

National Storytelling Network

FROM THE DESK OF DELANNA REED

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Delanna Reed
Chair & President
National Storytelling Network

As the newly appointed Chair of the NSN Board of Directors, I sit and reflect on all that has happened since I joined the board two years ago. The board structure has changed from one of regional directors to SIG directors, and from an organization spread coast to coast with only the annual conference to bring us together to one that spends more time meeting virtually than in person. We have become a volunteer run organization, with one part-time position (bookkeeper), and by doing so, we have stabilized financially. As we fill board positions with enthusiastic new faces, I am eager to see what NSN can achieve in the future. When I contemplated writing this entry in our monthly e-newsletter, I realized there is too much to talk about at one time. So, I will focus on experiences you had at the recent conference as revealed in the evaluations you submitted to NSN in August.

CLICK THE RED HALF OF
THE PAGE TO TURN BACK

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I have enjoyed participating in NSN conferences over the years. I learned much from the workshops, got to visit with friends, and make new ones, as well as listen to a variety of storytelling styles. For those reasons, I eagerly watched the 2024 Together Again! National Storytelling Conference take shape. Friends and colleagues, old and new, gathered in person for the first time since 2019. Dumas Bay Centre was tranquil, with colorful flower gardens, a lovely view of the sunset over the Sound, and if you planned it right, a glimpse of nearby nesting bald eagles. Members who could not travel to Seattle, Washington, found the online version of the conference made it possible to meet, talk on Zoom, and feel part of the event. The Atlanta Conference team is already planning the 2025 NSN Conference. Thanks to your responses in the Together Again! Conference evaluation, the Atlanta team can create an even better experience next year.

The NSN board was gratified to receive 113 electronic responses to the online evaluation. The conference was clearly appreciated by those who attended. Over 90% of you were satisfied with the registration and payment process and communication prior to the conference. 96% of the conference goers were happy with the location and facilities for the conference. Over 90% of you thought the topics of the conference were varied and met your personal and professional needs. In addition, the majority of you enjoyed the activities provided from the opening mixer to the morning nature walks and yoga, to the dance and socializing at the end.

We received detailed comments addressing specific benefits and drawbacks of this conference. The majority of drawbacks concerned the physical facilities. Although the majority believed there was enough time for socializing, we can still improve in that sphere. We recognize the need for a place where you can relax comfortably to rest and talk. In addition, we acknowledge that onsite accommodations were rustic. Understandably, most people prefer a private bath and shower in their room. Staying offsite had its difficulties, as well. Those who stayed off site had to pay for a shuttle back and forth, and often hated to leave for their hotel when socializing was in full swing. Having a room on site has advantages like being able to stay up late or go to your room to rest during the day. Nevertheless, I am happy to say that overall, the conference was well received. We achieved the overarching goal to bring everyone back together again.

As I bring my remarks to a close, I want to point out that while we did not provide a formal evaluation to our virtual participants, we received the excellent feedback you gave to Heather Forest. We cannot say enough to show our appreciation to Heather and our videographer Jessica Robinson for their hard work and professionalism in creating the virtual experience. With their feedback, we will continue to improve the virtual conference experience as well.

I encourage all of you to reach out to the board with ideas, suggestions, and your talents. We have four more board positions to fill, and you may just be the person best suited for the job. If you don't have time to hold a board position, consider joining one of our committees.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities, contact us at info@storynet.org.



FUNDRAISER

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO DONATE TO NSN'S FALL ONLINE AUCTION FOR MEMBER GRANTS!

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 the types of items that 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.

See instructions for submitting items below.

NSN NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK

Raise Funds for Member Grants!

Fall 2024 Online
AUCTION

Sept. 30 – Oct. 11

Donations accepted Aug. 19 to Sept. 15

More info: storynet.org/online-auction



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



**2024 ORACLE Award Winners at National Storytelling Conference
Dumas Bay, WA.**

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE We sincerely apologize for the inaccurate labeling of this photo in the August issue.

Note that Gwendolyn Napier accepted the ORACLE Regional Service and Leadership Award for the Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia and not the Georgia Storytelling Network.

— Rishi Nixon and Margaret Read MacDonald

REFLECTIONS

2024 KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM ESSAYS

Read two *more* of our conference scholarship recipients' reflections on storytelling and the value the conference represented in their storytelling journeys this month.

GWENDOLYN J. NAPIER

PROUD, HONORED AND EXCITED as a Storyteller to be a "KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM SCHOLAR" at the 2024 NSN National Storytelling Conference in Seattle, Washington – Dumas Bay Centre. Hello, I am Gwendolyn J. Napier from Atlanta, Georgia. I was chosen from many others to be a Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholar. Our beloved Kathryn Tucker Windham was an AWESOME Storyteller. I heard her so many times in the past before transitioning as an ancestor to share Stories. It was at the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee under the Big White Tent. Maya Angelou expressed my thoughts and experiences so beautifully of my Reflections. "At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them FEEL." As it has been stated by most – Storytelling Reflections on The Bay was VALUABLE & REWARDING. Before I arrived at the Conference, I had to calm down from the excitement of being a Scholar of a such prestige Scholarship of Kathryn Tucker Windham. Her name alone is "Storytelling Power & Energy". Traveling through the Skies from Atlanta to Seattle, Washington was absolutely beautiful. I arrived early as a matter of fact; 3 hours early due to the time zones to walk around, observe, fellowship and get checked into my room for a quick lunch. The Dumas Bay Centre was filled with colorful flowers all around with a cool outside fountain flowing calm water. I threw a penny in and made a wish. It felt like HOME with so many friendly faces saying "Hello" with warm "Smiles".

DARLENE RICHARD AKA NELDA TOÑE

I recently had the incredible opportunity to attend the National Storytelling Network Conference in Seattle, Washington, thanks to a scholarship I was awarded by the National Storytelling Network. My stay at the La Quinta Inn hotel was delightful, with top-notch service and a delicious hot breakfast that fueled my days of learning and networking. The conference was held at Dumas Bay, a place steeped in history. Originally a convent for the Sisters of Visitation, Dumas Bay became a serene retreat after the closure of their school and monastery in Tacoma in 1956. The sisters found solace in this tranquil location, but as their numbers dwindled, they eventually sold the property to the city, which transformed it into a stunning meeting center. The setting added a unique charm to the conference, providing a peaceful backdrop to the dynamic events. Each day, a shuttle bus transported us from the hotel to Dumas Bay. Although I arrived slightly late for one of the workshops, I thoroughly enjoyed participating in Ruth Stotter's "Partnering Up" tandem storytelling session. Ruth's workshop was a masterclass in collaboration, where we teamed up to create stories, exploring different themes and perspectives. The exercises were not only fun but also pushed us to think creatively and connect with each other in meaningful ways. Ruth's guidance was invaluable, and by the end of the workshop, I felt inspired and confident in my storytelling abilities. One of the highlights of the conference was the PowellsWood Tour, where I had lunch with fellow storytellers and explored the breathtaking garden.



Gwendolyn J. Napier » The Scholarship was valued with coverage of Meals, NSN Conference Fees, and a Yearly NSN Membership. Scholars were responsible for their own lodging, and transportation to the Conference. These expenses totaled \$1,000.00, but the investment was worth every dollar spent to attend, and actively participate in many other events and programs at the Conference. Opening Day Session was Spectacular. It was an opportunity to Get To Know Folks, and even get better acquainted making better connections to your own inner self. I enjoyed the Powells Wood Garden Tour, it was a beautiful sight of vegetations. A variety of Workshops were offered even individual coaching sessions. I was awarded an opportunity to listen in on Storyteller, Antonio Rocha. The coaching sessions were amazing with individual attention. The diversity of Storytellers was truly welcomed in concerts, workshops and other events and programs. As a Scholarship Recipient, I served as a volunteer in the Book Store for two hours and met so many Storytellers and Friends. It was a wonderful experience putting names and faces together from many Virtual Zoom Programs. My roommate was so pleasant, kind and so cooperative the entire time we shared our room. The theme title "Together Again" was a perfect title for the NSN 2024 Conference. The NSN Conference brought many people back face to face after a long break of separation and Virtual Zooming Platforms. As stated earlier... At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel. Thank You National Storytelling Network for this wonderful feeling of Gratitude as a Kathryn Tucker Windham Conference Scholarship recipient. I will cherish these memories as a Storyteller and share the experiences with others. Thank You!

Darlene Richard aka Nelda Toñe » The park, committed to promoting environmental awareness, spans 37 acres of natural beauty. After lunch, we were treated to enchanting nature stories shared in the garden, followed by a leisurely walk along a scenic trail. It was a refreshing experience that perfectly complemented the storytelling sessions. Back at Dumas Bay, I attended Jamie Brunson's "Storytelling in Action" workshop, which was both informative and inspiring. Jamie provided a wealth of ideas and techniques to elevate my storytelling, and I left the session brimming with new strategies to try out. The conference also featured a silent auction, where I couldn't resist checking out the fantastic books and unique items on offer. Silent auctions are such a fun way to support a cause while scoring some great finds. The showcases at the conference were nothing short of spectacular. If I could, I would hand out Emmys to every performer. The talent on display was truly remarkable, with each storyteller bringing their unique flair to the stage, captivating the audience and leaving us in awe. The energy in the room was electrifying, and every act received thunderous applause and standing ovations. It was a night that deserved grand recognition. Reflecting on the entire experience, I am filled with gratitude. The conference was not only a learning opportunity but also a chance to connect with like-minded individuals who share my NSN Conference Seattle, WA passion for storytelling. I'm thankful to the National Storytelling Network for the scholarship, which made this unforgettable experience possible. I hope others will be blessed with similar opportunities to pursue their passions, just as I was.

SUPPORT MORE WINDHAM SCHOLARS FOR
GEORGIA 2025! [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



Storytelling In Organizations Presents

“The Power of Storytelling for Leadership Development”

When:

Wednesday
September 18, 2024

Time:

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CDT
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Where:

Zoom



Facilitator: Pearl Alexander, JD, CPCC, ACC

Consultant

Executive Director of Organizational Culture at Georgia Tech
Professor of the Practice in Scheller College of Business

Join Pearl Alexander for a conversation about storytelling integration as a catalyst for accelerating a cultural shift towards leadership excellence.

Consider how:

- Empirical data alone is insufficient to affect culture change.
- Hear stories that have raised awareness, fostered inclusion and belonging, and strengthened leaders resilience.



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free



Storytelling In Organizations Presents

“The Responsibilities of Crafting a Story and How to Navigate Personalities”

When:

October 8, 2024

Time:

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CDT
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Where:

Zoom



Facilitator: Chandreyee Lahiri

Community-based Organizer
Founder: We Are Waltham (WAW)

Curator: Voices 2024

Coach

Writer

Storyteller

You will learn:

- How to find tellers within an organization and/or community and how to help them discover a personal story
- How to craft a meaningful impactful story
- How to coach with a view to equity and social justice



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free



REGISTRATION OPENS ON STORYNET.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM YES SIG

The YES SIG will host their monthly Coffee Hour on the second Thursday of the month.

September 12th, 10 am Central, on Zoom.

- This is an informal gathering to share stories about our work with youth, and or storytelling in higher education.
- Open to NSN Members and non-members.
- Register at no cost after September 1st at www.storynet.org.

The YES SIG will hold a story lab on November 19th, 7 pm Central on Zoom.

- In Storytelling Entrepreneurship 101, YES board member Yasu Ishida will host Tim Lowry in a discussion about business practices.
- Story labs are a benefit of YES membership.
- Non sig members pay \$15.00.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**APPLY FOR
THE J.J.
RENEUX
MENTORSHIP
GRANT TODAY!**



The J.J. Reneaux Mentorship Award

A \$2K grant for a gifted
young teller (ages 18-30) to
work with a seasoned
teller as a mentor

Apply Today!



DEADLINE: September 20, 2024
<https://www.asst.art/jjreneaux>

Sponsored by the J.J. Reneaux Fund





OPPORTUNITY

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NABS' 2024 BLACK APPALACHIAN STORYTELLERS FELLOWSHIP

The National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) is proud to announce the 3rd Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship to honor, celebrate, and support Black storytellers residing in the Appalachian counties (as designated by the Appalachian Regional Commission) of Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina. This is a partnership between the National Association of Black Storytellers and Mid Atlantic Arts and South Arts. The Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship will be administered by the National Association of Black Storytellers.

The NABS Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship is funded in part by Mid Atlantic Arts' Central Appalachia Living Traditions Program and South Arts as part of the In These Mountains, Central Appalachian Folk Arts and Culture initiative.

NABS 2024 Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowships will provide six (6) \$5,000 awards (with limited restrictions) to support experienced practitioners and culture bearers with opportunities to examine, research, develop, perform, and/or document the Black Appalachian storytelling tradition. One fellowship will be awarded to represent each of the six eligible states.

Fellows will receive funds for travel to the "In the Tradition..." 42nd Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference, October 24-27, 2024 in Buffalo, New York at the Embassy Suites Buffalo, [200 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY](#) and for travel and lodging to present at the "43rd" Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference in Atlanta, GA in 2025.

Fellows will also receive membership to the National Association of Black Storytellers from September, 2024- December, 2025.

We are extremely excited about this opportunity and look forward to your applications!!

For questions contact: AATP@NABSinc.org.

Deadline: August 22, 2024

Generously funded and made possible by Mid Atlantic Arts and South Arts.

**TEJAS STORYTELLING
ASSOCIATION
TSA STORYTELLING
CONFERENCE**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 20 - 22, 2024
HOLIDAY INN HOU ENERGY CORRIDOR
1112 ELDRIDGE PKWY, HOUSTON, TX 77077**

FEATURING:



**DR. LYNN HARTER
KEYNOTE**



**ELIZABETH ELLIS
FEATURED TELLER**

**WORKSHOPS
PANEL DISCUSSIONS
COACHING OPPORTUNITIES
STORY SWAPS
NETWORKING & MORE ...**



**KIM WEITKAMP -
FEATURED WORKSHOP
PRESENTER**



From the National Association of Black Storytellers:

42nd Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference

“Tracing & Lighting Freedom’s Footsteps!”

- Cohosted by Tradition Keepers — Black Storytellers of Western New York
- Early registration deadline: Sep 26, 2024
- Register on the NABS website at www.nabsinc.org
- Reserve conference hotel here: <https://group.embassysuites.com/zlvbuo> by September 9, 2024

Mirrors & Magic: True Stories of Wonder



Carol Moore



Laura Packer



Jessica Robinson

September 12, 2024 - 7:00pm Start / Doors 6:30pm
Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr., Fairfax City, VA

**connecting independent artists
everywhere**



**Join our weekly community gathering ~
*the water cooler for storytellers.***

**Every Monday except Memorial Day & Labor Day
4:00-5:30 PM Eastern US**

www.asst.art/weekly-gathering



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

2024 NSN Conference: Virtual Ticket

Closes September 14, 2024

Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic

September 7, 2024 | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm CDT

Email jdelnegro@dom.edu for the Zoom link and/or if you want to tell in the open mic.

Healing Story Alliance: OARS in the Water

September 11, 2024 | 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CDT

Virtual/Zoom

Better Said Than Done: True Stories of Wonder

September 12, 2024 | 6:00 pm – 7:35 pm EDT

The Old Town Hall

3999 University Dr. Fairfax, VA

Hybrid/YouTube

Voices in the Glen: Monthly Story Swap

September 14, 2024 | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm EDT

In-person

RSVP to billmayhew666@gmail.com for location.

“Echoes of the Ancestors” told by Mara Menzies

September 28, 2024 | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm CDT

Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center

450 W. Ohio St. Indianapolis, Indiana

Healing Story Alliance: Kind Stories

October 6, 2024 | 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CDT

Virtual/Zoom

Storytelling in Organizations: The Responsibilities of Crafting a Story and How to Navigate Personalities

October 8, 2024 | 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CDT

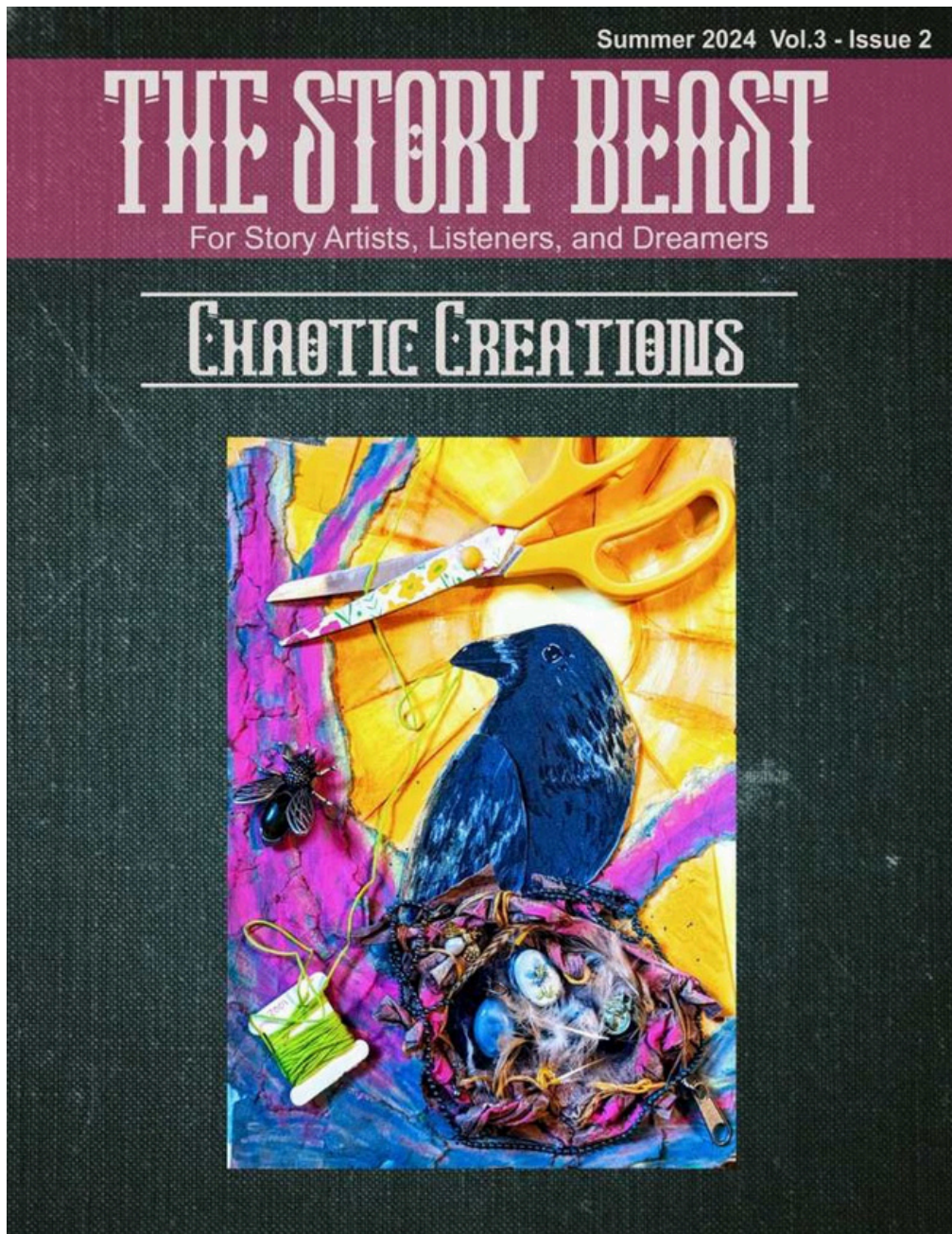
Virtual/Zoom



NSN'S BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS! [CLICK TO READ THE AUGUST MINUTES](#)

AND...

DON'T MISS THE SUMMER ISSUE OF THE STORY BEAST! FALL ISSUE OUT SEP 15





NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Margaret Read MacDonald	Managing Editor
Rishi Nixon	Assistant Managing Editor
Ashton Cynthia Clarke	Events Editor
Rita Rigano	Copy Editor
Sara Armstrong	Copy Editor
Nick Smith	Editor
Cassie Selleck	Editor

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