



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello my friends,

Halloween kept us all busy with tales of ghosts, witches, and things that go bump in the night. Were there little goblins at your doors? It is an exciting time of year. I love the spooky tales and happily I told a few. Now we are getting ready for Thanksgiving and all it entails. For me it means bringing family together and sharing good food and good stories and lots of love. It also reminds me that I have so much for which to be grateful. I have a great family who surround me with love, wonderful neighbors and friends who spend time with me walking the neighborhood, and my church family who keep me in their prayers while my husband and I are going through this stage of our lives.

Thank you for your connection with MO-TELL as we keep the Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites filled with stories and storytellers. Who would we be without our stories?

Remember, November is also the time for Tellabration! MO-TELL will have a Tellabration Kick Off on November 17th with Elizabeth Ellis, the mother of storytelling in the modern world. We will begin with a talkback and get-together on Zoom at 5:30 pm.

Stories will begin at 6 pm and go until 7 pm. It will be a great night. It is also a soft fundraiser for MO-TELL. All proceeds will be used for our storytelling programming for 2025.

Zoom link Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85878148307?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85878148307?pwd=RIIttPT7AWKf4b4Gd7fWwFf7R2btNov.1)
[pwd=RIIttPT7AWKf4b4Gd7fWwFf7R2btNov.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85878148307?pwd=RIIttPT7AWKf4b4Gd7fWwFf7R2btNov.1)

Meeting ID: 858 7814 8307
Passcode: 895271

There will also be an in-person Tellabration! in St. Louis on November 21st. Check the flyer below. If you are in St. Louis, please come. I will be telling one of my tales and I would love to see you all and visit with you.

Keep telling your stories,
Joyce Slater
President, MO-TELL



“The tale is not complete until it’s been heard.”

– Patrick Rothfuss

MAGNET
HERE

FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

RAPS

NOVEMBER 2024
(AND LITTLE BEYOND)

Nov. 7, 7pm Monthly RAPS meeting,
Trailside Center - live and on Zoom
Workshop : The Art of Telling with a Pre-K
Audience by Asia Starr
Story Theme: The Turkey that Got Away

Nov, 16, 10:30 a.m. RAPS North monthly
meeting, Zoom Only!

Aaaaand beyoooooooooond!

Dec. 5, 7 pm RAPS monthly meeting, Trailside
Center
Annual Holiday dessert potluck and gift exchange
Story theme: Holiday Stories,
In Person only!

Dec. 21, 10:30 am RAPS Third Saturday
meeting, Woodneath Library and on ZOOM

Jan. 2. 7:00 pm RAPS Monthly Meeting,
Trailside Center and on Zoom
Mini-Workshop Grabbing Teen Attention by Gary
Kuntz Story Theme: Stories of Snow

Jan. 10 - 12 Chicken Festival Clinton MO

GATEWAY

NOVEMBER 2024

A join resolution to Continue
Continuing the Continual Continuance
to Wish You Happy Continuation of
the Continually
Continuing
New Year from Gateway Storytellers,
continued!

**GO AHEAD.
LOOK.**



THE MANAGEMENT TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE MARVELOUS CHANGE IN ONE'S LIFE THEREAFTER.

MEMBERS, KEN WOLFE HERE. I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

IF YOU'RE LOCAL AND AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER 10TH, PLEASE COME TO MY TELLERS' FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AT THE CHAPEL. THEY'VE BEEN LEARNING THE CRAFT SINCE AUGUST AND THEY'RE GETTING PRETTY GOOD, BUT THEY NEED TO FEEL THE JOY OF TELLING TO A CROWD AND RECEIVING APPLAUSE.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PROVIDE THAT FOR THEM?
IF WE WANT THE ART TO CONTINUE, WE JUST GOTTA KEEP SOWING THE SEEDS AND WATER THEM WITH SUCCESSES. THIS COULD BE THE PERFORMANCE THAT CREATES THE NATION'S NEXT GREAT TELLER.

I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

The Pierre Laclède Honors College
of the University of Missouri, St. Louis
proudly offers

THE GREAT 2024 TELL-A-THON

ARISING FROM THE PIERRE LACLEDE HONORS COLLEGE'S LEGENDARY STORYTELLING COURSE COME SEVERAL YOUNG & AMBITIOUS NEW TALENTS WITH STORIES TO THRILL, INSPIRE, AND AMUSE YOU!

DECEMBER 10, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30, SHOW AT 7PM

LIVE PERFORMANCE!

SEE GREAT TELLERS! HEAR GREAT STORIES!
BE ABLE TO SAY YOU SAW THEM FIRST!

FREE!

Come Out and Support New Tellers!

THE CHAPEL
A SANCTUARY FOR THE ARTS

6238 ALEXANDER DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105
AMPLE STREET PARKING!

THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

Sink your teeth and claws into our monthly publication now



A new free E-Publication the 15th of each month

While you explore, consider submitting stories, articles, poems, and art.



STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE



St. Louis STORYTELLING! Festival



45th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival Emcee [Nestor Gomez](#)

Nestor "the boss" Gomez was born in Guatemala and moved to Chicago undocumented in the mid-80s. He has won over 80 Moth Slams and several Moth Grand Slams. He is also the creator, producer, curator, and host of 80 Minutes Around the World, a storytelling show that features the stories of immigrants, their descendants, and allies.

Featured Storytellers



[Charlotte Blake Alston](#)



[Adam Booth](#)

[Simon Brooks](#)



St. Louis STORYTELLING Festival



[Jasmin Cardenas](#)



[Alton Chung](#)



[Claire Hennessy](#)



[Justin Perez](#)

OTHER STORYTELLERS INCLUDE:



[Kenya Ajanaku](#)



[Marissa Brooks](#)



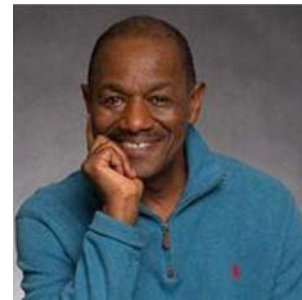
[Maria Hussman](#)



[Suzanne Jones](#)



[Errol McLendon](#)



[Bobby Norfolk](#)



[Angela J. Williams](#)



[Shani Womack](#)



[Jia Lian Yang](#)

St. Louis STORYTELLING Festival

program schedule*

*Visit slcl.org/storytelling for detailed descriptions. Schedule is subject to change.

Registration required. *Program has ASL interpretation.

Performances

Meet and Greet

Workshops

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00-9:00 p.m. Work and Leisure **Campfire** – *Storyteller:* Marissa Brooks

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

2:30-3:30 p.m. Mirowitz Center **Travel Stories** – *Storyteller:* Errol McLendon

5:30-6:30 p.m. Missouri History Museum **Thursday Nights at the Museum**
– Key Bistro; cash bar and food

6:30-8:00 p.m. Missouri History Museum **Voices of America** – *Emcee:* Nestor Gomez
Storytellers: Claire Hennessy, Adam Booth, Jasmin Cardenas,
and Simon Brooks

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:00-11:45 a.m. Saint Louis Art Museum **Rhythms and Folklore of Africa** – *Storyteller:* Kenya Ajanaku

5:00-6:00 p.m. Saint Louis Art Museum **Access for All Free Fridays** – Cash bar and food

6:00-7:00 p.m. Saint Louis Art Museum **Global Narratives***** – *Emcee:* Nestor Gomez
Storytellers: Charlotte Blake Alston, Alton Chung and
Justin Perez

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

8:30-10:00 a.m. Clark Family Branch **Workshop: From the Page to the Stage – Breathing Life** Event
Room A & B **into Characters**** – *Presenter:* Alton Chung

9:00-9:45 a.m. Clark Family Branch **Cuentos From the Americas** – *Storyteller:* Jasmin Cardenas Event
Room D

10:00-10:30 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30-11:30 a.m. Clark Family Branch **A Kaleidoscope of Stories** –
Event Room C *Emcee:* Shani Womack
Storytellers: Errol McLendon,
Kenya Ajanaku, Jia Lian Yang
and Shani Womack"

11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Clark Family Branch **Meet & Greet** – Errol McLendon,
Post Event Space Lobby Kenya Ajanaku, Jia Lian Yang
and Shani Womack

12:00-2:00 p.m. **LUNCH BREAK**

2:00-4:00 p.m. Clark Family Branch **2024 Storytelling Grand Showcase*****
Event Room C *Emcee:* Nestor Gomez. *Storytellers:* Adam Booth, Charlotte
Blake Alston, Justin Perez, Simon Brooks, Jasmin Cardenas,
Alton Chung, and Claire Hennessy

4:00-4:30 p.m. Clark Family Branch **Meet & Greet***** – Adam Booth, Charlotte Blake Alston,
Post Event Space Lobby Justin Perez, Simon Brooks, Jasmin Cardenas, Alton Chung,
Claire Hennessy, Nestor Gomez

**food
trucks**
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Zacchi
The MOObile
The Sweet Side

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:00-11:30 a.m.	Clark Family Branch Event Room A & B	Workshop: Beginner Storytelling** – <i>Presenter: Nestor Gomez</i>
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Clark Family Branch Event Room C	Your Story on Stage – <i>Presenter: The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis</i>
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Clark Family Branch Event Room D	Will the Real Son of Bach Please Stand Up? – <i>Presenter: Lemp Neighborhood Arts Center – Orchestrating Diversity</i>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

6:30-7:30 p.m.	Florissant Valley Branch	African Folktales – <i>Storytellers: Bobby Norfolk and Kenya Ajanaku</i>
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

10:00-11:00 a.m.	Meramec Valley Branch	Workshop: Developing and Telling Personal & Family Stories <i>Presenter: Angela J. Williams</i>
10:00-10:45 a.m.	Oak Bend Branch	Leapin' Lizards – <i>Presenter: Bobby Norfolk</i>
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Thornhill Branch	Workshop: Developing and Telling Personal & Family Stories <i>Presenter: Angela J. Williams</i>
6:00-8:00 p.m.	Clark Family Branch Event Room D	A Night of Stories and Art – <i>Presenter: Creative Wisdom Students</i>

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Clark Family Branch Lab	Imaginative Landscapes: Storytelling with Green Screen Creative Lab
5:30-6:15 p.m.	Jamestown Bluffs Branch	Creatures of Myth and Legend – <i>Presenter: World Bird Sanctuary</i>
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Grant's View Branch	Traditional Indigenous Stories – <i>Storytellers: Maria Hussman and Suzanne Jones</i>

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

6:30-7:30 p.m.	VIRTUAL	Virtual Program: Writing about Place & Home** <i>Presenter: Delia Rainey</i>
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

11:00-11:45 a.m.	Rock Road Branch	Leapin' Lizards – <i>Presenter: Bobby Norfolk</i>
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

10:00-10:45 a.m.	Samuel C. Sachs Branch	Creatures of Myth and Legend – <i>Presenter: World Bird Sanctuary</i>
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The 45th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival is sponsored by:



Sue Hinkel presents:

Tips for Telling

ELIZABETH ELLIS SAYS:

Stories Open the Human Heart

HaHa stories let us laugh so we can relax and listen. These stress busting stories are for the body.

AhHa stories activate our curiosity. From jump tales to pourquoi stories, the mind loves to reason things out.

Aaah stories engage our emotions with deeper meaning. These tales satisfy the hungry heart.

Amen stories remind us of ancient wisdom or modern insight. The spirit shines through these stories.

THANKSGIVING RECIPES

FROM MO-TELL OFFICERS
JOYCE, LINDA, & SUE

JOYCE

GREEN RICE INGREDIENTS

1 ¾ LBS. CHEDDAR CHEESE
2 CUPS OF INSTANT RICE
2 BOXES OF FROZEN CHOPPED
BROCCOLI
1 MEDIUM SIZE ONION
1/8 CUP OLIVE OIL
1 CUP MILK
GARLIC SALT TO TASTE

COOK RICE PER INSTRUCTIONS ON THE
BOX, GRATE CHEESE AND SAVE
ENOUGH FOR TOP OF CASSEROLE,
GRATE THE ONION AND THAW THE
BROCCOLI.

MIX MILK, OIL AND GARLIC SALT
TOGETHER. COMBINE ALL INGREDIENTS
AND PUT IN A CASSEROLE DISH
AND TOP WITH THE REMAINING GRATED
CHEESE. BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR
30 MINUTES OR UNTIL
THE CHEESE HAS MELTED AND IS A
GOLDEN BROWN ON TOP.

LINDA

PUMPKIN BREAD

1 1/3 CUP SUGAR
1/3 CUP BUTTER, SOFTENED
2 EGGS
1 CAN PUMPKIN NOT PUMPKIN PIE
FILLING
1 2/3 CUP FLOUR
1 TEASPOON BAKING SODA
¼ TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
¾ TEASPOON SALT
½ TEASPOON CINNAMON
½ TEASPOON NUTMEG
1/3 CUP WATER
½ TEASPOON VANILLA

Cream together the butter and
sugar. Add eggs, one at a time. Stir in
the pumpkin.

Sift the dry ingredients together and add
to the mixture. Add the water and
vanilla. Mix well and pour into a greased
10 x 4-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 for 45
minutes.

SUE

HINKEL CRANBERRY SALAD

1 LB WHOLE CRANBERRIES
1 BAG MINI MARSHMALLOWS
1/2 C PECANS
1/2 PINT OF WHIPPING/HEAVY
CREAM
2T SUGAR
2TSP VANILLA

CHOP THE CRANBERRIES AND
PECANS IN A BLENDER, FOOD
PROCESSOR, OR MEAT GRINDER.
PLACE IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL
AND FOLD IN THE BAG OF MINI
MARSHMALLOWS. ADD SUGAR AND
VANILLA TO WHIPPING CREAM AND
STIR UNTIL MIXED. FOLD THE
WHIPPING CREAM MIXTURE AND
THE CRANBERRY MIXTURE INTO
SITS OVERNIGHT. BEST IF

HUZZAH FOR THANKSGIVING!
TELL YOUR STORIES AT THE TABLE
EVEN WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL!

MO-TELL MEMBERS NOW, HEAR THIS!

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Henry County Museum the date of the 2025 RAPS Chicken Festival has been changed to **Jan 10, 11,12** (Fri, Sat, Sun), 2025. More information about the 2025 festival will be sent out when the Chicken Festival information on the RAPS website - riverandprairiestoryweavers.org - is updated.

Hotel Information

Local hotels include: Parkfield Inn, 506 Kansas Ave, Clinton, MO 64735 (660-890-6188); Hampton Inn, 900 Kansas Ave, Clinton, MO 64735 (660-885-4488); or Westbridge (Best Western), 106 S Baird Ave, Clinton, MO 64735 (660-885-2206).

In 2024 Most of the attendees stayed at the Parkfield Inn with some staying at the Hampton Inn.

Gary Kuntz



Tellabration 2024



NOVEMBER 17, 5:30-7PM

NOVEMBER 21, 7PM

**ELIZABETH ELLIS
LIVE ON ZOOM!**

**JOYCE SLATER
JACKIE & "PAPA" WRIGHT
LEE GIEZENTANNER
KEN WOLFE**

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168
Passcode: 301275JJ



6238 Alexander Dr. 63105



TELLABRATION!™

FREE TO ATTEND

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

7:00 PM

TRAILSIDE CENTER
9901 HOLMES
KANSAS CITY, MO

AND ON ZOOM

WWW.RIVERANDPRAIRIESTORYWEAVERS.ORG

TELLABRATION KICKOFF!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 5:30PM

ELIZABETH ELLIS



The Dallas Morning News has called Elizabeth "Dallas' premier storyteller." She is that, and more. A repeat favorite at the National Storytelling Festival, she is a recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network and has been the Teller in Residence at the International Storytelling Center. She shares her stories with all ages, having told to more than a million school children and almost as many adults in her thirty-three year career.

An extensive repertoire which features Appalachian and Texas tales, ghost stories, world folktales, stories of heroic American women and personal stories makes it possible for her to tailor a program that will fit your needs. On the Touring Roster of the Texas Commission on the Arts, some monies may be available to help defray Elizabeth's expenses through a simple Performance Support grant.

JOIN US!

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168
Passcode: 301275JJ



PRESENTS THE 2024
TELLABRATION!



In 1988, Tellabration!™ was born. This event, dedicated to storytelling and story listening, was the brainchild of J.G. Pinkerton. J.G. was a board member of both the national and CT storytelling organizations as well as a CT storyteller. His vision was to create a fund-raising event that would also introduce new listeners to storytelling. That first year, TELLABRATION!™ took place in six towns across Connecticut. The following year, Texas and Missouri joined in producing Tellabration!™. Since that beginning, Tellabration!™ events have been held across the United States and around the globe. Venues have included public parks, public libraries, theater stages, senior citizens' centers and virtual events. Wherever a Tellabration!™ happens, audiences discover the delight of story listening.

THIS YEAR'S TELLABRATION -
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7PM

The Chapel, 6238 Alexander Dr. 63105

- THE DANCE CARD OF TELLERS -

JOYCE SLATER
(OUR FEARLESS LEADER)

JACKIE & "PAPA" WRIGHT

LEE GIEZENTANNER

KEN WOLFE



Funny Yard Signs

I'M NOT
POLITICAL
I just want
my
favorite
Democats
To WIN

Brown
Grass
Is

FOR
LEASE
NAVIDAD

Slow Down!!!
OLD
PERSONS
CROSSING

Take my
EX'S Stuff!
It all must
GO!
Just Like
Him!

To the Thief
Who Took
my Anti-
Depressants
...
I HOPE
YOU'RE
HAPPY!

NO SOLICITING!
We are broke and
can't buy
anything!
We know who we
are voting for!
We already have
religion!
Exception: If you
are selling Girl
Scout Cookies...

A BIT OF MO-TELL HISTORY

MO-TELL MEMORIES OF PATRICIA COFFIE

BY JACKIE WRIGHT

Patricia is so pleased to have fallen in with storytellers and puppeteers long ago—1963 as a teacher, 1965 to 1970 working for NASA on First Walk on Moon, and formal storyteller beginning in 1976. She is still telling after all these years.

Patricia Coffie first discovered the Chicken Festival. It was a while before she realized the Chicken Festival was a River and Prairie Storyweavers event, and MO-TELL was another storytelling organization.

After learning about MO-TELL's Missouri Liars Contest, Patricia entered in 2020 and won with the story, "The 43 Pound Cat." She has entered ever since, and placed second in the written contest in July of 2023.

Patricia is pleased puppetry is included and appreciates the spoken and written. She really enjoys the opportunities to enter the written portion of the Missouri Liars Contest since she is no longer thrilled about driving in iffy weather or after dark.

Patricia appreciates listening and sharing in MO-TELL's hybrid and zoom events. She has been a teller on MO-TELL's online concert series. She told on the Crazy Days of Summer Concert in June of 2023.

Patricia has a digital book called "52 Favorites for Storytime" available for the asking. No cost, just download. First is The Mitten (Ukrainian folktale) and second is Corduroy. She is one of three tellers who established Clear Lake Storytelling Festival in 1989 and it continues to this day.

Patricia Coffie
Stories from Home
203 Emery Drive
Waverly, IA 50677
maemaude@mac.com
319-230-0659

There's a story for that..

SARAH POFF

PERFORMS FOR MISSOURI STORY FANS

My storytelling event was held at the Hunter Dawson house in New Madrid, Missouri. The staff had requested a Spanish and French trappers and traders program of which I provided. We talked about the Spanish and French and their encounters along Mississippi River in the 1600 and 1700 hundreds.

How Lewis and Clark and their journey West, after the purchase of the Louisiana territory, affected the Spanish and French Traders and trapper along with the indigenous people along the Mississippi River. In my demonstration the blue material was used to represent the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers. I also had a trade blanket with examples of items that might have been traded by the French Spanish trappers and traders and then later the Americans.

We additionally talked about what New Madrid would've been like in some of those early Spanish and French times.

After the storytelling section of my presentation the children and some of their parents joined me around my trade blanket, where I shared examples of items that could've been traded by the Spanish and French as they traded with Indigenous people. A beaver pelt & faux beaver hat were part of that display. From all indications the audience enjoyed my presentation.

Traveling Life's Trails,
Sarah



"FRENCH & SPANISH, TRAPPERS AND TRADERS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER"

HUNTER-DAWSON HOUSE
HUNTER-DAWSON STATE HISTORIC SITE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



Tell Me A Story



December 10, 2024

7:00 PM on Zoom

Featuring:

Linda Kuntz Brenda Lowe

Laura Packer Todd Wilkinson



www.MO-TELL.org

"We've heard it all before... we rejoice in the retelling!"

The Story Center
at Mid-Continent Public Library



[Bad Decisions Make Good Stories](#)

Thu, Nov 14 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event **Full (waiting list)**

Awkward first dates, dramatic family gatherings, risky vacations—we've all done things that we'd change if we could. But some uncomfortable memories are entertaining, even meaningful.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Performance Showcase & Masterclass \(Zoom\)](#)

Mon, Nov 18 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**

Bring your best seven-minute story to perform and get feedback from expert storyteller Angela J. Williams. This class is part of the Oral Storytelling Certification Program.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Story Swap \(Hybrid\)](#)

Thu, Nov 21 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

This open-mic storytelling event is open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story, or just come to enjoy the show.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

TAKING STORYTELLING OUT THERE

CEDAR RIVER STORYTELLERS FESTIVAL 1975 TO 2000 IN WAVERLY, IOWA

PATRICIA COFFIE

Patricia Coffie has been a puppeteer since 1970 and a storyteller formally since 1981. Coffie served on the NAPPS Board and the Northlands Board. She has been president of Northlands, Iowa Library Association, and Iowa Library Association Foundation. Everywhere and always she has been pleased to help keep storytelling happening.

Sometimes it seems that the really valued storytelling is done on a national stage, in a tent, with all chairs facing forward and a sound system in place—not to mention “national” level tellers. I know many other ways for the wonder and value of storytelling to be shared. Here’s one time when I helped take storytelling out there.

In 1982, the Cedar River Storytellers Festival was expanded from one day of storytelling for children to three days of storytelling for everyone. This festival began in 1975. I had been involved since 1976, fell in with Northlands in 1981, and knew storytelling could be for everyone. Through contacts in Northlands, storytellers from Minnesota volunteered to join storytellers from Iowa and present a three day festival that would include every age and build a storytelling audience. Six tellers from Minnesota and 7 from Iowa organized and volunteered workshops and tellings throughout the community. “Volunteered” was the key word. Regional and the college covered the costs for meals, snacks, and handouts. There was no cost to attend anything. Regional library administrator, college instructor, and public library director worked as much as was necessary, setting up, placing signs and cleaning up—whatever it took. Listeners pitched in as soon as they saw what needed to be done.

The Mayor proclaimed “Storytelling Days.” All requests for a storyteller in the community for those three days were answered. We had spaces at no charge at the public library, college, schools, and churches. We had outdoor locations as well. The first coffee house concert was held on the Wartburg College campus that Friday night. Spontaneous call and response was possible. In my story, I told of thinking I had things well in hand when I returned to UIowa for a graduate degree only to find that my 10 year old son was hopping freight trains and my 6 year old son was stacking brush against our apartment house under the fire escape and lighting fires. As I told, my son then 13 called out “But, Mom, you said not to light fires in the woods!” Now I had more than what happened—I had some of the why! And the audience loved the interplay.

We told stories sitting in the grass on the college commons. No microphone. All welcome. “Molly Whuppie” and other tales had all the space, sunshine and shadow they needed and listeners joined casually as the stories were told. On Saturday afternoon, we held the Liars’ Contest on the Courthouse Lawn with local lawyers as the judges. Liars and listeners came from far and near.

On Saturday night, at midnight, we told ghost stories in the cemetery. I had permission for us to use the still only-dirt-and-grass hill. Parks and Recreation hauled in an old outhouse and turned it over at the bottom of the hill. We rigged a generator inside and stuffed the privy with insulation to keep the sound down. That line ran up the hill to provide a plug for the microphone and another for a single light. Tellers volunteered their stories and our local undertaker volunteered to be the emcee. He had his own formal vampire attire.

At 11:30 p.m., all was in place at that slightly damp and plenty shivery midnight. We waited to see if anyone would come. Within minutes, headlights could be seen in a steady line out of Waverly, up from Waterloo and Cedar Falls and all along every winding road in the cemetery. People walked to the hill and huddled on their blankets in anticipation. As stories were told, the huddling and shivering grew in appreciation. We think more than 300 people could have been there—it was too dark to count. Midnight in the cemetery led to a midnight telling at the library for the next 25 years.

On Sunday morning, at the closing breakfast, Michael Cotter told his story of the Killdeer. Bev Lind, one of the founders of the CRST Festival, wept and said "I've been co-sponsoring this storytelling thing for nine years now, and at last I understand what storytelling is."

My own story of doing that CRST Festival and keeping its joy and wonder intact while planning my breast biopsy (and its surprise censorship attack) for the following Monday is called Standing Up While Lying Down. That story continues to be part of library continuing education and conferences and storytelling events.

Great tellers appeared during the 25 years of CRSTF. I remember best those who volunteered to expand the storytelling to the whole community in 1982. Thank you Loren Niemi, Michael Cotter, Larry Johnson, Elaine Wynn, Maren Hinderlie, and Sarah Meybaum from Minnesota. Thank you Duffy DeFrance, Marlena Maher, Jan Irving, Walter Phelps, Steven Palmquist, and Richard Fredine from Iowa.

I planned a bit, hosted a bit, told a bit and grew in all those ways from the contacts that year and all the other years. I think about a dozen storytellers fended for themselves at my place in 1982.

Others came and told that weekend and I do not have all of their names. Thank you to all storytellers who stepped up then and step up now to spread the telling.

Cedar River Storytelling Festival ran from 1975 through 2000. CRSTF lost out to the need for "education for teachers" at the college, computerizing Iowa's libraries for the Regional Library staff and the exhaustion of a second public library building project (both on time and in the black) for me.

Midnight in the Cemetery and Liars' Contest on the Court House Lawn might be easier than you think and more difficult too. If you do not offer these events, people cannot come.

Put some events out there, market them well, involve everyone you can, suggest donations, and enjoy what happens.

Patricia Coffie

DON'T SNOOZE! DON'T LOSE!

Don't miss Gary Kuntz at the Story Center at Mid-Continent Library presenting a workshop on "Bad Decisions Make Good Stories" on Nov. 14.

<https://www.mymcpl.org/events/101328/bad-decisions-make-good-stories>

MISSOURI STORYTELLING, INC.
(MO-TELL) RECOGNIZES

STEVE OTTO



FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MISSOURI STORYTELLING COMMUNITY. STEVE HAS ELEVATED THE ART FORM OF STORYTELLING IN MISSOURI, AS WELL AS TO THE COMMUNITY OF STORYTELLERS AROUND THE WORLD. STEVE HAS PROMOTED STORYTELLING WHEREVER HE WENT. HE HAS EXPANDED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ART OF STORYTELLING BY VIRTUE OF HIS PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL ART FORMS AND THE SIGNIFICANT BODY OF HIS WORK. MANY STORYTELLERS POINT TO STEVE AS THE REASON THEY BECAME INVOLVED WITH STORYTELLING.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD

STORY OF THE MONTH

ONE BRAVE LITTLE GIRL

Once there was a little girl named, Ella. Her mother was sending her to market alone and they were discussing the journey. Ella saw the list was long and she asked her mom if they could do it another day with her brother, Clyde, or maybe make multiple trips to other, friendlier villages to avoid the Great Forest.

Her mother said, "Now, Ella, you know what your granddad always said, "Work smarter, not harder." We could make several trips, but why when one trip will do?"

"But, Mama, I cannot go, I am just a little girl," said Ella.

Her mother smiled, put her hand on her hip and said, "Your grandpa needs Clyde in the fields today. Ella, don't let your fear do the talking. You are forever begging to do what Clyde does and you usually remind me that you are no longer a little girl. So, Ella, this is what I want you to say on your journey, whenever you are scared, say, 'Be, bold, be brave, be unafraid'. I truly believe that you can do anything Clyde can do. You just need a little confidence.

"Okay, mom If you say so. Be bold, be brave, be unafraid."

So Ella took her mother's list, put it in her bag, slung the bag over her shoulder and headed off towards the Great Forest.

She walked a long way and was having a pleasant trip. She got to the Market and gathered all of the items on her list; bread, eggs, flour and salt and some other fresh vegetables. She was feeling pretty cool, calm and collected, but then she neared the edge of the Great Forest and saw the foot of those huge trees and she just stood still.

The trees loomed over her and there were trees everywhere as far as she could see. She looked up above her and couldn't see the tops of the trees. Ella chanted out loud, "Be bold, be brave be unafraid," again and again, getting louder and louder. With each affirmation she felt bolder and braver and less afraid. She had made it almost through the forest when she saw two strange trees up ahead.

They were wider and broader and as she got up close she could see that they weren't trees at all. They were two giant legs. She looked ahead of her, up and down and she identified two large, scary feet, with really big orange painted toe nails. The giant was wearing big leather sandals and as Ella's gaze continued to look up she saw a bright orange dress, two huge bulking arms and a very large head of a very angry looking female Giant with wild, curly untamed red hair.

Then Ella, said to herself, "Be bold, be brave, be unafraid." She cleared her throat, and said as loud and confident as she could, "Hi, I am Ella, are you new to these woods?"

The giant grunted and said, "New, these are my woods, who are you?"

Ella answered, "I am Ella, and I am traveling through these woods to get to my home. We must be neighbors." She smiled with confidence and put out her hand to shake the giant's hand, but she was even with the giant's ankles. Ella withdrew her hand. "Excuse me; I didn't catch your name."

The giant frowned and said, "I am Maude but you don't need my name because you are my lunch." And then she let out a loud laugh which ended in a growl. But, Ella appeared unafraid. She said, "Nice to meet you, Maude. You don't want to eat me. I am too smart. I bet I can teach you something."

Maude laughed again, saying "You, you're just a little girl!"

This time Ella laughed as loud as she could and she did her own version of a growl, but it sounded like a "Yee Hah!" She appeared confident all the same. Ella said, "Maude, I bet you cannot take a stone and get water from it. I can and I will show you how.

Then Ella reached in her bag and pulled out an egg and concealed most of it in her hand. Then she said, "Maude, you pick up a stone and squeeze as hard as you can. Then Maude, the giant squeezed with all her might, squeezing and grunting and squeezing. But nothing came out of the rock, not even a drop of water. Then Ella squeezed her "rock" and it oozed liquid all over the ground. Maude, the giant was amazed. She said, "Maybe you aren't just a little girl. Do it again!" Ella just shook her head and said, "No but I can show how you something else!"

Maude said, "Ella, what else can you do?"

Ella answered, "So many brave and bold things you can't count! But get another stone and I will show you how to grind it into dust with your hands." Maude picked up her rock and squeezed and squeezed and squeezed. But nothing happened. It was still just a rock.

Ella smiled, and pretended to pick up her rock and held her hand in a fist. She made a grunting sound and after a little while she opened her hand and brushed her hands together, scattering the dust or salt to the ground.

Maude was laughing in amazement. She said, "Wow. Look there! I usually scare everybody off when I threaten to eat them. But, you are a pretty amazing, brave little girl!"

Ella said, "I guess I am. Now, I am going to show you how to stomp someone into mud. Step over here and I will start with your pinky toe."

Maude laughed and said, "No, I believe you. I think I'll need my toe. Well, it is almost dinner time. You want to come?"

Ella gulped and said, "I thought you didn't want to eat me for dinner."

Maude said, "New, I was never going eat you. I just say that because that is what everyone expects a big giant to say. I expected you to run away but you stayed and we had a jolly ole time. I meant would you come to my house for dinner?"

Ella, smiled and said, "No, thank you, my mom is expecting me for dinner.

Ella replied, "Maybe some other time. I will be traveling through these woods again soon. Maybe next time, I will let my little brother Clyde come." Ella grinned and waved goodbye and she saw Maude wave back and then as she walked away, Ella said to herself, "I am bold, I am brave, and I am unafraid."

Ella got home safely to her mother and told her tale, tall but true, to her mother. Her mother hugged her and said, "See, I knew you could work smarter not harder and I always knew you were bold, brave and unafraid."

The End

Or not, as I hope to use this story to inspire more bold, brave souls everywhere.

THANKS, AMY PRATER!

ORGANIZATIONS' COMMUNICATION, PRE-INTERNET TECHNOLOGY



**LET'S NEVER GO BACK.
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DETAILS BELOW. CHECK 'EM OUT!

LITTLE BOY ON LEFT IS YOURS TRULY WITH MY SISTERS LONG AGO. - KW

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OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

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RENEW TODAY!

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

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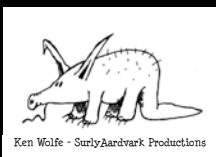
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