

NOV 01, 2023

National Storytelling Network

November Newsletter • Vol. 5, Issue No. 10

| FEATURE

TELLABRATION!: AN NSN SPONSORED ANNUAL FUNDRAISING NIGHT



Margaret Read MacDonald
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Since 1990 the National Storytelling Network (formerly National Storytelling Association) has sponsored a November fundraising night. Tellers donate their time and talents for an evening of telling. Initially a portion of the proceeds were to be sent to NSA, but over the years the event expanded internationally, and NSN encouraged the event to be a fund raiser for whatever local need was pressing. The Tellabration! logo and name are copyrighted by NSN and we do hope that NSN membership will be promoted at these events. And we are grateful to those Tellabration! who do choose to send a portion of the proceeds to your national organization, NSN.

A detailed packet with help for planning your Tellabration! is available free of charge on the NSN website. The event was usually held the third Saturday of November, but many groups hold it on other November dates.

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PAGE TO TURN BACK](#)

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| FEATURED

PAGE 1

Traditionally a proclamation is read at the opening of each Tellabration!, acknowledging the fact that storytelling is taking place on this night in many locations around the world. We are part of a world of story. You will find the proclamation text in the Tellabration! packet on the NSN website.

Be sure to send information about your Tellabration! to dot@storynet.org so it can be included in the NSN calendar and posted on the Tellabration! website. We hope you enjoy your Tellabration!. If you have not planned one this year, consider adding a Tellabration! to your programming for 2024.

| ARTICLE

TELLABRATION! ITS BEGINNING



Sara deBeer
Representative-at-large, Board of Directors

Sara deBeer remembers 35 years of Tellabration! concerts in Connecticut. Here she relates its history.

It was the spring of 1988. J.G. "Paw Paw" Pinkerton was brimming over with excitement as he presented his vision, which he had named "Tellabration", to the Connecticut Storytelling Board.

"Instead of 1,001 consecutive nights of storytelling, imagine 1,001 evenings of storytelling all happening the same night, the Friday before Thanksgiving." He went on to explain that these evenings would have a dual goal. The first was to introduce adults to the joy of listening to stories well told, educating audiences so they would realize that storytelling is not just for children. The second was that all the income generated by these events would be donated to storytelling organizations.

J.G. told us that he had pitched this idea to the national storytelling organization board but they were unsure about the idea so he proposed that we do a pilot program in Connecticut. JB had mapped out everything we needed to know to produce these events: tickets to sell in advance and program covers that all had the same recognizable logo with the word Tellabration! and a few shooting stars. Inside the covers would be information about the storytelling center.

We said yes enthusiastically and got to work. There were a number of sharing groups across CT. We reached out to each group and asked if they'd be willing to host a Tellabration. We wound up with six venues; 14 producers, 35 storytellers, and 102 production staffers made the events happen! More than 1,000 story listeners enjoyed performances that evening. Connecticut venues have produced Tellabration concerts every year since as fundraisers for the CT Storytelling Center.

The following year Texas and Missouri joined Connecticut in a dedicated evening of story-celebration: 19 communities entertained a total of 3,000 audience members. In 1990, participation and audiences continued to grow as J. G. collaborated with the National Storytelling Association (NSA) to make the evening a nationwide event.

After a few years, the evening was moved to the Saturday night before Thanksgiving in order to permit those who observed the Jewish Sabbath to fully participate. And from there, it became a weekend event, with individual producers choosing which evening worked best for their community.

From his experience as a former corporate executive and arts producer, J. G. provided the necessary vision, and timing. And NSA furnished its networking and administrative skills. Working together, they succeeded in firmly establishing TELLABRATION! as a coast-to-coast celebration.

Since then, TELLABRATION! sites have joined hands around the world. In 1999, 333 sites, 400 producers, and 6700 production staffers spun stories to a combined audience of over 34,000.

The National Storytelling Association (now National Storytelling Network) produced a manual created by JG and Peg Sullivan to guide those who would like to produce their own Tellabration! That manual (published in 2000) states:

TELLABRATION! has expanded to include a weekend of storytelling that builds appreciation and advocacy for the art form at storytelling centers, colleges and universities, schools, museums, libraries, performing arts centers, elder hostels, and even on trains and planes!

Also, the program has evolved at many sites from a showcase for storytelling to a community-support project. Funds from TELLABRATION! events now go to support schools, libraries, shelters for the homeless, Habitats for Humanity, Food Banks, and Crisis Centers.

Our experience in Connecticut was that gradually Tellabration! shifted from operating at a profit, to operating at a loss. Venues grew more expensive; the media was less interested in covering us; audiences were much smaller.

The Connecticut Storytelling Center responded by creating a different model, where venues like schools, libraries and senior centers pay in advance to have a storytelling program; the storytellers, as always, contribute their performances. Tellabration! concerts no longer all happen the same evening – the entire month of November has become the month of Tellabration! This year there are 30 Tellabration! concerts taking place in Connecticut.

Like a protagonist in a folktale, JG Pinkerton's vision of Tellabration! has been faced with various challenges and producers have developed strategies in order to keep Tellabration! happening. And we know Tellabration! will continue to adapt and flourish, across the country and around the world.

| NOTICE

NSN CONFERENCE JUL 11-14, 2024 PRESENTERS SET!



**Margaret Read MacDonald
& Delanna Reed**
Conference Co-Chairs

Our SIGs and Conference Committee waded through over 90 proposals and managed to find a spot for 56! Our voices include Antonio Rocha, Elizabeth Ellis, Angela Lloyd, Adam Booth, Eth-Noh-Tech, Gene Tagabon, Judith Black, Jackson Gillman, Milbre Burch, Heather Forrest, Jo Radner, and many more! Watch for our full conference lineup announced January 20. And registration opens that day too!

WANT FREE REGISTRATION FOR NSN 2024 CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE?

VOLUNTEER NOW!

We have free registrations for folks who step up for above-normal tasks. We need: A Book Room Manager; an Auction Manager; Parking Lot Attendants for early morning, and before evening concerts.

Lots of other volunteer needs coming, but these are the ones that earn free full conference registration. Contact mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com for more information.

| NEWS

ELLEN MUNDS TO RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING ARTS OF INDIANA

Storytelling Arts of Indiana

The retirement of Ellen Munds, one of three co-founders of Storytelling Arts marks a pivotal moment in the history of the organization. In 1987, Ellen Munds, Nancy Barton and Bob Sander co-founded Stories, Inc. The first event, the Hoosier Storytelling Festival, was a one-day festival on the grounds of Conner Prairie in August 1988. The name was changed in 2001 to Storytelling Arts of Indiana to better reflect who we are and what we do.

From 1987 to 1996, Munds served as the Program Director before assuming the role of executive director from Bob Sander who wanted to pursue his career as a professional storyteller. By then, Ellen had left her job as the Children's Librarian at the Carmel Clay Public Library and could devote full-time to Storytelling Arts of Indiana. Under her leadership, Storytelling Arts of Indiana developed year-round programming.

Nationally, Ellen has chaired or co-chaired the National Storytelling Conference in 1997, 2018 and 2019. She served as chair of the Producer's & Organizer's Special Interest Group and the Awards Committee for the National Storytelling Network. She also served on the Human Resources, the Community Programming, the Strategic Planning Committees and the guest editor of the National Storytelling Magazine, September/October issue 2004. Currently, she has served on NSN's Finance Committee since 2008.



The board of directors, has given significant thought to the succession and hiring process for the new executive director. The position is to be posted next month. The plan includes a transition period with the new and outgoing executive director as there are no staff to manage the day-to-day operations and programs while the new executive director learns the job.

Ellen can be contacted at ellen@storytellingarts.org for well wishes.

| PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR GREEN TELLABRATION!



Claire Nolan

SIG Representative for ECO, Board of Directors

NSN's ECO Special Interest Group invites you to the world premiere Green Tellabration! [Join us via Zoom](#) on Tuesday, November 14, at 8:00 pm ET. Listen to ECO-SIG members tell stories in honor of our Mother the Earth.


Our Host: Jackson Gillman

Our Tellers: Judith Black, Diane Edgecomb, Papa Joe Gaudet, Claire Nolan, Fran Stallings and Linda Yemoto.

A suggested \$15 donation will help fund more such storytelling events.

Open to ALL! Please spread the word to anyone who might be interested!

Green Tellabration!





Tuesday
November 14, 2023
8:00 pm ET







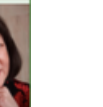
Via Zoom

Register:
<http://bit.ly/greentell23>

Learn more:
<https://bit.ly/ECO-SIG>



NSN's ECO Special Interest Group invites you to the **World Premiere Green Tellabration!**
 Come listen to ECO-SIG members tell stories in honor of our Mother Earth.
 A suggested \$15 donation will help fund additional ECO-SIG storytelling events.
 Open to ALL!
 Please spread the word to everyone who might be interested.

Jackson Gillman
Host

Judith Black

Diane Edgecomb

Papa Joe Gaudet

Claire Nolan

Fran Stallings

Linda Yemoto

UPCOMING EVENTS



presents

Bridging Racial Divides Through Storytelling

Crafting tales of equity, diversity and inclusion

November 12, 2023
1:00-5:00 pm EDT

Sliding Scale:
\$40-\$75



a workshop with Sue O'Halloran

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES
OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED

SUNDAY
NOV. 5, 2023
7-8:30PM EST

Emcee



LAURA SIMMS

Community Tellers



NATHAN PHILLIPS



LINDA MCKENZIE



JEN MUNRO



CHETTER GALLOWAY



ROOPA MOHAN



Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NSN WEBSITE CALENDAR

Tellabration - OH

Ohio History Connection Auditorium

Storytellers of Central Ohio

November 4, 2023 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM EDT

<https://www.socotales.org/events/tellabration-a-celebration-of-stories-1-2>

Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic

Virtual/Zoom

Storytelling.org (IL)

November 4, 2023 7:00 pm CDT

Contact Janice Del Negro at jdelnegro@dom.edu to register

Frank Basile Emerging Stories Premiere featuring Manón Voice

Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center

Storytelling Arts of Indiana

November 5, 2023 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

<https://storytellingarts.org/event/frank-basile-emerging-stories-premiere-featuring-manon-voice-bethel-ame-church/>

Kind Stories in Concert

Zoom

Healing Story Alliance

Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 7:00-8:30 pm Eastern Time

<https://simpletix.com/e/kind-stories-in-concert-november-5-2023-tickets-147989>

The Art and Craft of Deep Listening—a three-session online class

Zoom

Laura Packer

November 6, 13, and 20, 2023 7pm-8:30pm CT

laurapacker.com



Joint Tellabration!

Zoom

Inland Valley Storytellers (IVS) and the Asian American Storytellers in Action (AASIA)

November 11, 2023 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm PT

<https://inlandstorytellers.org/JointTellabration2023.html>

Bridging Racial Divides through Storytelling

Zoom

HSA

November 12, 2023 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

<https://www.simplivetix.com/e/bridging-racial-divides-through-storytelling-tickets-146689>

Tellabration! - California

Zoom

National Storytelling Network (NSN) and Storytelling Association of California (SAC)

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 2:00 PM – 3:45 PM PT

<http://www.storysaac.org/sacs-tellabrationtrade-events.html>

Anne & Norm present: The Good Liars Club

Zoom

Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke

Nov. 14, 2023. 5pm PT

<https://tinurl.com/GoodLiarsClubX>

Storytelling Yes You Can!

Zoom

Noa Baum

November 14, 21, 28 and December 5, 2023. 7:00 – 9:00 pm ET

<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/storytelling-yes-you-can-online-with=-noa-baum-68793>

RISK! Live in NYC & Online

Hybrid: Live at Caveat, 21 A Clinton Street, New York, NY 10002

Livestream on Stellar

November 16, 2023 9:30 pm – 11:00 pm ET

<http://risk-show.com>



Tellabration! - IN

Timbercrest Senior Living, North Manchester, IN

Mike Lockett

November 17, 2023 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm CT

Tellabration! 2023

Seattle Storyteller's Guild

Zoom

Nov. 17. 2023.. 7 PST

Norm Brecke and Anne Rutherford

<https://bit.ly/SSGNovTellabration>

Tellabration! 2023 - MN

AMSSStory, Minneapolis MN

Story Arts Minnesota

November 18, 2023 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm CT

<https://www.storyartsmn.org/news/2023/10/17/nov-18-tellabration>

Tellabration! 2023 - FL

Flora Wylie Park, St. Petersburg, FL

Suncoast Storytellers

November 18, 2023, 3-6:00 pm EST

<https://www.suncoaststorytellers.org/tellebration-tm/>

Tellabration!™ 2023 - NH

Horseshoe Pond Place Senior Center Community Room

Central New Hampshire Storytelling Guild

November 18, 2023 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET

Contact Ruth Niven at ruthniven@hotmail.com to register

Tellabration 2023 - CA

Claremont Folk Music Center

586 West First Street, Claremont, CA

Inland Storytellers

November 18, 7:00 PM PT

<https://inlandstorytellers.org/tellabration2023.html>



VOL. 5, ISSUE 10
NOV 2023

Jennifer Munro's version of "A Christmas Carol"

Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center

Storytelling Arts of Indiana

December 2, 2023 7pm - 9pm ET

<https://storytellingarts.org/event/jennifer-munros-version-of-a-christmas-carol/>



VOL. 5, ISSUE 10
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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, inclusion in final issue not guaranteed