

HAUNTED: SHARE THE SCARE

COMING SEPT. 17, 2022

PREPARE FOR THE SEASON OF DARKNESS
THROUGH CHILLING INSTRUCTION



[STORYNET.ORG/HAUNTED](https://storynet.org/haunted)

HAUNTED: SHARE THE SCARE SCHEDULE

(all times Central Standard Time) 1 of 7

- 8am-8:30am *OPENING Story from the Youth, Educators, and Storyteller's Alliance SIG* (Kevin Cordi, Jane Dorfman, and Gail Herman), *and Announcements*

Featuring storytellers [Kevin Cordi](#), Jane Dorfman, and [Gail Herman](#).

- 8:30am-9:45am *“Early Bat” Social Hour*
- 10am-11:00am *Talking the Edge Off: Swordplay and Storytelling* by the [En Garde Fencing Club](#)

For hundreds of years, fencing has inspired dreams of adventure for people of all ages. Who hasn't imagined themselves with sword in hand, fending off hordes of enemies with a quick and daring blade? Join us for a workshop put on by En Garde Fencing of Santa Rosa, CA. Imagine storytellers with swords. What could possibly go wrong? Entertaining and informative education with sharp pointy things!

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(all times Central Standard Time) 2 of 7

- 11:00am- 11:30am *Author Conversation with* [Donna Washington](#)

Donna Washington is an internationally known, multiple award winning storyteller, spoken word recording artist, and author of BOO STEW, her latest fractured fairytale. Best not miss this time with the creator of Toad Suck Swamp. Gitchey Boo, Gitchey Bon! Gitchey Goo, Gitchey Gone!

- 11:30am-1pm *LUNCH*

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- **1pm-2:30pm** *Monsters in Your Backyard Panel Discussion* (Gene Tagaban, Donna Washington, David Schmidt, and Dr. Elizabeth Tucker; moderated by Mara Menzies)

You don't have to go far to find stories of the weird and the odd. There are monsters in your own backyard. Come and hear from this amazing panel of experts, as they share their own perspectives and experiences about finding and bringing to life stories of the strange and unusual. [Mara Menzies](#), a storyteller and author will be guiding the discussion as our moderator, and will be beaming in from Kenya.

Our Featured Panel of Experts

Gene Tagaban, storyteller, trainer, actor, speaker, and mentor.

Donna Washington, storyteller, spoken word recording artist, and author.

David Schmidt, author, storyteller, and translator speaking nine languages.

Dr. Elizabeth Tucker, professor of English and Literature at Binghamton University (State University of New York). Dr. Tucker researches the folklore of the supernatural.

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- 2:45pm-3:15pm *Author Conversation with* [Dr. Emily Zarka](#)

Dr. Emily Zarka is the writer and host for "Monstrum," an award-winning online series with PBS's Storied channel on YouTube. It examines the complex histories and motivations behind some of the world's most famous monsters. She also wrote and hosted the award-winning one-hour documentary for PBS called, "Exhumed: A History of Zombies."

- 3:30pm-4:30pm *Conversation and stories with* [AG, a New Orleans Ghost Tour Guide](#)

New Orleans is often thought of as one of America's most haunted cities. The city was an entry point for the slave trade, a hang out for pirates, and the birthplace of voodoo. French Quarter Phantom Tours stories are based on historic research, told by folks who know how to tell stories, and AG is one of their leading guides. Join us for an insider's look of ghost tours in the Big Easy.

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- 4:30pm-5: 00pm *Author Conversation with* [David Schmidt](#)

David Schmidt is the author of “Holy Ghosts,” a collection of true ghost stories from a haunted Christian college campus in California. He will be providing some insights from his own journey of collecting and researching strange stories of the odd and ghastly.

- 5:00pm–6:00pm *Multi-Modal Monster Story Swap*

All storytelling mediums welcome, 5-7 minutes per story.

- 6:00pm–6:30pm *DINNER*

HAUNTED: SHARE THE SCARE SCHEDULE

(all times Central Standard Time) 6 of 7

- 6:30pm-8:30pm *Share the Scare: Telling Boo-tiful Tales with [Lyn Ford](#)*

With samples from the silly to the psych-me-out, activities that stretch your brain, and terribly useful tips for telling with kids through adults, Lyn helps you prepare to scare up your best creatively creepy tales.

Fourth-generation Affrilachian storyteller and Ohio teaching artist **Lynette (Lyn) Ford** is nationally and internationally recognized for her creepy stories, haunted programs, and boo-worthy workshops, as well as her less-scary “Home-Fried Tales”. Lyn is also a published writer, a certified laughter yoga teacher, a weird great-grandma, and a collector of gargoyles. Once again, she will be one of the hosts of Ghost Story Night at the National Storytelling Festival in October.

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(all times Central Standard Time) 7 of 7

- 8:30pm-9:00pm *CLOSING Story from [Kamishibai SIG](#)* (Tara McGowan, Ramya Srinidhi, and Jeff Gere)
and Announcements

The Kamishibai Storytelling Alliance SIG will offer visually haunting stories from Japan, India, Norway, drawing on the roots of present day kamishibai and the early cinematic format of the magic lantern show and shadow-theater. Featuring storytellers [Tara McGowan](#), Ramya Shrinidhi, and [Jeff Gere](#).

- 9:00pm-10:30pm *“Night Crawler” Social Hour*

Bios & Photos

of the Presenters at HAUNTED: Share the Scare

Kevin Cordi

Kevin D. Cordi heard ghost stories of Appalachia from his parents in a way they were natural. He found himself going beyond questioning them, but instead learning from them. He now tells these stories and is always learning from them. He has told and presented in over 45 states, England, Japan, Scotland, Singapore, India, and Qatar. He is the author of many books on the craft and recently co-edited *Social Action Stories: Impact Tales for the School and Community* (Parkhurst Brothers, 2022). He holds a Doctorate in Storytelling and Education and teaches storytelling and education classes as an Assistant Professor at Ohio University Lancaster and is producer and host of *Debut: A Fusion of Storytelling and Play*, a monthly Live Stream. He thinks ghost stories remind us of the value of living.

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Jane Dorfman

Jane tells folk and fairy tales as well as a few lies. She tells personal stories about her New Orleans childhood and her Maryland neighbors, her favorite being “Daddy’s on the Roof and He’s Got the Ax.” She tells stories for children and adults at festivals and in libraries and in the schools.

Jane has performed at the Hans Christian Andersen Statue in Central Park. She has told at Speak! a storytelling series in Shepardstown WV, and the Rose Valley storytelling series in Media, PA. She’s shared personal stories at ‘Better Said than Done’ Women’s Festival.

She crafted a program of lesser known Arabian Nights stories as part of a grant, Muslim Journeys, at Montgomery College, and performed them at the NSN Conference Fringe in 2016.

Website: <https://voicesintheglen.org/storytellers/jane-dorfman/>

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En Garde Fencing Club

En Garde Fencing Club (Santa Rosa, CA) For hundreds of years, fencing has inspired dreams of adventure for people of all ages. Who hasn't imagined themselves with sword in hand, fending off hordes of enemies with a quick and daring blade? En Garde Fencing offers classes in Olympic Fencing, Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA), Youth HEMA, LED Sabers, Archery and more. Today's workshop will be led by coach Dimitri Nicholson with guest appearances from En Garde Fencing coaches and community.

Jim Liebich is the owner of En Garde Fencing Club in Santa Rosa, CA and has been coaching the sport for over 20 years. He founded En Garde Fencing in 2008 with the goal of providing both high-quality fencing instruction and creating a vibrant community of fencers.

Dimitri Nicholson has been coaching fencing for over 10 years, and trained in both European and Asian Martial Arts all his life. Swordplay is his passion, both as an exhilarating sport and the thrilling narrative nature of swashbuckling.

Website: egfencing.com



Jim Liebich



Dimitri Nicholson

Lyn Ford

Fourth-generation Affrilachian storyteller and Ohio teaching artist **Lynette (Lyn) Ford** has shared decades of creepy stories, haunted programs and boo-worthy workshops on telling and writing such tales. Lyn's diverse works have been published in several story resources, including: The August House Book of Scary Stories, for which she helped to write a teachers' guide; CDs, DVDs, and radio recordings, and her own award-winning books, Affrilachian Tales; Folktales from the African-American Appalachian Tradition and Beyond the Briar Patch: Affrilachian Folktales, Food and Folklore, both of which include chapters of "Spookers and Haints". Lyn's book, Hot Wind, Boiling Rain: Scary Stories for Strong Hearts, offers original creepy folktale twists and tips for creatively writing them yourself. Lyn and her friend and fellow storyteller, Sherry Norfolk, developed their latest creepy tome, Boo-Tickle Tales: Not-So-Scary Stories for Ages 4-9, to include tips for telling and fun for all. Lyn is also a creative writing artist with the Ohio Arts Council, a teller of internationally recognized "Home-Fried Tales", a ghost writer and coach for other tellers, a certified laughter yoga teacher, and a weird great-grandma.

Website: <https://storytellerlynford.com/>

Instagram: [lynfordstoryteller](#)



A.G.

A.G. was born in rural Lafayette, Louisiana, and at the end of high school in 2008 and headed out West to San Francisco in 2013, where they completed multiple Associate of Arts degrees in languages and political science at SF City College. During their time in t"he City," they worked as a tour guide for SF Segway Tours until 2020 when they moved back to Louisiana and put their tour guide experience to work giving ghost tours at The Voodoo Lounge in New Orleans. A.G. currently gives regular tours titled, "French Quarter Phantoms," and is currently enrolling in the University of New Orleans for premedical studies in which they will bring their storytelling prowess to the world of public health!

Website: www.neworleans.com/listing/the-voodoo-lounge/33805/



Jeff Gere

Jeff Gere blends talents as painter, puppeteer, and mime into performances which have electrified audiences in Hawaii for 30 years. Jeff's physical energy, morphing elastic face and voice characterizations make his shows events. Jeff becomes his stories!

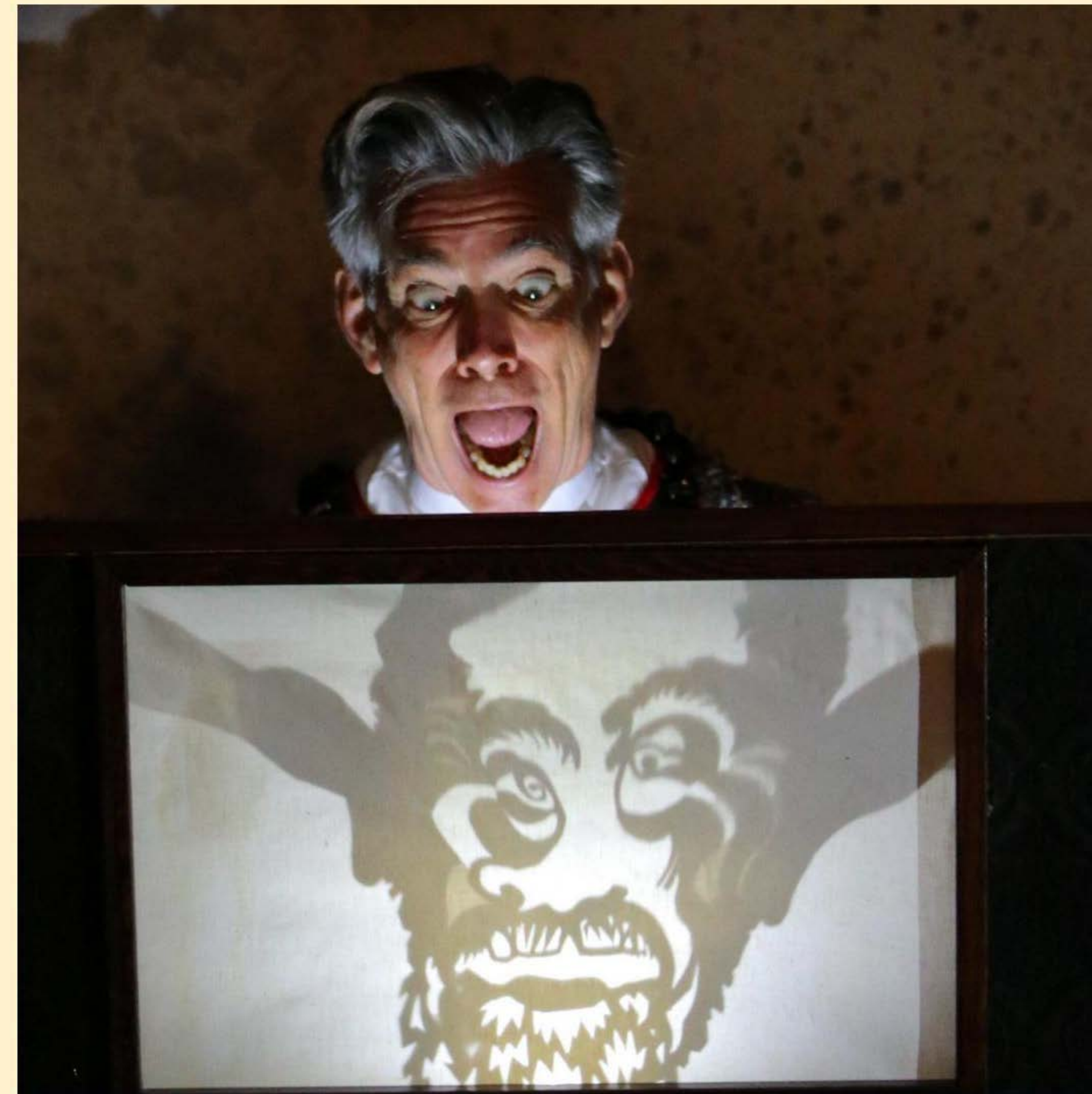
Born on Halloween, Jeff performs constantly. He produced/hosted/ told in the Talk Story Festival, Hawaii's biggest storytelling celebration (26 years), Story TV (23 years monthly), Talk Story Radio (2 years weekly, Hawaii Public Radio), story camps & conferences. He's performed at the National Storytelling Festival (2010, Residency 2013) and Spain, Hong Kong, Turkey, Vancouver & the Yukon before retiring from Oahu Parks Department ending 2014. In 2015, international tours began (Thailand, China, India, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Java, Romania & Kenya.) During covid, he's continued in local, national & international virtual events as performer & producer. See him on YouTube.

He will be performing The Man, The Doe, & The Ginn (a Persian folktale (Arabian Nights) performed on Jeff's original 'laptop' Shadow Puppet Theater)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/FlM1p88A7lQ>

Website: <https://jeffgere.com/>

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Gail Herman

Gail Herman has taught storytelling and performed stories on 4 continents and taught for 10 colleges and universities. Gail was also an elementary teacher and a coordinator of Enrichment Programs. With school and family audiences, she is known for telling stories with improvisation and participation, as well as with puppets and folk percussion instruments. She teaches Storytelling, Mime, and Movement for educators at the University of Connecticut's summer conference/institute on creative and innovative education ("CONFRATUTE"). She has performed at festivals and conferences in MD, WV, MA, CT and taught Storytelling and related courses in WA, NV, UT, MT, CA, WY, SC, GA, Oman, India, German, Ghana.

Gail belongs to storytelling organizations in MA, CT, and WV and organizes weekly story sharing circle sessions as well as many local story slams, swaps, and "Tellabratons." She performs throughout New England and the Northeast. Her storytelling interests also include oral histories of people in MD and WV coal communities where she directed a humanities grant called Coal Talk: Dialogs with Western Maryland Coal Communities. She also directed a Tall Tale Liars' Festival for many years and a Student Storytelling Festival for 20 years.

Gail was a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Storytelling Network and the Association for the Education of Underachieving Gifted Students.

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Tara McGowan

Tara McGowan is a professional storyteller, Japan scholar, and visual artist, who conducts kamishibai workshops and presentations in schools, libraries, and museums. In 2010, she published *The Kamishibai Classroom: Engaging Multiple Literacies through the Art of 'Paper Theater'* (ABC-CLIO). She received her doctorate in literacy education at the University of Pennsylvania and, in 2015, published her second book, *Performing Kamishibai: An Emerging New Literacy for a Global Audience* (Routledge). She has presented about kamishibai at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the International Reading Association (IRA), and the Literacy Research Association (LRA) conferences and has given presentations and workshops in Mexico, Slovenia, and Japan. In 2017, she received the Horio Seishi Award from the Center for Research on Japanese Children's Culture, Tokyo, for spreading the art of kamishibai outside Japan.

The Kamishibai Storytelling Alliance SIG will offer visually haunting stories from Japan, India, Norway, drawing on the roots of present day kamishibai and the early cinematic format of the magic lantern show and shadow-theater.

Tara McGowan will be performing:

Story title: *The Dream-Eater: A Magic Lantern Kamishibai*

This scary story is inspired by the early utsushi-e magic lantern slides that were the precursors of present-day kamishibai (Japanese paper theater)

Story title: *Butterball-A Norwegian Folktale*

This troll story from Norway always terrified me as a child. I am half Norwegian so my mother often told us troll stories and this was her favorite!

Website: <http://taramcgowan.com/>

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Mara Menzies

Mara Menzies is an award winning performance storyteller whose dynamic, colourful style brings this ancient artform to life.

She has been invited to share stories in 27 countries with her latest production, 'Blood and Gold' exploring the legacy of colonialism and slavery through myth, legend and fantasy. It premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019 as part of the Made in Scotland showcase and was nominated for the CATS award 2020 and was one of 5 shows nominated for the Filipa Braganca award for best emerging solo female performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019, receiving rave reviews from top theatre critics.

Mara draws on her rich cultural heritage to create stories that explore our deepest fears, joys, loves, jealousies, passions and mysteries. She finds the truths about humanity in stories. She creates bespoke stories informing, inspiring and entertaining.

She is the founder of the Kwale Sculpture Park and Heritage Trail in Mbegani Village at the Kenyan coast, creating a heritage trail that demonstrates the beauty and richness of the local culture and stories alongside Mbegani Rising, a unique community development organisation.

Website: <https://www.marathestoryteller.com/>

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David J. Schmidt

David J. Schmidt is an author, podcaster, multilingual translator, and homebrewer who splits his time between Mexico City and San Diego, California.

Schmidt has published a variety of books, short stories, and articles in both English and Spanish, including *Three Nights in the Clown Motel*, a book of “non-fiction horror,” as well as the series *Gone Viral: Urban Legends of the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

Schmidt is the co-host of the podcast *To Russia with Love*. He speaks twelve languages and has been to 33 countries. He received his B.A. in psychology from Point Loma Nazarene University.

Website: www.holyghoststories.com

Amazon:
<https://www.amazon.com/David-J.-Schmidt/e/B00BXTBY7K>

Facebook: [@HolyGhostStories](https://www.facebook.com/HolyGhostStories)

YouTube: [Holy Ghosts](https://www.youtube.com/HolyGhosts)

Twitter: [@SchmidtTales](https://twitter.com/SchmidtTales)

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Ramya Shrinidhi

Ramya Shrinidhi has a Master's Degree in Psychology, with over 10 years of experience in the field of Human Resources. She has immense knowledge and experience in field of theatre and drama and has been a professional storyteller since 2012. Ramya is the founder of the Indian Kamishibai Association. (IKA), member of KSA- SIG group at NSN. She has been performing Kamishibai stories extensively at schools and private events and has undergone training in Psychodrama from Omega Theatre in Boston, USA. Ramya is the co-founder of KATHA CORNER a experiential learning organization for educating children through theatre and storytelling. She has been a celebrated storyteller at prestigious events like Happy streets Chennai (2022), Bangalore Poetry Festival, and Bangalore Literature Festival (2019) and many more. Ramya is trained in story therapy by World Storytelling Institute and the East West Center for Counselling and Training.

Ramya will be performing Vikram and the Ghost

Vikram and the Ghost, or Vikram Aur Betaal as it is popularly known, is based on stories written in the 11th century by Indian poet Somdev Bhatt. These are spellbinding stories told to the wise King Vikramaditya by the witty ghost Betaal.

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Gene Tagaban

Gene Tagaban, "One Crazy Raven" is a teller of stories that teach, entertain and heal. Through oratory, song, dance, movement and transformation Gene tells stories to audiences of all ages nationally and internationally. Gene shares traditional Native American stories as well as stories from his personal experience, family and historical events.

He has traveled and worked with urban and rural communities, reservations, villages, schools, universities, youth centers, detention centers, retirement homes, camps, festivals, conferences, organizations, corporations, theater, and film.

“As a young child, I listened to stories of Raven from my grandmother. I heard the story of how Raven freed the Stars, Moon, and Sun into the nighttime sky and opened the Box of Daylight. The people saw this daylight and they were able to see their world clearly for the first time. They marveled at the beauty of it. I heard the story about the time Raven was looking out to sea and saw an island of fire throwing flames into the sky. Hawk helped Raven get that fire. Raven, he took that fire, and he threw it into the rocks, the trees, the water, the animals and into all of the human beings. Now we all have that fire. Now we all have that spirit.”

In the words of my grandmother, "You are the light of the world, share your light and light the fire in the hearts of the people. You will see their spirits shine."

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Dr. Elizabeth Tucker

Dr. Elizabeth Tucker received her BA in English from Mount Holyoke College, her MA in English from Buffalo State College, and her PhD in Folklore from Indiana University. Other valuable parts of her education were her Fulbright year in Munich and her Peace Corps service in the Ivory Coast, West Africa. Since 1977 she have been a member of the English Department at Binghamton University; she began as an Assistant Professor and is now Distinguished Service Professor of English. As a member and Fellow of the American Folklore Society, she have given papers, organized panels, and helped to launch the Children's Folklore Section. She has especially enjoyed being a mentor to young folklorists at AFS meetings and have also served as a manuscript reviewer and indexer for the Journal of American Folklore.

As a folklorist, she has tried to help students become aware of the rich traditions of their home towns, their university campus, and other parts of the world. Besides teaching undergraduate students, she has chaired and been a committee member of dissertations that are related to folklore. It has been especially rewarding to work with MA and PhD students in creative writing. Because her university has a University Readiness Program for Chinese students, she has had the opportunity to teach in Zhenjiang, China; later she taught at Inner Mongolia Normal University as a member of the American Folklore Society's Summer Institute. It has been a pleasure to share results of her research through publication. She have written six books—Campus Legends: A Handbook (2005), Haunted Halls: Ghostlore of American College Campuses (2007), Children's Folklore: A Handbook (2008), Haunted Southern Tier (2011), New York State Folklife Reader: Diverse Voices, co-edited with Ellen McHale (2013), and Legend Trips: A Contemporary Legend Casebook, co-edited with Lynne McNeill (2018)—and about 90 articles. She has also edited several journals, including New York Folklore and Children's Folklore Review, and served as president of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research and the Children's Folklore Section of the American Folklore Society, as well as an executive board member of the New York Folklore Society. For a number of years she has written a column on ghost stories for Voices: The Journal of the New York Folklore Society, and I am about to begin writing a column for the International Journal of Play.

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Donna Washington

Donna Washington is an award-winning internationally known master storyteller, artist-educator, and author who has been performing for audiences of all ages for over thirty-five years. She is renowned for her storytelling for both children & adults from poignant & funny fables about the human condition to racy relationships stories to spine-tingling tales of terror. She has been featured at numerous festivals, schools, libraries, theaters and other venues around the world including Canada, Peru, Argentina & Hong Kong. During the pandemic, she has presented over two hundred shows & workshops virtually online. In 2020, she co-founded the non-profit organization Artists Standing Strong Together with Master Storyteller Sheila Arnold for which they won a 2021 Oracle Award. Donna was the recipient of the prestigious Coleen Salley Storytelling Award in 2022.

Donna's eleven storytelling CDs have garnered thirty national awards. She has authored numerous articles about storytelling and education including her very popular blog Language, Literacy & Storytelling. She is also the author of five children's books: Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa, A Pride of African Tales, The Story of Kwanzaa, A Big Spooky House, and award winning Boo Stew. Peachtree Press is scheduled to publish her next picture book, Prak Fills The House, in September 2023. She travels all over the world performing and giving workshops. She lives with her husband and two cats in Durham, NC.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/donnawashingtonstoryteller>

Instagram: [dlwstoryteller](#)

Blog: <https://donnawashingtonstoryteller.blogspot.com/>

Preferred Contact:

Dave Klibanow - d.klibanow@frontier.com



Dr. Emily Zarka

Dr. Emily Zarka earned her doctorate in literature from Arizona State University where she currently serves as a faculty member in the English department. Zarka is the creator, writer, and host of the popular, award-winning YouTube series “Monstrum,” on PBS’ Storied channel. She serves as cohost and script editor for Storied’s “Fate & Fabled” series. Zarka wrote and hosted the Telly award-winning PBS documentary special Exhumed: A History of Zombies that aired in October 2020.

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