

National Storytelling Network

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

NEW YEAR'S LETTER



Delanna Reed
President & Chair of the Board of Directors
National Storytelling Network

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you made it through the holiday season unscathed and with a sense of joy, love, and peace. We at NSN are kicking off 2025 with thrilling plans for the upcoming year: the National Conference, Oracle Awards, and Member Grants are coming your way.

Georgia 2025!

Plans for the next National Storytelling Conference, Georgia 2025, are coming together! A record number of proposals are under review; on December 15, the fringe shows were selected by lottery, and facilities at Kennesaw State University are in place. Any day now you will see registration open, so keep an eye on the NSN website so you can register and reserve your lodging on the university campus. Last year was the first time we offered a virtual component for the conference. Members were enthusiastic about this option, especially those who could not attend in person. Heeding the feedback of participants, we are expanding our virtual offerings this year. Those who attend in person and register for the full conference will again receive a virtual ticket. Those who register to attend virtually will pay a modest registration fee. Once the conference committee schedules the conference, we will offer the schedule online in advance so you can plan which workshops, concerts, and panels you want to attend. We are happy to confirm there is room for all who wish to stay in campus housing at Kennesaw State by the reservation deadline.

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THE PAGE TO TURN BACK

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TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE

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**DID YOU KNOW? NSN
BOARD MEETINGS ARE
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS**

Click [here](#) to read this
month's and prior meeting
minutes.



The entire conference takes place on campus, including housing and meals. For those who drive, there is ample parking. If you are flying in, you will need to make your own arrangements to travel to/from the airport and the university. The NSN Board of Directors wants to thank our conference co-chairs, Leslie Shelley, Rishi Nixon and the conference committee, for the hard work they are doing to make this conference a success. Now all we need is you!

ORACLE Awards

One of the most meaningful events that occurs at the National Storytelling Conference is the ORACLE Awards ceremony. NSN offers these prestigious awards to honor friends and colleagues in the storytelling world for the excellent work they do and their achievements. From regional leadership and service awards to the Circle of Excellence for performers and Lifetime Achievement, you have the opportunity to show your admiration and respect for those you know. Click [here](#) to submit your nomination now through January 31, 2025.

Member Grants

Four to five years ago, due to the COVID shutdown, NSN Member Grants were put on hold. No longer! The last two silent auctions have increased our funds for giving these grants. With a small member grant (up to \$1000) you can pursue your dream storytelling project. We are happy to be able to offer this important benefit to our members once again. Applications for 2025-2026 will open this spring.

Conflict of Interest

I want to tell you about an important change in the By-Laws that benefits you directly. Decades ago, when the National Storytelling Network and the International Storytelling Center were the same organization, board members were not allowed to present at the annual conference. This was to avoid the impropriety of board members showing favoritism by selecting from among themselves to present at the conference or to tell at the National Storytelling Festival. NSN inherited this prohibition. For that reason, excellent potential board members have not volunteered for the board. Our current Board of Directors unanimously voted to remove this from the By-Laws. If the board members recuse themselves from voting on their own submissions, they can submit proposals to present at the National Storytelling Conference. We hope this will encourage you to join the board. We currently have two important positions to fill: Public Relations Director and Publications Manager. We look forward to hearing from you if you are interested.

Storytelling Legacy

Has membership in the National Storytelling Network enriched your life? We certainly hope so. We intend NSN to continue to support the storytelling community for years to come. We cannot do this without your help. One way you can help us grow and remain a viable organization is by giving. As you write your will, consider how including NSN could be part of your storytelling legacy. Your generosity, no matter what the amount, is deeply appreciated.

Until next month,

[Delanna Reed](#), President & Chair of the National Storytelling Network



GEORGIA 2025 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENING JAN. END!



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

Conference excitement is further building as the new year arrives! Programming is in the works with wonderful presentations, workshops, panels, and coaching rounding out the conference schedule. The Regional Showcase, National Showcase, Fringe lineup are in place, promising a vast array of story genres for everyone. Kennesaw State University (KSU) Arts District is working hard to ensure that the 2025 Conference is one of professionalism, convenience, and artistry.

The conference will occupy the Joe Mack Wilson Building and Wilson Annex. [Here is a link](#) to the campus map for a sneak peek. KSU housing will be in the University Village. Each room has two separate bed rooms with single beds, a shared bathroom, and small kitchenette. Bring your own linens if possible. There will be an option on the registration form if NSN needs to provide linens for you.

Food will be served in an award-winning dining hall (ranked #10 out of 1,344 for best college food in America!) offering a vast array of delicious meals. Options are available for all dietary needs. Wear your walking shoes, as we will occupy a campus triangle of housing, conference, cafeteria but will also have a volunteer team of drivers for those requiring a quick lift between locations.

Registration opens the end of January. The Georgia 2025 NSN Conference is leaping into this new year and we sure hope to see you there!

2025 ORACLE AWARDS

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE ORACLE AWARDS



Mary Hamilton
ORACLE Awards Committee Chair
National Storytelling Network

Written by Mary Gay Ducey and revised by the current ORACLE Award Committee.

Now is the time to prepare your nominations for the 2025 ORACLE Awards.

Submissions will be accepted in January.



Each year since 1995 the National Storytelling Network has honored those who have spread the joy, innovation, and timeless importance of storytelling within North America and beyond. We celebrate those moving storytelling into the future while assuring its continued relevance in the unbroken line from storytellers from the ancient world. We celebrate them all with gratitude and jubilation, we praise them as light bearers, exemplars, visionaries and inspired artists.

The ORACLE Awards are national, even international in scope. The Story Bridges Award recognizes those who cross oceans to seek commonality among disparate cultures. The Talking Leaves Award honors authors, editors, collaborators and translators who contribute to the breadth and depth of story collections, commentary, interpretation and archives. Circle of Excellence recipients are chosen for their artistry and invention, acknowledged by their peers as masters. The Regional Service & Leadership Awards are presented to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to their local or regional Storytelling community and/or have used Storytelling to make a significant contribution to the larger community in which they live. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to individuals in the storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to the National Storytelling Network, as well as to the community of storytellers at large. The Distinguished National Service Award is presented to those individuals, members or groups who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level to forward the work of the National Storytelling Network. All awardees teach and tell wherever they land, leaving countless new storytellers and stories wherever they land. Our awards reveal our hopes and dreams.

In this unsettling time of disputes, perils and division, storytellers work to settle, to encompass, to embrace the essence of story. A multitude of storytellers go each day, each week, each month, each year to work within communities and professions that fill the urgent need for stories, for storytellers, and for story listeners at welcoming schools, businesses, and governments. From schools and libraries where the tiniest listeners gather close to hear ancient narratives and fresh new tales, to churches with gifted preachers, to parks, to commons, storytellers ply their magic and honorable trade. There are dancing storytellers, singing storytellers, storytellers with scissors and string, storytellers who use the desert sands to speak and draw stories. Stories in the languages of the First Nations, the sharp rhythms of rap, or hymns through countless dialects, patois, poetry, sign language; these stories hop and jump across the divide of history, race, and opportunity to spin an endless narrative. It never stops; it never ceases. It can't.

This is who we are. This is what we celebrate; this is what we honor. ORACLE Recipients are our gifted practitioners, our Seers. Let us Praise them now. Thank them now. Let their accomplishments inspire us to claim our essential place. We are storytellers. This world needs our honored recipients every day. It needs us too. Now, let's honor them. Recognize them. Nominate them for these prestigious ORACLE Awards. How? Visit storynet.org/awards/ORACLE-awards to access the instructions and nomination submission form. Submissions will be accepted during the month of January, so start now – write your nomination narrative and solicit the three support letters you'll need.



The *J. J. Reneaux*
Fund

announces with delight
the recipients of our

2025 Mentorship Award



Chisom Ogoke

*will be
mentored
by*



Diane Macklin



The Mentorship Award is granted every other year to a gifted younger teller for study with a seasoned teller as mentor.
www.asst.art/jjreneaux

Congratulations to 2025 J.J. Reneaux mentor and mentee Diane and Chisom from the National Storytelling Network!



Storytelling In Organizations Presents a Virtual Workshop
"StoryGrowth. Creating a Culture of Development
Through Storytelling and Story Work"

When:
Thursday
January 16, 2025

Time:
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST

Where:
Zoom



Facilitator: Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy
Founder and CEO of Historia Academy

Goal: Participants will craft several story-based practices for creating and sustaining a culture of development

Objectives:

- Learn the role of storytelling and storywork in working with organizational culture;
- Discover key ideas that need to be transmitted through stories to sustain and create an environment that fosters skill development and personal growth;
- Learn how to structure a story that can transmit key ideas in a positive non-manipulative way;
- Discover how understanding the story structure can help people create their own story-based practices that maintain the culture of development of an organization



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free



Storytelling In Organizations Presents a Virtual Presentation
"Lead with a Story: The Secret to Inspiring Leadership"

When:
Wednesday
February 19, 2025

Time:
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. CST
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EST

Where:
Zoom



Facilitator: Michael Brundy
President of the Tejas Storytelling Association
President of the Dallas Storytelling Guild

Learn the secret to inspiring leadership, lead with a story!

In this engaging talk, packed with practical tips, real-life examples, and a dash of humor, you will learn how to use stories to build trust, connect with your team, inspire action, drive meaningful change, and lead with impact.



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free

Click the ads to register for the above events from NSN's Storytelling In Organizations (SIO) Special Interest Group



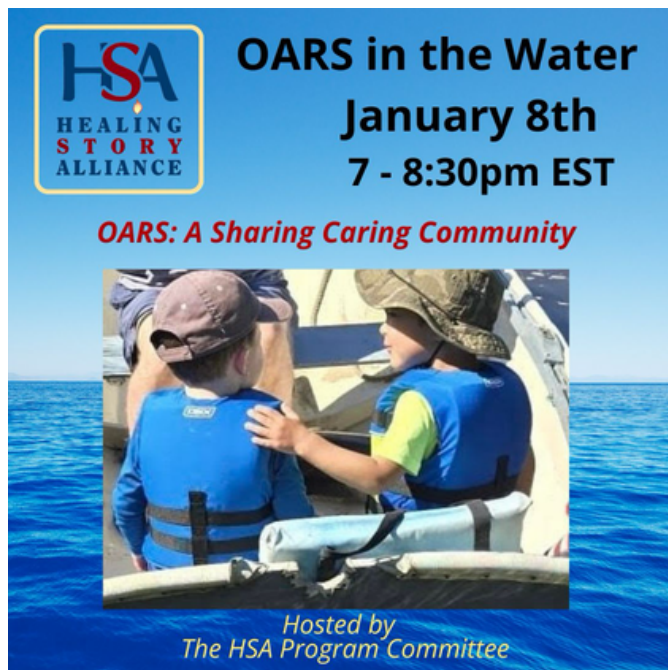
HSA
HEALING
STORY
ALLIANCE

BROKEN

BROKEN MIRROR
January 5th
7:00 PM EST

LIVE on ZOOM!

**A Spoken Word Poetry Performance
by The Artist Anubis**
Pay What You are Able \$25-\$50
A Fundraiser for HSA!




HSA
HEALING
STORY
ALLIANCE

OARS in the Water

January 8th
7 - 8:30pm EST

OARS: A Sharing Caring Community



*Hosted by
The HSA Program Committee*

ELIZABETH ELLIS WORKSHOP

Discover the Heart of Storytelling with Elizabeth Ellis, Online workshop: Building a Repertoire that Works. Sat Jan 11, 10 am.

Click [here](#) to register.

Investment: \$50 (Proceeds support both Elizabeth Ellis and the Tejas Storytelling Association).



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024 EVENTS

CALL FOR TELLERS: December 28, 2024 6:21 pm – January 4, 2025 11:55 pm

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 4 @ 11:59 PM

Click [here](#) to submit a proposal for Tales of Fire and Frost—Stories from the Winter Hearth

Patchwork Storytelling Guild Thursday, January 30, 2025 EST

Venue: The Ice House, Bethlehem, PA

ECHOES OF THE PAST: STORIES TO SHAPE THE NEW YEAR!

Patchwork Storytelling Guild

January 1, 2025 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CST

Online/Zoom

Traditions and Truth: A Virtual Open Mic

Dominican University and Storytelling.org

Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 7:00-8:30 pm CST

Online/Zoom

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

Broken Mirror

HSA: Healing Story Alliance

January 5, 2025 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CST

HSA: OARS in the Water

January 8, 2025 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm CST

Online/Zoom

Fight Club: Stories about conflict

Better Said Than Done

January 9, 2025 7:00 pm – 8:08 pm CST

Online/Zoom

VITG Monthly Story Swap Online

Voices in the Glen

January 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm CST



[SIO: “Story Growth, Creating a Culture of Development Through Storytelling and Story Work”](#)

NSN

January 16, 2025 9:00 am – 11:00 am CST

Online/Zoom

[Will Hornyak-Lost and Found in Peru](#)

Seattle Storytellers Guild

January 17, 2025 7 pm PST

Zoom

[Building a Storyteller’s Word Chest: Workshop with Will Hornyak](#)

Seattle Storytellers Guild

January 18, 2025 10-12 PST

\$15 for Guild Members \$20 for Non-members Please pay at seattlestorytellers.org in the Donation Jar

[Tales of Fire and Frost—Stories from the Winter Hearth](#)

Patchwork Storytelling Guild Thursday, January 30, 2025 EST

Venue: The Ice House

Bethlehem, PA

See CALL FOR TELLERS, above

[Amelia Island Festival of Stories & Songs](#)

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

January 30, 2025 6:30 pm – February 2, 2025 4:00 pm EST Venue:

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

1430 Park Ave. | Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

[In a Nutshell: Live Storytelling](#)

January 31, 2025 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm PST

Venue:

The Sophia: B Street Theatre

2700 Capitol Ave.

Sacramento, CA 95816

[Chennai Storytelling Festival](#)

January 31 – February 2, 2025

Online/Zoom



[CLICK TO READ](#)

WINTER 2024 issue

Winter 2024 Vol.3 - Issue 4

THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

WHIRLING WINDS



What's Inside?

From Curiosity to Creation:
The Story of Everything
by Kealoha

A father's journey to answer his child's question about human origins leads to the creation of *The Story of Everything*, a science-based, multimedia theatrical show turned award-winning film.

And much more!



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HOW TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER

Send us your events, articles, opportunities, storytelling or storyteller news, and more in an email to newsletter@storynet.org to go out to the national storytelling community!

1. Contributions due on the 25th of the month.
2. Membership in the National Storytelling Network *not* required.
3. Content subject to editing and inclusion in final issue not guaranteed.
4. If you are the author of your contribution, please also attach a headshot photo of yourself to go next to your byline.