

JUN 01, 2023

National Storytelling Network

June Newsletter - Vol. 5, Issue No. 5

SAVE THE DATE!

NSN GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND ORACLE AWARDS
CEREMONY COMING UP
JULY 15, 2023. The Oracle
Awards Ceremony will
honor our 2023 recipients.
Watch for the Zoom link in
our July newsletter.

| FEATURE

NSN ANNOUNCES 2024 CONFERENCE



Margaret Read MacDonald
Conference Co-Chair

The Seattle Storytellers Guild invites NSN to Seattle for our 2024 National Storytelling Network Conference. You will spend your days at the lovely Dumas Bay Conference Centre on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound. Listen, walk, talk. Combine story with our lovely Pacific Northwest ambiance. Inexpensive dormitory housing at the center or reasonably priced motels 10 minutes away (we provide a shuttle). Watch for a call soon for workshop, fringe, and showcase proposals. Mark your calendars for July 11-14, 2024.



[CLICK THE RED HALF OF THE
PAGE TO TURN BACK](#)

[CLICK THE BLUE HALF OF THE
PAGE TO TURN THE PAGE](#)

The Dumas Bay Conference Centre is a light-filled retreat with capacity for over 200 attendees. Grounds include a sculpture garden, forested walks, and outdoor seating; facilities include three banquet halls, a theater, and comfortable conference rooms. See an immersive tour of the site here:

<https://goo.gl/maps/dMqq6RoWSZA2>.

**THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEEDS INFORMATION TO ORGANIZE THE EVENT.
HELP US PLAN BY TELLING US YOUR INTEREST AND HOUSING PREFERENCES:**

FILL OUT CONFERENCE INTEREST SURVEY (>1 MIN.)

| EDITORIAL

NETWORK'S FINANCES HAVE STABILIZED, BOARD OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE



Rishi Nixon
Finance Chair

This spring, NSN's finance committee met for the first time since our restructuring. One thing the community should know about NSN today is that there has been huge turnover and this has led to the loss of organizational memory at times. After the restructuring, a majority of the board are now new members – including myself – and we have had to dig through old records to find out more about how to strengthen the organization again.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact hansontrudy@outlook.com to inquire about the many available committee seats.

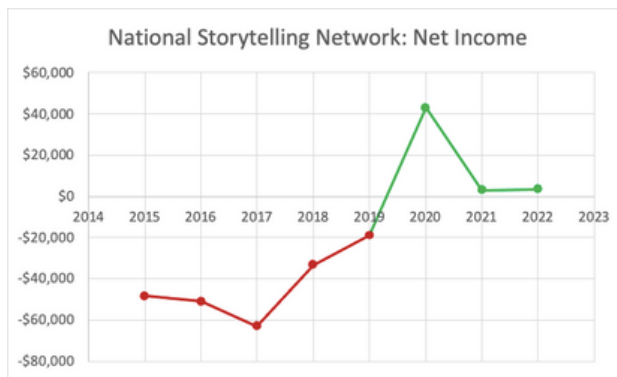
In the past few months, we have taken a survey of our finances and explored the measures available to us. The most important thing to note is that **NSN is NOT bankrupt**. The organization has a significant amount in savings – more than enough to progress in our sustainable return to programming and activities.

At the close of the fiscal year in 2022, NSN had a total of **\$174,153** in assets. **\$26,965** of that belongs to the Network's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and is restricted to their use. The organization has a further **\$46,513** in hard cash as well as **\$58,005** in long-term investments. The remaining **\$42,805** is reserved for the J.J. Renaux mentorship awards and other member grants that NSN awards to community storytellers.

While revenue and cash have fallen significantly over the past few years, especially because of the pandemic, NSN is now better off financially than it was before. This is largely due to the difficult financial transformation we have undergone to become profitable.

NSN has consistently run its operations on a deficit, burning through over two million dollars over the last ten years with high expenses and meager fundraising. As a result, the Network was losing money annually. In 2017, the board needed to make the difficult decision to begin a spending cutback – mainly on physical occupancy and personnel expenses – in order to remain financially solvent. While NSN saw an unusually high revenue income boost in 2020 due to a COVID shutdown of expensive operations, the Network did maintain its steadily improving trend in 2021 and 2022 as well. Last year, NSN made **\$109,614** and continued income growth by cutting personnel costs. This year, NSN has become almost fully volunteer-managed, further cutting a \$50,000 shortfall.

As a result, we are optimistic for the future. To encourage growth, the board has apportioned SIGs a larger share of annual membership revenue and removed NSN's service charge on SIG donations.



For the year ahead, the organization is looking forward to exciting new initiatives, from a fresh slate of SIG programming to our upcoming summer auction and next year's conference in Seattle. It has been a difficult transition, but NSN is finally beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Free membership in one NSN special interest group (SIG) of your choice is now available with your NSN membership dues. Renew your dues [here](#) today.

| NOTICE

NSN TO HOST SUMMER AUCTION FUNDRAISER



Kate Dudding & Marilyn McPhie
Auction Co-Chairs

NSN's vision is 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 money raised by this auction will help NSN fulfill its mission to advance all forms of storytelling within the community through promotion, advocacy, and education.

Perhaps you have some items which need a new home.

Last summer, 145 items were donated by 86 donors. There were 84 bidders and \$7,500 was raised. We are hoping, with your help, to do better this summer.

Here are types of items which have sold well in the past:

- Art: quilts, wall hangings, paintings
- Clothing
- Food
- Gift certificates
- Jewelry
- Storytelling accessories: puppets, musical instruments and other story enhancers
- Storytelling books, CDs, DVDs
- Storytelling conference and storytelling festival registrations
- Storytelling services (marketing, recording, coaching, photography, house concerts, etc.)

Minimum value for each donated item: \$35

Items must be new or nearly-new in excellent condition.

So please start thinking about what you'd like to donate this year. Full instructions on how to donate will be emailed on June 15th. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration forms linked in the title,
if available.

CALIFORNIA

[Revealed: True, Personal Storytelling](#)

The Glendale Room, Glendale, CA

Erica Blumfield

June 4, 2023 5:00 pm

[Pan-Asian Folktales with Roopa Mohan](#)

Belle Haven Branch Library, 413 Ivy
Drive, Menlo Park, CA

June 25, 2023 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

OKLAHOMA

[Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival](#)

Stroud United Methodist Church,
Stroud, OK

The Territory Tellers

June 2 – 3, 2023

THE CAROLINAS

[History Comes Alive Fest](#)

South Carolina and North Carolina
venues

Chautauqua

June 9, 2023 1:00 pm – 18, 2023
8:00 pm

VIRTUAL

[Traditions and Truth](#)

Illinois Storytelling, Inc.

June 3, 2023 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Central

[HSA Social Action Stories](#)

Healing Story Alliance

June 4, 2023 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Eastern

[King and Queens – The winds beneath our wings!](#)

Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia

June 11, 2023 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Eastern

[Under the Rainbow LGBTQIA+](#)

[Storytelling with Edmonds](#)

[Neighborhood Action Coalition](#)

Beatrice and Elaine Alder

June 12, 6-7:45 pm Pacific

[ASST Weekly Community Gathering](#)

Artists Standing Strong Together

Mondays, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Eastern

[Voices in the Glen Story Swap](#)

Voices in the Glen (DC)

June 10, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Eastern

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration forms linked in the title, if available.

MICHIGAN

Mother Goose

Kerrytown Market & Shops, 410 N. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI
Trudy Bulkley
June 4, 2023 2:00 pm

Yarnspinnners of Muskegon Meeting

Hope Reformed Church, 1878 Evanston Avenue, Muskegon, MI
Yarnspinnners of Muskegon
June 7, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Moth Story Slam

Marble Bar, 1501 Holden Street, Detroit, MI
The Moth
June 8, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Big Daddy

Marygrove Theater, 8425 W McNichols, Detroit, MI

Michigan Meetup

Every 3rd Wednesday, 8:00 pm

Moth Story Slam

The Blind Pig, 208 S. 1st Street, Ann Arbor, MI
The Moth
June 20, 6:30 pm / 8:00 pm begin

Lois Sprengnether Keel

Addison Township Library, 1400 Rochester Road, Leonard, MI
Lois Sprengnether Keel
June 22, 6:30 pm

"All Together Now!" Storytellers

Steve Daut, Jane Fink, and Genot Picor
Dexter District Library, Dexter, MI
June 23, 7:00 pm

Detroit Association of Black Storytellers Monthly Meeting

Detroit Association of Black Storytellers
June 24, 9:45 am

Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild Monthly Meeting

Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild
June 25, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

NSN WEBSITE CALENDAR

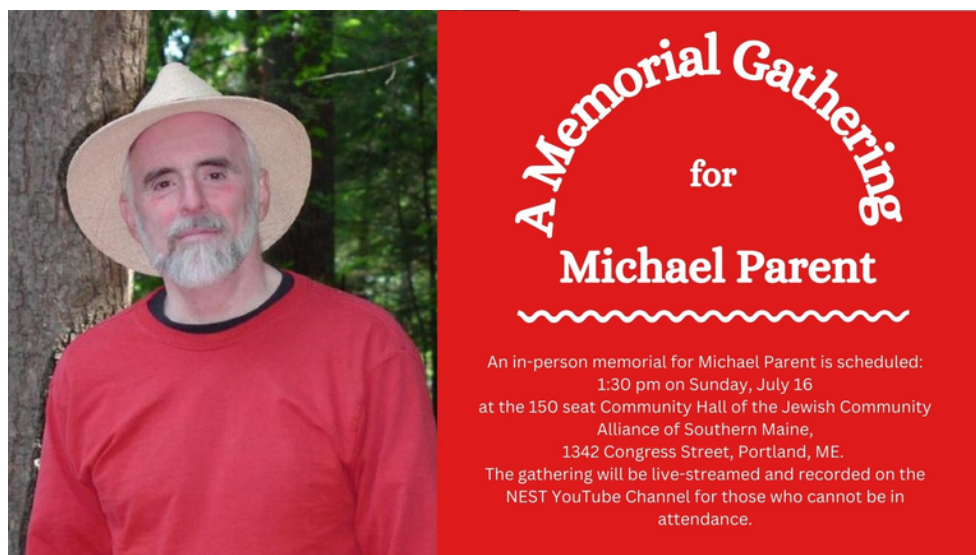
MAINE MEMORIAL GATHERING FOR CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE LAUREATE MICHAEL PARENT

The National Storytelling Network remembers Michael Parent, who passed away May 5th, 2023 at age 77. Michael was an internationally-renowned storyteller who was awarded the Circle of Excellence Oracle Award in 1999. The storytelling community is saddened by his loss.

Below is an excerpt from his obituary published in the Portland Press-Herald. *Internationally-known storyteller Michael Parent died on May 5, 2023 in Portland. He performed throughout North America, Europe, and New Zealand, and received the 1999 Circle of Excellence ORACLE Award – the storytelling Oscar. During two decades in Charlottesville, Va., he co-founded the Fall Festival of Tales and the Live Arts Theater.*

Michael asked to be remembered this way: “He did the best he could. He loved people and enjoyed being alive.”

Below are the details for his memorial gathering in Portland, Maine.



**A Memorial Gathering
for
Michael Parent**

An in-person memorial for Michael Parent is scheduled:
1:30 pm on Sunday, July 16
at the 150 seat Community Hall of the Jewish Community
Alliance of Southern Maine,
1342 Congress Street, Portland, ME.
The gathering will be live-streamed and recorded on the
NEST YouTube Channel for those who cannot be in
attendance.

HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS JUNE SOCIAL ACTION STORIES

Healing Story Alliance

Healing Story Alliance is delighted to present a virtual concert, Social Action Stories curated by Dr. Kevin Cordi. Listening to and telling social action stories renders people and their stories visible. This program, which grew out of the recently released book, Social Action Stories, (Ed. Cordi, Milks, and Van Tessell, 2023) captures the voices of five storytellers, activists, educational reformers, therapists, and regular folks who advocate for change through deep listening and deliberate action. These stories are intended to move your work as a storyteller towards an equitable world.

Tellers include:

Dr. Kevin D. Cordi - Asst. Professor of Education, Ohio University Lancaster

Dr. Val Brown - Founder, Clear The Air

Dr. Michael Williams - Sr. Trainer, Before I Go Solutions

Wendy Welch - Exec. Director, Graduate Medical Education Consortium of SW VA

Christy Marie Kent - Author, Moonshine, Madness, and Murder

REGISTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION STORIES



HSA
HEALING
STORY
ALLIANCE

Presents

SOCIAL ACTION STORIES

SUNDAY
JUNE 4, 2023
7-8:30PM EDT

Tickets: \$15-\$40

Based on the Book by
Dr. Kevin Cordi

Featuring:






Dr. Val Brown Dr. Michael Williams Wendy Welch Christy Marie Kent



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National Storytelling Network

Monthly Newsletter

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE NSN NEWSLETTER!

Send an email with your contribution to newsletter@storynet.org to go out to the NSN community. Stories for the next issue are due on the 25th of the month. If you have written an article, please send a headshot photo of yourself.

*content subject to editing, no guarantee of
inclusion in final issue