National Storytelling Network

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

KEEP GEORGIA ON YOUR MIND!

The Georgia Storytelling Network invites NSN to Atlanta for the 2025 National Storytelling Network Conference!

You will spend your days on the lovely campus of Kennesaw State University, in the Theater and Performance Studies Department, known for unique and wonderful storytelling.

Combine story with our welcoming Georgia hospitality, listen, share, and learn. Inexpensive dormitory housing on campus or reasonably priced motels 10 minutes away (we provide a shuttle).

Watch for a call soon for workshop, fringe, and showcase proposals.

Mark your calendars for July 17-20, 2025.

Keep Georgia on your mind!







PROGRAMMING

NOT TOO LATE TO VIEW 2024 CONFERENCE!

NSN sincerely thanks Jessica Piscitelli Robinson and Heather Forest for all their efforts facilitating the virtual event.

You can still see the virtual recording of all events that took place in the Dumas Bay Theatre until September 15, 2024. \$75 for ticket to virtual link.

MISSED US IN SEATTLE? CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE THE VIRTUAL TICKET







Left to right: Gwendolyn Napier accepts the ORACLE Regional Service and Leadership Award for Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia; Claire Hennessey and Regina Stoops accept the Regional Service and Leadership Award for Six Feet Apart Productions; Dorothy Cleveland and Margaret Read MacDonald receive National Service and Leadership Awards; Alton Chung receives Circle of Excellence Award; Janice del Negro receives Lifetime Achievement Award; Anne Shimojima receives Circle of Excellence Award; emceed by Angela Lloyd.



2024 National Storytelling
Network Annual General
Meeting | Dumas Bay, WA.
Chair of the Finance
Committee, Lisa
Overholser, delivering
NSN's fiscal report for
2024.

MEMBER RESOURCES

WATCH THE ORACLE AWARDS & CONCERT AND NSN'S 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The ORACLE event, including a concert by the award winners, is free to view for the public. All members are granted access to the recording of the 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting. Use the links below to access on YouTube.



FEATURE

SEATTLE 2024 CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

Our attendance at the 2024 National Storytelling Network Conference reached 195. Tellers came from all over the U.S., plus Northern Ireland, India, and South Korea for four days of story concerts, workshops, and panels. Special events included tours of PowellsWood Garden, early morning yoga and nature walks, and a Saturday evening contra dance. It was a delight for all to experience our theme "Together Again." Next year we are off to GEORGIA! Conference photos from Jessica Piscitelli Robinson and other NSN members.

GLIMPSES OF DUMAS BAY



Asian American Storytellers in Action: A Tapestry of Braided Stories

Left to right: Megumi Fleming; Anne Shimojima; Karin Amano; Roopa Mohan; Tobey Anderson; Linda Yemoto

You can still view this on the virtual ticket link!



Joel Ying and Rona Leventhal cut a rug at Saturday night's dance.



Closing Circle at the Seattle 2024 National Storytelling Conference

Let the circle be unbroken.





Sunset behind the conference center



International Tellers' Concert Shreya Biswas of India tells.



Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and our Korean guest, Alicia Dongjoo Bang on the Dumas Bay grounds enjoy an unusually sunny and warm Seattle day.



NOTICE

NSN BOARD MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO MEMBERS!

You will find a link to each board meeting on the NSN website. Open your Member Area using your password. Then click on NSN Board Meeting. You will find links to join the next meeting, a link with the minutes of the last board meeting, a link to our by-laws, and a link to the last annual meeting minutes. You are welcome to virtually attend any board meeting, enter comments in the chat, and ask to be recognized, should you have something pertinent to interject.

FEATURE

STORIES BY THE BAY: MY ENRICHING EXPERIENCE AT THE 2024 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE



Dr. Lisa Williams NSN Board Member & Director of Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) SIG

The National Storytelling Network Conference at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, WA, was a transformative experience, blending the serene beauty of the Pacific Northwest with the vibrant, dynamic energy of the storytelling community.

The conference itself was a whirlwind of activity, filled with workshops and performances. These workshops covered a wide range of topics, from the intricacies of crafting compelling narratives to the art of engaging audiences of all ages. One of the most memorable aspects of the conference was the performances. These performances were a testament to the power of storytelling, with each teller bringing a unique voice and style to the stage. The diversity of stories was astounding, ranging from historical narratives to traditional folk tales, each one captivating the audience and highlighting the rich tapestry of human experience. Leaving the Dumas Bay Centre, I felt a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration. The National Storytelling Network Conference had not only provided a wealth of knowledge and skills but had also rekindled my passion for storytelling. The conference was a testament to the power of storytelling to bring people together, bridge cultural divides, and illuminate the human experience. The experience was a beacon of inspiration and a reminder of the transformative power of stories.

See you at the National Storytelling Network Conference in 2025. I got Georgia on my mind!



REFLECTIONS

THE 2024 KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Five 2024 Kathryn Tucker Windham Conference Scholars were awarded funding to attend the national conference and one year of NSN membership. Read two of our scholars' reflections on storytelling and the value the conference represented in their storytelling journeys.

CAROL KNARR GEBERT

From 2000-2007, storytelling was something that encompassed my life. Working with South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute and wonderful mentors there, I was able to create a business which began to thrive. I built a repertoire and began to learn stories that became part of my life, not just part of a lineup for a gig. My mentors, including Liz Warren, Don Doyle, and Sean Buvala, offered many opportunities to craft and perform stories. Their mentorship and honesty allowed me to grow and learn and then teach others about the incredible life changing possibilities of crafting a story. Then in October 2007, I walked away from everything-my career, my home, and all that Arizona represented to me to spend time with my parents in their last years.

Running theater organizations took all of my time and energy with storytelling becoming a hobby. I could not find a storytelling community within an hour of my home. Despite my efforts to create one, storytelling wasn't something others understood until they had the opportunity to attend an event. Due to my full-time employment as a teacher and theater director, there were fewer opportunities for me to tell. Summer allowed me to work with fine arts camps and library programs, but my special effects makeup classes were more popular.

MELINDA GRISCO

What I did last summer

Since this article is required from all scholarship recipients, and it being for the National Storytelling Network, I could not resist using that title.

To have had the honor of winning the scholarship was the first advantage. From there the collection of payoffs grew. First, to be able to travel to one of the most scenic and relaxing settings there could ever be for a conference. I was able to immediately feel welcomed, serene, and energized. All these factors combined made me feel immediate benefits. Other benefits included being able to sit with so many different personalities during meals, which were included in my scholarship, and very much appreciated. Many stories are relayed during mealtimes, not just story book stories, but personal accounts of families, lifestyles, food preferences, and even recipes. The enrichment of the combined gatherings was of a huge benefit to me. It was as if we were a tribe or kinfolks from other places that had been allowed to gather for a similar quest.

Learning experiences abounded, as there were too many to avail myself. The workshop and fringe choices were so wide and varied it was extremely hard to choose. Learning my way around the building and grounds was the first step. I also learned how conferences like this can enhance the »



Storytelling simply wasn't something that made much money and therefore its value lessened. I left education in 2021 with little vision as to what retirement would hold. My husband and I moved to a small town to manage his disability and be nearer to his family. Eventually, retirement lacked purpose and enjoyment.

Small jobs led me to Timbercrest Senior Living where storytelling was needed. I began teaching workshops and telling to residents (independent, healthcare, and the memory unit) regularly. Stories made a difference. Renewing my membership to NSN seemed a natural progression, but attending a national conference was out of reach financially. The Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship allowed me to reconnect to storytellers I had learned from and enjoyed 20+ years earlier. The scholarship allowed me to dream again. Just the thought of being near regional, national, and international tellers brought a new energy to my preparation for stories at Timbercrest. Joining Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) was exciting as I had a voice as to what storytelling could do for senior living facilities. Residents of Timbercrest were excited to present a (Zoom) workshop for SIO in the fall. Both of the participants who were planning with me have passed. The preparation did create dialogue that continues to gnaw at me. Residents were learning in workshops how to craft and tell stories. They wanted to share their stories and encourage others to do so.

» most refined and professional tellers, as well as the extreme novice. I learned innovative approaches to just the smallest of details can make a substantial difference in the outcome of any story. I learned by watching what a massive impact body language has on a story. The most outstanding question left in my mind was, why haven't I ever been to this awe-inspiring conference before? Which leads me back to the reason I got to be here: the scholarship. So, the next question is, how can it be made possible for more people without the budget to attend?

Several "best of best" came to mind. I am going to say it was a heartfelt welcome feeling from all the people who also attended. It was like being with friends I had not met yet but felt I had known for a long time. As far as "best of best" for programs I would have to go with the National Teller Showcase, A genuine treat for anyone, not just storytellers but anyone with ears. The time flew by for these performances, and I was downcast when the show was over.

I strive to learn something every day. One of my main goals is to learn to be a better listener, teller, writer, and presenter. This will help me in my current job as a substitute teacher. I feel that walking into a new classroom setting every day is challenging, so being able to present even the drabbest dull and boring subject in a way that makes it interesting to the listener/learner will be most helpful. I will share this tremendous experience with all my future audiences, including classrooms, libraries, assisted living centers, daycare centers, and my family, who of course, never tire of my constant storytelling and practicing with them.

YEAR IN REVIEW

July 2023-June 2024



Special Interest Group of the National Storytelling Network



Director



Lisa Williams, Ph.D. is a current board member of the National Storytelling Network (NSN). She is also serving a 3-year term (2023-2025) as the Director of Storytelling In Organizations (SIO), a special interest group (SIG) of NSN.

During her tenure she has served on the conference, finance, strategic planning, and scholarship committees.

Who We Are

Storytelling In Organizations (SIO) is a special interest group created by members of the National Storytelling Network (NSN) who share a common interest, organizational storytelling. SIO members recognize the positive impact of applying narrative techniques to business practices. By balancing logic and fact with the emotional impact of a story companies can convey its values, inspire emotion, and create personal connections with primary stakeholders, colleagues, customers, and the community, While not all inclusive, SIO members are affiliated with communication, public relation and marketing firms, educational institutions, consulting and coaching, and publishing companies, energy innovative businesses, storytelling, and other nonprofit organizations.

Membership Roster

Storytelling In Organizations

Sara Armstrong Daniel Austin

John Bertholl Brianna Blacet

Jim Brulé Davina Burns

Larry Castleberry Jane Chesham

Ronald Chick Raymond Christian

Emily Corocoran Lorraine Darnell
Laura Deal Eileen Delorenzo
Joseph DiMaso Judith Donley

Drea Douglas Debora Escalante
Melissa Fees Andres Ferreyra
Carolyn Finney First Person Arts

Carol Knarr Gerbert Atim George
Eva Grayzel Janet Hafner
Gail Herman Bette Lou Higgins

Warren Holleman Ralph Huntzinger Fred Kahn Emily Katt

Sadika Kebbi Linda Kennedy
Bowen Lee Jeff Leinaweaver
Angela Lloyd Kelly Macias

Ann Margolin Carol McCormick Buchmeier

Marilyn McPhie Sue Mirkin
Carol Moore Jennifer Munro
Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy Margo Myles

Bernadette Nason Valentina Ortiz
Laura Packer Ted Parkhurst

Lani Peterson Portland Storytellers' Guild
Stanley Ransom Natalie Rivera

Stanley Ransom Natalie Rivera
Julienne Ryan Lawrence Seidl

Saara Silvennoinen Stone Soup Storytelling Institution

Darlene Richards Mary Walther
Elizabeth Warren Lana Warren
Lisa Williams Rosemary Wilson
Doug Wong Vera Yaa-Anna
Paula Younger Dijana Zorić

Elsa Zúñiga



Mission

Storytelling In Organizations is committed to elevating the role of storytelling in organizational settings. By providing resources, training, and a collaborative platform for storytelling practitioners and enthusiasts, we strive to create a world where stories are recognized and utilized as a fundamental aspect of organizational excellence and human connection.

Vision

Our vision is to lead the way in demonstrating how storytelling can be a powerful tool for transformation, connection, and success in the business world. We are committed to empowering every organization to harness the full potential of their stories, creating a future where every narrative drives progress and every voice shapes our shared journey.



Core Values Aligned with Our Vision of Empowering Transformation Through Storytelling

By upholding these values, Storytelling In Organizations is committed to fostering an environment where every story drives progress, Inspires Innovation, and builds a more connected and ethical world.

Excellence

We are dedicated to continuously refining our skills, embracing best practices, and setting high standards to ensure that our narratives effectively convey our vision and values.

Respect and Empathy

We respect the power of stories to shape perceptions and influence behavior. We prioritize empathy and handle every narrative with care, ensuring that our storytelling reflects our respect for all individuals, cultures, and communities involved.

Engagement

We strive to create an environment that encourage participation, dialogue, and deeper connections.

Innovation and Creativity

By providing workshops and other programs facilitated by members and external narrators, we foster a culture to take risk, ignite innovation and creativity, and evolve storytelling practices.

Financial

Storytelling In Organizations Profit and Loss Statement January 1st through June 30, 2024

Income:	
4000 Contributed Support	
4010 Individual Business Contribution	\$ 5.00
5000 Earned Revenue	700000
5180 Conference and Other Programs Fees	60.00
5210 Membership Dues	950.00
Total Income:	\$1,015.00
Expenses:	
8300 Travel and Meeting Expenses	
8321 Honoraria	\$ (530.00)
8500 Miscellaneous Expense	
8516 Marketing Expense	(39.00)
Total Expenses:	(569.00)
Net Income:	\$ 446.00
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024:	\$6,332.76
Net Income January thru June 2024:	446.00
Balance June 30, 2024:	6,778.76

Accomplishments

Conference Committee: SIO developed an electronic evaluation form that was used by conference committee members to evaluate proposals submitted for the 2024 National Storytelling Network conference. The premise behind the evaluation form was to ensure an unbiased selection of the 2024 National Storytelling Network conference proposals. The use of the evaluation form resulted in eleven SIO appellations for the conference, as well as the appellations for the other SIG groups.

Finance Committee: In collaboration with team members of the finance committee, SIO developed donor tier categories (i.e. diamond, gold, and silver donors). In addition, Dr. Williams spearheaded the development of incentives for donor donations, one of which was extending donors an invitation to attend a lunch/dinner with NSN board members at annual conferences. Thus, on July 11, 2024 at the National Storytelling Network conference the board will host a Diamond donor dinner. This interaction will show gratitude and provide an opportunity for the board and the donors to get acquainted. The benefits referenced below is a result of SIO's proactive support of National Storytelling Network stakeholder (donors).

DIAMOND \$500+ per year	Additional benefits include: - Lunch with the board at the annual conference - A profile on the NSN website
GOLD \$100 - \$499 per year	Additional benefits include: Recognition and special event advertising privileges in the monthly newsletter
SILVER \$10 - \$99 per year	Benefits include: - Recognition at the conference

Accomplishments

Strategic Planning Committee: Dr. Williams researched and scheduled a meeting with three external consultants in order to address the progression of National Storytelling Network. Two out of the three consultants presented a proposal to the team via zoom that outlined the services and costs, such as, while not all inclusive: development of a strategic plan, brand development, and a membership recruitment plan. After summarizing the proposals to the NSN board members and discussing the cost, a motion was approved by the board to revisit hiring a consultant after the 2024 National Storytelling Network conference.

Scholarship Committee: SIO assisted in the selection of the five recipients of the Kathryn Tucker Windham Conference Scholarship Award of which, two were SIO members.

Congratulations to Carol and Darlene!



Carol Knarr Gebert



Darlene Richard AKA Nelda Tone

Accomplishments

Membership Growth



Storytelling In Organizations' membership increased by 42% in one year.



In April of 2024, Dr. Williams represented SIO at the Virginia Storytelling Alliance Gathering in Richmond, VA.

A huge shout out to Nick Baskerville (President), Clinton Atwater (Treasurer and Membership), Jessica Armstrong, and Wayne and Jill Jordan, for the wonderful hospitality that they bestowed upon her!

Virtual Workshops/Presentations



In September 2023, Karen
Chace, in preparation for the
2024 National Storytelling
Network conference, facilitated
a discussion on "Putting Your
Proposal Pieces Together".
Karen provided detailed
Information about what makes
a compelling proposal.



In February 2024, Ted Parkhurst

facilitated "The Confluence of Storytelling and Publishing". This presentation discussed 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.

Virtual Workshops/Presentations



In April and May 2024, Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy, facilitated "How Stories Help Discover the Purpose of an Organization".

He discussed a story circle design that he uses to help teams and companies across Russia and internationally find the answer to the question: "Why does the work we do here matter?" Participants learned about the underlying approach to story and communication that comfortably links stories to meaning-making.

In May, Artem, CEO and Founder of Historia

Academy, held a free virtual international conference "Stories Light Now"

25+international storytelling and narrative experts shared how to use stories to illuminate the present moment and the now inside of us, for us, and between us.

Laura Packer and Saara Silvennoinen, who are members of Storytelling In
 Organizations were a facilitator and interviewee, respectively, at the confer-



In May and June of 2024, Jim Brulé
facilitated "The Neuroscience of Effective
Presentations - Using Storytelling to Enhance
Learning". The objectives of the workshop were
as follows: The neuroscience of how we perceive
and learn 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. In June, Jim facilitated "Enhancing Presentations with Narrative" Attendees received a pre-recorded video tutorial for using ChatGPT to generate narrative content and outlines and sample prompts. They engaged in guided exercises and live demonstrations of Artificial Intelligence tools in action.



MEMBER RESOURCES

THE NSN PRO SIG'S STORYTELLING EVENT PRODUCTION GUIDE AVAILABLE NOW!

This book is written for anyone hoping to create or improve a storytelling event. Offered by the Producers and Organizers Group (PRO) of the National Storytelling Network (NSN), whether your gathering is in-person or virtual, whether it is a one-night offering or a multi-year series, the information contained in these pages is indispensable. Packed with practical information and step-by-step instructions, this content has been contributed by more than a dozen successful storytelling event producers. They are sharing their secrets of success with you, because they are part of the National Storytelling Network which believes the world is a better place when more stories are shared.

The chapters of the book are a detailed guide to aid you in turning your event dream into a reality. They will help you explore the big questions of your vision, like why you want to host a storytelling event? What you hope it will look like? Who you hope will come? And what kinds of stories you want shared? The book will also assist you in the many practical aspects of producing a storytelling event, such as inclusivity, marketing, contracts, budgeting, grant writing, tech, and volunteers.



CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

You don't have to create your storytelling event by yourself. Open the pages of this book, and let the authors help you to learn from their successes and failures. The story of your event is about to unfold. Turn the pages, study the content, and actualize your dream.

This publication guide is a collective effort by members of PRO. Contributors include Robin Bady, Janet Bickel-Burton, Tim Ereneta, Jeff Gere, Rachel Hedman, Claire Hennessy, Marilyn McPhie, Barry McWilliams, Ellen Munds, Lisa Overholser, JJ Sheffer, Chester Weems, and Liz Weir.



FUNDRAISER

IT'S TIME TO DONATE ITEMS TO NSN'S FALL 2024 ONLINE AUCTION

The money raised by this auction will be used to fund NSN Member Grants.

Perhaps you have some items that need a new home. During last summer's auction, there were 54 donors, 99 items were donated, and 57 bidders paid a total of \$5,896! We are hoping, with your help, to do better this summer.

Here are types of items which have sold well in the past:

- Art: quilts, wall hangings, paintings
- Clothing
- Food
- Gift certificates
- Jewelry
- Storytelling accessories: puppets, musical instruments and other story enhancers
- Storytelling books, CDs, DVDs
- Storytelling conference and storytelling festival registrations
- Storytelling services (marketing, recording, coaching, photography, house concerts, etc.)



Minimum value for each donated item: \$35 Items must be new or nearly new in excellent condition.

PLEASE NOTE: at last year's auction, over two-thirds of the items sold for \$35 – \$60. So if you have four CDs you want to donate, please submit two auction items, each containing two CDs.

If you have an item or service to donate, please do so no later than Sept. 15th.

Instructions below:



A) Fill out one Google form per auction item: https://bit.ly/nsn24-auction-donation

Please note: Unfortunately, you only get one chance to edit the information you enter – that's immediately after you submit this form. So please gather all the pieces of information and then fill in this form with:

- Description of donated item with enough details to tempt people to bid
- Approximate retail value (\$35.00 minimum for each item)
- Starting price
- Shipping Cost please enter 0 if you are donating the cost of shipping
- Travel details (if any)
- Donor's name
- Donor's email address
- Name of donor's organization (if any)
- Website address of donor's organization (if any)
- Donor's preferred telephone number

B) Email kate@katedudding.com

- one to four photos of the auction item. (If it's a service you will provide, perhaps your photo would be appropriate.)
- The logo of your business (if you have one)

C) Donors will be emailed when their item has been added to the auction website:

https://www.32auctions.com/nsn24

IMPORTANT: Do not mail any items to NSN. At the end of the auction, there will be direct mailing from the donor to the auction winner.

Imagine sitting in your favorite spot and bidding on beautiful hand-crafted items and inspiring storytelling experiences, donated from your storytelling friends across the nation and beyond to help support NSN Member Grants. On September 30 - October 11, you'll be able to get a jump on your holiday shopping wherever you are as long as you can access the NSN website. Watch for specifics about the auction itself to be posted here: https://storynet.org/online-auction/

To generate donations and when the auction runs this fall, please spread the word on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and other social networks. Let your non-storytelling friends, family, and co-workers in on the auction, especially if you spot an item they might be interested in. We look forward to a fun and profitable online event. But first, we need your donations to make it happen!

Donation Deadline: Sep 15th

GRATEFULLY THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT,
Kate Dudding and Marilyn McPhie, Auction Co-Chairs

Kate@KateDudding.com mmcphie@gmail.com



AUGUST EVENTS (CLICK TITLES FOR MORE INFO)

2024 NSN Conference Virtual Ticket 2024

Available July 17, 2024 8:30 am – September 15, 2024 12:00 am
Virtual

Hans Christian Andersen Stories and Folklore Summer 2024

August 3, 2024 10:00 am – 11:00 am Eastern Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center Central Park near 72nd St New York, NY

Bright Water Tellers

August 5, 2024 04:00 pm Central Virtual

Unreal Stories

Better Said Than Done
August 8, 2024 at 8:00pm ET / 5:00pm PT
Virtual

Storyteller "Brother Ben" Tucker

August 14, 2024 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm Pacific Belle Haven Library, Belle Haven Community Campus 100 Terminal Ave. Menlo Park, CA

"The Myriad Opportunities to Bring Story into Organizations"

Storytelling In Organizations
August 15, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Central
Virtual

Voices in the Glen Monthly Story Swap

August 17, 2024 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Central Virtual

True Stories of Wonder

Better Said Than Done
September 12, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:35 pm
Hybrid/YouTube
The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr. Fairfax, VA

When Storytellers Write about Healing: An Interview with Jim Brulé hosted by Laura Simms

Healing Story Alliance August 21, 2024. 7:00pm-8:30 pm EDT Virtual





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CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER:

Send an email with your contribution to newsletter@storynet.org to go out to the NSN community. Membership not required.

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