

Journal of Tar Heel Tellers

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Spring 2016
NC Storytelling Guild
Official Newsletter

2016 Winter Workshop with David Novak by Nancy Reeder



Ft. Caswell

For all of you who have never attended the winter workshop, let me give you a taste. Everyone arrived around four on Friday afternoon at Fort Caswell on Oak Island with dolphins swimming by, a lighthouse in the distance, and yes, even an old Civil War fort.

The thirty participants settled their belongings into various rooms on three floors at the Lantana Cottage for this perfect-weather weekend. Later we all gathered in the large meeting room to share a wonderful burrito supper. Storytellers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, and New Jersey attended David's workshop, 'Exercising the listener/ Massaging the story.'

Terry Rollins and Dianne Hackworth, the two organizers for all seventeen winter workshops introduced David in their unique and humorous manner. This year it was a Star Wars spoof with Dianne playing a princess from another world searching here on Earth for 'Lord Novak', but all she could find at first was a simple and confused fisherman, played by Terry, sitting by the river's edge. I'm not sure David ever had such



an intro, but luckily for us 'Princess Dianne' was able to find him and we all enjoyed his 'Command of the Force.'

On Friday evening he had us look at a thin piece of plastic pipe and challenged us to imagine what else it could be. Each participant created a visual pantomime using the prop. Ideas ranged from barbell to violin bow and everything in between. He then added one of those ideas into a familiar story, 'The Three Bears.' It seemed strange, but through this example we were able to see this familiar story in a totally new way.

On Saturday, after a wonderful breakfast of bacon and eggs, he asked us to look beneath the story, at the rhythm and flow, how silence as well as surprise can create something unexpected for our listeners. We did exercises exploring character traits as well as activities with sounds, seeing how these simple but sometimes overlooked tools can put energy into our words and emphasize our storyline for effect.

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JOURNAL OF TAR HEEL TELLERS

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\$80 full page ad

Calendar listings are free.

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, Azalea Bolton, ReVonda Crow,
Johnny Fowler, John Golden, Gwenda LedBetter,
David Joe Miller, Elena Diana Miller, Doyle Pace,
Nancy Reeder and Brian Sturm.



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

Congratulations to **Tim Lowry** who was the recent *Headliner* at the 35th annual Connecticut Storytelling Festival and Conference . . . Storytellers, **Faye Fulton** and **Martha Reed Johnson** were two of six storytellers recently featured at SC's Stone Soup Storytelling Festival . . . this fall **David Novak** will be a featured teller at the Lone Star Storytelling Festival in Texas . . . Congratulations to **J.A. Bolton**, 2016 winner of the Bold Faced Liars' Showdown, held in Laurinburg, NC, at the Storytelling & Arts Center of the Southeast . . . This past December, Master Storyteller, **Donald Davis**, shared tales from his latest CD, *Stories My Mother Shouldn't Hear*, plus stories from his upcoming book about his father, *Cripple Joe*, at Fearington Village, Pittsboro, NC . . . **Joan Leotta** just signed a contract for three new picture books . . . **Jeannie McPhail** has a new publication, *A Most Remarkable Hat*, which is Book 1 of a trilogy, *Trinity Tales of Tresia*.

"Come then, and let us pass a leisure hour in storytelling, and our story shall be the education of our heroes." -Plato

Story Awakening

from the editor's desk

Ah, the fresh breath of spring! I am refreshed as I've watched the world around me awaken with exploding colors and sweet aroma. Such freshness has prompted me to think of the 'story nuggets' I've collected this past year. After perusing my notes, I envision a small bouquet of stories that I plan to develop through tips learned from David Novak's Winter Workshop and Johnny Fowler's Wildacres Spring Retreat workshop.



Spring Photo courtesy,
the Editor

David Novak prompted us to think of our story ideas as tiny seeds. Seeds that must have our help to morph into flowering stories. We must nurture them, assist them to grow roots, sprout and eventually blossom. Be certain to read about the Winter Workshop in this issue.

Inside are featured articles covering several storytelling venues in the Carolinas. You will see Gwenda's article on the success of Asheville's Tellabration, a fascinating story by Azalea Bolton, a coastal folktale by John Golden and Brian Sturm's thoughts on applying humor in a story.

This spring I finally caught up with one of our storytellers. That's sometimes difficult. Be certain to read "Catching Up with David Joe Miller" by David Joe himself. This issue features a variety of thoughts relating to story and about NCSG members.

You, our members, are so appreciated. You have been so giving in writing and submitting articles. Stories and articles that are always entertaining, educational and timely. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are truly dedicated!

Submit articles for JTHT Fall 2016 issue to:

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

E-mail: sylpayne@bellsouth.net

Deadline for Fall Issue: August 15, 2016.



President's Message by Janice Davin A Year of Opportunities

The talent and generosity of many members created a program year full of opportunities. I cannot acknowledge every individual in this short message but I can name the leaders of the events we enjoyed this year.

Catherine MacKenzie accepted the challenge of organizing the 100 County Journey. Fifty-four generous tellers volunteered time and travel expenses to bring storytelling to all regions in the state. They introduced NCSG to new audiences and extended an invitation to our fall festival.

Lona Bartlett and the NCSG Festival Committee, Joel Richards and the Triad Storytelling Exchange, and Mary Alice Kurr-Murphy, Manager of Greensboro CityArts Parks and Rec made this festival a success by their tireless energy and creative problem solving. The festival provided storytelling performances that will be remembered for years to come.

Sandra Gudger's inspired choice of David Novak gave us an exceptional Winter Workshop of the highest quality. Terry Rollins and Dianne Hackworth introduced David with Star Wars Force that called us to awaken to our potential as tellers.

Johnny Fowler shared his considerable talents as a storyteller, author, and musician with the participants at our Spring Retreat. He demonstrated an impressive range of ideas and strategies from researching stories to

the aesthetic use of body language.

Behind the scenes, the NCSG Board worked hard and smart to bring these programs to you and to plan for the future. We now have a Three Year Strategic Plan that will ensure continuity, growth, and innovative prospects for the future of NCSG. Sincere appreciation goes to Sandra Gudger, Terri Ingalls, Sylvia Payne, Catherine MacKenzie, ReVonda Crow, Elena Miller, Joel Richards, Henry Vogel, Faye Fulton, and Terry Rollins.

Like the foundation of a house, you, the members of NCSG, made all of these opportunities possible by your support and your dedication to the storytelling tradition. We are fortunate to belong to a thriving community of storytellers that has a notable past and a bright future.

Janice Davin

Hicks' Homeplace Storytelling by Doyle Pace

Both Ray Hicks' youngest son, Ted and his wife Rosa (Rosie) died just two weeks apart at the end of January, 2014. Following Rosie's funeral and internment beside Ray and Ted in the Hicks' Cemetery, some friends suggested that there should be something done to honor and celebrate the contributions of this remarkable family to the world of storytelling. After letting the idea gel for awhile, it was decided that something lighthearted and fun would be appropriate, something that Rosie, Ted and Ray would like. Well, what could be more fitting than a picnic and storytelling? Ray and Rosie's

son, Leonard and daughter, Dorothy Jean are keeping the home place up at Old Mountain Road on Beech Mountain. They were consulted about the celebration and both were agreeable and happy with the idea. Subsequently, they spent a lot of time and effort getting the place ready.

The first annual Hicks' Homeplace Storytelling Gathering was held August 10, 2014. The day started out cloudy with a drizzly rain falling that didn't bode well for an outdoor event, but folks started coming from all directions, bringing bundles and baskets of vittles to share. The food was spread out on big tables

that some good folks had provided. As words of thanks and remembrance were being offered, the clouds parted and the sun smiled down. Could be Ray, Rosie and Ted had something do do with that. When our bellies were full, everyone retired to a slope in back of the house that forms a kind of natural arena, renamed the "Outhouse Amphitheater" because it is beside the old outdoor privy. There followed a wonderful couple of hours of storytelling by a lot of storytellers. Even Leonard rose to carry on the family tradition by telling "Jack and the Robbers" and the "Mule Egg" in

(Continued on page 5)

Catching Up With . . . David Joe Miller

By David Joe himself



Last fall I attended David Joe's Black Box Theater performance. My friend, Sherry Lovett, invited me to join her as she was to be a featured storyteller that evening. We arrived early and dined upstairs at the Buffalo Nickel. Umm, what a scrumptious dinner and fantastic story performance. I had time to visit with David Joe and asked if he would agree to be interviewed for a Catching Up With... article for the JHTT. He gladly responded, "yes." I sent him a list of questions and he responded with the following story. - the editor

Catching UP with me? I can't believe you caught up with me! Well, now that you're here... why not help me write another press release or print some fliers. Hang on! Here we go!

I'm extremely busy with producing spoken word events and keeping up with a storytelling career that's been chugging along for the past 27 years. It's hard to imagine it's been that long since I began working for NAPPS in Jonesborough in 1989.

I had just lost my automobile business after a couple of years of declining sales. I decided to re-enter college, finish my degree and pursue a career in education. I landed a part time job at NAPPS, working in the mailroom and with the resource catalog. I had volunteered for the National Festival over the past few years and I attended the first one in 1973 at the age of 13. I loved storytelling; loved being a listener but I never dreamed I'd be telling stories.

During my work with NAPPS, from 1989-1997, I began to tell stories at their public and private events. I became the, un-official (yet very official) "staff storyteller." In 1994 I created the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild which is now the oldest and longest running "performance" guild in the US. In 1995, I began to travel into North Carolina telling stories at schools and libraries. Because my job at NAPPS was a part-time position I was able to

travel a good bit. During this time I created a very popular narrative writing workshop series that was presented to 3rd and 4th grade classes. This series was so popular and effective that after a couple of years of intense marketing, I simply had to stop marketing it. The schools called me. Not only NC schools but schools in TN, OH, KY, MD, and AL as well.

Over the next few years I found that 70% of my work seemed to center around Charlotte so I rented an apartment in Salisbury to be near Jackie Torrence. I spent as much time as I could with Jackie, sitting at the foot of one of the masters... learning movement, timing, expression as well as some exciting versions of folk tales.

The next several years I split between Jonesborough and Salisbury, working during the school season and then returning to Jonesborough for summer break. I was able to maintain apartments in both Salisbury and Jonesborough and my loyal companion, Baybee Dog was always at my side.

Studying under Jackie was a priceless experience and I remain forever grateful for that opportunity.

I married my soul mate, Robin Sanchez, in 2004. We had known each other in high school but had lost touch over the years. We reconnected at the Cranberry Thistle in Jonesborough in

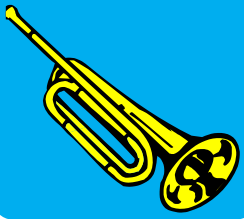
2003. She was living in Philly and I had moved to Asheville. After we married we bought a house in Charlotte where I continued my career in the schools. Her company moved us to Philly, five years later they moved us to Atlanta. I worked with narrative in the corporate arena in both cities. Once she was allowed to begin working from home, we built a house at Biltmore Lake just a few feet from the Asheville city limits.

Here in Asheville I found that there was a great opportunity to produce spoken word events, mainly storytelling but we are accepting of all genres.

I opened Black Box Storytelling Theater in January of 2015. We are now based at The Buffalo Nickel in West Asheville and offer monthly spoken word shows at that venue as well as shows and workshops at other times and at other venues throughout the year. Our popular OPEN MIC! series occurs about every other month. You can find more about us on Facebook under Black Box Storytelling Theater or David Joe Miller Presents.

And so the story continues.... Hopefully you'll visit us in Asheville sometime soon and experience an OPEN MIC! night or one of our other monthly shows.

David Joe Miller



A TRIBUTE TO A VETERAN

© By Azalea R. Bolton

As I came down the steps of the little mountain church, I thought what an absolutely gorgeous day. The air was clear and crisp; the sky was a beautiful Carolina blue and there were patches of green grass coming up all over the church yard. As we started around the side of the church, I saw a fence there that separated the church yard from an adjoining pasture. On the far side of the pasture there were two horses. One was a beautiful black and white paint and the other was brown and shiny like a new copper penny with a flowing black mane and tail. They were grazing along trying to find another blade of green grass and seemed completely oblivious to the crowd of people walking along on the other side of the fence.

Some people were talking quietly as we walked along but my eyes were drawn like a magnet to the beauty I could see as I looked up to the mountains in all of their grandeur with the trees growing on them that seemed to rise up

and meet the sky. But then as I looked down I thought: Is there such a thing as a beautiful cemetery? Because that is what lay at the foot of those same beautiful and majestic mountains that I had just been admiring – a church yard cemetery.

By then we had reached the tent that covered some chairs and a flag-draped coffin. Most of the family sat down in the chairs there but my husband and I stood outside the tent where we could see and hear the preacher and yet we could also see to the side of us towards the fence. There were seven people standing there at attention who represented the armed services. They all looked really young but their uniforms were spotless right down to their shiny black boots and white gloves covering hands down to their fingertips.

The preacher read some scripture; said a few words and then closed his part of the service with prayer. Everyone's attention then turned to the uniformed soldiers as they began their part of the service. To my surprise, the

horses came running up to the fence. They stopped and stood gazing across to what was taking place just on the other side. They stood as still as two statues during the firing of the volley and while the flag was precisely folded and presented to the mother of the deceased veteran. Even during the haunting melody of T.A.P.S., they did not flinch or move a muscle. But then as the last notes floated away into the wind, they took off at a gallop back across to the other side of the pasture where they returned to munching on grass and were once again seemingly oblivious to the humans on the other side of the fence.

If I live to be a hundred, I hope I never forget that beautiful, crisp Mountain day when the soldiers saluted my cousin James with a volley, a folded flag and a bugle and then the horses as they paid tribute with their own unique and majestic dignity!!!

Azalea Bolton is a member of The Richmond County Writers Club and The Story Spinners Guild of Laurinburg, NC. She may be contacted at: abolton10@carolina.rr.com

(Hicks Homeplace...Continued from page 3)

the Hicks' inimitable way. We finished with everyone singing Rosie's favorite song, "The New River Train." It was a good day. Everyone was happy.

Because the day was so enjoyable, the consensus was that the second annual Hick's Homeplace Storytelling Gathering should be held the next year on Ray's birthday August 29th. Like a county fair it was bigger and better than the year before. More people came, including neighbors and Hick's relatives. A good time was had by all.

The Third H.H.S.G. will be this year on August 14. Bring some food to share, something to sit on, and a story to tell. The address is 218 Old Mountain Road, Banner Elk, NC. Use Google Maps, your GPS to find the way or get in touch with Doyle Pace (bmonkus.pace@gmail.com), Connie Reagan-Blake (Connie@storywindow.com) or Vixi Jill Glenn.

Doyle Pace has preserved and told stories for most of his life. He has served several terms on the Board of NCSG. You will find his email contact in the above paragraph.

Storytelling as Effective Communications Tool

Recently I came across a collection of **Storytelling** articles on the NSN website. Including access to over 400 articles on the application of storytelling "as an effective communications tool around the world."

Published in newspapers and magazines, dating from 2013 back to 2003.

<http://www.storynet-advocacy.org/news/>

FUNNY NOW OR FUNNY LATER: PERSONAL NARRATIVE

PERFORMANCE OF HUMOR © BY BRIAN STURM

"HUMOR IS TRAGEDY PLUS TIME." MARK TWAIN

One of my storytelling students raised an interesting point when he was performing a personal narrative story. He said in his self-evaluation: "After much reflection to find the right kind of funny moments to include in my story, I decided to go with an anecdote that I didn't find funny at the time but found hilarious later on. That way I could still keep a straight face as I was telling the story since I could channel the emotions of the narrator at the time, but I could still make my audience find these moments funny."

I find this juxtaposition fascinating, and worth some further exploration. Briefly, this idea of choosing an experience that was not funny at the time but funny in retrospect so that a storyteller can perform the original emotion authentically (i.e., with a straight face), yet still evoke the hilarity of the moment for the audience is really intriguing.

Does the juxtaposition of emotions increase the humor? If, as storytellers, we want listeners identifying with our characters, then listeners of this particular story should "be in the moment" and therefore not laugh. Yet they are able to take a meta-story perspective (seeing it from the outside rather than the immersive "insider" perspective) and laugh at the teller's experience. Perhaps laughing at requires this outsider perspective, as it might be unseemly to be within the story and laugh at a character (unless that character were a villain or a buffoon and other characters were mocking him/her).

So, can we achieve a dual-perspective that is simultaneous in our listeners? Can they be both inside the story and outside

the story? Dualistic perspectives of reality would say "no," but trance logic would say "yes." In hypnosis, the "hidden observer" is part of the psyche that is not entranced and that monitors reality to ensure that the hypnotized person is not put at risk. Do we have multiple awarenesses that negotiate reality simultaneously but to which we can attend only sequentially?

Plato and Socrates felt humor involved laughing at others' misfortunes so that we might feel better than them (Superiority theory); Relief theory, championed by Freud among others, claimed that humor released pent-up emotions and inner sexual or aggressive tendencies, but this theory has been largely discarded; Incongruity theory posits that humor is the result of surprises and violations of our expectations (similar to Arthur Koestler's bisociation theory of creativity); and Benign Violation theory proposes that an incongruity (physical, social, cultural, or linguistic) must have no serious negative outcome for the experience to be humorous (McGraw 2010).

One element of benign violation theory suggests that humor related to a violation requires psychological distance, which can take a variety of forms: physical distance (it's funnier when it happens elsewhere); social distance (it's funnier when it happens to a stranger, as in all those hilarious contemporary legends); hypothetical distance (it's funnier when it's not real, such as in cartoons or fantasy); and temporal distance (funnier when removed in time). There seems to be, however, a "sweet spot" in terms of time; to paraphrase Goldilocks,



humor about events that are too recent are considered offensive, humor about events that are too late are boring and passé, but the ones whose temporal distance is just right are the ones we find amusing (McGraw 2014, 602).

Even here, however, there are exceptions to the rule. In personal narrative, the humor is often greater because it happened to you (no social distance or hypothetical distance), so you have to rely on the temporal sweet spot and physical distance (perhaps "set" your story elsewhere). Of course some humor relies on local knowledge, so even this rule is not set in stone.

If we can't follow precise rules to make something funny, at least how do we "signal" to our listeners that, despite our straight-faced performance, the experience conveyed is meant to be humorous? There are many techniques, including hyperbole (excessive positive or negative speech); exaggerated speech ("he is soooo smart"); facial expressions such as raised eyebrow(s), rolling eyes, a slight smirk, a well-timed

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(Humor...continued from page 6)

wink, or a slight head tilt; or incongruous statements that seem contrary to the context of the situation. But what makes utterances funny is still highly debated, and reflects personal preferences, cultural norms, and a host of other influences.

So, if I have a non-humorous event in the past that I want my audience to laugh at now, how do I do it? Here are a couple of suggestions:

1. The greater the violation the greater psychological distance you need (for you and your listeners); intense emotional events need time to become less raw, to allow the wounds to heal, before they can be really funny.
2. Use several of the techniques listed above to cue your audience that this is not meant to be serious.
3. Have a punchline or twist at the end that shows the violation in a new light (incongruity).
4. Make sure no one gets really hurt (benign).

Then have fun!

References

McGraw, A. Peter and Caleb Warren. (2010). Benign Violations: Making Immoral Behavior Funny. *Psychological Science*. Association for Psychological Science. DOI: 10.1177/0956797610376073.

McGraw, A. Peter, Lawrence E. Williams, and Caleb Warren. (2014). Psychological Distance. In *The Encyclopedia of Humor Studies*. (pp. 602-603). Los Angeles: Sage.

Brian Sturm is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. His focus is on storytelling, folklore, children's and young adults' literature, public library services, children and technology, and bibliotherapy. You may contact him at strum@ils.unc.edu.

BLACK BOX STORYTELLING THEATER BY DAVID JOE MILLER

Black Box began in January of 2015 when I invited Regi Carpenter to come to Asheville for a series of shows and workshops.

A local venue, New Mountain SOL Bar, contacted me in late October 2014 and asked me to consider doing a weekly spoken word show at their bar. I declined the concept of a weekly show but told them I'd be interested in a monthly event. Regi Carpenter appeared at our first event in January of 2015 with what we lovingly called, "Regi Fest." Not only did she lead our Monday night show but she also presented a workshop in "Diving Deep" into your story and a "Story Slam" workshop as well as three private shows for schools and communities.

As of March we finished our fifteenth month and we moved to a new venue in October. After our audience began asking for a more comfortable venue, one that offered food, we moved to West Asheville to a wonderful restaurant called The Buffalo Nickel. Our event room is on the second floor of a very historic building. The restaurant and bar offers a wonderful food menu and a large selection of local craft beers and some

very nice wine... as well as bourbons and bitters.

My goal is to present our very popular OPEN MIC! series every other month and the other, every month, we'll present a larger show featuring nationally known storytellers along with local and regional tellers. OPEN MIC! is open to all spoken word genres whether it's story, poetry, comedy or the written word. It's a wonderful opportunity to get on stage and present your ten minute work in front of a kind and supportive live audience.

Our other months will feature storytellers such as Chuck Brodsky, Michael Reno Harrell, Kim Weitkamp, Adam Booth, Kristin Pedemonti and many others. Some of our co-hosts have been other regional storytelling producers. Jimmy Neil Smith joined us as co-host in March.

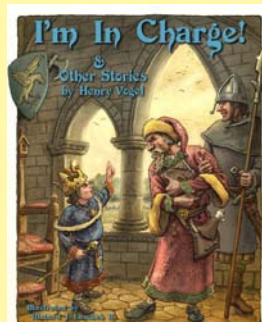
When: Every third Wednesday of the month. *Where:* Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road in Asheville, NC. 28806. 7pm show time but come early for drinks and dinner. Find us on Facebook or contact David Joe Miller at davidjoetells@yahoo.com

See page 4 to learn more about David Joe Miller.

HENRY VOGEL'S NEW PUBLICATION

This past Christmas Henry Vogel released a picture book, *I'm In Charge!* that includes three stories from his storytelling repertoire. In the first story by the same title a young prince is left in charge of the kingdom while the King and Queen are away. He is so excited about being in command that he becomes somewhat carried away as he shouts out ridiculous orders. Eventually his orders go a bit too far. The outcome is a lesson well learned for the obstinant young prince. *I'm In Charge!* is a delightful book. You can see it on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/069260457X/>

I'M IN CHARGE!





The Need for Story, a Tellabration Remembrance

by Gwenda Ledbetter

Where did they all come from? I wouldn't put it past our founder, Sandra Gudger, to have gone down streets grinning her great grin with, "Y'all come!" Three hundred and eighty folks, laughing, smiling, clapping, eating apples, making sounds like a bear, leaving with images of stories instead of sugarplums in their heads. Mr. Pinkerton who started Tellebration years ago would have been proud, and with terror abroad and near at hand, it is a perfect time for storytelling.

Story is everywhere. Television, movies, The Moth, and YouTube, but never is it so powerful as when someone stands or sits in front of others and projects images we all share into heads and hearts. And... never has this common language been needed more.

I'm pretty sure all of the tellers agonized about what to tell. The limit on time helped. I chose Like Meat Loves Salt, an ancient, but happening right now story of forgiveness, that I performed for the first time at a meeting of Asheville Story Circle some years ago. And Horace the Mule. All of us look for stories that are especially ours to tell. My friend Mimi says, "No one expects that story to be coming from you. That's what makes it so funny." Years ago, I don't know how many, I told stories to a church group

from Camden, S.C. The week after the telling, I received the story of Horace the Mule, in the mail with a note saying it reminded the sender of me! Reading it, I could hear the watermen back on the Eastern Shore of Virginia where I grew up, drawling it out. I don't know how the person who sent me the story knew those voices were in my head. It has always been a great story for unknown situations. I told it once in a van in Austria. We were on a one lane road in and near the Alps and didn't know if anyone was coming to meet us or not. I told it to open in a Festival in Illinois having just recovered from "Double Bell's Palsy" and wasn't at all sure my numb lips would send it forth. Folks fell off their chairs.

I suppose there is someone who could listen and not laugh. There's always someone like Scrooge that doesn't want to be a part of living. There were other great stories at Tellabration that brought grins and hee-haws. I asked a priest once if there was such a thing as holy laughter. The answer was "yes" just as tears are holy when we shed them for the killing and all the sadness happening in the world. The tears and laughter join us. Being able to tell stories that bring us together puts everything into perspective and makes storytelling into a holy occupation but you knew that, didn't you? Tell on.

Storyteller and playwright, Gwenda Ledbetter, became known as the Story Lady at the Asheville libraries 50 years ago. She first told at the National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, Tennessee in 1979. She received the Oracle Award from NSN in 2006, is a member of the Asheville's Storytelling Circle and received NCSG's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. You may contact her at: bahpu80@gmail.com

Why Tellabration? By elena diana miller

We remember J.G. "Paw Paw" Pinkerton as the creator of the traditional Tellabration storytelling event in Connecticut, which was launched by the Connecticut Storytelling Center on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Pinkerton was on the Board of Directors of The National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling, now NSN, and The International Storytelling Center that encouraged the event to expand to a national level. In Western North Carolina ASC's wide spread media attention focused on the 20th Anniversary of Asheville Storytelling Circle and its Tellabration. ASC's selection committee chose a few of its many professional quality tellers to showcase at this event.

Submitted by NCSG Southern Mountain Representative, Elena Diana Miller.

HAGOOD MILL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL BY JOHNNY FOWLER

Each October the hills and hollers at the Hagood Mill Historic Site & Folklife Center in Pickens, South Carolina, come alive with storytellers sharing the weird and wonderful, mountain funnies, memories of yesteryear, and tales of way off – and some not so way off --mystical places. This year marks The Fourteenth Annual Hagood Mill Storytelling Festival.

The festival site is home to the historic Hagood Gristmill, on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally built circa 1825 and reincarnated at its present location in 1845, it is the best known surviving gristmill still producing grain products in South Carolina. The site features the fully operational gristmill, primitive pottery, traditional barn with family farm exhibit, visitor center and gift shop, historic log cabins, cotton gin building, moonshine still, blacksmith shop, walking trails, the WPA Era, single-lane, Praters's Creek Bridge (the last in Pickens County), and the recently opened Petroglyph Building which features rare, in situ pre-historic carvings.

The very first storytelling festival at Hagood Mill began in 2002 beneath rainy November skies which featured host and storyteller Johnny Thomas Fowler along with three outstanding South Carolina tellers. The rain was so heavy that all storytelling was confined to a room in the Visitor Center. The next year the festival was held under blue skies and in 2004 was adopted as an annual October event and is part of the year-long *Music in the Mountain Series* celebrated on the third Saturday of every month, rain or shine.



The 2016 festival is Saturday, October 15, from 10am to 4pm with host and teller-in-residence Johnny Thomas Fowler who always guarantees to delight listeners with his music, folklore, and a big helping of outstanding storytelling. Featured tellers are the award-winning songwriter and veteran storyteller Michael Reno Harrell, Asheville's very own Appalachian sprit Kathy Gordon, and the powerful and commanding voice of Darren McCloud from Columbia S.C. and a special presentation from music historian and fiddler Andy Brooks. New Voices Tellers are Donna Tillman and Lee Stephenson. This year's festival will be a real crowd pleaser. Best of all it's FREE! There is a \$5.00 parking fee -- so pack the car with friends and kin and come on out.

During the day visitors can also enjoy the arts, folklife and living history demonstrations including moonshining, milling, spinning, weaving, bee-keeping, blacksmithing, quilting, woodcarving, flint-knapping, chair caning, and a visit to the Petroglyph Site. There is simply not another storytelling festival like it. The possibilities are endless. All storytelling events are scheduled at the outdoor main stage. Bring your favorite folding chair or blanket and make a long and leisurely

day like no other.

Hagood Mill Historic Site & Folklife Center can be visited year round. Every third Saturday features the Music in the Mountains series with regional musicians. Throughout the year the site offers hands on workshops and special programming. Anyone can just drop in for a self-guided tour.

The site is located three miles north of uptown Pickens, South Carolina, off Hwy 178, or five and a half miles south the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway 11 on Hagood Mill Road.

For more information about The Hagood Mill Historic Site at [\(864\) 898-2936](tel:8648982936) or go to VisitPickensCounty.com or become a FaceBook friend.

Johnny Thomas Fowler
Storyteller/Old Time Musician
www.Hairytoeproductions.com

Johnny Fowler's storytelling is a wonderful anthology of Appalachian stories along with songs collected from generations of Carolina old-timers, storytellers and ballad singers. You may contact him at: htp50@yahoo.com

Accepting Articles for Fall JHT

Articles, stories, and storytelling news items are needed for NCSG's Fall 2016 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: August 15th.

Please send to:

sylpayne@bellsouth.net

Storytelling in the Historic Feed & Seed Building in Fletcher, NC by Elena Diana Miller



For years the old Feed & Seed brick building in Fletcher, North Carolina had been the local haunt of farmers and builders who bought and sold goods needed for their farms and business. It was, like most trading posts, a natural place for storytellers, liars and meddlers. Many a good intentioned tall tale was crafted on its porch. No longer a trading post nor hardware store, it is a gathering place Thursday through Saturday nights for bluegrass bands and it also serves as a place of worship on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings with Pastor Philip Trees presiding.

With its rich heritage against a backdrop of storied aristocracy complemented by impoverished mountain dirt farmers it seemed a logical nesting ground to nourish its harbored century old tales. Karen Eve Bayne, fiber artist, storyteller and former Executive Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra saw an opportunity to explore Feed & Seed as a showcase for tellers. Director of Do Tell Story Fest, Karen Eve Bayne envisioned and launched the Feed & Seed storytelling project in 2010 in collaboration with the Asheville Storytelling Circle and Fletcher Arts and Heritage Association (FAHA). When the series gained regional acclaim and success Karen-Eve secured support from the North Carolina Arts Council through Henderson County. The series became one of two major projects of STEAP, Inc., a 501 (C3) non-profit dedicated to storytelling, education and arts programs. In 2014 Karen-Eve encouraged Elena Diana Miller, educator, storyteller, folk musician, to become the program director of the Feed & Seed Series.

The Feed & Seed brick building boasts an illustrious and colorful history. The village of Fletcher was viewed by some as a patch of 'suburban sprawl' between Hendersonville and Asheville

and thought of by others as a sleepy little settlement until the Asheville Airport was established nearby to encourage travel and visitation to the area. Long before that time in the 1800's wealthy Charlestonians journeyed to nearby Flat Rock, NC. They came by wagons and rails in anticipation of escaping the hot South Carolina summers and to relish in the cool mountain breezy weather with its healthy climate. Since the road from Charleston to Flat Rock was relatively easily accessible they established their seasonal resorts in the area. Some of the Charlestonians with their slaves moved a few miles north of Flat Rock to build several homes that became historic dwellings in Fletcher. Also in the 1800's Dr. George Washington Fletcher returned from the Civil War as a Confederate doctor and surgeon. He purchased a large tract of land near the village and established his practice. He built a store, a tannery, a blacksmith shop, and turned his home into an Inn where he farmed the surrounding land. When a railroad station was built in the village the townspeople called it the Fletcher Station. When a post office was built it was called the Fletcher Post Office. Dr. Fletcher, the influential entrepreneur, thus, was attributed with being the founder of Fletcher. Fletcher also became associated with the Beale Fletcher family, who owned a dance studio in Fletcher and whose daughter became Miss America in 1962.

It is no wonder that the village, not established as a town until 1987 with its brick buildings lining historic streets, gained acclaim and many times notoriety. Developers with entrepreneurial interests were attracted to Fletcher. They widened the main road and began to demolish the historic brick buildings. The historic Feed & Seed was one of these targeted to be demolished. Primarily to protect the Feed & Seed and the few remaining brick buildings Fletcher Arts and Heritage Association

was established. FAHA sanctioned a church in the Feed & Seed building and began to showcase bluegrass music. The old Feed & Seed Hardware Store once again became a place to reflect its historic presence as a gathering place for music and later stories.

When the Feed & Seed Storytelling Series was established it was instrumental in bringing the history of our Appalachian people to the spotlight. It encouraged older lower income adults and children in this geographical area, who have minimal exposure to art forms and limited exposure to other cultures, to learn about other cultures. Through quality arts programs the Feed & Seed Storytelling Series has increased cultural awareness among diverse populations brought together through storytelling and music. The series also includes educational performances in local schools, which have pronounced racial diversity. It provides employment opportunities for Native American, African American and other performing artists of racial diversity. The Feed & Seed series happens each year. 2016's first performance was March 19th. The next dates are on Saturdays, June 18th, September 24th and November 12th at 4:00pm. The bluegrass performance is at 7:00pm. Do Tell Fest was May 1st in Hendersonville, NC.

To support the program or for further inquiries please contact Program Director, Elena Diana Miller at: elenamiller@bellsouth.net

Elena Diana Miller, MA in Drama/Theatre/English, is the Southern Mountain Representative of NCSG. She is a recipient of the First Place National Award "Best Performing Arts Program in Parks," and current nominee for NCSG President-Elect.

(2016 Winter Workshop ...continued from front page)

Throughout the workshop, David told us stories to illustrate his thoughts, but on Saturday night after our traditional soup and salad dinner, David shared several of his stories, with Little Red Riding Hood topping my list.

He concluded the workshop on Sunday with his metaphor of the seed as a story. Its roots develop, stems and leaves grow, and finally the flower blooms. He calls this cycle: *to place* (a seed), *to reveal* (when it pops through the dirt), and *to relate* (when the flower blooms). Our stories, like the seed, should continue to change, grow and evolve.

By 11:30 on Sunday morning, it was time to leave. We gathered our belongings, gave hugs to old friends and new ones, and headed home. This experience at Fort Caswell with David Novak is not only a wonderful memory, but his ideas and examples will continue to support and enhance my storytelling for a long time to come.

Nancy Reeder is a storyteller, educator, and writer who shares stories with all ages. As an avid long distance hiker she has created storytelling performances from her thru-hikes of the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. She can be contacted at nancyreeder@gmail.com or <http://www.nancyreeder.com/>



Uhh... what's under your hand Millie?!



Oops, Ron caught with KP duty. Quick, everybody run!



Janice, dances to her own drummer again! If you only knew...

Meanwhile... Lord Novak cast a spell upon the rest of us. Here's proof below!



Spell Casting!



Group Photo



Oops, this one managed to escape.

How did that happen? (r. photo)



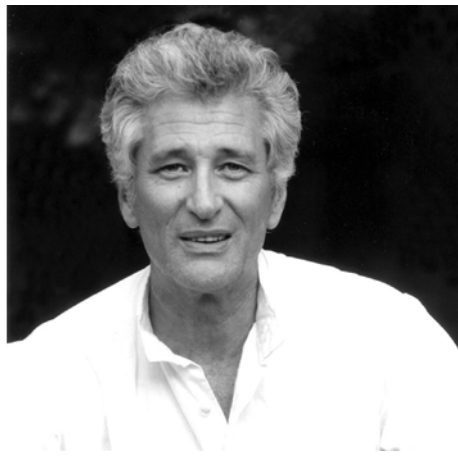
THE LAST WALTZ

© by John Golden

It happened again at the annual debutantes ball in Wilmington. The year was 1915. The verandah and the gardens of the Governor Dudley mansion were filled with young ladies and their escorts...dancing under strings of paper lanterns that hung from the oak trees overlooking the Cape Fear River. A warm river breeze rippled the tree leaves and bounced the paper lanterns, making strange shadow goblins along the garden walls. A small orchestra played traditional music and a few contemporary favorites of the time. It was a time of war...though the effects of war were far away.

The most popular tunes were coming from Broadway shows and the Tin Pan Alley publishers in New York. Occasionally a dance craze would sweep through the younger set as a fad. Of course, the young ladies had all received training in ballroom dancing as part of their debut preparations so the most familiar dance at this gala ball was...the waltz. While they danced to the waltzes of Strauss, Shubert and other world composers, their thoughts were on correct posture, proper behavior and perhaps a handsome escort...their own or someone else's.

A young cadet stood in the shadows... watching the dancers whirl and listening to the excited chatter of the partygoers. He was tall and trim in his academy uniform...though a little pale...as if recovering from an injury. He appeared to be alone; the only identifying insignia on his uniform was the brass CSA buckle at the crossed straps of his grey tunic. No young lady graced his arm. Other young men escorted young women with



cheeks and lips brightened by rouge, wearing elegant gowns sown by their mothers and grandmothers. He may have been a brother home on leave or a family friend...perhaps at the last minute his date for the evening had taken sick...some of the girls were anxious and concerned at "coming out" in full finery into the social whirl of Wilmington. Whatever the reason, the solitary status of the handsome cadet was whispered from one end of the garden to the other.

He began politely breaking in on couples...and danced with one young lady after another. He was so graceful and dashing that the other dancers paused and watched in admiration. The orchestra played waltz after waltz as the cadet wheeled and swept his partner around and around to the applause of the party guests. He favored no one partner, changing often and giving each starry-eyed debutante a whirl on tiptoes. He talked to each one, smiling at her as if she were the only one in his thoughts... it was a waltz she would long remember.

After an hour or so he seemed to be dizzy...putting his hand to his forehead...he excused himself and went through the crowd to the lemonade

table for refreshment. Just as quietly as he arrived...he disappeared into the shadows. He has re-appeared at many of the debutante balls that have been held annually since the Civil War. It's the kind of memory that you treasure for life. The fact that no one knew his name or where he came from just added romance to a breath-taking dance with a handsome stranger.

The most popular story says that the cadet was home on leave from a Southern academy during the Civil War...on leave to attend his sister's "coming out"...and that he was killed in battle the day he returned to duty. There were several Virginia Military Institute (VMI) cadets killed in a charge at the Battle of New Market on 1864. In any case there aren't enough details known about him to confirm the stories that fly about after one of his appearances. He has returned to the annual ball many times for over a century...capturing the hearts of young women...and living on in the memories of those debutants who were chosen...for his last waltz.

Note: The Last Waltz is one of several coastal folk stories told by John Golden in his "Tales of the Cape Fear" CD available at the Golden Gallery in the Cotton Exchange in downtown Wilmington, NC.

John Golden is well known for his knowledge of coastal history, dating back to the Lost Colony, pirates and the Civil War. He's not only known in the storytelling world, he's also well known in the music world. John is a former NCSG Board member and well known as a storyteller and musician up and down the coast of NC and beyond. You may contact him at: johncgolden@ec.rr.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR STORYTELLERS

BYNUM GENERAL STORE TELLABRATION

Pittsboro, NC - *Tellabration* in the Bynum General Store was very successful with a full house. Ken Corsbie suggested the Tellabration idea to NCSG's Piedmont representative Henry Vogel who immediately endorsed it. Storyteller Cynthia Raxter, a Bynum resident, ran with it and did most of the organisational and hands on work to make this first ever Tellabration the success that it was.

The General Store is an almost ready made venue for storytelling. We had complimentary snacks and hot apple cider for all.

The tellers were emcee, Mick McKenna, Raleigh; Alan Hoal, Cary; Cynthia Raxter and Aja Dematerra, Bynum; Ken Corsbie, Chapel Hill; Robin Kitson, Raleigh; and Louise Omoto Kessel, Pittsboro.

STORYTELLER QUILTING ON NORVEIGIAN CRUISE

Cary, NC - Not only is Willa Brigham a storyteller, writer and quilter. From her love of quilting, Willa has morphed into a textile artist. In February 2016 she reveled in the luxury of a Norweigen Cruise Ship while she and two additional artists taught Fabric Art Classes. Ports of call were St. Kitts, St. Martin, San Juan and Haiti.

JOYFUL JEWEL STORYTELLING EVENT

Pittsboro, NC - The *Joyful Jewel*, organized by Judith Valerie, livened up a chilly February evening by hosting the first Storytelling Event in lovely downtown Pittsboro, with "New Beginnings" as the theme. The Joyful Jewel, an art gallery for North Carolina artists, is located at 44-A Hillsboro Street!

There was standing room only in a mini theater atmosphere. Six tellers kept the standing room only audience entertained with comic, romantic, sad and triumphant stories. Owner Maria Wheeler was so delighted with the response that she decided to host quarterly storytelling events.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Barbados, West Indies - Ken Corsbie recently received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his outstanding contribution to Caribbean Theatre from the University of the West Indies (UWI). This award was presented by the Earl Warner Trust in Barbados. All Ken's work has been of and about the arts and culture of the Caribbean. Since coming to America he has performed in the US and in Canada.

FAIRIES, STORIES: IRELAND! BY REVONDA CROW

What an honor to get to tell stories in Ireland! The Irish are known for their storytelling, and I was blessed with being able to make a 2-week trip to Ireland in November, 2015. I spent 3 days in Dublin and then the rest of my time was spent in County Kerry, on the southwest coast. What an amazing adventure!

I chose to take my trip to Ireland when a friend told me about the Storytelling and Folk Festival in the village of Sneem. I arrived in Dublin, and saw as many sights as I could, and then boarded a train for a 3-hour journey to County Kerry.

I had talked with the people that had started and organized the festival about telling. And, to my excitement, I was allowed to tell at the festival. I was one of several visiting storytellers from the US, Australia, and Canada. I was invited to tell at a community center event and at the local school in Sneem,



after the festival as well. I had so much fun telling to local adults and children. Tours of the local area were offered, and I learned a lot about local history of the Irish Catholics gaining their voting rights, and events of the Revolution in 1922. The beauty of the area was amazing. I am so pleased to have been a part of a tradition that dates back for centuries in Irish history. Traditionally, storytellers, in Ireland, were called "Seanchais." I was also able to travel around Sneem, a village in County Kerry, and in the surrounding area. It was so incredible.

I got to experience the storytelling of storytellers from Scotland and England, and 2 local Irish storytellers. We did a pub crawl Friday evening, and had so much fun telling to the patrons. Saturday evening, retired Irish footballers, and newscasters told stories of their days of football, and they filled up the entire conference room. I learned more about Irish football than I needed to know.

On the last day of my grand Ireland adventure, I boarded the train and headed back to Dublin, and then back on the plane. What an unforgettable adventure! It was as if I were in a dream, a step out of time. I am left with so many amazing stories and memories of people, places and events, all that make up Ireland in my heart.

Storyteller, Revonda Crow is currently serving as NCSG's Northern Mountains Area Rep. She recently told stories during her visit to Ireland. She may be contacted at rgcrow@gmail.com



Monthly On-Going Events:

The Asheville Storytelling Circle. Meets 3rd Monday of each month - 7:00pm. Asheville Terrace, 200 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, NC. Contact Wallace Shealy, wshealy@wallaceshealy.com or 828.581.4603.

The Inner Banks Storytellers Group meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaufort County Arts Council building. Washington, NC. For more information, contact Terry Rollins at 252.402.8595.

Northern Wake Storytelling Circle and Meetup. Monthly, usually third Sunday at 3pm. Page 158 Books, 158 S. White St, Wake Forest, NC 27587. Contact Claire Ramsey at claire@storieswithclaire.com. Current dates listed on www.storieswithclaire.com and www.storystorewv.com.

Story Spinners Guild. 3rd Monday of every month, September through May. Storytelling Arts Center, 131 S. Main St., Laurinburg, NC. 910.277.3599.

The Storytellers Guild of Charlotte. 3rd Sunday of each month - 3:30pm, in the Education Room of the Total Wine and More. Located in the Promenade on Providence Shopping Center, 5341 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte, NC. Contact 704.756.2919.

Surry Storytellers meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Mount Airy Library at 7 p.m. We start with a mini-workshop and then on to stories. The library is located at 145 Rockford Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030 (336.989.5708). Come to listen. Come to tell. For more information call Terri Ingalls at 336.351.3806.

Terry Rollins leads Washington Haunts: the Historic Ghost Walk. Washington, NC. Contact 252.402.8595.

Triad Storytelling Exchange. Meets 3rd Thursday of each month - 6:00pm. CityArts suite, Cultural Center, 200 N. Davie St., Greensboro, NC. Contact Charlotte Hamlin at chamlin1@triad.rr.com.

The Village Storytellers. First Tuesday of the Month, 7:00pm at Sertoma Arts Center, 1400 W. Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina. Share your story and help others improve theirs. Note: Center schedule may cause change of Tuesday - contact Gale Buck or check Village Storytellers in Facebook for next event. Contact: Gale Buck, gale@woodsmanstories.com.

May 2016

May 6-7: Hatteras Storytelling Festival, featuring Donald Davis, world renown storyteller. Sponsored by *Our State Magazine* and the Dare County Tourist Bureau. 57689 NC-12, Hatteras, NC. Contact: 252.986.2109 or bwhatteras@gmail.com.

May 14: Bynum Front Porch series at the Bynum General Store. Come see North Carolina's best storytellers and emerging talent. *True life stories, tall tales, folk tales, traditional stories from many lands ... LIES!* With a "fresh new face" every show. Be ready to laugh, cry and laugh some more. Family friendly—most enjoyed by those 8 and above. Free, but we will pass the pith helmet. 20% supports the Bynum Front Porch Scholarship Fund! Bynum General Store, 950 Bynum Road, Pittsboro, NC. Contact: cynthiaraxter@gmail.com, <http://cynthiaraxter.blogspot.com/> or 919.444.9535.

May 18: David Joe Miller Presents, "Three Storytellers Walk Into a Bar, OUCH!" Featuring David Joe Miller, Pete Koschnick and Charlie St.Clair, all three are Asheville storytellers and all three are "right funny guys!" Come celebrate humorous stories and tall tales as only three, grey haired, old bearded men can tell. Show begins at 7pm but please come early to order drinks and dinner. Dinner reservations can be made by calling 828.575.2844. 7pm, Admission: \$12 at door or \$10 online at Eventbrite.com; Address: 747 Haywood Road, West Asheville, NC. Contact: 828.808.1150 or www.davidjoemiller.com

May 20: The Joyful Jewel Storytelling Festival. Unique storytellers in a unique location, featuring four tellers of diverse callings to spin stories and enchant us! The Joyful Jewel is a craft and art gallery in downtown Pittsboro featuring local artists. They also host spoken word events frequently. Free event - refreshments served. The Joyful Jewel, 44-A Hillsboro St., downtown Pittsboro, NC. Friday, 7-9pm. Contact Mariah Wheeler at mariah.joyfuljewel@gmail.com; <http://www.joyfuljewel.com> or call 919.883.2775.

June 2016

June 3-5: 17th Annual Ocracoke Festival. A great weekend of music, storytelling, crafts, artisans, square dancing and more. Ocracoke, NC. Contact: <http://www.ocracokealive.org/>

June 15: David Joe Miller presents Martha Reed Johnson and Amy Yeary Holmes, two extremely talented regional storytellers that are making their names known in the storytelling community. Amy is from Jonesborough and is a member of

the Jonesborough Guild. Martha is very well known in the Carolinas and beyond, having appeared at many festivals and events in the southeast. Come early for drinks and dinner. 828.575.2844 for dinner reservations at Buffalo Nickel. 7pm; Admission: \$12 at door or \$10 online at Eventbrite.com. Address: 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville, 28806. Contact: 828.808.1150 or www.davidjoemiller.com

June 17-19: Taking Your Story To The Stage, Storytelling Intensive, open to returning students. Led by Connie Regan-Blake. Asheville, NC. Contact 828.258.1113, <http://storywindow.com/> or connie@storywindow.com.

June 18: The Feed & Seed Storytelling Series. Featuring storyteller, James Last Year Wilnoty. Saturday, 4pm. STEAP, Storytelling Education & Arts Program. Feed & Seed, 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher NC. Contact: FeedandSeedNC.com.

July 2016

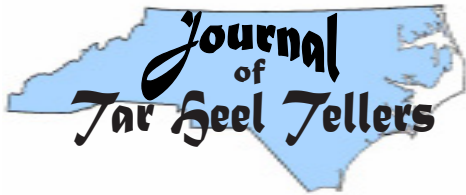
July 3-9: Storytellers' Wild Week. To be led by Dan Keding, sought after workshop leader & storyteller within the storytelling community. Wildacres Retreat Center, 1565 Wild Acres Rd., Little Switzerland, NC. Contact: Dianne Hackworth at dianne@diannehackworth.com; 865.457.3392 or go to <http://dianne79.wix.com/wildweek>.

July 16: Storytelling Workshop and Concert. Andy Offutt Irwin, storyteller, singer-songwriter, theatre director, and recipient of the National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence, will help participants discover the hidden jewels of their own stories, during an all day workshop (10 am - 4:30pm). Andy's evening concert begins at 7:30pm. Location: Walhalla Civic Auditorium, 101 East North Broad St., Walhalla, S.C. Contact: Lisa at eister.lisa@gmail.com or 864.653.4932 for more information.

July 17: David Joe Miller presents - THE STORYCRAFTERS all the way from Hudson, New York. Nationally touring storytellers, Barry Marshall and Jeri Burns are the STORYCRAFTERS appearing for a SPECIAL SUNDAY SHOW at Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC. Sunday, 7pm. Tickets are at the door or \$12 online at Eventbrite.com. Call 828-575-2844 for dinner reservations and contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com for more information.

July 20: David Joe Miller presents - our extremely popular OPEN MIC! Spoken Word show where anyone can tell a story, recite a poem, read their written work or do comedy on our stage. NO COVER CHARGE. Wednesday, 7pm. Buffalo Nickel,

(Continued on back page)



Sylvia Payne, Editor
1621 Nathaniel Street
Newton, NC 28658

(Events calendar...continued from page 14)

747 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC. Call 828.575.2844 for dinner reservations. Come early for drinks and dinner. Contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com for more information. Only two rules. Limit time on stage to 10 minutes and keep your clothes on!

July 21-24: National Storytelling Conference. Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza 4445 Main St, Kansas City, Missouri. <http://www.storynet.org/>, 800.525.451. For lodging contact Kansas City Marriott at 1.816.531.3000.

July 26-30: Teller in Residence, featuring Andy Offutt Irwin. Matinee performances, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

July 28: Teller in Residence, featuring Andy Offutt Irwin. Evening concert, 7:30pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

August 2016

August 6: 2016 Forest of Wake Storyfest. Workshops are included! Lineup features nationally acclaimed Donna Washington, North Carolina's favorite Lona Bartlett, and local song writer / musician / storyteller Dan Blaisdell. Visit <http://www.wakeforestnc.gov/2016-forest-of-wake-storyfest.aspx> for location and ticket information. Wake Forest Renaissance Centre for the Arts, 405 S. Brooks St., Wake Forest, NC. See web site for contact information or contact Gale Buck, gale@woodsmansstories.com.

August 7-13: 11th Annual StoryWindow Retreat and Adventure, with Connie Regan-Blake. Seven days of telling, coaching, & fun. Contact 828.258.1113, <http://storywindow.com/> or connie@storywindow.com.

August 16-20: Teller in Residence, featuring David Holt. Matinee

performances, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

August 17: David Joe Miller presents - Nationally acclaimed **Appalachian Storyteller, Adam Booth** from West Virginia and Vixi Jil Glenn from Asheville, NC. Wednesday, 7pm. Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC. Come early for drinks and dinner. Call 828.575.2844 for dinner reservations and contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com for more information.

August 18: David Joe Miller presents - Nationally acclaimed **Appalachian Storyteller, Adam Booth**, will present a storytelling workshop at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Asheville. On a Thursday. Details to be announced soon. Contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com for more information.

September 2016

September 16: The Joyful Jewel Storytelling Festival. Unique storytellers in a unique location. The Joyful Jewel is a craft and art gallery in downtown Pittsboro featuring local artists. They also host spoken word events frequently. Free event - refreshments served. The Joyful Jewel, 44-A Hillsboro St., downtown Pittsboro, NC. Friday, 7-9pm. Contact Mariah Wheeler at mariah.joyfuljewel@gmail.com; <http://www.joyfuljewel.com> or call 919.883.2775.

September 18: David Joe Miller presents - Nationally acclaimed **storyteller, Tim Lowry**. On a Sunday. For more information contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com

September 20-24: Teller in Residence, featuring Tim Lowry. Matinee performances, 2pm. International Storytelling Center, 116 W. Main Street, Jonesborough, TN. Toll-free at 1.800.952.8392.

September 21: David Joe Miller presents - Nationally acclaimed poet, author and teacher, Laura Hope-Gill. Wednesday. For more information contact [\[yahoo.com\]\(mailto:davidjoetells@yahoo.com\)](mailto:davidjoetells@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

September 24: 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.

September 24: 34th Annual Storytelling Festival. Presented by Wake County Public Libraries and Wake County Parks, Recreation & Open Space. Historic Oak View Country Park, 4028 Cary Drive, Raleigh, NC. Contact: <https://www.everfest.com/e/wake-county-storytelling-festival-raleigh-nc>

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: 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 19: David Joe Miller presents - our popular **OPEN MIC** returns to Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC. Wednesday, 7pm. NO COVER CHARGE. Anyone can tell a story, recite a poem, read written work or do comedy for ten minutes on our stage. Contact davidjoetells@yahoo.com for more information.

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