President's Letter

Dear Folks:

Here we are in the midst of a wet spring, planning away for the coming year. We are working on our Festival which will be held in October, planning our annual membership meeting in June, getting ready for Tellabration in November, working on arranging for tellers for our Monday night program at New City, and planning for another course of classes to be offered to the membership. We have established a memorial scholarship program for our dear Gene Friese, and now are working out the details for making this program available. New ideas and projects are being suggested and researched. Board members and members-at-large are doing a tremendous job of organizing and supporting the programs we are offering. We can look forward to a truly interesting and varied year in 1996. For all of this, we have so many to thank.

We are so fortunate, as a guild, to have had such a wealth of talented and committed people who have brought the guild to the place it is today. Many of our past board members and members-at-large are working very hard (and at times heroically) to bring to the membership continued opportunities for excellence in storytelling and the storytelling experience. As president, I am glad to have the opportunity to thank and praise and proclaim everyone and their opportunities for wonder, learning, enjoyment and exploration of story. For this we all can thank the individuals who work so hard to make it possible.

In this coming year, you can look forward to continued telling being offered at New City, newsletters, our Festival, Tellabration, courses in storytelling, and several other story treats. I know you will enjoy all that is to come and I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you.

—Dawn Kuhlman
Call for Officers

SSG members-at-large are invited to submit names of individuals to the nominating committee chair Kathy Sider (524-1485) before election of board members at the June annual meeting. See calendar, June 2.

Annual Membership Meeting!

Come join us for a fun afternoon of food, stories and elections. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 1-4 p.m. at Magnuson Park. The park is off of Sand Point Way on Lake Washington. We have reserved the covered area by the boat launch. We will meet for a potluck, board elections and story swap. There will also be a raffle. Win a year’s Guild membership! Or a new Storytellers Northwest Directory!

So bring yourself and a fish story or tall tale to a great, maybe even sunny, afternoon.

Call for Tellers

Seattle Storytellers’ Annual Festival, October 26, 1996

Proposals are needed for workshops and performances! Each teller will conduct a 90-minute workshop, tell 15 minutes at the family story performance, and 30 minutes at the evening story concert.

Fee: $200 — possible additional paid bookings also may be available in the area during this weekend. Please submit a workshop proposal and a video/audio tape. Submission deadline: May 31, 1996

Send to: Dawn Kuhlman, 921 4th St. S.E., Auburn, WA 98092.

Seattle Storytellers’ Guild 1995 Annual Report

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in the wind 2
Especially for Members & Friends:

Second Mondays on the Hill

Have you been working on a story? Feel like it's just about ready to be heard? Second Mondays on the Hill offers you a chance to tell a story in a professional setting with a great audience during the "open mike" session that follows the featured performance. If you would like to tell at one of the Second Monday evenings, please give the emcee your name when you arrive at the theater.

April 8
Playback Theater Northwest:
Interactive Theater
An unusual evening of improvisational theater that brings the audience into the story. The ensemble uses music, movement, imagery and dialogue to recreate stories shared by the audience.

May 13
Tahoma Storytellers
Storytellers from the Tahoma Guild will travel to Seattle to bring a potpourri of stories, songs and more. Don't miss this chance to meet local tellers and hear their stories.

June 10
Kathi Lightstone
Kathi tells the wonderful "Mr. Death and the Red-headed Woman" by Helen Eustice and an original piece she has been working on for some time.

Second Monday storytelling evenings are held at the New City Theater, 1634 11th Avenue on Capitol Hill. Free parking available. SSG members, $4, non-members $6.

Postcard Book

Celebrating the World of Storytelling

24 Postcards
Six feature SW storyteller figures and folk art from Bali, Burma, China, Russia, Japan, New Guinea, India, Indonesia, Guatemala, Laos, Nepal, Czechoslovakia, American Indian and Yupik Eskimo.

$12 plus $1.50 shipping and handling
Add sales tax if you are a California resident

Available from Stotter Press, Box 726, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Volunteer Opportunity

Secret Garden Bookstore is looking for someone to read/tell stories to preschool age children. Wednesdays at 10:30 for 30 minutes. Call Gina at 789-5006 for details. Can work out a different day and time if necessary.
New Publications

New Book

Newsletter
Stretching the Truth is a new literary quarterly newsletter for northwest storytellers. Book reviews, stories, insights, opportunities and news for storytellers are carefully presented and illustrated with interesting graphics. Published by Barb Stevens-Newcomb, it comes out in January, April, July and October. Subscriptions are $10/year. Write to: Stretching the Truth, 980 E. 44th Ave., Eugene OR, 97405.

Directories Available
If you wish to order a Storytellers Northwest Directory, they are now available for $3 each. To order, complete this form:

Name
Address
Phone
Quantity @ $3 = Total:

Make checks payable to Seattle Storytellers' Guild.
Mail form and check to:
Dawn Kuhlman
921 4th St. S.E.
Auburn, WA 98092

The Dreamer Awakes
by Alice Kane

"The dreamer awakes,
the shadow goes by,
When I tell you a tale
The tale is a lie.

But ponder it well
Fair maiden, good youth:
The tale is a lie,
What it tells is the truth."

For immediate release from Broadview Press

The Dreamer Awakes
by Alice Kane, designed by Robert Bringham

Put aside the fairy-tale romance, the Snow Whites and Cinderellas. Alice Kane tells the real thing — the mythic wondertale, with its roots in folk tradition and its flowering in the Golden Age of Storytelling. Retold by one of North America's best known storytellers, these 17 tales of otherworld magic and earthly survival reconfigure what the fairy tale is actually about.

The volume is designed with an introduction by Robert Bringham, the internationally respected poet and historian of typography, and author of Elements of Typographic Style. Printed on 70 pound Antique Laid paper in two colors, this volume is a gift book for all who cherish the traditional world of story.

Broadview Press
P.O. Box 1243
Peterborough, Ont. K9J 7H5
Canada
Phone 705/743-8990, fax 705/743-8353
Storyteller Profile: Kathi Lightstone

by Kathy Sider

Kathi Lightstone began her storytelling career as a desperate mother struggling to help her child cope with serious health issues. When doctors seemed unable to help much, Kathi stumbled on the idea of telling stories to her daughter. They were stories so involving that Kathi's sick child would participate in them and be transported beyond the bounds of her illness. Storytelling was a healing influence for parent and child.

Even before she became a professional teller, Kathi was no stranger to the stage. She and her family sang together as the "Fine and Curious Company" and made several recordings; but, it seemed to her that the act needed something more—something like a story. Perhaps because of her own theater arts training, she was attracted to the stories and theatrical style of Jay O'Callahan. Kathi says, "I wanted to reach others as Jay's stories reached me." And so it was that she entered the world of professional storytelling. Her first gig was a daughter's birthday party which she followed up with many sessions at the local pre-school. "Children," says Kathi, "are a very tough audience." Working with that tough audience taught her the importance of finding stories that work for both the listener and the teller.

Kathi has continued work with children as well as adult audience for over eight years. One of her regular and favorite performances is the annual Halloween storytelling at the Herb Farm in Fall City. Kathi says it is a grueling performance because she works outside in the cold and must repeat the story several times in an evening but she is fascinated with how the same story is developed and honed by the responses of each different audience.

In addition to special performances, Kathi works frequently in local elementary schools with a program and curriculum called "Family Stories Quilt." Kathi developed the program with a teacher and uses it primarily with third through fifth grade students. The "Family Stories Quilt" helps children find and learn to tell important family stories of courage, heroism and determination. Children learn how to interview family members, to find their story and then how to shape and tell the story for their class and for their own families. Kathi says kids see "heroes" on television, in movies and in books all the time but those media take children away from real-life heroism. The oral tradition of storytelling helps children see the courage in the lives of real people they know as they articulate their family stories. The program has been underway for three years and demand continues to grow for it in schools.

Kathi Lightstone is the featured teller on June 10 at the Second Monday performance at New City Theater. She will also be telling stories Sunday, May 19th at the Bellevue Regional Library. Check the Calendar in this issue for the dates and times.
Out of Area Events
May 18-19
Sixth Annual Multi-Cultural Storytelling Festival
Eugene, Oregon

Nationally-known storytellers J.J. Reneaux (Cajun), Lindy Soon Curry (Korean), and Pat Mendoza (Hispanic) will perform at a 2 p.m. concert on Sunday, May 19, in the Soreng Theater of the Hult Center in Eugene. Tickets are $7. All three tellers will perform extensively in the public schools the week of May 13-17. J.J. Reneaux will give a workshop, “Telling Lives” on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop fee is $50, enrollment limited to 20 people, pre-registration suggested. Pat Mendoza and Lindy Soon Curry will give free noon performances for families at the Eugene and Springfield libraries on May 18th. The festival brings tellers from diverse backgrounds together as a positive way to promote cultural awareness. For more information or to register for J.J. Reneaux’s workshop, call Bob Rubenstein at 541/344-8176. For tickets to the 2 p.m. performance at the Hult Center call 541/687-5000.

June 21, 22 and 23, Summer Solstice Weekend
The Third Annual Lake Tahoe Storytelling
Festival at Strawberry Lodge

Featured tellers are Claire Blotter, Dennis Campagna, Jeremy Fay, Susan Ford and Ron Jones. Workshops and a Sunday brunch included. Complete festival, $45 with separate prices for day attendance. For more information call 916/659-7200.

June 24-28
The Art of Storytelling

A week-long workshop with Susan Danoff. The workshop is for adults who love stories and want to learn to tell them with confidence, ease and the joy of sharing. Incorporates music and dance. The workshop is being offered in Garberville, in beautiful northern California. Open to all ages and professions. Enrollment is limited to 15 people. Tuition $375, lunches included. For more information call Suzette Nyokka, 707/923-9350.

Tellers in Concert

Eugene, Oregon has a quarterly venue for storytelling in an old, restored Victorian mansion. The performance series is called “Tellers in Concert” and storytellers from around the Northwest are encouraged to send preview materials if they are interested in performing. Performance fees and accommodations are provided. Please call Barb Stevens-Newcomb at 541/343-0301.

Now Available!

Seattle Storytellers’ Guild
T-shirts and Sweatshirts

Order your t-shirt and/or sweatshirt by mail. Variety of colors and sizes, all t-shirts are Hanes 100% pre-shrunk cotton, all sweatshirts are a 50/50 cotton/poly blend. All have the Seattle Storytellers’ Guild signature above the left breast. Quantities are limited, so order now!

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$15 for t-shirts, $27.50 for sweatshirts (including shipping and handling).

Order Form (Please Print)

Send me ______________ t-shirt(s) @ $15 ea.
size _______ color (1st choice)__________
(2nd choice)_________

Send me __________ sweatshirt(s) @ $27.50 ea.
size _______ color (1st choice)__________
(2nd choice)_________

NAME_________________________________________
ADDRESS_____________________________________
CITY_________ STATE_________ ZIP_________

Mail check or money order to:
Seattle Storytellers’ Guild
c/o Avis Jobrack
P.O. Box 1294
Sumner, WA 98390

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

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April

8    Second Mondays on the Hill. Playback Theater Northwest: Interactive Theater. 7 p.m., New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave., Capitol Hill.


13   Camille Wooden and Dawn Kuhlman. Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

20   Tutor Jester Sage (Kathy Murphy and Bob Christian) — Family stories at the Historic Depot in Issaquah, 2 p.m. Free. Call 391-8356 or 391-4312 for more information.

20   Debbie Deutsch, Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

25   Story 'N Snack, dessert potluck and story swap. Call Guild for more information, 621-8646.

27   Kathy Currie, Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

May

4    Tia's Quacker Tunes, Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

11   Cheri Trebon, Myths and Fables from Around the World. Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

13   Second Mondays on the Hill. Tahoma Storytellers' Guild. 7 p.m., New City Theater, 1634 11th Ave., Capitol Hill.

18   Tutor Jester Sage (Kathy Murphy and Bob Christian) — Family stories at the Historic Depot in Issaquah, 2 p.m. Free. Call 391-8356 or 391-4312 for more information.

18   Elaine Grinnell, Native American Tales from the Olympic Peninsula. Storytelling at Island Books, 3014 78th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island, 11 a.m. (1/2 hour, ages 3+), 232-6920.

19   Story Corner with Kathi Lightstone at Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave. N.E. 1:30 p.m. Call 450-1775 for more information.

30   Story 'N Snack, dessert potluck and story swap. Call Guild for more information, 621-8646.

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September


Storytelling at Folklife

Memorial Day Weekend at Seattle Center offers storytellers and story listeners a chance to spin a tale or hear some of the finest performers in the Northwest. On Saturday, May 25 at the Eve Alvord Theatre there will be a Story Swap from 5-6 p.m. Come and share a tale. That night from 7-10 p.m. the same location will be home to six tellers. Sunday, May 26, come back from 7-10 p.m. to hear another six storytellers spin magic. If your tale is tall, you'll want to participate in the "Tall Tale Contest" to be held from 7-9 p.m. on Monday at the Eve Alvord Theatre. Crowd pleaser Tom Galt returns to host this event. Sign-up begins two hours before showtime. Be sure to check the theatre's stage during the day to catch a variety of tellers and musicians telling for kids and families. The Seattle Weekly usually prints the program about two weeks in advance so you can plan your weekend. Look for it in the May 15 issue.

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Seattle Storytellers' Guild
621-8646

President: Dawn Kuhlman (939-7171)
Co-vice presidents:
    Margaret Read MacDonald (827-6430)
    Debra Harris-Branham (772-0415)
Secretary: Zelda Foxall (323-4541)
Treasurer: Sally Porter-Smith (283-5984)
Member-At-Large: Kathleen Currie (222-5442)
Programs: Camille Wooden (854-2909)
Membership: Phyllis Silling (246-7636)
Newsletter Editor: Julie Miller (935-1471)
Folklore Coordinator: Pat Peterson (935-5308)
Publicity: Kathleen Sider (524-1485)
Volunteer Coordinator: Avis Jobrack (206/863-5025)

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, 1996.

Newsletter design by Nancy Blanron, 937-1343

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 list for related events.

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