

# Journal of Tar Heel Tellers

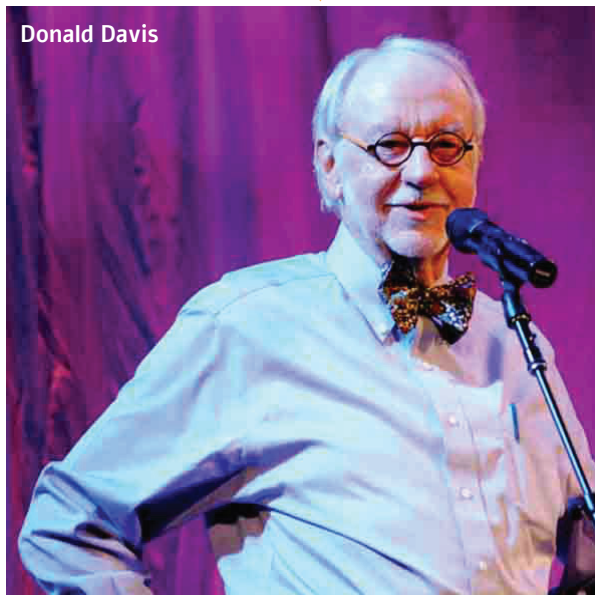
## Old North State STORY TELLING

FESTIVAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 1 & 2  
THE CARY THEATER

This first Old North State Storytelling Festival opened to a sold-out audience three out of four concerts. Hopefully this is the beginning of an annual affair.

What a fantastic way to introduce storytelling to the city of Cary. The program moved along like a well-oiled machine. Finely tuned and humming like a song bird. Each and every teller was a stellar performer. Donald Davis mesmerized the audience with family stories that took them back to another time. He was superb in the use of wit and humor laced with wisdom and humanity. Donna Washington's fabulous voice inflections and



delightful facial expressions along with her riveting tales held everyone in awe.

Michael Reno Harrell strung us all along with his songs of hilarity and stories of family folks. His easy style is as comfortable as an easy chair and as smooth as butter on a warm biscuit dripping with honey. Each of the regional tellers added their blend of spice with stories of delight, lessons learned, wisdom shared, humor and excitement. Each of them did "NCSG" proud.

Folktales, fairy tales, family tales and more were all a part of this adventure as we all walked through the doors of the Cary Theater. It was a smorgasbord of well told stories with no calories and plenty of desserts!

The audience laughed, sang, clapped, cheered and had an all-out good time enjoying it all.

The Storytelling Committee under the leadership of our fearless leader, Alan Hoal did a marvelous job of organizing, coordinating, scheduling and securing sponsors. Getting people to give money is no easy task! Great job team.

If you didn't make this event you missed a marvelous treat.....but ask anyone who attended and they will tell you everything written here is true!!

*Willa Brigham is a storyteller, inspirational speaker, performing artist, writer and Two Time Emmy Award Winner. She served as one of our Festival emcees in Cary, NC. She may be contacted at: [willastory@aol.com](mailto:willastory@aol.com).*



Photo courtesy: Alan Hoal



Photo courtesy: The Editor



Top Left: Michael  
Reno Harrell

Above Left: Linda  
Gorham

Right: Jon Sundell



Top Right: Brian  
Sturm

Above Right: Donna  
Washington

Photo courtesy: The  
Editor





Left: Jess Willis



Right: ReVonda Crow



Above Left: Larry Pearlman

Right, at Sale Table: Cyndi Morgan, ReVonda Crow, Cynthia Brown, Larry Pearlman, Joan Leotta, and David Klibanow



Above Right: Ray Mendenhall, Sherry Lovett, and Ann Mendenhall

Photo courtesy: The Editor

## JOURNAL OF TAR HEEL TELLERS

Editor, Sylvia Payne  
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Newton, NC 28658  
NCSG Website:  
[www.ncstoryguild.org](http://www.ncstoryguild.org)

*Journal of Tar Heel Tellers (JTHT) is the official newsletter of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild and is published biannually, Spring and Fall.*

ISSN 1077-307X

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Subscriptions are through membership in the NC Storytelling Guild only. Single copies are not available.

Calendar listings are free.

### Vision Statement

*To communicate the power, joy, and impact of story to every community in North Carolina.*

### Mission Statement

*To create and nurture a thriving community of storytellers through performance and education.*

### Goals

- To affirm the value of storytelling by fostering an appreciation of oral traditions and the importance of story listening.
- To educate people, both tellers and listeners, in North Carolina about storytelling.
- To promote excellence in oral tradition by developing emerging and established artists.
- To seek out the needs of North Carolina storytellers and respond by creating opportunities.

*Correspondence should be addressed to the editor and will be considered available for publication, unless noted, "not for publication." The editor reserves the right to revise contributed articles for style and length.*

## Fall Cast of Characters

**Sylvia Payne - Editor**

**Contributors, J.A. Bolton, Willa Bringham, Linda Gorham, Robin Kitson, Joan Leotta, Doyle Pace, Jim Payne, Nancy Reeder, Donna Marie Todd, and Deborah Winkler.**



**Here's what's happening with your storytelling friends around the state!**

This past spring **Marva Moss** won this year's senior arts for poetry in Brunswick County . . . Our thanks go out to **Willa Bringham, Linda Gorham, Alan Hoal, Robin Kitson, Charlie St. Clair, Steve Tate, and Currie Williams** who performed at the Lazy Daze Festival in Cary, NC in order to promote *The Old North State Storytelling Festival* in November . . . **David Joe Miller** told stories at the Hans Christian Andersen Storytelling Center in Central Park in New York City this past September. He brought a Jack Tale to NYC as well as a short, personal story . . . On October 13<sup>th</sup>, **Connie Regan-Blake** headed across the world to travel and learn new stories... her destination - Nepal and Tibet.

*Remember that everyone's life is measured by the power that individual has to make the world better - this is all life is.* - Booker T. Washington

## Missing Piece to the Puzzle:

from the editor's desk

Have you ever thought about something that a sibling did to cause you pain? Asking them about it may present the answer to the puzzle. I was about 10 years old when a neighbor came to my dad's machine shop. He also brought his young son, Bristol, along. My little sister and I were playing in the back yard, and he joined us. I went into the house and grabbed a handful of saltine crackers to munch on. I quickly returned and shared my crackers with Bristol.



*Photo courtesy, Sylvia Payne*

Suddenly I saw stars and they weren't in the sky. Stunned, I wondered what had happened. I started to cry. My dad and neighbor came running to see who had killed who. My mother ran from the house to see who was bleeding to death. The neighbor grabbed his son and said, "We need to go," and they left. When my parents saw a brick laying on the ground they knew. My bratty little sister had just crowned me on the head with it. But I didn't know why. I don't remember her saying anything to me at all.

Several years ago, I was visiting with my sister and decided it was the day to pose my question, "Why did you hit me in the head with that brick when we were kids?" Her immediate response was, "Because you shared crackers with Bristol and didn't offer any to me."

Startled, I replied, "But Bristol was company, you weren't! You were at home, just like me. You knew where the crackers were. I figured if you wanted crackers you would go inside and get them." And that was the end of our discussion. Finally, I had the missing piece to that long-ago puzzle.

Submit articles for JTHT Spring 2020 issue to:

Sylvia Payne, JTHT Editor, 1621 Nathaniel Street, Newton, NC 28658.

E-mail: [sylpayne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sylpayne@bellsouth.net) - Deadline for Fall Issue: March 15, 2020





## President's Message

The too hot summer is over, the peak season for Storytelling, Halloween, has just passed and there is, finally, a chill in the air as we look forward to the holiday season. I am now able to come up for air after the comple-

tion of the Old North State Storytelling Festival at the Cary Theatre.

I owe a huge thanks to the festival committee and all those guild members as well as the town of Cary cultural arts staff, who made the festival possible and such a great success. Three of the four shows sold out and total ticket sales were around 550. We will have official final numbers soon. With the festival being such a big success, it is likely that Cary will be the permanent home of our festival. Kris Carmichael, the town cultural arts lead for the festival, and I, have already been talking about ways to enhance the festival, such as a children's show on Saturday morning (this is the only show that did not sell out) and adding workshops to the weekend. There is even talk of moving to a larger,

430 seat venue, The Cary Arts Center. Several guild members who attended the festival also shared some great ideas. We would love to hear from other guild members as we prepare for the 2020 festival.

As is the case with most new Presidents, I come in with a lot of ideas spinning in my head, ideas on how to expand the influence of the guild across the five regions and to build upon the great programs the guild already has in place and which are working so well. The guild board will be meeting at a retreat in the mountains the weekend of November 14<sup>th</sup> and I invite all guild members to send me your ideas of things we can do to make the guild more effective in fulfilling its vision to communicate the power, joy, and impact of story to every community in North Carolina.

I thank the guild for the opportunity to serve as your President this year and I wish blessings on all of you as you enter the holiday season when we all have the opportunity to share stories with our families and friends.

*Alan Hoal*

NCSG President 2019/2020  
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919-607-0993

## MY STORY BY JIM PAYNE

I became a storyteller the day I was born. By that, I mean to say my story began that day. Before that day, my story was unwritten, unsaid. My years of growing up were burgeoning with formative stories. Stories that looked at the world around me, stories that questioned what I saw, what I understood about this place, my place in the world.

For better or worse, my story interacted with other's

stories. My story enhanced or detracted from their story. I became a storyteller in the story we call life. Sometimes when I think about storytelling, truth-telling, sooth saying, words fail me. Visions come, but descriptors are difficult. The story doesn't come easy. It doesn't come fully formed. Other times, the words explode in a rush, a cascade. Like life.

Stories can be, like a chrysalis, transforming. Touching

something inside me that has been waiting. Waiting for that light. That pulsing truth. My story is now a chapter within my hometown's story, my high school's story, my military experiences story, my librarian's career story, and now my later-in-life story. My story is a new story at every dawn. What story chapters are in your storytelling life?

## Tribute to Priscilla Best

*January 29, 1945 - October 1, 2019*

### ***Priscilla was known as the Heart to Heart Storyteller***

"Priscilla Best, fantastic storyteller, a loving sharing person, a giving spirit with a beautiful heart. She will be greatly missed."

– WILLA BRIGHAM

"I had the good fortune to be Priscilla Best's roommate at an NCSG retreat. As we discussed storytelling and its impact on our lives, I realized that Priscilla's stories revealed her warm and open heart. She saw the world from a sacred perspective that heals our divisions. She told stories to create a better world." – JANICE DAVIN

"I worked with Priscilla in Greenville and Kingston, we enjoyed several festivals as well. Priscilla was a sweet lady with perfect manners. She helped me with practice and gave good feedback. On a Saturday at ECU, she insisted on driving me to my car because it was drizzling, I said, "A little rain won't kill me I can walk." She replied, "You might slip, get in my car." I and my 13-year-old granddaughter got in her car."

– ROBIN KITSON

"She was such a lovely person. One of the first who welcomed me in NC." – JOAN LEOTTA

"Priscilla was a kind and caring person. Her integrity, inspiration and cheerfulness, made her someone I desired to be around. She always spoke from her heart, which always shined, especially during her story performances. I remember an inspiring phone conversation we had a few years ago. We discussed our similar backgrounds of growing up on a farm, hard work, our parents affording no frills, our similar faith. Priscilla closed by saying, 'We are sisters.'" – SYLVIA PAYNE

"In August, I sent Priscilla a text, and later, a second text in October, asking, "Are you ok?" She had shared several health problems, but wanted to be at her best, before sharing with the Guild. It would have been wonderful, had I taken the time to speak with Priscilla. Sadly, our last chat was in November 2018. We talked about storytelling ventures, friends, and family plans for

Thanksgiving. My storytelling friend will be missed.

"On October 5th, at Priscilla's home, I met her daughter, her son, and many members of her family. What a warm, friendly, caring group of people! Priscilla's daughter, Staris, invited me to select storytelling books from her mother's collection. I chose several books, including one of her favorites – Jackie Tales, by Jackie Torrence." – MARVA MOSS

"When I think of Priscilla Best, I remember something that was so endearing and reflective of who she was as a person. Whenever she gave a solo performance for schools or libraries Priscilla would start the concert by playing a recording of Louis Armstrong singing, 'What a Wonderful World'. This simple act calmed the children and brought a smile to each face. Priscilla truly made the world a more wonderful place." – TERRY ROLLINS

"Priscilla's voice was warm and her inner fire was fierce. I always loved seeing her and basking in her warmth and friendship. She was a truly kind and wonderful person. Her light is missed. Her laughter is missed. She is missed." – DONNA WASHINGTON, Storyteller

The following was found on her website, October 06, 2019: [www.priscillabest.com](http://www.priscillabest.com)

Priscilla R. Best. A phenomenal woman who inspired many with stories from the heart passed on October 1, 2019 at the age of 74. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, and siblings. Prayers and positive thoughts for the family are appreciated.

FYI: You may leave a note for her family: <https://www.mcintyrefuneralhome.com/notices/Priscilla-RobinsonBest>





## STORYTELLING AT TODD by Doyle Pace



*Orville Hicks and Doyle Pace*

**W**e are telling stories at Todd again!

The historic old Todd General Store has reopened after being closed for four years. A young couple, Andrea and Matthew Connell, bought the store several months ago, and right away they began refurbishing and renewing it. After days and nights of planning and hard work, the store reopened in July.

When I heard that the Todd General Store was reopening, I contacted my friend and fellow storyteller, ReVonda Crow, to ask if she would be interested in meeting with the store owner about storytelling there. Previously, there had been weekly storytelling sessions for several years before the store closed in 2016. Dianne Hackworth originated the storytelling when she lived at Todd. During the ensuing years, both ReVonda and I, along with many other storytellers, offered our tales there every Tuesday evening. When ReVonda and I met with Matthew, the new owner, at the store, he seemed to be very enthusiastic about the idea of storytelling there.

Right away, we started planning to revive Todd storytelling. Even though Matthew was in the midst of getting the store up and running again, he found the time to promote and publicize the storytelling.

The opening session was on August 8th, with Orville Hicks, who is always entertaining and fascinating with his tales about life on Beech Mountain and the Jack Tales passed down by his Hicks and Harman kinfolks. The large crowd that showed up to hear Orville was encouraging. I followed two weeks later to an appreciative audience, some I recognized from years before.

We are happy to be telling stories at the Todd General Store again. The plan is for stories to continue every two weeks on Thursday afternoon at 5:30 pm. Matthew also hopes to have occasional Saturday morning storytelling.

*Most of his life Doyle M. Pace has been interested in collecting, preserving and telling stories. He has also produced and presented storytelling events, and has served on NCSG's Board. You may contact him at [bmonkus.pace@gmail.com](mailto:bmonkus.pace@gmail.com).*



*Marva Moss*

## Marva Moss Award by Joan Leotta

Our very own Marva Moss has garnered a literary award of note! Marva won first and second place won in this year's Silver Arts Brunswick County Poetry competition. She also took third prize for her short story! The first-place winning poem is titled, "A Winter Moon."

Marva says her inspiration for the winning poem was the sight of the moon on a winter evening. "I love nature and my home is in a wooded area. It is always interesting to catch a glimpse of the moon in the trees, especially in winter when the twigs and bare trees surround it."

*Joan Leotta, an award-winning author, is currently serving on our Board as the Coastal Regional Representative. She may be contacted at: [joanleotta@gmail.com](mailto:joanleotta@gmail.com)*



# Performance Nightmares

by Linda Gorham

[www.LindaGorham.com](http://www.LindaGorham.com)

**M**y father used to say, "Proper prior planning prevents poor performance." He was right – in life – and in our work as performers. When we go out to do a show we need to plan and prepare. Of course, that means having great stories that are appropriate for our audiences. But that's not all!

We need to ask the right questions. We need to be clear about what we can and will do. We need to give the hiring venue advance information about our needs. Bottom line, we need to do whatever it takes to help us shine during our shows because, no matter how carefully we plan, things will sometimes go wrong! I know it. You know it!

A few years ago, I gathered a group of storytellers to talk about our performance experiences. Once we sat down and the tape recorder was turned on, the stories erupted. We heard frightening scenarios of woe, hopeless tales of things that went wrong, and fearless feats of performance bravery. Together we laughed, we cried, and we reminisced long into the night.

Joining me were members of the Chicago area Fox Valley Storytelling Guild: Sue Black, Jim Decker, Karen Decker, Donna Dettman, Leanne Johnson, Diane Ladley, Lainie Levin, Becky Potter, Mike Speller, Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff and Ican Seenow. We hope by sharing our true (and sometimes funny) experiences, we can save you from the horrors of "Performance Nightmares."

## I wish I had asked . . .

- Are you sure a storyteller is right for this event?
- Will the seniors be expecting Bingo?
- Will you be collapsing the tables during my first or last story?

- Will the sound system be a battery powered megaphone?
- Will half of the audience be leaving for band practice in the middle of my show?
- Will a helicopter be landing next to me during my show?
- Will there be lights so at least someone can see me in the dark?
- Will there be a sound system so at least someone can hear me in the dark?
- Can I have a sunlamp so at least I can get a tan in the dark?
- Will you be advertising the show?
- Will you put up signs so people know where to find me?
- Does the audience speak English?
- Do the children have special needs?
- Are there any major road closings in your area?
- Is this the first time you are producing an event?
- Which school door will be unlocked?
- Where is the doorbell?
- Where should I park?
- Where is the bathroom?
- Will there be a petting zoo next to my stage? How about an inflatable moonwalk?
- Will anyone be walking behind the stage during the show?



*Continued from previous page.*

### **I should have realized . . .**

- That when they told me they would pay me nothing, they would treat me like nothing.
- That if there were several contact people, things would go wrong.
- That teenagers who usually sit on chairs would not like my stories if they had to sit on the floor.
- That if I put my CD on display, someone would take it.
- That if I took off my watch and put it down, someone would take it.
- That the audience wasn't bored; they simply did not understand English.
- That when the teachers sat in the back and faced away from me, no one was going to supervise the kids.
- That even if they didn't return the contract or my repeated phone calls, the gig would still be on.
- That when they asked me if I was flexible, that would mean upon arrival I would learn that three shows would become six.
- That it would take a lot longer than I thought to get to the venue.
- That I should have worn a slip under my dress.
- That smoke from a campfire would find my throat no matter where I stood.
- That I was in trouble when they told me that the parking lot was only for the PAID entertainers (i.e., not me).
- That the color of the background curtain would clash with my outfit.
- That I MUST get my contact's cell phone number.
- That preschool students would be attending the eighth-grade show.
- That the HUGE campfire would cause a few problems – make that many problems.
- That I should always bring my own bottle

of water.

- That my \$\*#! shawl would fall off.
- That the fire would not provide enough light at night for anyone to see me.
- That they wouldn't know how I wanted the seats set up unless I told them in advance.
- That I should have brought bug spray for my outdoor show.
- That right in the middle of the most critical part of my story, someone's cell phone would go off.
- That my cell phone would go off.
- That while a teacher can control twenty-five kids, a parent cannot control one.
- That everyone would want to sit at the absolute top of the large grandstand seats, leaving them, all of them at least twenty-five feet above and away from me.
- That my butt would look big in those newspaper pictures.
- That all parents would think their children were inherent angels and deserve the freedom to run wild and yell out during inappropriate times during my shows.
- That the school office would be closed at night and no one would hear me calling from the road.
- That rush hour would start early.
- That the bleachers would be noisy . . . and kids would stamp their feet on them.
- That kids would be attracted to sound equipment – and would touch it – a lot!
- That when they said the check would be late, they meant really late.
- That when the school secretary pointed and said, "The gym is down that way," I would not be getting any help at all.
- That when they said the area near the storytelling space might be a tiny bit "busy," they meant really loud.

### **I wish I would have:**

*Continued from previous page.*

- Said, "I'm not the best storyteller for your needs. Let me give you the names and numbers of other tellers you should call."
- Charged more – a lot more!
- Politely said, "No thank you!"

*Linda Gorham's performances are filled with surprising twists and unconventional humor. She was awarded the Distinguished National Service Award by the National Storytelling Network in 2016. She was also one of NCSG performers during our Cary Festival. You may contact her at: [linda@lindagorham.com](mailto:linda@lindagorham.com)*

**"When a day passes it is no longer there. What remains of it? Nothing more than a story. If stories weren't told or books weren't written, man would live like the beasts, only for the day. The whole world, all human life is one long story."**

**– Isaac Bashevis Singer**



Kanute Rarey

## **'CATCH THE BUZZ' STORYTELLING IN THE HAYESVILLE AREA BY NANCY REEDER**

The buzz in Hayesville and Western Carolina is stories. Kanute Rarey has started a movement. Five years ago, he took a storytelling class

with Elizabeth Ellis at the John C. Campbell Folk School which is close to Hayesville. With help from Melanie Knauff and Gayle Cox, Kanute has begun numerous story events in the Hayesville, NC area.

As a member of NC Writers' Network-West, he knew people who wrote stories. Then since he also wrote poetry, he made friends with local poets. Some of his friends wrote songs and sang them. He wanted to create a venue for all these lovers of words.

When he approached the owners of the Corner Coffee and Wine Shop on the Square in Hayesville, Kanute was thrilled they suggested the third Friday evening of each month. Since January they have opened their doors to Kanute and his writing friends. He calls the evening Open Mic Night – Stories on the Square. He says for that opening night, he had no idea if anyone would even come. To his surprise, 70 people showed up, some to share their stories, but many just to listen and enjoy.

People who have a story, song, or poem sign up as they arrive. Kanute thought he would keep the venue to ten people for the hour and a half event, with a time limit of 5-7 minutes, but often he has time for a few more tellers. Baskets are placed on each table for donations to help take care of the nominal fee for renting the space and any other expenses. And the crowds continue to come, listen, and share.

Kanute did not stop there. He wanted to create a space for tellers to practice their stories and give and receive feedback. The Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville hosts this workshop event on the third Thursday at 2pm of each month. On the third Tuesday at 11am, a similar session is held at the Young Harris Mountain Regional Library, GA, just across the border from Hayesville.

Then he decided he wanted to bring Tellabration!, a Worldwide Storytelling event from the National Storytelling Network, to the region as well. This year it will be held at the Moss Memorial Library in Hayesville on Saturday, November 16 from 2:00 – 3:30. He now publishes a monthly email newsletter, continuing his dream for storytelling in Western Carolina. And as Kanute says, "Catch the buzz...!" To find out more about storytelling events in the far west of our state, email Kanute at [kanutetells@gmail.com](mailto:kanutetells@gmail.com)

*Nancy Reeder currently serves on our Board as the Mountains Area Representative. She may be contacted at: [nancyjreeder@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjreeder@gmail.com)*





## AUTUMN'S BREATH

by Donna Marie Todd

The pause is here. Have you felt it? Nature is taking a deep, cool breath and resting for a minute before moving onto the next thing.

Maybe you could do that, too. Maybe you could take in a deep breath and prepare for what's next. Let your stories rest in your heart like apples ripening, preparing to make a delicious pie.

A cool breeze is slipping around the edges of the heat that has baked too many of us this summer. It's sliding up just at sunset, giving us a whiff of what's next. Like a cosmic resetting, a resettling of what is.

I don't know about you, but I often underestimate the stresses of summer. I always think I'll "just relax;" only to have conferences, trips, vacays, tight schedules, too much sunshine, sunscreen, and heat pile up on me like a curse instead of a respite. What the heck happened to my anticipated relaxation?

Why it was just more delicious self-delusion! Like when I make plans with a friend to go to the old-fashioned, hand-dipped ice cream shop where I'm going to order three flavors in a waffle cone only to look at the calorie count and go for the no-sugar-added, mini-yogurt in a pill cup.

After all the teary-hot racing around doing nothing stress of summer, I welcome autumn. It holds my birth month (October) and the clos-

er it gets, the better I feel. (I'm curious. Does that happen to you in your birth month?) While I'm not an astrology person, I find the renewed energy around the time I was birthed quite fascinating. (Witnessing death has changed my opinion about life. A subject for another time perhaps.)

So today I'm doing it. I'm just breathing into that quiet pause nature is offering. As the summer insects sing their closing chorus, I want to sit in that space and rest.

Once again we're in transition whether we planned to be or not. (Have you noticed God doesn't really care whether you're ready or not?)

God lets nature push us along. She gives us visual clues, changes the landscape with color so we don't miss the unfolding of the transition. While nature is ever-changing, we experience transitions, too: birth, school, graduation, work, marriage, babies, illness, and then when we least expect it, death.

And each little transition is sacred. Each one deserves to be held in our hearts and celebrated for the special moment it is. So don't miss this one. Sit with nature and take a deep breath. Don't worry about getting lost there. Life will push you along soon enough!

As the cool breezes blow in, wrap your stories around you and sit in the warmth of their words.

*Donna Marie Todd is a multi-faceted artist who delivers perfectly-crafted performances that combine her talents as a speaker, writer, storyteller and singer. She may be contacted at: [donnamarie@donnamarietodd.com](mailto:donnamarie@donnamarietodd.com)*

## Mountain Regional Event

by Nancy Reeder

We organized a Mountain Regional Event that took place on August 16th at 5:30-7:00pm called the "Open Mic Night," held at the Corner Coffee and Wine Shop in Hayesville, NC. Forty-three people attended the event. There was

a Pickin' On The Square, starting right after us in the town square, so we were pleased to have that many. Sometimes there are up to 70+ people at this monthly Pickin'... event.

*See Nancy's article on page 9. You may contact her at: [nancyjreeder@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjreeder@gmail.com)*



# Southern Piedmont Regional Event

by Deborah Winkler

The Southern Piedmont Regional Event for this year was held on May 18 at Reedy Creek Park, in the Charlotte area. Mother Earth-Circles of Caring was our theme. A pavilion provided a story space surrounded by nature. Each teller walked us into their 'storyscape.'

Beth Carter called us into the woods and meadows of Western North Carolina with her original Skippy Skunk story. Her lively, animated telling held our attention as she showed us how Skippy moved from being excluded from a circle of friends to being included.

Trish Dumser's original story had us leapfrogging to Africa. Before long, we were mingling with huge African animals. We experienced how helping one individual to discover an inner gift helps us all. One very young boy joined Trish at the water's edge and together they waded in....

In her Appalachian way, Linda Goodman told the Appalachian story of Sody Sallyratus (soda saleratus). She had us all chiming in like champs on the refrain. If it is true that we all need a little help sometimes, sometimes a little helper is just the thing.

Catherine MacKenzie gave us a garden tour with the Kazakh folktale of The Magic Garden of the Poor. We were all right there to witness the circle of caring that one man created by saving captured birds. It is not so very far from a real truth. As we nurture nature, we nurture ourselves and each other.

Janice Davin told the Native American story of Weaving Woman. She had heard it told by Michael Meade. I needed to hear that story and especially just the way Janice told it. It made me feel very grateful for the long line of tellers that it took to get that story to me.

My story was about Smokey Bear, the Living Symbol. I told it using the Native American pictographic spiral story formation. In preparation, I went to see a real one at the National Museum of the American Indian, in Washington, D.C.

Janice completed our event with an exercise of Storytelling/Story Triggering. Janice shared a story from her days of teaching. Everyone was then paired off to discuss whatever story was triggered by Janice's story. We finished by gathering in a circle where individuals shared their 'triggered story.' In this way, our circle of tellers grew to include those who had really just come to listen.

Storytelling always takes me on an adventure. This is true if I am preparing to tell or listening to a story. In her book *Storycatcher: Making Sense of Our Lives Through the Power and Practice of Story*, Christina Baldwin says, "Story opens up a space between people that is unbound from the reality we are standing in. Our imaginative ability to tell story, and our empathetic ability to receive story, can take us anywhere and make it real."

*Deborah Winkler is currently serving as the Southern Piedmont Area representative. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year she has organized a family storytelling event at the Reedy Creek Nature Center in Charlotte, featuring a number of storytellers in the Southern Piedmont Region. You may contact her at: [winklerdeborah@yahoo.com](mailto:winklerdeborah@yahoo.com)*

## DID YOU KNOW? by the Editor

August House has an available Reading List on their website called learning resources. To browse their site go to: <https://www.augusthouse.com/reading-lists>

One list that caught my

eye is a list of Diverse & Multicultural reading which fits right into the "Common Core Standards" for the classroom.

They also have a handy searchable book finder which includes 216 titles. Searchable by categories:

Author, Grade, Genre, Region, Character Trait and Format.

I find this site eye appealing and easy to use, particularly for stories to tell to students of elementary age.



## WILDWEEK AT

WildWeek is always a special time for me. I will name three reasons: to see and visit with special friends that I only see once or twice a year, to absorb something new, and to apply it to a story I wish to improve.

Dianne Hackworth created Storytellers WildWeek sixteen years ago. Each year she brings a different nationally known presenter to lead the workshop. She has invited some of the very best. This past summer, Loren Neimi was our presenter. He was undeniably amazing.

Loren carried the class through a penetrating week of story creation by exploring the mechanics of plot (various types), point of view and emotional arcs. Each day he provided supportive handouts as a guide to what he covered each day. Even though I created my own notes, I'm thankful I came home with an outline and description of everything covered during the week.

Following are three exercises that opened my eyes:

I brought a history story I developed some years ago, but with the idea of refining it. Rather than creating it chronologically, as I had done, I created a



Workshop Leader - Loren Neimi

By mid-week Loren covered various types of ghost stories. *(Let me interject that he shared his own fantastic stories as examples throughout the week.)* Following his eerie ghost story, he challenged each of us to create our own. I panicked for I only claim one original, which happened to me.

But sitting quietly, I began to write. After 20 minutes, various class members shared their creation, so I risked reading mine. I received a positive reaction. This gave me inspiration to create an ending, which continues to percolate.

I'm looking forward to WildWeek 2020, with GRAMMY-nominated recording artist, Milbre Burch. Always on July 4<sup>th</sup> week. Try it, I think you'll like it!

by the Editor, Sylvia Payne

## WILDACRES

flashback (plot) of this story. This opened my eyes. My story was transformed.

As a follow-up to this concept, Loren asked each person to take what she/ he had written by adding an Emotional Arc, meaning, add emotions to the story. Following this exercise, I was stunned to see how much this improved my story.



Photo above: Jim Payne & Fred Powers

Center photo above: Joel Ling

Photos by the Editor, with the exception of the group photo.



Photo above: Frankie Adkins

Photo left: Janice Del Negro & Sherry Lovett

MORE WildWeek photos on next page.





Photos: Upper left, Mary Hamilton

Group: Photo by Jim Payne

Upper right: Steve Tate

Lower left: Hannah Sue Cooper & Dianne Hackworth

Lower right: Robin Kitson & Jim Payne



## What's Happening With Our Storytellers

### A Tale of Two Charlies



Sherry Lovett and Larry Pearlman

This past summer **Sherry Lovett** and **Larry Pearlman** were the players in a one-act play, "A Tale of Two Charlies" for the Orchard at Altapass (near Spruce Pine, NC) and they also performed the play at White Horse, Black Mountain.

Charlie McKinney had four wives at the same time, and they all got along. He also had 48 children! In contrast, Charlie Silver's wife, Frankie, got hanged for murdering him. This play inter-

weaves these historical stories, which happened near the Orchard at Altapass on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Written by Jo Carson and directed by Kiesa Kay.

### Eric Bannan and Music Camp

*Eric attended several music camps this past summer. Comments made about his favorite camp follows.*

"Just when I thought my music life could not get any better, I arrived at **The Omega Institute for Bobby McFerrin's Circle Songs** - It's All About Us. Bobby and his cadre of teachers guided me and 160 or so other singers on a journey into the art of vocal improvisation and circle singing. I learned how to make up a song on the spot and then improvise multiple parts and teach them to a group of singers gathered in a circle. I even tried soloing over this joyful noise."



# What's Happening With Our Storytellers

## Has Donna Washington Gone Political? by the Editor

Article may be found on **The Road to Now** podcast.  
<http://www.theroadtonow.com/episodes/e138>

Back in August I came across an interesting news article. I first read the words, National Conference of State Legislatures, then... I spotted the name of a person I knew, and noticed the words, **The Power Of Story**.

That person was our own **Donna Washington** teaching state politicians how to listen to and use stories in working with their constituents and one another.

This was NCSL's Legislative Summit held in Nashville, TN, a gathering of over 1,000 legislators across the country. Donna was speaking to them, "about the power of story and its potential for helping inspire action in a live forum hosted by the National Conference for State Legislatures."

Donna served on a panel discussion moderated by NCSL Executive Director Tim Story. During the discussion, Donna explained, "Everyone has foundational story-things that they believe. And if you throw facts at them, their brain sends off the same hormonal signals as fight or flight. Which is why when you have a political discussion with someone who doesn't necessarily agree with you, it either ends up in a screaming fight or someone walks away."

The panel also discussed how stories can change people's hearts. "You have to go out of the way and learn to listen to other people, listen to their story," Donna explained.

Tim Story interjected that "stories can get around these reactions."

"If you pick the right story, you can change an entire group of people," she says.

Donna continued by saying, "And the second you build community with someone, you can begin to talk to them across and through that community."

The Power of Story discussion was presented to an audience with standing room only. Way to go, Donna, we're very proud of you!

## Great American Storytelling Contest 2nd Place Winner

Congratulations to **Donna Marie Todd** who returned home from Park Rapids, Minnesota as the 2019 Second-Place winner in the *Great American Storytelling Contest*. Prior to winning second place, Donna Marie was selected as one of the top four contestants across the country.

During the final contest, held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, each of the four tellers performed their submitted narrative. For the second part of the contest, the audience called out ideas. Each of the four storytellers improvised a 10-minute story from the idea provided by the audience. A professional performer since she was sweet sixteen, Donna Marie drew on her experience as an improvisational comedian in the 1980's for this unusual aspect of the contest.

## Lee Lyons Has Written a Novel

Exciting news! Lee Lyons has been focusing on a grass roots promotion of her new book, *Southern Shamrock*, which has taken ten years to complete. Lee had spent the past 15 years in The Highlands Writers Group, boning up on her writing skills and traveling to her favorite spot, Ireland. Due to her love for Ireland, Lee claims, "bits and pieces have come through in my novel." Take a further look at Lee's novel and how to purchase a copy, by visiting her website: [www.leelyons.me](http://www.leelyons.me)

### North Carolina Storytelling Guild *Our Story* by NCSG

[https://www.bookemon.com/book\\_read\\_flip.php?book\\_id=824921&-check=3796e94dbf830f1c28529ead-5b0a6f8d](https://www.bookemon.com/book_read_flip.php?book_id=824921&-check=3796e94dbf830f1c28529ead-5b0a6f8d)

If you have not viewed or ordered a copy of NCSG's *Our Story*, you may view it at the website above. You may also share this on your social media page. (*Turn to bottom of next page to view the front cover.*)

# Winter Workshop with Tim Lowry

January 24-26, 2020  
The Assembly at Fort Caswell

## "Climbing the Ladder to the Moon"

No one is quite sure where this metaphorical description of storytelling originated. The idea of a ladder to the moon makes a great framework for our weekend. As we ascend each rung of the ladder we will consider the cultural significance and importance of personal narrative, historical stories, folk tales, legends and epics, and finally myth. We will take time to discuss each story type, examine its position in the hierarchy, and hone our skills as practitioners of each genre. There will also be time for examining the underside of this ladder, which is the particular set of business skills needed to work as a professional in this noble and ancient art called storytelling.

**Tim Lowry** tells stories. Pure and simple. We know him. We love him. We are excited to have him once again leading our Winter Workshop! Beyond that, go to his website: [www.storytellertimlowry.com](http://www.storytellertimlowry.com) for more information.

**The Assembly at Fort Caswell** will once again serve as the location for our 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Workshop. The retreat center is located on the grounds of the Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach, on Oak Island, near Southport, NC. The center offers historic facilities with modern amenities, and relaxing views.



Rooms are shared, two people per room (two double beds and a private bathroom). Meals include a Friday night dinner, full breakfast and lunch on Saturday, our popular Saturday night supper of Stone Soup, a continental breakfast on Sunday, and a bounty of snacks!

Space is limited to 30 people. We expect to sell out for Tim's workshop! Please note that once you have registered, no refunds are allowed. If you are unable to attend, you must sell, give away, or forfeit your space at the workshop.

### NCSG members:

Regular price per person - \$235

### Non-members:

Price per person - \$285 (if you are not a member of our guild, you will save money by becoming one. Go to <http://www.ncstoryguild.org> and join today.

If you plan to attend and cannot find your registration form sent to you via email, contact Sylvia Payne at [sylpayne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sylpayne@bellsouth.net).

**TELLABRATION!**  
ASHEVILLE STORYTELLING CIRCLE - 23rd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
**November 24**  
Donna Marie Todd  
Black Mountain  
Zane Chaff  
Hendersonville  
Michael Reno Harrell  
Gwendolyn Ladbetter  
Asheville  
Sherry Lovett, MC  
Little Switzerland  
**3:00 PM \$10**  
Folk Art Center - Blue Ridge Parkway  
INFO: 828.274.1123 or 828.777.9177  
Reservations Recommended  
Sponsored by Southern Highland Craft Guild  
SOUTHERN HIGHLAND CRAFT GUILD  
TELLABRATION! Asheville Storytelling Circle

The Folk Art Center, 382 Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville NC. Advance Reservations: [gudgers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gudgers@bellsouth.net).

<https://ashevillestorycircle.org/>



Our



Story!

Communicating the power, joy, and impact of story to every community in North Carolina since 1998!



# STORYTELLING ONE CHILD AT A TIME

BY ROBIN KITSON

Some storytellers have loads of gigs and their marketing is off the charts great. Some of us practice more than we tell. Others of us get paid off and on and otherwise do it because we just can't help it.

While many people know my telling, I lean more to the now and then paid and I just can't help it bunch. Often, I have heard this little voice "I need to practice more often." Recently it went on for a while longer, "Since you need practice, where could you get it and to make yourself feel good?"

Self-answered, "There is a large hospital down the road, maybe they would like Storytelling."

With some hoops jumped, I arrived for a telling to twenty-five patients, one door at a time. Some doors revealed a child too sick to listen, others revealed a child gone for a "procedure." But then there were the doors that opened, the televisions that turned off, and the small eyes and ears that watched and listened.

During the visit, I got my practice with a live human audience though small. It was very different from doing a class of children, but they paid attention, a few did call and response, and a couple laughed out loud. There was one child so draped over I expected nothing, but he laughed more than anyone even whilst linked to an IV pole.

One parent wanted to talk a while about her huge dog that accidentally broke the leg of her youngest child and how the other four cried worse than he did. There were Spanish speakers too. For them I did my tiny repertoire of Spanish and English stories. One of them stated, "My child's Spanish is not that great so this will be good for her." Little one replied as I left, "Mama I understood the story, it was funny."

After my last child thanked me, I just couldn't help myself so told to the staff, in record time they were busy.

All in all, it was a good experience. They want me back,



a good thing. Telling to kids in a hospital will never be the pinnacle of all time but I gained enough smiles to make it worthwhile. They told me to consider branching out to the isolation rooms and now and then I might find a child in the Pediatric Intensive Care area to visit.

It is a good thing there are more than one me in my head. One is forever wishing, but the other can decide, plan and act.

*Robin Kitson serves on the Board as the President Elect, and is a long standing Guild member. She is well known for her Cajun stories from the Ninth Ward in New Orleans where she grew up. You may contact her at: [nanirobin@gmail.com](mailto:nanirobin@gmail.com)*

**"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all."**

**- Ban Ki-moon**

If you have ever lived in the Piedmont or Coastal Plains sections of our great state of N.C., you have most likely paid a visit to the 1200 acre lake known as White Lake sometime in your life time. With its clear water, sandy bottoms and gradual drops in water levels, it's known as one of the safest big bodies of water in the U.S. and it's a big boost for tourism in Bladen County. No one actually knows where the many lakes in that area came from. Some say meteorites hit these areas many years ago and formed these great holes which are fed by subterranean springs. No matter how they were formed, they have provided fresh drinking water and all types of water recreation for many years.

I remember in the early fifties, my granddaddy being a part time surveyor, did some work in the area and had a chance to buy up a few lake front lots at a good price but my grandmother somehow talked him out of it. That was as close as our family ever got to owning any property on White Lake.

Well, not owning any land on the lake didn't stop us from taking day trips to the lake in our fifty model Ford, no-sir-ree. Why we'd leave bright and early and drive down old 74 right through the middle of Laurinburg, hit 211 in Lumberton and then take Highway 41, right into Elizabethtown. Then we would drive down the hill and cross the Cape Fear River at Tory Hole and in just nine more miles we'd be a sittin' at White Lake.

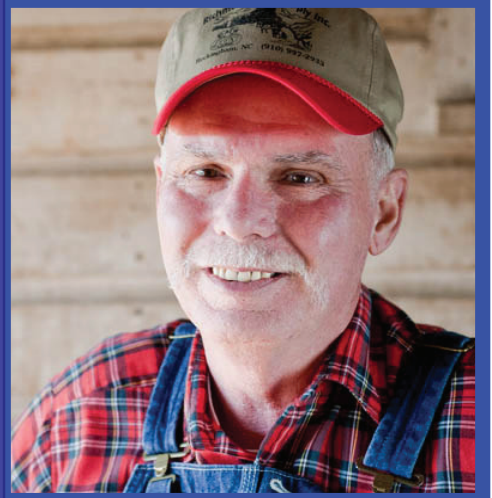
Goldston Beach was and still is the place to go if you don't want to rent a motel room or

## A Trip to White Lake

by J.A. Bolton

cottage for a night or two. They have large bathhouses you can change your clothes in, a long pier over the water, a place to eat, souvenir shop and game room and, last but not least, carnival rides like bumper cars, tea cups, tilt-a-whirl and of course hobby horses.

The roads have changed a little since my Mom and Dad and I would go to the lake. The other weekend my wife and I thought taking our two youngest grandkids to the lake would be a treat for them and us as well, as we hadn't been in a spell. Away we went down Highway 74, bypassing Laurinburg, hitting 95 and a right turn on 211 brought us to Highway 41 headed toward Elizabethtown. But you know me, if'n I see a flea market or a large yard sale, I've got to stop and check it out. This time it happened to be a place called the Peddlers Mall right beside Highway 41, going out of Lumberton. Man, you talking about some old antiques, I thought I had died and gone to antiques heaven inside that large store. Old farm equipment, furniture, clothes, carpenter tools, glassware, toe sacks and just about anything you haven't seen in a long while, they've got it for sale in that store. Check it out



when you go down to Fullers in Lumberton to eat.

As we made our way to Elizabethtown on Friday evening, we saw a big sign saying that a car show would be held the next day under the shade of a big grove of pecans trees right there in town. The sign said, "You don't want to miss this show," so we thought we would come back Saturday for the show. I'll tell you about the nice old cars and the old rat rod truck we saw in another story.

We arrived at White Lake, unpacked, and the grandchildren took a dip in the lake. The lake wasn't as clear as I remembered it to be because there had been five inches of rainfall the day before we arrived.

The next morning it was back in the lake for all of us although in all the rush to pack I forgot my bathing suit. You know a country boy can survive and can make do with all most anything so I put on a pair of Bermuda shorts and jumped right in. We hadn't been in the water long when a small man and a rather large and robust lady walked out onto the pier. Both had on

*Continued from previous page.*

their bathing suits and the lady was carrying one of the biggest plastic floats I reckon I ever seen. Now I'm not telling no joke folks, that float was bigger than any big man recliner I've ever seen. After rubbing on about a quart of suntan lotion the lady told the little man to jump in the lake and hold the float so she could get on it.

Well folks, what happened next was a sight to behold. The little man held the float right under the steps coming down the pier into the water as the robust lady made her way backwards down the steps. She told the man to hold the float steady as she fell back into the large float. Well 'bout time she landed that float turned over and flipped her right out. Now I want you to know, before she came up, that little man had jumped onto the pier and was headed to the house.

Well, that large lady wasn't gonna be out done, so she pulled the float to the edge of the water and flopped down right in the center of it. She floated around for a while and then a boat came by and the waves washed her under the pier. Folks, you ain't gonna believe what happened next. She was trying to maneuver that float from under the pier, when a nail punched a hole in it. Have any of you ever let the air out of a large balloon and released it? Well you know what happens next. Having a least 400 hundred psi. of air in the float; that float sputtered right loud and flew out from under that pier like a rocket with that lady hanging on for dear life. Both the float and the large lady zipped through the no wake zone in nothing flat and headed toward the middle of the lake. I ain't never seen nothing like that in all my born days. Finally, the float ran out

of air; and the woman and her float sank like the Titanic. The people around the lake that were watching stared in disbelief, their eyes as big as saucers. But mind you that lady just floated to the surface and back stroked all the way back to shore as if nothing had happened.

Folks, I have seen a lot of strange things in my lifetime but I'd put that lady's ride on her monster float in the top one hundred of my list!!

I hope you have enjoyed this story of our trip to White Lake and remember, there are stories everywhere if'n you are willing to look for them.

*J.A. Bolton is a member of the N.C. Storytelling Guild, Anson County Writer's Club, Richmond County Historical Society and the Story Spinners in Laurinburg. You may contact him at: [ja@jabolton.com](mailto:ja@jabolton.com)*

## Connie Regan-Blake's Summer Storytelling Retreat & Adventure

**June 21-27, 2020, Asheville, North Carolina**  
**Partial scholarships available.**

**Join us June 21-27, 2020 for Connie's 14th Annual Summer Storytelling Retreat & Adventure – 7 days of practice and performance, feedback and discovery. Every gardener knows that plants need two things: time and sunlight. The same is true for stories. Come to this week-long storytelling workshop in picturesque Asheville, NC and encourage your stories to come out of the shadows.**

**Enjoy a whole-life approach to being a teller, one in which "telling" is as much**

**about listening to yourself and the world around you as it is about skills and preparation to tell. You will engage in exercises, conversations, tellings, teaching, and 'deep listening' that will nourish your being and your stories while bringing them into the light whether the telling is for a family gathering, a corporate event or a storytelling festival audience.**

**[Connie@storywindow.com](mailto:Connie@storywindow.com)**  
**[StoryWindow.com](http://StoryWindow.com)**  
**828-258-1113**





## November 2019

**November 6-10: National Association of Black Storytellers National Conference and Festival**, Willa Brigham will be one of the Featured Tellers. Embassy suites by Hilton, 300 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. Email questions: [questions@nabsinc.org](mailto:questions@nabsinc.org). Contact: Festival Director Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed at 215.796.2785.

**November 10: *Mind-FULL: Stories of a Reluctant Mediator***. Kathy Ramirez is premiering her one-woman show. It is full of humor and heart and takes us on her unsuspecting quest to find something that resembles peace in her busy mind. Connie Regan-Blake is excited to share that Kathy is a coaching student of hers. Connie will be emceeing this event; Sunday at 5:00pm. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://ambrosewest.com>. Parking is free and plentiful. Ambrose West, 312 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC.

**November 13: *The Roadhouse Storytellers***® event will feature five magnificent tellers Saturday evening, 7pm. Pittsboro Roadhouse, 39 West Street, Pittsboro, NC. Contact: 919.542.2432.

**November 13: *Spoken Word Open Mic*** at Historic Eureka Inn, downtown STORY TOWN! 127 W. Main St. Jonesborough, TN. 2nd Wednesday of each month. Sign up at 6:30 for the 7pm show! There is be no Open Mic in December or January. More information at <http://www.storytellingcalendar.com> or [davidjoetells@gmail.com](mailto:davidjoetells@gmail.com).

**November 15: *OPEN MIC Night Stories on the Square***. Friday, 6:00-7:30pm. Doors Open at 5:45pm. Third Friday of the month. Corner Coffee and Wine Shop, 66 Church Street, Hayesville, NC. Shop contact: 828.389.3800. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](mailto:KanuteRarey), Storyteller, 502.525.7272 or [www.kanuterarey.com](http://www.kanuterarey.com).

**November 16: *TELLABRATION tm - National Celebration of Story Storyteller Showcase***. Saturday, 2-3:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26 Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Contact Library: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](mailto:KanuteRarey), Storyteller, 502.525.7272, or [www.kanuterarey.com](http://www.kanuterarey.com).

**November 16: *The Story Exchange***. A Work on Work, open to anyone, a style gathering where storytellers and perform-

ers can get feedback from peers on pieces that aren't ready for public performance. Third Saturday each month, 2-3pm, unless otherwise announced. Healing Arts Exchange, 617 W Palmetto St, Florence, SC. <https://www.jessthstoryteller.org/calendar>.

**November 21: *TELL IT LIKE IT IS. Workshop: Story creation and practice***. Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26 Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Library contact: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](mailto:KanuteRarey), Storyteller, 502.525.7272 or [www.kanuterarey.com](http://www.kanuterarey.com).

**November 24: *Asheville Storytelling Circle's Tellabration***. With Michael-Reno Harrell, Gwenda LedBetter, Zane Chait, Donna Marie Todd, and Sherry Lovett as emcee. Sunday, from 3-5pm. The Folk Art Center, 382 Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville NC. Advance Reservations: [gudgers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gudgers@bellsouth.net).

## December 2019

**December 3: *Michael Reno Harrell***. Come celebrate the holidays and the people of the Blue Ridge with songwriter and storyteller, Michael Reno Harrell. Michael brings all new stories and songs about the folks from these mountains that he has known. Tuesday, 6:30pm. [Transylvania County Library](http://Transylvania County Library), 212 South Gaston Street, Brevard, NC. Contact: 828.884.3151.

**December 4: *13th Annual Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration***. Keynote Speaker, Willa Brigham. Wednesday, 7:00pm. Burney Center, 5051 New Centre Drive, UNCWilmington, NC. Contact: Manuel C Lloyd, Program Coordinator, 910.962.3000.

**December 5-7: *Uncalled for Tour – Winter Blunderland***, with Bil Lepp, Kim Weitkamp & Andy Offutt Irwin. The Trio is back with a brand new set of holiday stories and songs. 2pm – matinee concert, \$20; 7:30pm evening concert, \$20. Reservations strongly recommended. The International Storytelling Center, 100 West Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. <https://www.storytellingcenter.net/event/uncalled-trio-holiday-concerts-evening/2019-12-05/> or 800-952-8392.

**December 13: *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol***. For a truly special holiday outing, see Storyteller Tim Lowry, dressed in Victorian costume, in his renowned one-man show. Matinee concert, 2-3:30pm. Evening concert, 7:30-9pm. Tickets: \$20. Suitable for ages 10 and up. International Storytelling Center, 100 West Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Contact: 800.952.8392.

**December 19: *Donna Marie Todd's "Stories of Christmas,"*** with pianist Kevin Bryant. Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm. The White Horse Black Mountain, 105 Montreat Road, Black Mountain, NC. \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance from [The White Horse](http://TheWhiteHorse.org). Afterglow at Donna Marie's home. Contact: 828.669.0816.

**December 19: *A Dicken's of a Tale: Facets of Humanity***. What facets of humanity great and small have you seen during the holiday season? What whoppers have plopped onto your holiday table? Friends and family always bring the best stories! Fourth Thursday, 7-8:30pm, unless otherwise announced. Seminar Brewery, 551 W Lucas St, Florence, SC. Any and all changes will appear here: <https://www.jessthstoryteller.org/calendar>; also shared via social media.

## December 21: *The Story Exchange*

A Work on Work, open to anyone, a style gathering where storytellers and performers can get feedback from peers on pieces that aren't ready for public performance. Third Saturday each month, 2-3pm, unless otherwise announced. Healing Arts Exchange, 617 W Palmetto St, Florence, SC. <https://www.jessthstoryteller.org/calendar>.

## January 2020

**January 11: *Storyteller, Donna Washington***. Will perform at [Community Church of Chapel Hill](http://Community Church of Chapel Hill) from 6-8pm. 106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC. Contact: 919.942.2050.

**January 16: *TELL IT LIKE IT IS. Workshop: Story creation and practice***. Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26 Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Library contact: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](mailto:KanuteRarey), Storyteller, 502.525.7272 or [www.kanuterarey.com](http://www.kanuterarey.com).

**January 17: *OPEN MIC Night Stories on the Square***. Friday, 6:00-7:30pm. Doors Open at 5:45pm. Third Friday of the month. Corner Coffee and Wine Shop, 66 Church Street, Hayesville, NC. Shop contact: 828.389.3800. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](mailto:KanuteRarey), Storyteller, 502.525.7272 or [www.kanuterarey.com](http://www.kanuterarey.com).

**January 18: *Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration***. Storyteller, Willa Brigham. Saturday, 10:00am. Page Walker Arts and History Museum, 119 Ambassador Loop, Cary, NC. Contact: 919.460.4963.

**January 25: *African American Celebration*** with Storyteller, Willa Brigham. Saturday, 10:30am-5:00pm. NC Museum of History, 5 E Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC. Contact: 919.814.7000.

## February 2020

**February 14-16: St. Simons Island Storytelling Festival.** Featuring storytellers Sheila Arnold, Andy Offutt Irwin, Anne Rutherford, Donald Davis, and Bil Lepp as Emcee. Epworth By The Sea, A Christian Conference and Retreat Center, St. Simons Island, GA. Contact: 912.638.8688.

**February 20: TELL IT LIKE IT IS.**  
**Workshop: Story creation and practice.** Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26 Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Library contact: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**February 21: OPEN MIC Night Stories on the Square.** Friday, 6:00-7:30pm. Doors Open at 5:45pm. Third Friday of the month. Corner Coffee and Wine Shop, 66 Church Street, Hayesville, NC. Shop contact: 828.389.3800. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**February 28-29: Rocket City Storytelling Festival.** Featuring master storytellers Michael Reno Harrell, Kim Weitkamp, and Andy Offutt Irwin. The New Room at Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road, Huntsville, AL. Contact Eva and Vic Thompson at: [camilla.pruitt@trinityhsv.org](mailto:camilla.pruitt@trinityhsv.org).

## March 2020

**March 6-8: Azalea Storytelling Festival.** Featuring Michael Reno Harrell and others.

214 Bull Street, LaGrange, GA. Contact [info@lsparts.org](mailto:info@lsparts.org) or 706.882.9909.

**March 21-22: Big Fibbers Storytelling Festival.** Rome, GA. <https://bigfibbers.com/>.

**March 19: TELL IT LIKE IT IS.**  
**Workshop: Story creation and practice.** Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26 Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Library contact: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**March 20: OPEN MIC Night Stories on the Square.** Friday, 6:00-7:30pm. Doors Open at 5:45pm. Third Friday of the month. Corner Coffee and Wine Shop, 66 Church Street, Hayesville, NC. Shop contact: 828.389.3800. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**March 20-22: Cumberland Falls Storytelling Festival.** Featuring Michael Reno Harrell and others. Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, Corbin KY.

## April 2020

**April 3-4: Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival.** Featuring Sheila Kay Adams, Charlotte Blake Alston, Noah Baum, Donald Davis and Gene Tagaban. Union County Schools Fine Arts Center, 926 Panther Overlook, Blairsville, GA.

**April 16: TELL IT LIKE IT IS.** **Workshop: Story creation and practice.** Thursday, 11:00-12:30pm. Moss Memorial Library, 26

Anderson Street, Hayesville, NC. Library contact: 828.389.8401. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**April 17: OPEN MIC Night Stories on the Square.** Friday, 6:00-7:30pm. Doors Open at 5:45pm. Third Friday of the month. Corner Coffee and Wine Shop, 66 Church Street, Hayesville, NC. Shop contact: 828.389.3800. Contact: [Kanute Rarey](#), Storyteller, 502.525.7272.

**April 17-19: Stone Soup Storytelling Festival.** Woodruff, SC. <http://www.stonesoup.org/festival/>.

**April 24-26: Storytelling: Have I Got a Story for You!** To be taught by Willa Brigham. John C Campbell Folk School, 1 Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC. Contact: 828.837.2775.



## NCSG – Board of Directors 2019-2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

**President:** Alan Hoal - [alan.hoal@gmail.com](mailto:alan.hoal@gmail.com)

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**Journal Editor/ Membership:** Sylvia Payne - [sylpayne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sylpayne@bellsouth.net)

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**Mountains Representative:** Nancy Reeder - [twconnect@yahoo.com](mailto:twconnect@yahoo.com)

**Piedmont Triad Representative:** Alice Cunningham - [alicesplace@bellsouth.net](mailto:alicesplace@bellsouth.net)

**Piedmont Triangle Representative:** Cyndi Morgan - [celestelunar9@gmail.com](mailto:celestelunar9@gmail.com)

**Southern Piedmont Representative:**  
Deborah Winkler - [winklerdeborah@yahoo.com](mailto:winklerdeborah@yahoo.com)

## Accepting Articles

Articles, stories, and storytelling news are needed for NCSG's Spring 2020 issue of the *Journal of Tar Heel Tellers*.

We ask that you include storytelling events that you are aware of (*must be open to the public*). They will also be included on NCSG's website 'Events' page at <http://www.ncstoryguild.org/events.html>.

Allow three to four weeks notice for your event to get posted on NCSG's website 'Events' page.

**Deadline:** March 15, 2020  
Send to: [sylpayne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sylpayne@bellsouth.net).