

APR 01, 2024

National Storytelling Network

April Newsletter • Vol. 6, Issue No. 4

| ANNOUNCEMENT

NSN ECLIPSE GLASSES AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL PURCHASE!



Lisa Overholser
NSN Finance Chair

Want to view the eclipse safely and support NSN at the same time? **You can now purchase individual pairs for your own use (NO MINIMUM AMOUNT NECESSARY)** OR also buy in bulk for yourself or your organization!

- Prices are **\$2/pair for individual purchase** with a one-time \$2.50 shipping charge (if shipped), or \$2/pair with a minimum of 50 pairs for FREE shipping!
- Our NSN-branded solar eclipse glasses meet the ISO 12312-2 certifications for safe eclipse viewing, and are manufactured in Tennessee by American Paper Optics, an approved vendor of the American Astronomical Society.

to order, contact Lisa Overholser, linlis334343@hotmail.com, 812-360-9271, or visit www.storynet.org.

**National Storytelling Network
Solar Eclipse Glasses FOR SALE!**

View the April 8 eclipse safely with these
ISO 12312-2 certified eclipse glasses

Individual purchases:
\$2/pair, no minimum, \$2.50 shipping
(if shipped)

NSN NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK

Organizational/bulk purchases:
\$2/pair, min. 50 pair, FREE shipping

To order, call: 812-360-9271 or visit storynet.org

CLICK THE RED HALF OF THE PAGE TO TURN BACK

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| FEATURED

PAGE 1

| FEATURE

STORYNET.ORG — HOW DOES IT WORK?



Dot Cleveland
NSN Bookkeeper

Storynet.org is divided into three sections:

1. Public Area
2. Member Area
3. SHOP

Public Area

- The homepage is a place to log in to the Member Area. Some things to note:
- Buttons to log in, renew your membership, search the Teller Directory, learn about the Special Interest Groups, see the list of member Organizations, see the NSN Collaborative Network.
- The header menu (at the top of the screen) allows the public to learn about NSN and its workings.
- There are also buttons for the SHOP and to Donate.
- The footer menu (at the bottom of the screen) has the contact information.
- What is missing from this page is the ability to do a Guest login. This feature produced hundreds of scam logins, which had to be removed.

Member Area

- The Member Area has many of the items we all seek. Once logged in, members can view their profile, see their membership history, find other storytellers in the member directory, and view the member benefits.
- Other key items to be found in the Member Area are:
- The ABC-CLIO Greenwood folklore database
- Storytelling Magazine Archives (still under construction)
- ORACLE Awards and Member Awards (JJ Reneaux has moved to ASST)
- Whatever page you are on, you may access the homepage by clicking on the NSN Logo in the upper left corner.

SHOP

- The SHOP is the NSN Store. Many of the items are no longer available due to copyright restrictions. However, these items have not been deleted, only hidden until such time the copyright may be renewed.
- NSN is in the process of updating the way to add new items. As the SIG's produce events and the recordings from the 2024 Conference become available – NSN should have a good-working SHOP by July 2024.

Member LOGINS

- Only individuals can have membership logins. If you have forgotten your membership login, email dot@storynet.org or call Dot at 651-703-8191 for assistance.
- If you want to create a membership for an organization or renew an organization, please use the organization membership page. If any problems, contact dot@storynet.org.
- NSN recently updated the membership form for individuals and organizations. The website had 19 different membership forms with various pricing options. There is only one form for each individual and organization. If you experience a problem, contact dot@storynet.org. NSN is still working out the bugs from previous options.

Events

- The event Calendar is alive and well. Events are posted within 24 hours/mostly the same day.
- SIG events are on the Calendar and under the EVENTS dropdown menu of NSN Events.
- You must be a NSN member to post events. However, non-members may send event information to dot@storynet.org and she will post to the Calendar. (this is to prevent spammers from accessing the database)

Resources

- This area requires updating and is scheduled for a much-needed overhaul in 2025.

Thank you for your patience as staff and TADPOLE work to untangle a multi-faceted website. It is a constant effort to simplify the integration of CIVI-CRM and WordPress to create a user-friendly interface.

**NSN 2024 CONFERENCE
SLIDING CLOSER!**

Still plenty of rooms available at the two conference hotels...Comfort Inn and La Quinta. See [the NSN website](#) for details and conference rate codes.

Just 60 days left of early bird registration—a \$60 off (~25%) deal for NSN members.



SWAP LEADER OPPORTUNITY If you would like to lead a late night swap at the conference, email mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com.

You can choose your theme, or just do a general swap.

ADVERTISE IN CONFERENCE PROGRAM Keep your business, organization, event, and other announcements at conference goers' fingertips when you purchase a color or black and white ad in the Dumas Bay Conference program book. Give your name prominence in the printed program and digitally on the NSN website. Space is limited, so reserve your space now—contact Dot Cleveland, dot@storynet.org, by May 29! (pricing below)

Pages will be 8.5 in x 11 in, and ads in .png or .jpg format.

PAGE	COLOR	B&W
Full Page Outside Back Cover (Premium)	\$600	NA
Full Page Front or Back Inside Cover (Premium)	\$550	NA
Full Page Interior	\$500	\$425
Half Page Interior	\$300	\$250
Quarter Page Interior	\$175	\$150
Eighth Page Interior	\$90	\$75

| ARTICLE

MAGICIAN COMING TO THE CONFERENCE TO SHARE PUZZLING EFFECTS FOR TELLERS



Ralph Huntzinger
2024 Conference Workshop Presenter

PART I: Secrets of The Empty Safe

Craig Colombo and I were savoring Tom Kha Gai with Margaret Read MacDonald when I suggested a win-win approach for the conference workshop: the newsletter gets three articles, and we summarize and demonstrate those during our 90-minute workshop. Attendees experience a hands-on journey of imprinting a manual skill coupled with techniques and those unable to attend still get inspiration. Instead of lecturing we use leisure reading.

We do not want to turn storytellers into magicians; I'd rather turn magicians into better storytellers since magicians sorely need knowledge of your craft. If you occasionally enhance your shaping of imaginations by involving "the senses" into the weave, we'll be satisfied. Let me warn you, walking behind the curtain reveals a different world and changes the way you look at magic performances. A deeper understanding of imagination and the craft of magic results and a different wonder is revealed.

Envisioning our crafts' shared roots sitting around the fire transferring wisdom is one obvious beginning, however telling stories and performing impossible feats has changed over the thousands of years from hunter-gatherers to virtual communities. We share tools taken from a vast toolbox, a toolbox used by variety artists, speakers, theatrical professionals, sales folk, politicians, and anyone who wants to get their dreams into another's mind. Exploring the toolbox and learning about different tools opens up an ability to perfect and change your art in your unique way.

Secrets, oh the lure of magic's secrets. The secrets of how it is done ("method" in magic jargon) is not guarded in a locked safe [i] or sealed with some ancient oath. You can buy simplified answers, but you get only what you paid for; borrow surface or obscure treatments from libraries; find mutilated internet imitations; or enjoy cajoling a magician. However, after scratching the surface itch you'll soon again be convinced you've finally witnessed the impossible. The magician's task is to "make the possible seem impossible" [ii]. The real secrets are not the answers to how a trick is done. Knowing the method will often start you wondering why you were "tricked" with something so simple on the surface, a good magic presentation is an iceberg of techniques. Shared with Storytelling, a good magic effect presented well will lead the audience to explore what the experience has done to their view of reality, and in the process not caring how it is done.

Among the top secrets of performance magic are the four Ps and an S. Perceptions (given by the senses), Psychology (understanding brain sciences), Presentation (story & theatrical techniques), Personality (who you are and what you share), and Sociology/Anthropology (assumptions about cultural behaviors). Method is essential, however knowing that "the audience perceives you cut the yarn/rope differently than you really do" is fogged away because what is considered natural and normal for handling ropes is accepted and ignored (Perceptions and Psychology) coupled with P, P, & S flavorings to make it digestible. All storytellers know that secret flavoring changes a basic journey. I'd tell you to, "never assume 1) what a magician says or shows you (including the props and what happens in the performance environment) is not what you think it is and 2) where you are being led is not where you will end up", but that spoils the fun. A secret is you have to learn how to comfortably tell lies. I often say, "I took an oath to be perfectly honest in my deceptions."

"Misdirection" is stated as critical for magic performance, but it is a myth perpetuated as the simple and logical answer to the essential science of "Directing Attention" and "Memory Management". A useful secret is applying the concept of "Everything Communicates" to discover if everything the audience perceives actually emphasizes what you want them to remember. In that journey you will discover the need to clearly know what you want to communicate and what you don't want interfering with that clear message/meaning.

The communication aspects of direct to the brain non-verbal elements are shrouded and overshadowed by the traditionally emphasized verbal components. Beneath the surface of magic's iceberg performance is massive work; work that will pay off in how the audience perceives, relates to, and appreciates your work. It often takes me two or three years to add an effect to my repertoire.

Ok, some serious content instead of general words. Channeling author Lisa Cron [iii], what the brain does with the 11,000,000 pieces of information each second given to it by the six senses (taste, touch, smell, hearing, seeing, proprioception) is to filter it into A) non-critical or B) necessary to pass onto the mind. Most of the non-critical information is managed without the mind knowing about it. The mind selects a small handful of images it receives and puts them into short-term scratchpad memory. Those images get compared to "experience stories" and constantly revised with only three or four new stories that progress to longer-term temporary memory. The primitive brain constantly rewrites reality by throwing away originals and making a new story/reality that makes sense; the modern mind creates its view of reality by constructing stories from rewritten longer-term stories of experiences. I found it best to state, "Magic occurs when someone retells what they remember happened." Magicians select and influence which images get stored for a brief period of time and influence how they are retold. What is natural, normal, and fits into patterns of common sense does not stand out so it is ignored/erased. The exceptions capture the brain's fleeting attention, and those exceptions are passed onto the mind which again recreates through the process of cause and effect. Only a couple of images are captured. Those rewritten images are then again rewritten to fit into a constantly changing personal reality. The secret is to attach feelings and emotions to the mix of constant rewriting because when you add emotions, critical thinking does not get started. Many performers influence this constant rewriting in the audience's mind without thinking. Storytelling does the influencing within the imagination, magic adds perceptions from other senses to emphatically influence the retelling.

You have noticed I use "effect" because "trick" triggers analytical thinking of "how is it done" while "effect" emphasizes clear feelings which leads to retelling individual stories about the experience. Perceptions, Psychology, Presentation, Personality, and Sociology plus absolutely fogged/erased method. And being sure everything communicates the same message or meaning.

In the next two articles, I'll be looking at how a magician approaches and thinks about structuring and presenting an effect and concentrating on the hopefully simple hand and arm movements involved with the methods of tying knots and holding string, yarn, or rope that we'll be working on in the workshop. We decided to work on effects with string, yarn, or rope since those can be learned to a point where practice makes the movements smooth and easily progresses into subconscious routine and habit through repetition and practice. Rope effects are adaptable to many different stories, feelings, emotions messages, and meaning.

[i] Jim Steinmeyer author "Hiding the Elephant" and respected illusion creator. <https://jimsteinmeyer.com>

[ii] Tommy Wonder, writer, thinker, performer. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Wonder_\(magician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Wonder_(magician))

[iii] Lisa Cron, author on neuroscience related to "story." <http://wiredforstory.com/>

| **EVENT (CLICK TO REGISTER)**



Social Media Workshop

Saturday, May 18, 2024

1:00-2:30pm CDT/2:00pm EDT

Online via Zoom

PRO Members: Free / Non-Members: \$10

storynet.org/civicrm/event/info

STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

STORIES HELP DISCOVER THE PURPOSE OF AN ORGANIZATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024
11:00 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M. EDT

Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy
will share a story circle design that helps teams find the answer to “Why Do the Work We Do Here Matter?”

Objectives:

- Learn about the underlying approach to story and communication that comfortably links story to meaning-making.
- Receive story-prompts and guidance that will help you host such a process in your team or organization.



DR. LISA WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR (SIO)

SIO MEMBERS: FREE
NON-MEMBERS: FREE



STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

THE NEUROSCIENCE OF EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS USING STORYTELLING TO ENHANCE LEARNING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024
2:00 P.M. TO 3:30 P.M. EDT

You will learn:

- The neuroscience of how we perceive, learn, and retain new experiences
- The ideal narrative structures for conveying complex topics
- The ideal interplay of visual and oral content in learning and retention
- How to avoid "Death by Powerpoint"



Jim Brulé is a sought-after speaker and a specialist in narrative communication, who has considerable knowledge and experience in psychology for successful business practice and organizational development.

NSN NATIONAL
STORYTELLING
NETWORK

SIO
Storytelling In
Organizations

Special Interest Group of the
National Storytelling Network



DR. LISA WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR (SIO)

SIO MEMBERS: FREE
NON-MEMBERS: FREE

| EVENT

AN ECHO IN THE WOODS, 4-DAY POP-UP STORYTELLING INTENSIVE TO BE HELD IN BROOKLYN

Kevin and Ilgaz Casey

Organizers, One More Last Chance

BROOKLYN | APR 22 – 25 | 6:00PM – 9:00PM — The core of our work will be to explore the symbiotic relationship between storytelling, personal transformation, and connecting with the communities we inhabit. This intensive is for anyone who wants to deepen their relationship with tales and telling. We'll offer the 12 hours of structured time plus each participant will have an opportunity to book an individual session of dedicated personal time between the participant and a facilitator. The intensive will not culminate in a performance but if participants wish to share, we'll host a storytelling session Friday evening the 26th at 7pm. We'll cover:

- Discovering Tales
- Approaches to Reading Tales
- Writing by Forgetting
- Telling Tales
- Moving Presence
- Moving Through Place
- Ancient song
- Movement Choir

Our hosts, Kevin and Ilgaz Casey are international theater makers and storytellers who host an ongoing popup storytelling event, "One More Last Chance" in Helena, Montana. They'll be in Brooklyn to host a four day storytelling intensive for anyone interested in the tradition of telling folk and fairy tales.

Dates We'd love for you to join us for every session, but we understand life gets busy! Don't worry if you can't make all four nights – you'll still get a full experience. We'll meet April 22–25 from 6 – 9 PM with open storytelling on Friday at 7 at Cottonwood NYC (203 Driggs Ave in Brooklyn).

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLICK TO REGISTER

30th Anniversary
KANSAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
APRIL 26-27
DOWNSTOWN KANSAS

Register Online at: kansasstorytellingfestival.com

Traditions and Truth

A Virtual Open Mic featuring Kucha Brownlee & Baba Tony Brown

Saturday, April 6
7-8:30pm CDT
Free - Donations Welcome
Online via Zoom

Email Janice: jdelnegro@dom.edu for the Zoom link and/or to tell in the open mic (7-10 minutes)

BAY AREA STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
North

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
SIX FEET APART PRODUCTIONS
BAY AREA STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

KEALOHA
BRANDON SPARS
DIANE FERLATTE
KARIN AMANO
GENE TAGABAN

MAY 3-4, 2024 SANTA ROSA, CA

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS
KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

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

SUNDAY
APRIL 7TH
7-8:30PM EST
Community Tellers

Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!

EMOKO
REGI CARPENTER
MONA SHRYVE
DIANE ANDREWS
KIM HIGGINS
GAIL LANSBANK
KIM HIGGINS

An In-Person Storytelling Weekend Workshop in Asheville, NC

STORY-TREASURES
Finding and Nurturing Your Storytelling Voice
WITH CONNIE REGAN BLAKE

Join Connie, world-renowned storyteller for this creative weekend. Everyone welcome - from beginner to experienced teller!

April 27 & 28
Saturday 9:30 - 4:30
Sunday 10 - 4

36 Montford Avenue
Asheville, NC

Scan QR Code for more info. Register now!

StoryWindow.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTRATION LINKED IN **TITLES** WHEN AVAILABLE

April 6 | 8:30 pm CDT — [Traditions and Truth: Virtual Open Mic featuring Kucha Brownlee and Baba Tony Brown.](#) Email Janice Del Negro for link. VIRTUAL.

April 7 | 6 pm EDT — [HSA: Kind Stories in Concert.](#) VIRTUAL.

April 10 | 6 pm EDT — [HSA: Oars in the Water: Joy in Challenging Times.](#)
VIRTUAL

April 12 -13th | 9 am-9 pm — [Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival.](#) The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuga.

April 13 | 7-9 pm CDT — Talk of the Town: “ The Impact of the Blues on American Music” featuring the Rev. Robert Jones. Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center.

April 17 | 7 pm CDT — [YES: How to book 100 school shows.](#) John Abrams, Doug Scheer, and Lynn Ford. YES members free. \$20 non-members. VIRTUAL.

April 20 | 6:30-7:30 EDT — [Voices in the Glen: Monthly Story Swap.](#) VIRTUAL.

April 24 | 10 -11:15 am EDT — [SIO: How Stories Help Discover the Purpose of an Organization: A Presentation by Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy.](#) See NSN website to register. VIRTUAL.

April 27 | 7 - 9pm CDT — “Indy Raised” by Bill Harley Eugene and Marilyn Glick History Center.

April 27 - 28 | 9:30am (27th) – 4pm (28th) — [Connie Regan-Blake's Story-Treasures Workshop.](#) Lenoir-Rhyne University.



APR 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