

NSN ORACLE AWARDS

2024

Lifetime Achievement Award

Janice Del Negro



Janice M. Del Negro, PhD, is a Professor at the School of Information Studies at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. Her book, *Folktales Aloud: Practical Advice for Playful Storytelling*, was awarded a Storytelling World Resource Award in 2015. Her subsequent title, *Engaging Teens with Story: How to Inspire and Educate Youth with Storytelling* (With Melanie Kimball, PhD, 2017) was named SLC/ARBA's "Best Professional Resource for School or Youth Librarians." Her most recent publication is the fifth edition of the classic storytelling text, *Storytelling Art & Technique* (ABC/CLIO, 2021) which received the 2022 Storytelling World Resource Award. In 2017 Del Negro received the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence Award. Del Negro has been a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival, the Bay Area Storytelling Festival, the Fox Valley Folk Festival, and many others. A coach and workshop leader, she is also the host of ISI's Storytelling.org monthly virtual open mic, "Traditions and Truth," and with Megan Wells produces "MoonShine Stories," an online storytelling event held each month on the full moon.

Circle of Excellence Award

Alton Chung



Japanese-Korean storyteller Alton Takiyama-Chung, grew up with the superstitions and the magic of the Hawaiian Islands. He tells stories from Hawaii, Asian folktales, ghost stories, stories from the Japanese-Americans experience of WWII, the Plantation Days in Hawaii, and the immigration of the Chinese into the US. He has performed at the Timpanogas and the National Storytelling Festivals, and at international storytelling festivals in the Cayman Islands, Singapore, Vietnam, India, and Thailand. He also is the editor-in-chief of *The Story Beast*, a storytelling e-Publication (storybeast.org) and a former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Storytelling Network. (altonchung.com)

Circle of Excellence Award

Anne Shimojima



Anne Shimojima has been telling stories from her Asian heritage and around the world for forty years. She was a New Voice Teller at the National Storytelling Festival in 2017 and has been a Teller in Residence at the International Storytelling Center. Anne's CD *Sakura Tales: Stories from Japan* won a Storytelling World Resource Honor Award in 2019. Her signature piece *Hidden Memory: An American World War II Story*, describes her Japanese American family's experience in World War II, and in 2022 she received the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays, conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

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Distinguished National Service Award Dorothy Cleveland



Dot's story involvement began in 1995 with North Star and again when the group became Story Arts of Minnesota. She was the State Liaison Chair after the transition and served on the NSN board as secretary / treasurer. Upon retiring from her position as COO in the legal field, she became the administrator for Northlands. She currently serves Illinois, NSN, and HSA organizations. She has a BA in Business and an MLS in Leadership. She is a co-author with Barbara Schutzgruber for *Beyond the Sword Maiden: A Storyteller's Introduction to the Heroine's Journey*. She may be coaxed into telling stories, too.

Distinguished National Service Award Margaret Read MacDonald



Was born 1940 in Southern Indiana. Began telling stories in 1964 as Children's Librarian in Seattle, moving to SF, Honolulu, Singapore, DC, Buenos Aires, Seattle. Taught storytelling for University of Washington, Lesley University, Fulbright Scholar Mahasarakham University, and offered workshops in over 55 countries. Earned Ph.D. in Folklore from Indiana University and is author of 65 books on folklore/storytelling topics, including *Ten Traditional Tellers*, *The Storyteller's Sourcebook: A Subject Title and Motif-Index to Folklore Collections for Children*, and *Scipio Storytelling: Talk in a Southern Indiana Community*. Organized 11 storytelling conferences/festivals in the NW. Board member NAPPS/NSN 1981-1984 and 2022-. 60 years of telling!

Regional Service & Leadership Award Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia



In 1995, four Atlanta storytellers decided to form an affiliate of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) after attending the (NABS) Festival for several years and Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia was born. Kuumba means "Creativity" in Swahili. The sixth day of Kwanzaa celebrates Kuumba, the ability we have putting our imaginations to work while using our creative talents to build and maintain a strong, vibrant community. Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia mission is to preserve the African oral tradition, provide awareness on the cultural history of African and African American people, and serve as an educational resource for the community.

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Regional Service & Leadership Award
Six Feet Apart Productions
Claire Hennessy



British-born Claire Hennessy is co-founder/producer of Six Feet Apart Productions, producing online and in-person storytelling shows and festivals. She's a Grand Slam finalist at The Moth, the National Storytelling Festival, and NSN. She was a featured teller at the 2021 and 2024 Women's Storytelling Festivals and the 2023 Sacramento Valley Storytelling Festival. She will be a featured teller at the 2024 St Louis Storytelling Festival. She helps organize the Bay Area Storytelling Festival and is a Board Member of the Storytelling Association of California. She's performed on The Risk! Podcast, Better Said Than Done, Good Liar's Club, Moonshine Stories, among others. She is hoping to find an agent for her humorous memoir before she is too old to go on a book tour.

Regional Service & Leadership Award
Six Feet Apart Productions
Regina Stoops



Regina Stoops is a comedian, writer, award-winning storyteller, and co-producer of the online storytelling platform Six Feet Apart Productions. With thought-provoking honesty and humor, Regina talks about life as a gay, Catholic, suburban soccer mom, special needs parent, and MS warrior. She is a two-time Moth Grandslam finalist and an Erma Bombeck Humor Writer of the Month winner. Her stories have been heard on the Risk! Podcast, Aurora Borealis, Under The Rainbow Storytelling, Pen Parentis Salon, Unreeling Stories, and the Women's Storytelling Festival. Her storytelling ability was born from the need to stay one step ahead of her kids' constant inquiries about Santa, time travel, common core math, and what's for dinner.