Countdown to the 6th Annual Storytelling Festival 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for October 16, 1993, the date of the sixth annual Northwest Storytelling Festival. From 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. the day will be filled with workshops, story swaps and concerts. This year features a wide variety of tellers and workshops presenters. Come for part of the day or all day—but be there! Advance registration recommended but not required. See registration form inside the newsletter.

Tellabration! Storytelling at its best

America’s fastest-growing storytelling event—Tellabration! the Night of Storytelling—takes place concurrently in more than 74 communities across the country. In the process, Tellabration generates funds for local storytelling groups and for the archival project of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (NAPPS). The mission has been, and is, to promote community storytelling, spotlight local and national storytellers and build appreciation for the art. The Seattle Storytellers’ Guild is proud to participate in this event again. Featured tellers are

New Spot for Monthly Guild Storytelling

The Seattle Storytellers’ Guild will have a new meeting place for its third Friday of the month storytelling. After the first of the year we will no longer be meeting at the Burke Museum. A Guild committee is looking at a variety of spots in several Seattle locations. They are considering such factors as suitability for storytelling for both tellers and audience, availability of parking (and cost), easy access to freeway, closeness of restaurants and cafes. The Board will be making a decision soon and a special mailing informing members of the new location and upcoming programs will be made by the first of the year. So—keep marking your third Fridays for storytelling and be ready to help us celebrate our new opening.

Margaret Read MacDonald, Scott Allen, Maggie Bennett and her Irish harp, Debbie Dimitre, Tom Galt, Kathy Sider, Kathie Vitz and Bruce Wolcott.

Join us Saturday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral, Bloedel Hall (in the back), 1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle. Please invite family, friends and children over 10 to share in this annual special event. The cost is $5.
A Word of Farewell

by Naomi Balluck

After many years (I'm not exactly how many) of service to the guild, it is with mixed emotions that I hand over the reins and give someone else a turn. I want to thank you for your generous acceptance of my abstract, random ways. You have been consistently supportive, imaginative and, judging by the size of the bite you were willing to take when the Seattle Storytellers' Guild agreed to host the 1993 National Storytelling Conference, you are also courageous, willing to take a risk and put the nose to the grindstone to watch the Seattle Storytellers' Guild to make a dream come true.

It has been exciting to watch the Seattle Storytellers' Guild over the last 15 years or so (I'm not sure exactly how many) as it grew from a tiny grass-roots organization to a strong, healthy organization of more than 400 members. We have set an example for many other groups regionally and throughout the nation. As California storyteller Katy Rydell once put it, the Seattle Storytellers' Guild is considered the "grown-up" of storytelling organizations on the West Coast. I believe that is because we are STILL a grass-roots organization, able to work together to promote the art and awareness of storytelling to our mutual benefit.

I have always been proud of the fact that community service, and not the dollar sign, has always been our bottom line. Programs have come and gone, many successes and some "interesting experiments." Our more financially successful programs have helped to support those programs and services that were socially responsible or otherwise serving the needs of the community, regardless of whether they made a profit. It has always seemed to balance out.

This seems like a good time to say goodbye. The National Storytelling Conference is safely behind us, and successfully so. Our finances are in good shape. We are stronger than ever. I leave you in the capable hands of Dawn Kuhlman and Cherie Trebon, our new co-presidents and with every confidence that the Seattle Storytellers' Guild will continue to grow as a powerful voice for storytelling in the Northwest and the United States, as well as our own community.

I am a lifelong member and will be a

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Shorts

Guild Library Relocates

The SSG lending library has moved to its new location at Cherie's home in the Sandpoint area of Seattle. The large selection of books and tapes can be checked out by Guild members. The library will be "open" during the monthly Story 'n Snack story swap or you can call Cherie at 525-0382 to set up an appointment to access the collection. A complete listing of all books and tapes in the library will be available in the near future.

1993 Governor's Writers Awards

The Pryor Award, which honors an individual or group who has been a notable contributor to or advocate of Washington's literary community, is named after the late Nancy Blankenship Pryor of the Washington State Library, who championed the state's collection of Washington authors' books.

Sharing this year's Pryor Award honors is Vi Hilbert, a respected elder of the Upper Skagit Tribe of Western Washington. She is a key figure in preserving the Lushootseed language of the Salish people. Retired from the University of Washington where she taught the language, culture and literature of the First People of the Puget Sound Region, Ms. Hilbert also is known for her books of Salish tales and legends.

Story Tree on Public Radio

The Story Tree, a half hour of storytelling which has been heard since '91 in many states in the Southeast, is now available for all of the more than 400 public radio stations. Individual stations, however, may need to be prodded to carry it. Check your station.

lifelong fan, advocate, and supporter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild in any way possible for the rest of my years (I don't know exactly how many that will be.)

Best wishes, lies, and dreams
In the Wake of the National Storytelling Conference

by Naomi Baituck

Nearly 12 weeks have elapsed since the National Storytelling Conference; the final figures are dribbling in and most of the organizers’ nervous twitches have faded. Here is an official report on the conference.

The conference, held July 7-11, on the grounds of the University of Washington campus, offered four days of quality programming. The conference opened with an inspiring keynote address by Robert Fulghum and the next morning Vi Hilbert gave participants a truly Northwest welcome. For many of the participants Vi Hilbert, with her ancient wisdom and wry humor, was the high point of the entire conference.

There were 30 workshops to choose from, featuring Northwest favorites like Vi Hilbert, Pleasant DeSpain and Merna Hecht, as well as nationally known tellers and folklorists from throughout the United States and Canada, such as Barry Tolkien, George Shannon and Norma Livo. The range of topics was vast, covering territory from traditional storytelling settings to the classroom to the recording studio and to the corporate world. The biggest complaint was that there were simply too many workshops to choose among and not enough time to do them all.

Evening programs were rated high by participants. The Northwest Showcase featured an impressive program of local talent. Friday night there was a catered dinner and square dance which got high marks and plenty of participation. Saturday night participants boated across Puget Sound and had a salmon dinner at Kiana Lodge, then sat entranced as Vi Hilbert and Curtis DuPuis told the stories of the First People of this land. Nestled beneath the cedar trees, with the smell of the salt sea in the air, a feeling of timeless wonder was woven with their words.

The conference was a success in more ways than one. It was budgeted to break even with a full-paid attendance of 225 people. Attendance exceeded all hopes and expectations. There were 343 full-time attendees, and 145 one-day participants. Revenues are approximated at $95,000, with expenses near $54,000.

People came from all corners of the United States and from as far away as Australia, Indonesia and Singapore to attend this conference. Approximately one-third of the participants listed themselves as professional storytellers, another third as librarians and teachers, and then there were ministers, therapists, administrators, arts organizers, book publishers, business professionals, broadcasters and people from many other vocations in attendance.

The logistics of hosting such a gathering were staggering, but the Seattle Storytellers’ Guild was able to draw upon the support of many other storytelling organizations in the region. We owe the success of the conference in great measure to the contributions of the Mt. Tahoma Storytellers’ Guild, the Tacoma Fireside Story League, the Olympia Storytelling Guild, the Eugene Storytellers, and all the many volunteers who gave of their valuable time, talents and energy. We cannot express our thanks too many times, nor too emphatically. Our volunteers worked both with us and with each other with efficiency, competence, friendliness, generosity of spirit, and good humor and they helped us demonstrate to our guests what Northwest Hospitality means. Our visitors were very impressed at the cohesiveness and the cooperation shown by the region and that, more than any other aspect of the conference, made me glow with pride.

Of course, the Mother hen who took this conference under her wing was Margie MacDonald, vice-president of the Seattle Storytellers’ Guild and NAPFS board member. It was there, under her wing, that this conference nestled for more than a year of incubation, and it is thanks to her tireless efforts, her attention to detail, and her ability to go for long periods of time without sleep that we have our hatched chick.

Continued on Page 5
Report on the NAPPS Board Retreat and Meeting, August 1993:

The four day NAPPS board retreat/meeting this summer was probably the hardest work I have done in my life. We were put up at Washington College so as to have plenty of togetherness (cold showers and dorm bunks). It also was cheaper than doing the usual B & B housing in Jonesborough. We took advantage of the opportunity for late night continuation of our concerns and for early morning walks through the countryside to cleanse us for the coming day. Being born and bred in Southern Indiana, I loved the boarding school food slathered with gravy and sorghum. Other board members were less enthusiastic. From all this togetherness did arise a strong vision of what this board sees as NAPPS mission. Future board decisions will be based on the work done here. And as soon as it is typed up for the board to take action on in February, our list of goals will be ready for the membership to take a look at. I think you will be pleased.

Once the board meeting began we made several moves which will interest you. The Annual Conference WILL continue. NAPPS staff has been asked to find a way to lessen their own involvement so as to keep their monetary overhead devoted to the conference much lower than at present. I apologize to any of you readers who were at the Pacific Region Meeting during the NAPPS Conference here in July and heard me pooh pooh the notion that the Annual Conference might be scrapped. I found out later that a document prepared by NAPPS staff did recommend just that. Every board member except me had been given a copy! I had to fight like a turkey to convince everyone that a $40,000 cash profit on the conference WAS valuable...even though the staff were assigning $80,000 in indirect costs to the conference and therefore showing it on paper as a $40,000 loss. The solution, clearly, is to lower NAPPS staff involvement in the conference. Other organizations present similar conferences WITHOUT a resident staff.

The good news is that Atlanta will host the next Conference and are very excited about this! The bad news is that they feel it is too late to get ready by next summer, so the next Conference will be in summer 1995. As of July this year, no one in the Southern Region (it is their turn for the conference) had offered to host next summer but when the Atlanta folks saw how much fun WE had...they decided they could do that too!

The board also directed that the NAPPS publications should be revamped to accept articles by our own members again and to include reporting about our organization. We recommended that an in-house editor be hired who would be conversant with our organization and responsive to our needs. The current publications are handsome and have won many awards, but do not function as a membership journal. They are also so expensive that almost all of the members' dues are used just to fund editor's fees and publication cost. The publications you receive during the next year may look different and will probably need a great deal of honing as the year progresses, but be patient. We will eventually come out with publications which serve us well. Don't be afraid to speak up if you have ideas which could improve things. And if anyone has editorial and desk-top publishing experience and would like to move to Jonesborough, Tennessee and be at the heart of NAPPS...please apply for the new job!

I'll give you more information after the February meeting. Our director has been instructed to hire a new financial officer by September 1 and remove our debt by January 1. He has clear plans for doing this and I think we will be on sound financial footing again within a year. Thanks for all of the comments you have given me. I try to speak solidly for our members' needs at all times in board meetings.

Your regional representative,
Margaret Read MacDonald
Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them
by Margaret Read MacDonald, King County Library System

I was way too busy to do much reading or evaluating this NAPPS summer, but here are three books I did get my hands on.


Once Upon a Folk tale: Capturing the Folklore Process with Children, Glora T. Blatt, editor. New York, Teachers College, Columbia University: Teachers College Press, 1992. Thirteen essays dealing with the folklore/classroom connection. Solicited from children's literature educators such as Bette Bosma, Craig Rooney, and Patricia Cianciolo. The articles touch on a variety of topics. Sample topics: "High Fantasies: Secret Openings to the Ring of Myth" by Gloria T. Blatt, "Fairy Tales Belong in the Classroom" by Bette Bosma; and "Helping Children Find Their Personal and Community Folklore" by Sheila Fitzgerald. A collection to dabble in if you plan a folklore unit for your classroom, or if you teach teachers. I especially like the bibliographic essay "Finding Folklore" by Margaret Read MacDonald.


And since I've said this column is about the folks who tell as well as their stories, here are three must-see autobiographical videos from my armchair traveling summer: Marcel Pagnol's My Father's Glory and Marcel Pagnol's My Mother's Castle, in which a schoolteacher's son comes of age in the mountains near Marseilles, and Iron and Silk, in which a young American confronts another culture while teaching English in China of the 1980s. Directed by the author, who plays himself, and has cast heavily from the Chinese community in which he lived.

In the Wake (Cont.)
Continued from Page 3

It is my belief that working together on a project of this magnitude (and coming together to rise to the occasion) has made the network amongst Northwest storytelling organizations and individuals stronger and healthier than it has ever been before. It is my hope that we will continue to grow together in numbers, strength and wisdom.

As for the most important figures, I cannot give you any official numbers. No one kept count of the many generous compliments given to volunteers and organizers for the high quality and smooth execution of the conference. No one took a tally of the seeds planted for future dreams and inspirations. There is no way to count the friendships born, the professional connections established, nor the good will created between people at this conference. Yet those are the things that we will always remember and cherish most.
Telling to Wee Ones
by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

Telling to very small children is a challenge, yet it is only by teaching them to enjoy stories that one ensures a future audience. Looking at stories told by small children helps one to select stories appropriate to them.

Brian Sutton-Smith's study *The Folkstories of Children* identifies several useful characteristics of stories told by children age two to four.

*The diddle fiddle jumped over the cow and then the cow and the chicken went over the mice and the mailman went over the cat...* (age 3)

The most notable characteristic is that the stories told are more easily transcribed as free verse than as prose. This implies the verse stories such as Mother Goose's are appropriate:

*Hey diddle, diddle, the cat and the fiddle, The cow jumped over the moon The little dog laughed to see such sport, And the dish ran away with the spoon.*

(Gyo Fujikawa's *Mother Goose*)

The stories told often include elements from the immediate environment and use repetition and parallel sentences to create structure:

*The slide hits the swing and the bench bumped the ceiling and the bag bumped the fence and the watergun bumped the cigarette and the swing bumped the water fountain...* (age 2, told in a park)

Parallel structures are basic to cumulative tales such as "The Old Women and the Pig," "The House that Jack Built," or Troughton's *The Quail's Egg:*

*Elephant, go and muddy the water pool, the water pool who did not put out the fire, the fire who did not burn the thorny creeper, the thorny creeper who did not prick the pig...*

Children tell tales that play with sound—beat, rhyme, alliteration, etc. get full expression:

*Now there was a pa ka boon, goo there was a dog doo doo and he didn't like dog doo doo...* (age 2)

Mother Goose rhymes such as "Wibbleton and Wobbleton" and story books such as Margaret Wise Brown's *The Train to Timbuctoo* similarly depend primarily on sound for their effect:

*From Kalamazoo to Timbuktoo it's a long way down the track And from Timbuktoo To Kalamazoo From Kalamazoo and back...*

*Finger plays, bouncing games, action songs, etc. for children combine the use of the immediate environment with playful sound. An example from Anne Scott's international collection *The Laughing Baby:*

*Trot, trot, trot Go and never stop. Trudge along my little pony Where 'till rough and where 'tis stony... Listening to children may be the best way to learn to tell to children. And it helps raise the next generation of storytellers.*
October

2 Phyllis Silling: Tales that charm and delight. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 11 a.m., 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.


8-9 San Juan Capistrano Storytelling Festival with Joel ben Izzy, Dianne Ferlatte, Ed Stivender, and others. (714) 830-7807.

9 Debbie Deutsch performs at the Downtown Bon Marche, children’s toy department, time to be announced. The theme is environmental issues and autumn stories. Call 483-2098 for more information.

9 Sue Dynneson-Bynum: Blustery tales for blustery days. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 11 a.m., 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.

9 The Second West Marin Storytelling Festival, with Sandra Niman, Anita Jones and Gay Ducey. Write Michael Carney, P.O. Box 158, Pt. Reyes Sta., 54956 for brochure. (415) 663-1312 (evenings).

9 Naomi Baltuck spins Pacific Northwest Regional Yarns. 2 p.m. in Children’s Books, Mezzanine Level, University Book Store. University Way, Seattle. Free.

15 Cynthia Orr presents “Courage Stones—Stories of Strong and Beautiful Hearts.” These stories come from varied cultures, ranging from traditional shamanic to the mildly irreverent contemporary. 7 p.m., Burke Museum, University of Washington campus. $5 general, $3 SSG members. Open mike preceding featured teller.

16 Circle of Friends: October Harvest Celebration at the Nordic Heritage Museum. Saturday 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Celebrating the harvest traditions of Germany (Octoberfest), China (the Harvest Moon Festival), Czechoslovakia (Obzink), Canada and the U.S. $1.50 per child. Please have a harvest vegetable for donation to a local food bank. Call 789-5707 for more information.

16 Sixth Annual Storytelling Festival. See story on page 1. From 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

16-17 Debbie Dimitre presents the story introducing the new American Girl, Miss Addie Walker, together with the tale of Harriet Tubman. Park Place Book Co., 348 Park Place, Kirkland (828-6546), at 11 a.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

16-17 House Concert and Storytelling Workshop, Victoria (B.C.) Storytellers’ Guild, features Merna Hecht, 8 p.m. Saturday night and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in an all-day intensive workshop on connecting to the inner meaning of stories, healing aspects of storytelling and community building with diverse audiences. For registration and fees call (604) 592-1352.

23 Pat Peterson: fresh fables from afar. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 11 a.m., 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.

27 Tales for Halloween: Merna Hecht presents a family program of bone-chilling tales for ages 8 and up. 7 p.m., free, Vashon Library. Call 463-2069 for more information.

28 Story ’n Snack potluck dessert and story swap. Gene Friese is the featured teller. Join us for an evening of stories and dessert. 7:30 to 10 p.m. For directions, information call Cherie at 525-0382.
30 Rosemary Adamski: Haunting Halloween Stories, 11 a.m. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.

31 Allan Hirsch tells “not too scary Halloween stories.” 2 p.m. in Children’s Books, Mezzanine Level, University Book Store, University Way, Seattle. Free.

November


8 “Psyche and Eros: A Retelling of the Classical Roman Myth of Feminine Initiation,” a lecture and slide presentation by Ken Kimmel, 7:30 to 9:30, Seattle University, Schaeffer Auditorium. Presented by the C.G. Jung Society. $5 (members), $8 nonmembers.


13-14 National Festival of Black Storytelling, Milwaukee. Contact Tejumola Ologboni, P.O. Box 16706, Milwaukee, WI 53209, (414) 873-6656.


16 Debbie Dimitre presents the story introducing the new American Girl, Miss Addie Walker, together with the tale of Harriet Tubman. Secret Garden Children’s Bookshop, 7900 E. Green Lake Drive N. at 7:30 p.m. Call 524-4556 for more information.


19 Naomi Baltuck presents “Pulling in Bass Ackwards,” personal experiences, mostly true. 7 p.m., Burke Museum, University of Washington campus. $5 general, $3 SSG members. Open mike preceding featured teller.

20 Tellabration! See story on page 1. 7 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral, Bloedel Hall, 1245-10th Ave. E.

20 Debbie Dimitre introduces the new American Girl “Addie” together with a tale of Harriet Tubman, 11 a.m. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.

20-21 The Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard will celebrate its 16th annual Yulefest, a Christmas festival featuring the handcrafts, music, dance and food of Scandinavia. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. $1 donation at the door. Children can make holiday ornaments and meet a Nordic Santa Claus. Call 789-5707 for information.


27 Eugene Friese: The “Bard” feeds a feast of fables, 11 a.m. Part of the Fall Fantasy Storyteller Series at Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, WA, 232-6920.
December

5  Stories and Music for the Return of the Light, Books by the Way, Vashon, WA. 1 p.m. An afternoon of winter holiday music and stories with Merna Hecht accompanied by Nancy Barnes on flute and Julie Blakemore on violin. Call 463-2696 for more information.

9  Story 'n Snack potluck dessert and story swap. Join us for an evening of holiday stories and dessert. 7:30 to 10 p.m. For directions, information call Cherie at 525-0382.

10-12  The Treasure House of Listening of Educators. Participants will explore the craft of storytelling and how to bring it into the heart of children's education. Friday 6 p.m. dinner to Sunday 5 p.m. $220 plus $35 deposit. With Laura Simms, writer and storyteller; Sally Kaplan, dancer and film teacher at UCLA. Offered through the Ojai foundation, Ojai, CA 93024, (805) 646-8343.

13  Celebrating the Creative Psyche, the Arts Revealing the Psyche Series, Lectures and slide presentations by Terry Furchgott, visual artist; Myrna Orsini, sculptor; and Margaret Swanson-Vance, storyteller. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Cornish North, 1501 Tenth Ave. E. Presented by the C.G. Jung Society. $5 (members), $8 nonmembers.

14  Miracles of Light: An Evening of Hanukkah Stories, Secret Garden Children's Bookshop, 7900 E. Green Lake Dr. N. Merna Hecht presents a family program of traditional Hanukkah stories and customs. 7 p.m., $5 adult, $3 children.

17  Holiday Potpourri: a variety of tellers sharing their favorite holiday tales. The perfect evening to get you in a festive mood. 7 p.m., Burke Museum, University of Washington campus. $5 general, $3 SSG members.

January

22  TBA: Come help us celebrate our new location! (Was Burke Museum). Watch for a flyer in the mail and an announcement in the newspaper.
Co-President: Cherie Trebon (525-0382) and Dawn Kuhlman (939-7117);
Vice President: Margaret Read MacDonald (827-6430);
Secretary: Gene Friese (284-9469);
Membership and Festival Directors: Debra Harris-Branham (772-0415) and Phyllis Silling (246-7636);
Newsletter Editor: Susan Veltfort (322-2385);
Publicity: Kathleen Sider (524-1485);
Volunteer Coordinator: Avis Jobrack (206-752-7297);
Member at Large: Camille Wooden (854-2909).

The position of Treasurer is vacant and the Board is looking for a replacement. Ideally, the person should have either relevant work or volunteer experience and be involved with the Guild. Please contact either Co-President: Cherie Trebon or Dawn Kuhlman.

In the Wind is the newsletter of the Seattle Storytellers' Guild, a non-profit organization, and is published quarterly. Membership in the Guild includes a year's subscription. Please check the expiration date on your label. Deadline for the Winter issue is December 10, 1993.

For information about the Guild, call 284-9469.

Design by Julie Reimer

Seattle Storytellers' Guild
P.O. Box 45532
Seattle, Washington 98145-0532