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NSN Executive Office Information
c/o Woodneath Library
8900 N.E. Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157
Phone: +1 (816) 883-4781
Email: info@storynet.org
Website: https://storynet.org

Director of Operations
Danni Altman-Newell

Development & Outreach Coordinator
Richard Thompson

Media & Communications Coordinator
Erin O’Neil

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Welcome to the 2021 National Storytelling Conference & Festival - Connected: Across the Divide!

We are so glad that you have chosen to join us! Whether you consider yourself a performer or someone who uses storytelling in another field, the last year has been difficult for almost everyone. Those of us who perform have been separated from our audiences and fellow performers. The 2020 Connected Conference and Festival helped to prepare us to perform online, and gave us a chance to connect with and learn from a diverse, international mix of tellers.

This year, as our schools, libraries, community centers, senior living facilities, daycare centers, businesses, places of worship, and theaters reopen, we are faced with a new set of challenges. National debates on policing, safety, discrimination, immigration, vaccines, equity, health, racism, transgender rights, and so much more threaten to pull us apart - pitting one side or political ideology against the other. Storytellers are uniquely skilled for this moment of polarization.

Storytelling is a powerful tool to help bridge differences with compassion and empathy. Stories help us see the humanity in one another, understand motivations, and appreciate similarities and differences. During this year’s annual conference, we will be exploring ways that story and storytelling help us reach across the divides that separate us. The Conference Planning Committee has carefully selected workshops, performance showcases, panel discussions, master classes, and keynotes to inspire you to look within yourself, stretch beyond your comfort zone, engage in new ways, and leave with powerful tools for connection - all from the comfort of your own home.

We welcome you - storyteller, story listener, artist, creator, healer, teacher, truth-teller - to our circle. Our hope is that this 5-day, internationally collaborative program, will encourage us all to reflect, grow, and be inspired. May we open our hearts and minds to crossing the divides that separate us from our fellow humans.

This year, we are using a new platform, Open Water, to help streamline your conference experience. As always, the staff is here to assist you when needed, but we also have a wide variety of options to help you troubleshoot any problems you encounter. Find out more about how to login and connect here: https://storytelling-virtual.secure-platform.com/a

The National Storytelling Network is a place for all who tell stories to explore, celebrate, inspire, and connect. We are proud, as a membership organization, to create a space in which constructive conversations can take shape. May this conference and festival be the beginning of many conversations that help us all become connected across divides and heal our collective wounds.

Welcome to Connected 2021. We are so glad you are here, and can’t wait to see you online.

Katie Knutson
Chair, NSN Board of Directors
**About NSN**

NSN - The National Storytelling Network ([https://storynet.org](https://storynet.org)) is an international community of storytellers who bring storytelling into diverse settings across the world. Established in 1975, the National Storytelling Network is comprised of approximately 1,000 individuals and affiliated organizations. The National Storytelling Conference is NSN’s vehicle for bringing this international community together once a year. Like our members, the conference moves to different regions, providing an array of workshops for new initiates and longtime storytellers to network and hone their skills.

NSN is located in the burgeoning, vibrant arts center of Kansas City, Missouri. Our home and partnership with the award-winning Mid-Continent Public Library System, and its Woodneath Library Story Center facilitates member engagement and allows us to develop synergies that will further NSN’s international presence within arts communities at all levels.

---

**Vision**

A world in which all people value the power of storytelling and its ability to connect, inspire, and instill respect within our hearts and communities.

**Mission**

The National Storytelling Network is a membership organization made up of individuals and organizations involved in storytelling. Its mission is to advance all forms of storytelling within the community through promotion, advocacy and education.

**Values**

- Responsive Innovation: Continuous adaptation of our work in response to changing and community needs.
- Cultural Awareness and Engagement: Sensitivity and respect for diverse individuals and communities.
- Inclusion: Advancement of equity by elevating underrepresented voices.
- Collaboration: Employing the power of storytelling as a way to support the missions of our partnering organizations.
- Integrity: We act with transparency, honesty and sincerity.

---

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How to access your sessions and navigate NSN’s conference platform, OpenWater

Guide for Attendees

The Gallery

Sessions Gallery is the Hallway to your conference

- You will be able to login using your registered email: https://storytelling-virtual.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home
- Gallery is the “Hallway” to your conference. In the gallery you will be able to browse through the schedule and find the session you will be presenting in.
Logging into the Gallery

Using your registered email to log into the gallery

1. Select Login
2. Enter your registered email and click Sign in
3. You will receive an email with your login link

Joining Your Session

- First go to the conference schedule by clicking Sessions then Live Sessions
- Find your session and select the Title of the session.
- On the left side of the screen is your Session Information. On the right side of the screen is where you will be able to join your meeting.
  - As an attendee you will be able to join your session at the official start time
  - At the appropriate start time, a button will appear that says JOIN MEETING. Click to join the session
Camera Views

- All attendees can control their own camera views.
- There are two main camera views
  - Active Speaker view: Only the person who is currently speaking will be displayed.
  - Gallery Grid View: All active cameras will be displayed.
- To change the view find the Speaker Control Strip at the top right of the screen (only appears when there is more than one active camera)

Zoom Chat

- The Chat feature can be used to communicate with hosts and other attendees.
- To access the chat feature, select the Chat icon in your Zoom toolbar.
- Depending on your meeting settings, you will be able to either chat with Everyone or Privately Message other attendees.
- You can use the Chat feature to also upload files
Launch Chat

Use the Launch Chat feature to chat and network with others outside of Zoom!

- Select Launch Chat
- Create a chat profile
- Join different chat topics on the left side of the chat window
- Follow this link to find more information about the networking & chat tool
NSN Donors and Volunteers

NSN would like to give a special thanks to our 2020-2021 donors. Your donations make a difference in what NSN can contribute to the growth of storytelling. The generosity of donors has been the lifeblood of NSN and it is our donors that have kept NSN moving forward toward our yearly goals. Thank you!

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Special thanks to our NSN Sustaining Donors who make a regular monthly donation. You can become one too! Just ask a member of the NSN staff or Board of Directors for more information.

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CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

NSN would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and effort in the planning and execution of this year’s Connected Conference. Your contributions of time and effort truly make a difference! Without our wonderful volunteers the National Storytelling Conference would not be possible.

Due to the publishing schedule of this program book, we are not able to list the names of all our volunteers. However we do not want to miss the opportunity to say a heart-felt THANK YOU to each and every one of them for contributing to its success.
Acknowledgements

**Conference Committee**
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Please help us thank those who have generously contributed to help make the 2021 National Storytelling Conference possible. Without Conference Sponsors, Donors, and Volunteers the National Storytelling Conference wouldn’t be possible.

*Please note: Sponsorships and donations may still be coming in at the time of publishing this program book.*
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The SIO (SIG) is dedicated to the expression, development, and sharing of the many ways story and storytelling are applied in organizations across the world. Our story labs, workshops, and resources address leadership development, sales, marketing, change management, and diversity and inclusion.

Visit our website at https://storynet.org/groups/sio/about-sio/ to learn more about our multi-cultural and global community of thought leaders and how you can participate.
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River and Prairie Storyweavers (RAPS)
is a group of STORYTELLERS located in the Kansas City,
Missouri area. The mission of RAPS is to support the art of
oral storytelling and the people who practice this art.

Connect with Us!

RAPS has three meetings per month. Check out www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org, for more
information or contact RAPS.secretary@gmail.com
to get on distribution list. Join us!

You’re the piece we’re missing!
Joyce Slater has stories for everyone from pre-school participation stories through personal experiences for adults. Her specialties are ghost/scary tales and traditional fairytales and folktales. Puppets accompany her with songs and tales of their own. She is a workshop leader and a storytelling coach for other storytellers, public speakers and actors and she teaches oral storytelling and writing in the charter schools in KCMO.
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For more information, contact Joyce Slater:
(816) 804-2442
joyceslater20@gmail.com

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We are proud to be the home of the National Storytelling Network’s headquarters.

For information and to plan your visit: mystorycenter.org

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The purpose of the Producers & Organizers Special Interest Group (PRO SIG) of the National Storytelling Network (NSN) is to encourage cooperation, networking and support among organizers within the NSN and to foster the professional growth of the individual members of this special interest group.

Learn more and join PRO by visiting: https://storynet.org/groups/pro/producers-and-organizers-pro/
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Katie Knutson
Chair
katie@storynet.org

VACANT
Vice-Chair

Gary Kuntz
Secretary
secretary@storynet.org

Cora Newcomb
Finance Chair
coranewcomb1@gmail.com

Regional Directors

VACANT
Mid-Atlantic

Cora Newcomb
Southeast
coranewcomb1@gmail.com

Fran Stalling
South Central
franstallings@icloud.com

Marilyn McPhie
Pacific
mmcphie@gmail.com

Debra Olson-Tolar
Western
storytolar@gmail.com

VACANT
Northeast

Jennifer Pahl Otto
North Central
Jennifer.Pahl.Otto@gmail.com

Appointed

Julie M. Baker
jmmmbaker@gmail.com

Howard Lieberman
howard@storynet.org

Monique Chandler
monique@storynet.org

Loren Niemi
Chair Emeritus
niemistory@gmail.com

Office Staff

Danni Altman-Newell
Director of Operations and President of the Corporation
danni@storynet.org

Erin O’Neil
Media & Communications Coordinator
erin@storynet.org

Richard Thompson
Development & Outreach Coordinator
richard@storynet.org

Staff Support

Robert Johnson
Corporate Treasurer
rcjohnsn@comcast.net

Special Interest Groups

Healing Story Alliance
Dues $25/year
Lani Peterson
lani@lanipeterson.com
& Heather Forest
heather@storyarts.org

Producers and Organizers
Dues $25/year
Lisa Overholser
overholserl@missouri.edu

Storytelling in Organizations
Dues $25/year
Julienne Ryan
jryan@jryanpartners.com

Youth, Educators and Storytellers Alliance
Dues $25/year
Sarah Beth Nelson
voxfabularum@gmail.com

Discussion Groups

The Fairy Tale Lobby
Megan Hicks
meganhicks1@verizon.net
Mary Grace Ketner
mgk@talesandlegends.net
https://fairytalelobby.wordpress.com/

Environmental Storytelling
Fran Stallings
franstallings@icloud.com
Pete Griffin
tongasstrails@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/ecnovelling07/

Interfaith
Gert Johnson
grsjohnson@aol.com
NSN State Liaisons

Alabama
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General Information

FIRST TIME CONFERENCE ATTENDEES
Welcome to the National Storytelling Conference! We are thrilled to have you join us. This is a great opportunity for you to grow as a member of the storytelling community. We have incorporated various structured, and open, opportunities for networking and social gathering throughout the Conference. We hope you make the most of your time with us and we look forward to seeing you again at a future NSN event!

REGISTRATION
Registration will be available through July 21st. Registration may not be guaranteed after the closing date. Please contact the NSN office at events@storynet.org with any questions.

NSN IS ECO-FRIENDLY!
NSN recognizes the importance of protecting the environment and we are committed to being an eco-friendly and sustainable organization. Should you prefer to print this program, please consider limiting your page count to only those you need and printing double-sided in greyscale. Please keep Mother Earth in mind and recycle any materials collected and printed throughout the conference.

PHOTO RELEASE
Photographs may be taken at the 2021 National Storytelling Conference for use in promotional materials. By registering for one or more Conference events, you agree to allow NSN to use your photo.
ACCESSIBILITY
NSN is committed to making the entire Conference accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities, and strives to ensure that everyone may fully participate in the Conference. Should you need additional support, have accessibility questions, or would like to speak to an NSN staff member, please contact us at events@storynet.org. It may not be possible to provide certain accommodations when requests are made at the Conference.

CLOSED CAPTIONING
Closed captioning will be available for every session via an automated live transcription service provided by Zoom. Please note: while this technology is proficient, it is not perfect. Please excuse any errors in captioning. Edited transcriptions will be available after the conference for review. To request a final transcription, contact Erin@storynet.org. To learn more about Zoom’s closed captioning services, please visit https://bit.ly/3xB6JoK.
General Information

**NSN AUCTION**
The money raised by this auction will help NSN be financially secure and able to achieve its vision of a world in which all people value the power of storytelling and its ability to connect, inspire, and instill respect within our hearts and communities.

The auction will officially open Wednesday, July 21 at 8:30am. You can view and bid on the available items at [https://www.32auctions.com/nsn-summer21](https://www.32auctions.com/nsn-summer21). Throughout the Conference peruse the treasures and place your bid!

The auction will end at 10:00pm on Monday, July 26.

**SPONSORS**
NSN is excited to welcome several new sponsors to the Conference this year! Our new sponsor friends will be set up in the Resource Room/Marketplace area for your networking convenience. Please make sure to stop and visit with each of our sponsors.

**Youth, Educators And Storytellers (YES)**
The goal of YES is to inspire and nurture storytelling by and for youth, from preschool through college. Through YES, youth storytellers are meeting kindred spirits. Educators are discovering that storytelling actively engages students in learning. Full-time storytellers are learning about education standards, curriculum needs, and how students learn, all through participating memberships in YES. Join us as we create and find new directions in the effort to discover what storytelling can offer today’s youth. We will give you the tools to accomplish great things with young people. Tomorrow’s storytellers need you today!

**Parkhurst Brothers Publishers - Marion, MI**
Parkhurst Brothers Publishers is a book company active in the storytelling movement. Our authors are active storytellers, including Elizabeth Ellis, Loren Niemi, Kevin Cordi, and Lyn Ford. Check out our online catalog at [www.parkhurstbrothers.com](http://www.parkhurstbrothers.com).

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**Mid-Continent Public Library**
Mid-Continent Public Library is a consolidated library district and tax-supported political subdivision that serves nearly 800,000 people in the greater Kansas City metro area. The Library is governed by a 12-member Board of Trustees, which includes four representatives from each of the three counties in its district—Clay, Jackson, and Platte. For over 50 years, MCPL has been striving to provide customers with the best possible library experience.
General Information

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE GRAND SLAM
You are invited to participate in the 2021 National Storytelling Conference Grand Slam. Ten winners from this season will compete for the grand prize - we need YOU to help decide the winners. There are two preliminary qualifying Slams and the final Grand Slam. All types of stories may be told - traditional and personal but must be told in the first person (no props and no reading from the page) and the five-minute stories need to relate to the Conference theme - Across the Divide.

Each slam will have timekeepers, scorekeepers and a no-nonsense host. The Grand Slam will include a total of ten participants. Qualifiers do not need to tell the same story in the final. Cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners during the Grand Slam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifying Slam #1</th>
<th>Friday, July 16 at 7:00pm</th>
<th>Hosted by Tracey Segarra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Slam #2</td>
<td>Saturday, July 17 at 7:00pm</td>
<td>Hosted by Sufian Zhemukhov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Slam</td>
<td>Saturday, July 24 at 7:00pm</td>
<td>Hosted by Jessica Piscitelli Robinson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to our generous sponsor, Parkhurst Brothers Publishers, winners will also receive a complimentary book of their choosing from https://www.parkhurstbrothers.com/.

NSN’S 2021 GRAND SLAM
Congrats to all of our Story Slam winners this season!

Semi-Finals: July 16 & 17 | 7 pm Central
Grand Slam: July 24th | 7 pm Central during NSN's CONNECTED Conference

1st Place Winner will take home $200, a 1-year membership to NSN, plus a free conference registration for 2022

All winners receive a complimentary book from Parkhurst Brothers Publishers

More at storynet.org/nsnevents
ONLINE ETIQUETTE
As a courtesy to presenters, performers, and other attendees, please remain muted when not actively participating and be cognizant of when your camera is on. We recommend full presence when engaging with sessions, however, if you have the need to multi-task, please keep your camera off to avoid distracting others. While live posting on social media from sessions is generally encouraged for those who cannot be in attendance, please be respectful of the varying level of comfort of presenters, performers and other participants.

Conference WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS
NSN greatly appreciates feedback from all attendees. Five minutes after the beginning of each learning session, a short workshop evaluation will be made available. Please provide your feedback on the workshops you attend; your feedback will help us make the Conference programming even better next year!

POST-Conference EVALUATION
An overall Conference evaluation will be emailed to all registered participants following the end of the Conference. Please make sure to take a moment to evaluate each learning session. An opportunity to evaluate the content and presenter or performer of every event attended will be included as part of the post-Conference evaluation process.
One Child Is One Whole World
YES Workshop
9 - 10:30 AM

Producing 101
PRO Workshop
1 - 3 PM

Tomorrow’s Storytellers Today
YES Panel Discussion
3:30 - 5 PM

Story Acquisition
SIO Workshop
5 - 6:30 PM

YES Happy Hour
7:30 - 9 PM

YES Membership Meeting
11AM - 12 PM

Kind Stories
HSA Workshop
2 - 3:30 PM

Hybrid Storytelling Tips
PRO Workshop
4 - 6 PM

Kind Stories in Concert
HSA Showcase
6 - 7:30 PM
CONNECTED: Across the Divide

**THURSDAY 7/22**
All times listed in CENTRAL TIME

- **Interactive Learning**
  - **In The Shoes of The Other**
    - Master Class
    - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

- **Keynote/Panel**
  - **On The Row: Storytelling From Arkansas’ Death Row**
    - Intensive
    - 8:30 - 11:30 AM

- **Showcase**
  - **Ancient Wisdoms from Asia through Folktales & Mythology**
    - Showcase
    - 1:30 - 3 PM
  - **Stories Build Bridges**
    - Showcase
    - 12:30 - 2 PM
  - **Untold Stories**
    - Showcase
    - 2 - 3:30 PM
  - **Okay Boomer! Stories from Different Eras**
    - Showcase
    - 3:30 - 5 PM
  - **Stories in Living Color**
    - Panel Discussion
    - 5 - 6:30 PM

- **Meeting/Social Hour**
  - **HSA Annual Meeting & Social Hour**
    - 3 - 4:30 PM
  - **Keynote Presentation**
    - 7 - 8:30 PM
  - **Magic Mix**
    - Showcase
    - 9 - 10:30 PM

- **Workshop**
  - **Rock the Zoom**
    - Workshop
    - 5 - 6:30 PM

For more details, visit Storynet.org/Conference
## CONNECTED: Across the Divide

### Interactive Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folktale: A Window to Singularity within Diversity</td>
<td>8:30 - 10 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Music and Story to Connect Across Divides</td>
<td>10:30 AM - 12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hear Our Voices</td>
<td>1 - 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Maps: In From The Margins</td>
<td>3 - 4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storytelling 101</td>
<td>5 - 6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting People Around the World Through Kamishibai</td>
<td>7 - 8:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heading East to America</td>
<td>9 - 10:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Keynote/Panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forget Memory, Try Imagination! Opening Storytelling to People with Dementia</td>
<td>8:30 AM - 12:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Showcase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanity, Healing, and Humor</td>
<td>1 - 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Steps Towards Peace</td>
<td>3 - 4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors of Change</td>
<td>5 - 6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting Stereotypes and Scapegoating</td>
<td>7 - 8:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsocially Distanced</td>
<td>9 - 10:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Meeting/Social Hour

For more details, visit Storynet.org/Conference
CONNECTED: Across the Divide

**SCHEDULE**
All times listed in CENTRAL TIME

- **80 Minutes Around the World**
  - Showcase
  - 8:30 - 10 AM
- **The Bonds That Bind Us Together**
  - Showcase
  - 10 - 11:30 AM
- **YES Story Swap**
  - 1 - 2 PM
- **Story, Listening, Community, and Social Change**
  - Workshop
  - 2 - 3:30 PM
- **PRO Meet & Greet**
  - 6 - 7 PM
- **Outspoken LGBTQ Stories at Sidetrack**
  - Showcase
  - 9 - 10:30 PM
- **Stories Build Bridges**
  - Master Class
  - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Coming of Age with the KSU Tellers**
  - Showcase
  - 11:30 AM - 1 PM
- **Interfaith Storytelling**
  - Showcase
  - 2 - 3:30 PM
- **ORACLE Award Ceremony**
  - 4 - 6 PM
- **Grand Slam: Across the Divide**
  - 7 - 8:30 PM
- **Connecting Cultures Through Stories**
  - Showcase
  - 9 - 10:30 PM

For more details, visit Storynet.org/Conference
CONNECTED: Across the Divide

**SUNDAY 7/25**
**SCHEDULE**
All times listed in CENTRAL TIME

- **Interactive Learning**
  - *A Change the World Story*
    - Workshop
    - 8:30 - 10 AM
  - *Command Performance: Techniques to Rule the Stage*
    - Intensive
    - 10 AM - 1 PM
  - *SIO Meet & Greet*
    - 2:30 - 3:30 PM
  - *Growing Your Spirit With Story*
    - Workshop
    - 3:30 - 5 PM
  - *What is NSN Accreditation and is it for me?*
    - Panel Discussion
    - 5:30 - 7 PM

- **Keynote/Panel**
  - *Sharing One World: An Intercultural Exchange*
    - Master Class
    - 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
  - *Keynote Presentation*
    - 1:30 - 2:30 PM
  - *Connect Through Stories; Connect for Life*
    - Workshop
    - 3:30 - 5 PM
  - *Does the way you teach storytelling undercut empathy?*
    - Workshop
    - 5:30 - 7 PM

- **Showcase**
  - *ORACLE Award Recipient Showcase*
    - 7:30 - 9 PM

- **Meeting/Social Hour**
  - *Closing Ceremony*
    - 9 - 10 PM

For more details, visit Storynet.org/Conference
The Oracle Awards are national, even international in scope. The Story Bridges Award recognizes those who cross oceans to seek commonality among disparate cultures. The Talking Leaves Award honors authors, editors, collaborators and translators who contribute to the breadth and depth of story collections, commentary, interpretation and archives. Circle of Excellence recipients are chosen for their artistry and invention, acknowledged by their peers as masters. The additional awards for Lifetime Achievement, Distinguished National Service join all awardees reaching and telling wherever they land. All awardees teach and tell wherever they land, leaving countless new storytellers and stories wherever they land. Our awards reveal our hopes and dreams.

In this unsettling time of disputes, perils and division, storytellers work to settle, to encompass, to embrace the essence of story.

Regional Awards given within the 7 NSN regions of the United States and the unincorporated territories mirror our founding as a membership organization: A national nonprofit that sees the value and influence of those who work within states and US territories. A multitude of storytellers at work within communities and professions that fill the urgent need for stories, storytellers, story listeners and welcoming schools, businesses, governments where storytellers go each day, each week, each month each year. To schools and libraries where the tiniest listeners gather close to hear ancient narratives, and fresh new tales, to churches with gifted preachers, to parks, to commons to ply their magic and honorable trade. There are dancing storytellers, singing storytellers, storytellers with scissors and string, storytellers who use the desert sands to speak and draw stories. Stories in the languages of the First Nations, the sharp rhythms of rap, or hymns through countless dialects, patois, poetry, sign language; these stories hop and jump across the divide of history, race, and opportunity to spin an endless narrative. It never stops; it never ceases. It can’t.

This is who we are. This is what we celebrate; this is what we honor. Both Oracle Awardees and Regional Recipients, are, our gifted practitioners, our Seers. Let us Praise them now. Thank them now. Let their accomplishments inspire us to claim our essential place. We are storytellers. This world needs our honored recipients every day. It needs us too. Now.

MaryGay Ducey
Chair, ORACLE Award Committee
NSN ORACLE Awards

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals in the storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to the National Storytelling Network, as well as to the community of storytellers at large. The individuals who are awarded are those who have expanded public awareness of the art of storytelling by virtue of their preservation of traditional art forms or the significant originality of their body of work.

No 2021 Recipients

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Circle of Excellence Award recognizes master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling.

DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished National Service Award is presented to those individuals, members or groups who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level to forward the work of the National Storytelling Network.

"I believe the storytelling community is a beloved community. It is an honor to serve this community; the community of my heart. Thank you for the acknowledgement of my service through this award; I am humbled by it. I hope to always be a person that serves, listens and loves our community, and helps our community expand, because stories can change the world.”

Sheila Arnold

"At ASST, we believe in the Philosophy of Plenty. If you need something and I have it to spare and I don’t give it to you and something happens to you because of that lack… that’s on me. We must hold each other up and help each other. Our community has plenty to share. Thank you to everyone who has come to the table to offer what you have.”

Donna Washington
NSN ORACLE Awards

TALKING LEAVES AWARD
The Talking Leaves Award is presented to those members of our community who have made outstanding contributions to the literary body of storytelling as authors, editors or collectors.

CONGRATULATIONS!
HEATHER FOREST

“I deeply thank August House Publishers for making my work available to the public and my peers who wrote so glowingly in support of my written work.

I created my anthologies of world folktales as a resource of tellable tales and am gratified that they are useful to my community of storytellers and beyond.”

Learn more at Storynet.org/awards

CONGRATULATIONS!
LYNN MORONEY

“Marcus Aurelius wrote: “Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars and see yourself running with them.” Lynn took courage from the stars and shore. Lynn’s friends would like you to know that, despite coping with memory loss, Lynn was pleased to learn that the storytelling community has recognized her work and that websites like Wesharethesamemoon.org continue telling the stories she loved and wanted to be passed on.

Learn more at Storynet.org/awards

INTERNATIONAL STORYBRIDGE AWARD
The International StoryBridge Award recognizes the exemplary work, dedication, and spirit of those individuals or groups that promote the art of storytelling in their own country or promote the building of bridges between their country and other countries through the use of storytelling and/or storytelling events.

CONGRATULATIONS!
АРТЕМ МУШИН-МАКЕДОНСКИЙ
ARTEM MUSHIN-MAKEDONSKIIY

“3 years ago 90% of clients came to me to learn about storytelling to influence others. I’m honored to receive the ORACLE award in 2021, because I finally see that through the work we do at Academy Historia people and companies in Russia begin to understand the true power of story – to create meaning, connect people, heal communities and more.”

Learn more at Storynet.org/awards
REGIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Regional Excellence Awards recognize the creativity, professional integrity, and artistic contributions of tellers who have greatly enriched the storytelling culture of their region.

REGIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP AWARD

Regional Service and Leadership Awards are presented to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to their local or regional storytelling community and/or have used storytelling to make a significant contribution to the larger community in which they live.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Binnie Tate Wilkin

"From Aesop fables of ancient times to twentieth-first century communication marvels, storytelling has transmitted life’s fantasies, queries, ruminations, and wisdom. My storytelling mantra is, “Let a kiss and a breath of air send my stories traveling on the wind, to touch a human spirit in distant lands, to connect with hearts and minds, slowly erasing imaginary lines which separate us from ourselves.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cynthia Restivo

“I have deep gratitude to the people who wrote letters on my behalf, my former tandem partner BZ, and the committee who read and evaluated the application. In addition, I appreciate the concept of the awards acknowledging the front-line storytellers working each day on the storied landscape. I am delighted to be a part of and recognized by this generous community.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sarah "Juba" Addison

“I want to express my sincere appreciation, and thanks to NSN for recognizing me with this award. When I received the news that I was one of the 2021 ORACLE Award recipients, in my head I heard the lyrics, ‘When I think of home I think of a place where love is overflowing.’ I am humbled and honored to be inducted into the ORACLE Award Circle. Special thanks to Storytellers of New Mexico for supporting me with your love, which is overflowing.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Toni Simmons

“I would like to thank all of my colleagues for your support, encouragement and acknowledgement. I would also like to thank NSN for your continued dedication to the art of storytelling. I believe storytellers change lives and the world. My desire to be a servant leader gives me hope that whatever impact I have had on others has changed their lives and truly made a difference.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Lisa Overholser

“I am deeply humbled and grateful for this award. It’s an honor to help wordsmiths and creatives shine. Because when we help bring art into the world, we make the world a better place. It’s that simple. Truly it takes a village, and in St. Louis, I could not have asked for a more supportive village. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.”
NSN ORACLE AWARDS

The National Storytelling Network (NSN) values our members and their art by annually recognizing individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to storytelling by presenting them with an ORACLE Award.

Now is the time to start thinking about honoring a deserving storyteller or storytelling supporter through the NSN ORACLE Awards in 2022. The NSN ORACLE Award Categories are Lifetime Achievement, Circle of Excellence, Regional Excellence, Distinguished National Service, Talking Leaves, International StoryBridge, and Regional Service and Leadership.

The NSN ORACLE committee only gives awards that come through YOUR nominations. It’s up to each of you to recognize those deserving folks who may otherwise be overlooked. All nominations require a nomination form, narrative addressing qualifications, and three (3) letters of support.

Nomination for the Regional Excellence Award is the only award that requires a video sample. This category recognizes the creativity, professional integrity, and artistic contributions of tellers who have greatly enriched the Storytelling culture of their region. Note: A video is required with this nomination since the evaluation committee may be unfamiliar with the nominee’s Storytelling work.

Please be careful to address the criteria of each separate award in your nomination, particularly keeping in mind the differences between Regional Excellence (evaluating a candidate’s performance skills) and Regional Service & Leadership (evaluating a candidate’s service & leadership actions).

Please visit https://storynet.org/about-nsn/awards/nsn-oracle-awards/ for ORACLE Award nomination and submission instructions.
2021 ORACLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations!

From the NSN Staff and Board of Directors

TELLABRATION!™

November 20, 2021

TELLABRATION!™ is a worldwide evening of storytelling. It creates a network of storytelling enthusiasts bonded together in spirit at the same time and on the same weekend.