

MAY 01, 2024

National Storytelling Network

May Newsletter
Vol. 6, Issue No. 5

| ANNOUNCEMENT

EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ENDS ON MAY 31ST! REGISTER NOW!



Margaret Read MacDonald
Conference Co-Chair

Bring your happy presence to Dumas Bay July 11-14 and join in the fun! Still plenty of rooms at our two conference hotels. See the [NSN website](#) to register and for conference hotel discount codes. Choose from workshops and performances by 93 tellers! Together at last!

AUCTION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Start saving your no-longer-needed treasures and bring them along to the NSN Conference. Donate them to our Auction and bring a smile to someone else AND to NSN!

CHARMING B&B IN DUMAS BAY

[PowellsWood Botanical Garden's guesthouse](#) is an 8 min. drive from the conference center.

LEAD A SWAP!

We need leaders for the late night swaps and Thursday afternoon swaps. Contact mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com if you are interested. You can choose your own theme, or just host a general swap.

PUT YOUR AD IN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

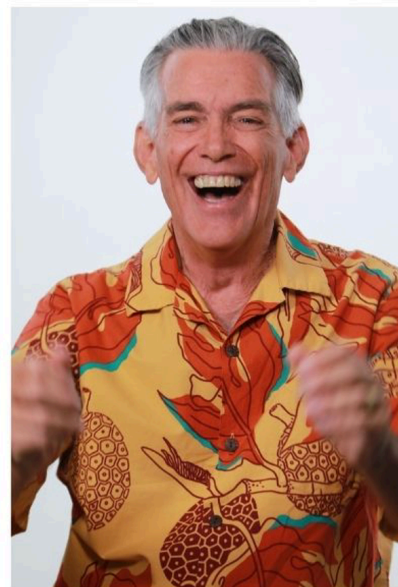
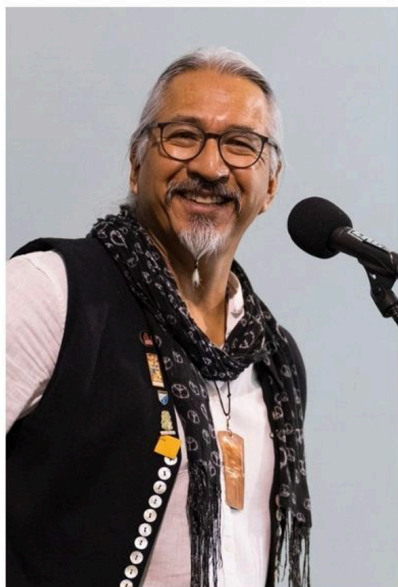
You don't need to be present to include an ad in the program. This is a great way to get your face and message in front of our members. Click [here](#) for more information and to reserve your ad!

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| FEATURED

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For reservation: <https://storynet.org/events/nsn-2024-conference/>

STORY COACHING AT THE NSN CONFERENCE

Four coaches and five coaching sessions will take place as shown below.

Individuals wishing to be coached must pre-register as there are only four tellers coached per session. Email your first choice and one alternate to Margaret Read MacDonald at:
mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com.



**Register asap for
free conference
coaching!**

The first 20 to register get free coaching from one of our team.

To register, contact Margaret Read MacDonald today at
mrm@margaretreadmacdonald.com



Milbre
Burch



Elizabeth
Ellis



Antonio
Rocha



Nancy
Donoval

A. Friday, July 12 at 10:45 am - 12:15 pm with Elizabeth Ellis

Author of From Plot to Narrative and Prepare to Scare and co-author of Inviting the Wolf In: Thinking About Difficult Stories, Elizabeth Ellis employs patience and listening from the heart to adapt to the needs of each teller. All types of tellers and tales invited.

B. Friday, July 12 at 3:00 - 4:30 pm with Milbre Burch

C. Saturday, July 13 at 10:45 am - 12:15 pm with Milbre Burch

For decades, Milbre Burch has coached storytellers, working one-on-one and in group sessions. Her intuitive coaching style is based on deep listening, reflecting back what she has heard and focusing on the story world that's unfolding. Bring an eight-minute story sample.

D. Saturday, July 13 at 3:30 - 5:00 pm with Nancy Donoval

Circle of Excellence recipient Nancy Donoval uses her 35+ years as a storyteller, teacher, and story coach to help you develop your stories. Any story is welcome in this session but feel free to bring a segment of a tricky, hard story as Nancy has a special affinity for these. We will focus on how to keep the audience, and yourself, emotionally safe with potentially difficult material.

E. Sunday, July 14 at 9:00 - 10:30 am with Antonio Rocha

Antonio Rocha has coached beginners and masters on 5 continents. He will kindly guide you to turn your story presentation into an eloquent work of art. The session will include the big three principals: The eyes, the audience's imagination goes where the teller's eyes go. The hands, the natural paint brushes for the story landscape. Finally, the purposeful pause, which allows the story's emotion to simmer and the audience to enjoy the delights of your work.

| FEATURE

THE STORYTELLING IN ORGANIZATIONS SIG WELCOMES DARLENE RICHARD TO THE CONFERENCE



Darlene Richard is a member of Storytelling In Organizations, a special interest group of National Storytelling Network. Storytelling has become a powerful tool in Darlene's presentations, adding depth and resonance to her message of inspiration and assistance. Each opportunity to tell fulfills her goal of empowering others and of building community. By narrating her story, she has observed that it builds trust, prompting others to share their personal experiences. These stories are diverse—some heartwarming, some heartbreaking, others intriguing, humorous, and thrilling.

She has a lighthearted tale about how unconventional paths may lead to the most rewarding outcomes! Using a name generator, she found the perfect name for her brand, "Nelda," which she paired with "Toñe." Sure, there were some naysayers, but she chose to overlook their raised eyebrows and teasing remarks. Because you know what? Whenever you search for "Nelda Toñe", her beaming face greets you almost every time, solidifying the uniqueness of her brand. You can find Nelda Toñe at <https://www.neldatone.com/about-nelda-tone>. Darlene is looking forward to being greeted by a warm and receptive atmosphere, and enthusiastic storytellers, coaches, and much more at the National Storytelling Network conference on July 11th -14th, 2024 at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, Washington. The National Storytelling Network hope to seeing you there, as well! You can register for the conference at: storynet.org/conference-registration.

| FEATURE

HOW MAGICIANS LEARN TRICKS



Ralph Huntzinger
2024 Conference Workshop Presenter

Part II of a three-part excerpt from the “Magical Aspects Woven into Storytelling” workshop to be held at NSN’s 2024 summer conference.

When audiences encounter Storytellers, they expect the fascination of a story, when they go to a magic show they expect to be deceived. Fulfilling those expectations requires different approaches and mindsets. Magicians fall into a mindset while learning new tricks (a process) and learning how to effectively present those tricks (a structure). This mindset is different than the one they use to learn a story. After using the first process, they neglect to switch tools in the next phases of turning a method or trick into an effect. They aren’t blindered after the “Oh, that’s the way it’s done!” moment, however they continue applying something that gives them success. Please, “Don’t get stuck using something useful” where that tool/technique is not useful.

It is helpful to know that Magicians structure their effect to build progressive amazements toward a “big climax” and then stop, awaiting a built-in audience reaction of applause (stopping the flow and ending the effect). When theatrical productions or stories put magic segments into the show’s flow, magic is treated as “special reinforcements or effects”. When the magic creates a show-stopping reaction (it happens in “Shepherd’s Knot” which you will learn in the workshop), the storytelling structure then completes with a resolution, thought, or an impression for the audience to savor.

The structure of a play, novel, story, or magic effect can be translated into a script or blueprint for suggesting interpretations. Storytelling and acting often have two scripts that need to be juggled in the performer’s mind: a) The Words/Interpretation of Ideas script and b) The Actions/Reactions script. Magic performance adds a third script which greatly complicates performance: c) The Hidden Actions script.

This third script is central in learning magic, but it has to be consciously hidden. The “emphasize in the learning process and then forget or hide” when presenting the effect makes moving into the rehearsal and performance phases extremely difficult.

Different people learn using different learning modalities. I know a professional magician who has to hear instructions rather than read them; many beginners must use DVD instruction because they require the visual nuances that verbal or written descriptions lack. I come from the reading and visualization generation so classify DVD learners as parroting or performing “karaoke magic”. However, analyzing the learning process can result in the following summary of the magical approach, a process that is a linear, cause-effect approach.

The “how is it done” approach to learning a magic trick: 1) Become aware it exists in an abstract sense, 2) See, read, or have it described, 3) “like” and decide to explore further, 4) How it is all done -- flow of trick, 5) figure out and learn steps, 6) copy and learn presentation, 7) practice and modify, 8) present in performance this new version and modify/customize after feedback, 9) find/create story to fit, 10) Customize/individualize further.

The first two steps in this process seem obvious because that’s where a Storyteller begins. The “liking” step results in continuing or dropping further exploration – don’t invest time in something that doesn’t appeal to you. Magic fans and beginners jump to concentrate on “How is it done?” step; my library is filled with material because I want to know “How it’s done”. Being aware of the flowing together is important if you want to add this trick to your repertoire. Step five is the detailed hard work summarized in step four. Most magic tricks follow a sequence of physical and psychological actions that must be followed and performed in a steppingstone sequence; cementing this sequence into your conscious and then subconscious mind takes more time than expected. Step six seems a continuation of five but is separate -- this is where presentation and structure are established. Everyone learns everything by copying from someone or something else, this is not stealing but a necessary step in the learning process. Step seven is where the creative and “artistic” work happens; however, if this step is overlooked or eliminated you become only a copycat, thief, or cover band.

The last three steps of practice/modify, practice/modify, practice/modify are what separates the amateur-beginner from the dedicated enthusiast or professional.

Two quick closing concepts: 1) In order to effectively weave a magical effect into a story it is necessary to insert the steppingstones and actually land or step on them while navigating the story's flow. Those hidden actions and visible psychological cues must be implanted into the audience's memory in order for the illusion to work. Don't skip them. 2) I've found that actively and painstakingly figuring out what are "natural & normal" actions helps to discover how to fog/hide a manipulation. This also reveals and establishes audiences' psychological cause-effect patterns that then can be broken. Thinking "What is natural and normal for me when I'm presenting" also allows you to discard interesting ideas/themes/tricks that just don't fit your performing persona. Magicians approach tricks from a linear cause-effect steppingstone process and continue that same thinking to fit it into some kind of "description/story". Hopefully, Storytellers start with a treasure trove of material and evaluate every trick from how it will enhance/reinforce a story. However, learning the mechanics of a trick will follow the "steppingstone process".

Next month's final article will look at telling lies or appearing to do something while actually doing something else. We're using rope/yarn/string in the workshop and the topics covered are: use of hands with rope/yarn, cutting rope in half, tying knots and cutting them, moving three ropes of different sizes while appearing to show each one separately, holding three ropes so they appear to be same length, preparing yarn so part can be hidden, holding prepared yarn. And of course, summarizing all the rambling ideas from the three articles.

If you want "examples" of what will be covered next month, search "Panama Rope Trick", search simplistic versions of "Even Uneven Ropes", and search the vast and often terrible interpretations of "Hindu Gypsy Thread Trick".

ORACLE AWARDEES ANNOUNCED!

The 2024 Oracle Awards will be presented at the NSN Conference on Saturday, July 13 6:45-8:45 PST.

A link will be made available to members for free viewing of the Oracle Award ceremony and concert and for the Annual Meeting on Saturday 1:15-3:15.

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.

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.

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 Grand Slam 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.

| UPDATE

UPDATES ON STORYNET.ORG WEBSITE



Dot Cleveland
NSN Office Manager

Improvements to the website are based on time and funding capabilities. The attempt is to go for simple programming, providing information about NSN, and being user-friendly.

I have been working on the website for over a year and most of it has been background work that is not readily seen by the end user. We have overhauled the general look of the site, login issues; membership (new and renewal), donation issues; security issues; broken links, automated emails and reports, Calendar and events processing, and the Store updates. And there is more to do. I met with the webmaster, Tadpole, on April 18 to plan needed projects. The discussion included:

1. Background

- Tadpole charges \$225 per quarter to keep the website updated, secure, backed up, and running 24x7. Other work is charged on an hourly basis or a flat fee arrangement.
- The website is in WordPress connected to CIVI-CRM. CIVI is the database for member and event information.

2. New Projects

- Revise and update the form to nominate individuals for an ORACLE award. The form is 10+ years old and slow to operate. I will work with the ORACLE committee to implement revisions.
- CIVI is working on a better way to show teller profiles in the "Hire A Teller" directory. In the meantime, there will be some changes to the Teller Directory to include: Photo, Name, Email, Website, State with links directly to the website and possibly email.

- The search feature on the website will be updated to be more responsive. Currently there are a number of pages not readily available on the website. I will be culling the older pages to reduce redundancy and clutter. Also, Tadpole gave me tips on naming pages for best appearing on search engines.
- There is not an easy way to change information on the Organization Members profiles. Tadpole will create a form to facilitate these changes. The form is filled out by the end-user, sent to me for authorization, and then the updates will take place.
- There is also work being done on the Tellabration! Page to update the instructions.

That's it for now. My plan for the website continues to be that a) it provides information about NSN and its abilities (the public areas), and b) that members can find what they need in a quick and efficient manner (in the Member Area). I'll keep you posted as projects arise and/or are completed. Comments about the website are always welcomed.

Dot Cleveland

NSN Office Manager



Stories Light Now free online conference

Historia Academy invites you to join us online:

May 15th through May 17th

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Moscow**

2 a.m. to 5 a.m. **EDT**

and

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Moscow**

10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **EDT**

25+ international storytelling and narrative experts will share how to use stories to illuminate the present moment and the Now **inside** us, **for** us, and **between** us.

Proud Supporter:



**Storytelling In
Organizations**

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**

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THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

STEPPING STONES

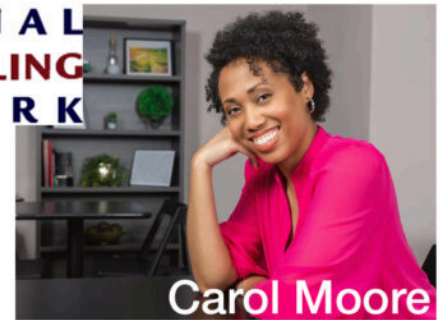


| [EVENT \(CLICK TO REGISTER\)](#)



Jessica Robinson

PRO Sig



Carol Moore

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

| [EVENT \(CLICK TO REGISTER\)](#)



OARS in the Water
April 24th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

Nature's Way



Hosted by
Heather Forest
& Noa Baum

OARS in the Water is a facilitated Zoom gathering on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month offered by Healing Story Alliance to create a listening space to share the experiences and stories that have emerged through turbulent times.

This is not a therapeutic circle but we do hope it will be healing, supportive and inspiring. Admission is free, although donations are deeply appreciated and help support our programming. Your tax-deductible donation can be made here: <https://square.link/u/d9xbGN2I>.

Click [here](#) for the zoom link.

| [EVENT \(CLICK TO REGISTER\)](#)



STORYTELLING.ORG FUNDRAISER

Lusty Month of May

Thursday, May 9, 2024
7:00-9:00pm CDT - Online via Zoom

Featuring

Margaret Burk	Jane Dorfman
Kelly Campos	Rachel Ann Harding
Janice Del Negro	Megan Wells

Tickets: \$15 or What You Can Pay



| [EVENT \(CLICK TO REGISTER\)](#)

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.



HSA
HEALING
STORY
ALLIANCE

OARS in the Water
May 22nd
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*Nagi: We are a
swarm of stories*

Hosted by
Lani Peterson & Jim Brulé



UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTRATION LINKED IN [TITLES](#) WHEN AVAILABLE

May 4 8am-4 pm ET Granite State Story Swap 2024
Doris L. Benz Community Center. Center Sandwich, N.H.

May 5 2pm-3:30 pm ET [The Neuroscience of Effective Presentations-Using
Storytelling to Enhance Learning](#)
Virtual

May 5 7-8:30 ET **Kind Stories in Concert** Donald Davis, Joe Kelly, Lee-Ellen
Marvin, Keona Lewis, Mary Bromley.
Virtual: Register [here](#) to Receive a FREE Kind Stories in Concert Zoom Link

May 8 6-7:30 ET [Oars in the Water: Creating a Safe Space for Story](#)
Virtual

May 9 7-9 PM CDT [Lusty Month of May Margaret Burke, Kelly Campos, Janice
del Negro, Jane Dorfman, Rachel Ann Harding, Megan Wells](#)
Virtual

May 11 7:30-9 ET [Voices in the Glen Monthly Story Swap](#)
Virtual

May 15 2-5 AM ET (Russia) and 10-2 ET [Stories Light Now presented by
Historia Academy with Artem Mushin-Makendonsky](#)
Virtual

May 16 7-8:45CDT [Twisted Tales: Braided Stories. Eva Abram, Tim Ereneta,
Amanda Lawrence, Mo Reynolds, Jessica Robinson.](#)
Virtual
\$5-\$15

May 16 9:30-11:30pm [Risk! Live Show & Story Slam.](#) Ashia Amavé, Tony Nagy,
Jamie Brickhouse.
Caveat, NYC



UPCOMING EVENTS

REGISTRATION LINKED IN [TITLES](#) WHEN AVAILABLE

May 16-18 [Shoals Storytelling Festival](#)

Shoals Theatre, Florence, Alabama

May 17 7 pm PDT [Seattle Storyteller's Guild Annual Liar's Fest with Bruce Marcus](#)

Virtual

May 18 10 am PDT [Once Upon a Happily Ever After: Alternative Story Structure with Bruce Marcus.](#)

Virtual

May 19 1-2:30 CDT [PRO SIG Social Media Workshop: Jessica Robinson & Carol Moore](#)

Pro members free. Others \$10

Virtual

May 22 7-8:30 EDT [OARS in the Water: Nagj: We are a swarm of stories.](#)

Virtual



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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