New Board 2006 – 2007

On June 9th at the annual meeting at All for Kids bookstore, Guild members voted on the SSG Board for 2006 – 2007. The following proposed slate of officers was voted upon and approved:

Jill Johnson and Marilyn Milnor – Co-Presidents
Mary Brugh – Secretary
Glenn McCauley – Treasurer
Kim Pearson – Newsletter Editor
Cherie Trebon – Folklife
Ellin Huttle and Virginia Rankin – Publicity
Eva Abram – Special Programs
Membership – Grover Partee

The board would like to thank out-going board members, Pat Peterson (President) and George Neiswanger (Membership), for their years of service. Although they are retiring from their positions on the board, they will remain active participants in the Guild.

The position of Vice President is still vacant. The new Board would like to urge all SSG members to think seriously about becoming a bit more active this year (see Virginia Rankin’s article on pg. 6). It needn’t be a big commitment. If just ten members (less than 10% of our members) could commit to three or four hours a month: of assistance from home or work on a committee or as a board member, the results -in terms of better programming and training and a stronger community presence - would be phenomenal. Think about it.

The Gene Friese Scholarship

The Seattle Storytellers Guild is extending the Gene Friese Scholarship application. The award of $100 must be used to attend a storytelling Festival, Conference, Workshop, or Project. If selected, proof of your use of the scholarship will be requested. To qualify for this scholarship you must be a resident of Washington or Oregon and be a member of a storytelling guild in Washington or Oregon or the National Storytelling Network. Your application must include: 1. Your name, address, phone number and the storytelling guild to which you belong. 2. Your storytelling experience (beginners are encouraged to apply). 3. A description (300 words or less) of how you would like to use the scholarship. Send your application by August 15, 2006, to: Gene Friese Scholarship Committee, Seattle Storytellers Guild, PO Box 45532, Seattle, WA 98145-0532

Jill Johnson receives "Storytelling World" award

Jill Johnson's CD of her one woman show, “Little, But Oh My!” has received an “Honors” designation in the 2006 Resource Awards competition of “Storytelling World” magazine. This annual competition, juried by nationally known storytellers, is for storytelling books, CD's and DVD's.

In March 2003, the South Whidbey Historical Society sponsored the first performance at the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts. Since then the show has been accepted as part of the “Inquiring Mind” series of Humanities Washington and has been performed around the state. The CD is a live performance of the show. “Little, But Oh My!” is the story of Berte Olson, the first woman to skipper a ferryboat on Puget Sound and own her own ferry boat company.

The CD is available for $15-plus $1.25 S/H. E-mail Jill at story@whidbey.com.

Jill will be presenting the show this summer at various locations. Check the Calendar for details.

Fanning the Embers July 14 – 16

The weekend retreat for regional storytellers including Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska is nearly full. The site, St. Andrews Retreat House at Union, Wa on Hood Canal, has a 30 person limit and there are about 5 spots left. Participants will “share, communicate, and exchange ideas to grow collectively”. Registration is $150.00 and includes 2 nights lodging in shared rooms (2 per room) and 6 meals (dinner on Friday evening to lunch on Sunday). To register, contact Rebecca Hom, email: rebhom@reachone.com, or call 360-866-6308.

And HURRY!
FOLKLIFE 2006

by Cherie Trebon

The weather was unpredictable but as always spirits were high and it was a great festival. Attendance at all of the storytelling events was very good, sometimes too good, with folks having to wait until space opened up to get into the theater. That meant we were all warm and cozy -- just the way storytelling should be. The Liar’s Contest was near to capacity in the new, spacious, McCaw Hall location with Anne Penfound taking home the first place trophy. Way to go, Anne! The Ghost Story Concert gave listeners a scare or two as well as more than a few laughs. Performers representing Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and California took part in the various concerts, and all did great work. Thank you to all the tellers, emcees, and volunteer signers. And importantly, a huge thank you to the Folklife Staff who continue to support storytelling by making stage space available. Applications for the 2007 festival will be sent out in early fall to those who have performed in the past. If you have never performed at the festival, contact NW Folklife, or visit their website to request that your name be added to the mailing list.

In The Wind

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Jill Johnson, Editor
Kim Pearson, Layout
Writers & Contributors:
Mary Brugh, Rebecca Cohen, Sharon Creeden, Kathy Curry, Rebecca Horn, Jill Johnson, Marilyn Milnor, Pat Peterson, Virginia Rankin, Cherie Trebon, Yvonne Young.

In the Wind is published quarterly by the Seattle Storytellers Guild, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the art of storytelling. A one-year subscription is included in Guild membership. Articles and comments should be directed to storykim@comcast.net.

Autumn Issue Deadline: September 15th

FOREST STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

October 20-22, 2006 by Cherie Trebon

The 12th annual Forest Storytelling Festival promises to be another quality event, and will be held in a new, larger venue. Thanks to generous sponsorship by Peninsula College, all events will be held on campus, most at their beautiful Little Theater.

Featured tellers this year include Jay O’Callahan, world-renowned author and storyteller from Massachusetts; Liz Weir, international favorite, Northern Ireland; Sky Shivers, cowboy storyteller and humorist, Oklahoma; Cathryn Wellner, educator and storyteller, British Columbia; Tom Rawson, singer-storyteller, Seattle; and Rebecca Hom, storyteller, Olympia. Local storytellers will also perform at some events. Pat Peterson will again be emcee extraordinaire.

The Festival begins with an All Tellers Concert on Friday night. Workshops for new and experienced tellers will be offered on Saturday morning, with individual featured teller concerts in the afternoon, and an All Teller concert in the evening. A program of Inspirational Stories, which is free, will be held Sunday morning, followed by two featured teller concerts. A story-swap will be held on Saturday to give festival attendees an opportunity to spin a tale. The silent auction will again bring treasures from near and afar and the festival will end with the raffle of the traditional hand-made quilt. Ticket prices vary by event, or a weekend pass is available at a reduced rate. Registration brochures, with full schedule and pricing, will be sent out in late August. Please contact us if you have not attended in the past and wish to be added to the mailing list.

Jay O’Callahan will also conduct a pre-festival workshop on Friday morning, Oct. 20, from 9:00-12:00, with a limit of 20 participants. Registration for this event can only be made through the pre-registration process, with priority given to full-festival attendees. Cost of the workshop is $75.00.

For additional information visit our website at: www.fallingleaves.com/storypeople, or contact Cherie by phone-360-417-5031, or email: forestfest@yahoo.com.

F.E.A.S.T.
Friends Eating And Storytelling Together
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
5:00 PM POTLUCK, 6 - 8:00 PM STORYTELLING
HOSTEL AT FORT WORDEN, FORT TOWNSEND

Bring a story!
Bring a friend!
Bring some ears!

For more info, contact Sidonie Wilson 360-732-7564 or Charise Diamond 360-379-4963/charise@nighthtales.com. Sponsored by Jefferson County Storytellers Guild and Hostel International.
Vi Hilbert Honored

On May 10th this year, several Guild members traveled to Skagit Valley Community College in Mt. Vernon to see our "Grandmother", Vi Hilbert receive the 2006 Humanities Washington Award of the Year. The following is from the program of the event:

"Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert is an educator, storyteller, and linguist who has made significant contributions to the study and preservation of Lushootseed language and culture....Vi taught Lushootseed at the University of Washington for fifteen years....She has authored or contributed to most modern Lushootseed language materials..... She has shared her language, stories, and traditions regularly with the Burke Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, United Indians of All Tribes, Tillicum Village, Seattle Storytellers Guild, and the National Storytelling Association...."

One of the most moving and informative tributes to Vi was a review of her life- with accompanying images - by Barbara Brotherton of the Seattle Art Museum. We saw pictures of Vi as a child with her mother and father, Frank and Louise Anderson and heard how they steered her against the prejudice and discrimination she faced growing up. Because her father was a logger, the family traveled, and Vi went to fifteen different schools, graduating from Franklin High School in Portland, OR.

Though she worked at many jobs: domestic, waitress, cannery worker, even an electric welder at the Todd Shipyards during WWII, Vi knew from an early age that the Creator had something else in mind for her. When she found work preserving Indian literature and language, she knew she had found her calling. She often brought elders into her classes and took her students to traditional ceremonies.

In Vi's brief remarks, she spoke of the importance of preserving and protecting ALL cultures and of her lifelong debt to the intelligence and philosophy of her people. She finished with a quote from her father: "Say what you want to say and then shut up and sit down!"

Editor's Note: At this ceremony, I presented Vi with a CD called "Lifting the Sky", the title of one of Vi's signature stories. The CD, of the North American Welsh Choir, has a song and narration of this story on it. The song was written by composer, Victor Davis and the narration by my friend and poet, Carolyn Maddux of Shelton, WA.

A Letter from Yvonne Young

(This letter, written by Yvonne Young, well-known Oregon storyteller, describes a recent event so well we asked her for permission to print it. Ed)

Hi Everyone,

I want to tell you about the wonderful weekend I had in Seattle. My dear friend Sharon Creeden invited me to come stay with her and share some special events with her. One was a performance by the Seattle Symphony in Benaroya Hall of a work commissioned by Vi Hilbert.

Vi, a spiritual elder of the Upper Skagit tribe, is nearly 90 now. After 9-11 she had a vision that she was called to share her people's music in "high-brow, classical form." Because music can heal, she wanted to share the real essence of Native American music and its meaning to Native people with others. She found composer Bruce Ruddell and shared her vision with him. He then wrote the symphony inspired by the power prayer songs of two men, her cousin Patuse and Chief Sealth (Seattle). He listened to them many times in order to incorporate their essence into his music, without creating any recognizable melodies from those songs.

"Prior to the performance, Hilbert told well-wishers that the symphony was also a gift to the region's First Peoples: the concert took place in the heart of historic Duwamish territory. Despite disease, diaspora, forced relocation, and failed treaty promises (the Duwamish are still fighting for federal recognition), the Coast Salish people and culture survive - survive to offer a healing gift to a hurting world." Richard Walker, "Indian Country Today" June 5, 2006

The performance was free, though tickets were necessary. There was no public advertising, but it was announced through groups and individuals connected to Vi and a large audience came. And the atmosphere was everyone waited in the lobby enjoying frybread - was jubilant. Everyone was there not only to hear the music - but to honor Vi. In the lobby, Sharon pointed out an amazing scene: an ex-governor of the state of Washington kneeling down in front of Vi to talk to her at eye level. Vi was radiant, greeting people and wearing a continued on page 4
A Letter from Yvonne Young, continued ...

blanket around her dress to which people pinned money, a traditional way of honoring someone in First Nation cultures.

Johnny Moses, Vi’s nephew who has told stories in Jonesboro numerous times, led a ceremony of songs and prayers before the hall was opened and people went in.

"This is a historic event for all of our First People and for our chief, Sealth," said Johnny Moses, a Coast Salish storyteller of Duwamish ancestry. Noting that the concert hall was built on a "very sacred place," next to a Duwamish burial ground, he added, "The ancestors are happy to know we are still here." Richard Walker, "Indian Country Today – June 5, 2006

Again, in the performance hall, just before the performance, Johnny performed Native American songs and prayers with drumming and bells.

The work is entitled "The Healing Heart of the First People of This Land." The four movements are:

Prepare
Thunder, Spirit, Power Song
Healing Song
The Journey Forward.

Words cannot adequately describe the experience. It was very spiritual. During "Healing Song," I felt as if I was being showered by light and love, and I have felt very peaceful ever since. The final movement incorporated words spoken by Jenny Knapp, the mezzo-soprano soloist, in Vi’s native Lushootseed language. Repeatedly she spoke the words, which translated say: Honor the spirit. Know the sacred. It will help you!

There was a panel afterwards with the conductor, the composer, the soloist, the Native American curator at Seattle Art Museum, the symphony’s education director, and Vi. When first asked why she commissioned the symphony, Vi answered, “Because I’m a bossy old lady.” It was a joy to hear her talk about the process in her own words, as well as to hear the conductor and the others.

Everyone was invited afterward to a reception at City Hall, where many people gathered to share their jubilation and continue to honor Vi. I understand there were more songs and some speeches, but we left before they happened.

There was a sign that said the performance was being filmed by PBS television, so watch for it. Hopefully, a CD of the music will be available sometime soon.

Yvonne Young
Editors Note ... by Jill Johnson

This will be my final issue as Newsletter Editor. I have been persuaded to take on some other challenges with the Guild. Fortunately our Layout Designer, Kim Pearson, is going to take over as Editor – and we are in very good hands. In the brief time that we have worked together, I have been grateful for her skill and diligence; it made my job SO much easier. Thanks, Kim.

I really do hate to give up this job. I feel sort of like I did as a mother: just when I got fairly good at it, I was out of a job. I liked watching each issue take shape and working with all the writers – from the Guild and others. It really does take the combined thoughts and ideas of a lot of people – some of whom at times may not agree with one another – to make a good newsletter. I have really enjoyed the give and take and the occasional "refereeing" that the job entails.

Please, keep those articles and essays and ideas coming. And wish me luck in my new endeavors; I’m going to need it!  jill johnson

Thinking Like a Storyteller ... a workshop with Laura Simms

By Mary Brugh

About a dozen people attended this workshop and each brought a story they wanted to work on. We began by introducing ourselves, the story we had chosen, and naming a precious object we imagined holding in our hand. We stood in a circle and greeted each other; one person stepped forward and faced another, who also stepped forward. They bowed slightly to acknowledge each other and stepped back into the circle. Later, we did the same thing except that the two people who stepped forward each, in 5 or so words, said something from the beginning of their story, and then something from the end, creating spontaneous poems with interesting juxtapositions.

Other exercises explored the landscape of the story. We each pictured the landscape of our story and built the landscape in the space around us. Then we placed our precious object somewhere in that landscape. Each of us then went off with a partner and described to them the landscape in a particular part of our story.

At the end of the afternoon we returned to our original circle and each one of us was able to tell the bones of our story in just a few minutes.

The purpose of this workshop was to get away from just learning the text of a story, and instead, to learn all about the story; to think like a storyteller.

I have been to four of Laura’s Residencies or workshops, and each time I come away feeling refreshed in my story learning, and inspired to take it farther.

Although Laura uses similar exercises each time, she always responds to the needs and dynamics of each group she works with so that each workshop/Residency feels spontaneous and “in the moment.” I encourage anyone interested in deepening their storytelling to take a workshop with Laura when she visits Seattle.

Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur!
A Palestinian Folktale
by Margaret Read MacDonald, Alik Arzoumanian (Illustrator)

A book review by Pat Peterson

A woman wishes for a child to love, “even if it is nothing more than a pot” — and her wish is granted. The title of this tale comes from the sound the pot makes as it rolls its way out to explore the wide world. She leaves with her mother’s cautionary words to remember right from wrong. Along the way, she is filled with amazing things—honey and jewels — and she rolls right on home with them. She is told to return the stolen goods and for her punishment is filled to the brim with “muck” and "yuck" from the goat pen. Little Pot is told to stay home until she is old enough to know right from wrong.

Margie has written this book with the storyteller in mind. The rhythm of the pot tumbling along and the repetition of the phrases move the story right along and invite audience participation. A few read-throughs and a teller is ready to share this tale with listeners.

I suppose a high-minded reviewer might laud this as a strong moral lesson; just the ticket for character building. That it does. Fine and dandy, I can hardly wait to tell this story for the sheer delight of watching the reaction of the children when Little Pot gets her come-uppance.

The story of Margie’s quest to find a publisher for her book is a delightful story in itself. Let’s just say that if the pot had been filled with plain, old mud, it would have found a home sooner. Storytellers are glad that the author was true to the tale — and held out for a pot filled with poop.

MONTHLY STORY SWAP IN SEATTLE
2nd Fridays, 7 PM

Looking for a place to hear stories? Have a new tale that you would like to “try out"?

Would you just like to listen to and meet with other storytellers??

On the second Friday of each month, The Seattle Storytelling Guild hosts an informal Story Circle at the All for Kids Bookstore. It’s a place to share stories and information about storytelling in the Seattle area. You don’t have to be an experienced storyteller to join. But you will meet other tellers and storytelling enthusiasts and a warm and supportive environment for tellers at all levels and stages of their journey. Come to listen; come to share. There will be treats – and tales. Please join us at 7 PM at the All for Kids Bookstore, 2900 NE Blakeley, Seattle, 206-621-8646

July and August -- Summer Vacation

In the Wind
The Future of SSG: an Editorial
By Virginia Rankin

What's the problem?
I love metaphors, but it took me a while to decode the name of an upcoming regional retreat for storytellers, “Fanning the Embers.” I was pondering the declining membership of the Seattle Storytellers Guild, and the declining attendance at Guild events when the “aha moment” came. We need to fan the embers to rekindle the flame of storytelling throughout the Northwest.

Membership in the Guild is now about a quarter of what it was in our glory days. Our rolls have shrunk to the point where we no longer qualify for bulk mail rates. This newsletter was sent to you first class.

I remember the days when fifty or more people routinely turned out for monthly featured tellers, and paid to get in, too. I remember when we brought “stars,” like Jay O’Callahan, and hundreds filled auditoriums to see them. Now twenty equals a crowd, and ten is normal attendance at our two free monthly events. Our last special events, Tellabration ’05, and the Earth Day Celebration were sparsely attended, and didn’t even bring in enough to cover costs.

What Can You Do About It?
As Woody Allen said, “Ninety percent of life is showing up.” If you haven’t attended a Guild event in a long time, resolve to come to one this Fall. If this newsletter contains your renewal notice, please send it back. If you are not a member, and received this newsletter at one of our events, consider joining. Supporting storytelling is a real bargain.

The Guild’s goal is to double membership in the coming year. We would qualify again for bulk mailing. We would have more money to spend on publicity, and thus attract a wider audience for our tellers who so generously share their talents. The interest is out there; we just have to tap into it. Warm yourself at the storytelling fire, and bring a friend.

Ideas are important too; send any brainstorming about attracting members or publicizing events to Virginia Rankin – varankin@comcast.net

Editors Note: What do you think? Let’s get some dialogue going on this! Send your response to storykim@comcast.net.

Stories For A Summer Night
will return on July 8th at 7pm at the Jewel Box Theatre in Poulsbo. Tickets are $10 at the door. Tellers will be Alan Searle of Port Orchard, Ed Sheridan of Bainbridge Island, Jack McCarthy, the Standup Poet, of Arlington and Kathy Currie of Poulsbo. For more information call Kathy Currie at 360-779-3037 or the Jewel Box at 360-779-9688.

Summer 2006

Storytelling at
Ravenna Third Place
6505 20th Ave. NE
206-525-2347
Last Thursday, 7:30 pm

July and August – summer vacation

September 28th – John Cluson, “Stories to Spice Your Soul.” John Cluson lives outside a small village nestled beside the sparkling blue waters of Hood Canal. His favorite words are once upon a time. John’s tales may solicit a tear or a laugh and always come wrapped in his enthusiasm as a teller. The stories he has selected will transport you from Seattle to far-off lands and strange, distant times.

Bellingham, WA
Third Fridays, 7-9 pm
Storytelling for The Love of It
Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room
7-8pm - Storytelling for ages 6 to 106 - Free.
8-9pm - Storytelling workshop or coaching session (usually) – Donations accepted.

Hosted by the Bellingham Storytellers Guild
For more information contact:
360-714-9631 or bhamstoryguild@clearwire.net

Stories by the Sea, continued from page 4

ing, and other items in the ABC's. This is the workshop that earned Yvonne raves at the 2005 National Storytelling Conference in Oklahoma City.

Songs and Spice and All Stories Nice – Anne-Louise Sterry
In this hands-on workshop you will be singing, creating, playing, laughing and dancing. You will come away with more confidence in your own natural musical and storytelling ability and lots of music and stories to enhance your special time with children. And, if you already use music and storytelling be ready to increase your repertoire

Stories by the Sea continues to offer open Story Swaps on Friday night and Sunday morning as well as a school tour for 11 Lincoln County schools. In addition to the performances and workshops, those attending can network with other Northwest storytellers at the Sunday potluck lunch. For more information, call Rebecca Cohen at (541)265-3109 or check the festival website, www.olaweb.org/csd/stories.html
Summer Calendar

Note: There will be no SSG Story Swaps or presentations at Ravenna Third Place in July or August. These programs will resume in September. See calendar below for details.

July

5 Storytelling for the Love of It - Bellingham Ongoing event, see insert page 6

8 Stories at Zippy's - Everett, see Ongoing Events

8 Stories for a Summer Night, 7 pm, Jewel Box Theatre, Paulsbo. See page 6.

14-16 Fanning the Embers II: a storyteller’s retreat -- Tending Our Inner Fires and Feeding the Flames of Storytelling. St. Andrews Retreat House, Union WA on Hood Canal. Friday 14th after 3 pm to Sunday 16th, lunch. $150 inclusive. Contact Rebecca Hom at rebhome@reachone.com or 360-866-6308.

22 Jill Johnson: "Little, But OH My!" – Deception Pass State Park, Whidbey Island. 7pm. Contact 360-341-2063

25 E.E.A.S.T. in Port Townsend, see insert page 2.

August

1 Frog Rock Story Circle on Bainbridge Island, see ongoing events

2 Storytelling for the Love of It - Bellingham Ongoing event, see insert page 6

4 Jill Johnson, "Little, But OH My!" – Kitsap County Historical Society, Bremerton, 6pm, contact 360-341-2063

12 Stories at Zippy's - Everett, see Ongoing Events

13 Board Retreat - Whidbey Island, home of Jill Johnson. 10-4, contact Cherie at 360-417-5031

22 E.E.A.S.T. in Port Townsend, see insert page 2.

September

5 Frog Rock Story Circle on Bainbridge Island, see ongoing events

6 Storytelling for the Love of It - Bellingham Ongoing event, see insert page 6

8 Story Swap, All for Kids Bookstore, Seattle. 7 pm. See insert, page 5.

9 Stories at Zippy's - Everett, see Ongoing Events


26 E.E.A.S.T. in Port Townsend, see insert page 2.

28 John Clauson - Stories to Spice Your Soul, Ravenna Third Place, 6505 20th Ave NE, Seattle. 7:30 pm. Contact Marilyn Milnor at 206-322-7330. see page 6

Ongoing Events

Sundays Global Griot, KSER 90.7 FM Broadcasting 8-11 Sunday mornings, live online at www.kser.org. Three hours of stories, music, poetry, culture, and myths from around the world.

First Tuesdays Frog Rock Story Circle 7 pm, 9702 Sands Avenue NE, Bainbridge Island. Call Alyson 206-842-5293 or Ed at 206-842-4562.

Fourth Tuesdays Fort Worden Story Swap -- Fort Worden, Port Townsend, 5-8 pm. charishearself@peoplepc.com

Third Thursdays Tale Traders story swap in Bellevue, 7-9 PM. Call Jan at 425-747-6142 for more information.

Last Thursdays Storytelling Concerts at Ravenna Third Place, 6505 20th Ave NE, Seattle. 206-525-2347.


Third Fridays Bellingham Storytelling for the Love of It, 7-9 pm, Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room. 360-714-9631 or bhamstoryguild@clearwire.net.

Second Saturdays Storytelling by Global Griots, followed by open mike, at Zippy’s Java Lounge, 1804 Hewitt Ave, Everett. 7:30-9 pm. For information contact Jim or Aarene at (425)318-2493 or aarenex@comcast.net.

In the Wind
Seattle Storytellers Guild
for updated information see www.seattletstorytelling.org
or call 206-621-8646

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Membership Form
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NEW ☐ Individual, $20 ☐ Family,$30
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