On January 20, you will be able to book rooms at Dumas Bay Centre, sign up for the PowellsWood Garden tour, sign up for coaching sessions and more. If you opt to stay in the more luxurious (ie showers in your room) motels, we suggest you book those early too…and shop around for best prices. Our shuttle will stop at only two motels.

See the registration form for links to those. By the way, we moved the registration date back five days to give us more time to get everything in order. Sorry for any confusion. Over 73 tellers will be sharing their expertise with you at this conference. Don’t miss it!
Mark your calendar!
Our voices include Antonio Rocha, Elizabeth Ellis, Angela Lloyd, Adam Booth, Eth-Nah-Tech, Gene Tagaban, Judith Black, Jackson Gillman, Milbre Burch, Heather Forrest, Jo Radner, and many more!

REGISTRATION TO OPEN AND FULL LINEUP ANNOUNCED JAN 20, 2024

VOLUNTEER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

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FEATURE

PEACEFUL PONDERINGS
ISSUE OF THE STORY
BEAST RELEASED

The Winter “Peaceful Ponderings” issue is out!
See the cover art as a teaser. See this issue and past issues at http://storybeast.org/archive.

Submit your art, story, article, or other written or visual works to storybeasteditor@gmail.com to be featured!

The Story Beast 2024 Themes
- Spring - Stepping Stones - Due Feb. 15
- Summer - Chaotic Creations - Due May 15
- Fall - Flavored Fright - Due Aug. 15
- Winter - Whirling Winds - Due Nov. 15
RISK AND EXPOSURE: A VIRTUAL INSURANCE WORKSHOP FOR STORYTELLERS

Lisa Overholser
PRO SIG Chair

Please join PRO-SIG for Risk and Exposure: A virtual insurance workshop for storytellers. This hands-on workshop will cover some important considerations for storytellers and storytelling organizations when purchasing insurance for events.

Presenters include:
- Debbie Botts (Senior Risk Advisor, Gregory & Appel Insurance),
- Dalton Gregory (Treasurer, Tejas Storytelling Association),
- and a risk management specialist from Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts.

Participants will learn some basics about risk management and exposure from experts; hear practical experiences of organizations that have purchased insurance; discuss and share their own experiences and concerns; and will leave with a checklist of important things to look for when thinking about insurance for storytelling events.

The event takes place virtually on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at 5 pm (Central time). Cost is $10 (free for PRO members).

To register and receive the event link, please visit https://storynet.org/events/event/risk-and-exposure-a-virtual-insurance-workshop-for-storytellers/
ASST and NSN are delighted to announce that LAURA DEAL, of Boulder, Colorado, has been awarded the 2024 J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant. Please help us congratulate Laura!

A gifted writer and performer, Laura Deal brings vivid words and images, engaging presentation, spatters of humor, and much wisdom and kindness to her storytelling. Even though she has come to storytelling only in the past decade, her repertoire now spans a variety of genres, including personal stories, lies, literary tales, folk and fairy tales, historical character presentation, and her own creations.

Laura arrived at storytelling by a long and fruitful path. She began as a historian, a passionate reader, and a creative writer, then moved to study the deeper meanings of dream symbols and focused on the importance of the language of metaphor. As she advanced in dream work, she created a website (https://firstchurchofmetaphor.com/) to explore metaphor and symbol in a number of different art forms. When she finally witnessed professional storytellers – first, Liz Weir and Claire Murphy – she was captured immediately.
During the pandemic Laura was one of the first supporters of ASST (https://www.asst.art), and her gift with artful words led her to found a poetry gathering, PSST!, within that organization. Through the Chautauqua Training Institute offered by Humanities North Dakota, she researched and developed a powerful performance of the character of Jungian psychologist Marion Woodman. Since so much of her burgeoning career has necessarily involved performance online, she has become an effective teller on Zoom as well as in person. Laura will use the Emerging Artist Grant for further coaching by experienced tellers.

For more information about Laura, please see her website: https://lauradeal.com/.

The J. J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award (https://www.asst.art/jjreneaux) is presented to a storyteller of major and unique performing talent who has not yet received wide public recognition. J.J. Reneaux was a storyteller, children’s book author, singer and songwriter who grew up poor in the Delta bayous and rich in the lore of her Cajun people. She succeeded by virtue of a native talent fired by passion and uncompromising dedication to her heritage and storytelling. Never forgetting her own struggle, she dreamed of helping talented people succeed. J.J. died too soon in the winter of 2000, but she left her family instructions to create a fund that would support exceptionally gifted tellers in the early stages of their careers. J.J.'s family, ASST, and NSN are proud to make J.J.'s dream a reality and proud to support Laura Deal’s storytelling growth.

| GRANT |

SPEAK STORY SERIES COMMISSIONS
A STORY FOR 2024

Adam Booth
Founding Artistic Director, Speak Story Series

The commissioned storyteller will receive $2,000 to focus on the creation of the new story and will be hired to appear on the 2024 Speak Story Series lineup for
the date of November 12, 2024 at our 2024 artist rate plus lodging for two nights beginning November 11. These dates are inflexible; if you are not available to appear in person on those dates then please do not apply. The selected artist or team will give a 60-minute concert on Tuesday November 12 featuring the premiere of the commissioned story (plus additional stories if the new work runs fewer than 60 minutes), as well as an outreach program on Tuesday during the day. Note that our Tuesday night program will also be live-streamed.

All story proposals will be considered from any genre and style of storytelling. Proposals will be accepted from any storyteller or storytelling team eligible both to work and be paid in the United States. A social security number is required.

For full details and information on how to apply, please visit www.speakstoryseries.com/2024commission

PART-TIME OPERATIONS ASSISTANT POSITION OPEN AT SPEAK STORY SERIES

Speak Story Series seeks a contracted PT Operations Assistant for 2024. Based in Shepherdstown, WV, Speak is a premier destination for storytelling in concert that curates a ten-month season of public storytelling concerts with outreach events. A qualified candidate will work under the guidance of the Artistic Director, be self-motivated to accomplish given duties, possess strong organizational skills, and hold professional rapport with artists, Board, and donors. Duties of the Operations Assistant include social media management, scheduling outreach events with local schools and similar organizations, scheduling details of monthly artist visits, general administrative duties using email and spreadsheets, and light bookkeeping. The OA is expected to attend quarterly Board meetings and encouraged to attend monthly concerts.

The engagement of this part time Operations Assistant is as a contractor and is estimated at ten hours per week on a fluctuating basis, knowing that the work requirements are heavier and lighter at different times of the year. Annual compensation is $10,000. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and résumé to director@speakstoryseries.com. Position will remain open until filled with the intention of beginning in January 2024.
STORYTELLING ARTS OF INDIANA SEeks EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board of Directors of Storytelling Arts of Indiana

The Executive Director of Storytelling Arts of Indiana (SAI), Ellen Munds, will be retiring from her role on June 30, 2024, after leading the organization since it was established in 1987. You can read about her accomplishments and contributions to promoting the art of storytelling locally and nationally here.

With Ellen’s departure, the SAI Board of Directors now welcomes applications from individuals with related leadership experience and knowledge of nonprofit organizations. Preferred candidates will have practical experience with fundraising, volunteer development, and collaborations. A love of storytelling and a commitment to share that passion with others would be a plus. See the Executive Director’s job description here.

Contact for more information:
Ellen H. Munds
Executive Director
Storytelling Arts of Indiana
317-576-9848 (w)
317-828-7855 (c)

ANTONIO ROCHA AWARDED PERFORMING ARTS FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations

ANTONIO ROCHA
Performing Arts Fellow 2024
"This Fellowship was awarded by the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts"
REMEMBERING STORYTELLING
HUMANITARIAN DAVE TITUS

David Titus, professional author and storyteller, died on November 30, 2023 after a sudden diagnosis of cancer. Dave, also known as “The String Man,” reached countless people and gave much of himself in his 84 years.

It is difficult to fully convey his impact, but since Dave believed in the power of words, we will attempt to share some of his story...

Dave was born in 1939 in Bowling Green, Ohio to Edith (Belleville) Titus and Leslie “Les” Titus. Dave grew up in the small farming community with his two brothers Travis and Terrence, both now deceased, as well as cousins who were as close to Dave as siblings.

While attending Bowling Green State University to study library science, Dave met social work student Rebecca (Becky) Brittain. Dave and Becky married in 1962 and had three children: Shawn, Kevin, and Stacy. Dave’s first experience with service outside the country occurred when the family lived in Honduras for a year while Dave and Becky worked in an American school. For most of their marriage, however, they lived in South Bend, Indiana and in Rootstown, Ohio. After the marriage dissolved, Dave moved to Oklahoma and acclimated to the point that many folks assumed Dave had been an “Okie” since birth. Dave’s biological family includes his son Shawn (wife Susan) and their two children Jacob and Rachel; son Kevin (wife Jennifer) and their two children Grace and Jack; and daughter Stacy (husband Graig) and their two children Graig Jr. and Brannon. When Dave spoke of his children and grandchildren, he spoke with
love and pride for each one. Dave's largest family, however, is his community of faith, storytelling, and recovery. Dave had been involved in several churches throughout his lifetime, and much of his faith was expressed through feeding others. He regularly cooked for Redemption Church prison ministry, and he created a non-profit to feed those in need in Lawton. During the last few months of his life, he delivered food to blessing boxes in between medical appointments. Dave's first career was as librarian, but the seeds of his second career had been planted early in his adulthood. He always had a gift for storytelling, whether it was during story time at the library or at a gathering with friends and family. Dave dabbled part-time in professional storytelling in the 80s and was one of the founders of the Oklahoma Territory Tellers and an active member of the Texas Storytelling Association. When there was downsizing in the school system in which he worked, Dave took a leap of faith and decided to leave library work and conduct storytelling full-time. This was a risk that led to the next chapter in Dave's life and some of his greatest adventures. Dave traveled around the world telling and collecting stories. In his early travels, Dave recognized the cross-cultural impact of string figures, and he began incorporating string into his work. Dave frequently visited refugee camps and donated strings, knowing that the ability to carry belongings was limited. He visited Tibetan refugees in Nepal, Pakistani refugees in Cairo, Liberian refugees in Ghana, nomadic tribes in Mongolia, and leprosy hospitals where string figures were incorporated into physical therapy to improve circulation. Dave created String Ministries, Inc. and published his first video in 1997 titled “String Magic From Around the World” and later published a series of Christian videos including “String Fun with the Parables.” He also published soft cover books, including “Native American String Figures,” “African String Figures,” and “Native Alaskan String Figures” – all with a focus on respecting the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples. Dave has entertained and educated audiences across six continents from the frozen Arctic to the Sahara. With a piece of string and a thread of a story, he was known to capture his audiences - young and old. Dave was never without a string, usually one on each wrist. Within the recovery community, Dave was considered internationally famous. He worked hard to reduce stigma against addiction around the world, and through his efforts, recovery chapters were created for the first time in some countries.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday January 5, 2024 at the First United Methodist Church in Lawton, Oklahoma at 2602 NW Ferris Avenue.
WOMEN’S VOICES: HEALING STORIES CONCERT

Healing Story Alliance

The Healing Story Alliance (HSA) presents a concert of healing stories told by women members of the HSA Advisory Committee—January 7, 2024 from 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm. Enjoy a varied evening of personal narratives and folktales that will delight you at one moment and inspire you the next. Please join us for this exciting fundraising event and help support our programming.

For Tickets: https://www.simpletix.com/e/womans-voices-healing-stories-in-concert-tickets-151502

EMCEE

Laura Simms is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed storyteller, writer, and humanitarian advocating engaged storytelling as compassionate action for personal and community transformation. She brings over six decades of experience performing and teaching worldwide. She performs mythic stories woven with personal narrative and has worked in the capacity of story advisor, mindfulness instructor, and mediator. She offers in-depth coaching classes and powerful performances of stories that address the most pressing issues of our times with dignity, and joy. She is artistic director of the H C Andersen Storytelling Center and is the author of six books.

STORYTELLERS

Lani Peterson, known for telling and encouraging personal stories, has a specialty in story exploration as a healing art and change agent. Her background includes over 25 years as a professional storyteller and story coach combined with a doctorate in psychology from William James College, a master's in counseling psychology from Lesley University and an undergraduate degree in literature from Smith College. She has taught Effective Organizational Communications Skills for Non-Profit Leaders in the master's program at
Wheelock College as well as Healing through our Stories in the Expressive Therapies master's track at Lesley University. From CEO's to scientists, doctors, mental health providers, ministers and the homeless, Lani has worked with individuals, groups and organizations to help people find their stories, share their stories, and come together with a deeper level of connection and understanding. Her ongoing mission is to bring to light and share the stories that will open doors within and between storytellers and listeners alike.

**Sara deBeer**'s great love is telling traditional folktales from world cultures. Since 1978, Sara has been telling these stories to audiences of all ages. A listener said, “Sara is a captivating storyteller, sensitive to her audience and their interests. Her extensive repertoire enables her to present programs on a wide variety of themes.” Listeners discover the richness of each individual culture while also appreciating the universality of human experiences. An experienced classroom teacher with degrees from Yale and Bank Street, Sara offers workshops for tellers at every level of experience. She is a published poet who also teaches poetry-writing classes. In 2004, Sara was awarded the Barbara Reed Award for Distinguished and Outstanding Service to the Connecticut Storytelling Community. [http://storydebeer.com](http://storydebeer.com/)

**Elisa Pearmain** has been a professional storyteller for over 35 years. She began by telling healing personal and biographical stories, and leading workshops in helping others to do the same. She was a Storyteller in Residence in the Boston schools for over 10 years and brings a variety of healing story programs to public schools. She received her M.Ed with a concentration in storytelling and taught Storytelling in the Curriculum for Lesley Master's program. She has an M.A. in Counseling and works part time as a licensed psychotherapist with a focus on Forgiveness, Internal Family Systems and Mindfulness Based therapeutic practice with adults and teens. Elisa is the award-winning author of two collections of wise world tales including Doorways to the Soul: 52 Wisdom Tales from around the World, and a CD on Forgiveness through Story. New book coming soon: Forgiveness: Healing Resentments through Story and the ReStorying Process.

**Heather Forest**, Ph.D., is an award-winning storyteller, author, and musician. A pioneer in the American storytelling renaissance, she has appeared in theatres, schools, literature conferences, and major storytelling festivals throughout the
United States and abroad since 1975. A modern-day bard, her dynamic fusion of original music, poetry, and the sung and spoken word brings multicultural folktales to life in the imagination of her listeners. She is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award presented by the National Storytelling Network for her performance skills and the 2021 Talking Leaves Award for her contributions to storytelling literature. An author of seven folktale recordings and ten folktale books, her published work has earned an American Library Association Notable Record Award, two Parent's Choice Gold Awards, and three Storytelling World Honor Awards. Her musical monologue EARTHSONG won Best Composer in the 2021 United Solo Festival off Broadway. She views storytelling as both a fine art and a powerful tool for positive social change.

Noa Baum is described by The Washington Post as someone who "Spreads cultural truths that eclipse geopolitical boundaries...". An internationally acclaimed storyteller, author, and coach, she offers a unique combination of performance art and practical workshops that focus on the power of narrative to heal across the divides of identity and promote compassion and peace. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Noa trained in theatre at Tel-Aviv University, studied acting with Uta Hagen and received an MA in Educational Theater from NYU. Since 1982, she’s been presenting internationally. She is the author of two books: A Land Twice Promised – an Israeli Woman’s Quest for Peace - winner of the Anne Izard Storytellers’ Choice Award, the LDS Publishing Professionals Association Award, and a Storytelling World Award - and picture book How the Birds Became Friends, on the power of kindness to bring peace. Her audio recordings won Parents’ Choice and Storytelling World awards.

Karianna Rosenberg, through her life journey, has gained a deep understanding of the power of stories and nature for healing, planting seeds of awareness, and growing connection. Rooted deep in the earth, her work invites us to connect more harmoniously with each other, ourselves, all of nature, and with our own spirituality. Karianna offers programs for adults through Earth Song Transformations, igniting healing, curiosity, and joy. In addition to performing stories since the 1990s’, Karianna has also been part of the global deep nature connection movement. She co-founded Two Coyotes Wilderness School in 2008 where she mentors both children and adults. She is also a nature mentor and facilitator of nature connection programs and forums for adults both regionally and online internationally. Karianna is a dancer, healer, and basket weaver. She
holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching English and Spanish as Second Languages.

earthsongtransformations@gmail.com

**Penny Post** has been telling stories and producing storytelling events since 1985. To address her initial fear of audiences, she joined Toastmasters. For 30 years she told stories and presented workshops in the corporate world throughout southern California, as well as coaching clients in speaking and writing. After moving east in 2007 she joined the LANES (now NEST) board for three years, and in 2014 received an MFA in creative writing, non-fiction, from Lesley University. She is a member of the HSA Advisory and Programming Committees and continues to perform and teach storytelling in ESL and other venues on Zoom.

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**Women’s Voices:**

Healing Stories Concert

A Fundraiser for HSA

January 7, 2024

7:00pm-8:30pm EST

Tickets: $15-$40

EMCEE

Laura Simms

Penny Post  Karianna Rosenberg  Elisa Pearmain  Heather Forest  Noa Baum  Lani Peterson  Sara deBeer
YES STORY LAB—STUDENT TELLING

Student Telling—An all Points View—with Mary Ann Blue

We’ve asked a mentor, a teacher, a parent, three youth tellers, and a librarian to share their experience regarding young people telling stories.

Mary Ann Blue of Tejas Youth Tellers will be joined by her telling partners.

January 18th, Thursday
5 pm Pacific
7 pm Central
8 pm Eastern

www.facebook.com/yesallies
STORYTELLING RETREAT KAUA’I ‘24
A STORYTELLING GATHERING AT THE KOKE’E COMMUNITY ARTS CAMP ON THE TOP OF KAUAI

Storybook Theater of Hawai’i

VISION:
Twenty-two Story People from across the World gather in a mountaintop retreat for a week of communion, good food, sharing, learning & talking story.

STORY SESSIONS: Workshops, discussions, & presentations by & for attendees.
KOKE’E STATE PARK: a spectacular high elevation Hawaiian forest (3200 feet)
KAUAI ISLAND: 2 travel days to cultural sites, history & tales, & ocean bathing
PUBLIC SHOWS @ Koke’e Lodge, St. Michael’s Church (Lihue), Ka Aina Hou (Kilauea)
LOCAL TALES by Kauai’s best storytellers & nature folks + nightly fireside swaps

RETREAT SCHEDULE
Thurs 3/21 - Arrival & orientation, Opening Sunset Welcome & Kava Ceremony
Friday 3/22 - Workshops #1, Koke’e Meadow, Kalalau Valley cliff, fireplace swap.
Saturday 3/23 - Workshop #2, local storyteller, Workshop #3, Koke’e Lodge Show
Sunday 3/24 - South Shore: Soto Temple, Lawai Shrines, St. Michael’s Church Show
Monday 3/25 - Workshop #4, local storyteller, Koke’e hikes. Fireside Swaps & Kava
Tues 3/26 - North Shore: Ha’ena Tales & Sites, Ainahou Family Show (Kilauea)
Wednes 3/27 - ‘What’s Next’ Group Sessions, hikes, Closing Aloha Kava Session
Thursday 3/28 - Aloha & go (we provide all ground transportation on Kauai)
“DREAMS OF WAKING:” 50 MIND-BENDING COLLAGES BY JEFF GERE

Humans spend 1/3 of life sleeping. What’s going on inside? What’s it look like? JEFF GERE (well known as a storyteller) has been making collage art privately for decades. He will show 50 collage images, ‘DREAMS of WAKING’, at DAC’s Small Gallery in January.

“They’re creativity puzzles, dialogues with the subconscious, aesthetic gymnastics. Just the right random combination of elements, arranged in just the right way, & POI! I stumble into aesthetic perfection with a Depth of Meaning. I’m always looking for their story.”

The images have emerged over several years. Most have never been shown publicly. Apparently, Jeff’s subconscious is very interested in showing what it’s like to fall into dream. Come (waking) to see what dream-time landscapes look like… here’s a video. See photographic realism bent into surreal visual logic!

Dreams of Waking (13 min.)
https://youtu.be/_akum3Kid5c
UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Voices: Healing Stories Concert
Healing Story Alliance - Fundraiser
Online Zoom
January 7, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CT
Registration Link: https://www.simpletix.com/e/womans-voices-healing-stories-concert-tickets-151502

OARS in the Water: Journeys
Healing Story Alliance
Online Zoom
January 10, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CT
Here is the NEW Zoom link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84757183292
pwd=WENjdm53c3hRb0owQmZuK045M0FKQT09

“All Kinds of Love” featuring Carol Moore and M.J. Kang
Storytelling Arts of Indiana
Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center
Hybrid: In person or livestream
January 13, 2024 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm CT
Storytelling Arts of Indiana
Tickets:

YES Story Lab: Student Telling- An All Points View with Mary Ann Blue
NSN Special Interest Group
January 18, 2024 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm CT
Online Zoom
Register: https://storynet.org/civicrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=165
UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida Storytelling Festival
January 25, 2024 4:00 pm – Jan 28, 2024 12:00 pm ET
IN PERSON
Lakeside Inn
100 N Alexander St
Mount Dora, FL 32757
https://flstory.com/festival/

Kind Stories in Concert
Healing Story Alliance
Online Zoom
February 4, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CT
Register:
https://www.simpletix.com/e/kind-stories-in-concert-february-4-2024-tickets-152669

Versions of Childhood
featuring Bob Sander and Nestor Gomez
Storytelling Arts of Indiana
February 10, 2024 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm CT
In person
Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center
450 W. Ohio St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
JAN 01, 2024
National Storytelling Network
Monthly Newsletter

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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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