Honors.

Any items copyrighted September 30, 2023 through September 30, 2026 are eligible. The committee may not award in each category each year.

We are eager to receive recommendations for titles we should consider. If you have discovered a fine new work, please let us know. We will seek it out and include it in our deliberations.

If you have materials of your own that you would like to submit, enter your details on the NSN webpage. Or contact the Committee Chair, Margaret Read MacDonald for more information at

mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com

The deadline for the 2026 awards is September 30, 2026.

**CLICK TO VISIT THE
NSN BOOK & MEDIA AWARDS WEBPAGE**

BY-LAWS REPORT

In accordance with our By-Laws, we here report changes to our by-laws made during the 2025-2026 year.

January - **Establishment of Grant Writing Committee:** 9.2o. The Grant Writing Committee shall be composed of at least three NSN members charged with applying for grants to benefit NSN. It shall work in coordination with the Fund-Raising Committee.

March - **Establishment of Storytelling Works Awards Committee:** 9.2p The Storytelling Works Award Committee shall be composed of at least 3 NSN members. It shall be charged with honoring storytelling works.

September - That the words "or staff" be added to current by-laws ARTICLE XIV CONFLICT OF INTEREST 14.1 Policy. Line five "chair of a committee or staff".

FEATURED EVENT | HEALING STORY ALLIANCE (*click ad to register!*)



TURNING POINTS

a Story Exploration Workshop

WITH
CHRISTINA BALDWIN

SUNDAY JULY 12TH

6:00-9:00 PM EDT

TICKETS: \$65

OR

PAY WHAT YOU ARE ABLE

On Zoom

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

You are the North STAR of your Life. Story is how we weave life experience into a narrative thread that explains our past, organizes our present, and guides our future. Using a visual of a five-pointed star and simple instructions, Christina Baldwin, has helped thousands of people identify turning points in their life stories and reflect on the impact of moments that define them. Based on her classic book, [Storycatcher](#), [Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story](#), this three-hour workshop will give participants a chance to work with the StorySTAR, explore a turning point, and understand how to further delve into the context of life-changing events. A combination of lecture, conversation, writing time, and small group harvest.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP LEADER

Christina Baldwin is a pioneer in the fields of journal writing, story, and circle practice. Her books have been in print nearly 50 years, and she continues to teach on-line, blog on Substack, and has a newly published novel. A living treasure, explore her life-work at christinabaldwin.com.

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

JULY 2026 STORYTELLING EVENTS

July 10-11

The 12th Annual Missouri Liars Contest

Joplin Hotel | 3512 S Rangeline Rd, Joplin, Missouri

July 11 | 7-8:30 pm CDT | VIRTUAL

Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic

Free, pay what you can. For more info: storytelling.org/events/traditions-and-truth

Email: jdelnegro@dom.edu for the Zoom link and/or if you are interested in telling a story (7-10 minutes). Sponsored by Dominican University, Chicago and storytelling.org.

July 12 | 5-8 pm EDT | VIRTUAL

Turning Points: A Story Exploration Workshop with Christina Baldwin

Tickets: \$65 or Pay What You Are Able

Register at: simpletix.com/e/turning-points-a-story-exploration-with-ch-tickets-278054

July 16 | 12-1 pm EDT | VIRTUAL

Leadership Story Talks Live—The Stories that Shape Us

Six minute tales with Katherine Carol, Jennifer Langton, and George Pesanksy.

Register at:

us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z6qUBZzQpm9pBk-mVOfXg

July 19 | 2:30-3:30 pm EDT

Voices in the Glen Story Swap

Beltsville, Maryland

Please RSVP by emailing billmayhew666@gmail.com.

Click [here](#) for more information.

July 23-26 | IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

2026 National Storytelling Conference

West Texas A&M University | Canyon, Texas

Registration at: storynet.org/events/conference

August 1 | 2-8 pm CDT

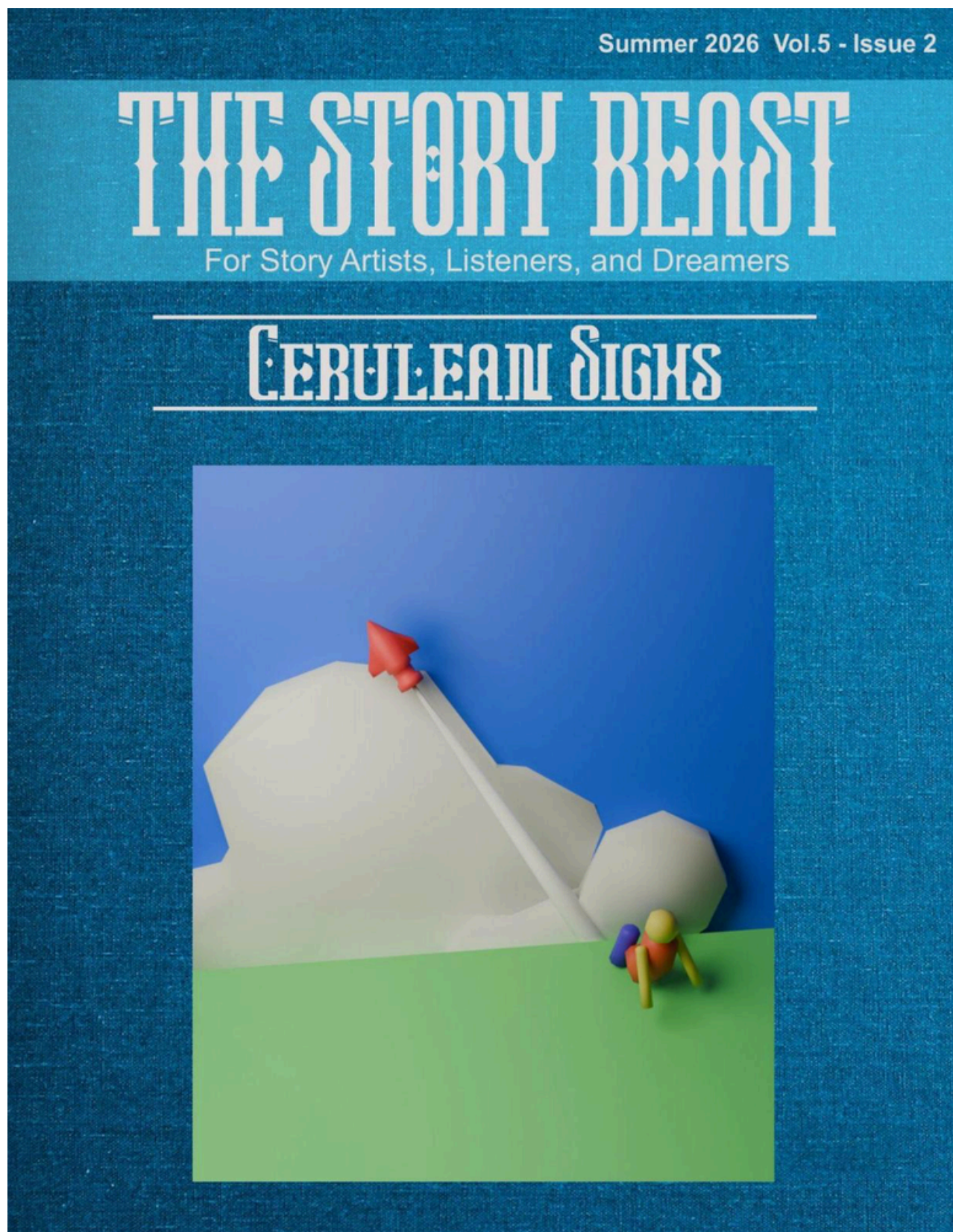
Good Liar's Club Festival

Register, Donate, Festival Schedule: anne-norm.com/goodliarsclub

THE STORY BEAST

Click the cover below to access the Summer 2026 Story Beast issue: *Cerulean Sighs*.

Visit storybeast.org for submission information.





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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.