

FEB 01, 2023

# National Storytelling Network

February Newsletter • Vol. 6, Issue No. 2

## | FEATURE

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN— OVER 70 REGISTERED ON THE FIRST DAY!



Margaret Read MacDonald  
NSN Conference Co-Chair

The Seattle Storyteller's Guild welcomes you to our first in-person NSN conference since COVID. Come join us! Click [here](#) and register early to get first choice for housing and for PowellsWood tours and You can see our schedule and notes about our programs at the NSN website.

A couple of notes about housing issues we might help you resolve:

If you need help finding a roommate, contact me at

[mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com](mailto:mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com). We are keeping a list to help match folks up. Once the Dumas Bay rooms fill up, we can help you find a roommate to keep your hotel costs down too. If you would like to stay over Sunday night at Dumas Bay Centre dormitory, also [send me an email](#). If we have 12 or more interested in staying over Sunday night, they will keep the Centre open for us.

We look forward to seeing you in Seattle July 11-14, 2024!



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## COACHING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CONFERENCE

Milbre Burch, Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Donoval, and Antonio Rocha will be offering coaching sessions at the conference. Each session will coach only four tellers.

If you would like to prepare an 8 minute story for coaching, email

[mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com](mailto:mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com)

First come, first served.

For descriptions of the coaching sessions see [the Conference Program](#) on the NSN website.

## | FEATURED EVENT

Click [here](#) to register for SIO SIG's February event.

## STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTS



Lisa Williams, Ph.D.  
SIO Chair

# The Confluence of Storytelling and Publishing with Ted Parkhurst

Thursday, February 22, 2024

4-5:15pm EST

Online via Zoom

Free for SIO Members | \$10 for Non-Members



**Ted Parkhurst**

[www.parkhurstbrothers.com](http://www.parkhurstbrothers.com)

has published over 400 storytelling titles of renown authors, such as, Davis, Ed Stivender, Jackie Torrence, Elizabeth Elias, Syd Lieberman, Pete Griffin, Sherry Norfolk, and a host of other storytellers. His current booklist includes Donald Davis's fourteenth title and a large anthology for the Texas Storytelling Festival.

### Participants will learn:

- to identify lucrative ideas for promoting your career while serving informational needs of organizations,
- How to sell your services to businesses, educational institutions, and public service clients,
- self-confidence when proposing publications to organizational partners
- differences and comparative features of publishing through a media company vs. self-publishing

Register: <https://storynet.org/events/event/the-confluence-of-storytelling-and-publishing/>

| ANNOUNCEMENT

Click [here](#) to learn more and submit an ORACLE nomination. Awardees will be honored at the 2024 Seattle conference. The ceremony and concert will be live-streamed for free from the conference for NSN members both in-person and virtual to enjoy.



The graphic is a collection of award categories for the NSN ORACLE AWARDS. At the top is a large dark brown rectangle with a colorful logo of four stylized figures holding hands in a circle, and the text "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT" in yellow. Below this are several smaller colored boxes: a teal box for "talking leaves" with a leaf illustration, a yellow box for "Circle of Excellence" with a circular wreath, a purple box for "International StoryBridge" with a bridge illustration, a brown box for "Distinguished National Service" with a laurel wreath, a blue box for "Regional Excellence" with an illustration of two people, and a red box for "Regional Service & Leadership" with a trophy illustration. In the center, the text "NSN ORACLE AWARDS" is displayed in black, with "NOMINATE BY MARCH 11" below it. At the bottom, the URL "https://storynet.org/awards/" is provided.

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

talking leaves

Circle of Excellence

International StoryBridge

**NSN ORACLE AWARDS**

NOMINATE BY MARCH 11

<https://storynet.org/awards/>

Distinguished National Service

Regional Excellence

Regional Service & Leadership

| NOTICE

## CALL FOR STORYTELLERS



Claire Nolan  
NSN Board Member - ECO SIG Representative

ECO SIG will showcase 4 storytellers in a concert of shareable environmental stories that will help colleagues prepare for Earth Day (April 22).

The story you choose should be in the public domain or a story that you own and are willing for others to retell. We will invite the listeners to then go on and share the stories with their audiences.

We ask that you provide a synopsis of the story and any related resources. The concert will be recorded, and we will share the recording with the audience. The event will take place on Zoom on March 30, 2024 at 8:00 pm EST.

Each storyteller will receive an honorarium of \$100.00.

Open to all storytellers, not just ECO SIG Members.

Auditions will be scheduled during February.

If you are interested or need more information, please contact Claire Nolan at [cbnolou@gmail.com](mailto:cbnolou@gmail.com)

Thanks!  
Claire, Fran, and Linda



## NSN DONORS 2023

### Diamond Level \$500+

- Judith Alexander
- Kate Dudding
- Elizabeth Ellis
- Trudy Hanson
- Carol Kerman
- Marilyn McPhie
- Jo Radner

### Gold Level \$100-\$499

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- Jane Chesham
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- Gail Herman
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- Judy Sima
- Elizabeth Snell
- Story Arts of MN
- Storytelling Association of California
- Donna Will
- Linda Yemoto

And to those that gave anonymously  
through Amazon Smile, Facebook,  
and PayPal Giving Fund



### Silver Level \$10-\$99

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- Frank and Dee Wind
- Betsy Williams
- Jonatha Wright
- Vera Ya'Anna | Oye Palaver Hut
- Paula Younger

## Giving Our Thanks To You

We've all heard the old saying that "a chain is as strong as its weakest link."

In the case of NSN donors, the chain of giving makes our organization very strong!

Thanks to all who have donated to the National Storytelling Network. Your generous contributions make our mission to bring the art of storytelling to people everywhere possible.

Dr. Trudy Hanson  
Chair, NSN Board of Directors

### ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST TODAY

Donations can also be earmarked for your SIG of choice, in memoriam, or to support grants like the J.J. Renaux Emerging Artist Award.

Click [here](#) to learn more and join the chain of giving that makes NSN possible.



| ARTICLE

## DEBRA OLSON-TOLAR AND GARY KUNTZ COMPLETE BOARD TERMS



Trudy Hanson  
NSN President & Chair

On behalf of the National Storytelling Network Board, I want to thank at-large NSN Board members Debra Olson-Tolar and Gary Kuntz for their long-time service to storytelling and especially to the National Storytelling Network. Both of these dedicated members completed their terms of service at the end of December, 2023.



**Debra Olson-Tolar** was born in Chicago and raised in Colorado. She earned a Ph.D. in Speech Communication at the University of Denver before moving to California. After many years of teaching storytelling, public speaking, screenwriting, and other communication courses, Debra quit her "day job" to follow her bliss and become a full-time actor and storyteller.

Debra starred in the award-winning indie feature *Half Way*, and has appeared in a number of short films, including leads in *Cause for Divorce* and *One in Eight*. Her television appearances include the Lifetime movie *Adopting Terror* and the Comedy Central shows *Key and Peele* and *Tosh.0*. Stage performances include Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Bridgette in *Mourning Song*, and her solo show, *Raising My Voice*. Her numerous performances as a storyteller have included venues such as The Getty and The Los Angeles Storytelling Festival. Debra most recently served as an at-large member of the NSN Board after the restructuring of the board to reflect a SIG-Centric leadership model. She served as a member of the Membership Committee and the ad hoc committee to select scholarship winners for the first Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship.



**Gary Kuntz** is a member of River and Prairie Storyweavers, based out of Kansas City, MO, and can be regularly heard at RAPS meetings and storyslams. He is the 2013 Kansas Storytelling Festival Tall Tales Champion. He has previously performed for the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival's Green Show (30 minutes with audience participation) for shows such as Julius Caesar and Romeo & Juliet. Gary's NSN Board service included serving as secretary of the board. He also provided assistance to NSN when NSN equipment and materials had to be moved out of the office location at the Woodneath Library Center in Kansas City and into a storage unit and continues to assist with handling these items.

Thank you, Debra and Gary, for sharing your expertise, love of storytelling, and commitment to the success of the National Storytelling Network!

**Dr. Trudy Hanson**

Chair, NSN Board of Directors

## | EVENT

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

# KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

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

**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 4TH  
7-8:30PM EST**

**Emcee**



MEGAN WELLS

**Community Tellers**



ANDY OFFUTT IRWIN



CONNIE REGAN-BLAKE



GAURI RAJE




**Free: Registration Required  
Donations Welcome!**

## | ARTICLES

39th Annual  
**TEXAS**  
**StoryTelling**  
**FESTIVAL**

**March 7-10, 2024**

**Denton Civic Center • Denton, Texas**

**[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)**

**Donald  
Davis**



**Nestor  
Gomez**



**Kathy  
Culmer**



**Fran  
Stallings**



**Personal  
Stories**

**Sacred Tales**

**Story Slam**

**Kids Activities**

**Folktales**

**Poetry Slam**

**Music**

**Ghost Stories**

**Liars Contest**

**Story Swaps**

**Workshops**



**Tejas Storytelling Association • [tse@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tse@tejasstorytelling.com) • 940-380-9320**

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

CLICK [TITLES](#) TO REGISTER

### Whoops: Stories about mistakes:

February 3, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:45 pm ET

In-Person at Clare and Don's Beach Shack, 130 N. Washington St, Falls Church, VA, at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

### Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic Featuring ASE's Youth Storytellers

February 3, 2024 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm CST

Online Zoom

Email Janice at: [jdelnegro@dom.edu](mailto:jdelnegro@dom.edu) for the Zoom link and/or if you are interested in telling a story (7-10 minutes)

### Kind Stories in Concert

Healing Story Alliance

Online Zoom

February 4, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CT

### Our Roots, Our Journey: An interrelated sequence of stories!

February 4, 2024 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EET

Venue: Southwest Arts Center

915 New Hope Road

South Fulton, Georgia 30331

### 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



**OARS in the Water: Celebrating love**

Healing Story Alliance

Online Zoom

February 14, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CT

**Narativ's Leadership Storytelling Virtual Workshop Series**

4-Part, 60 Minute Online Workshop Series

February 15, 22, 29 and March 7

9am PT / 12pm ET / 5pm UK / 6pm CET

Online Zoom

Email to inquire registration.

**Let's Talk About Love with Eva Abrams**

Seattle Storyteller's Guild

February 16, 7 pm PST

Zoom

**The Confluence of Storytelling and Publishing**

February 22, 2024 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm. CST

NSN SIO SIG

This presentation will discuss the publishing opportunities you may encounter working with organizations, as well as the nuts and bolts of publishing your stories, either through a publishing house or as a self-publisher.

Online



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## National Storytelling Network

### Monthly Newsletter

#### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Sara Armstrong	Events Editor
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#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE NSN NEWSLETTER!

Send an email with your contribution to [newsletter@storynet.org](mailto: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