

National Storytelling Network

Biweekly Newsletter | Midmonth Issue

EDITOR'S LETTER

National Storytelling Network
Publisher

Margaret Read MacDonald
Managing Editor

Dear members,

NSN is proud to resurrect our newsletter informing you of upcoming event opportunities and news of interest to the storytelling community. This is now an entirely volunteer-run publication staffed by a dedicated team of 8. Our frequency will depend on the available materials but I assure you it will be frequent. Also, please be aware that you can submit your events for inclusion in the online calendar on our website at events/community calendar [here](#). These are self serve so feel free to add. Dot will need to submit them but you put in the request.

You can also continue to submit announcements to newsletter@storynet.org (or info@storynet.org). To be included in this news blast, your submission must be sent no later than the 10th of the month for the 15th blast and the 25th of the month for the end of month blast. Your notice must also include name of the state where the event is taking place. Happy reading.



PROMOTIONAL: THE TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The Tejas Storytelling Association is pleased to promote its 38th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival, March 9 - 12 in Denton, TX. See the full information [here](#).

Tickets before and by February 23: \$95 | \$60 for TSA members
Tickets after February 23: \$130 | \$95 for TSA members

Location: Denton Civic Center
321 E. McKinney Street, Denton, TX

Lodging is available for a discounted rate. See the [TSA website](#).

TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL: FEATURED TELLERS



Sheila Arnold
Artistic Director
Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST)



Bernadette Nason
Company Member
Austin Playhouse



Elizabeth Ellis
Former President
Tejas Storytelling Association



Colin Urwin
Singer-Songwriter
Haste to the Wedding (Celidh Band)



Joe Hayes
Former Resident Storyteller
Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian

[TICKETS](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[SCHEDULE](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration forms linked in the title, if available.

Historical Black Portraits: Treasures of Greatness

- 915 New Hope Rd. South Fulton, Georgia

Kumba Storytellers

Feb 19, 2023 - 03:00 PM CST

Peaks Island Storyteller Bill Hinderer's Tales of the Scottish Clans!

- Bull Feeny's Irish Pub - Portland, Maine

Seanachie Nights

Feb 22, 2023 - 07:00 PM EST

Fractured Fairytale Workshop

- VIRTUAL

Laura Packer

Feb 25, 2023 - 01:00 PM CST

Marketing Consultant's Promotional Workshop

- Portland, Oregon

Nina Hambleton

Feb 25, 2023 - 07:00 PM

Texas Storytelling Festival (seeking sponsors!)

- Denton, Texas

Tejas Storytelling Association

Mar 9 - 12, 2023

42nd Annual Sharing the Fire Conference

- Portsmouth, New Hampshire

NEST

Mar 26, 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS...

[In the Voice of Our Ancestors Workshop Retreat](#)

- Roots to Sky Sanctuary - Oakland, Maryland

Ilene Evans

May 4 - 7, 2023

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL NSN CALENDAR](#)



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Regular storytelling updates from the NSN community.

[Storytelling Preservation Initiative](#)

Read about SPI's events for Black History Month and their Learning Lab Project.

[Storytelling and Acting by Kevin Cordi](#)

Storytellers are the first actors. Before there were set designs, lighting plots, or directors, storytellers were telling stories. Skillfully positioned words handled by a crafty raconteur steered the audience's attention. An African Griot might use stories to warn children to act on common sense...

[click the link to read more](#)



FINAL STORYTELLING WORLD AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

Flora Joy

Director, Storytelling World Resource Awards

The deadline for the receipt of nominated resources for the 2024 awards is NOVEMBER 30, 2023. 2024 will be the final year for this awards program. Nominated storytelling resources should be published on or after January 2019 and must have a visible printed copyright date. Thank you for sending your resources as soon as they are published. See [the site](#) for more information.

All nomination forms and resources should be mailed to:

Dr. Flora Joy, Storytelling World Awards

108 Oak Grove Boulevard

Johnson City, TN 37601

(Do not mail a package that requires a signature for delivery.)

FELLISCO KEELING RECEIVES LEGACY AWARD

National Association of Black Storytellers

Congratulations to Fellisco Keeling, the 2022 Mary Carter Smith Legacy Award Recipient. This award given by the Griots' Circle of Maryland, Inc. which is an affiliate of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. and recognizes an individual or group within the Griots' Circle who have shown dedication to the African Oral Tradition.

NSN'S BIENNIAL J.J. RENAUX MENTORSHIP GRANT AWARDED

Jo Radner

Chair, J.J. Reneaux Grant Committee

NSN is delighted to announce that Asia Starr of Lenexa, Kansas, is the recipient of the 2023 J.J. Reneaux Mentorship Grant.

Asia has a strong gift for performing with children. Her dream is to establish her own storytelling theater for young audiences. With a background in theatrical design, she has created her own props and puppets and uses voice and physical humor to draw in even the youngest listeners. A talented artist, Asia is also Head of Design and Layout for the Story Beast online magazine. Her website is <https://mamastarrstorytelling.com/>.

Created in memory of storyteller J.J. Reneaux, the Mentorship Grant, awarded every other year, provides stipends for a younger teller and an experienced mentor to work together for a calendar year.

During 2023, Asia will be mentored by Gail Herman. Congratulations, Asia and Gail!

\$18,000 IN ARTIST GRANTS, DUE MAR 29

MidAtlantic Arts

[USArtists International® \(USAI\)](#) supports U.S. artists' engagements abroad with grants of up to \$18,000 towards eligible expenses. The program funds individuals and ensembles across all performing arts practices and disciplines with eligible engagements at international festivals and global presenting arts marketplaces outside of the United States. Non-festival engagements in select countries are now eligible.

[Confirm eligibility.](#)

INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER SEEKS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Kiran Singh Sirah

President, International Storytelling Center

Over the past five decades, the International Storytelling Center has played a central role in establishing storytelling as a professional art form, an artistic and applied discipline, and a creative industry. In 2023, ISC will celebrate fifty-one years of leading the storytelling movement, which has grown from a small grassroots event to an international phenomenon. This is the moment to reimagine and rethink the narrative and to establish another renaissance in storytelling — not just in our region, but across America and beyond.

Storytelling is humanity's birthright, and claiming this birthright can help us move towards a more diverse and inclusive world. Our vision is a better world through the power of storytelling.

It is our intention as an organization to not just celebrate our first 50 years, the nation's storytelling revival, but to intentionally continue the progression of the storytelling movement inclusively for the future.

ISC is looking for dynamic Director of Development to join our team, to champion our fundraising efforts, support our trajectory as an organization and be part of a growing team.

Apply here:

<https://www.storytellingcenter.net/news/international-storytelling-center-seeks-development-director/>

THUNDER VALLEY SEEKS SPONSORSHIP FOR LAKOTA VIRTUAL STORYTELLING SERIES

[Deanna Mousseau](#)

Advancement Coordinator, Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

The Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation is an indigenous nonprofit on the Pine Ridge reservation serving the Oglala Lakota people.

The Phĕta Kaĭlepi (rekindling the fire) annual virtual series is being held in honor of Lakota ancestral traditions of Ohuŋkaŋkaŋ (storytelling) throughout the winter season. Thunder Valley's Lakota Language & Education initiative started the series during the pandemic to support families staying home and connected. It has grown into an anticipated community tradition with 500+ people registered.

The purpose of the weekly gatherings is to

- Reconnect with our culture and way of life.
- Strengthen intergenerational relationships
- Celebrate Indigenous heritage and increase participant's knowledge of Indigenous communities
- Support Indigenous businesses/entrepreneurs by highlighting them and using their products as door prizes

The series begins February 6, 2023, and will run Monday through Thursday for seven weeks.

Hosted on zoom, from 6 PM MST - 7 PM MST, each series will feature two door prizes to random participants. Thunder Valley has partnered with institutions like United Tribes and the local Women's Equity Movement (a volunteer group of Indigenous women professionals supporting the Oglala Lakota community).

The series is seeking sponsorships for 7-week programming to support stipends for our elder presenters. We welcome the opportunity to schedule a meeting to discuss further partnership opportunities between National Storytelling Network and the Phĕta Kaĭlepi storytelling series. In the previous series, Wyoming Humanities Award-winning author Joseph Marshall III participated as a storyteller. We look forward to the upcoming presenters and the influential knowledge shared with participants.

Contact [Deanna Mousseau](#) to inquire about sponsorship. See the [Thunder Valley website](#) for event info.



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OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

FEB 28 2023, MONTHEND ISSUE

SUBMIT CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER@STORYNET.ORG BY FEB 25