inside The Wind

Seattle Storytellers Guild

Guild Events

Zoom Story Swaps
June 4th
July 2nd
August 6th

Annual Meeting
And Golden Circle Swap
June 26th
1 – 3 PM PDT on Zoom

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SATURDAY, JUNE 26, SSG ANNUAL MEETING
— FOR BUSINESS, PLEASURE AND STORIES!
1–3 PM PDT, VIA ZOOM, BYO REFRESHMENTS, PLEASE

Register for the Meeting and Swap at: tinyurl.com/3jfvymrd

Join us for honoring two new Golden Circle inductees, electing our Board and officers, hearing the changes we've stepped through in these Covid times. Please do come!

Do take time to read our Reports in this issue.
Take the Brief Survey below!
And come, and with us celebrate new honorees.

AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF STORIES TO SWAP!!
Pat Peterson, our favorite MC, will be the first, as the Golden Circle members will have priority, Board members are encouraged to tell, followed by others who want to share a story. Cathryn Wellner may tune in from Australia. We are all hoping you will come to make this a super reunion of the storytellers in our area.

WHAT? A SURVEY?! JUST CLICK HERE!!
Or go to: https://tinyurl.com/au49pmn
Before you say “I don't do Surveys!”
It’s brief and you can do it right now!

And it will help us a lot in preparing to reopen our In-Person events and in planning our 2021 – 2022 Season

It’s our way of getting in touch with you – our members.
Seattle Storytellers Guild Board's Report

The Board, made up of Barry McWilliams, Patty Zeitlin, Anne Brendler, Marte Fallshore, Bergith Kayyali, Larry Hohm, Afifi Durr, Eva Abram, Bu Huang, Judith Alexander, Susy Irwin and MaryAnne Moorman; along with Chris Spengler and Allison Cox has met monthly on Zoom for 2 to 2 ½ hour meetings.

Following a check-in by those attending lead by Patty. Bergith Kayyali has stepped forward to moderate the Board Meetings. Judith Alexander has assisted Barry in preparing Dockets. Marte Fallshore, who lives in Ellenburg, took on the role of Secretary last Fall and prepares our Minutes. August though May produced 30 Pages of them, not including the Treasurer's Reports or the Planning Meeting Minutes. Anne Brendler has worked diligently handling our finances, paying our bills and tellers, tracking donations as they come. She also sends written welcomes and Thank You’s. She spear-headed obtaining a grant from 4Culture to help cover our reopening expenses on Zoom in 2020. Larry Hohm has generously maintained our website: seattlestorytellers.org. And Judith has kept you aware of upcoming events in her emails.

Attendance at our meetings has been very good, though at times conducting business on Zoom is not easy. We have worked at budgeting our programming and determining fair honorariums for featured tellers. The details of upcoming events have taken a lot of discussion. We are looking into creating a Guild Zoom Account next season and spreading the hosting of events around more, with mentoring by Barry. We have streamlined internal communications by creating @seattlestorytellers.org email addresses for Publicity, Treasurer, President and Media.

We continue to explore new ways of recruiting volunteers. This is an on-going need because some of us shoulder many responsibilities, and others are getting older. Some of our Board members have had to deal with significant health issues as well, and we appreciate their dedication to the Guild in spite of this. We have spent time trying to figure out how to have an online annual meeting and elect officers and board members. This summer, we will have to decide how to move back to face-to-face events, and continue with an online presence as well.

Changes to the Board: We have a number leaving who we really want to thank for their service to the Guild. MaryAnne Moorman has stepped down and will not be able to continue Auntmama’s StoryTable for personal health issues. Chris Spengler has stepped down from Membership, passing that on to Bu Huang, Cherie Trebon, who for years organized our PNW Folklife story events has also turned that over to Larry Hohm. Susy Irwin has taken on the task of being our NSN Liaison with the passing of Jill Johnson. Judith Alexander continues working mostly remotely from Germany, where circumstances have kept her most of the time – she still manages to keep the e-mail “blasts” coming. Allison Cox has reduced her involvement in the organization of of some of our Epic and Special Events.
Zoom Host's report

The Seattle Storytellers Guild has been producing Storytelling events for many years – and we have our 40th Anniversary coming in 2022. Securing storytellers and venues, preparing publicity, emceeing, taking care of our tellers and refreshing audiences – a lot goes into a successful program. Volunteering with the Guild has been a good way to learn. With Covid shutting live events down, we and other Arts organizations have had to learn how to produce Zoom Events.

Barry McWilliams has hosted all our Zoom Events – the Swaps, StoryFests and Board Meetings this past year. That has involved scheduling the events, knowing his way around Zoom’s Advanced Settings, promoting via multiple email and media posts, managing the registrations before and participants during the program, spot-lighting tellers, screen sharing graphic announcements, starting recordings and live streaming and processing them afterwards, and sending follow-up emails. Bu Huang has assisted him in some of the promotion. He edited the Youtube recordings, wrote articles in previous issues of In The Wind on Virtual Storytelling, and led a Workshop which he designed to assist Guild members with the Zoom basics. He generously mentored co-hosts on the additional hosting controls and organizing Zoom story events. All this material is on his website: http://www.eldrbarry.net/roos/VST/vst.htm. It has been updated and supplemented as Zoom made changes to its platform. Barry will be part of a panel of the National Storytellers Network : Producers Special Interest Group for a Pre-Conference Workshop on July 22nd. With the creation of the Guild Zoom account, which will also require cloud storage, we hope to spread the Zoom hosting out more. Barry will continue to help as a mentor.

Story Swaps

When Covid shut things down last March, we realized that we needed something to keep us together and so we had First and Third Fridays Story Swaps from April through the Summer and have had monthly First Friday Swaps since last Fall. These have alternated between a Briarcrest Neighborhood Swap emceed by Afifi Durr and a Seattle Storytellers Guild Swap led by Marilyn Grevstad.

Marilyn adds a special touch to these gatherings with her “check-ins” which are nice ice breakers and introductions to one another. These have run from sixteen to a couple dozen in attendance. In more recent months, we have drawn a number of regulars from back East and down in California, who seem to really enjoy our friendly format.

Barry will continue our First Friday Story Swaps through the Summer months. (see Page 9)
Annual Treasurer’s Report  Seattle Storytellers’ Guild
as of May 24, 2021

Checking Account Balance, May 2020 $885.10
Savings Account Balance, May 2020 $15,734.70 (incl. YTD interest of $4.29)
Total Account balances, May 2020 $16,619.80

Checking Account Balance, May 2021 $253.68
Savings Account Balance, May 2021 $19,302.74 (incl. YTD interest of $1.26)
Total Account balances, May 2021 $19,656.42

For this year’s report, this year of virtual/ZOOM meetings, StoryFests, and workshops, let’s take a closer look at our expenses and income.

First, a focus of Gifts SSG has made, and Gifts SSG has received:
1) For various causes/ people, we have made donations totaling about $680.
2) From various people/ organizations, we have received donations totaling about $1217.

Second, a focus on Expenses for StoryFests and Receipts for StoryFests:
1) For Guest Tellers, Emcee, ZOOM, and Publicity, we have paid: $3435.
2) For Guest Tellers, Emcee, ZOOM, and Publicity, we have received: $3118.
   (This amount includes the $885 grant we received from 4Culture for our reopening on ZOOM.)
3) At the recent Liars’ SwapFest (5-21-2021), a first-time event for the Guild, we received donations amounting to $100.

Third, a focus on Workshops/Classes, we have broken almost even, with a small profit of $67.70, from Ingrid’s Liars’ Workshop, after we paid her and all of her and our PayPal expenses. However, note that we also paid out $67.50 in a scholarship from the Gene Friese Fund for a storytelling class, so we did break even.

Fourth, we had costs for printing, postage, licensing fees, NSN dues, new checks totaling $541. We received a Space Rental refund from the Haller Lake United Methodist Church of $375. We also very recently (5-22-2021) renewed our NSN membership for a year for $100.

Fifth, The Under the Rainbow Fund (within Savings) currently stands at about $7764. UtR received a grant of $5000 in October, from the Pride Foundation, and their expenses for March 2020 to October 2020 totalled $2370, paid in October 2020.

The Gene Friese Scholarship Fund (kept in Savings) balance is currently: $492.50.

We are now officially able to receive donations through the Amazon Smile program, and we have received our first $5.00.

Here is a bit of interesting trivia: From June 2020 (Anne Sterry’s performance) through April 2021 (Earth Tales), we had a total of 159 donors for these 9 events, an average of about 18 per event. The average donation was $14 per donor, or $252 total per event.

Finally, the office of Treasurer has its own email address now: treasurer@seattlestorytellers.org

Anne Brendler, Treasurer
Seattle Storytellers Guild's StoryFests:

The 2020 – 2021 Season In Review:

September – “Adventure Calling” with Anne Rutherford and Norm Brecke had a nice mix of stories and song and as a highlight, a “Clementine Ryder” tale. (35 attended)

October – “Spooky Tales” with Jeff Gere and Larry Hohm lived up to its name – who knew Hawaii could be so scary? (42 attended)

November: **Tellabration™ 2021 “Thanks and Tribulations”** with Eva Abram, MaryAnne Moorman and Lucia Francine was a most meaningful evening, especially with Eva’s tale blending history with folktale. (67 attended)

December: “Stories and Strings for Covid Times” with Anne Glover showed off her enthusiastic telling style, and her skill with string. (52 attended) That was followed by our After Event Party led by Eva Abram. (16 attended) The Zoom story games were a lot of fun.

January: “Cross Cultural Adventures: My Journey from Lebanon to America” with Dr. Nabi Abi-Hashem offered a meaningful look at overcoming cultural differences. (41 attended)

February: “Surviving Ty – Tales of a Well Intended Restless Soul” with Ty Fance introduced us to some personal stories about growing up. (65 attended)

March: “Crones’ Tales” with Allison Cox, Julie Strozyk, Anne Penfound, Barbara Fankhauser brought to life a blend of the tales of mythic women. (85 attended)

April: “Earth Day Tales” with Pat Peterson (Emcee), Rebecca Hom, Leslie Slape, Ingrid Nixon and Dayton Edmonds (a surprise guest) celebrated the Pacific Northwest. (58 attended)

May: “A Liar’s and Tall Tales SwapFest” brought together eight tellers from those who had attended Ingrid’s Liar’s Workshop to share their original tall tales. (62 attended)

Over the season, 225 different people overall have registered and signed in for our various StoryFest events, and, of course, some of those represent households watching together. Each event was followed up with chat info and announcements by email and our StoryFest email list grew every month as new folk who attended are added to it. I am glad for my co-hosts as it always seems like we have a last minute surge of registrations and people arriving when other things are pressing. Generally about 15-20% more pre-registered, but didn’t join the meetings for various reasons – I followed them up by email and pointed to our Live Stream or posted videos — which have had significant viewings – The Crones has had 198 viewings and Earth Tales has had 165 viewings, just on Facebook alone. We have made a lot of new friends around the nation and a number just keep coming back for more.

All of our featured tellers have received fair honorariums, and generally the donations of a few have come close to covering those expenses. (See the Treasurer’s Report) Thanks to Eva Abram in particular, but also to Patty Zeitlin, Larry Hohm, Allison Cox and Affi Durr for their part as Emcees of StoryFest events; also Anne Brendler and Bergith Kayyali for their assisting Barry in Co-hosting.

**StoryFest Videos are available on Seattle Storytellers Guild Facebook Page (Video)** and on the **Seattle Storytellers Guild Youtube Channel**.

**We hosted two Workshops** this season: Hosting Zoom Story Events – taught by Barry McWilliams in December and The Honest Way to Tell a Lie – taught by Ingrid Nixon in May. There seems to be a lot of interest in workshops and the Guild hopes to offer a number in the coming season.
GENE FRIESE SCHOLARSHIP FUND — Donations will be matched by Jill Johnson’s family

Gene Friese was a much-loved member of the storytelling community who passed away in 1995. Many storytellers in our area will remember Gene and his many bears that traveled with him to so many events. He passed away in 1995, and a scholarship fund was established in his name. The purpose is to support storytellers in their continuing education, through attending a storytelling festival, conference, workshop, or class.

In the past, the $100 award (or less) went to one or two recipients in the Fall for use during the school year. Please see below for the requirements for applying. The Board will consider applications at other times, if funds are available.

The scholarship fund has been augmented by gifts in the past several years, and now the children of our beloved Jill Johnson are offering to match donations to the Fund made in honor of their mother. We send them our heartfelt thanks.

Those wishing to donate may do so on our website, seattlestorytellers.org, or by mailing a check to the SSG Treasurer, Seattle Storytellers Guild, PO Box 18361, Seattle, WA 98118. Designate it for the Gene Friese Scholarship.

To qualify for this scholarship, you must be a resident of Washington or Oregon and be a member of a storytelling guild in Washington, Oregon, or of the National Storytelling Network. Your application must include the following: Your name, address, phone number, email, and the storytelling guild to which you belong. Your storytelling experience (beginners are encouraged to apply). How you would like to use the scholarship money; a description of the event, limited to 300 words.

Note: The recipient must provide proof of the use of the scholarship (receipt, voucher, ticket stub, etc.).

Send your application by September 30, 2021 to the Seattle Storytellers Guild, Attn. Gene Friese Scholarship Committee.

Fanning the Embers has moved to the Summer


July 30th - August 1st, 2021 – Will it be face-to-Face or Online this year? – Time will tell.

For story lovers in the northwest region, and beyond, Fanning the Embers retreat provides an opportunity to gather informally in a relaxed environment. We share success and quandaries, our dreams and our nightmares, our questions and aspirations. And we share stories! Lots of stories. Fanning the Embers has become a northwest storytelling tradition. We are sure this year’s gathering will be as rejuvenating for participants as it has been in years past. Fan the flame and spread the word!

The 50th Annual Northwest Folklife Festival

The 2021 Northwest Folklife Festival will be virtual this year, just like last year, due to the pandemic, of course. The online festival will be on a much smaller scale than the before-Covid festivals we fondly remember. While the before-covid festivals had over 800 performance slots spanning a four-day weekend, the online festival will have around 60 performance slots.

Because of this down-sizing, the Seattle Storytellers Guild will have a much smaller presence at the online festival. We will have our popular Ghost Stories showcase as an On Demand Program. Hoping for more in 2022! Now Available!

To Access the On Demand Programs: https://www.nwfolklife.org/festival/ondemand/

A Look Back, A Look Ahead celebrates Northwest Folklife’s milestone anniversary of 50 years of preserving cultural arts, bridging connections to heritage and identity, and cultivating the ever-evolving traditions of the Pacific Northwest region with a year-long, community celebration.
Seattle Storytellers Guild members are eligible for a discount on NSN membership. You can apply the NSN membership for discounts on NSN's Conference and Events. And a NSN Membership gives you access to all sorts of resources. Contact Susy Irwin livewildpuppets@gmail.com or Barry McWilliams eldrbarry@gmail.com for the discount code!

How Our Membership Breaks down:

13 Board members
13 Golden Circle members
12 Lifetime members
6 yearly individual members
6 three year individual memberships
3 family memberships
3 three year family memberships
2 student memberships
58 total members, with 18 paying members

Some people belong in several categories but I only want to count people once. These represent memberships that have not lapsed

We sent out 58 renewal reminders on 5/26 and another 2 today (5/30). Of those 60, four bounced with email addresses that were no longer valid. So far there have been three renewal responses. We do hope renewals will continue to trickle in. If you are due to renew, please do!

Chris Spengler, Membership Chair
President’s Editorial

A lot of my work has been summarized in my reports of the SSG Board, Zoom Hosting, and The Review of Last Season. I have also promoted events with emails and on Facebook, editing our quarterly In The Wind’s, etc. While I enjoy these tasks, together they are a bit much, occasionally overwhelming my home life. And leaving few opportunities for me to tell my own tales. But a little editorializing is probably needed.

A year ago, when I would have liked to turn over the office of President to someone else, it became clear in the light of the challenges brought by Covid – that not only did I need to continue that role, but to take on yet another – hosting on Zoom. That involved “hands on learning” for me on how to use that platform for presenting our events, and also helping folks learn as well. A number of regional guilds just shut down. We did well – our swaps and events went online and we had a full season with good attendance. Probably larger than we would have had with in-person events.

The role of the President in our organization is not simply that of moderating meetings and being the email “lightning rod.” It involves being aware of what is going on, arranging meetings, preparing and sending Dockets and quite a bit of email. But it is also one of pursuing the organization’s mission and hopefully expanding its vision. A President needs to keep us focused on why we are here, and connected and working together. It is more than micromanaging the details of planning events.

Our Board has wrestled with reworking our Mission Statement – it has been repeatedly on the docket, but we never gotten to it with the press of more immediate event details. Perhaps this is a good thing – as we need to take its kernel: “Promoting the Art and Craft of Oral Storytelling,” and evaluate it now in terms of the this post Covid world. We have new media to work with, an expanding audience beyond those within driving distance of Haller Lake, and a much larger network with similar vision. The Seattle Storytellers Guild has an opportunity to take the best of what we had before, and what we and others are discovering now and now apply it to our shared vision as a storytelling guild as we approach our 40th year.

I would welcome someone taking over the Office of President. I have had it since June of 2016 – far too long. As we return to “live, in-person” events – I would welcome people to take on the details of organizing them. We can certainly use more volunteers and some “young blood” in moving the Guild forward. I hope to mentor some in organizing Zoom events. We have checklists for either, and people with experience to help. We can use help in planning it all this summer. Any student Videographers out there? We could use someone with video tech knowledge to edit videos or help us produce “Hybrid” events – where a live and an internet audience can share it together. There is no better way to learn than hands-on projects to work on.

— Barry McWilliams

“Paying The Piper”

The Question has been asked: “Why renew my membership since Zoom doesn’t cost much, events are free, and the board are volunteers?”

SSG is a 501 c3 charitable organization. To maintain that tax-free status, we have to rely on donations to meet our expenses. The donations come in the form of membership fees and contributions. Our expenses include extending fair payment to our featured storytellers as well as carrying and recording our programs on Zoom. Given our requirements, Zoom is not inexpensive. We have ongoing office expenses, licenses, printing, postage, licensing fees, NSN dues, rental and insurance costs. We also make a variety of donations to further Northwest storytelling.

Yes, we are all volunteers and we contribute much time and money into the Guild and its operation. You may not be a volunteer, but we need your help as well. Your membership supports the Guild.

Keep in mind that production of a storytelling event has expenses whether it is a live, in-person gathering, or one on Zoom. Attendance at our StoryFests has averaged about 60, and of those only an average of 18 actually donated, less than a third. Fortunately those few were generous – as we try to be with our storytellers. Even before Zoom, we started using the Purple Hat.

Other programs have similar outcomes—many come, few donate. Compare our requests for a “suggested donation” to what you might pay for eating out and tipping a waitress, or attending any event, or movie. Online programs need your support! Don’t assume we have no costs!!

This is why the Seattle Guild reminds you often about The Purple Hat!
First Friday Night **Zoom** Story Swaps

No preregistration for these Zoom events is needed

**June 5th – 7:00 PM**
Join at: [https://tinyurl.com/5yzjcu9a](https://tinyurl.com/5yzjcu9a)

**July 9th – 6:00 PM**
Join at: [https://tinyurl.com/azzukkr2](https://tinyurl.com/azzukkr2)

**August 7th – 6:00 PM**
Join at: [https://tinyurl.com/2hry5fe6](https://tinyurl.com/2hry5fe6)

Come to share an 8 minute or less story – feedback offered
Family Friendly – Told, not Read or Come just to Listen

(If you have a story to share, please let me know:
Contact Barry at eldrbarry@gmail.com)

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**Seattle Storytellers Guild**

**Membership Form**

Circle one: New member or Renewal

Name ______________________________________

Address ___________________________________

City ____________________ State ___ Zip _____

E-mail _________________________________

Phone ________________ Today's Date ________

Individual $25/year ___ $70/3 years ___

Family $35/year ___ $85/3 years ___

Professional Membership $75/year ___

(SSG membership plus Web listing)

Additional tax-deductible contribution ______

OK to share your data with National Storytelling Network? name only _____ e-mail too _____

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**Linking up with nearby storytelling communities**

**Fresh Ground Stories**
Seattle Meetup Group
[meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/](https://meetup.com/Fresh-Ground-Stories/)

**The MOTH : Regional Virtual**
No Local Programs
[themoth.org/events](https://themoth.org/events)

**Story People of Clallum County**
Port Angeles
[clallamstorypeople.org/](https://clallamstorypeople.org/)

**Quimper Story Guild**
Port Townsend
facebook.com/QuimperStoryGuild

**South Sound Storytellers Guild**
Lakewood
[southsoundstory.org/](https://southsoundstory.org/)

**Fireside Story League of Tacoma**
[firesidestoryleague.org/](https://firesidestoryleague.org/)

**Bellingham Storytellers Guild**
BellinghamStoryTellers.org/

**Storytelling Club—Yarn Spinners**
Ellensburg - See Facebook

**Portland Storytellers Guild**
[portlandstorytellers.org/](https://portlandstorytellers.org/)

**Portland Story Theater**
[portlandstorytheater.com/](https://portlandstorytheater.com/)

(Blue are Open—Red are Shut down)

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**For More info on Local and Regional Events visit:** [www.seattlestorytellers.org](http://www.seattlestorytellers.org)

To join the SSG You can fill out the form below and send it to:

**Seattle Storytellers Guild**
P.O. Box 18361
Seattle, WA 98118

Or go to [www.seattlestorytellers.org](https://www.seattlestorytellers.org) Click on “Join Now” at the top of the page. From there you can join or renew online using PayPal. By clicking the “Pay Now” button or you can print and mail the form with a check.

**Employer matching funds?** Check if your employer will match your SSG membership donation.

**Find us on Facebook.** Be a fan, get updates, join discussions.

**Professional memberships** include guild membership and a listing on the Performing Tellers section of the guild website. Join with the form on page 9 or at [www.seattlestorytellers.org](https://www.seattlestorytellers.org). You’ll be contacted for details for your web listing.
Yes, They Really Happened!
-- Tales on the edge of disbelief.

Saturday, June 5 at 5:00pm PDT on Zoom

Eric Foxman of the Portland Storytellers Guild brings stories of people and astonishing events - An hour of Goosebumps, Smiles and possibly Warm-Fuzzy Feelings. A special Thank You and Fund Raiser program for five professional Guild members whose performance incomes have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. Free, but Donations welcome via PayPal.com to the account: rohirrim@mymacmail.com

http://www.portlandstorytellers.org/calendar/?mc_id=2481

The Liars Club – presented by the Story People of Clallam County
June 12, 2021 from 7 - 8:30 ish p.m. PDT on Zoom
10 tellers will have 8 minutes to tell their biggest lies and Tall Tales.
https://www.clallamstorypeople.org/special-events/liars-contest/

The TBD Storytellers: Independence, Day by Day
Tuesday, June 29th 5 PM PDT on Zoom
Register at: https://tinyurl.com/TBDIndependence