

in the Wind

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Spring 1994, Vol. XVII, Number 2

A Night Off Broadway



"Overture, dim the lights, this is it..."

As the old song says, "we hit the heights."

On January 10, the monthly program sponsored by the Storytellers' Guild took on a new location and a renewed spirit. An almost capacity crowd enjoyed an evening of stories from six Northwest tellers, along with beverages and goodies from the New City snack bar. Both tellers and audience love the new space, a cozy, cafe atmosphere with a small stage, perfect for yarn spinning.

February's program featured Pat Petersen and could probably still be going...the audience didn't want her to leave. Starting with February, the program began what will be its regular format: a featured program by an open mike for any and all to share their stories. The open

mike seems to have also taken on new life and will be, as always, a great place to see new tellers and hear new stories.

This is an open invitation to all members, friends and family to join us at the New City Theatre once a month, second Mondays, for some of the best storytelling Seattle has to offer. Parking is free; there is actually a lot next to the theater, and great restaurants close by.

Hope to see you there!

A Letter from the Presidents

Dear Members,

Spring is the time of year that we give you a report on the "State of the Guild." Printed in this issue of *In The Wind* is the year-end financial report for 1993. We're happy to report that the Guild is in solid financial shape with earnings exceeding expenses in 1993 by \$2,398.17.

We've had a successful year in other ways as well. The National Storytelling Conference, held in the Pacific Northwest for the first time, took place in July and was stimulating, very well attended and received outstanding comments. All of the local guilds worked together, under the very able leadership of Naomi Baltuck and Margaret MacDonald, to give storytellers from all over the country a balanced, educational, smooth-running and FUN conference.

SSG Annual Meeting and Call for Board Members

SSG members are invited to attend the annual Seattle Storytellers' Guild Potluck and meeting on June 12. For information and location call 684-8646. One important item of business will be the election of officers. Board members attend monthly board meetings as well as assist on additional committees. People interested in serving on the Board should submit a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee, Seattle Storytellers' Guild, P.O. Box 45532, Seattle, WA 98145-0532.

Continued on Page 2

Seattle Storytellers' Guild Annual Report 1993

	Expenses	Income
NAPPS	\$162.48	\$0.00
Archive	0.00	34.00
Burke Museum	625.00	656.50
Festival	538.50	1,565.91
Library	0.00	75.00
Mailing/Postage	583.54	225.00
Membership	399.06	1,648.00
Miscellaneous	883.87	88.36
Newsletter	2,526.79	20.00
Petty Cash	1.40	120.00
Resources	0.00	23.00
'Story 'n Snack	16.19	0.00
Special Events	348.47	470.65
National Conference	6,516.09	10,073.07
Total	\$12,601.39	\$14,999.56
Net Profit (loss)		\$2,398.17



Presidents

Continued from Page 1

Once again the Seattle Storytellers' Guild offered its fall festival and helped the nation celebrate "Tellabration—One Great Night of Storytelling." Both events brought a variety of talented, lively tellers who gave their best efforts to provide the audiences with quality programming.

1994 began with a move of our monthly storytelling event from the Burke Museum to the New City Theatre. It was difficult to say good-bye to the Burke as it had been "home" for many years. But, it was time. Our new venue is an intimate and comfortable space and has been a rousing success with near-capacity audiences in its first two months. A great line-up of tellers has been booked for the coming months and the open mike will continue to offer new talent a chance to show their stuff!

In the offing for the remainder of the year is the annual summer picnic, the fall festival and tellabration as well as continuation of Story 'n Snack, the popular monthly story swap.

This year for the first time the Guild has co-presidents sharing the responsibility of the office. It's a big job even for two and makes us

both truly appreciative of all the hard work and dedication prior presidents have given to the Guild.

Any volunteer organization depends on its members and friends who donate their time, energy and talents to support the events of the group. You outdid yourselves in 1993! Thank you, thank you, thank you! We ask for your continued support this year and encourage all of you to take an even more active roll. You can start by attending the annual meeting in June. Then recruit a new member, invite friends to Guild events, above all, share a tale or two. We'd love to have you as a volunteer—and there are lots of opportunities available. We hope 1994 will be a year of getting to know YOU better.

Sincerely,

Dawn Cherie

Dawn Kuhlman and Cherie Trebon
Co-Presidents

NAPPS News



Exciting happenings planned for Fort worth this July as the 1994 NAPPS conference goes back to Texas! Look for your brochure in the mail soon. Call NAPPS at 1-800-525-4514 to get one if you are busily planning for our arrival...so put that on your calendar too.

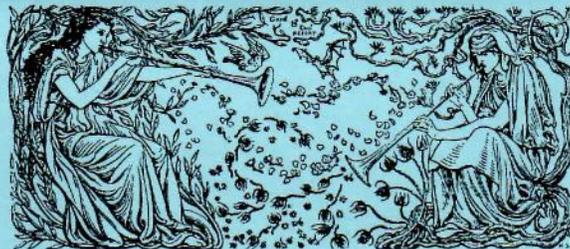
You will find a new look in our publications this month. In response to membership pressure the magazine will feature more articles written by storytellers themselves. The magazine will be slightly slimmer but will arrive six times a year instead of quarterly. Material formerly in the *Yarnspinner* will now be found in *Storytelling Magazine*. A NAPPS newsletter, *The Inside Story*, will keep us in touch the other six months of the year. Let us know how you like the change. And send in your articles for consideration.

Plans for a National Storytelling Center are continuing but taking a slightly different track. Museum consultant Ralph Appelbaum, who designed the Holocaust Museum, visited

Jonesborough and offered sage advice. He spoke of meandering paths, historic buildings, and "evocative spaces." Based on this gentler approach to a "Center," the Board gave our director permission to seek funding sources for purchase of the historic red brick which stands atop a wooded hill behind the park in downtown Jonesborough. He has permission to buy the hill too, if he can find grants to fund it.

And the NAPPS Board has finally bitten the bullet and agreed to change the name of the organization to The National Storytelling Association. Everyone calls us that anyway. We will keep the "National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling" as a subheading on our materials, of course.

Margaret Read MacDonald
Pacific Region Representative



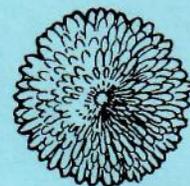
Heard Blowing in the Wind...

Sharon Creedon just received an offer from August House Publishers to produce her collection of law tales.



Susan Blaine will be presenting a workshop on forming a storytelling guild at the NAPPS conference in Fort Worth in July.

Naomi Baltuck and her sister, Deb are just wrapping up work on their novel.



The Improv masters "Just Say Yes" were once more a hit at the Seattle Fringe Festival.



Playing the Narrator

by Martha J. Eshelman-Smith

John Stevens in *Medieval Romance* discusses the relationship of the court poet to his audience: the task of the oral narrator as one of winning detachment, distance from his audience. Stevens contrasts this task with the novelist who seeks to gain intimacy. As a storyteller, one tends to think one's first task is to establish a relationship with one's audience. Stevens forces us to consider that relationship closely and to consider the differences between telling when the narrator takes the position of teacher, of family/friend, or of entertainer.

When a teacher studying *King Lear* in the course of a lecture tells the story "More than Salt" to draw parallels in the plot, the role of the storyteller is not differentiated from the role of lecturer. The story is told in a straightforward manner conveying the facts of the story. The listener is to draw the same conclusions as the teller. The story is not a joint project.

Similarly, when stories are used for illustrative or didactic purposes, the teller controls the message that the listener is to hear. But the same story told in different contexts can be used for different messages. Take as an example, a Mulla Nasrudin story: Nasrudin is given crumbs when he appears at a feast in poor attire but lavished with the best dishes when he appears in rich attire, so he dips his coat in the soup saying that the rich food is clearly for his cloak. Told in a serious manner after someone prejudices another because of dress, the story will be seen as didactic. Told with a final laugh in a party, the story will be seen as a joke. Told in a self-awareness seminar without explanation, the story will be seen as open-ended—each listener free to draw a lesson appropriate to themselves.

Our face, our facial expressions, our body language are all part of the context that defines the meaning and use of the story. Take as an example a memory that was embarrassing or painful at the time but humorous in retrospect. When it was painful, if you shared it with a friend as a confidence, you would tend to move close, speak in a softer tone and avoid direct eye contact. When it became humorous, sharing tends to use more expansive body movement, to



speak more loudly, to use more picturesque language.

Among family and friends, the storyteller or oral historian may imbed short stories into the conversation. But longer tales require an invitation either from the teller or the listeners. The teller then assumes a posture of readiness and a more authoritative tone; the listeners assume quiet, receptive postures. Then the story is told. If the cues are missed and the storyteller plunges ahead without an accepted invitation, the would-be storyteller is known as gabby, pushy, boring...

Performance storytelling has established in advance the invitation—the role of teller and of listener. The chair, stage or introduction serve to establish roles. It was precisely this establishment of roles to which Stevens was referring when he stated that the oral narrator must establish a distance from the audience. The performance is not an intimate but rather a public project. And, in the case of entertainment, a joint project where the teller invited the listener to jointly create the image of the story. The amount of freedom the teller leaves in the creation of the story depends both on the story and on the circumstance. In "painting the picture" of an oral history story, the narrator will describe only details important to the plot and allow the listeners to supply details from their own imaginations.

When telling to a mixed age group, a storyteller may shift back and forth between a narrator role and a teaching role. Voice, gesture and focus of attention provide the audience with the cues—this is explanatory for the younger children, this is the story proper, this is an "intimate" aside to the older members of the audience.

Each role and style has its appropriate use. Choosing the appropriate role and valuing it is vital. Not all storytelling situations require a performance.

Sources: About Stories and the Folks Who Tell Them

by Margaret Read MacDonald, King County Library System

Marcia Lane's new book has just arrived. *Picturing the Rose: A Way of Looking at Fairy Tales* (H.W. Wilson, 1994) takes a detailed look at the telling of fairy tales. She provides us with techniques for preparing this material. In fact Lane bares her soul, showing us exactly how she edited seven of her own favorite tales for retelling. Her perceptive discussions of the fairy tale genre will give you food for thought too. A book which is sure to win a place in the hearts of those who love to share these tales of magic. Having struggled with titles myself I can appreciate Marcia's sub-sub-title on the book's cover "A Discussion of the Nature and Meaning of Fairy Tales with Explanation of the Process for Preparing Seven Multicultural Tales for Telling." Ask for it at your local library.

I've been rather pleased with some of the folktale picture book retellings coming our way at KCLS recently.

The Rooster who Went to his Uncle's Wedding: A Latin American Folktale by Alma Flor Ada, illus. by Kathleen Kuchers (A Whitebird Book, G.P. Putnam's, 1993): Alma Flor Ada retells this simple cumulative story about Rooster who wants grass to clean his beak, lamb to eat grass, dog to bite lamb, etc. She heard the story from her grandmother as a child in Cuba. Nicely told with perky contemporary illustrations.



The Tiny, Tiny Boy and the Big, Big, Cow by Nancy Van Laan, illus. by Marjorie Priceman (Alfred A. Knopf, 1993). A modernized version of Joseph Jacobs' "The Wee, Wee, Mannie and the Big, Big Cow." This will tell well.

These can be shared as picture books or used as source material for your storytelling repertoire.

Ruth Stotter recently gifted me with a copy of *Folktales of the Amur: Stories from the Russian Far East* by Dmitri Nagishkin, translated by Emily Lehrman (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1980). I dearly love this collection and tell several from it already. The illustrations by Gennady Pavlishin are exquisite. This gorgeous book is one you should not miss. It would make a wonderful gift for a storytelling friend! As a matter of fact, it did.



Folklife Means Stories

The annual Northwest Festival has become a meeting place for storytellers and eager audiences. This year should be no exception. Times and places have not yet been determined so look for and circle the telling schedule as you enter the Seattle Center and pick up the schedule of events.

The Festival runs for the entire Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30, with most storytelling programs on Sunday and Monday. There will be opportunities to listen, swap stories and tell a whopper with the complete immunity from the truth. For more details as the dates draw near, call Gene Friese at 284-9469.

Calendar of Events

In Area

April

2 **Pat Peterson**, springtime stories, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

7, 14, 21, 28 **Deborah Hudson**, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 11 a.m.

8-24 **Sleeping Beauty** performed by the Paul Mesner Puppets (of "Dinosaur Show" fame), Northwest Puppet Center, 9123-15th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115, 523-2579. Weekend show times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. \$4.50 children, \$6.50 adults.

9 **Nathan Kumar Scott**, storyteller and puppeteer, tells Indonesian Trickster Tales, 11 a.m. University Book Store, 990-102nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, 632-9500.

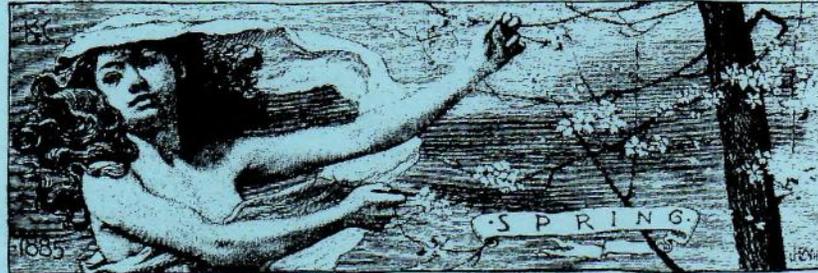
9 **Holly Cummings** "brings the magic back" with her friendly duck, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

10 **George Shannon**, author and storyteller, at the University Book Store, 2 p.m., 4326 University Way NE, Seattle, 634-3400.

11 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634-11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general. Just Say Yes, improvisational theater group, will entertain and delight you with scenes and stories, unscripted, unrehearsed, always the unexpected.

16 **Storytelling and craft hour:** Russian folk tales, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 10:30 a.m.

16 **Cindy Easterson**, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.



17 **Nathan Kumar Scott**, storyteller and puppeteer, tells Indonesian Trickster Tales, at the University Book Store, 2 p.m., 4326 University Way NE, Seattle, 634-3400.

23 **Stacia Keogh** tells animal stories, 11 a.m., University Book Store, 990-102nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, 632-9500.

23 **Susan Strauss** tells wolf and coyote stories at the University Book Store, 2 p.m., 4326 University Way NE, Seattle, 634-3400.

24 **Professor Spencer Shaw** tells seasonal stories at the University Book Store, 2 p.m., 4326 University Way NE, Seattle, 634-3400.

24 **"Story Corner"** featured teller, Allan Hirsch. For all ages. 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Regional Library, 1111-110th NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

28 **Story 'n Snack** potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 to 10 p.m. For information and directions, call 621-8646.

29 **After School Storytelling**, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 4 p.m.

30 **George Shannon**, author and storyteller, 11 a.m. University Book Store, 990-102nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, 632-9500.

30 **Kathy Currie**, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

30 **"New Wives' Tale"** with Naomi Baltuck. For adults. 2 p.m., Border's Bookstore, 1501 4th Ave., Seattle, 622-4599.

May

5, 12, 19, 26 Deborah Hudson, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 11 a.m.

6-14 **The Metamorphosis of Karagioz**, Paranoix Poor Theatre Company, Greek shadow theater. Northwest Puppet Center, 9123-15th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98115, 523-2579. Weekend show times are Fridays 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. \$4.50/\$6.50 adults.

7 **Rosemary Adamski**, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

9 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general. "Voices of Jewish Women," storyteller Helen Mintz weaves a tapestry of tales tht gives voice to the lives and experiences of Jewish women.

14 **Storytelling and craft hour:** stories from Mexico, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 10:30 a.m.

14 **Nathan Kumar Scott**, storyteller and puppeteer, tells Indonesian Trickster Tales, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

14 **Seattle Children's Theatre** presents drama activities for "Just So Stories," 1 p.m. at the University Book Store, 4326 University Way NE, Seattle, 634-3400.

20 **After School Storytelling**, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 4 p.m.



21 **Allan Hirsch**, special guest storyteller, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 10:30 a.m.

21 **Kathi Lightstone-Matanovic**, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

22 **"Story Corner"** featured teller, Ken Jackson/Gray Eagle. For all ages. 1:30 p.m., Bellevue Regional Library, 1111-110th NE, Bellevue, 450-1775.

26 **Story 'n Snack** potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 to 10 p.m. For information and directions, call 621-8646.

June

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Deborah Hudson, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 11 a.m.

4 **Darryln Cook-Smith**, Creole stories, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

11 **Debbie Deutsch**, summery tales, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

12 Seattle Storytellers' Guild **Annual Membership Potluck Meeting**, 3 p.m. For information call 621-8646.

13 **Second Mondays on the Hill**, Seattle Storytellers' Guild monthly storytelling event. 7 p.m. New City Theatre, 1634 - 11th Ave., Seattle. \$3 SSG, \$5 general. Tom Galt brings "a bag of stories," a twinkle in his eye and tales both merry and sad. He brings a story to life in a way uniquely his own.

14 **Acting Out (Not Acting Up)**, Dr. Sam Sebesta demonstrates how to make literature come alive through reading aloud, talk story, and drama. Secret Garden Children's Bookshop, 524-4556, reservations required.

18 **Stories about the Solar System**, Puss 'N Books, 15788 Redmond Way, Redmond, 885-6828, 10:30 a.m.

18 **Nancy Stewart**, her newest songs, Island Books, 3014-78th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, 232-6920, 11 a.m.

30 **Story 'n Snack** potluck dessert and story swap. 7:30 to 10 p.m. For information and directions, call 621-8646.



Out of Area



April

18 **Stories at Fern Street**, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Storytellers' Guild, 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., (604) 384-8084.

22-23 **A(ugusta) Baker's Dozen: A** Celebration of Stories, Columbia, SC. Contact Ginger Shuler or Jane McGregor, 1431 Assembly St., Columbia, SC, 29201, (803) 799-9084, Fax (803) 929-1136.

May

Annual African American Storytellers' Retreat, Pine Bluff, NC. Contact Baba M. Jamal Koram (the Storyman), 6400 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 170-A-121, Baltimore, MD, 21228, (410) 455-9119.

16 **Stories at Fern Street**, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Storytellers' Guild, 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., (604) 384-8084.

21-22 **Bay Area Storytelling Festival**, contact Janet Hellerich, P.O. Box 11891, Berkeley, CA 94701, (510) 235-2906.

June

3-5 **Place**, a joint workshop with Christine Shumock, Jay O'Callahan, and Doug Lipman, Santa Fe, NM. Contact Jay O'Callahan, Box 1054, Marshfield, MA, 02050, (800) 626-5356.

3-5 **Sun Fest Storytelling Festival**, Sun Fest Inc., contact Fran Stallings, 1406 Macklyn Lane, Bartlesville, OK, 74006-5419, (918) 333-7390.

4-5 **Storytellers' Retreat 1994**, Paris Ontario. Saturday 10 a.m. to Sunday 11 a.m. Contact the Storytellers School of Toronto, 412-A College St., Toronto, Ontario, M5T-1T3, (416) 924-8625, \$80.

13 **Stories at Fern Street**, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Storytellers' Guild, 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., (604) 384-8084.

20-23 **Telling Stories to Children** seminar, Marblehead, MA. Contact Judith Black, 33 Prospect St., Marblehead, MA, 01945, (617) 631-4417.

22-26 **Storytelling: The Art**, Asheville, NC, intensive with the Folktellers and John Basinger. Contact the Folktellers, P.O. Box 2898, Asheville, NC, 28802, (704) 258-1113.

24-26 **The Gathering—MidAtlantic Storytellers Conference**, Millersville, PA. Contact Marie Winger, 1280 Fawnwood Dr. Lancaster, PA, 17601, (717) 989-0856.

July

14-17 The Storytellers School of Toronto Summer School, an intensive four-day immersion in storytelling. Offered at both the beginning and advanced levels. 412-A College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1T3, (416) 924-8625, \$310.

30-Aug. 10 Storytelling Ireland with Ray McGrath and other Irish Storytellers, walks, seminars and workshops on storytelling in Irelands southeast and West Coast. Contact heritage Rambles, 31 high Street, Waterford, Ireland, (353) 51-82629, fax (353) 51-82689, \$1528 U.S.



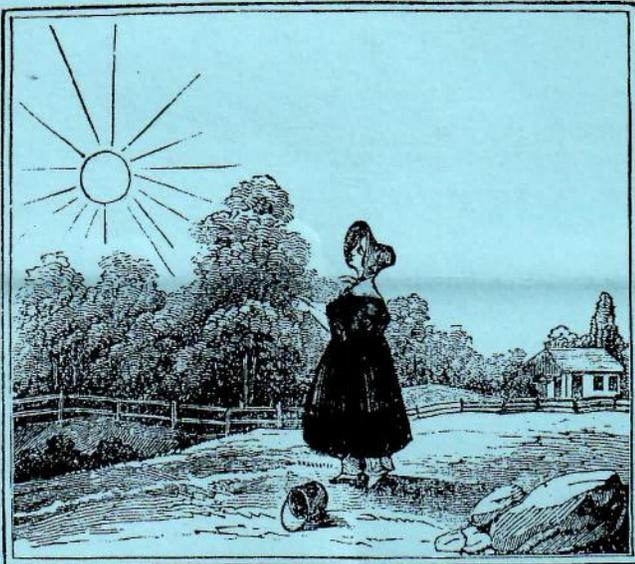
Calls for Tellers

Bad Days in Tacoma

Bad Days, a Maritime Festival in Tacoma, WA. September 20-October 2, 1994. Storytellers who specialize in maritime stories—stories of the sea, stories of ships, old salts, new environmental tales—are invited to contact Clare Petrich, 1118 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421, (206) 272-1005.

Camp Stories

Storytelling at Olema Ranch campground, Olema, CA. May to September, 1994. Stay free for one week in a trailer (approximate value \$170), at Olema Ranch Campground, Point Reyes area, California, in exchange for one hour of storytelling Saturday night. Dates available from May 28 through September 24. Apply by April 15. Call and ask for mailer at (800) 655-CAMP. Send resume to P.O. Box 175, Olema, CA, 94950, attn: Cherie. Photo appreciated, demo tape optional.



Begin Anticipating

July 6-10 17th Annual National Storytelling Conference, Fort Worth, TX. Co-sponsored by NAPPS and the Tejas Storytelling Association. Contact NAPPS, P.O. Box 309, Jonesborough, TN, 37659, (615) 753-2171.

Oct. 15 Seventh Annual Northwest Storytelling Festival. Will include workshops and storytelling concert. Nordic Heritage Museum.

Nov. 19 Tellabration! National Night of Storytelling.

Art in this issue is from *Pictures and Stories from Forgotten Children's Books* by Arnold Arnold, c. 1969, Dover Publications, Inc., New York; from *2001 Decorative Cuts and Ornaments*, edited by Carol Belanger Grafton, c. 1988, Dover Publications, Inc., New York; and from *Advertising Spot Illustrations from the Twenties and Thirties*, edited by Leslie Carbaga, c. 1989, Dover Publications, New York.

Co-Presidents: 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 (206-863-5025);
Member at Large: Camille Wooden (854-2909).

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 Summer issue is June 1, 1994.

For information about the Guild, call 621-8646.

*Design by Julie Reimer
634-0813*

Membership Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____

New: _____ Renewal: _____
____ Individual, \$15
____ Family, \$20
____ Institutional, \$30
____ Donor, \$35
____ Lifetime, \$150
____ Muse, over \$150
____ I am interested in volunteering. Please call me to discuss how I may help.
____ Please include my name on mailing lists for related events.

Mail to: Seattle Storytellers' Guild, P.O.
Box 45532, Seattle, WA 98145-0532.

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