

# National Storytelling Network

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### NSN'S 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR—MEMBERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND CITIZENSHIP



Rishi Nixon

President & Chair of the Board of Directors  
National Storytelling Network

This October will mark 50 years since the crisp autumn day in 1975 in Jonesborough, Tennessee on which storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham slapped down \$5 and became the first—founding—member of the organization that would come to be known as the National Storytelling Network.

It is an honor to be elected to serve as president in the year of this great milestone for our organization; at the same time, it is also a year in which we are grappling with great threats to American arts and culture.

We cannot let this federal administration's recent actions against pillar organizations of our diverse storytelling community—the National Association of Black Storytellers and the International Storytelling Center—dampen our resolve to ensure stories from the marginalized voices in our diverse storytelling community are heard.

Over the past five years, NSN has done difficult work—major structural repair to our finances, an organization-wide overhaul to our governance, and intensive engagement of a committed network of storytelling leaders. Our organization is back on its feet, and my vision is to use this coming year to take our place in standing up for our storytelling community.

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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.

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## NSN'S 2025-2026 AGENDA

### Membership

With our committee structure under the leadership of NSN's dynamic new Vice Chair-Elect, Darlene Richard, a revitalized NSN membership task force will work to expand the tent of our storytelling community **because we recognize the value in welcoming a diverse community of tellers to our membership to strengthen our collective voice.**

Over these past five years, NSN has carefully nurtured a small seed of pandemic-era donations into a five-figure member grants fund. We are ready to launch our first Request for Proposals this year to address this abrupt vacuum in federal arts funding, and are especially interested in projects to amplify voices this current climate in our country has silenced. In this coming year, our board will work to articulate a sustainable financial pathway from our annual revenue to sustain these grants for years to come.

### Partnership

Building upon Immediate Past President Delanna Reed's outreach work to the International Storytelling Center and my own outreach to the National Association of Black Storytellers, we hope to forge fruitful new collaborative partnerships with these two organizations to bring our storytelling community together in these difficult times.

The International Storytelling Center (ISC) and NSN were founded as one organization—the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling—in 1975. It has been 28 years since ISC and NSN's formal divorce, and 14 years since all financial obligations between the two organizations were ended in federal court. The two organizations' rift has caused much pain in the storytelling community for decades. However, in recent months, valuable engagement has taken place: NSN's Delanna Reed visited with ISC President Michael Carson, and NSN recognized former ISC Director of Programs, Susan O'Connor, with our ORACLE Lifetime Achievement Award. It was healing to engage with Susan and her successor, Krystal Hawkins, at the 2025 conference. **As ISC and NSN turn 50 together, NSN is re-examining our relationship with ISC—we are hopeful the rift can be healed.** And given current times, perhaps it must be, for our storytelling revival to continue another 50 years.

### Citizenship

Above all, our most powerful tools as storytellers are our voices. Stories have a power to shape hearts and minds like quite nothing else. NSN's mission—on paper—is to advance storytelling through “promotion, advocacy, and education,” but *advocacy* is a piece that has worn out of our organizational fabric over the years have passed.

NSN has a legacy of being a powerful voice for storytellers. Indeed, in decades past, NSN was responsible for the federal advocacy that led to storytelling being included as a federal grant category under the National Endowment for the Arts. This year, NSN will pick up that mantle once more, joining the national coalition of arts organizations speaking out to save the National Endowment for the Arts and preserve a diverse, equitable, and inclusive arts & culture community at large in our country.

**To 50 more years of the National Storytelling Network—we grow storytellers.**



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

## CELEBRATING GEORGIA



Leslie Shelley and Rishi Nixon  
2025 Conference Co-Chairs  
National Storytelling Network

The Georgia 2025 National Storytelling Conference has come and gone; all of the conference attendees have now returned regular life. Rishi and I, as well as the many wonderful volunteers, packed it in and headed home. But all of us, carried a piece of community, stored bits and pieces of wonderful stories, lessons learned, remembered hugs and shared moments with old and new friends. They say that “stories make the heart bigger”, and I left with a heart so much bigger that it took a week of reflection, shared photos, and virtual visits to process it all.

From the beginning I was reminded that NSN is a network of support, nationwide, and we were so blessed to experience the power and magic of this network in action. To imagine that a four-day conference of this magnitude could be produced totally through volunteers is astonishing, but it was. Many thanks to all of you who donated your time and skill, carrying your part of this conference to a level of excellence. Even now, I get teary-eyed thinking of all the work, thank you seems so small in comparison. But I sincerely thank each and every one.

The conference host, Kennesaw State University’s Department of Theater and Performance Arts, welcomed us with perfect spaces set up, amazing support staff, and they far surpassed expectations. Chuck Meacham, Charlie Parrott, and Steven Love of KSU met every request with professionalism and “made it happen,” going above and beyond in so many ways. The Stillwell Theater was transformed into a setting of magic through the skills of Steven Love and his team. Even this group of KSU staff commented on the wonderful stories, workshops, and panels, circling names in the program as possibilities for future additions to KSU performance settings.





**NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK**  
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Many thanks to those of you who camped out in student housing, made the hike up and down the hill, and climbed, literally, into the big white shuttle. I, for one, have missed the wonderful food, and the lattés in the mornings. Many thanks to those who poured their hearts into creating a beautiful closing circle and moving farewell to those who are no longer with us.

Many thanks to the showcase performers, the Georgia storytellers, the youth performers, and the very deserving Oracle winners. Your graciousness in flying, driving, and donating your time contributed to the success of each and every workshop, panel, and showcase.

Georgia, through the Georgia Storytelling Network, was so very honored to act as the “feet on the ground”, and host of this conference. Thank you for this opportunity and many thanks to all of the Georgia folks who contributed.

Stories, it is said, make us more alive, more courageous, and more loving. My hope is that you left the Georgia 2025 National Storytelling Conference with just that. A powerful group of storytellers, story listeners, story crafters, and friends, all committed to making the world a better place, to spreading stories of hope, of encouragement, and rallying behind what is right and good.

Thank you for keeping Georgia on Your Mind, and hope to see you in Texas, Conference 2026! **Enjoy this following collage of our conference highlights.**

# Georgia 2025

## NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE



**JULY 17-20, 2025**  
KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY  
KENNESAW, GEORGIA





### 2025 NATIONAL TELLER SHOWCASE



Rev. Robert Jones, Carmen Agra Deedy, Lyn Ford, Connie Regan-Blake, Bill Harley (left to right)

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### 2025 ORACLE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Meghna Bhat, Jennifer Pahl Otto, Jim Brule, Sara Armstrong, Trudy Hanson, Sherry Norfolk, Jo Ann Dadisman, Clinton Atwater, Susan O'Connor (left to right)



### 2025 REGIONAL TELLER SHOWCASE



Gwendolyn J. Napier, Amanda Lawrence, Josie Bailey, Natalie Jones, Denise Mount, Mike Mount, Julie Bradshaw, Chetter Galloway (left to right)

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### 2025 YOUTH TELLER SHOWCASE



Deborah Strahorn (teaching artist) and the Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia's Tattle Tales: Madison Jackson, Jerrell Allen-Smith, Javon Culver (left to right)





## NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Delanna Reed, Immediate Past President of the  
National Storytelling Network

### INCOMING LEADERSHIP TEAM



Darlene Richard (Vice Chair Elect), Rishi Nixon  
(President & Chair), Caleb Hubbard (Vice  
Chair) (left to right)

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### SUNBRELLA CLOSING CIRCLE

Gwendolyn J. Napier, Karen Golden, Kanute Rarey (left to right)







NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK  
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE

## JOIN US WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM FOR NSN'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Caleb Hubbard and Trudy Hanson  
Conference Co-Chairs  
National Storytelling Network

Get ready to stampede towards adventure because the National Storytelling Network is heading to the wide-open plains of the Texas Panhandle!

From **July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, we're converging on the stunning campus of **West Texas A&M University** in Canyon, just a stone's throw from the vibrant city of Amarillo and just adjacent to Palo Duro Canyon (the second-largest Canyon in the Nation).

Founded in Jonesborough, Tennessee on a crisp October day in 1975, the year of NSN's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary begins this October. So join us to celebrate our legacy on the American storytelling revival over these last 50 years with stories as vast as the Texas sky, where the buffalo roam and the spirit of the frontier ignites our imaginations.

Get ready to explore, connect, and let your stories run wild in the heart of the Texas Panhandle!



JULY 23-26, 2026 • CANYON, TEXAS

IMAGE CREDIT: RITA HOGAN

Namesake of the city of Canyon, Texas, Palo Duro Canyon is the largest canyon in the United States after the Grand Canyon, and **just ten minutes away** from the 2026 conference venue.



ORACLE AWARDS

# CELEBRATING THE 10 RECIPIENTS OF THE 2025 ORACLE AWARDS



The **ORACLE** can be an award given for:

**O** rganization / **O** riginality  
**R** eliability  
**A** chievements  
**C** reativity  
**L** eadership  
**E** xcellence

*in the Storytelling Community*

## 2025 Committee

**Mary Hamilton, Chair**  
**Ray Christian, Mary Gay Ducey, Cora Newcomb, and Toni Simmons**



## Regional Service & Leadership Award

### Clinton Atwater

- Have you ever wondered how separate lives intertwine? Imagine a vast, intricate puzzle—each moment of laughter, reflection, and shared truth a unique piece waiting to find its place. Clinton Atwater isn't just revealing this puzzle; he's guiding the pieces together, showing us how our stories connect in ways we never expected. Through mesmerizing performances, transformative mentorship, and the deeply connective energy of Let Me Tell Ya!—both a thriving storytelling community and dynamic storytelling events—Clinton brings his mission, Connecting Stories and People, to life. He doesn't just tell stories; he awakens them in others, empowering voices, fostering understanding, and turning individual experiences into shared moments of meaning. Because your story isn't just yours—it's a vital piece of something greater. And with Clinton Atwater leading the way, we don't just listen to stories—we become part of them, witnessing the extraordinary beauty of the human experience, woven together, one story at a time.



### Regional Service & Leadership Award

#### Meghna Bhat

- Dr. Meghna Bhat (she/her) is an award-winning creative disruptor and consultant based in California, committed to creating safe, healthy, and thriving communities. As a first-generation South Asian immigrant, she is a passionate multidisciplinary storyteller, feminist scholar-practitioner, and educator. Meghna has led interactive and trauma-informed sessions at national conferences, using personal storytelling to ignite conversations, shift cultural norms, promote collective care, encourage intergenerational healing, and drive meaningful change. In 2022, she received the Seeding Creativity Artist Grant and founded Gulabi Stories: A South Asian Healing Initiative, which is focused on storytelling that highlights healing within the South Asian diaspora. Her work has been featured on *ABC News* and *Solving Sacramento*. Meghna has shared her stories at various events, including Capital Storytelling's Immigrant Stories, Intercultural Reflections: A Festival of the Arts, and the Sacramento Storyteller Guild. Her story "Metamorphosis" was published in the 2024 anthology of South Asian survivor stories *SANCTUARIES* by South Asian SOAR. She works part-time at Capital Storytelling and coaches fellow storytellers in their creative journeys.



### Regional Service & Leadership Award

#### Jim Brulé

- Jim Brulé is a transformational storyteller, death doula, teacher, and mentor, drawing on a unique background that encompasses advanced degrees in both clinical psychology and artificial intelligence. For the past seven years, he has directed Transformational Storytelling, an online school accredited by the National Storytelling Network. This global community trains spiritual storytellers from diverse traditions to craft narratives that inspire healing and foster spiritual growth. Beyond his school, Jim serves as a multifaith chaplain and spiritual storyteller for hospitals, Omega homes, and correctional facilities. Deeply committed to interfaith dialogue, he co-founded The Brothers Three over two decades ago with a Muslim scholar and Baptist minister, continuing their impactful work in schools, faith communities, and organizations to cultivate understanding and healing. Jim's classes, workshops, and communities embody his dedication to multicultural wisdom, grounded in the belief that true abundance arises from interconnected generosity and gratitude.





### **Regional Service & Leadership Award**

#### **Jo Ann Dadisman**

- As a storyteller and career educator, Jo Ann Dadisman interwove the two practices in her home state of West Virginia. She taught in public schools and higher education for more than 40 years, while continuing to develop her own love of the tale. For 20 years, she and a partner told tandem tales under the name of Mountain Echoes, as they worked in schools, parks, and libraries and with groups to promote an understanding of the mountain heritage and the importance of preserving stories. For 21 years, she taught at West Virginia University. She also co-directed the National Writing project at WVU for several years and won the coveted Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award in 2011. She has worked to promote storytelling through partnership with the Gabor, West Virginia, Folklife Center at Fairmont State University, and she founded the Youth Storytelling Camp at Glenville State University and has co-directed it for the past 3 years.



### **Regional Service & Leadership Award**

#### **Jennifer Pahl Otto**

- Jennifer Pahl Otto creates and tells original stories. Her personal narratives and contemporary tales hit the universal themes we all relate to – love, death, humor, grief, family, and growth. She has told at numerous festivals and events in Michigan, where she lives. She has been on stage at North East Storytelling's Sharing the Fire Conference and was a frequent teller at the Northlands Annual Conference. Her children's stories, which she tells at schools, parks, libraries, and other locations, are fun and quirky, and any life lessons come with a light touch. Mead Hill has published four books of her children's stories, which are available on Amazon. She is currently President of the Michigan Bright Water Storytelling Festival, which produces an annual festival and supports other storytelling opportunities in Michigan. She is a past president of Northlands Storytelling Network and has sat on the National Storytelling Network Board.



### **Talking Leaves Award**

#### **Sherry Norfolk**

- Sherry Norfolk is an award-winning storyteller, author, and teaching artist, performing and leading residencies and professional development workshops nationally and internationally. A dynamic storyteller, Sherry has appeared in the Manitoba International Storytelling Festival, Taiwan International Storytelling Carnival, International Art of Storytelling Festival (Miami, FL), International Storytelling Center (Jonesborough, TN), Singapore International Storytelling Festival, Manila International Storytelling Festival, and many more festivals, schools, libraries, museums, and universities nationwide. A Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist, Young Audiences Teaching Artist, and an Arts Integration Teaching Artist on the rosters of several state arts commissions, she leads residencies in pre-K through high school classrooms across the country and southeast Asia. As co-editor and/or co-author of five books that explore rigorous, standards-based storytelling strategies for learning across the curriculum and a former Adjunct Professor at Lesley University, Sherry is a recognized leader in integrating learning through storytelling.



### **Distinguished National Service Award**

#### **Sara Armstrong**

- From telling stories to her elementary school students to making connections with stories in her teacher professional development workshops, Sara Armstrong, Ph.D., developed her passion for the importance of storytelling to make connections and build bridges over many years. Sara serves as the Board chair for Storytelling Association of California (SAC – [storysaac.org](http://storysaac.org)) and Board chair for Artists Standing Strong Together (ASST – [asst.art](http://asst.art)). It's by telling each other our stories and listening deeply to those stories that we can bring peace to our world.



### Distinguished National Service Award

#### Trudy Hanson

- Trudy L. Hanson (BS, MA Speech, Louisiana State University; Ed.D., Higher Education, Texas Tech University) retired from the position of department head of the Department of Communication at West Texas A&M University in 2021. Hanson has served as President of the Texas Speech Communication Association, as editor of the *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, and as President of the Southern States Communication Association. She has received recognition for outstanding service in the discipline from the Texas Speech Communication Association, the Tejas Storytelling Association, and the Southern States Communication Association. She has presented over 40 papers at state, regional, and national academic conferences, published 4 chapters in academic monographs, published 30 journal articles, compiled 4 public speaking textbooks, and written an anthology of fractured fairy tales. Her academic research has been concentrated in rhetorical criticism of popular culture, gender communication, department head leadership, scholarship of teaching and learning, and storytelling. She directed the WTAMU Storytelling Festival for 28 years, bringing nationally known tellers to campus to perform with graduate students. She has served as an NSN Board member and as Chair of the NSN Board during the organization's transition to its current SIG-centered governance. She continues to spin tales for her 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.



### Distinguished National Service Award

#### Robert C. Johnson (Bob)

- Bob was born in Knoxville, TN. His early childhood was spent in Greeneville, TN, about 30 miles from the seat of Storytelling in Jonesborough. He has a BA from the College of Wooster and took considerable graduate accounting courses at ETSU, earning a CPA designation in 1974. He worked at Arthur Andersen & Co. in the accounting division for a few years before moving into administration and eventually managing technology for the Northeast region, retiring in 1999. Bob became involved with NSN in 2008 when Nancy Kavanaugh called wanting to convert the NSN accounting system from Peachtree to QuickBooks. After brief stints on the Board and as Finance Chair, he has held the position of Corporate Treasurer ever since. Bob currently lives in Greeneville and has a small accounting practice. He is married with 3 grown children living in Texas and North Carolina.





### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

#### **Susan O'Connor**

- Susan O'Connor holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from the University of Tennessee. After teaching English for a community college, she came to work part-time in marketing for what was then the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. Later, it became the National Storytelling Association, and ultimately, the International Storytelling Center. Shortly after being hired, Susan moved into the full-time role of Director of Programs, where she was responsible for the operation and artistic direction of the National Storytelling Festival and all programmatic events. Accomplishments during her tenure included initiating new features of the National Storytelling Festival, developing Storytelling Live (ISC's six-month, annual teller-in-residence program), establishing the weeklong Kids Storytelling Institute for 5th graders, and inaugurating ISC's foray into online programming. Although Susan retired from her job in early 2025, she continues to work for ISC as a consultant on special projects. Her priority has always been the success of the artists with whom she works.



KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM SCHOLARSHIPS

# THE 2025 KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM CONFERENCE SCHOLARS



Margaret Read MacDonald  
Windham Scholarship Committee Chair  
National Storytelling Network

We had many worthy applications for our Windham Scholarships this year. These awards offer room, board, and registration to five NSN members. Some of those selected had to withdraw for health or other reasons, but we chose to honor them in the program. The five awardees who ended attending were: **Jennifer Armstrong, Mary Jo Huff, Bobby Norfolk, Cynthia Orr, and Denise Page.**

## 2025 RECIPIENTS



### Jennifer Armstrong

- Jennifer Armstrong is a musical storyteller extraordinaire weaving bagpipe, fiddle, banjo, and folk toys through her stories and songs. She delights all ages from preschoolers (with the handkerchief mouse) to seniors (with the sit down square dance). She has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival, interviewed on NPR's *All Things Considered* and in 2023 moved to Asheville, NC to live next door to her youngest daughter! [www.jenniferarmstrong.com](http://www.jenniferarmstrong.com)



### Rachel Briggs

- Rachel Briggs is a member of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers, a non-profit based out of Providence, Rhode Island that is dedicated to promoting the awareness, appreciation, and application of Black storytelling. She considers herself a 'culture keeper' and adheres to the African tradition of oral storytelling to pass on wisdom, history, and cultural information to nurture a sense of community. Rachel is an emerging writer and spoken word poet. She is 'solar powered' and loves cookouts, gardening, camping, and hiking. She is also known for dancing to live bands and eating dessert before dinner! Unfortunately Rachel had to cancel her trip to NSN.



### Lorelee Cooley

- The Windham Scholarship Committee was disappointed to learn that Lorelee cannot attend the 2025 Atlanta conference. She had written eagerly of her desire to come but had to decline the scholarship because of health issues. Lorelee wrote: "There might not have been a storytelling group in Atlanta if it were not for me. Actually, yes...someone would have started it; but I'm the one who did, along with about two dozen others who became the 'Southern Order of Storytellers' on a hot August afternoon in 1982. It was in the Cup and Chaucer Coffee Shop of Oxford Bookstore in downtown Atlanta (at Peachtree Battle), where we were first the 'Georgia Association of Storytellers' until we said 'Oops!' upon recognizing what that acronym would be! (Might be appropriate!)." Lorelee is a Lifetime Member of NSN.



#### Cynthia Orr

- Cynthia Orr became a full time storyteller in 1977. She left the storytelling world in 1986 and is now happily returning to it. She tells original tales, folk and fairy tales, and teaching stories from multiple traditions.



#### Denise Manning Keyes Page

- Denise Manning Keyes Page began storytelling when a dear friend in her last months of living with ALS urged her to do so. Denise excavated a story she had written about her mother's family, edited it so that it was an appropriate oral story, and shared it at a community story event. She did so to honor two people she loved; her mother and her friend. She had no intention of telling again, but she has. That was 2019. She tells stories to bring contemplation, joy, insight, and healing. She has not only continued to study and perform, but has also founded Ubuntu Storytellers who tell stories to heal, challenge, inspire, and inform. They tell stories of being and of being in the skin we're in. Ubuntu Storytellers received a third place Alliance in Community Media Award. Denise also produces a series of shows, *Women Tell by the Decades*, with Jennifer Munro. She serves on the NEST Board and is past president of Connecticut Storytelling Center. [www.denisekeyestells.com](http://www.denisekeyestells.com)



#### Thomas Freese

- Thomas Freese is a Kentucky storyteller, author, artist, and teaching artist. He performs educational and entertaining programs, playing guitar and other instruments. His programs include stories from his books, which detail encounters with ghosts, spirits, and angels. He performed as a Shaker singer at Pleasant Hill Shakertown for ten years, was on storytelling tour in Argentina, and works through arts agencies to visit schools, libraries, veterans, children's homes, festivals, and corporate and private parties. He also crafts a line of wood jewelry, wands, spoons, and animal figures, wood burning Celtic and other designs. His website is [www.ThomasLFreese.com](http://www.ThomasLFreese.com).



#### Mary Jo Huff

- Mary Jo Huff is a storyteller, author, songwriter, and Early Childhood Educator. Her work has received NAPPA GOLD, iParenting, Parent's Choice, Dove, Teacher's Choice, Kid's First, and Mom's Choice awards. *Storytelling for Kids!* was awarded CD of the year by Creative Child Magazine. Mary Jo travels nationally, doing workshops with teachers and librarians in 47 states. Pre-K to 5th grade school visits are filled with stories, puppets, and music. Her publications include *Story Play*; *Puppet Play*; *No, No, Ebenezer*; *Chicken Fun*; *Going on a Gator Hunt*; and *The Predictable Persimmon*. [www.storytelling.com](http://www.storytelling.com)



#### Marisa Luse

- Marisa Luse is a proud Black American woman with deep Southern roots, a rich Northern experience, and a profound appreciation for the diverse cultures that inspire her passion for truth-telling, connection, cultural expression, and social change. A recent graduate of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers' Legacy Academy, she is embarking on her storytelling journey with a clear vision: to leave a legacy of empowerment and healing. Through stories that challenge power, privilege, and resilience—while exploring the complexities of identity and universal human truths—Marisa creates spaces for self-reflection, connection, and transformation, all grounded in truth-telling, humor, and heart. Born and raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts, she now lives in North Providence, Rhode Island, with her two favorite legacy-building creatives, embracing life with wonder, purpose, and authenticity. Marisa has accepted a new position and starts July 1 so she will not be able to attend the conference.





## MISSED THE MAGIC AT OUR GEORGIA 2025 CONFERENCE?

Produced by the award-winning Jessica Piscitelli Robinson of Better Said Than Done and Heather Forest of Healing Story Alliance, the recorded highlights of our Georgia conference are available for purchase **for only \$99** to view until September 30, 2025.

Take in our Emmy- and Grammy-winning national showcase tellers, the magic of Bobby Norfolk's captivating new film, *Callaloo*, Jim Brule's 2025 National Slam-winning story, Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia award-winning youth teller group: the Kuumba Tattle Tales, and much more.

**CLICK TO GET YOUR  
VIRTUAL TICKET NOW!**

**THE 2025 ORACLE AWARDS  
& NSN GENERAL MEETING  
ARE BOTH FREE TO WATCH!**

**CLICK TO WATCH ORACLE**

**CLICK TO WATCH GEN. MTG.**

| Georgia 2025<br>NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE |  | NSN 2025 CONFERENCE<br>VIRTUAL TICKET OFFERINGS |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | Virtual Ticket \$99                             |
| THURSDAY JULY 17th                               |  |   |
| 6:30 pm-6:45 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time         | <b>President's Welcome</b><br><i>by Delanna Reed</i>   |   |
| 6:45 pm-8:45 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time         | <b>Regional Teller Showcase</b><br><i>Josie Bailey, Julie Bradshaw, Natalie Jones, Amanda Lawrence, Barry Stewart Mann, Denise Mount, Mike Mount, Cora Newcomb</i><br><i>Emcee: Chetter Galloway</i>   |   |
| FRIDAY JULY 18th                                 |  |   |
| 9:00 am-10:30 am<br>Eastern Daylight Time        | <b>Callaloo: How Folktales Influence and Reflect Culture (ECO, HSA,YES)</b><br><i>by Bobby Norfolk</i>   |   |
| 10:45am-12:15am<br>Eastern Daylight Time         | <b>KSU Student Tellers: Five Live Lessons in Personal Storytelling</b><br><i>emcee Charles Parrott</i>   |   |
| 12:15 pm-1:15 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time        | <b>Virtual Community Gathering on Zoom—courtesy of Healing Story Alliance</b><br><i>host: Heather Forest</i>   |   |
| 1:15pm-2:45pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time           | <b>Panel: Basket Weaving or Storytelling? A College Degree (YES)</b><br><i>Nancy Donoval, Charles Parrott, Melissa Fees or Liz Warren</i><br><i>moderated by Delanna Reed</i>  |   |
| 3:00pm-4:30pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time           | <b>TELLING THE "OTHER'S" STORY- How do we share stories from someone else's tradition, history,or creative effort? Or should we. . . ? (PRO, YES)</b><br><i>by Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Pheasant, Chetter Galloway</i><br><i>moderated by Anne Wheeler</i>   |   |
| 4:45 pm-5:30 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time         | <b>Singing for His Supper</b><br><i>by Ed Stivender</i>  |   |
| 6:45pm-8:45 pm<br>Eastern DaylightTime           | <b>National Teller Showcase:</b><br><i>Carmen Agra Deedy, Lyn Ford, Bill Harley, Rev. Robert Jones, Connie Regan-Blake</i><br><i>emcee: Adam Booth</i>   |   |
| 9:00 pm-10:30 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time        | <b>National Storytelling Conference Slam</b><br><i>emcee: Loren Niemi</i>  |   |
| SATURDAY July 19th                               |  |   |
| 9:00 am-10:30 am<br>Eastern DaylightTime         | <b>Presentation- A Legend In Overalls: Storytelling in the Footsteps of Ray Hicks</b><br><i>by Connie Regan-Blake</i>  |   |
| 10:45 am - 12:15 pm<br>Eastern DaylightTime      | <b>Youth Teller Showcase: How to Perform a Story by the Kuumba Tattle Tales</b><br><i>Jayon Culver, Jarell Allen, Madison Culver</i><br><i>emcee: Deborah Strahorn</i>   |   |
| 1:15 pm -3:15 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time        | <b>NSN Annual General Membership Meeting.</b><br><i>This session is free to all Virtual Ticket Holders and all NSN members.</i>  |   |
| 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time       | <b>Presentation: We are Women. Hear us Tell.</b><br><i>by Carmen Agra Deedy, Karin Amato, Lona Bartlett, Lyn Ford, Bonnie Gardner, Jennifer Munro, and Jessica Robinson</i>  |   |
| 6:45 pm - 8:45 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time       | <b>ORACLE Awards &amp; Concert</b><br><b>Concert by Oracle winners</b><br><i>By Sherry Norfolk, Jo Ann Dadisman, Clinton Atwater, Meghna Bhat, Trudy Hansen, Jim Brule, Jennifer Otto, Sara Armstrong, Bob Johnson, Susan O'Conner</i><br><i>This session is free to all Virtual ticket holders and NSN members.</i> |   |
| 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time      | <b>Fringe</b><br><b>A Taste of Kuumba Stew</b><br><i>by Kuumba Collective: Chetter Galloway, Gwendolyn Napier, Vernice Bailey</i>  |   |
| SUNDAY JULY 20th                                 |  |   |
| 9:00 am - 10:30 am<br>Eastern Daylight Time      | <b>Presentation: The Strange Case of Lady Liberty- An Historical Investigation (YES)</b><br><i>by Barry Stewart Mann and Deborah Strahorn</i>  |   |
| 12:15 pm- 1:15 pm<br>Eastern Daylight Time       | <b>Virtual Gathering Space-- courtesy of Healing Story Alliance</b><br><i>Host: Lee-Ellen Marvin</i>   |   |



NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK  
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

## 'YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025



Special Interest Group of the National Storytelling Network



## A Letter from the Director of Storytelling In Organizations



Dear Storytelling in Organizations Community, I extend my warmest greetings to each of you and express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued commitment to the transformative power of storytelling within organizational life. As we stand at the threshold of a new program year, I am honored to reflect on the path we have traveled.

The past year was a remarkable journey. Through your presence, insights, and courageous creativity, we witnessed how stories not only articulate meaning but activate purpose. Your contributions at webinars illuminated how story can become a catalyst for resilience, equity, innovation, and systems change. You reminded us that storytelling is not merely a tool—it is a way of seeing, listening, and leading. As we move forward, our collective work will continue to deepen and expand. You will find in Year In Review booklet a thoughtful overview of the 2024–2025 initiatives.

Finally, I invite each of you to remain engaged, curious, and bold. Whether you are applying story in your organization, conducting research, mentoring others, or simply listening with intention—your presence matters. Together, we are shaping a movement that insists that story is not ornamental, but foundational to how we build trust, navigate complexity, and imagine what is possible.

On behalf of the leadership team, thank you for walking this journey with us. May this year bring new stories that challenge, inspire, and sustain us all.

With Gratitude,

**Lisa Williams, Ph.D.**

Director, Storytelling in Organizations

Board of Directors, National Storytelling Network

Email: [Lwilliams@storynet.org](mailto:Lwilliams@storynet.org)





## About Us

**Storytelling In Organizations (SIO)** is a special interest group of the National Storytelling Network. SIO members share a common interest in organizational storytelling. They recognize the positive impact of applying narrative techniques to business practices. By balancing logic and facts with the emotional impact of a story, companies can convey their 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 relations and marketing firms, educational institutions, consulting and coaching, and publishing companies, energy innovation businesses, storytelling, and other nonprofit organizations.

**Storytelling in Organizations core values** serve as both compass and commitment. In every initiative we undertake—whether curating programming, selecting leadership, partnering with communities, or envisioning long-term strategies—we return to our foundational beliefs to ensure alignment, integrity, and impact.

**Respect and Authenticity:** We will welcome everyone's unique contributions and perspectives, actively listen, understand questions, and communicate candidly.

**Teamwork:** We will work together and will support each other.

**Driven to Mastery:** We will continuously increase our knowledge, deepen our understanding, and invest in our personal and professional growth.

**Have Fun:** We will celebrate, be friendly, and express gratitude.

**Integrity and Transparency:** We will act with honesty and sincerity. We will share information and ideas freely.

**Social Responsibility:** We are committed to the well-being of the communities we serve and contribute to the cause through our individual and/or group resources.



## Membership Roster

### Storytelling In Organizations

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pearl Alexander           | Sara Armstrong                      |
| Jose Bailey               | Alicia Donjoo Bang                  |
| Noa Baum                  | John Bertholl                       |
| Janet Burton-Bickel       | Madelyn Blair                       |
| Jessica Britts            | Jim Brulé                           |
| Michael Brundy            | Bernard Bull                        |
| Sonya Caesar              | Larry Castleberry                   |
| Kate Chadbourne           | Jane Chesham                        |
| Lorraine Darnell          | Eileen Delorenzo                    |
| Joseph DiMaso             | Judith Donley                       |
| Drea Douglas              | Linda Ellington                     |
| Jerry Eyster              | Melissa Fees                        |
| Andres Ferreyra           | Susan Garfield                      |
| Carol Knarr Gerbert       | Eva Grayzel                         |
| Marilyn Grevstad          | Bette Lou Higgins                   |
| Warren Holleman           | Steven Holley                       |
| Sadika Kebbi              | Elizabeth Kelly                     |
| Brian Kokensparger        | Vinod Krishna                       |
| Gary Kuntz                | Davina Lomax Burns                  |
| Carol McCormick Buchmeier | Julie McGhee                        |
| Marilyn McPhie            | Michelle Mellon                     |
| Sue Mirkin                | Jennifer Munro                      |
| Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy  | Margo Myles                         |
| Gwendolyn Napier          | Varaidzo Nyamandi                   |
| Alexandra Onno            | Valentina Ortiz                     |
| Karen Page-Davies         | Sally Perkins                       |
| Lani Peterson             | Portland Storytellers' Guild        |
| Natalie Rivera            | Jo'el Roth                          |
| Vivian Rutherford         | Julienne Ryan                       |
| Robert Sands              | Stone Soup Storytelling Institution |
| Kerry Stubbs              | Sustainability Institute of Detroit |
| Renu Swaney               | Laconia Therrio                     |
| Lisa Tilstra              | Nancy Tolson                        |
| Nelda Tone                | Mary Walther                        |
| Kim Weitkamp              | Pippa White (Lawson)                |
| James White               | Alfred Wiseman                      |
| Grant Wuellner            | Paula Younger                       |
| Paula Younger             | Elsa Zúñiga                         |

Total membership as of June 30, 2025: 81 members. Membership has grown by 14 percent since June 30, 2024.



## Financial

**Integrity and Transparency:** We will act with honesty and sincerity. We will share information and ideas freely.

Summary of National Storytelling Network Profit and Loss Statement from January through June 30, 2025, for Storytelling In Organizations (**page 5**).

|               |                   |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 12/31/2024    | December 31,      | \$8,381.76        |
| Ending        | 2024              |                   |
| Balance:      |                   |                   |
| Revenue       |                   |                   |
| Membership    | Jan. 1 – June 30, | <u>825.00</u>     |
| Revenue       | 2025              |                   |
| Total Revenue | June 30, 2025     | <b>\$9,206.76</b> |
| Expenses      |                   |                   |
| Presenter     | June 30, 2025     | <u>495.00</u>     |
| Payout        |                   |                   |
| Total Income  | June 30, 2025     | <b>\$8,711.76</b> |

SIO income was generated from membership fees. All expenses incurred were payments to presenters.





## Accomplishment

**Social Responsibility:** We are committed to the well-being of the communities we serve and contribute to the cause through our individual and/or group resources.

Though outside of the fiscal year, it is important to make mention of this.

Storytelling In Organizations contributed \$250 to help replace lost grant funding for the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS), Inc Youth Storytelling program. National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) grant funding for 2025 was withdrawn by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) due to an update in NEA's grant-making policies to prioritize the current United States presidential administrative agenda. Citation: [www.nabsinc.org](http://www.nabsinc.org)

**Thank you for your commitment to NABS.**

There are many things we are thankful for. First, the vision of our founders, Linda Goss and Mary Carter Smith, in creating an organization to showcase Black Storytelling and storytellers. Secondly, our members who have soulfully helped "Spread the Word...." and, equally as important, those who have given their financial support to help maintain our high level of professionalism and mission.

On behalf of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. Board, Staff and Members A special Thank You...Asante Sana to you for your support which you have so freely given. Your gift is greatly appreciated and prayerfully received. Be assured your contribution will be used for the betterment of our organization, our Founders' vision and the progress of NABS' mission!

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. is a Maryland not-for-profit organization that operates under the laws of the State of Maryland and exempt from federal income taxation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service, 501(c)(3). This is to acknowledge receipt of \$250 The lost grant funds for Youth Storytelling by NSN Special Interest Group Storytelling in Organizations (SIO) 07/09/2025 to support the mission and programming of the NABS.

The NABS did not provide any goods or services in whole or in partial consideration, for this contribution.

Kind Regards,

Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Executive Director



National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

**Social Responsibility:** We are committed to the well-being of the communities we serve and contribute to the cause through our individual and/or group resources.

**Here's How We Collectively Must Take Action—Right Now:**

- Donate to NABS' One-to-One Match Fundraising Campaign. Please help us raise \$17,500, which NABS will match dollar-for-dollar to double the impact. Website: <https://www.nabsinc.org/> Questions about donating contact: Vanora Legaux, Executive Director at email: [vanoralegaux@nabsinc.org](mailto:vanoralegaux@nabsinc.org)
- Demand Action from Your Legislators. Use the Performing Arts Alliance Advocacy Center to flood their offices with calls and emails. Make it clear: We will not be silenced. Website: <https://www.theperformingartsalliance.org>
- Complete the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Survey. Help document and expose the real-world harm of these cuts. Note: The survey is no longer available. However, visit the site for other ways that you may be able to let your voice be heard. Website: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/advocate/protect-the-nea>.
- Amplify Your Voice. Record and share how Black storytelling has shaped your life and community. Spread these stories boldly and unapologetically.

Citation: [www.nabsinc.org](http://www.nabsinc.org)

## Accomplishment

**Social Responsibility:** We are committed to the well-being of the communities we serve and contribute to the cause through our individual and/or group resources.

Storytelling In Organizations' members shared their knowledge and skills with the storytelling community at the 2024 National Storytelling Network Conference (July 11-14<sup>th</sup>) at the Dumas Center in Federal Way, Washington.



**Eva Abram**

Facilitated: "Braided Stories: Connections that Enhance the Telling and Listening Experience"

Website: <https://www.rainwaterstorytelling.com/>

Email: [rainwaterstorytelling@yahoo.com](mailto:rainwaterstorytelling@yahoo.com)

Phone: [+1-3607205409](tel:+1-3607205409)



**Jamie Brunson**

Facilitated: "Storytelling in Action"

Website: <https://firstpersonarts.org/>

Email: [jamiej@firstpersonarts.org](mailto:jamiej@firstpersonarts.org)



## Accomplishment Continued



**Bowen Lyam Lee**

Facilitated: Early Morning Activities: Tai Chi Fusion

Panelist: “Strong Like Bamboo: Stories of Resilience in the Era of Anti-Asian American Pacific Islander

Website: <https://www.bowenstories.com/>

Email: [bowenlyamlee@gmail.com](mailto:bowenlyamlee@gmail.com)



**Laura Packer**

Facilitated: “Playful Creativity: Breaking Blocks, Deepening Telling, Fooling Your Troubles Away”

Website/Contact: <https://laurapacker.com/>



**Lani Peterson**

Facilitated: From Thin to Thick: Developing Your Personal Stories into Healing Stories”

Website: [www.lanipeterson.com](http://www.lanipeterson.com) Email: [lanipeterson.com](mailto:lanipeterson.com)

## Accomplishment

**Teamwork:** We will work together and will support each other.

Lisa Williams, the Director of Storytelling in Organizations, made a strategic decision to appoint Jim Brulé, a member of SIO, to serve as the SIO conference representative. Jim selected five other SIO members, Jamie Brunson, Drea Douglas, Brian Kokensparger, Darlene Richards, and Lisa Tilstra, to serve under his guidance. This structure reflected a commitment to participatory leadership and honored the collective voice of the storytelling community.

**Results:** This strategic decision resulted in the creation of a supportive and dynamic working group who shared the responsibilities and brought diverse perspectives to the evaluation and the selection of the proposals for the 2025 NSN conference.

**Results:** Using a spreadsheet created by Jim and criteria approved by the conference committee chairs, the team selected the following proposals for the 2025 National Storytelling Conference (July 17th-20<sup>th</sup>)

- Right from the Start: Engaging Story Beginnings by Kathleen Santopietro
- How to Harness the 7 Powers of Story Intelligence by Richard Stone
- Performing for and Preserving the Voices of Seniors by Carol Gerbert
- AI and Storytelling: New Tools and Horizons by Tama Luceford
- Build Your Own Economy: An Interactive Storytelling Experience by Sonya Squires Ceasar
- Technology & Storytelling or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Embrace AI by Patti Smith
- Storytelling As Restorative Community Based Approaches to Intergenerational Healing by Meghna Bhat
- Finding the Funny: Adding humor to WoW Your Audience by Steve Daut

## Accomplishment

**Teamwork:** We will work together and will support each other.

### SIO Volunteers for the NSN Oracle Award Committee

Ray Christian, Dre Douglas, and Nancy Tolson, members of Storytelling In Organizations, have committed to serve on the National Storytelling Network Oracle Committee for 3-years. They will play a crucial role in determining the recipients of the following NSN Oracle Awards: Lifetime achievement, Circle of Excellence, Regional Excellence, Distinguished National Service, Talking Leaves, International StoryBridge, and Regional Services and Leadership.



Left to Right: **Drea Douglas, Ray Christian, and Nancy Tolson**



## Accomplishment

**Driven to Mastery:** We will continuously increase our knowledge, deepen our understanding, and invest in our personal and professional growth.

Throughout 2024-2025 SIO members and non-members took a deep dive into the art of organizational storytelling. These high-quality and engaging webinars were led by professionals from various fields who understand the power of story and telling.



**August 8, 2024**

Featured Facilitator: Lani Peterson (**SIO Member**)  
Webinar: "The Myriad Opportunities to Bring Story into Organizations"  
Website: <https://lanipeterson.com/>  
Email: [lanipeterson.com](mailto:lanipeterson.com)



**October 8, 2024**

Featured Facilitator: Chandreyee Lahiri (**Non-member**)  
Webinar: "The Responsibilities of Crafting a Story and How to Navigate Personalities"  
Website: [www.chandreyeelahiri.com](http://www.chandreyeelahiri.com)  
Email: [Chandreyewrites@gmail.com](mailto:Chandreyewrites@gmail.com)



**November 9, 2024**

Featured Facilitator: Sadika Kebbi (**SIO Member**)  
Webinar: "Harnessing Emotional Fitness Through Storytelling"  
Website: <https://kun-coaching.com/>  
Email: [doukak@gmail.com](mailto:doukak@gmail.com)

## Accomplishment continued



**January 16, 2025**

Featured Facilitator: Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy (**SIO Member**)

Webinar: "StoryGrowth. Creating a Culture of Development"

Website: <https://historia.academy/>

Email: [amm.storytelling@gmail.com](mailto:amm.storytelling@gmail.com)



**February 19, 2025**

Featured Facilitator: Michael Brundy (**Non-Member/Later Joined**)

Webinar: "Lead with a Story: The Secret to Inspiring Leadership"

Website: <https://tejasstorytelling.com/>

Email: [mjbrundy@gmail.com](mailto:mjbrundy@gmail.com)



**March 19, 2025**

Featured Facilitator: Meghna Bhat, Ph.D. (**Non-Member**)

Webinar: "how to Pitch an Organizations Strengths and Narratives Using Storytelling"

Website: [www.meghnabhat.com](http://www.meghnabhat.com)

Email: [megbhat@gmail.com](mailto:megbhat@gmail.com)



Join National Storytelling Network and choose Storytelling In Organizations as your special interest group. Please visit the NSN website to learn more about membership and its benefits. Website: <https://storynet.org/membership/>

### **Offerings of Storytelling In Organizations**

**Networking:** Provides a platform for members to connect with other professionals interested in organizational storytelling.

**Facilitate a Webinar:** Lead interactive webinar sessions, fostering discussion and promoting audience engagement.

**Resources:** Offers access to information, tools, and best practices related to storytelling in organizational contexts.

**Educational Opportunities:** May include workshops, webinars, or presentations on specific storytelling techniques or applications.

**Community Building:** Fosters a sense of community among individuals who share a passion for storytelling within their organizations.





## Webinar Series

Building your story constellation: four stories we need to know and share about ourselves.

### Goal:

You will discover, craft and master 4 core stories that help people learn who you really are: mission, values, beliefs and vision.

**When: Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month:**

September 2, 2025

October 7, 2025

November 4, 2025

December 2, 2025

### Time:

11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Eastern Time



### Facilitator:

Artem Mushin-Makedonskiy



**Free to SIO members and Non-members**



NATIONAL STORYTELLING CALENDAR  
LINKS IN TITLES IF AVAILABLE

## AUGUST 2025 EVENTS

### The Houses of Ireland and Scotland Stories and Music from Ireland and Scotland

August 1, 2025 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm Pacific | \$20 (\$5 for HPR members)

House of Pacific Relations

2191 Pan American Road West | San Diego, California

Performers include Storytellers of San Diego, Marilyn McPhie, Lissette Ryan, James Nelson-Lucas and Aunt Li-Anne, accompanied by Rachel Amov on fiddle, and a piper. Refreshments available.

RSVP to [shanti.hofshi@gmail.com](mailto:shanti.hofshi@gmail.com)

### Good Liars Club Festival

August 2, 2025 | 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm Central

Online

6 showcases of 24 fabulous liars stretching the truth in good-natured fun. Showcases run every hour on the hour. One registration link lets you come in and out of the festival as you please. Donors get a recording of the festival to watch on demand. Don't miss the fourth year of this festival of confabulation!

### Voices in the Glen Story Swap

August 9, 2025 | 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Eastern

Online

Storytellers and listeners are invited to join Voices in the Glen storytellers for an evening of shared stories. Anyone is welcome to tell a tale; no one ever has to. This month's swap is online—no entry fee.

### Storytelling Association of California 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Genre Storytelling: August Personal Storytelling

August 20, 2025 | 7:00 pm Pacific | \$5 (free for SAC members)

Online



### [Laura Packer Summer Storytelling Retreat](#)

August 22 – 24, 2025 | 4:00 pm Central

Laura Packer's Home | Orono, Minnesota

Taking time to work on your art and craft is important, but can be hard to do. Join master storyteller Laura Packer for a summer storytelling retreat at her home in Minnesota, from August 22-24, 2025. What can you expect?

Every participant will have one-on-one coaching time with Laura, so bring something you're working on. These coaching sessions will be held with the entire group, so everyone learns from everyone else's coaching session. Laura's coaching has been described as "transformational," and "the best way I know to work on a story."

A master-class workshop on a storytelling topic of the group's choosing. Everyone will have a chance to vote to select the class topic. Topics range from *Deep Characterization* to *Difficult Stories* to *Performing for the Audience in Front of You* and more.

- Time to think and dream and hang out on the porch.
- A community as committed to the work as you are.
- Community-prepared vegetarian meals made from mostly locally grown ingredients (the garden in the backyard!) with possible meat options. Meals included are Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks; Sunday breakfast, lunch, and snacks.
- A signed copy of Laura's book *From Audience To Zeal* or the accompanying workbook or a deck of #storyseeds cards, for this paying a little more.
- Potential opportunity for a fire-pit story circle, swimming, and other activities.
- And more.
- This event is limited to 6-8 people to ensure everyone has time to get what they need. As of this writing there are spaces left.

There is limited housing available at Laura's on a first come first serve basis (private to semi-private spaces). There are reasonably priced hotels within a 20-minute drive. Should you fly in, we will make every effort to meet you at the airport. Note that Laura's home does have steps. The ground-level workshop space has ten steps, and the upstairs guest room has another 16. We will do our best to accommodate you.

### [Storytelling in Organizations](#)

#### [Building Your Story](#)

#### [Constellations: Four Stories](#)

#### [We Need to Know and Share](#)

#### [About Ourselves by Artem](#)

#### [Mushin-Makedonskiy](#)

September 2, 2025 | 10:00 am

– 11:15 am Eastern

October 7, 2025 | 10:00 am –

11:15 am Eastern

November 4, 2025 | 10:00 am

– 11:15 am Eastern

December 2, 2025 | 10:00 am

– 11:15 am Eastern

#### Online

Each story we tell shapes how we see ourselves and how others see us. And yet there are some stories that have more potential in showing who we are and what we stand for. Stories in that sense are like stars in the night sky: every constellation has a couple of the brightest stars that play the key role in defining the shape of the constellation. In this series of webinars you will discover 4 core stories that can help you show yourself and others around you who you are, what you stand for, and why you do the things you do. Apart from theory on these stories there will be practice in break out sessions so get your microphone and headphones ready!

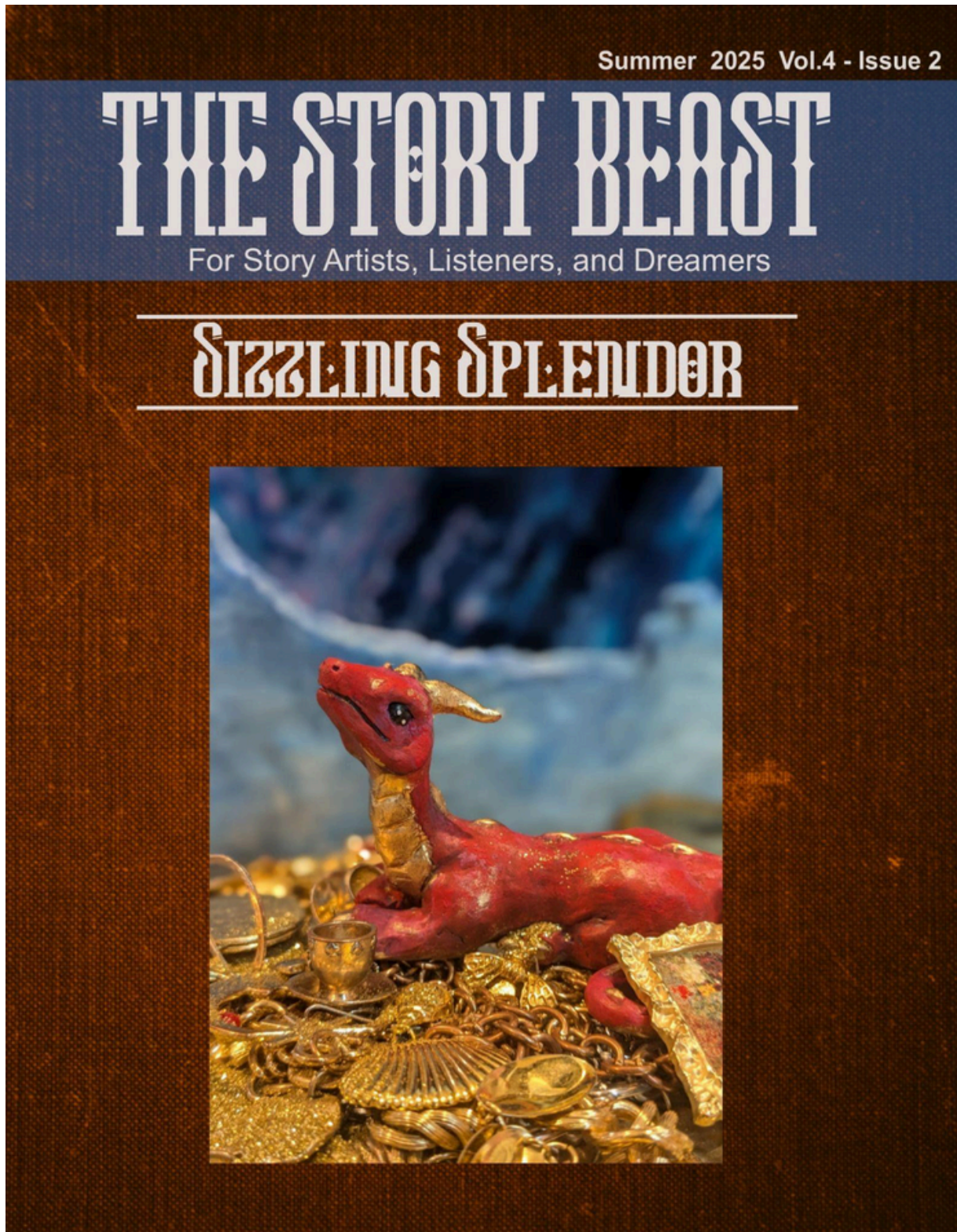




NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK  
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Click the cover below to read the June 2025 Story Beast Issue (Sizzling Splendor) this month!  
Submissions for September 2025 Story Beast Issue (Quirky Quandaries) due August 15, 2025!

Visit [storybeast.org](http://storybeast.org) for more information.





**NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK**  
AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

**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                    |

**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](mailto: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.