

National Storytelling Network

FROM THE DESK OF DELANNA REED

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Delanna Reed
Chair & President,
National Storytelling Network

As the leaves turn colors and fall to the ground, we prepare for the stillness of winter. Yet, autumn brings festivities, even as living things are preparing to lie dormant and still. Everything has cycles, doesn't it? October brings Halloween and perpetually popular ghost stories. November brings Tellabration!™ concerts around the country and the globe. December brings stories of many traditions: the Christian celebrations of Christmas, Jewish celebrations of Hannukah, and African American Kwanzaa, among others. Stories reflect the cycle of life in the natural world and metaphysically.

The National Storytelling Network sponsors the tradition of Tellabration!™, first established in 1988 in Connecticut by JG Pinkerton. Still vibrant today, I encourage members who produce a Tellabration! Concert in the coming weeks to put your event on [the NSN online calendar](#). If you send the information to Dot Cleveland, dot@storynet.org, she will put it on the Tellabration webpage. We have updated and streamlined the information on producing the event. Read about it [here](#). The special interest group Producers and Organizers has published a book on producing storytelling events that brings us into the

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21st century of electronic media. You can access it on the Tellabration page or look for Storytelling Event Production Guide on Amazon.

In addition, members are invited to put all your storytelling events on the NSN calendar. You can also post your events on the NSN Facebook page by sending the information to Dot Cleveland at dot@storynet.org. As a national organization, we want our website to be a source of information about storytelling events for people in every state and around the globe. So, join us in spreading the joy of storytelling!

SUPPORT OUR MEMBER GRANTS PROGRAM

NSN'S 2024 FALL AUCTION IS NOW OPEN!



Kate Dudding & Marilyn McPhie
Auction Co-Chairs
National Storytelling Network

**Support NSN's Member Grants program!
Start bidding!**

Bidding begins today on 90+ wonderful items, including Art, Books, Recordings, Clothing, Coaching, Festivals, Jewelry, Lodging, Performances, Puppets, and more! You can find all the items at the auction website: 32auctions.com/nsn24

Bidding tip

Consider selecting Proxy Bid when making a bid. A proxy bid allows you to enter the maximum amount you're willing to spend with the goal of winning the item at the lowest possible price. The online auction platform (32Auctions) will bid for you, up to your maximum amount, as additional bids are entered on the item. Your maximum bid amount will remain confidential. Good luck bidding!

Help us spread the word!

Tell your friends! Share the auction address 32auctions.com/nsn24 on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and other social networks. Let your local storytelling guild and monthly swap know! You can even let your non-storytelling friends, family, and co-workers know about the auction, especially if you spot an item they might be interested in.

The auction runs until Friday, October 11, at 8:00 p.m. Central. But don't delay, get your bid in now!





BRING YOUR BEST TO GEORGIA

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR GEORGIA 2025 CONFERENCE PROPOSALS



Leslie Shelley & Rishi Nixon
Conference Co-Chairs
National Storytelling Network

Keep **GEORGIA ON YOUR MIND** for the 2025 NSN Conference as plans are made for stories, workshops, and coaching sessions from an exciting line up of tellers! Mark your calendar for July 17-20, 2025. Get ready to share four great days of stories at Kennesaw State University, 45 minutes north of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International airport. Watch for full conference information, registration opening in January. Save the dates!

Our due date for proposal submissions HAS BEEN EXTENDED to October 28, 2024, at 11:59pm.

[ACCESS THE PROPOSAL FORM HERE](#)

If you do not receive confirmation that your proposal was received, please contact Leslie Shelley at leslierainey.shelley@gmail.com. If you have already submitted and would like to make a few tweaks, please feel free to edit your submission up until the deadline. We want to make sure that every proposal is considered. It is exciting to see so many fantastic proposals come in! We can't wait to receive your submission.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposal, please contact Leslie Shelley (leslierainey.shelley@gmail.com) and/or Rishi Nixon (rishi@storynet.org).



PRO TIP:

MISSION STATEMENTS:

“There are many different reasons to host storytelling events, so it’s important to understand why you’re doing what you’re doing. It’s a good idea to formalize the ‘why’ of what you’re doing with a mission statement.”

Take a look at the NSN PRO Production Guide to find out the different ways that PRO members Jeff Gere, who organized the Talk Story Festival in Hawaii, and Ellen Munds, from Storytelling Arts Indiana, crafted their Mission Statements.



This monthly PRO Tip is brought to you by the NSN Producers and Organizers Group (PRO), who have compiled a Storytelling Event Producers Guide for anybody who wants expert advice and tips for producing storytelling events!

Scan the QR code to purchase your very own copy!



JESSICA OF BETTER SAID THAN DONE'S NEW BOOK

JESSICA PISCITELLI ROBINSON RELEASES HER MEMOIR, *STAGES*

Stages: My Life in Stories is available now. Purchase at any of Jessica's upcoming live events, found [here](#). Or through Tucker DS Press [here](#). Or purchase and review through Amazon [here](#).

"Jessica's stories create a work of heart. Each chapter reads like a conversation in which I listen to an old friend's experiences, and recognize my own. Thoughtfully written, presented in pastel touches of humor and pathos, this book is an appreciation of all the colors of a life."

— Lyn Ford, storyteller and author

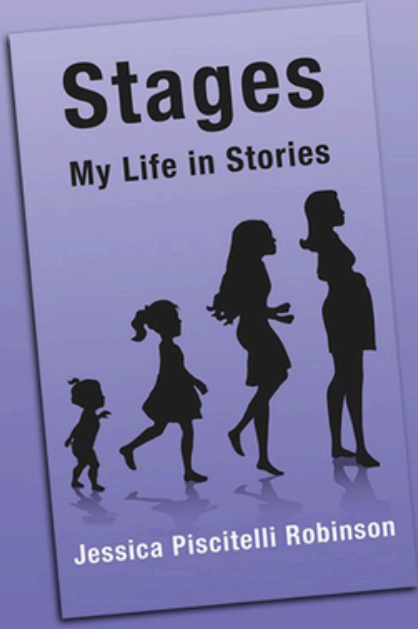
"Stages is a delightful collection of reflections on how JP Robinson got to where she is today. It is a chiaroscuro portrait of a young woman coming of age at the turn of the 21st Century, describing the difficulties of family life and public education at the end of the last and the challenges of working in the film industry before the Me-Too movement in this. The balance of light and dark is truly masterful. (Spoiler alert: The punchline, indeed the last word, is the same as in the story of Pandora's Box)."

— Ed Stivender, storyteller and author

About the Author

Jessica Robinson is the Founding Executive Director of Better Said Than Done, the storytelling organization that hosts the annual Women's Storytelling Festival. A spoken-word storyteller, Jessica was NSN's 2023 ORACLE Award recipient

Find more at jessicapiscitellirobinson.com



Stages: My Life in Stories
a memoir by Jessica Piscitelli Robinson

At first glance, *Stages* is a memoir, a collection of amusing, moving stories that follow the author through her life. As you reach the end of the book, of course, you see the larger picture, like an image arising out of mosaics.

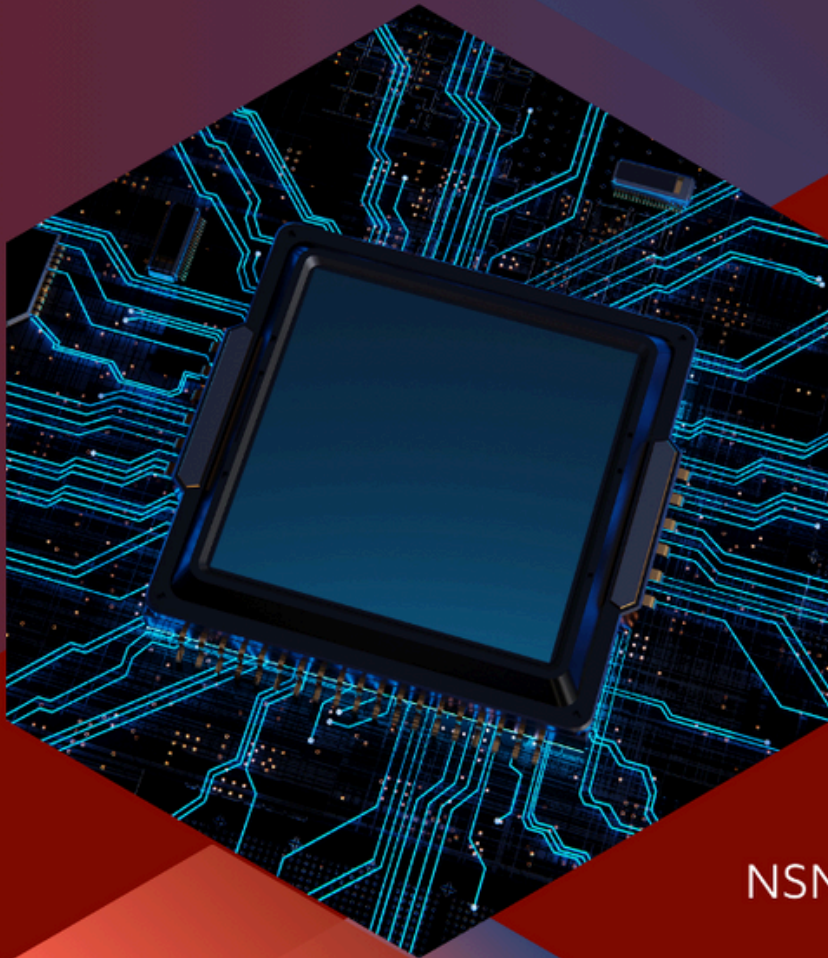
It's also a masterclass on storytelling, and Jessica Piscitelli Robinson a master storyteller.
-author, Anne Janzer

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Available everywhere
September 25, 2024

jessicapiscitellirobinson.com

CLICK TO REGISTER



NSN PRO presents:

THE FUTURE OF HYBRID

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024

1 - 2:30 pm (Central)

\$10 (free for PRO members)

PRESENTERS:

Heather Forest

Claire Hennessy

Rachel Hedman





Storytelling In Organizations Presents a Workshop

"Harnessing Emotional Fitness Through Storytelling"

When:
Saturday
November 9, 2024

Time:
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT

Where:
Zoom



Facilitator: Sadika Kebbi

Founder and CEO of Kun Consultancy
TEDX Speaker
John Maxwell certified trainer
Emotional Fitness Coach



This workshop offers a unique opportunity to explore how storytelling can be a powerful tool to build and enhance emotional fitness.

Participants will learn techniques to harness narratives for growth, resilience, and effective leadership.

Sadika's expertise and engaging approach promise to provide valuable insights and transformative experiences for all attendees.

SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free

Register for "Harnessing Emotional Fitness Through Storytelling" here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUup deGsrT4 HtCZKZWSDKq4NEQebOxtxUMr>

Storytelling In Organizations also invites you to attend "The Responsibilities of Crafting a Story and How to Navigate Personalities" on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m EDT via Zoom.

Chandreyee Lahiri is a community organizer, the curator of Voices 2024, and the founder of We are Waltham (WaW). Join her in a discussion on how to find tellers, craft an impactful true story, and coach with a view to equity and social justice.

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwod-mggT4oH9xLcvrVcRx2E4gubkOExEpn>



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

**TRADITIONS and TRUTH:
A Virtual Open Mic
Featuring
LAURA PACKER**

**Saturday, October 5th
7:00-8:30pm CDT - Online
Free / Donations Welcome**

Email: jdelnegro@dom.edu
for the Zoom link and/or if you are interested
in telling a story (7-10 minutes)

<https://storytelling.org>



SLICE OF LIFE: A TELLING OF STORIES

Join nationally-celebrated storyteller Connie Regan-Blake as she welcomes her storytelling workshop participants to the stage for “*A Slice of Life: An Evening of Stories.*” This show’s tellers are Andy Russell, Cheri Miller; Christine Phillips Westfeldt, Janel Woodland; Laura Hope-Gill, Linda Chancey Guice; Caty Carlin, and Steve Tate. Connie is emceeing this evening of unique voices. The last several “Slice of Life” shows have been sell-outs – so get your tickets early!

Event Date: October 19, 2024

Event Time and Place: 7 pm at Black Mountain Center for the Arts

Event Contact Person: Connie Regan-Blake

Event Ticket Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-slice-of-life-an-evening-of-stories-tickets-965039648567?aff=oddtcreator>



Persephone's Choice

A Sacred Story Workshop
into the power of sovereignty
and the mythic imagination.

with

Jacqui Bushell

October 30th

7pm - 9pm EDT

\$25-\$75 (pay what you are able)

To register: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/persephones-choice-a-sacred-story-journey-tickets-182776>

Sponsored by the Healing Story Alliance.

About this Workshop

Curl into winter's cave this Samhain, as the myth of Persephone's descent guides you into the mysteries of the underworld, where darkness is both a sanctuary and an initiation. The underworld asks for your surrender to its embrace, to seek and find a core of stillness, trust, and love.

Trace the heartline of this ancient myth and what its metaphors and symbols inspire in your own life. Persephone's choice to eat the pomegranate seeds is a powerful pivotal moment within this ancient teaching story. Pulled in many directions by others, she must discover her powers of autonomy and sovereignty. Shedding naivety, she becomes a queen knowing the mysteries of life, death, and rebirth. When Persephone emerges in Spring's soft light, she carries with her the six seeds of new life. Her wisdom can also be your wisdom. To what will you say yes in life? What ripens for you in the hidden darkness of winter? This sacred story is a potent journey of claiming your innate authority, aligning yourself with your inner core of wise knowing and creative vision.

"Jacqui's deep dives into Story are transformational. This is true soul work, using a diverse variety of techniques to draw out and explore who we are in our own stories. I emerged from her course with a new understanding of an old story, inspiration for a personal creative project, and a community of kindred spirits to travel with."

Workshop Participant — Katie Carey

What We Will Do in This Workshop

In this experiential workshop, explore the myth of Persephone and the medicine it calls into your own life. Through creative writing, mythic imaginal journeys, storytelling, and discussion:

- Enter the liminal realms as a place of discovery to awaken greater creative expression
- Journey into the mythic realm of the Underworld to embody new 'seed' potentials in your own life - courage, wisdom and creative gifts.
- Explore your relationship with personal agency and what governs your choices. Understand the transformational power of story as a guide for forging new ways and shifting old habits.
- Discover what this myth can awaken in you personally and for us all, collectively.
- Receive creative prompts and potent guided imagery sourced from the archetypal patterns and metaphors within the Persephone myth.

In these times of great change, the story of Persephone illuminates the hidden paths that lead to inspiring courage, vision and hope, awakening you into the great transformation of true belonging.

The Workshop Facilitator



Jacqui Bushell, from Australia, has spent her life dancing with the mythic imagination, drawing on the wisdom of fairy tales and her work as a spiritual herbalist who listens to the voices and stories in the land. As a writer and speaker, she passionately encourages others to explore their own mythology at the borderlands of psyche, body, culture, and landscape. For 30 years, Jacqui has facilitated women's circles, ceremonies, retreats, workshops, and courses in Australia and internationally. She guides people in awakening their creative soul essence through a deep connection with the mysteries of the earth, stories, and their own sacred nature. Bridging a broad range of skills—plant spirit alchemy, energetic healing, history and mythic philosophy, embodiment practices, and journey work—Jacqui inspires transformational shifts in how people see themselves and their world. Her empowering, experiential work invites you to come home to a profound sense of belonging and kinship with nature.

What people have said

"I love, love, love learning with Jacqui. She creates a multi-layered tapestry weaving story, movement, words and the sacred. Anything she offers, you know you will absolutely get so much more than you were expecting – deeper learning and more opening, which will impact your life in amazing and transformative ways."

Bernadette Loughlin

"Jacqui inspires people! She manages to blend story, spirit and earth magic into one and shine the light on wonders I never knew existed in myself."

Kate Wilcox



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2024

Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic

Saturday, October 5, 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.

HSA Healing Story Alliance

Kind Stories

October 6, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CDT • Online/Zoom

SIO Storytelling in Organizations

The Responsibilities of Crafting a Story and How to Navigate Personalities

October 8, 2024 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CDT • Online/Zoom

Voices in the Glen Story Swap

Saturday, October 19th at 7:30 – 8:30pm EDT • Online/Zoom

Ojai Storytelling Festival

October 24 – 27, 2024 • Ojai Art Center • ojaistoryfest.org

Contact 805-272-0072 or email info@ojaistoryfest.org

Persephone's Choice with Jacqui Bushell Sacred Story Workshop

Wednesday, October 30th at 7pm – 9 pm EDT

Online/Zoom

Michigan Bright Water Storytelling Festival

Saturday, November 9, 2024, 9:30 am -9:00 pm Eastern • Howell Opera House

123 W Grand River Ave

Howell, MI 48843

Blue Ridge Story Space

Tellabration! Liars Contest

November 16, 2024 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. Eastern • The June Bug Center

251 Parkway Ln S.

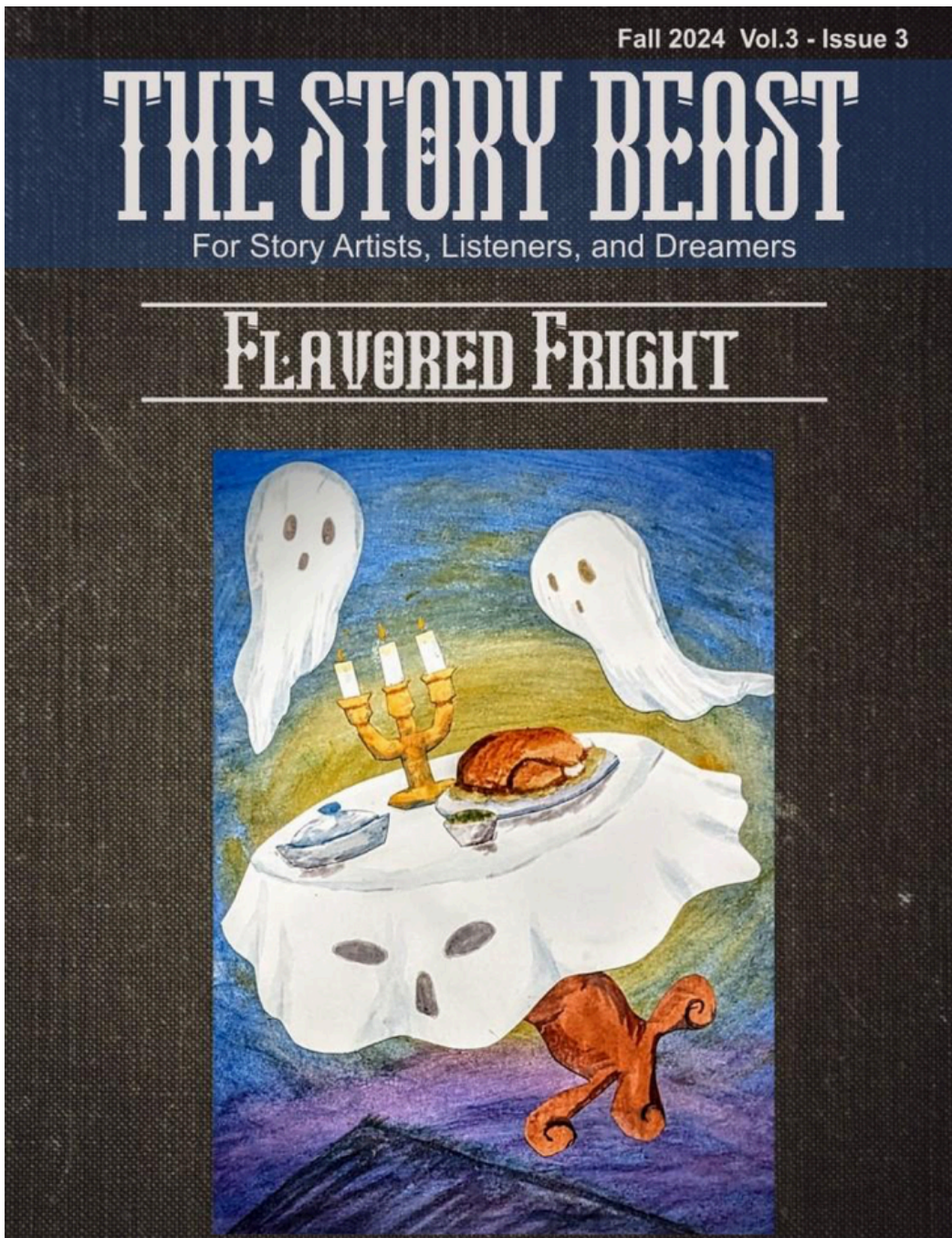
Floyd, VA 24019



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

RELEASED!

**THE FALL ISSUE OF THE STORY BEAST IS OUT!
CLICK THE COVER TO READ IT**





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