

Journal of Tar Heel Tellers

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Spring 2014
NC Storytelling Guild
Official Newsletter

It was cold but the warmth of all of the storytellers gathered together made it one of the warmest weekends of the year. Andy Offutt Irwin was our lead this year and to say that he fit in perfectly would be an understatement. In fact, so many commented on how he just seemed to be one of us (NCSG member, that is).

Andy's focus was character development and he had a room full of characters to work with. To get our attention as we were all conversing out of turn he said, "young people, young people." For most of us it had been years since we'd been called young people so we all appreciated Andy right away.

For a time he had us all walking about as our characters, in animal form. "If your character were an animal, what would it be?" That got us all thinking about very specific traits our characters might have. We all looked amusing shuffling about, flapping our arms and twisting our heads but we were all there not only to learn but to have a good time as well, so we did it and gained insight in the process.

Even in dialogue Andy strongly encouraged us, "When developing characters in your story don't tell me what they look like, show me" and with your audience, "look for the sound of recognition."

We also learned to keep on asking the question, what if? What if you could ..., what if you had ..., what if you learned..., what if you went to ..., and then what? Keep on asking questions and eventually you'll get an answer, is what I realized through the weekend.

For a short time we went off the hard beaten path to take a stroll through the world of electronics and sound systems. Andy gave us some tips on what to look for and

by Lona Bartlett

being mindful of using other's sound set ups. "Ultimately, you need to sound good," he said.

We came to understand that your microphone is not just a tool for amplification but an instrument for sound effects as well, and thereby development of a character, which led us, back again to the well beaten path of character development.



There was also time for Andy to tell us some stories and time for us to tell our stories as well and get some helpful hints on how to better spin our yarns.

And as always the weekend ended at the local seafood restaurant where we all bid our good byes and promises of seeing everyone next year. Hopefully, you'll be coming too.

Be blessed,
Lona Bartlett

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(Photos continued on page 10)

JOURNAL OF TAR HEEL TELLERS

Editor, Sylvia Payne
1621 Nathaniel Street,
Newton, NC 28658
NCSG Website:
www.ncstoryguild.org

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Mission of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild:

- © to celebrate the various cultures of NC,
- © to promote excellence in oral tradition,
- © to foster an appreciation and acceptance of the art
of storytelling,
- © to affirm the value of story and the importance of
story listening,
- © to nourish the development of emerging and
established artists.

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.

Spring Cast of Characters

Sylvia Payne - Editor
Contributors, Lona Bartlett, J.A. Bolton, Linda
Goodman, Michael Reno Harrell, Joan Leotta,
Catherine MacKenzie, Jim Martin, Ray
Mendenhall, Doyle Pace and
Donna Marie Todd.



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

Congratulations to **Connie Regan-Blake** who celebrated her 40 YEARS of professional storytelling in the Fall of 2013 . . . Congratulations to **Linda Goodman**, who will appear as a new *Teller-in-Residence* at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, TN in September . . . **E. Gale Buck** won the 2014 Liars' Competition in Laurinburg, NC and **Robin Kitson** won the People's Choice Award at the Liars' Competition . . . **Charlotte Ross** performed at the Bailiwyck Clubhouse in Rock Hill, SC for a Friendship Force Exchange from Halliburton Canada . . . **Asheville Storytelling Circle** members, **Kathy Gordon, Sherry Lovett, Donna Marie Todd, Pete Koschnick**, with **Wallace Shealy** as MC, performed at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, TN in April . . . **Donna Washington** will present, *Release Your Inner Teller*, as one of NSN's (*National Storytelling Network*) Pre-Conference Workshops this summer . . . **David Holt** received the first *Heritage Hero Laurel Award* in November during the 10th anniversary celebration of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.

The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.

- Sylvia Plath

Imaginative Inspiration

from the editor's desk

Well, finally, spring has arrived, and I trust it's bringing you bright, imaginative inspiration! This issue of *JTHT* delivers a fresh bouquet of storytelling news. In case you missed it, you will find a rundown on the Jonesborough Festival and also gain a small taste of NCSG's enjoyable winter workshop with Andy Offutt Irwin.

For those of you who work in a Christian Education setting, we hope you find the article, *Evoking Eden*, (pgs 11-12) helpful. Discover why North Carolina boasts so many storytellers, see tributes to several who have passed on and left us their legacy of stories. I hope you enjoy the articles and find the reviews helpful.

Pay particular attention to our President's message on page 4. And be sure to check out the *events calendar* on pages 14-15. The calendar frequently changes so remember to check the Guild website for updates - <http://www.ncstoryguild.org/events.html>.

Springtime is a time to do spring cleaning, enjoy the beauty of North Carolina's spectacular scenery, and start planning that special summer vacation. Use all of these opportunities to recharge your storytelling, to inspire your story awareness, and see new imaginative powers in your stories!

Submit to:

Sylvia Payne, JTHT Editor, 1621 Nathaniel Street, Newton, NC 28658. E-mail: sylpayne@bellsouth.net

Deadline for Fall Issue: August 1, 2014.

Why Does North Carolina Boast So Many Storytellers?

by Michael Reno Harrell

I don't know how many folks outside the state of North Carolina know or even care just how many national, regional and local storytellers that we claim here. I performed at a festival in south Alabama last year where three out of the four national tellers on the bill were from North Carolina. The other one was this tall fellow from Georgia who is known as an exceptional whistler. He had to have some gimmick to even hope to hold his own against such overwhelming talent as he was teamed with. I'm sure that given the choice, he would relocate here if he could get a visa.

That imbalance in ability got me to thinking. I began ticking off the names of the storytellers that are based in our state and then compared that list with the talent in other states. Folks, no other state comes remotely close to having the talent pool contained within our state boundaries. And by "not even close" I mean that North Carolina boasts near thirty nationally known tellers as compared to a high of maybe three or four in any other state. Which begs the question, "Why?" The answer is unclear, at least upon initial investigation.

One could contend that we have a long history of the oral tradition here. I would argue, as I suspect anyone from just about anywhere would, that that holds true for any of the forty-nine other states in the Union. I mean, the descendants of Swedish immigrants in Minnesota or the Irish in Massachusetts could maintain that their oral traditions are every bit as strong as that of any group that settled inside the margins that define North Carolina geographically or socially, and they would be just in that assumption.

And while it's true that the end of the state that my ancestors call home, the wrinkled western end, was one of the last bastions of the encroachment of what some refer to as modern

civilization, where we were forced to sit around and talk to one another on account of we didn't have electric lights or opera houses. Even that doesn't answer the question as to why there are so many storytellers across the state of North Carolina. Maybe there really is something in the water. I have my own opinion, which is that we are just so much cooler than anywhere else. I mean what else could it be?

After all we are without question the most beautiful state in the U.S. of A. Natural seashore? We have the Outer Banks for goodness sakes. Mountains? Scenic byways? The Blue Ridge Parkway need not continue farther north than Fancy Gap as far as I'm concerned. Culture? Native son, Thomas Wolfe and the poetic pilgrim, Carl Sandburg stand out among so many others. Sports? Anyone follow college basketball? We even won the Stanley Cup for the love of Pete! How about food? Please. Our barbeque alone should squelch any argument put forth on the question of cuisine. But, I digress. Let's get back to why so many storytellers inhabit our great state.

Perhaps because North Carolina is such a doggone delightful place that we simply attract them. Not all of us have the same genealogy as Sheila Kay Adams or Mitch Capel. Many storytellers migrated here. For instance my good buddy Doug Elliott was raised in the great state of Maryland, the beautiful Connie Regan-Blake hails from Alabama, banjo man David Holt is a native son of the Lone Star State, and "Story Lady" Gwenda Ledbetter grew up on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Newcomers to the art such as folksinger Chuck Brodsky came here and found the light of story shining in his new home. Even though my own ancestors date back to the North Carolanderthols, I myself having been conceived in North Carolina was born in Tennessee. And

while that glorious state to our west can brag about being the birthplace of the Renaissance of American Storytelling, I didn't even consider becoming a professional storyteller until I had been a citizen of the Old North State for many years.

Oh sure, the first storytelling festival, that event that has become Mecca for so many of us, the National Storytelling Festival, has its very roots in the soil of Tennessee. But, when you look at the pictures of that very first professional storytelling event so long ago, whose picture do they show? A Tennessean? No. That familiar photograph of the wagon on the square at Jonesborough is of the Grandfather of the afore mentioned Renaissance of American Storytelling, the great North Carolinian, Ray Hicks. I rest my case.

Actually, once a storyteller starts stringing words together, seldom is any case rested.

So, again I put forth the query, "Why does North Carolina boast so many superb storytellers?" Can it be that other states suppress the process? I don't think so. Everywhere I go the attraction to storytelling appears the same. The people in attendance love the art and the artists who practice it. Admittedly, not all states can claim staging a single storytelling festival. "How can this be?" one might ask. "Danged if I know!" I might answer. Perhaps they have been overexposed to cable television or hallucinogenic drugs and lack the insight required to initiate the elevated level of culture that is the storytelling festival. Or maybe they are afraid that the influx of talent that North Carolina could launch across their borders would overwhelm their cultural wasteland making them feel somehow orally inferior. I hope they cease to fear our artistic succor and realize that we North Carolinian prevaricators are merely

(Continued on page 4)

President's Message

Spring seems to have finally landed after a long, strange winter, and I find myself coming to the end of my term as Guild President. In June I will be passing the torch to the capable hands of Sandra Gudger. Just like the seasons, our Guild has its own flow and, yet, sometimes there are still unexpected events.

Our 2013 Fall Festival was one of the best ever with stellar performances by national tellers Bobby Norfolk and Angela Lloyd as well as our regional performers, Alan Hoal, Dorothy Kirk, and Donna Marie Todd and the always amazing Gwenda Ledbetter as emcee. It was also our best ever financial year with the silent auction being a huge success. (Thanks so much to all those who submitted items for this!) Enter unexpected event. In February we were told that due to significant changes in the staff at the Transylvania County Library and some scheduling conflicts that they would not be able to partner with us for the 2014 Fall Festival. The board was stunned and disappointed by this news, but went right into action to

work on a new Fall Festival plan for 2015, feeling certain that in the end this could be a positive change for the Guild.

Many Guild members shared words of encouragement and ideas as we moved forward. (Thanks so much to all of you who took time to share your thoughts and ideas!) The Guild appointed a committee to create a tool to use in determining our next venue and to use that tool to first explore venues in Greensboro as there was much interest from various groups to have our festival there and it is centrally located. I would like to thank Jim Payne, Alan Hoal, Joel Richards, Lona Bartlett, and Steven Bartlett for being on this committee and for the work they have done. The work continues and there is much excitement as we explore all of the possibilities for our 2015 Fall Festival.

In the meantime, what about 2014? The board has been discussing a social event to gather members together. We have hit upon the idea that a Guild picnic sometime in the early fall where we can have a potluck meal, socialize,



and share stories may be just the thing. We will keep you posted about this event and hope that many of us can gather and get to know each other better. Who knows, we may start a new tradition.

I look back on my year as president with gratitude for the board, a group of fine people who helped this newbie navigate a somewhat complicated year. With a successful 2013 Fall Festival, a wonderful Winter Workshop, a new social event on the horizon, and a fabulous new Fall Festival in the works, I prepare to leave my post feeling good about the year and eagerly looking forward to what the new season will bring us.

SHERRY LOVETT

Remembering Carol Jolly

We pay tribute to former NC Storytelling Guild member, Carol Jolly, who died on October 27, 2013 at the age of 75.

The Morganton News and Herald says, "Carol was an avid writer and storyteller whose written and spoken words of deep faith, love, and joyous humor, encouraged all who received them."

Born in Maine, Carol lived in various states before moving to NC. Long ago she made a promise to her grandmother to edit her grandmother's memoir, *Squabble Hollow*.

Upon retirement she moved to Morganton with this significant goal to fulfill. It wasn't until this book was published that she wrote her own memoirs. She also wrote numerous articles for the Morganton News and Herald.



Over the years, Carol was a member of writers' groups in Maine, Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina.

According to Carol's dear friend, NCSG member Jeannie McPhail, "she had a story for everything."

(Why Does NC Boast...continued from page 3)

ambassadors of the advancement of artistic oratory, devotees of dialogue, pundits of pros, brethren of the brogue and bold-faced liars of the highest degree. Meaning that we mean well, we just like to hear not only ourselves rattle; we enjoy hearing anyone else spin a good yarn as well.

So there you have it. Not that I have answered my own question, but thank you for allowing me the opportunity to brag on our state and its grand history of storytelling and wonderful array of storytellers. Yea for us!

Michael Reno Harrell can occasionally be found at the foot of Yellow Gap in Burke County, North Carolina...that is when he isn't out bragging on his home state. He may be contacted at joan@michaelreno.com

National Storytelling Festival Jonesborough October 4-6, 2013, by Catherine MacKenzie

As a transplant from western Canada, I feel so fortunate to be in North Carolina, only three hours away from beautiful Jonesborough. The 41st Festival weekend was a real treat. I am amazed that a festival that hosts 10,000 guests

runs so smoothly. There are hundreds of volunteers who spend countless hours making this possible. This year we were blessed with perfect weather and an array of wonderful tellers, both old favorites and new voices.

How nice to be greeted by our illustrious president, Sherry Lovett, as we picked up our registration packets Friday afternoon. Lona and Steven Bartlett were tent monitors at our first stop: the red and white tent featuring Antonio Roche and Charlie Chin. A master of mime and voice, Antonio enthralled us with the story, "Alazão, the horse that saved six lives." Charlie wove together multiple humor and wisdom stories of the sons of Kublai Khan punctuated by his faultless use of a Chinese fan.

We passed Trish Dumser and Charlotte Ross on our way to the College Street Tent. It's amazing to find anyone in the crowd, but what fun to exchange impressions. Six wonderful tellers we had never heard before, including a member of Jonesborough's storytelling group, entertained us at Exchange Place. It's reassuring to know there will be great tellers in our future.

The evening olios offer a wonderful taste of a variety of styles. One has the difficult decision of which one to

attend, but many of the tellers scurry from tent to tent making the decision less painful. There were two amazing

American Sign Language interpreters in the Library Tent. It was especially fun to see them sign when Antonio Roche was telling a story.

Our own Tim Lowry was the talk of the festival. He'll need to be assigned the biggest tent the next time he tells. When we arrived almost half an hour early to hear his "Every Inch a Gentleman" presentation, all the seats were already taken. Don and I had to sit on the grass. I heard comments like, "I heard Tim Lowry Friday morning. He's the one I'm going to follow," "This new voice, Tim Lowry will go far, and he's still so young," "You always learn something from Tim Lowry, but he makes it fun." What could be better praise? Many people received standing ovations, but when Tim was finished, the tent erupted with everyone in sight standing and applauding.

The rest of Saturday was filled with a smorgasbord of wonderful tellers. We heard Ed Stivender tell a Mark Twain story (and had the chance to visit with Dianne Hackworth). Charlie Chin continued to enchant us with his stories of the sons of Kublai Khan, Syd Lieberman presented: "Abraham and Isaac: Sacrifice at Gettysburg," as a tribute to the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. We were unable to find a seat in the tent to hear Donald Davis, and sitting on the concrete sidewalk outside the tent soon became very uncomfortable, so we spent a bit of free time cruising the shops. I vowed not to look at the

puppets, but there was one adorable bear coming out of a tree stump ...

Saturday evening's olio featured only four tellers, so each one was able to tell an expanded story. Bil Lepp was irrepensible.

Sunday came all too soon. The sacred telling stories were some of my favorites. Sheila Kay Adams told the story of her mother seeing the northern lights here in the south, Donald Davis spoke to us of the sacredness of laughter, Milbre Burch told in first person the story of the treasure Mary stored up in her heart as her son Jesus grew up, and Tim Lowry told about his welcome at a Gullah church in Charleston showing that we are never alone.

I've already registered for next year. As I said in my opening paragraph... we are so lucky here in North Carolina. We have a chance to hear many of these internationally famous tellers right in our own back yards.

Catherine MacKenzie is a longtime member of NCSG, currently serving on the Board as the Southern Piedmont Representative. An avid story collector of tales, she is a former library media specialist. She may be contacted at:
catherinemackenzie@carolina.rr.com

Condolences to Henry Vogel and family on the recent death of Henry's mother.

Remembering Ted and Rosa by Doyle Pace



Ted and Rosa Hicks

The last two weeks of January brought great sadness to the story telling world. Ted and Rosa Hicks passed away. First was Ted on January 18th and his mother Rosa followed him exactly two weeks later. Ted and Rosa, or Rosie, as everyone knew her, were the son and wife of legendary storyteller Ray Hicks.

I first met the Hicks family more than fifty years ago when a friend and I traveled from where we lived in north Alabama to Watauga County, North Carolina. We were caught up in the great “folk scare” of the 1950’s and 60’s, so we set out in the summer of 1959 to travel through the Smokies and Blue Ridge Mountains seeking singers of old-time songs and tellers of old-time tales. Our ultimate goal was to meet Richard Chase because we were both fascinated with his book, *The Jack Tales*. We did find Mr. Chase and he said to us, “Well, boys, if you want to hear a real mountain storyteller, we must go up the mountain and visit Ray Hicks.” That is when I met the Hicks family, and little did I realize at that time what an impact they would have on me.

Over the years, I made my way down Old Mountain Road to the Hicks’ home as often as I could to hear Ray tell the Jack tales. After traveling in many places and getting married, my

wife and I bought a house in Watauga County about twenty miles from the Hicks. It was from then on that I really got to know the Hicks family.

Ted was always shy when he was small and would skedaddle when he saw me coming. I imagine that he was mystified and maybe a little scared of the strange guy with a beard and sandals. Later on, Ted and I would laugh about it, and he assured me that it wasn’t just me, but that was his reaction to anyone he didn’t know.

While we listened in awe as Ray cast his spell with fantastic tales of Jack and his kin, witches and haints, outlaws, Indians and rouges that roamed the mountains, dear Rosie would always be on the side taking care. She’d be taking care of Ray and the children; as well as cooking, cleaning, washing, canning and tending her vegetables, as well as the wonderful Frisbee-sized dahlias that she always grew. It was not all work with Rosie. She liked to sing and tell stories and have a good time. Her stories were not Jack Tales, although she knew those, but her own stories. She really enjoyed singing old songs, spiritual songs and love ballads, and especially the “The New River Train.” Rosie liked people. Anyone was welcome to her home and to her table, even the many strangers who came to hear Ray tell stories. To make a little spending money, while Ray was performing on stage in a big tent at the Jonesboro Festival, Rosie would set up a table on the grounds and sell dried apples, herbs and goodies she had baked. It wasn’t just for the money that she did this, but also for the joy she got from talking and laughing with the people who came by.

As Ted grew older, he was not as withdrawn but was still rather laconic. It was not until Ray’s passing in 2003 that Ted began to tell stories willingly in public. He was soon regaling audiences small and large with his own

versions of his father’s tales. At Ted’s graveside, Dr. Joseph Sobol observed that, while Ray told stories hours on end, Ted sat silently listening, absorbing and thinking. Then when he began to tell the stories, he brought to them this own interpretation and slant.

I also was always amazed by Ted’s encyclopedic knowledge of mountain flora, especially the medicinal uses of various herbs and roots. He showed me how to find and dig ginseng, and every fall he would always greet me with, “How much sang have you found?”

Ted suffered from several serious health issues, not the least being kidney failure that required him to travel 25 miles each way into Boone, three times a week for dialysis. In spite of all this, Ted always greeted you with a big smile and genuine concern for your own health and well-being. Ted spent his last years at the Life Care Center in Banner’s Elk, away from his beloved home and the land that had belonged to his family for two hundred years. In his confinement, storytelling was a way to escape the dreary four walls around him and soar back to the front porch of home. He often remarked that no matter how much pain he was in, telling stories made it better. That is something to which we who tell stories can relate. I had Ted at the last two Tellabstractions that I held at the Mast Store in Valle Crucis, and he was delighted. And in Jonesboro in 2012, he charmed the multitude there with his stories.

Ted and Rosa, two of the sweetest and gentlest people that I have ever known, are now resting eternally beside Ray on the side of old Beech Mountain. As Ray used to say when someone close died, “The Holy Ghost Dove has done come down.”

Storyteller, Doyle Pace currently serves on the NCSG Board as the Northern Mountains Representative. He has known the Hicks family for more than 50 years. You may contact him at bmonkus.pace@gmail.com.



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.

Teaching With Story: Classroom Connections to Storytelling

by Margaret Read MacDonald
Jennifer MacDonald Whitman
Nathaniel Forrest Whitman
August House \$24.95
www.augusthouse.com

You can judge this book by its cover because it delivers exactly what it promises and the names on the cover provide a pedigree of storytelling that is beyond compare and lives up to its reputation within the covers of this slim volume.

I could use dozens of adjectives to describe how this book will enrich your storytelling in the classroom (or as a professional), your ability to craft programs and grant requests that will cleave to current core content requirements. But basically there is not much more to say than the simple statement that this book does it all, does it well, and teaches what it does by example within the book and by example in its very writing.

Margaret Read MacDonald is one of the premiere folklorists and storytellers of our time. She is equally at home on stage and with her pen. She shares her story finds and technique tips generously. Her coauthors in this book are a testament to that skill and her example. Jennifer is her daughter and Nathaniel, her son-in-law. Both of them are teachers. So, MacDonald brings her years of experience as a librarian, writer and teller on stage and in classrooms and joins it with two teachers whose love of story and sharing story come from her example. They contribute their expertise in the daily life of a classroom and curriculum. The combination is electrifying. I found myself wanting to underline every other sentence. It's a book to read, to mark for future references, to enjoy.

The structure of the book, as well, teaches, it starts with a story—*Grandfather Bear is Hungry*, and uses the thread of that story's lessons throughout the book's chapters on Community, Character, Communication,

Curriculum and Cultural Development, and beyond. In addition, she gives us other stories to share and teaches how we can find our own stories to share. This is a book that belongs in the hands and heart of everyone who loves a good story—parents, teachers, librarians and professional story performers. Have I left anyone out? If so, loan your copy of the book to them. They will enjoy it too.

Reviewed by Joan Leotta -
www.joanleotta.wordpress.com

He Ain't Right, CD

Written and performed by Anthony Burcher; recorded live at Stonehouse Presbyterian Church, Toano, VA; Cover design by Brian Morgante for TreeHouse Artists; Mastered by Jake Dempsey for TreeHouse Artists.
\$14.99, plus shipping and handling, from <http://www.anthonymburcher.com/>

One of Virginia's hidden treasures, Anthony Burcher may think "he ain't right," but those who have had the pleasure of hearing him tell stories know that he is not only right, he is righteous. He can take an ordinary, everyday habit, like eating Tic Tacs, and turn it into a comedic tour de force that has his audience in stitches and his pants.... well, let's not go there.

The story about the afore mentioned Tic Tacs is titled *Minty Freshness*, which, believe it or not, is not always a good thing; especially when you are teaching a room full of elementary school children about John Smith and Pocahontas.

The Junkyard compares/contrasts Anthony's father's "junkyard" world with his mother's "pristine" world. The two are ever separated and crossing from one to the other can be quite the challenge, especially after you've been attacked by a barrel of oil.

Sunday Dinner made me yearn for yesteryear, when delectable food was made from scratch at home by master cooks in one's own family. Of course, some home cooked dinners make better stories than others. Rotten vinegar, for instance, can cause quite a sensation.

Bower of Table is Anthony's own hilarious rendition of the *Tower of Babel*, found in the *Bible* book of *Genesis*. Anthony's version is reminiscent of Archie Campbell's telling of *Cinderella* on the television show *Hee Haw*.

Anthony Burcher knows how to create a fabulous story and tell it uniquely well. He also knows how to make his audience feel at home. I was in the audience at Stonehouse Presbyterian Church when Anthony recorded this album live. His zany facial expressions and gestures enhanced each tale, and his audience was in the palm of his hand – exactly where they wanted to be.

Reviewed by Linda Goodman - <http://www.lindagoodmanstoryteller.com/>

Forgiveness: Telling Our Stories in New Ways

A two CD program of stories and reflections for healing your past and living peacefully in the present.
\$22.50 (includes shipping and handling) from
<http://www.wisdomtales.com/forgiveness.html>

I took my first Elisa Pearmain storytelling workshop, sponsored by the Connecticut Storytelling Center, in 1990. At that time, she was already being hailed as one of the wise women of storytelling. This two CD set further cements that reputation.

Pearmain says that her favorite definition of forgiveness is this: giving up all hope for a better past. "Forgiveness is first and foremost a form of self-healing....Research now confirms that forgiveness can reduce anxiety and depression and improve physical health," she states on her CD insert. These are not words spoken by an amateur. Pearmain, in addition to being a respected storyteller, is a seasoned Psychotherapist with a private practice in Concord, Massachusetts.

The sixteen stories on this CD come from various cultures around the world, and each illustrates a facet of forgiveness. Each story is followed by a reflection or insight. Some are also followed by exercises and meditations to

(Continued on page 8)

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR STORYTELLERS

WASHINGTON TELLABRATION!

Washington, NC - *Tellabration!* was a great success, our best event ever. We had around 60 folks show up for the storytelling, grown-ups, senior citizens, children. It was wonderful! Our tellers were: Mima Dixon, Phoebe Wahab, Linda Boyer, Judi Hickson, and Terry Rollins, who also served as emcee. We offered stories, songs, puppets and even clogging!
- Terry Rollins

JOAN LEOTTA'S LEGACY OF HONOR SERIES

Calabash, NC - The third book in my Legacy of Honor Series, *A Bowl of Rice*, is now available on Amazon.com! I am very excited as you can imagine. This book reveals the struggles of an Army nurse. Decisions abound for Anna Maria O'Shea. To honor

her commitments and family legacy she leaves her boyfriend and familiar life for the jungles of Vietnam to care for wounded GIs. When her roommate is kidnapped and she goes into the jungle with the rescue party orphans, forgiveness, and a new love find their way into her heart. Find my books on Amazon by entering my name in the author search.

STORIES UNDER THE STARS

Fancy Gap, VA - *Stories Under the Stars* with Storyteller Vicky Town at Haven Farm, 340 Quarry Road Fancy Gap, VA off the Blue Ridge Parkway (MM195). Saturdays at 7:30 pm June-October. Hayride, storytelling, campfire, roasting marshmallows, and the Wishing Tree. Call for group rate - 276-398-3466 or 316-308-5233, email vatown@aol.com; or visit www.tinyurl.com/havenfarmva.

WHAT DO THESE FELLOW GUILD MEMBERS HAVE IN COMMON?

Jonesborough, TN - Congratulations to our fellow tellers who recently received story awards from *Storytelling World Resource Awards for 2014*. They are Lona Bartlett, Janice Davin, Linda Goodman, Martha Reed Johnson, Tim Lowry and Donna Washington. Due to lack of space we are unable to list each story, book, or winning category. However, you may go to: <http://www.storytellingworld.com/2014/> for details. If you are a member of NSN, you can read about these *Storytelling World* awards in your copy of the April/May 2014 issue of *Storytelling Magazine/Storytelling World*.

*(Reviews - Forgiveness... continued from
on page 7)*

help the listener internalize the wisdom taught by the tale. Several of the stories are personal stories, two from Pearmain's own life.

My favorite story from this collection is *Prince Dhigavu*, a Buddhist tale about a prince who seeks revenge against the murderer of his parents, only to realize that his vengeance will beget only more vengeance in an unending cycle that can be stopped only by surrendering his hate to the love he has for his people.

I also appreciated hearing *Her Story in Motion*, Pearmain's personal story of her first real love, which began with joy and hope, only to deteriorate into an abusive relationship. Dance theater became her healing salve, helping her to banish the shame she harbored through sharing her pain. Positive audience reactions affirmed the value of her sharing her story. Her creativity allowed her to heal herself. "Is there a personal story you would like to share?" she asks at the story's conclusion. She encourages those whose memories cause flashbacks to seek the help of a therapist.

Pearmain makes therapy an art form as she tells each tale with a sensitivity that reveals rare insight into the frailty of the human condition and the power of forgiveness. She has harnessed that power as a gift for story lovers everywhere, but especially for those

desiring to let go of the past and live a more peaceful and compassionate life. I will listen to these stories again and again for the wisdom, the hope, and the healing that they offer. This is an important work that stands on its own for the caliber of its stories and Pearmain's telling; but it also goes beyond the traditional story realm to that healing place where magic can truly happen.

Reviewed by Linda Goodman - <http://www.lindagoodmanstoryteller.com/>

I Will Not Fear: A Chosen Life

by J.A. McPhail
Rowe Publishing; Price \$12.95, plus
shipping and handling.
<http://rowepub.com/>

I Will Not Fear: a Chosen Life is a beautiful story of inspiration and faith. It gave me a striking glimpse into the life of a loving and caring family whose love grew deeper when the daughter was diagnosed with lymphoma. I held a warm spot in my heart as I read about their love for life and for one another, their Christian faith and how their chosen paths touched countless lives around them. Stacie's mother, Jeanne McPhail, tells the story.

In June 1976 Stacie Jeanne McPhail came

into this world. The newborn's first cry brought forth an immediate applause from hospital delivery room staff. Applause continued to follow her during childhood and on into adulthood.

As the only child of Jeanne Ann and Dennis McPhail, nurture, love, faith and companionship was never lacking in Stacie's life. A doting family, neighbors, friends, church members, the community and people from the music world surrounded her.

Singing became one of Stacie's great loves, with Southern gospel music her favorite. Her father, Dennis, often sang in choirs and concerts. A favorite family activity was to travel by tour bus with concert groups her dad was a part of.

Stacie received a music scholarship to attend college and after graduation she accepted a teaching job and moved from her home in Kansas to North Carolina. Later her parents moved to the old 'North State.' In 2003 the McPhails (*Dennis, Jeanne and Stacie*) formed their own Southern Gospel trio, *The Macs*. Stacie continued to teach, but spent weekends on the road and on stage.

During her busy summer of 2011, she noticed a lump on her neck. The family was packing for a camping trip when the doctor called with the result. Stacie "handled it with
(Continued on page 9)

Sonny and Momma P Bring Daddy Home

by The Jolly Man- Ray Mendenhall

Author's note: This is an absolutely true story, told pretty much just the way it happened, only the names have been changed to protect the "eccentric."

It was in the long, hot, dog days of late August, a Sunday as I recall, when the phone rang at the church manse. When I answered, a female voice at the other end said,

"Is this the Presbyterian Manse?"

"It is," I replied.

"Is this the Presbyterian minister?" the voice asked.

"I am," I replied.

"Well my name is Mrs. P—, my son and I are coming to town over Thanksgiving and we want to bury my husband."

Now I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but I am sharp enough and I knew that there was considerable amount of time between late August and late November. So I asked the obvious question,

"Where is your husband now?"

"Oh, he's dead," the voice replies, "we had him cremated and we'll bring him along when we come so you can bury him."

"I see," I said. Now we pass some other pleasantries, added a few "mighty fines" and "okie dokes" but basically the conversation ended there, at least for the time being. So began the funeral journey to bring "Daddy P—" home, one last time.

In the interval, arrangements were made, details were worked out and things began to fall into place, pardon the pun. I established where the grave

plot was, arranged with the cemetery to have it opened for the burying, finalized the service and such with Sonny and Momma P and all seemed arranged.

They arrived midday on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The back of the station wagon they drove carried two funeral wreaths and a box with Daddy's remains—Have Funeral Will Travel. We said a few "howdys" and arranged to meet at the cemetery together on Friday at an appointed time. All was going well, so far.

I met Sonny and Momma P at the cemetery at the arranged time. We proceeded unceremoniously to the gravesite. They began to unpack the funeral accoutrements when we discovered the hitch in our plans... no hole. This was in the day before cell phones, so I left the others to use the phone at the Ford Car lot across the street to call the cemetery office about our missing hole. Having completed my mission and somewhat pleased with the results, I proceeded back to the gravesite presumably to wait. When I arrived at the scene, our gathering had grown. A large burly man in work clothes with posthole diggers in his hands and his smaller partner were now at the scene. Sonny explained he had spied them across the cemetery and invited them to join us for the festivities since they had the proper equipment to remedy our particular problem.

The "service" proceeded with the burly gentleman chunking the posthole diggers in the ground and proceeding to open a hole for Daddy's earthly remains. After about 4 feet or so, the posthole diggers hit something solid, real solid. The burly man looked down, surveyed the scene and said in a calm voice,

"Doggone it, I've dug too close to this other grave," nodding towards a grave stone some 5-6 feet away to his right.

Without warning, Sonny bends over the hole and exclaims with glee, "I wonder who that is!" Moving with deliberate purpose Sonny made his way up to the gravestone, read the name chiseled there and said, "Why, It's Uncle Charlie." Sonny proceeds swiftly back to the hole, bends over, peers down in the hole and says, (and this is the gospel truth) "How you doing Uncle Charlie?"

A deep silence fell over the scene... We did finish our business, got Daddy into an appropriate hole, and all's well that ends well, I suppose; but I'll tell you truth; I, for one, am awfully glad that Uncle Charlie did not reply. Hallelujah and Amen.

Ray Mendenhall, a former NCSG president, is a storyteller, a minister and several years ago was awarded first place winner of Laurinburg's Bold-Face Liars' Competition. He may be contacted at rwmend@juno.com.

(I Will Not Fear ... Continued from page 8)

such grace," according to her mother. "We spent the next three days camping."

The family met one of the biggest challenges "ever faced in our lives. We still believed God had a plan." There were many trips to Duke Medical Center for treatments and Stacie's parents accompanied her. She wanted them by her side.

Hospital nurses were amazed as they observed the family spend hours together in

conversation, reading aloud from the Bible, listening to CD's and listening to gospel and other faith fulfilling music. After eight months PET results reported no lymphoma, but that was short lived. It soon reappeared.

Near the end of this biography Jeanne writes, "We realize that because Stacie was single and we had our own family singing ministry, we had more time with her in 36 years than a lot of parents have in a lifetime."

Through positive faith Stacie and her parents acquired their strength from God. He was their staying power. They "did not fear."

After I finished this captivating life story, tossed with laughter, sadness, and lighter moments, I clearly see Jeanne's story of Stacie's life as an unrestrained beacon of faith that will touch all who read it.

Reviewed by Sylvia Payne - <http://www.storytraditions.com>

(What Does The Andy Say? continued from front page)



Millie Chaplin



Ann Mendenhall



Wright Clarkson, Andy Offutt Irwin



Linda Stumph

Beth Sheffield



Lona Bartlett, Terry Rollins



Wallace Shealy, Kim Ellis



Nancy Reeder

Sherry Lovett



Joan Leotta

Sylvia Payne

Catherine MacKenzie

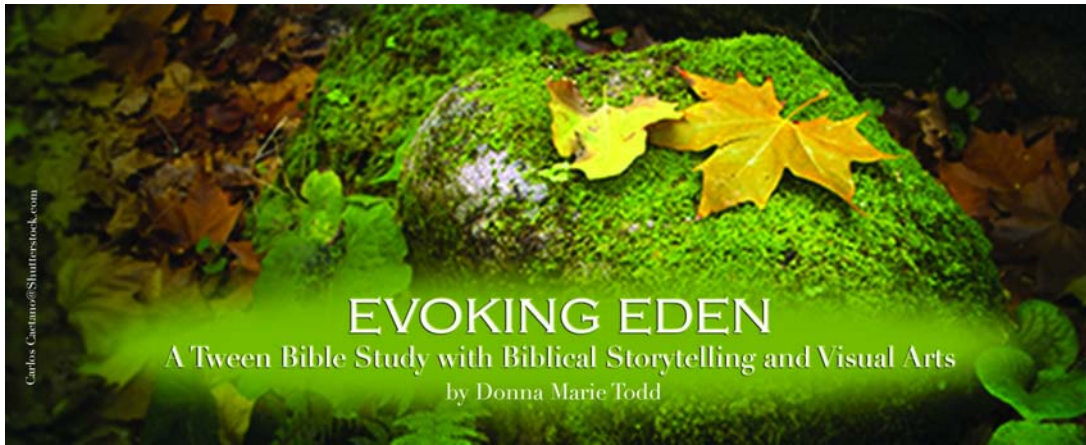


Joan, Robin Kitson, Ann

*Photo Courtesy
Lona Bartlett and
editor,
Sylvia Payne*



Ron Jones, Dianne Hackworth, Terry

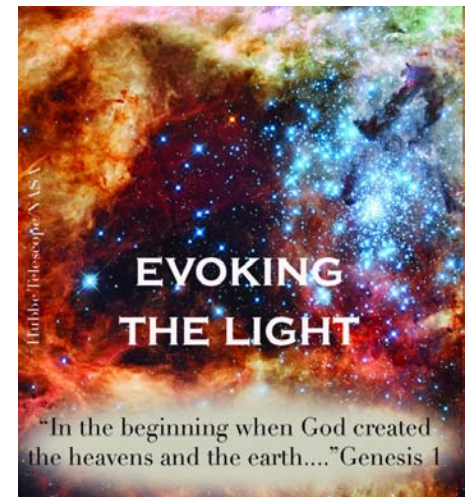


participation from everyone. Those with the poorest impulse control are usually the ones who resist the exercise. Do your nerves a favor and make it a mandatory activity!

**THE 4-7-8
RELAXATION
TECHNIQUE**

Ask students to close their eyes. Have them

breathe in through the nose as you count to four, hold their breath as you count to seven and exhale through their mouths as slowly as possible as you count to eight. Repeat this process three times.



**WEEKS ONE AND TWO
GENESIS 1 AND 2:1-4**

WEEK ONE: STORY PROCESS

Ask the class to close their eyes and visualize the story as you tell it. The relaxation breath prepares them for this process. At the end of the visualization, open the floor for interactive discussion. Use conversation starters like: "What kind of creatures did you see?" or "How does this story compare to the Big Bang Theory you've studied in school?"

Then have them pick a Bible from the stack, or hop on the Internet to examine the different wording of the translations of Genesis 1.

(Continued on page 12)

"Evoking Eden" is a six-week biblical storytelling program designed as an interactive, arts-intensive Bible study for kids aged 10-13. It encourages deep exploration of the Bible's creation stories through storytelling, story discussion and visual art projects during six hour-long weekly Bible study sessions. The sessions alternate between story-listening and visual art. It could be done as three two-hour sessions where the first hour is the story processing and the second is visual art on the same story. This would work for youth group activity.

The program was designed to reach one of the most difficult of all age groups: the "tweens." Half-child and half-teen, tweens have rapidly advancing (but immature) cognitive ability and raging hormonal emotion. I developed this workshop model in my creative writing residencies in the public school system, where I often work with this age group and am frequently paired with visual artists.

Tweens respond well to experiential and dynamic learning. A high level of both relaxation and interaction is key to preventing disruptive behavior while working with this age group. This program's powerful combination of story, art and discovery encourages them to dig deep while remaining focused (a big challenge for this age group) and they practically teach themselves. I utilize relaxation techniques before beginning the exploration process to

enable better self-control. This age group is notorious for disruptive behavior. They are equally notorious for being unafraid of asking and answering provocative questions. Asking questions like, "Did you hear anything in this story that surprised you or goes against what you might have heard in this passage before?" can bring rapid-fire conversation.

Plan to bring several different translations of the Bible to class (especially the King James, NRSV and something like Peterson's *The Message*), as well as tablets or smart phones (if there is access to the Internet) so they can explore different translations. After you tell the story, have them look up the text in the various printed translations to see if they read anything that's different from the words in the story. The tablet gets directed to www.textweek.com or www.biblestudytools.com.

ENABLE SELF-CONTROL

Because tweens are excitable and often have very poor impulse control, it's helpful to employ a relaxation strategy before you start each of the six sessions. The 4-7-8 breath, originally designed to help heart patients relax, is very effective with tweens. I never teach a class without it. It resets the autonomic nervous system and lowers respiration and heart rates. Because it's hard to fight your own body, it's quick, easy and effective. But I insist on full

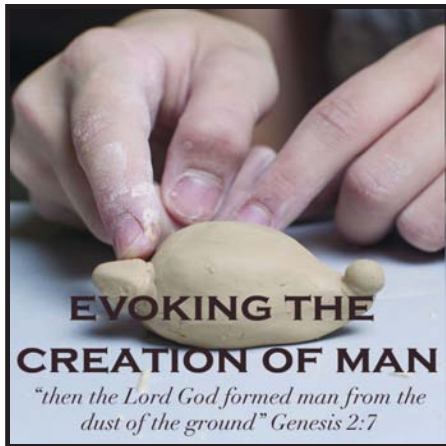
(Evoking Eden continued from page 11)

Stimulate their exploration with provoking questions: "Does 'face of the deep' (NRSV) bring a different image to your mind than, 'raging ocean' (Good News Bible)? Why?"

Week Two: Contemplating with Art-Watercolor Paintings

Ask the class to be seated at tables that have been preset with a piece of watercolor paper and a basic watercolor paint set, cups of water and paper towels.

Have them close their eyes as you tell the story and ask them to visualize the images in the story. Then ask them to paint their favorite scene from the story. In the last 10 minutes or so, have them share the images they've painted to continue their processing of the story.



WEEK THREE AND FOUR GENESIS 2:4-24

Week Three: Story Process

Begin with the relaxation technique. Tell the beginning of the story, pausing after verse eight to ask a provoking question: "Wait! When did God make the people in the story we heard last week? When they point out that God made the people last in that story, say something like, "Hmm. I guess this must be a different story," and keep telling the story through verse 24. When you have finished the storytelling, ask them if anything else was different from the first story of Genesis. The discussion can get very

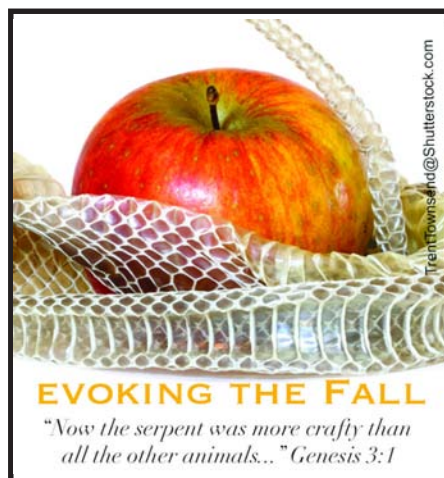
lively! Try to engage as many children as possible. Don't let one student give the opinion for the group. Draw out the quiet students by asking, "Did you notice something else in the story?"

Ask them to look at the story in the different Bible translations to see if they use different words from the story you told. Have them share what they find, beginning with the name of the translation they are reading from. Again, if you have access to the Internet, use the smart phones, computers or tablets. Tweens are digital natives.

Week Four: Contemplating with Art-Playdough or Modeling Clay

Ask the class to be seated at tables that have been preset with either playdough or modeling clay. With their eyes closed, lead them through the relaxation process and then ask them to keep their eyes closed as you tell the story. Explain that this will help them see the images in the story.

When the story is finished, have them make a creature from the story with the clay. In the last ten minutes, have them blow the breath of life into their model like God did. Then ask them how they think God feels about them.



WEEKS FIVE AND SIX GENESIS 3

Week Five: Story Process

After the relaxation exercise, tell the story. Ask another evocative question like, "Whose fault was it that Adam was

kicked out of the garden? Why do you think that?" Then explore the translations to see what different words are used to describe the snake. Continue the discussion about "original blame"-ask why it always has to be someone's fault. Ask if they think God was fair in the punishments given to Eve, the snake and Adam. Conclude the conversation by asking how God's justice compares to our society's ideas of justice.

Week Six: Contemplating with Art-Making Serpents

Make bean bag serpents using knee-high hose, small dried beans and black, white, red, yellow and blue craft paint. Cover the tables with newspaper. Preset each place with one knee-high hose pre-filled with beans and tied securely at the end. Each tween will have a paper plate with dollops of each color paint, a small watercolor brush, water for rinsing the brush and a paper towel. You can purchase 4- and 8-packs of hose at a discount retailer.

Seat the students around the table and begin with the relaxation exercise. Ask them to visualize the snake as you tell the story then have them paint their bean snake as they saw it in the story. Only allow 30 minutes for this process.

Ask the students about ways people sometimes mislead each other and end up in trouble. Discuss how they think God feels about people who mislead others and what punishments they think might be fair for the perpetrators and victims of the situations they have just mentioned. Tweens are just gaining awareness about things like justice. This is a great opportunity to let them process their ideas and observations.

Donna Marie Todd is an inspirational storyteller, writer and teaching artist. Visit her website at donnamarietodd.com.

This article is an excerpt from the Biblical Storyteller magazine and is used with permission. Learn more about biblical storytelling at nbsint.org.

Storytelling From the Pulpit by Jim Martin

When I was in high school, we had a bluegrass band. We rehearsed whenever and wherever we could find a place. Sometimes it was a packhouse, or someone's empty house. Our musical instruments were worth about \$25, all of them, if that much. I played the bass tub which was a worn out number 2 washtub my mother had thrown out, a section of clothesline, and a worn out broom handle.

Our rehearsals were sometimes short and some were long. We had to practice before dark or use candles, or the headlights of someone's car. You may have heard the expression, "Play that bass note just one more time." That simply meant that one of the

instruments in the band was not yet in tune. And often it might take a half hour to get us all tuned up. By the time we played halfway through "Boil them Cabbage Down," or "The Wildwood Flower" one of the band members would call out, "Play that bass note just one more time." By the time we all got tuned-up, it was almost dark. We had to get home before dark or our mothers would be out looking for us.

We had a good time. Our principal, Mr. Matthews, liked us. We were good boys. And, at every opportunity he would have us play at some function like the Fiddler's Convention in our school. And although we did not place in the competition He would give us 25 cents

for just being "good boys, as he liked to call us.

Those were good days. Our bluegrass band members are still with us, except Gene, our bass player. We still miss him. Carl still plays the fiddle, and Ben continues to play the guitar, and I continue to play the bass tub.

I still have that old bass tub, clothesline, and broom handle. It brings back great memories. I'm still available. My name is in the book.

Jim Martin applies storytelling as an essential part of his vocation. As a minister, storyteller and writer, he takes a multifaceted approach to his work. He is author of the book, 'You Gotta Laugh and Keep on Laughing.' He may be contacted at: revjmartin@triad.rr.com

Po Boy's Bobsledding by J.A. Bolton

I have been watching with great interest the Winter Olympics, especially the four-man bobsledding events. These young men and women have the neatest looking aerodynamic sleds made out of space age materials. The sleds are equipped with runners, steering handles, push bars and brakes. They can reach speeds over 100 m.p.h. The teams consist of a driver, two crewmen and a brakeman. Their safety equipment consist of skin tight suits, gloves, goggles, cleated shoes and of course sleek looking helmets all designed to help the team go faster.

As boys growing up in Richmond County my friends and I had our own bobsleds even though it might not snow but twice a year. We started with a piece of tin or an old Western Flier wagon bed but we were always thinking about how we could go faster and farther. After a big snow one year we decided to form our own four man bobsled team. Our team consisted of two brothers, myself and my dog Britches. Our safety equipment was World War II Army helmets, several pairs of dark welding goggles, football cleats and all the clothes we could get under our canvas hunting overalls. Now all we needed was a sled that would hold us all.

It wasn't long before we came up

with an old model Ford truck hood. The way it was made it would be a perfect sled but what could we use for brakes? We knew we needed some type of brakes because the hill we had chosen for our run was very steep and was coated with ice. There also just happened to be a tobacco barn at the bottom of the hill. So we decided to use an ocean boat anchor that we felt would stop us.

Alas our team was ready. I was chosen to be the driver, the younger brother and Britches would be our two crewmen and the oldest and bigger brother would be our brakeman or in this case the anchorman.

We all started pushing the sled off the top of the hill. Me and Britches were the first in, then the younger brother jumped in. The older brother was bound and determined to get the sled going as fast as he could before he jumped in. Down the hill we went and making good time until we hit a terrace row (ditches farmers plow to keep the hills from washing away). Why that sled lifted a good three feet off the ground and came down with a thud. Faster and faster we were going, "man this is cool," I thought as I petted Britches on the head. Little did I know how fast we were going till we hit another terrace row and

that sled lifted at least six feet in the air. When we came down that's when we lost our smartest crewman. Ol' Britches done and baled out on us. The sled was gaining speed and that tobacco barn was getting closer and closer. I yelled to my brakeman "throw out the anchor." Little did I know that someone forgot to tie the anchor to the sled but the rope was wrapped around the younger brother's feet. Out goes the anchor and out goes our other crewman right behind it. It was just me and my brakeman on a collision course with the tobacco barn. To make a long story short, we missed the main barn but knocked down every post that held up the barn's shelter. You know the good Lord looks after fools and mules. The collision threw us out into a snow-covered field but when that shelter fell it crushed that truck hood like a pancake fritter.

That spring Ol' Britches watched as we three boys rebuilt that barn shelter, but you know, none of us ever regretted that bobsled ride down Tobacco Barn hill.

Storyteller and humorist, J.A. Bolton, hails from Richmond County, NC. This year he won 2nd place in the Bold Face Liars Showdown in Laurinburg, NC. He claims he listened "to the old characters tell their tales. Won't long I was telling 'em with the best of them." He may be contacted at: ABOLTON10@carolina.rr.com



May 2014

May 18-24: North Carolina Food Traditions and Stories with Donald Davis. John Campbell Folk School, One Folk School Road, Brasstown, NC. Contact 1-800.365.5724 or www.folkschool.org.

June 2014

June 6-8: The Ocracoke Folk Storytelling and Music Festival, featuring Donald Davis, Molasses Creek and other great performers. Ocracoke, NC. www.ocracokefestival.org.

June 10-14: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring Tim Lowry. Tuesday through Saturday, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

June 14: Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration, Saturday, 10am-5pm. A celebration of mountain heritage, music, dance, craft and Appalachian Life! Educational and entertaining. Main Street Downtown Waynesville, NC. Contact 828-456-3517 or info@downtownwaynesville.com.

June 17-21: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring Willy Claflin. Tuesday through Saturday, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

June 22: The Feed and Seed Storytelling Series. Sunday, 3 pm. Feed and Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher, NC. Contact 828-484-9716 or 828-699-7114.

June 24-28: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring Bill Harley. Tuesday through Saturday, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

June 28: Stories on Asheville's Front Porch. 10:30 am, at the Rhino Court at Pack Place in downtown Asheville, NC. Featuring Bobby Norfolk. Free admission and free parking at the Police Station by Pack Tavern. Contact Sarah Larson at sarahlarso@gmail.com.

June 29-July 5: Storytellers Wild Week. Led by master storyteller Elizabeth Ellis. Wildacres Retreat Center, 1565 Wildacres Road, Little Switzerland, NC. Contact Dianne Hackworth - dianne@diannehackworth.com.

July 2014

July 1-5: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring Andy Offutt Irwin. Tuesday through Saturday at 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

July 5: Stories on Asheville's Front Porch. Latino Day: Stories in Word, Music, Art. 10:30 am, at the Rhino Court at Pack Place, Asheville, NC. Contact Sarah Larson at sarahlarso@gmail.com.

(July continued):

July 12: 16th Annual Toe River Storytelling Festival. Tellers will be Lloyd Arneach, Chuck Brodsky, Michael Reno Harrell, and Kim Weitkamp. Regional tellers TBA. For more information contact Sherry Lovett at thelovetts3@gmail.com.

July 12: Stories on Asheville's Front Porch. Southern Stories with Tim Lowry and Shanita Jackson. 10:30 am, at the Rhino Court at Pack Place, Asheville, NC. Contact Sarah Larson at sarahlarso@gmail.com.

July 19: Stories on Asheville's Front Porch. Personal Stories from our Neighbors. 10:30 am, at the Rhino Court at Pack Place, Asheville, NC. Contact Sarah Larson at sarahlarso@gmail.com.

July 22-26: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring David Holt. Tuesday through Saturday at 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

July 24-27: National Storytelling Conference. Fire and Light. Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona. <http://www.storynet.org/conference/www.folkschool.org>.

July 26: Stories on Asheville's Front Porch. The Asheville Storytelling Circle. 10:30 am, at the Rhino Court at Pack Place, Asheville, NC. Contact Sarah Larson at sarahlarso@gmail.com.

August 2014

August 3-5: ETSU Summer Storytelling Institute. Led by storytelling coach, Doug Lipman. Contact Joseph Sobol at sobol@etsu.edu or 423-439-7863; <http://www.etsu.edu/coe/stories/institute/lineup.aspx>.

August 3-9: 9th Annual StoryWindow Retreat & Adventure, with Connie Regan Blake and guest artists. Asheville, NC. Contact 828-258-1113.

August 5-9: Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence, featuring Suzi "Mama" Whaples. Tuesday through Saturday at 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

August 6-9: Festival Gathering. Keynote speaker is Vicki Garvey. Network of Biblical Storytellers International. Ridgecrest Conference Center, near Asheville, NC. Contact 1-800-355-6627, nbs@nbsint.org or go to <http://www.nbsint.org/festivalgathering> for more info or on-line registration.

August 7-9: ETSU Summer Storytelling Institute. Led by storyteller, Lyn Ford. Contact Joseph Sobol at sobol@etsu.edu or 423-439-7863; <http://www.etsu.edu/coe/stories/institute/lineup.aspx>.

August 10-17: Storyteller Donald Davis at THE SWAG Country Inn. Hiking each morning and Storytelling after dinner each evening. 2300 Swag Road, Waynesville, NC. Contact 800-789-7672 or www.theswag.com.

(Continued on back page)



*Sylvia Payne, Editor
1621 Nathaniel Street
Newton, NC 28658*

NSN National Conference July 24-27

NSN announced that their conference will be held in the beautiful Hilton Phoenix/Mesa hotel: <http://www.hiltonphoenixmesa.com/>, where National Storytelling Conference attendees will receive a rate of \$89/night (plus tax) for single or double occupancy.

Fall JTHT

We need your articles, stories, and storytelling news for the Fall 2014 issue of the *Journal of Tar Heel Tellers*.

Include storytelling events open to the public. The events will also be included on our website 'Events' page at <http://www.ncstoryguild.org/events.html>

Deadline: August 1st.
Send to: sylpayne@bellsouth.net

(Upcoming Events continued from page 14)

August 26-30: *Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence*, featuring Michael Reno Harrell. Tuesday through Saturday at 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

August 30: *The Feed and Seed Storytelling Series*. Saturday, 3 pm. Feed and Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher, NC. Contact 828-484-9716 or 828-699-7114.

September 2014

September 16-20: *Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence*, featuring Linda Goodman. Tuesday through Saturday, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Contact 800-952-8392 or go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/>.

October 2014

October 19: *The Feed and Seed Storytelling Series*. Sunday, 3 pm. Feed and Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher, NC. Contact 828-484-9716 or 828-699-7114.

October 28-November 1: *Storytelling Live! Teller-in-Residence*, featuring Sheila Kay Adams. Tuesday through Saturday at 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main St., Jonesborough, TN. Go to <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/> or contact 800-952-8392.