

National Storytelling Network

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

FEBRUARY PRESIDENT'S LETTER



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

Dear Members of the National Storytelling Network,

January has been a significant month for NSN and the storytelling world. We closed nominations for the Oracle Awards on January 31 and finalized selections for panels, workshops, coaching sessions, and more for the NSN Storytelling Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Registration for the conference opened on January 27. I encourage you to register early to take advantage of discounts and secure your lodging on the beautiful Kennesaw State University campus.

However, January also brought sorrow to our community. We were heartbroken by the unexpected passing of Angela Lloyd, a beloved storyteller, colleague, and friend. Angela's remarkable contributions to NSN and the broader storytelling world spanned decades. She served on the NSN Board of Directors, acted as the liaison to the Oracle Awards committee, and chaired the Youth, Educators, and Storytellers (YES) special interest group, focusing on storytelling in education.

Personally, I owe Angela a debt of gratitude for her encouragement, which led to the inclusion of two panels on storytelling in higher education at this year's conference. Without her vision and advocacy, these panels would not be part of the schedule this July.

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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.



Angela's gentle and creative spirit left an indelible mark on many in our community. Her sudden passing has left a void that will not be easily filled. In the days following her death, numerous gatherings were held to honor her memory. YES dedicated their coffee hour on Zoom to those wishing to share their grief. Moonshine Stories commemorated her life during their January concert with excerpts from Angela's past performances, original poetry, and heartfelt remembrances. Healing Story Alliance (HSA) also honored Angela during their "Oars in the Water" meeting with a compassionate conversation about joy, grief, and dying. These tributes, among others, reflect the profound impact she had on so many. The NSN Board extends our deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.

As we move forward, let us honor Angela's legacy by continuing to share stories that inspire, connect, and heal. I encourage each of you to explore ways to strengthen your connection to NSN's mission. Consider joining one of our special interest groups (SIGs) or even starting a new SIG that reflects your passion. NSN supports these groups with dedicated tracks of workshops and presentations at the annual conference, providing a platform for storytellers to build community and share their expertise.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge the ongoing natural disasters that continue to affect lives across the country. In California, wildfires have left many homeless and deprived of their belongings and cherished memorabilia. Residents in East Tennessee, Western North Carolina, and other southern states are still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene, with some enduring freezing temperatures while living in tents.

If you are a storyteller impacted by these disasters, please visit [the NSN homepage](#) to access the Storyteller Relief Fund, managed by Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST). You may be eligible for a \$500 grant to help with immediate needs. For those in a position to donate, your contributions can make a significant difference.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the art of storytelling. Together, let's honor Angela's memory and embrace the transformative power of stories to uplift and unite communities.

Until next time,

Sincerely,

Delanna Reed

Chair, NSN Board of Directors

REMEMBRANCE OF ANGELA LLOYD

ANGELA'S INEXHAUSTIBLE BRILLIANCE

by Laura Simms

Editor's Note: *I asked Laura Simms to write a remembrance of Angela Lloyd for this month's newsletter. Here, in a remarkable memory, Angela glows alive for us.*

In the San Cristo Mountains, north of Taos, New Mexico, at a retreat center years ago, Angela and I taught a weeklong storytelling residency. We worked on the beginnings of stories for days. During the nights, we dreamed up "story mail." These were odd events that people would receive under their plates at lunch, giving them partnered ways to tell stories. We developed this exceptional activity for 10 years in California where she assisted me. I can hear her deep sudden giggle as I write this. "I forgot the singular mails," I said to her recently.



To my delight, Angela remembered every single one. In the afternoons, we took walks, talked about our lives, about stories, and reminisced, when it was too hot to teach. One afternoon, we gave everyone time off. Angela heard about a second hand clothing store an hour away. We all shopped for storytelling clothes.

That evening. Angela offered to tell a story. She disappeared to change her outfit, and returned in a long dress, with a long shirt over the dress, and a garland of flowers in her hair. Standing up, she towered above us. Her washboard beside her, she remained silent for a few minutes. The air was palpable with expectation. We were in the presence of a compassionate and unconventional guide. Then, moving her arms in front of her as if she was stirring a great cauldron, she incanted "Baba Yaga. Baba Yaga. Baba Yaga." Starting in the middle of the story, she drew us irresistibly into a fairytale. In the middle she told us the beginning- "a little girl was born who was so beautiful she was named Wasalisa, The Beautiful." Then, she wove an incident about her mother in South America, shifting from English to Spanish. And, when we least expected it, Angela sang a song she invented - on the spot - accompanying herself on the washboard as she related the wicked trick of an evil step mother. It was riveting, disarming, astonishingly woven with uncanny skill.

Angela was Angela: completely unique. She was a genius of generosity and composition, a harsh critic of herself, and an irreplaceable friend. On her way to a festival, she phoned to ask if I knew a story about a beaver, a piano, or a folktale from Ukraine or Africa. We went over the outline of the story. By the time she arrived on stage, the story was plush with meaning and alive. She would phone me in the middle of the night from a hotel to tell me about it and praise all the other tellers. She complained that she was never prepared.

Yet, she was always prepared. She summoned spontaneous poetry from a lifetime of trust in spontaneity and an ability to be present for her audiences; not to mention each friend. It was unequalled.

We met over forty years ago in Oklahoma City. I watched her perform a one woman show twirling her Sunbrella on a small stage, plastic wings on her sneakers. It was enchanting. She was child and priestess. I brought her into the storytelling world that afternoon when we bumped into each other. That summer in July she took a class with me, and showed up in Jonesboro for a festival in October. She found her community! We were gifted with her presence and love.



A month before she died, Angela refurbished the sunbrella with new ribbons. “I found the ribbons in a box in the barn.” Her collections of buttons, colored pencils, musical instruments, patches of cloth, books, cassettes, and files filled the barn. Of course.

Conversations. Hours of conversations. Crying about our lives and our mothers, or telling each other things “we will never tell anyone,” laughing, and then urging each other to include it in a story on stage. Whacky laughter and gossip prevailed. She tried to set me up with her cowboy chiropractor who wore pointed snakeskin boots. When I had cancer, she called me every day. When she had a problem teaching we went over every detail. When she was sadly coerced to leave the Red House - where she lived for twenty five years, married, taught, did art, was always rearranging furniture, organizing shelves, planting flowers, memorizing poems, recording, sitting in the garden and repainting the table different shades of green, secretly smoking outside, feeding donkeys with her beloved husband Larry, and walking at dawn with her dog Maddy - I called her every day. “Are you all right?” I inquired. “No.” she would answer and talk about something else. We understood each other’s sadnesses. We cared for the insides of each other’s lives.

“And what are you doing the rest of the day?” I asked a few weeks before she passed. She said, “I am doing nothing! Just crocheting squares.” She would send me a photo. They were astonishing. Each one was a painting. Like her photographs and drawings they were colorful, elegant and alive. She worked tirelessly for the storytelling world - writing letters, organizing awards, emceeing, performing, and always listening to support events and others. I was not the only one she spoke to for hours. Her nothing was a tapestry of activity and relationships.

I taught her meditation. But she became an organizer of dharma art activities for eleven years. She was a devoted member of a Los Angeles meditation center, and attended retreats as a ‘kasung,’ a protector. She taught her neighbors in Victorville to meditate and remained best friends with everyone. Her nothing was a commitment to whatever she said she would do.



And there was no one more impossible to teach with - seemingly distracted and wild - while, on the other hand, brilliant, thorough, insightful and endlessly inspired. She taught by being.

Everyone who met Angela remembers her. We were befriended, appreciated and seen. She always had boyfriends, or as she said "suitors," and there were those she secretly adored. She went out of her way to visit driving half a day to say hello. When she met her husband Larry, artist and sculpture, a private and soft spoken man, she fell in love. She devoted herself to their relationship. She was determined it would work. And it did.

It is hard to describe all of Angela's life and accomplishments. Many tributes will do this squeezing an ocean into a teacup. I want to offer an intimate sense of Angela - to share the warmth she exuded and the capacity to hold us each in her vast heart. A heart that could contain us all. I went to her "school" once and watched her gather gaggles of students into a project or a story with vivacity and creativity.

The sorrows, the early addictions, the trauma of incidents in her past were fertile soil she transformed with her magic. She always said I was her mentor (she had many). We were actually each other's guardian angel.

At the end of the story of Wasalisa, in New Mexico, when the little girl, grown, won over the witch Baba Yaga, "because she carried the love of her mother," she whispered as if revealing the secret of her own power, then added, "Baba Yaga gave her a skull with a fire for eyes that led her back home through the dark forest." Angela paused. We waited breathless. She incanted Baba Yaga's name again, and again. Then, she held up one hand: "She had a skull on a torch with flames that lit up every house in the world whose fire had gone out." She had us sing with her.

When Larry told me that he was by her side and there was no hope of recovery, I had the image of Angela going home, lighting up the way I would follow one day. The fire that she stirred awake in each of us will never go out. As my grandmother said, "her blessing will be with us always." I miss Angela. Like everyone, I cannot believe she is gone. I say to myself everyday, she is not completely gone! She was three hours earlier and when I get into bed, I forget and pick up the phone to call her. Then put it down. Her voice is in my ears. Her ebullience and seriousness, her artistry, and love, remain inextinguishable. I dreamed the other night that she pushed a small baby goat through a window into my house. "How will I keep a wild goat in the city?" I thought as I awoke. Then smiled, thanking my wild goat sister Angela for reminding me to be brave and trust in the heart of the moment as she did bringing joy to the world.



GEORGIA 2025 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN!



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

Registration for the Georgia 2025 NSN Conference opened January 27th, 2025! Jump on the early bird wagon and reserve your spot! July 17-20 in Kennesaw, Georgia, on the lovely campus of Kennesaw State University stories will abound. A fantastic group of featured tellers, a showcase of wonderful regional voices, as well as a workshops, presentations, and panels to fill the conference. Suite style lodging is on-site in the university housing and delicious meals are available on campus. Parking is available for those driving. Please follow [this link](#) for registration and more information. Keep Georgia on Your Mind!

Click [here](#) to sign up for a volunteer slot at the conference!

Volunteers are a vital part of a smooth conference, and may help with everything from stage management to swaps to snacks.

Discounts range from \$50-\$100 off registration.

Already registered? You will be refunded the discount amount if assigned a volunteer slot.

Click [here](#) to apply for the Kathryn Tucker Windham Scholarship

To celebrate the legacy of NSN's founding member, celebrated Alabama journalist and storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham, five scholars are annually selected for sponsorship to attend the National Storytelling Conference.

This year, Kathryn Tucker Windham scholars will receive full registration, housing, and meals at the conference, as well as one year of paid NSN membership. Apply by **March 7th!**

Click [here](#) to purchase an ad in the full-color print conference program

Put your business, organization, event, and other announcements at hundreds of National Storytelling conference goers' fingertips when you purchase a full-color ad in our program book.

Ads are due **May 31st** or when space fills up. Space is limited, so reserve your ad asap!

DISASTER RELIEF

Some of our California storytellers have lost their home to the devastating fires there. You can donate to our Disaster Relief Fund at our webpage.

There is a donate button on the homepage of storynet.org. The monies are being administered by Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST).



STORYNET.ORG

REMINDER: UPDATED TELLER DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ON NSN WEBSTE



Dot Cleveland
Office Manager
National Storytelling Network

This directory version is easily searchable by name, location and type of storytelling. The storyteller's own website can be accessed quickly by the person who is trying to find the "right" storyteller for the event. In this way, much more information is available to the person and it generates clicks on the storyteller's website. The updated directory also allows storytellers to update their profiles on their own instead of going through our office. The cost remains \$20 per year. Any questions, contact dot@storynet.org.

The updated Teller Directory is finished. Thank you to those that have taken a few moments to complete their profiles. But if you want the directory to be successful, It's up to you to complete your profile.

Here are the steps

- Go to the website storynet.org
- Scroll down to the page and click the button that says Hire a Teller.
- Type Cleveland in the Name field.
- My profile will appear. This is how your profile will look.
- Now return to the homepage by clicking on the NSN icon at the top of the page.
- In the upper right corner, login to the website. If you have forgotten your password, there is an option to replace it. If you have forgotten your username, call me at 651-703-8191. DO NOT create a new profile.
- Once you're logged in, you will be transported to the Member Area.
- Look for the box titled Update Directory Info and click it.
- On the next page, click the red wording to update your listing.
- Complete any open fields, especially your photo and website URL.
- Types of Stories - you may click any number of types that you perform.
- Then click Save.
- You will be transferred to the NSN homepage.
- Click on the Hire a Teller button and enter your last name in the Name field.
- This will bring up your profile. Review for accuracy and repeat this process to make any changes.
- When finished updating your profile, try a few searches to see what the directory is capable of presenting.



Searching is quick and easy. Let me know if you experience issues with this new directory. The photo works best in Portrait format rather than Landscape. There is one pitfall - the hyperlink to your website needs to be copied and pasted in the searcher's browser. Perhaps in the future that will be upgraded. Also, if you have a "type of story" that is not on the list, please let me know so it may be added. Comments good and bad are welcome.

Thanks for your patience and cooperation!

Dot Cleveland

651-703-8191

dot@storynet.org

SIG UPDATE

ECO SIG — WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



Linda Yemoto and Claire Nolan
ECO SIG Directors
National Storytelling Network

The ECO Special Interest Group is the “youngest” of the NSN SIGs. Our goal is to provide our SIG members and any member of NSN with stories that inform environmental education and advocacy. We are a network of storytellers, educators, park rangers and docents, and others who use storytelling in our work. We share ideas online and we meet up monthly at our Swaps.

The popularity of the Earth Up Conferences of 2021 and 2022 demonstrated the importance of the work we do as environmental storytellers.

As a SIG, we held an online Green Tellabration in 2023. We hope to repeat that in 2025.

The 2024 online workshop “Transforming an Info Dump into a Compelling Story,” offered by ECO member Judith Black, was much appreciated and enjoyed by all participants. Judith’s workshop is an excellent example of what many of our members do in their work as environmental educators.

Each month the ECO SIG members stay in touch via Zoom with a story swap. In December, we told stories to celebrate the Winter Solstice. In January, ECO SIG member Bruce Kirchoff taught us the fundamentals of group storytelling.

Our next Swap will be on Wednesday February 12 at 8:30 pm ET.



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



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.

Facilitator: Michael Brundy

President of the Tejas Storytelling Association
President of the Dallas Storytelling Guild



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free



Storytelling In Organizations Presents a Virtual Workshop

How to Pitch an Organization's Strengths and Narratives Using Storytelling

When:
Wednesday
March 19, 2025

Time:
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. CST
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. EST

Where:
Zoom



Goal: Develop a pitch for grant applications, presentations to funders, and for engagement with community stakeholders.

Participants will be able to:
1) Explain the process, types, and benefits of storytelling for capturing their organizations' narratives

2) Identify the steps and elements of authentically crafting their organization's pitch

3) List resources and strategies to implement anti-oppressive, ethical, and trauma-informed storytelling to promote organizational growth and accountability.

Facilitator: Dr. Meghna Bhat

Founder and Creative Director of Gulabi Stories
Independent Organizational Consultant
Multidisciplinary Storyteller



SIO Members: Free
Non-SIO Members: Free

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



40TH ANNUAL
TEXAS
Storytelling
FESTIVAL
MARCH 6 - 9 • 2025
DENTON CIVIC CENTER • DENTON, TEXAS

40 STORYTELLERS • 16 STORYTELLING EVENTS • 11 WORKSHOPS



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**CHARLOTTE
BLAKE ALSTON**





COOPER BRAUN

MO REYNOLDS



Weekend Passes and Individual Events Available

Free Events

THURSDAY MARCH 6	FRIDAY MARCH 7	SATURDAY MARCH 8	SUNDAY MARCH 9
GHOST STORIES AT 7:00 PM (CIVIC CENTER) <small>ASL INTERPRETERS</small>	FAMILY STORYTIME AT 10:30 AM <small>(EMILY FOWLER LIBRARY)</small>	FAMILY STORYTELLING <small>AT 9:00 AM (CIVIC CENTER)</small> POETRY SLAM <small>AT 9:45AM (WOMAN'S BUILDING)</small>	STORY SLAM <small>AT 12:30PM (WOMAN'S BUILDING)</small> SACRED TALES <small>AT 9:30 AM (CIVIC CENTER)</small> <small>ASL INTERPRETERS</small>









EARLY BIRD
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 26

Tejas Storytelling Association • TSA@TEJASSTORYTELLING.COM • 940-380-9320

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Click the ad to register.



**Women's
Storytelling
Festival**
March 20 - 23, 2025
in Fairfax City, VA and online

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES
OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED



Emcee



JENNIFER MUNRO

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2
7-8:30PM EST

*Also featuring two
Community Tellers who
will share anecdotes of
kindness from their lives
and work.*

Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!



DAVID NOVAK



LIZ MANGUAL



RENEE EMANUEL

Click the ads above to register for each featured event from the NSN storytelling community.



Kevin Cordi



Jim "Two Crows" Wallen



Katie Kerr

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2025

Winter Winds
Annual Storytelling Concert
Friday, February 21
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Workshops and
Open-Mic Storytelling
Saturday, February 22
9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Join The Story Center as we celebrate stories and storytellers at the second-annual Winter Winds Storyfest! Produced in collaboration with the River and Prairie Storyweavers, the 2025 Storyfest includes performances by featured teller Kevin Cordi and guests Jim Wallen and Katie Kerr, two storytelling workshops led by Kevin, and an open-mic storytelling event. All programs are free to attend, but space is limited, so registration is required.

The Auditorium at Woodneath Library Center
8900 NE Flintlock Road • Kansas City, MO



Learn more and register at mymcpl.org/WinterWinds



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2025 EVENTS

***Editor's Note:** Thanks to events editor Ashton Clarke for submitting our calendar page on time, even though she just lost her Altadena home to the fire.*

Save the Date: Her Voice Returns Circle of Ideas

January 9, 2025 | 7:30-9:00 PM EST

To be included on reminder link, email cribner@rogers.com.

Chennai Storytelling Festival

January 31, 2025 - February 23, 2025

Online

To register for CSF 2025, please send an email request to info@storytellinginstitute.org

Amelia Island Festival of Stories & Songs

January 30, 2025 | 6:30 pm EST - February 2, 2025 | 4:00 pm EST

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

1430 Park Ave., Fernandina Beach FL 32034

In Her Name: The Legacy of J.J. Reneaux

Artists Standing Strong Together

February 2, 2025 | 2:30-4:00 PM EST

Performances by Liz Weir, Rachelle Dart, Kirk Waller, and Czenga Zalka.

\$25 tickets for this fundraiser, with sliding scale

Healing Story Alliance (HSA): Kind Stories in Concert

February 2, 2025 | 6:00-7:30 PM EST

Online

Voices In The Glen: Monthly Story Swap

February 8, 2025 | 6:30-7:30 PM EST

Online

Better Said Than Done: Your Story and More

February 10, 2025 - March 10, 2025 | 7:00-9:00 PM EST

Online



[The Good Liars Club XIV](#)

February 11, 2025 7:00-8:30 PM CST
Online

[Storytelling In Organization \(SIO\): Lead with a Story: The Secret to Inspiring Leadership](#)

February 19, 2025 | 6:00-7:30 PM CST
Online

[Healing Story Alliance \(HSA\): When Storytellers Write About Healing](#)

February 20, 2025 | 6:00-7:30 PM CST
Online

[Emerson College \(UK\): Storytelling Beyond Words](#)

February 23 - May 23, 2025
Emerson College
Forest Row
East Sussex, England RH185JX
United Kingdom

[The TBD Storytellers: Ice & Wonder](#)

February 25, 2025 | 7:00-8:30 PM EST
Online

[40th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival](#)

March 6, 2025 - March 9, 2025
Denton Civic Center
321 E McKinney St., Denton TX 76201

[Storytelling In Organizations \(SIO\): How to Pitch an Organization's Strengths and Narratives Using Storytelling](#)

March 19, 2025 | 6:00-8:00 PM CDT
Online



CLICK TO READ



Story Beast deadlines for submissions are:

March 2025 Issue (Growing Gab): Articles and Stories due February 15, 2025

June 2025 Issue (Sizzling Splendor): Articles and Stories due May 15, 2025

Visit storybeast.org



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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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.