

Forest of Wake Storyfest by E. Gale Buck

I strolled from the theater at the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre about a quarter to eleven and the lobby was full. Expectant young people and their families were gathering for a special concert by Donna Washington. Moments later doors opened and these special needs families flowed into the theater and patiently took their seats. Then Donna took the stage and transported everyone into magical worlds, engaging the listeners to take part and weaving one tale into the next.

Thus began the 2016 Forest of Wake Storyfest amidst a chorus of laughter and applause, faces lit up through the magic of storytelling. After a light lunch Donna moved to a workshop for folks who wanted to learn to tell their own story. A packed room of folks wanting to learn the essence of telling stories. But this was not a sit down and listen, not with Donna at the helm. Participants paired up and practiced sharing stories, focusing on delivery, voice control, and of course, their story.

While Donna conducted her workshop, Lona Bartlett took to the stage in the theater and delighted a small audience with youthful tales of wonder. Lona brought a friend with her, a demanding little lion who wanted everything his own way. And her story assistant, her puppet, kept everyone's attention with eyes wide open and lips smiling and laughing.

Dan Blaisdell followed Lona, but you may not know Dan. Two years ago we adopted a philosophy of scheduling storytellers for this Wake Forest festival. To provide the widest possible experience for the audience and promote storytelling at all levels we sought to recruit tellers from the national level, regional, and local or new voices. Dan appeared at our open mic in the 2015 festival and was a unanimous choice for the local, new voice spot. Equipped with guitar and a song book filled with original melodies, story melodies, Dan brought music to Storyfest. Whenever Dan was playing, I could see fingers tapping and feet swishing.

Our second session found Lona teaching a group how to use puppets. Peeking through the door I witnessed experienced storytellers falling in love with bits of cloth. These made up creatures took on a life of their own, a different life with each teller as stories took on new, richer telling.

Donna returned to the stage with Dan while Lona conducted her workshop. Workshops and afternoon concerts were enjoyed by all who attended, one couple drove over 300 miles as a birthday present, but our stage did not go quiet. At four o'clock we turned the microphone



Lona Bartlett and Donna Washington, performers. Gale Buck festival committee member. Photo credit, Lona Bartlett

over to those who just wanted to share a story. Eight tellers got up and shared their tale, five of them for their very first time.

Dinner was unbelievable, when tellers and family members got to relax and let their hair down. This is the time when you realize just what a tight community our North Carolina Storytellers are. One of the best shows of the day.

After supper we returned to the theater for one more performance. Lona had everyone in stitches presenting "Heck no, we didn't bury my mother." Dan followed with a broad array of original melodies and known favorites, including "Riders in the Sky" and my favorite story "Best if Used By." Donna closed the 2016 Storyfest with her own rendition of Sir Gawain and the Lady Ragnell.

Throughout the day and evening I saw folks smiling and soaking up tales of magic and wonder. As our audience left after the evening concert, each of the storytellers was surrounded by people saying "Thank You!" Storytelling is more than just sharing a tale or two,

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JOURNAL OF TAR HEEL TELLERS

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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, Priscilla Best, E. Gale Buck,
Robin Kitson, Joan Leotta, Jeannie McPhail, Ray
Mendenhall, Marva Moss, Nancy Reeder with
Milbre Burch, and Donna Washington.



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

Congratulations to **Michael Reno Harrell** who recently published his book, *Old Trucks & Good Dogs* . . . **Cynthia Moore Brown's** book, *Pirates and Ghosts of the Carolina Coast*, is now available as an E-Book thru Kindle/Amazon, and Apple . . . A gigantic applause goes to our own storytelling matriarch, **Gwenda LedBetter**. In July she received the *NSN Lifetime Achievement Award* at the National Storytelling Conference in Kansas City, Kansas . . . **Joan Leotta** performed her Civil War one-woman show, *SPY! Belle Boyd's Aunt Tells ALL*, in Prince William County Virginia in September . . . **Linda Goodman** and **Lona Bartlett** shared their talents through their *Stories for Peace* program held in Matthews, North Carolina on the Night of International Peace - September 21st . . .

"The difference between the correct and the almost correct word is the same as the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." - Mark Twain

Stories: Web of Life

from the editor's desk

Our lives are filled with stories. At birth we stepped into this world with nothing. As we leave this world our lives will have been filled with a web of stories. Hopefully we will leave a part of this web behind for others. Stories of family, stories of love, history, wisdom, perseverance, joy, sorrow, overcoming adversity and so much more.



Photo courtesy, the Editor

There is no stopping. As storytellers we hear and create stories everyday. Even when we aren't aware. Often the story web can become rather complex.

The other day I watched a little spider carefully build his web. I wonder if I could ever build and put together a story as skillfully as that little spider weaves it's web? I doubt it. Yet I keep trying. The longer we live the more complex our web of life becomes.

I received an inspiring email from my neighbor the other day. Something immediately caught my attention. And I quote here, "A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves." Author Unknown.

As storytellers we are sharing the love of story and pouring out our heart to listeners. We have opened ourselves up to them. We may never know what impression we leave behind or how our stories may encourage or help someone. However I hope we will recall the above quote and strive to give our best.

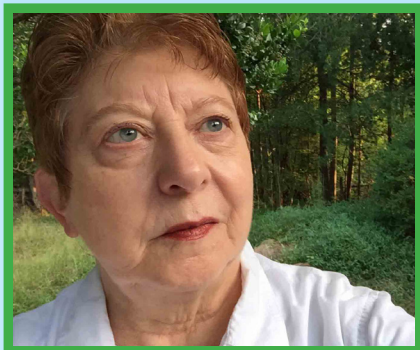
I encourage you to set aside time to enjoy the stories, articles, thoughts, storytelling events and bits of news prepared for you in this Fall 2016 newsletter. My thanks and gratitude to all whose hands and minds contributed to this issue.

Submit articles for JTHT Spring 2017 issue to:

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

E-mail: sylpayne@bellsouth.net

Deadline for Spring Issue: March 15, 2017.



President's Message by Terri Ingalls

Whew!! I got tired just thinking about trying to get it all done with the limited time available (Although I am officially (I thought) retired, I am now working a regular 40-hour week).

My fears were that the Festival and the membership of NCSG would be under-served and important issues and projects would slip through the cracks. That one or both would suffer.

I needed help. So the Stress Busters – Janice Davin (ex-officio president), Elena Miller (president elect) and Sylvia Payne (NCSG anchor) – stepped up and created a solution: a Quadra-Pres administration. For the next year we four will share the presidential duties of the NCSG.

I will continue to focus on being the on-site coordinator for the Festival;

working with Elena to make it successful and fun. This is a new concept and we are diligently working out the bugs and getting organized so there are as few as possible overlaps or gaps. It is exciting to be working with these fantastic folks and there aren't words enough (even for a storyteller) for me to express my gratitude and appreciation.

A sincere thank you goes to all of our NCSG members who, with their undying support and dedication to the art of storytelling and to NCSG, bind together as proud members to flourish as one of the most outstanding storytelling guilds in the entire nation.

So – the year awaits and I look forward to filling it with adventure, success, fun, and progress.

Terri Ingalls

What a year awaits us! The *100-County Journey* continues. Though now it has a new name - we're calling it the *Storytelling Odyssey*. Tellers all over the state are sharing stories to celebrate and encourage storytelling. Plans and details continue to be made for the 2017 Tarheel Tellers Storytelling Festival here in Mount Airy in November of that year. We're marking our calendars for Winter Retreat and Spring Retreat.

NCSG Board 2016-2017

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Join the Asheville Storytelling Circle in their 21st Anniversary Celebration of Tellabration!

Featured with Donald Davis, will be Elena Miller, Kathy Gordon, Charlie St. Clair, David Joe Miller and Wallace Shealy. Head to the Parkway in November - 382 Blue Ridge Pkwy, Asheville, NC.

Storyteller or Writer? by Jeannie McPhail



I've been a member of the NCSG for several years now. I'm in the directory. I pay my dues. I attended a few workshops and events in the beginning and enjoyed them. Originally I joined the guild with a friend who told her stories at nursing homes. We enjoyed doing that together, but she was the star. I just sat in back and took photos or recorded her performances and was happy to do so.

After she was promoted to Heaven, I thought about striking out on my own on the opposite end of the spectrum. My stories are for children...library story times...schools. I used to be a library director, so reading at story time and working with storytellers was very familiar to me, but being a storyteller was a different story.

It's not that I'm uncomfortable being in front of an audience either. I sang in a Southern Gospel group most of my adult life, a few times in front of thousands of people and on the same stage with some

very famous singers. I'm not shy.

Then there's the money factor. While I learned to be a storyteller, I would have hated to charge anyone! And what would I charge for my stories anyway? And more than that, would I be making it harder for those of you who tell stories for a living? So, I still haven't made myself available as a storyteller. And I think I finally figured out why.

I'm not a storyteller in person. I'm a storyteller in books. I love to write my words down and share them in print. I like that they last. The performance can be repeated as many times as the pages of the book open. And I can let my imagination soar from right here in my writing nook in front of my computer. And with technology and social media, even as an author I don't have to travel at all and I can reach millions of people with my stories. Well, hundreds anyway.

And that's OK. The NCSG has wonderful storytellers who shine

onstage and in libraries and school assemblies all over our state. I love to hear you tell

your stories and I'm glad to still be a part of the guild, even from the sidelines. I will continue to support you and tell others about your mission. I salute you for your love of keeping the age old tradition of live performance of story.

So here's to storytellers and writers. Whether we tell, write, or both, the world needs to hear our stories. But I've realized it's OK to not do it all. Do whatever you are called to do and do it well.

J.A. (Jeannie) McPhail is the author of three books; two middle-grade novels and a memoir. She is a member of NCSG, the Morganton Writers Group, and SCBWI. <http://www.jamcphail.com/>; <http://www.facebook.com/jamcphailbooks>

Annual Festivals in North Carolina and Contiguous States compiled by the Editor

North Carolina

Hatteras Storytelling Festival (Early May 2017) <http://outerbanksguides.com/event/hatteras-storytelling-festival/>

The Ocracoke Storytelling and Music Festival (June 2017) <http://www.ocracokefestival.org/>

Storytelling Festival of Carolina (October 14-16, 2016) <http://www.storytellingfestivalofcarolina.org/>

Tar Heel Tellers Storytelling Festival (NCSG) (November 3-4, 2017) <http://ncstoryguild.org/events.html>

Toe River Storytelling Festival (July 2017?) <http://toeriverstorytelling.org/>

South Carolina

Hagood Mill Storytelling Festival (October 15, 2016) <http://visitpickenscounty.com/event/1485/hagood-mill-storytelling-festival/> or 864.898.2936

Patchwork Tales Storytelling Festival (Spring 2017) <http://www.patchworktales.org/>

Starburst Storytellers Festival (October 16-20, 2016) www.andersonlibrary.org

Stone Soup Storytelling Festival (Spring 2017) <http://www.stonesoup.org/>

Saint Simons Island Storytelling Festival (February 2017) <https://www.hform.com/form.cgi?10875852>

Georgia

Azalea Storytelling Festival (March 2017) <http://www.lagrange.edu/events/azalea/index.html>

Bear on the Square Mountain Festival (April 22-23, 2017) <http://www.bearonthesquare.org/node/235>

Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival (March 31-April 1, 2017) <http://www.yhc.edu/academics/humanities/storytelling>

The Peach State Storytelling Festival (No date listed - 2017) <http://southernorderofstorytellers.org/events/sos-storytelling-events/>

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Catching Up With . . . Priscilla Best

by the Editor and Priscilla

How it all started. According to Priscilla, a long, long time ago when she was just a Junior High student, she was chosen by her home room teacher to represent the class in a speaking contest. The competition was between the two eighth grade classes. The "Gettysburg Address" by President Abraham Lincoln was the item of interest. Coached by her teacher, Mr. J.J. Smith, Priscilla was introduced to the importance of speaking with passion and conviction. Her classmates formed the audience and each day in class leading up to the day of the contest, they staged a rehearsal. Storytelling seeds were planted. Priscilla and her class won!

Following college Priscilla's first job was a part-time classroom teacher and part-time high school librarian. Within a few years she found her niche at the elementary school library where she and her students found a way to "play" their way right into literacy. Priscilla discovered that students were most often willing to explore literature with enthusiasm when they were following a daring leader. She experienced her first example of this while attending a literacy seminar facilitated by noted artist, Illustrator, poet and writer Ashley Bryan (Beat the Turtle Drum, Pum Pum.) He actually danced and twirled himself around and across the platform as he lifted the words of text right off the pages of the book he shared with his audience. Priscilla's thoughts centered around being thrilled to see put into action what she had been feeling about helping her students experience literature.

During weekly library class visits Priscilla read aloud to her students frequently making use of more of the classics and contemporary award

winning titles. She introduced Book Fairs to the school and to the community and the love of books and reading grew.

Storytelling was formally introduced. Profits generated from the book fair sales were channeled to sponsor Regional Storyteller visits to the school. NCSG Charter Member, Ron I. Jones was the inaugural storyteller who performed at the school. Storyteller Willa Brigham, featured host of the NC Smart Start Kids TV Program, was hired to bring storytelling to students, teachers, staff and parents the following year. When the Wayne County Board of Education sponsored North Carolina native and nationally known storyteller, Jackie Torrence, to tour and provide storytelling in all elementary schools in the district, Priscilla's school was already primed with a love of story and heightened listening skills.

Her quest for storytelling grew when she realized that through many years of reading her favorite books to the students, she had memorized the texts. When her daughter, who was student teaching in a first grade classroom, requested that her mom drive 1.5 hours to share stories with the first graders Priscilla declared she did not know how to storytell. Under protest, she made the trip. She experienced the unexpected joy of uninhibited giving and receiving that only happens when a story is shared eye to eye. Realizing that true storytelling is much more than memorized texts, Priscilla began seeking venues where storytelling training was available.

She discovered that, "joining local, state, and national storytelling organizations (and becoming active) was a breeding ground for training. Thrill seekers are rewarded through treasures found in discount stores, garage and yard



sales. So, at one of those sales when Priscilla uncovered the copy of 'Inviting the World In: thinking About Difficult Stories' authored by Storytellers Loren Niemi and Elizabeth Ellis, that felt like Christmas."

Priscilla found that, "experiencing growth and joy through fellowshipping with other storytellers is so valuable."

When I asked her to share with us her favorite genre for telling, this was her response: "Folktales, stories and chants of African American and other cultures, family stories, fables and inspirational stories. Seasoned with 'Call and Response' techniques to create audience participation when appropriate."

We all face certain challenges as storytellers. Priscilla 'fessed up saying that "effective time management and effective marketing" have been her greatest challenges.

Some years ago she attended an audience participation workshop at the NSN Conference in Bellingham, Washington.

Most storytellers have had mentors or those who've influenced us over the years. Here are Priscilla's favorites:

Jackie Torrence. Priscilla's favorite quote from Jackie is this, "After you have prepared and are ready to launch your story, remember to take good care of your audience by treating them with dignity and respect -- ALWAYS!"

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Gwenda Ledbetter: Recipient of the Storytelling Lifetime Achievement Award

by Nancy Reeder with
Milbre Burch

Photo credit, Connie Regan-Blake

On July 23rd, to a standing ovation, Gwenda Ledbetter walked onto the stage with Milbre Burch at her arm to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Storytelling Network during their annual conference in Kansas City, MO. This award is presented to individuals in the storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to NSN as well as to the community of storytellers at large. Since 1995 thirty-seven storytellers have been awarded this great honor.

Gwenda has dedicated 56 years to the art of storytelling. From the Pack library in 1962 where she became known as the Story Lady in Asheville to the stage at numerous festivals including the National Storytelling Festival, Gwenda has

performed and continued to share her stories. She wrote and performed Friday's Father, the first of two one-woman shows at the North Carolina Stage Company and when the show opened she was 77 years old. Three years later, she wrote and performed The Old Woman In the Basement, to sold-out houses and standing ovations. Beth Horner says, "If that ain't lifetime achievement, I don't know what is."

In her early years she also hosted a children's television show called, "Tales from the Red Rocker" which went on for sixteen years. This show inspired a Facebook post in 2012 that said:

'Ma'am, are you the lady who used to tell stories and folktales on TV in the seventies? I have very fond memories of that show. I am currently stationed in

Afghanistan and have been having fits of nostalgia over the old days... I used to stay at my grandparents a lot back in the sixties... They would stop what they were doing when your spot came on. And we'd sit and listen. They particularly loved the Jack Tales. I am sure you had a lot to do with my love of history and folklore.'

Gwenda is filled with enthusiastic energy and love. Her stories continue to shape other's lives throughout our world. Congratulations Gwenda!

Nancy Reeder is an educator, writer and storyteller with a master's degree in storytelling. She currently serves on NCSG's Board as the Southern Mountains Representative. She is also North Carolina's liaison to the National Storytelling Network (NSN). She may be contacted at: twhconnect@yahoo.com

NCSG Annual Meeting and Picnic - the Editor

Those who attended the NCSG Annual Meeting and Picnic this past June helped draw our Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to its grand conclusion. Twenty-six members and guests enjoyed a table spread with luscious food accented with tasty desserts.

Some drove lengthy distances, giving us a representation from all six regions of our state. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and welcome several relatively new members and guests as well.

Outgoing president, Janice Davin, wowed us with a well organized Power Point presentation explaining the process of the Guild's new Logo! When the chosen logo appeared on the screen she received, whistles, shouts, and a standing ovation.

To round out the day everyone enjoyed a diverse mixed bag of stories.

We hope you'll join us again next June 2017.



Janice's presentation at the meeting.

They'll Never Sit That Long: Stories Can Capture Anyone

by Donna Washington



Reprinted with Donna's permission. Originally published through her blog in October 2015. Go to: <http://donnawashingtonstoryteller.blogspot.com/>

Last week I performed in one of the High Schools in the area. The school originally booked me in for the ninth grade, but discovered some extra cash. They asked if they could use it for a special show with a small group of students. They gave my husband the acronym they use to describe this group, but nothing else. When I arrived, I asked about this small group. I was told that they are a group of kids with behavioral issues. They have trouble sitting in class, they are easily upset, they tend to get into hassles with the teachers, they are all having academic challenges.

One of the administrators who was showing me around informed me that she had one of these students last year and he was getting a 98 in her class, but 32s in all of the other classes. She knows these kids are smart, but nobody knows how to reach them. Most teachers don't want to deal with them and they end up in ISS (Inner School Suspension), the main office, or out in the hall. They never stay in class long enough to learn anything. They also tend to get in trouble



with other students who goad them into losing their temper, something many of them are prone to do.

So, they begin to file in. Almost all of them are either African American or Hispanic. These kids slumped into the room, took a seat and immediately busied themselves with something other than looking at me despite the fact that their chairs were all turned towards me.

This was a mixed group of kids from ninth to eleventh grade. Once most of them were assembled, I began asking them questions about what they liked to do. They mostly enjoyed sports and art. Nobody offered up an academic subject. I pointed this out, and one of the kids told me that he didn't do school well.

The teacher came in late, and brought a kid who slumped in, tried to sit in the seat next to mine instead of in front of me. I made him sit in the front, he slumped in his seat, and tried very hard to hide. He slouched all the way down, tried covering his face with his hands or pretending to sleep. All of the behavior which usually earns him a trip to ISS or at least makes someone send him out of the room. I ignored him.

I told The Sugar Incident. The kids had a great time, laughing, engaging with me and each other during the tale, and responding appropriately and with enthusiasm. The student in the front was

upset, not because he didn't like the story, but because every now and then he would catch himself in a very vulnerable moment with his hands in his lap, staring at me with eyes as wide as plates. He'd realize I'd caught him, slump down, fold his arms, and try to pretend he wasn't listening. The most amusing point was where he put his hood up and covered his face with his hands only to peek through his fingers at me. If I caught him, he'd close his fingers. It was kind of funny.

When the story was over, he raised his hand and said he had to go and get his books. I let him go. He had a moment of surprise, as if he expected a fight. I have no dog in this game, so I didn't care. He slumped out of the room. The administrators didn't stop him, so I figured it was all right.

"Where is he going?" One of the kids asked.

"Not sure." I told them. "Not my problem." They all started laughing.

Another kid said, "Would you tell us another story?"

I said, "Sure." I told The West Indies. They loved it. I ended that story with, "My father, who has been trained to kill you in fifty different ways, could have made any choice that day, but he chose to make us all laugh, and because of it, we are all still alive, and everyone in that situation was okay. He did this in many instances

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Telling "Biblical" Stories

by Ray Mendenhall

I have gotten quite interested in telling stories based on the Bible. If you think about it, the Bible is a ready source of story material. All of the material in the Bible is in some literary form. There are hero stories (Samson, Joseph, Gideon), human interest stories (Rachel, Leah, Ruth, Naomi), poetry (psalms and some of the prophets), history (the parade of kings and their doings), practical wisdom (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and some of the New Testament) and there are outright stories (parables, Jonah, Job and the life of Jesus). The Bible is, as it were, a ripe field of story material. As I have studied and reflected on this I have come up with some tips for developing Biblical stories.

The best place to begin is with the question "what is the theme" of the material? Every story has a central theme that may not be obvious at first. The story of the woman at the well is about thirst (in its literal and figurative form). The Twenty-third psalm is about care. The sower and the seed is about different kinds of soil which translates into the different kinds of people. The prodigal son is about mercy and family. Start with the central theme of the text or story that is the heart of your own telling.

The next step is to consider the situation. What is the setting and circumstance? The ten lepers cry out to Jesus which is forbidden by law and just not done. The woman at the well is of

doubtful reputation but one of God's children. The cripple at Bethesda is stuck on the mythic and miracle cure and turns aside Jesus' offer. Jonah is about prejudice and self-centeredness. What sets the scene, creates the setting? In other words, what is going on in the story or text?

The third step is to identify the problem or tension in the scene. This is the conflict that arises out of the scene. In the story of walking on water, the real tension arises when Peter steps out of the boat. In the prodigal son, it comes with the brother's reaction to the feast. In the saga of David, the tension begins when David sins with Bathsheba.

Next consider what attempts are made to remedy the problem. What do they try to fix the problem? What measures do they undertake to smooth things out? These are not always the effective ones. Joseph's brothers sell him off to get rid of him only to encounter him years later in their need. Job's comforters try to get Job to confess his sin while Job maintains his innocence.

Following this comes the true resolution or solution. How does it turn out? Jesus takes Peter's hand so he won't drown in the sea. Joseph recognizes his brother's action as the providence of God and holds no grudge. Samuel the prophet presents David with his sin and David repents.

Last comes the Conclusion. How does

it reflect the gospel? What is the good news in it? What does it say to us or our world about God? Peter is forgiven for his denial. Joseph forgives his brothers and reunites with his family. Peter finally becomes the person of faith Jesus always knew him to be.

Here is a working outline of the process.

1. Context

What is around or behind or apparent in the text? Begin by describing "Landscape" of the text (background, setting, characters, etc.)

2. Conflict

What is the problem, the "dust that the text raises?" Find the tension point. Describe or lay out the conflict, the struggle, the dilemma of the text.

3. Climax

Where does it all come to a head? Where and how do the opposing forces clash or meet? Describe the action, what happens, how the tension or struggle plays out. How do things resolve?

4. Conclusion

What is the lesson/meaning/ "good news?" What does it say to us or tell us or teach us about God's love and grace? What is the blessing or new knowledge that comes from the story?

Ray Mendenhall, is a pastor, storyteller and musician. He is a frequent contributor to the journal and former NCSG President. You may contact him at rmend@juno.com.

(Annual Festivals...continued from page 4)

Tennessee

National Storytelling Festival (October 7-9, 2016) <http://www.storytellingcenter.net>

Virginia

Sounds of the Mountains Music and Story Festival (April 2017) <http://www.soundsofthemountains.org/>

Storytelling Resource

Hear storytellers on Brother Wolf's podcasts. Currently he isn't creating new ones, but you may access his archives. They contain fascinating shows and interviews with well-known storytellers across the country.

Tellers such as: Charlotte Blake Alston, Lloyd Arneach, Granddaddy June

Bug Mitch Capel, Elizabeth Ellis, Michael Reno Harrell, Michael McCarty, Janice Del Negro, Bil Lepp, Loren Niemi, David Novak, Connie Regan-Blake, Donna Washington and more.

The best place to start enjoying his podcasts is at: <http://www.artofstorytellingshow.com/past-guests/>



Workshop with Dan Keding

by Robin Kitson

"You Are Leaving Real World, Entering Wildacres!" The sign says it all. You can't miss it as you drive the last few yards to Wildacres high up near Little Switzerland in the mountains.

After the drive up our week away from it all began. Nothing beats sitting at the feet of a storyteller with 44 years in the business. It is even better to sit at

the feet of a professional storyteller who is also genuine sans a big ego. "Dan Keding is plum extraordinary" rings out loud as people sadly go back to their version of the real world. Some folk are still kicking and screaming.

This year's bouillabaisse (Cajun go look it up) was a mix of fine fish from SC, NC and TN. For flavor we added species from Minnesota and Florida. From Illinois came our pièce de résistance Dan Keding. Say I "Ah what a savory bouillabaisse!"

After we gathered and settled we began our weeks work. We used ballads to write new stories. What stories they were, fresh ideas flowed from history to romance to weird, the group rose to the challenge. We moved on to learning about adding zip to the tales told via instruments.

We learned about percussion instruments from around the globe. They put me in mind of an old song. "It went zip when it moved, bop when it stopped and brrr when it stood still. I never knew just what it was and I guess I never will." Easy names like spoons and wash boards mingled with tougher ones like axatase, guiro and maracas.

Now to get you all real jealous, we had lots of fun, we sang together, stayed up late, sipped spirits, told stories of spirits, and even got on stage with little kids. It was a blast. I highly recommend Dianne Hackworth's Storytellers Wild Week. It happens every year around the 4th of July. If you get there next year and "I ain't dair cher" holler "Wheryat cher" and I'll come a runnin just leave "de gallery light" on for me.



*Late night informal group relaxation.
Photo courtesy, Jim Payne*

Robin Kitson serves on the Board as the Piedmont Triangle Area Rep. and is a longstanding 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

Fall Treasures! by Marva S. Moss



Slowly, the season of fall nestles into our lives. Temperatures cool. Grassy yards turn brown. Sounds of insect orchestras become almost silent. Soon that silence will be filled with the hoots of owls.

Leaves of the sweet shrub bushes - my favorite plants in the whole yard, become beautiful yellow masses! Nature at its best! Two young maples withhold their reddish-orange leaves - waiting to bring down the final curtain of fall's colors!

Tiny, red trumpet-like flowers are entwined in the weeds of a small field where pumpkins once grew. These

flowers are like little magnets on sunny mornings, as they attract small yellow butterflies which float, dive, and soar from one red trumpet to another. On the north end of that field, flocks of noisy birds stop to rest in the tallest oak, sweet gum, cherry, or maple tree. They search among the weeds of the field, for the seeds of wild flowers, and perhaps a butterfly or two.

Fall is the season for walks through carpets of crunchy leaves, or catching sight of a lighted jack-o-lantern wearing its wide-toothed smile in the moonlight. It is long drives or walks in search of the

perfect display of colors, near streams, hillsides, or along roadways.

In this season of beauty, yellow mums give outlines to our lawns. They welcome families and friends at gatherings, or holiday celebrations. Happy Thanksgiving!

Storage of these fall memories - sights and sounds of this treasured season, will set the stage, to give welcome to winter.

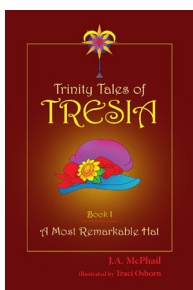
Marva Moss is a retired educator and story-weaver. She shares her stories through the oral tradition and as a writer. Marva is a long standing member of NCSG. She broadens her horizons by studying landscaping and taking piano lessons. She may be contacted at: owlcottage@atmc.net.



Do you have material that you would like to see reviewed? If so, simply send us a complimentary copy and watch upcoming issues for your review.

Trinity Tales of Tresia: A Most Remarkable Hat (Book 1) by Jeannie McPhail

Author Jeannie McPhail's book, *A Most Remarkable Hat* is 'book one' of her planned trilogy. A multifaceted story that will intrigue readers of any age. During this delightful read I was reminded of C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia Series*.



Through the years protagonist, Winnie, was always fascinated by Gran's compelling stories of adventure and intrigue. When Winnie turns twelve years old, Gran and Winnie's aunt decide it's time to reveal their 'hidden family

secret,' which revolves around Gran's remarkable hat. This secret is also shared with Winnie's best friend, Vince, a charming lad who is a family friend.

Friends, Winnie, Vince and Ginny, Winnie's lively Samoyed dog, find themselves living in the world of Tresia, a three realm universe. The Realm of Kai (Life), the Realm of Bachar (Choice), and the Realm Mahvet (Death). In order to pass from one realm into another one must travel by various portals. The adventuresome trio are confronted by beings from both the Realm of Life and the Realm of Death.

The threesome are challenged by clues they must decipher and mystified by bizarre appearances such as sparkling whirlwinds, sand twisters, unusual flickering flames, incredulous trees and much more.

I held my breath as these lovable characters reached the spine-tingling climax. I highly recommend Jeannie's surreal story. It's an amazing creation, written with metaphoric insight.

You may order a copy at: <http://rowepub.com/trinity-tes-hat/> or <https://www.amazon.com/>

(Catching up with . . . cont. from pg 5

Alice McGill. Prolific Eastern North Carolina born teacher, author, storyteller, speaker, who resides in Maryland. Helpful with breathing techniques, stage presence, vocal techniques. Valuable literary resource and encourager. <http://www.theteller.com/>.

Mrs. Irma Blann (Retired Teacher, Substitute Teacher) Encourager.

Mary Carter Smith. Storyteller, Author, Speaker, Poet. Co-founder of NABS (National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.) <http://www.nabs.org/>.

Linda Goss. Storyteller, Author and Co-founder of NABS (National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.) Linda Goss is co-editor of "Talk That Talk: An Anthology of African-American Storytelling."

Doug Lipmann and Pam McGraph. Attended their weekend workshop, Coaching with Pam and Doug, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Doug's Storytelling Workshop In a Box. <http://www.storydynamics.com/>.

Elizabeth Ellis. Storyteller, Author, Workshop Leader.

When asked to think of her most rewarding storytelling experience during her storytelling career, Priscilla recalled

two and described them as 'Precious Moments.'

Her first: "At the completion of a 3rd Grade storytelling assembly, students lined up to file out of the multipurpose room one by one. The last story shared was an African American fable featuring an ant who is successful (eventually) in arriving at his destination (ant hill home) with his beautiful bounty (big crumb) intact. One little girl, instead of saying good-bye to the storyteller began pointing her forefinger toward the storyteller and said, 'never give up, never give up, never give up.' "

Her second: "Being granted the opportunity to travel from the USA to South Africa with more than 55 storytelling delegates representing the National Storytelling Network is a blessing of a lifetime. Greeting South African storytellers on their soil, having them welcome the delegation with gifts of story and artifacts...life changing. Realizing that one can get to know a person only thorough that person's story, can shake one's core while visiting on Robben Island where Nelson Mandella was incarcerated for 18 of his 27 year imprisonment. While standing in the prison cell, visitors are visibly shaken as

a fraction of the magnitude of Nelson Mandella's suffering begins to take shape."

Priscilla's greatest aspiration is, "to continue researching and creating in an effort to provide the right story, at the right time, for the right audience, for the right reason and in the right format."

As her benediction for our interview, Priscilla talked about the time she attended the Memorial Service for Jackie Torrence in December 2004. "Many accolades were given, and the emotions of storytellers and story lovers vacillated between laughter and weeping. How fortunate I was to be seated beside a North Carolina storyteller who saw how much assistance I needed and she slipped her left arm around my right arm which anchored our shivering bodies, though it did little to stop the leaky eyes. My treasure of the service came when North Carolina storyteller Mitch Capel paraphrased Paul Laurence Dunbar's poem, 'When Malinda Sings' and it became 'When Miss Jackie Torrence Did Her Thing.' Suddenly, all was well. Her inspiration still lives on! I am a witness."

Priscilla Best, Heart to Heart Storyteller.

Kamishibai Story Theater: Low Tech Story Sharing for a High Tech World

by Joan Leotta

Until this past June if someone said they were doing Japanese paper story telling, I pictured making origami animals, boxes, fans, while telling. At the end of June, however, I saw, what many of you already know, I'm sure, the art of Kamishibai Story Theater. Maureen Spada, formerly a northeast school librarian, learned the craft at a seminar more than a decade ago. Now a retired golf enthusiast, she broke out her bike, basket and wooden stage to perform at my local library.

Kamishibai is an ancient form of telling that peaked in the 1930s and diminished in popularity as television grew. In the 1930s and during the war, men would bike into a village,

selling candy and telling stories to delighted children. From the moment Spada wheeled her bike into the library meeting room, the audience was hers. She uses the time to introduce the listeners to Japanese language and culture, to the story, and perhaps to a new form for them to use to tell tales. While a professional wooden stage is pricey, a cardboard facsimile is not so hard to make and tellers and students can turn the story time into a story craft time, making their own theatres and sets of screens for telling tales, even ones of their own invention. This is an art form well worth reviving. I've been trying to get together with Spada since June, but I will have to wait until winter takes her off the golf course to capture

her attention and learn more about this form. In the meantime, here are some resources for those who want to revive it for their own audiences, classrooms, and other telling venues.

Kamishibai Story Theater: The Art of Picture Telling by Diane de las Casas
Kamishibai Man by Allen Say
Asian-American Crafts Kids Can Do! by Sarah Hartman

Kamishibai for Kids: Resources: Organizations/ People - www.kamishibai.com/resources/organizations.html

Award winning story performer and author, Joan Leotta, is a longstanding member of the NCSG. She has also served on the Board as a former Regional Representative of the Guild. She may be contacted at: joanleotta@atmc.net

(They'll never sit ... cont. from pg 7)

in our lives. He showed us that violence and fighting rarely solve anything."

The kids looked thoughtful, they nodded, and applauded at the end. Maybe I reached someone, maybe they will remember that story in the future. Don't know, but it was obvious that tale had an impact on them. After my small audience filed out of the room, their teacher leaned in and whispered "You kept their attention. They were engaged, and they asked for another story. That was phenomenal."

I said, "Thank you."

"Hey," he said, "that's not an easy thing to do with this group, I just wanted you to know that it was spectacular." Then he left.

After they were gone, the administrator who had just heard him say this to me started laughing. She said, "When he found out that I'd booked

a forty five minute storytelling session with his class, he was really upset. He told me they'd never sit that long. They were incapable. He told me that thirty minutes would be pushing it because they didn't have the attention span to focus on anything that long."

[Andrew Biemiller](#), an educator says that we know the things that work with reaching students, but we don't have the kinds of schools we need to implement the processes that help students learn.

All of the kids in that small group could probably be taught in such a way that they would be successful. They were engaged. They asked great questions. They learned about people who lived differently and have different challenges, while also watching the world unfold in a way that was familiar. Stories are a way to address students who have a learning style that is not conducive to main stream teaching. The teacher in my small group expected to

have to intervene and ride herd on his students, instead, he saw a side of them he didn't even know existed.

I've done this long enough to expect nothing less. I've seen how stories can impact students no matter where they reside on the learning or behavior spectrum. We all have.

How many times have we heard the phrase, "They'll never sit that long?"

If you find out where they are, meet them there, and create common ground, not only will they sit, you can take them anywhere!

Happy Telling!

Donna Washington, professional storyteller and world traveler, is a multiple award winning recording artist. Whether on the road or at home, she religiously publishes her informative blog called "Language, Literacy and Storytelling." Donna is a former NCSG president. She may be contacted at: qbot5@aol.com

Wildacres Spring Retreat by the editor



Johnny Fowler

The North Carolina Storytelling Guild spring retreat was led by none other than storyteller, musician, author and ballad singer, Johnny Fowler from South Carolina.

Johnny's skillful manner steered us

through a "hands on" weekend joyride. His adeptness and finesse as a master demonstrated the joy of group learning. One activity was dramatizing folktales and fables. We saw a clever, yet simple way of teaching children how to tell stories. We were in touch with our visual, auditory and kinesthetic techniques that can easily be passed on in a classroom.

We saw the importance of perseverance and unearthing all clues when researching a historical or family story. Johnny took us through a power point presentation of his step-by-step process during a research project. It took him 25 years and finally his legacy of a folk hero, "Trotting Sally The Roots and Legacy of a Folk Hero" rolled off

the press in 2014. A legacy of George Mullins, born a slave, and was the first freed African-American in his family.

In case you missed this year's retreat there should be another in 2017. Make plans to attend next year. Join in the camaraderie with fellow Guild members.



Dave Hill shares his humor.

Storytelling Odyssey by Robin Kitson

You could almost hear the sound of a conductor as the Storytelling Odyssey Train chugged into Pullen Park on Saturday, June 18th. The NCSG Train pulled into kiddy land station where 80-100 audience members heard stories. Organizers Gale Buck and Ken Grant ran the train with the fuel of "if the story-listeners won't come to you then you go to them."

As the Pullen Park train whistled behind us, veteran tellers Ken Grant, Robin Kitson, Beky O'Connell, Drew Bridges, Gale Buck along with new voice Sharda Khilnani took the stage as the audience moved with the sun. Early performances used the amphitheater setting; after a while at least one smart teller noticed the audience hanging out under the trees in shade (oy vey!) so we flipped around and followed. Who cares where they are supposed to be? I've always said there are but two ways to live, live and learn and live and don't learn. Ain't no teller so smart they can't learn a



Gale Buck and young child.

Photo courtesy, Gale Buck.

lesson from the audience.

While parents went to exhaust their kids on swing, rope, and ladder contraptions we tellers were there to educate; and spread the word we did. With much to compete with our talent and tenacity moved the big train down the track halting only to let the newest tellers climb aboard. Those tiny tellers stole the show.

From ages 4-8 little ones starred in

their perhaps first 'all about me show'. You really can't beat a little one pulling words out of thin air, staring into space, searching young synapses for words they can't quite find. Everyone delights in the repeated phrase, the squeegeeing, and britches tugging as the cutest of all become a star. Cell phones caught every move whilst hoots and hollers of encouragement helped them get to the next phrase. I bet some of those new voices will remember the day they stood in front of lots of folks holding many hearts in the palm of their hand.

When our train pulled in many didn't know storytelling from tree felling. When the whistle blew and our conductors yelled "all aboard" we left a platform full of people who now know the pictures are in your mind! The Pullen Park train chugged around its Raleigh track, as Village Storytellers left countless memories on a new day of tales and adventures.

Be sure to read Robin's article on page 9.

(Forest ... continued from front page.)

it is a shared experience which carries both teller and listener into a different, more pleasing, dimension. Alan Brown, a UNC-TV videographer, recorded a piece at the 2015 festival. It is an excellent piece about storytelling; you can enjoy it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht9YbK8fbvg>. It is worth the time to review it.

The 2016 Forest of Wake Storyfest is now history, living fondly in our cherished memories. Unfortunately this festival has been cancelled by the Renaissance Centre, which brings me to a request, a plea if you will. There are other storytelling festivals struggling throughout our countryside. If WE, the STORYTELLERS, do not support local festivals you will soon find your only stage is your local guild or living room.

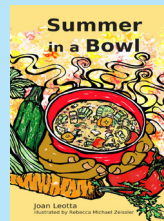
Share your story, support your local festivals.

E. Gale Buck served on the Forest of Wake festival committee. He is a storyteller and writer whose storytelling is a skill recognized and revealed by Santa. You may contact him at: gale@woodsmanstories.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR STORYTELLERS

SUMMER IN A BOWL

Calabash, NC - Joan Leotta's second picture book, featuring Rosa, just released on September 30th, available from the publisher THEAQLLC now as pre-order. This delightful tale of garden harvest that becomes soup is also a tale of the bond that gardening can forge between a loving adult and a child and a glimpse into the way a parent's view of food can influence a child's willingness to cross new taste horizons. Joan is lining up places to visit to tell the story of how to write a picture book.



STORY SLAM

Asheville, NC - Raymond Christian has been selected to perform for the National Storytelling Festival's STORY SLAM on October 8th at 5:00pm, which will take place during the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. Raymond has won the Asheville Moth Story Slam five times.

DONNA TO PERFORM IN DC

Washington, DC - Donna Washington will be performing at The GRAPEVINE Storytelling Series! The Grapevine! A Spoken Word performance series for adults and teens this fall in Washington, DC. The Grapevine event happens on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. The purpose is to celebrate the age old art of storytelling (or in their words), "the timeless art of the spoken word, with Truths, Lies, Myths and everything in between..." Each month they have two featured tellers. In addition there is an Open Mic where the show is opened with "Your Story." If you wish to tell, you can put your name in the hat for an opportunity. You may share a true tale, a tall tale or folktale if you can do so within 5 minutes - contact: grapevinetakoma@gmail.com. Donna's appearance is scheduled the evening of December 14, 2016. The Grapevine is located at Busboys and Poets, Takoma, 235 Carroll St NW, Washington, DC 20012. <https://www.facebook.com/GrapevineStorytelling/>

A Thought for Our Time by Ray Mendenhall, the Jolly Man

Dear storytelling friends, I find myself disheartened by some of the forces in our country and world just now. So much of the political and cultural rhetoric is selfish, self-serving and just plain mean-spirited. So many of the voices that shape our political scene do not stand for or bring out the best in the human spirit. I share this poem I wrote recently as a reflection on our times.

Too much...not enough
by Ray W. Mendenhall
2016 all rights reserved

There is too much "us" and "them" in the world,
Too much "me" and not "you."

There are too many boundaries that separate us
And not enough common bond to bind.
There are too many fences and not enough gates,
too many walls and not enough doors,
Too many barriers and not enough bridges.
There is too much "us" and "them" in the world;
It is high time to find our "we."

For me, storytelling is about finding the "we" that which is common and good in us all. It is about finding that which is true and heroic in the world and in people. Len Cabral once shared that he goes to prisons to tell stories on a regular basis. His theory was that people

in prison had not heard some of the stories that reward right and promote the heroic and good. By telling such stories in prison, Len is trying to change the culture and climate in the inmates lives. So it is with stories what Jung called the "collective unconscious," those things that we all share in common at some level, emerge in stories in ways that shape us and change us. Please join me in this time of conflicting ideologies and negative speech to tell the stories that shape the heart, mind and soul and promote the best of human virtues.

For more about Ray, see his article on page 8 - "Telling Biblical Stories."



Events Sponsored by NCSG: January 2017

January 27-29: NCSG Winter Workshop. Will be led by Three-time Emmy Winning Storyteller, Bobby Norfolk. To be held on the grounds of the Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC. Contact [Terry Rollins](#) or [Dianne Hackworth](#).

May 2017

NCSG Spring Retreat. Storytelling Workshop. Wildacres Conference Center, Little Switzerland, NC. Contact: Dianne Hackworth at dianne@diannehackworth.com or 865.457.3392. **Details TBA**

November 2017

November 3-4: NCSG's Tarheel Tellers Storytelling Festival. Mount Airy, NC. Further info TBA.
<http://ncstoryguild.org/events.html>

Other Events

October 2016

October 3-6: Teller in Residence, featuring Donald Davis. Matinee performances. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

October 5: Finding Your Way Home: Stories of True-Life Adventures and Mountain Roots. Performer, storyteller Connie Regan-Blake, 7pm. Blowing Rock Art and History Museum, 159 Chestnut Street, Blowing Rock, NC. Contact 828.295.9099, info@blowingrockmuseum.org or <http://blowingrockmuseum.org/events/131/23616>

October 5: Teller in Residence, featuring Donald Davis. Evening concert, 7:30pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

October 7-9: National Storytelling Festival. Contact the International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN, Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

October 14: David Joe Miller Presents WORD show at Trade and Lore Coffeehouse on Wall St. downtown Asheville, NC. 8pm, \$14 at door or \$12 online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/> or 828-808-1150.

October 14-16: Storytelling Festival of Carolina. Performers are world-renowned tellers Donald Davis, Kuniko Yamamoto and Tim Lowry. 131 S Main Street, Laurinburg, NC. <http://www.storyartscenter.org/director@storyartscenter.org> or call 910.277.3599.

Oct 16-20: 12th Annual Starburst Storytellers' Festival. Sponsored by the Friends of the Anderson County Library, this year's festival celebrates Edgar Allan Poe! Allan Wolf, poet/storyteller/ musician, presents "It's All About Poe!" at 3pm on Sunday, October 16. Evening shows run Monday through Thursday at 6:30pm. Monday - Adam Booth; Tuesday - Clemson Area Storytellers' Guild; Wednesday - Bobbie Pell; Thursday - Tim Lowry. Various Times. Free admission. 300 N. McDuffie Street, Anderson, SC. Contact: 864.260.4500 or email: mevans@andersonlibrary.org Website: www.andersonlibrary.org

October 19: David Joe Miller Presents Scary Spoken Word OPEN MIC. Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC. Wednesday, 7pm sign up at 6:30. Free. Contact 828.808.1150 for more information.

October 22: Spinning Yarns Festival. Featuring Storyteller, Linda Goodman, with Celtic Music and Farm Tour. Real Yarn Spinning too! Lots of stories by award winning storyteller, Linda Goodman; Celtic music while sitting around a fire and more. Cost \$30 per adult; \$15 per child. Discount with advance purchase. 708 Winding Brook Road, Monroe, NC. **NOTE: Rain Date - November 5th.** happyhillsalpaca.com

October 25-29: Teller in Residence, featuring Sheila Kay Adams. Matinee performances, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

October 27: Teller in Residence, featuring Sheila Kay Adams. Evening concert, 7:30pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

October 29: The Feed & Seed Storytelling Series. Featuring storyteller Hawk Hurst. Saturday, 4pm. STEAP, Storytelling Education & Arts Program. Feed & Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher NC. Contact: FeedandSeedNC.com

October 30-November 5: The Many Facets of Storytelling. Class led by Kim Weitkamp. What is it you want to do with storytelling? A hobby - or career? Family storyteller - or maybe a writer? We will cover the all-important topic of stage fright, along with stage presence, body language, use of vocal technique, and how and when to add music/song. You are also encouraged to bring a story or two that you may be working on, and we will include those pieces as well. No matter how basic or advanced your storytelling skills, this week will fill your story tool bag to the brim! Prior to registering, please read our [General Information and Policies](#). John C. Campbell Folk School, One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC. <https://classes.folkschool.org/> or 1.800.365.5724.

November 2016

November 9-12: David Joe Miller Presents Storyteller, Elizabeth Ellis. Shows and workshop to be announced 828.808.1150.

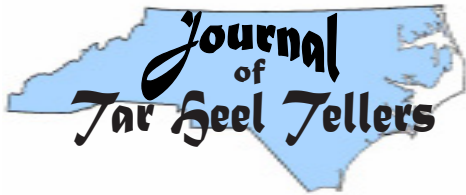
November 12: The Feed & Seed Storytelling Series. Featuring storyteller, Donna Marie Todd and musician/singer, Andy Gwynn. Saturday 4pm. STEAP, Storytelling Education & Arts Program. Feed & Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher NC. Contact: FeedandSeedNC.com.

November 20: Tellabration! Asheville Storytelling Circle's 21st Anniversary Celebration. Featuring Donald Davis, Elena Miller, Kathy Gordon, Charlie St. Clair, David Joe Miller and Wallace Shealy. Sunday, 3:00pm. Folk Art Center, 382 Blue Ridge Pkwy, Asheville, NC. Contact 828.274.1123 or 828.298.7928.

December 2016

December 1-3: Christmas Concert with The Uncalled for Trio Tour, Unwrapped. Featuring Bil Lepp, Kim Weitkamp and Andy Offutt Irwin. Thursday through Saturday, 2pm and 7:30pm. Reservations strongly recommended. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. storytellingcenter.net or call Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

December 9: The Joyful Jewel Storytelling Festival. Unique storytellers in a unique location. The Joyful Jewel is an craft and art gallery in downtown Pittsboro featuring local artists. They also host spoken word events frequently. Refreshments served. Free. 44-A Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC. Friday, 7-9pm.
(Continued on back page)



Sylvia Payne, Editor
1621 Nathaniel Street
Newton, NC 28658

Events continued from page 14

Contact Mariah Wheeler at mariah.joyfuljewel@gmail.com; <http://www.joyfuljewel.com> or call 919.883.2775.

December 14: David Joe Miller Presents Michael Reno Harrell All New Carolina Christmas Show. Wednesday, 7pm. Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC. \$14 at the door; \$12 online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/> or 828-808-1150.

December 17: Christmas Concert with **Tim Lowry presents Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.** See Tim in his renowned one-man show. Dressed in Victorian costume, he invokes the spirit of Dickens with his wit and flair for the dramatic. Saturday 2pm and 7:30pm. Reservations strongly recommended. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. storytellingcenter.net or call Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

January 2017

January 21-22: Stories from Sea to Shore. First Baptist Church, 312 Kempsville Road, Norfolk, Virginia. Tellers are Tim Lowry, Sheila Arnold-Jones and Linda Goodman. Contact: info@firstsnorfolk.org or 757.461.3226.

January 27-29: Hearts Afire Storytelling Festival. Tellers: Tim Lowry, Sheila Arnold-Jones, Linda

Goodman. First Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. Contact: Gayle Turner, gayle@storytellerschannel.com

February 2017

February 18-20: Saint Simons Island Storytelling Festival, hosted by Epworth By The Sea. Featured tellers will be Donald Davis, Andy Offutt Irwin, Bil Lepp and Lyn Ford. Questions email: istrande@epworthbythesea.org. Registration: <https://www.hform.com/form.cgi?10875852>

March 2017

March 26-April 1: Writing from the Heart. Class on writing and storytelling, led by Bobbie Pell. What does it mean to "write from the heart" in today's world? By examining personal definitions of this phrase, writers of all levels will learn to deepen characterization, to interweave emotional threads into exhilarating plot lines, and to examine imagery to relay mood. Short exercises, storytelling works by national tellers, and journaling methods will expand your writing horizons. Prior to registering, please read our [General Information and Policies](#). John C. Campbell Folk School, One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC. <https://classes.folkschool.org/> or 1.800.365.5724

May 2017

May 19-21: Cherokee Storytelling.

Class led by Lloyd Arneach. Experience traditional Cherokee storytelling with a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Explore Native American spirituality and how it is shared through stories. Learn to recognize the lessons nature shares with us and how to bring these lessons alive with stories. All levels welcome. Prior to registering, please read our [General Information and Policies](#). John C. Campbell Folk School, One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC. <https://classes.folkschool.org/> or 1.800.365.5724.

Accepting Articles for Spring *JHT*

Articles, stories, and storytelling news are needed for NCSG's Spring 2017 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, 2017

Send to: sylpayne@bellsouth.net