

STORYLINE

Newsletter of the STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
Volume 28 No. 1 Winter 2011
www.StorySAC.org

14th Storytelling Study Trip Coming in May, 2011 New Venue To Host More Students Than Ever...Tell Your Teachers!

Although the Bay Area Storytelling Festival (BASF) will be taking a year off next spring, the 14th annual Study Trip will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011. Thousands of students in 3rd – 6th grade classes have attended this annual event and fallen in love with storytelling. Since its second year, this event has sold out. Many teachers bring their classes back year after year. And this year there's room for more!

In planning a Study Trip, a teacher must fill out paperwork to justify the educational purpose for this trip. The main purpose of this event remains the same: to introduce students to the ancient art of storytelling that has been used to pass down ethnic history to younger generations. For many students, this is their first exposure to storytelling. The Study Trip was created by BASF to give back to local urban communities.

The children take this experience back into the classroom with them. Many teachers have shared the results with us. One 3rd grade teacher told us that her students wrote their own reports and stood in front of the class to read their work. Last May this happened right after the class attended the Study Trip. The students told her that they wanted to do it "like a storyteller." She found out that this meant the student would stand up tall, chest held high and then speak in a dramatic voice. Another teacher who has special education students uses storytelling differently. She purchases CDs of her students' favorite tellers. Then she allows them to pick a specific teller's disc to play while they are working on a written assignment to keep the class calm. or as a reward. Either way, the art of storytelling became a positive influence in the students' education.

Continued on page 3

More Tales and Trails from Our Sister City of Story...Gengcun, PRC

www.ethnohtec.org/category/programs/tours/china-2010

Since 1997, storytellers from our NSN community have shared stories overseas with China's storytellers. September 5-15, 2010 saw the fifth such trip to Gengcun, a poor farming village south of Beijing with a rich 600+ year-old tradition of storytelling. Here elders know over 500 stories each; their children can tell at least five stories with full confidence and style!

American delegations bring more than stories. They deliver much-needed school supplies for students and teachers, and a substantial monetary gift each trip has led to refurbishing their school, renovating their Story Hall, building



the first paved road to this village, establishing a library, laying of piping from their communal well to homes, and most recently, the building of

a beautiful traditional red gate to welcome visitors by 2010's delegation of 12 storytellers.

Current projects for Gengcun include creating village businesses to keep their young adults from trekking to big cities to find work; creation of a documentary movie to help fundraise; and applying for UNESCO Cultural Heritage status.

This year's delegation also visited Beijing, The Great Wall, The Emperor's Summer Palace, Hanging Temple and other sites, and even sat before a master Kuai Ban performer.

See www.Ethnohtec.org for more stories and photos.

From the Chair

On behalf of your SAC Board, I'd like to wish you the best of the season—warmth, joy, love, friendship, and important stories!

The SAC Board is spearheading a capital campaign to assure that the Bay Area Storytelling Festival will continue with a solid, strong return in 2012. Please look for our fundraising request letter, and respond as generously as you can. As Gay Ducey says, we have never asked before, but we need your support now to continue the important and joyful work of sharing story with our community.

Carol Birch's October visit was a highlight of the fall—her stories were mesmerizing, and the group shared a special evening with her.

As always, the SAC Board is committed to serving you, our members, and is interested in your ideas for making our organization stronger—by increasing membership, offering meaningful events, supporting the Festival, and encouraging storytelling in all its forms. Please let us know your ideas.

— Sara Armstrong, Ph.D.
saarmst@telis.org 510.848.6340

From the BASF Chair

Dear Friends,

By now you should each have received a letter detailing the current situation concerning the Bay Area Storytelling Festival and asking for your help. If not, please visit www.bayareastorytelling.org for all the information and a link for making a donation.

While it is sad to postpone our 26th festival for one year, the Festival Committee is using this hiatus to fundraise, search for grants and sponsors and investigate potential festival sites. If you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions, please email us at: info@bayareastorytelling.org.

We do have a fun and exciting event planned for early June 2011. Details will be revealed in early spring. Stay tuned!

— Linda Yemoto, Chair, BASF

From the Editor

There has never been any doubt about the loyalty and love of SAC members and the attendees of the Bay Area Storytelling Festival. They have steadfastly supported storytelling these last twenty-eight years. And none are more dedicated than the volunteers who make up the BASF committee, led by

Linda Yemoto and Gay Ducey. It's truly remarkable how this festival, with minimal or no sponsorship or underwriting, has consistently delivered high quality festivals each year for its loyal devotees.

And it's encouraging to see SAC recognizing the precarious perch BASF has put itself in, and pledging its own support. (Page 15 lists 80 by name!)

Realistically, both organizations are overdue to heed certain demographic and economic realities and address them with fresh, strong initiatives.

SAC's membership is small, relatively old and dwindling. BASF devotees are similarly older, and not yet being augmented with sufficient numbers of younger followers with requisite skills to energize and expand our community. Unless it expands, it's doomed.

Asking their dedicated base to dig deeper and give more money doesn't address core issues. When will SAC's board and BASF's committee finally address:

- * Outside fundraising
- * Membership growth
- * More diversity
- * New technologies
- * A youth movement
- * Sponsorships/partnerships

How else can BASF's and SAC's future be secured? Treading water year-to-year is a formula for failure. BASF and SAC are at both at crossroads. It's time to address core issues.

Bold and visionary strategic plans are needed for both organizations. Current committee member skills must be complemented by adding additional talent. Now is the time to fill voids and address 21st century realities. Only more focused and decisive leadership will set both groups up for future success.

— Craig Harrison, Editor

TELLABRATION!™ 2010 Thrice As Nice!



Tellabration!™ History Made in Sonoma County!

On November 19-20 Santa Rosa hosted three storytelling events: a House Party with **Olga Loya**, the first bilingual (Spanish-English) Tellabration!™ in Sonoma County starring **Olga Loya, Cathryn Fairlee**, and **Matthew Gollub**, and an evening Tellabration!™ featuring **Kirk Waller, Cathryn Fairlee, Olga Loya, Michael D. McCarty**, and emcee-teller **Hackin' 'Boo Harrison**.

With adventures of monkeys and crocs we laughed and danced in the aisles. Experiencing haunted houses and parenting woes, on the edge of our seats with the hen-pecked Devil...many stories, delighted listeners, and super support from the Sonoma County Library and NSN Member Support Program (**Karin Hensley, Jo Radner** and **Margaret Meyers**)!

Special thanks to sound pro **Tim Mautz, Alejandro Torres** and **Teresa Pisani** of Sound Ideas Advertising Web & Video Production, **Dianne Gamblin, Denise Kruse**, photographer **Bryan Harris** (see 3 photos above), **Kenneth Foster** and the wonderful **Kathy DeWeese**.

This event was masterfully coordinated by **Patricia Foster**.



Delta WordWeavers' Tellabration!™ 2010

Delta Wordweavers chose a cozy replica theater room at the Antioch Historical Museum to hold their November 6 Tellabration!™

Emcee **Elaine Stanley** began the afternoon with a warm welcome to a sold-out audience of 33. Most were attending Tellabration!™ for the first time. **Sally Holtzman** brought her charming story of two neighborhood girls who visited "that old lady" on her porch. Elaine's signature story of Senior Coyote brought laughter to the audience.

At intermission listeners were entertained in the Sports Museum room, munching on homebaked treats. **Ruth Fraser** resumed the program with stories honoring **David Ponkey** and his absolute commitment to disadvantaged youth. As a self-proclaimed Santa's Elf, he even got himself in trouble with his superiors a time or two. Rounding out the program, **Kirk Waller** took all on a very bumpy, uncomfortable Texas car trip to meet a variety of hilarious relatives.

Thanks go to the hard working committee of **Sarah Lord, Sarah Lingbeck**, and **Marian Ferrante** who organized this year's event.



South Bay Storytellers and Listeners Tellabration!™

The South Bay Storytellers and Listeners Tellabration!™ was held at the Church of Christ in Palo Alto on the traditional Tellabration!™ evening.

According to coordinator **Steven Abell**, approximately 35 people attended.

Local tellers this year were **Laurie Pines, Kristin Link, Tom & Sandy Farley**, and group founder **Joy Swift**, with special guest teller **Tim Ereneta**. **Steve Abell** was the emcee.

Laurie told about a magical tree and a love affair in Central America, Kristin told about a hardworking man in the Middle East, Tom & Sandy told in tandem about a soldier's deal with the devil, and Joy told about a house with way too much stuff in it. Tim told folks some things they didn't know about frogs and princesses.

In amongst the introductions, Steve got in a little bit of telling about a stripper who prayed for his father. Amen!



This year's featured tellers include **Willie Claffin** and **Diane Ferlatte**. These two are crowd favorites from past study trips. A third teller will be announced soon. The event will start about 11 am and run until 1:30pm. All times are approximate right now. There will be two performances, a short lunch break, then the third teller will take the stage.

Storyline Readers: Spread The Word!

Please help advertise this wonderful event. Tell your local teachers (3rd-6th grade) about the 2011 Study Trip. The cost is \$7 per attendee (student or adult) and all teachers accompanying their class always attend for free. It costs less than a movie ticket and is well worth every penny! The location this year: the beautiful

Study Trip, Continued



Craneway Pavilion in the Marina District of **Richmond – 1414 Harbor Way South**. This is a revitalized area of

Richmond that includes Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park and the East Bay Trail. Please browse their website www.craneway.com. AC Transit's #74 bus stops at the circle right by the front door of the venue.

The reservation form is available on the festival's website: www.bayareastorytelling.org/Storytelling_Reservation.pdf. You can also request a form be sent to you or make

inquiries by e-mail: storytellingstudytrip@gmail.com. Come with your child, grandchild, or young friend's class. You won't be disappointed!

— *Robin Y. Wilson, Study Trip Coordinator*

Northern California Calendar of Events

December

5,12,19,26 Asian Art Museum Sunday family storytelling 1-1:45pm free w/admission. www.asianart.org/family.htm#storytelling 200 Larkin St. SF 415.581.3500

5,12,19,26 5-6pm: Story-Lovers World! KSVY-FM 91.3 in Sonoma hosted by **Jackie Baldwin** bubbul@vom.com 707.966.1966 <http://sonomasunfm.com/?cat=141>

14 Tell It On Tuesday, 2120 Allston Way Berkeley. 7pm music; performances @ 7:30pm. telltontuesday.org

19 LaughLovers welcomes **Frank Zamacona**, 6-8pm. 100 Bay Pl., Oakland. www.LaughLovers.us or 925.376.9265.

20, Porchlight SF: "Family Secrets" featuring **Dayvid Figler, Stephen "Partyball" DeZordo, Claudia Holm, Evan Karp, Sandra Salas**. 8pm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa St., SF, \$15 in advance. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/140173

January 2011

2,9,16,23,30 Asian Art Museum Sunday family storytelling 1-1:45pm free w/admission. 200 Larkin St. SF www.asianart.org/family.htm#storytelling 415.581.3500.

2,9,16,23,30 5-6pm: Story-Lovers World! KSVY-FM 91.3 in Sonoma hosted by **Jackie Baldwin** bubbul@vom.com 707.966.1966 <http://sonomasunfm.com/?cat=141>

16, 4-6pm Cotati House Party: The Celtic Knot of Clan MacCool. \$10. Reservations only. **Cathryn Fairlee's** new home. Coffee, tea, snacks, conversation. Cfair@monitor.net

February

5 Orion's 9th Ann. Children's Authors & Illustrators Festival 10-3:30pm Orion Elementary School, 815 Allerton St., **Redwood City**. Free. **Sharon Grant:** sharon@talaingrant.com. <http://festival.orionschool.org>

5 Sing Sea Chanteys 1st Sat 8pm-midnight on the **Balclutha** Hyde St Pier, **SF Maritime National Park, FREE!** Bring songs & mug for hot apple cider. **Peter Kasin reservations:** 415.561.7171

6 First Sunday Stories at the Meeting House welcomes guest **Willie Claffin**. 6:30-8:30pm. **Quaker Center**, 65 Ninth St, btwn Market & Mission Sts. **Ruth Fraser** 415.626.3757 mellowstory@juno.com

6,13,20,27 Asian Art Museum Sunday family storytelling 1-1:45pm free w/admission. www.asianart.org/family.htm#storytelling 200 Larkin St. SF 415.581.3500



6,13,20,27 5-6pm: Story-Lovers World! KSVY-FM 91.3 in Sonoma hosted by **Jackie Baldwin** bubbul@vom.com 707.966.1966 <http://sonomasunfm.com/?cat=141>

March

5 Ancient Journeys - Greek Mythology with **Sandra Noman & Karin Werner**. 7:30pm, First Unitarian Soc. of SF, 2230 Franklin. \$15. every_day_stories@yahoo.com 415.921.0472 or 510.964.1214

5 Sing Sea Chanteys 1st Sat 8pm-midnight on the **Balclutha** Hyde St Pier, **SF Maritime National Park, Free!** Bring songs & mug for hot apple cider. **Peter Kasin reservations:** 415.561.7171

6,13,20,27 Asian Art Museum Sunday family storytelling 1-1:45pm free w/admission. www.asianart.org/family.htm#storytelling 200 Larkin St. SF 415.581.3500

6,13,20,27 5-6pm: Story-Lovers World! KSVY-FM 91.3 in Sonoma hosted by **Jackie Baldwin** bubbul@vom.com 707.966.1966 <http://sonomasunfm.com/?cat=141>

CLINICS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

MARYGAY DUCEY STORY CLINIC

Thursday, Jan. 20, 7:7-9pm & Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7-9pm

Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch. 5366 College Ave., Oakland (a few blocks from Rockridge BART)

To have your story critiqued, you must be a current member of SAC (or pledge renewal when you indicate your interest in being a clinic teller. Jeff Byers will contact you about how to renew.

Membership questions: story.sac@gmail.com.)

Email your interest to story.sac@gmail.com. Slots assigned via random drawing from all who have indicated an interest by 11:59pm, Friday January 7. There are six slots per night. If you could do either night, please help scheduler by indicating that, and specifying your preferred night. Please include a phone number.

Questions: story.sac@gmail.com
(If you don't have email, call Jeff Byers @ 415.584.1804.)

\$10...Benefits BASF.

FREE CCSF CLASS: INTERGENERATIONAL STORYTELLING

Jan. 20-May 19, Thursdays 9:30-11:30am

YMCA Senior Annex, 3150 20th Ave., SF.

Beverly Joan Bender: 415.239.2708

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GOING DEEP

GOING DEEP LONG TRADITIONAL STORY RETREAT/WORKSHOP

Seeks Proposals for 2012

If you've got a long traditional story to tell (at least an hour), and yearn for an adult audience to listen with rapt attention and then will participate fully in a workshop you give the next day, in a lovely setting, with other long-form tellers, this is your chance!

Call for proposals found on the Going Deep site:
<http://goingdeepstories.com/call-for-proposals/> Please share with other interested tellers (and listeners!). — Priscilla Howe

14, 28 Monday Night Marsh Series. Erica Lann-Clark & Karen Golden excerpt from "Gilgui of a Nig'n, Reincarnation of a melody." 7:30pm. Marsh Theatre, 1062 Valencia St. SF. \$7. 831.479.1874

April

2 Ancient Journeys - Greek Mythology with Sandra Noman & Karin Werner. 7:30pm, First Unitarian Soc. of Oakland, 638 14th St. \$15. every_day_stories@yahoo.com 415.921.0472 or 510.964.1214

WORKSHOPS Continued

The Winter Workshop is back!

Feb. 12, 2011 8:45am-4pm
Winter Workshop & Swap with
Willy Claffin

Hosted by:

Southbay Storytellers and Listeners

Includes morning and afternoon swaps, resource table (bring your CDs to sell).

Choice of afternoon workshops with Kristin Link (how to teach storytelling to kids) and Susan Ford (Characters and Place)

Location:

Palo Alto Friends Meeting House
957 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto

Suggested donation \$35 includes lunch and snacks.

Info: Tom and Sandy Farley
farley@spont.com

Checks payable to:

Joy Swift, 3933 Nelson Dr.,
Palo Alto CA 94306-4524

joy.swift@sbcglobal.net

Schedule:

[www.outhbaystorytellers.com/
workshops-2011.pdf](http://www.outhbaystorytellers.com/workshops-2011.pdf)

Southern California Calendar of Events

December

11, 12 Storytelling at Heritage Hill Candlelight Tour. Heritage Hill Historical Park, 25151 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest Cost: \$3 children (3-12 yrs) \$4 adults / 949.923.2230

18 Storytelling by Harlynn for children ages 5 and up and all adults. 11am Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619.239.5548 ext.105. www.timkenmuseum.org. Free.

18 Curly's Cowboy Christmas. A benefit for Happy Trails Children Home. "Dutch" at Happy Trails Larry Maurice cowboypoetry@earthlink.net 760.240.3330

January

6, 10:30am San Diego, CA Harlynn Geisler tells "Preschool Tales." Mission Valley Branch Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. 858.573.5007. <http://storyteller.swiftsite.com>

8 Michael McCarty: Wild & Woolly Stories from My Wild & Woolly Life!!! 8-10pm Miles Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica.

22, Tales By The Sea home concert series, Malibu. Joe Herrington, Western teller, Michael Jackson, Carlos Kotkin, Barbara Murray-White, Rebecca Martin. Reserve via Ann 310.457.2385 or ann.buxie1@verizon.net.

24th Mariposa Storytelling Festival

Featuring Milbre Burch, Peter Cook, Sunny Dooley, Gay Ducey, Baba Jamal Koram, Jim May + ASL interpreters Jennifer Jacobs and Keith Wann as the voice of Peter Cook.

Fri Mar 11 7pm – Sun Mar 13, 2011
4:30pm Pacific Time

Mariposa County High School and
Yosemite National Park
209.966.3155

www.arts-mariposa.org



March

9, 11am San Diego, CA Storytelling by Harlynn Geisler: "Fairy Tales, Science Experiments and Painting. It's all About Flowers!" for children ages 5 and up and all adults to celebrate 2nd annual Science Family Day at Balboa Park. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619.239.5548 ext.105. www.timkenmuseum.org. Admission free

April

9, 11:00am San Diego, Storytelling by Harlynn Geisler for children ages 5 & up. 2nd annual Science Family Day at Balboa Park. Timken Museum of Art, 1500 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619.239.5548 ext.105. www.timkenmuseum.org. Admission free.



HAWAII

January 9, 23, Feb. 6:
Three Story Slams

At Ong King Art Center (young hip performance space) Eric Wolf of www.artofstorytelling.com fame (hourish podcast interviews with prominent storytellers on a wide array of subjects) will visit Jeff Gere.

His calendar includes 1/22 Fringe Bytes (short pieces by Honolulu artists anticipating our first Fringe Festival next November), 1/23 Slam Poetry,

1/27 Live telling/Video Performance & 1/23 'How To Create a 500 Year Old Fiarytale in an Afternoon' workshop. Contact Jeff Gere: jeffgere@lava.net

+++++

Dig It! Talk Story Camp' cometh to Oahu's Kualoa Park, July 15-17.

Northern California Story Swaps & Ongoing Venues

Story Swaps are gatherings of storytellers and story listeners. All are open to you. Call first to confirm the swap is meeting as listed... and tell your stories.

Alameda

Alameda Swap 3rd Thurs 7-9pm hosted by **Cathy Dana** at **Frank Bette Center for the Arts**, 1601 Paru St at Lincoln. 510.523.6957 www.frankbettecenter.org cathydana@gmail.com

Antioch

Delta Wordweavers Swap 2nd Monday 7-8:30pm **Antioch Public Library**, 501 W 18th St. No DEC! Jan 10; Feb 14; Mar 14. **Marian Ferrante** 925.437.1360 deltawordweavers@att.net

Auburn

Foothills Storytelling Guild Call for location. **Joan Stockbringe** 530.823.3282 **Linda Kennedy** 530.478.1604 www.foothillstorytelling.com

Berkeley

Mixed Bag Storytellers of Berkeley-Oakland 1st Thurs 6-8pm **Claremont Branch Public Library**, 2940 Benvenue at Ashby. **Kate Frankel** 510.525.1533 kateline@earthlink.net for email reminder

Danville

Tales and Tellers: A specialty Toastmasters Club 1st Sat 8:30-11am, **Sycamore Homes Annex**, 635 Old Orchard Drive. **Marie Minder** 925.788.1257 <http://talesandtellers.freetoasthost.net/>

El Sobrante

NEW!

Leftover Tales, Tellers & Ears Swap, 7-9pm 3rd Wed or Thr, El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, **Michael Baefsky** 925.254.7950, mbaefsky@gmail.com. Next swaps: 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17.

Eureka

North Coast Storytellers 3rd Thurs 7pm at **The Ink People Center** for the Arts, 12th & E. Call to verify: **Dan O'Gara** 707.677.3840

Hayward

Hayward Storytellers 2nd Thurs 7-9pm **Hayward Arts Council**, 22654 Main St. **Gina Rose** 510.205.8606 ginarose@sbcglobal.net

Livermore

Saturday Salons at 4th Street Studio 3rd Sat 7:30pm at **4th Street Studio**, 2235 4th St., Karen Hogan 925.456.3100 4thstreetstudio@pacbell.net

Los Altos

Southbay Storytellers and Listeners 2nd Sun 7-9pm **United Methodist Church**, Garden Room, Los Altos United Methodist Church 655 Magdalena at Foothill. **Joy Swift** 650.494.1383 joy.swift@sbcglobal.net www.southbaystorytellers.com/

Monterey

Monterey Bay Talespinners 1st Mon 7pm at **Monterey Public Library**, 625 Pacific. Info: **Phil Hawthorne** 831.655.1741 or **Carol Collin** 831.646.8584

Oakland / East Bay (2)

LaughLovers 3rd Sun 6-8pm St. Paul's Towers, 100 Bay Pl. www.laughlovers.us

Sing Say or Play, NEW, 3rd Sat 7pm at private homes in E. Bay. Bring your own piece to perform. Contact **Ed Silberman**: 510.655.7087 edsilberman@hotmail.com

Orinda

Contra Costa Tale Spinners 4th Thurs 7-9pm **Gallery Room, Orinda Public Lib.** 24 Orinda Way, Orinda Village (near BART) **Sally Holzman** 925.372.7036 or **Bobbie Kinkead** 510.655.5608 bobbiekin@mindspring.com. Next: 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28.

Placerville

El Dorado Storytellers 2nd Mon 1pm at home of local member. Call **Brenda Miller** 530.677.2624 or **Leslie Rose** 530.677.7693

Redding

Traveling Bohemians Open Mic 2nd Wed 7pm **Sue's Java Cafe**, 1712 Churn Creek Rd. Host **Nadia Hava-Robbins** 530.229.7818 bohemian@snowcrest.com

Sacramento (2)

Aesop's Fblers a Toastmasters storytelling club 1st Thurs 7-8:30pm **Sacramento County Admin, Building**, 700 H St., 3rd fl break room. **Arne Sampe** 916.362.9013

Sacramento Storytellers Guild 3rd Sat 2-4pm **Eskaton Monroe Lodge** (Senior Citizen's Residence), 3225 Freeport Blvd. **Lawrence Crason** 916.399.1999

San Francisco (4)

Storytelling at the Meetinghouse 1st Sun 6:30-8:30pm. **Quaker Center**, 65 Ninth St, btwn Market & Mission Sts. All welcome. Bring a story and a snack to share. **Ruth Fraser** 415.626.3757 mellowstory@juno.com

Sing Sea Chanteys 1st Sat 8pm-midnight on the **Balclutha** Hyde St Pier, SF Maritime National Park, Free! Bring songs & mug for hot apple cider. Peter Kasin reservations: 415.561.7171 peter_kasin@nps.gov

San Francisco Story League 2nd Thurs 10am-Noon **Golden Gate Park Senior Ctr**, 6101 Fulton St. **Pat Langdell** to verify: 415.564.8451

Farley's 3rd Tues Storytelling, spoken word, poetry, music & song. **Open Mic** 7-9pm 1315 18th /Texas, SF, **Susan Ford** 415.474.5580 suford@earthlink.net www.farleyscoffee.com

Santa Rosa

Do Tell Story Swap at the Foster Story Studio, 2nd Wed, 7-9pm, 1000 Humboldt Street, Santa Rosa, CA. 95404. **NEW** Co-hosted by **Elaine Stanley & Kenneth Foster**: 707.540.0655; 707.539.3642; dotellstoryswap@comcast.net. Next swaps: Jan 12, Feb. 9, Mar 9. Tellers & Listeners welcome. Bring a snack!

Sonora

Sierra Foothill Storytellers' Guild meets the 3rd Sundays, 4-6 at Angel's Camp Mercantile. Tellers from Tuolumne, Calaveras and Amador County gather to swap and support. **BZ Smith**: 209.532.7697 or 209.559.7697 cel. bzsmith@me.com **NEW**

Southern California and Hawaii Story Swaps

Antelope Valley (2)

Antelope Valley Storytellers 1st Sat 4:30pm TEMPORARILY ON HIATUS from **Heart'n Soul Coffee House**, 4306 West Avenue L, Quartz Hill, 93536. 661.718.1500 www.storytellerjohn.com/AV_Storytelling_Group_index.html
John McGee 818.399.8307
john@storytellerjohn.com

Antelope Valley Allied Arts Association
1st Sat 6pm **Cedar Center Hall**
44845 North Cedar Ave., Lancaster
661.726.0655

Claremont

Inland Valley Story Swap 2nd Tues 7:30pm (8-10 Min stories) \$5 donation
Claremont Forum, 586 W. First St.,
John St. Clair 909.983.8501
www.inlandstorytellers.org
john@inlandstorytellers.org

Costa Mesa

South Coast Storytellers, 3rd Thurs 7pm
Guild House, 2845 Mesa Verde Dr. East
Linda Pruitt 949.496.1960 dchittenden@socal.rr.com www.storyguild.org

Culver City (2)

Community Storytellers 2nd Thr, 7:30 pm **Culver Palms United Methodist Church** 4464 Sepulveda Blvd., Room 11.
Audrey Kopp 310.823.7482
communitystorytellers@gmail.com
www.communitystorytellers.org

Dramamasters Storytelling Toastmasters Club, last Sat 9am
5909 Blairstone Dr. 318.284.0656

Los Angeles (3)

The Moth StorySLAMs
2nd Tues, 6:30 pm sign-up,
7:30 Stories; **Busby's East**
5364 Wilshire Blvd.

The Moth StorySLAMs 3rd Tues.,
7:00 pm sign-up, 7:30pm stories begin; **El Cid** 4212 West Sunset Blvd.

Sophia Tellers Network of **Biblica**
Storytellers 323.938.1556
lindamcknight49@hotmail.com

Liemert Pk./Inglewood

The Griot* Workshop 2nd Tues
7pm **KAOS Network**, 3335 43rd Place,
Liemert Park, LA. \$3 donation. **Michael D. McCarty** agriot@earthlink.net
310.677.8099 or 310.927.1029

Long Beach

Long Beach Storytellers 1st Wed 7pm
Los Altos United Methodist Church,
5950 E Willow St. **Laura Bosworth**
idbozwolfe@aol.com 562.716.3461
www.longbeachstorytellers.com

Orange

Storytelling Toastmasters Club 192
meets on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thurs at
Pavilion conference room of **St. Joseph's Hospital** 7pm Guests always welcome.
Call **David Chittenden** for directions
714.921.3776

Palm Desert

Desert Storytellers 3rd Thr, 4-6:00 pm
Joslyn Senior Center, 73750 Catalina Way.
Kathy 760.360.1046

Pasadena

San Gabriel Valley Storytellers 3rd
Tues 7:30 pm **Hastings Branch Library**,
55 S. Hill Ave, **Nick Smith** 626.298.6532
nick.smith@inlandstorytellers.org

San Diego (2)

Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc.
4th Sun 3:30 to 4:30pm **Valencia Park / Malcolm X Public Library** 5148 Market
St. 619.271.4134 mcfarlin@cox.net

San Deigo County Story Swap
4th Wed 7-9 pm, **Barnes & Noble**,
10775 Westview Pkwy. 858.484.1325
mcphie@cts.com

Studio City

Story Salon meets at **Coffee Fix**, 12508 Moorpark Street (West of Whitsett St.). Contact **Beverly Mickins**:
818.754.4354; www.storysalon.com

Ventura (2)

The Moth StorySLAMs Last
Mon., 7pm sign-up, 7:30pm stories, **Air Conditioned Supper Club**, 625 Lincoln Bl.

Ventura County Storytelling Guild
2nd Fridays (not 1st Thr anymore) 6:30-8:45pm, **Proverbs Coffeehouse**
@ **Peace Lutheran Church**,
71 Loma Road, **Camarillo**, Bring
10-min story and \$3-5 donation.
Elaine Muray 805.407.2538
elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com

West Los Angeles

West Los Angeles Community Storytellers
2nd Thurs 7:30pm **Culver-Palms United Methodist Church** 4464 Sepulveda Blvd.,
Culver City. **Audry Kopp** 310.823.7482
audreystory@verizon.net

HAWAII

Moonlight Storytellers Honolulu
2nd Friday, various changing locations
Vicky Dworkin dworkin@hawaii.edu

*Is your Swap listing correct?
Is your Swap missing?
Does its description
need tweaking?*

*Send updates to both Editor
Craig and to Susan Ford for
inclusion in Storyline and the
SAC's web calendar:*

*Editor@HackinBoo.com &
Suford@earthlink.net.*

MAGCLOUD



Order Color editions of *Storyline* editions on quality paper from MagCloud for just \$3.20 an edition:

www.magcloud.com/browse/Magazine/97583

Finding Our Voices

By Connie Regan-Blake and Caren S. Neile

Years ago, the singer Joan Baez was performing at a particular folk festival. Also on the program was an old traditional ballad singer. Baez, by that time already a superstar, was so moved by the elderly woman's performance that, in a sincere and humble way, she asked, "What is it that you have with these old ballads? I just love what you did!" And the woman answered with a smile, "You stand in front of the ballad. I stand behind it."

We storytellers and writers tend to talk quite a bit about finding our voices. The concept stems in part from the idea that if there are only thirty-six plots in the world, and if many of us tell similar—if not the same—folktales, we've got to distinguish our individual work in some way. This could be one of the reasons that Donald Davis began to tell personal stories after telling Jack Tales for so long. After a while, others in the storytelling revival began telling the same stories. But Davis' personal storytelling enabled him to develop his own "private stock" of material—with his own voice. Then, when others began telling personal stories too, they were telling their own, not his.

In other words, the concept of finding our voice in the storytelling world goes to the heart of the question of "who owns the story?" In a world without monetary compensation for storytelling, as ours has, that question wouldn't be quite as important. In a society without an emphasis on individualism, as ours has, the question would be moot. In a world without ownership, who owns the story? Why, we all do, of course!

In our society, self-expression is a hot commodity. Standing out from the crowd and presenting our own take on events is considered our right and responsibility. It is to some degree that perspective that has led to a familiar saying in storytelling circles, "It's the teller, not the tale." In other words, if five people were to tell the same story, you'd have five totally different performances. So it's the teller's voice you come to experience.

Connie: I'm not sure I agree with "It's the teller, not the tale." I remember from personal experience when Barbara Freeman and I were touring as The Folk Tellers in the 1970s and '80s, and I would walk offstage in

between sets. Audience members would often say something to me about how much they loved a certain story I told, when it was in fact one of Barbara's. I can remember being hurt, thinking, "What's the matter that they don't know which story I told and which one she told?" Then someone explained to me that actually that was a compliment, because, like that woman said to Joan Baez, we were not getting in front of the story. So our listeners were experiencing both us and the material. Our personalities were not outshining the tale.

If I were coaching somebody, I'd say, "Stand behind the story. But certainly stand through it, as well. Don't hide your light." The same holds true for personal stories, literary and folktales. Storytellers definitely possess different talents and skills, and there are some I like better than others. It's not that I feel that the teller doesn't matter. If the teller is good, I love hearing stories I've heard before. But the teller bringing herself to the story makes all the difference.

In storytelling that moves me, it's the story that has my attention, not the person. A good storyteller can take something not so good and make it into something enjoyable. But I'd much rather see them take a good story to new heights.

For me personally, finding my voice is all about being present and in the moment, and true to myself. It is not something that can be thought out and decided upon. The more real, present and in the moment I am, the more the audience sinks into the story and, in a metaphysical way, the teller does "disappear"—along with the walls of the theater—and time itself! Story, listeners and teller becomes one.

Caren: I guess I would say, "It's the teller and the tale." Because storytelling is an oral tradition, the tale and the telling must work hand-in-hand. Many of us have inadvertently done a disservice to beautiful stories because we are so intent on getting the words and facts right. We forget that we are not putting down the material on paper. We are breathing life into words and images with our bodies and our voices. My favorite performances are those in which I cannot distinguish which I liked better, the teller or the tale. They complement each other that well.

Here's a personal disaster story for you: Years ago, I was asked to tell a folktale with a theme of peace at a rather serious event. I told a story that could have been done seriously, but—don't ask me why—I told it the way I always do, with a great deal of humor. The story was perfect, but the telling was inappropriate for the occasion. Still, I don't see the problem as being that I got in front of the story so much as that I partnered the story inappropriately.

Maybe that's a good way to think of it, as partnering. If the story and I are working together to entertain, inspire and enlighten the audience, we must operate in an environment of mutual respect. Then there is the third, not-so-silent partner—the audience. As always, we must ask ourselves what is the purpose of the performance. What are these people expecting? Is the mix of teller and tale working for them?



- What is your usual personality when speaking to others?
- Are you an extrovert, or do you tend to hang back?
- Do you relax and make jokes, or are you more formal?

Think of your favorite storytellers. Think of the

performance styles that make you think, I could do that! We all know that good performers make what they do look easier than it is. But the sense that that person shares a common outlook, use of language and body, etc., can help us figure out who we are as a teller.

The obvious answer to the question of voice is that we take on the voice that feels most comfortable, because if we're

not enjoying ourselves, then our audience won't enjoy us, either. The less obvious answer is that the more storytelling we do, the more we naturally develop our voices. In other words, like our stories themselves, we tellers are works-in-progress.



Here are some questions to ponder when seeking your voice:

- Why do you tell stories?
- Do you feel that you are merely the conduit for these stories?
- Or, do you get the most pleasure out of developing and performing them as your own?
- How do you feel telling stories?
- Do you sense that the story is enough for the audience, or do you constantly feel you should be delivering more?
- Are you comfortable putting as much as possible of yourself out there on stage, or do you feel better when the story takes the spotlight?

Connie Regan-Blake (left) lives in Asheville, North Carolina, and travels the world with her storytelling performances and workshops. She has performed in 47 states and 16 countries so far, and next year she celebrates 40 years as a full-time professional storyteller, her only “for-real” job! Her website: www.StoryWindow.com

Caren S. Neile, Ph.D., MFA, (right) chairs the National Storytelling Network. She is faculty in the School of Communication & Multimedia Studies at Florida Atlantic University. A Fulbright Senior Specialist, she teaches, writes and performs throughout the country and abroad. Her website: www.thepublicstoryteller.org. This work was made possible by a research grant from the Morrow Fund at Florida Atlantic University.

Movement in storytelling...You cannot avoid it!

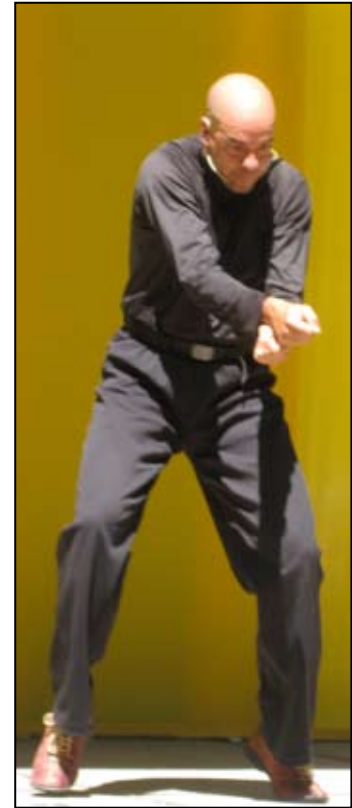
By Antonio Rocha

Most people associate movement in storytelling with something that will get in the way of the story, look absurd, or exaggerated. I would like to share a few words on how your body can aid in the telling of a story. How it can be simple, natural and most importantly, eloquent.



do help. However, before you take that class, here are a few things you can start doing right now. Keeping in mind that more than 70% of how we communicate is through body language, please take a deep breath and read on.

image. More ripples. If you do not use facial expressions and gesture you cannot articulate with eloquence. That is how we communicate off stage. Why not on stage? If you say something that is not connected to your intention, the body will not reflect it. The body is always connected to the intention. I



Telling from the stage is very different from telling elsewhere. All that you do or don't do can add to or get in the way of the story. Even the walk towards the microphone communicates what is in your mind. Being aware of the connection between mind, voice and body will aid your telling.

You have what it takes

One does not need to be a well trained performer in order to have an eloquent presence on stage. Classes with a reputable instructor

Connecting the dots

There is a sequence of events, from stillness to action. Before thought there is stillness, like the smooth surface of a lake. Then you have a thought which is like a pebble hitting the lake's surface. The first ripple is the first image of the story. That image provokes a verbal description, the second ripple. Within the verbal description the energy keeps building up creating facial expressions and gesture that are connected to the

believe that when someone is lying, then the body is forced to connect with the words. That is why there is an awkward look.

Let's use the following sentence as an example:

"The kids opened the door, saw a monster, and ran away." How are they opening that door? Is it slowly, showing fear? Then your tone of voice will create a facial expression and then a gesture will follow. Your hands will feel compelled to move,

Rocha-Motion *continued*

not necessarily miming the opening of the door but perhaps a more organic spreading of the fingers a bit as you create suspense with your voice. If your arms are just hanging on the side of your body, you won't look committed to the story.

- You can also stretch “saw a monster” slowly moving your eyes up to create the size of this monster. So now you are delivering, with just your eyes, information— monster's size—that is not written in the story.
- You can also pause after “saw a monster,” and look up slowly. I call this an eloquent pause. You are not saying anything verbally, but your eyes and head

are. Now, if you show the size of the monster non-verbally, then do not say: “...it was a tall monster.” That is called redundancy. It does not move the story forward.

- Be 100% in tune with the story. If you are on stage worried about your clothes, your hair, or something else, then your body language will reflect that and not the story. You might even say things that are not part of the plot.

The sky is no limit here. It just needs to make sense and not be overdone.

Observe the world all the time.

Everything teaches us something. Whenever you are feeling an emotion, observe it. Pay attention to nature. Watch how people react to things. When you are in tune with the story the innate intelligence of your being will come forth. You'll discover details of the story that aren't written on the page: mind, voice and body, together telling the same story. Then the audience will believe in your actions just as they believe in your words. With conviction, clarity and purpose the story will be true in all levels.



Antonio Rocha is a Brazilian storyteller residing in Maine. His new book is reviewed on page 14. Visit his website: www.storyinmotion.com.



A Visit By Literary Storyteller Carol Birch Review by Sara Armstrong



“There is a river called Bok Chitto that cuts through Mississippi...” So begins Tim Tingle's story, *Crossing Bok Chitto*, with which Carol Birch began her recent enchanting concert as part of the Storytelling Association of California's Out-of-Towners series.

After moving the audience with this story—with Tim's permission, of course—Carol offered her version of the riveting story of Luba Tryszynska-Frederick, also known as “The Angel of Bergen-Belsen,” who spearheaded the successful effort to keep 54 orphans alive during the last winter of the war in the concentration camp where Anne Frank died. (Fifty-three children survived; the fifty-fourth succumbed to disease shortly before the camp was liberated.)

And as advertised, Carol delivered “Steinbeck Out Loud!,” sharing stories from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, that highlight characters other than the Joads, all of whom suffered during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. We met and grew to know characters such as these, confronted and threatened by owners of the land they worked:

“In the open doors the women stood looking out, and behind them the children—corn-headed children, with

wide eyes, one bare foot on top of the other bare foot, and the toes working. The women and the children watched their men talking to the owner men. They were silent...”

Carol's quiet mastery brings such stories alive, and the audience feels what the characters feel, deeply and in a way that lasts.

A recipient of the prestigious National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence Award, Carol has brought stories alive to audiences for over 30 years—including at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, and our own Bay Area Storytelling Festival. She is a teacher, author and international teller who has produced three award-winning audio cassettes of her own stories. According to *carolbirchstoryteller.com*, Carol is “known for a compelling blend of energy, warmth, vulnerability, and directness [who] restores orality and spontaneity to the fixed silence of stories found in print, but as a third-grader in North Carolina pointed out: ‘She knows that story 'cause she was there!’”

SAC is delighted to have shared Carol's gifts with our story lovers October 9 in Albany CA and hopes she will return soon.

Richard Farnsworth: Cowboyin' Up
(A Tribute Poem Larry Maurice Performed at Richard's Funeral)

The term "Cowboy Up"
gets thrown around
quite a lot these days
However, most don't really understand
the meaning of this old time
Cowboy phrase
Richard Farnsworth was
"Cowboy Up" personified
He was (and is) pure unadulterated
Cowboy, through every step of his ride

He was "Cowboy Up" through the
pleasures and the pains of all his trials
Through the love and luck and laughter.
Through the gags, the snags, the smiles

Folks know (or think they do)
that when you get "Thrown"
Yer suppose to hitch up yer leggin's
and jump right back on that critter
God forbid ya don't "Cowboy Up."
Folks just might think
you were some kinda quitter.

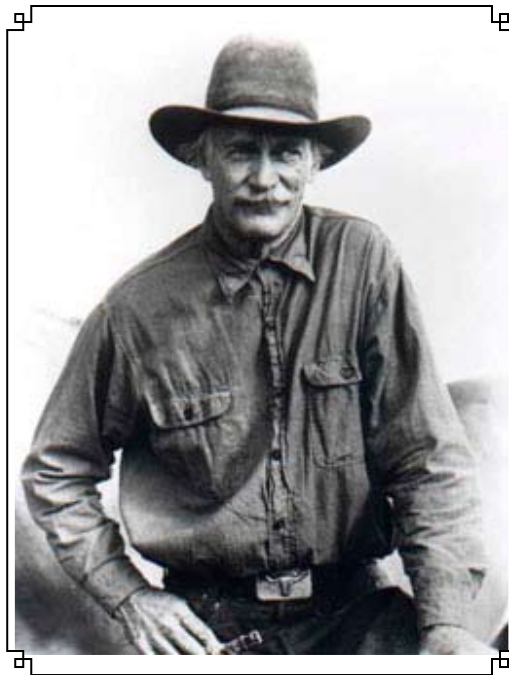
But Dick knew that if all you were
doin' was tryin' to "Cowboy Up"
You'd probably spend a lot of time
as an un-guided missile
He knew it took more than
"Wanna be" and "Cowboy Up"
To make that final whistle

He knew you had to pay your dues
and do your homework Pard!
If'n it went wrong?
It was because of
something you forgot to fix
Maybe ya shoulda' figured it out
seven ways to Sunday,
'Stead of stoppin' at six
He knew that we are responsible for all
that we touch or do
And in makin' the whistle
or in making a friend,
How it comes out,
All depends on you

He knew his "Cowboy Up"
came from experience
And God given ability
It came at the price of patience,
practice, pain,
Not duckin' responsibility

For where he had been
let him move forward
What he learned helped others
find a "Straighter Trail"
His abilities showed the critics
and the skeptics
That it never occurred to him to fail

He moved with dignity
through people nature and fame
Rode his trail with grit and grace
He smiled when he saw others
runnin' after the herd
He knew this was a glorious journey,
Not a chaotic chase



September 1, 1920 – October 6, 2000

He passed childhood's questions
and life's processions
Stayed true to his own trail
And it's through those obsessions
that perhaps comes the lessons
That his time here with us
will help to unveil

For sometimes his trail
was twisted and tough
Uphill, narrow, lonely and rough
Most of the time,
it was bright, clean, open and wide
Knowin' his reward was the friends,
ridin' close by his side

Friends to give him
their breath and bouquet
Friends to push pull or steady him
along his way
To care and to love
without reward or confusion
That the "Jewel" of goodness
is not an illusion

But age, experience and reality,
All help bear
the stinging truth of mortality
Dick knew that a greater wisdom
would always knew best
When to go hard at it
and when to rest

When it's time, it's time

There's a time to hold on
and a time to let go
As time goes on,
the lessons we'll see
Is that it's all right, it's O.K.
and it's certainty
That old friends gone by are takin'
care of our friend
Sometimes, we have to let go,
To start over again

As we run our race
with time and space,
The journey is day by day
It is our friends here and gone
that help us along
They guide us
and light up our way

Hold on to Dick's light.
Keep it clear and bright
Don't let our friend's light
flicker or fade
For in all that is past
and all that will last
That light, (his) light
Is of what we are made.



2-cent Ranch, Palomino Valley,
Nevada, October 2000
Larry Maurice
cowboypoetry@earthlink.net
www.LarryMaurice.com

Book and DVD Reviews

Beowulf recreated by Benjamin Bagby DVD available at www.bagbybeowulf.com

The week before Halloween Grendel came back to life and those lucky enough to be in the Cal Performances audience felt like participants in a 7th century mead hall.

“Hwaet!” (“listen” in Anglo Saxon) cried Bagby. And we listened. He was absolutely mesmerizing. Accompanying himself on a six-stringed harp, he re-created the Anglo Saxon epic poem (with supertitles for those unfamiliar with the ancient language), reliving each character involved and in despair over the grotesque destruction perpetuated by the monster, Grendel.

And the good news is that his performance is available on a DVD.

Bagby holds our attention for an hour and a half, with Beowulf’s early adventures, the construction of Hrothgar, the mead hall that the monster Grendel enters to feed on the occupants, the journey and arrival of Beowulf and his welcome by the desperate King of the Danes. The world of the 7th Century heroes, and each of the characters, comes to life as Bagby smiles at us as he talks of a foolish one, or shows his horror at the action of the monster, his admiration of the brave.

The story of Grendel, the unearthly beast who feeds nightly on any Dane who dares to enter the hall, is a true horror story, but there is both humor and horror as he deals with one drunk enough to boast before the others.

All of this in true bardic fashion is material fresh for each telling, true storytelling. Interviews with Bagby confirm that each performance will come out somehow different.

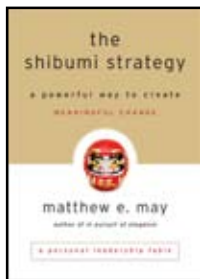


Even the language is a special treat, but there are many times when we understand what we are hearing, even as we read the subtitles.

— *Storyteller Kate Frankel, editor emerita of Storyline, is a past SAC board member. kateline@earthlink.net*



The Shibumi Strategy: An Engaging Fable About Reinventing Work By Matthew E. May, A Jossey-Bass Publication



“There are times in life when if fortunate we experience a moment of utter clarity... our actions seem minimal, effortless even, and the experience is consummately satisfying. These are breakthrough moments.” So writes Matt May, the innovation author and design strategist, in his engaging new fable, *The Shibumi Strategy*. His tale is about one such series of moments.

Where do such moments occur? Matt May believes that they can occur in the most unlikely places, like the sales room of a car dealership. His book is the story of a man who seems to be losing everything, crushed to pieces by an inhuman workplace. And then through a series of breakthrough moments, finds deep satisfaction and redemption. We see how even this unpromising setting can be transformed if one approaches the subject in the right frame of mind. In the process, we learn how management can be reinvented.

A short book, but a profound book, *The Shibumi Strategy* is a wonderful contribution to the emerging thinking about why and how we must recreate today’s workplaces so that they are more productive for the organization, more satisfying to those doing the work and more responsive to the customers for whom the work is being done.

Equally important: it’s a great story!

— *Steve Denning’s new book is The Leader’s Guide to Radical Management: Re-inventing the Workplace for the 21st Century (Jossey-Bass, 2010). Steve is also the author of the award-winning Jossey-Bass books, The Secret Language of Leadership and The Leader’s Guide to Storytelling.*

Denning works with organizations in the U.S., Europe, Asia and Australia on leadership, innovation, leadership storytelling and reinventing management. For more information visit: www.stevedenning.com.

Book Reviews

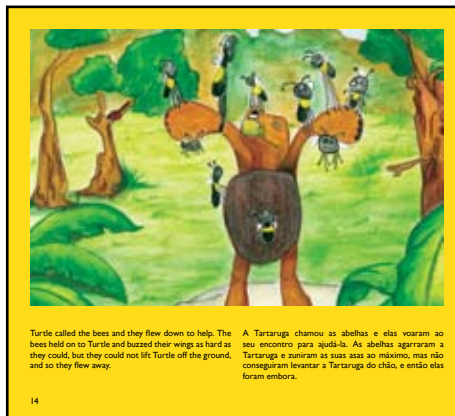
The Party in the Sky, A Festa No Ceu By Antonio Rocha, 34 pages. Educa Vision



“The Party in the Sky, A Festa No Ceu” is a sweet storybook, written in English and Portuguese, based on a traditional Brazilian folktale of how turtle’s shell got its cracks. An adaptation by national storyteller Antonio Rocha with illustrations by Cedrick Dawson, it’s easy

reading and seems perfect for children four to seven years old.

Turtle must find a way to get to the party in the sky! The flying insects and birds are having a grand dance! Turtle doesn’t want to miss it! So, Turtle asks various flying friends for a lift, but Turtle is too heavy. With persistence and the courage to keep asking, Turtle finally gets a ride with a guitar-playing vulture. After a wonderful time partying, the vulture is so tired, that on the way back home, there’s an accident and Turtle



Turtle called the bees and they flew down to help. The bees held on to Turtle and buzzed their wings as hard as they could, but they could not lift Turtle off the ground, and so they flew away.

A Tartaruga chamou as abelhas e elas voaram ao seu encontro para ajudá-la. As abelhas agarraram a Tartaruga e zurraram as suas asas ao máximo, mas não conseguiram levantar a Tartaruga do chão, e então elas foram embora.

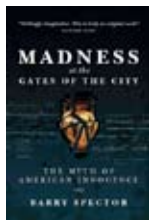
are childlike, fun and colorful.

I had only one problem with the writing: Turtle was an ‘it.’ I understand the desire for inclusivity, but making the turtle an ‘it’ keeps us from identifying with this main character. Already our human attitudes and behavior have led to endangered species. It would have been nice to have Turtle be a he’ or ‘she.’

— Reviewed by storyteller and avid reader Nancy Wang of Eth-Noh-Tec. (Nancy@EthNohTec.org)

Madness at the Gates of the City: The Myth of American Innocence By Barry Spector 443 pages. Regent Press

“By looking at our history, politics, indigenous wisdom and archetypal psychology, Barry Spector discovers new hope in very old ways of thinking,” promises the foreword to *Madness at the Gates of the City*. And as promised, this book is an ambitious attempt to explain it all for you.



What does it have to do with storytelling? Mr. Spector sees myth – the stories we tell ourselves to explain the world and our place in it – as a way to unlock the dilemmas that face America, and to get us onto a better and more truthful path. He names and takes issue with a long list of myths he believes have sustained us in a journey down the wrong path – individual self-interest as the engine of progress, the equation of growth with well-being, the denial of

ambiguity in favor of various fundamentalisms, the worship of youthfulness and denial of death, and most importantly, American exceptionalism, the idea that we are the chosen ones. There is even the “myth of mythlessness,” the idea that rationalism has rendered myth unnecessary and irrelevant.

Spector also draws heavily on Euripides’ *The Bacchae* as a subtext for American history. In that myth, the king of Thebes is torn apart by a mob of the apparently powerless – women – driven mad by Dionysus. Hence the “madness” of the book’s title. Join Mr. Spector on this journey into the collective psyche of America, but don’t expect an easy or comfortable trip. It includes a discouraging litany of our sins, from slavery to imperialism to torture, to materialism. These are undeniable, and painful to contemplate. He does find hope in the end, but you may find the journey a rather difficult one.

— Jeff Byers is a storyteller, a story coach, and a board member of the Storytelling Association of California.

Join these BASF Fundraising Donors (as of December 9):

Norma Azevedo	Kathy Glendenning	M. Lou McGinness & David Alexander	Clara Stern
Joyce Baechtel	Rosemary H. Hayes	Aida Merriweather	Eric Stern
Ellen Beans	Lisbeth Holley	Brenda Miller	Susan Strong
Frank Benson	Sally Holzman	Margo Myles	Richard Strong
Gillian Brown	Daniela Hoffmann	Doloroes Nice-Siegenthaler	Trina Swerdlow
Marie Cartusciello	Catherine Huston	Olithia O'Toole	Grant & Lei Sypers
Julie Chang	Kate Johnson	Anne Ogonowski	Lorraine Talbot
William & Diane Clarke	George Kincheloe	Jim Marney-Petix	Libby Traubman
Richard & Kay Derrico	Pat Krenke	Sandy Reeve	Linda Watkins
Peter Deutsch	Norah Laffan	Sheila Ring	Karin Werner
Jean Ellisen	Linda Lamoreaux	Elizabeth Rintoul	Donna Yee
Keith Evans	Patrica Langdell	Dennis & Linda Ronberg	The entire SAC Board (12)
Kate Frankel	Barbara Lodman		•••••
Grace Fleming	Milton & Audrey McClaskey / Spector	Mary Schrader	

SAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Chair: Sara Armstrong
510.848.6340 info@storysaac.org
Vice Chair: Ellen Augustine
510.428.1832 ellenaugustine@earthlink.net
Secretary: Jeff Byers
415.584.1804 jeffsf@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Steven Shagrin
925.949.3938 finance@storysaac.org

COMMITTEES

Membership: Jeff Byers
415.584.1804 membership@storysaac.org
Communication: Susan Ford
415.474.5580 newsletter@storysaac.org
Programming: Ann Riley
510.527.5141 ariley@igc.org
Outreach: Kirk Waller
510.290.0253 tellin@kirkwaller.com
Promotion: Ashley Harkness
925.828.1794 publicity@storysaac.org
At Large:
 Ruth Fraser
415.626.3757 mellowstory@juno.com
 Marian Ferrante
925.437.1360 deltawordweavers@att.net
 Courtney Good
510.691.9439 courtneygoodperformance@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

From Your Storyline Editor

Storyline welcomes writers of articles and stories, editors, proofreaders, reviewers, photographers and correspondents throughout the state. E-mail your submissions to Editor@HackinBoo.com with SAC in the beginning of your subject line for consideration. To join the team, contact: Craig Harrison (newsletter@storysaac.org) 510.547.0664. Would you like to be editor in 2011-12? Just ask Craig!

Storyline, a publication of the **Storytelling Association of California (SAC)** is published four times a year: March, June, Sept., Dec. Submission deadline is the 25th of the month preceding publication. Editor-in-Chief Craig Harrison newsletter@storysaac.org; Kate Frankel, Editor Emerita katefrankel@earthlink.net. S. California Calendar Editors: Linda King Pruitt, storytaler@hotmail.com, Audrey Kopp, audreystory@verizon.net and correspondent. N. California Calendar Editor: Susan Ford calendar@storysaac.org.

Support your Storytelling Community...Join SAC or Renew your Membership Today!

Receive our quarterly newsletter *Storyline*, a listing in SAC's Directory, website link, free & discounted tickets for story concerts, workshops, Out-Of-Towner events and the Bay Area Storytelling Festival. Complete form and mail to: SAC, P. O. Box 11891, Berkeley, CA 94712 or join/renew online at: www.acteva.com/go/storytelling

- \$30/1year Individual \$50/ 2 years Individual New Renewal
 \$45/ 1 year Dual \$60/ 2 years Dual
 \$75 SAC Patron \$120 SAC Best Friend Please contact me about volunteering ____

Name _____ Organization: _____
 Address _____ Apt _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Cell phone: _____ E-mail (please print): _____
 Web Site _____ Please link my web site with www.StorySac.org.

- How would you like to receive *Storyline*? By US mail: Online as a PDF Both online & US mail:
- YES, I'm interested in making a tax-free donation to ____ SAC ____ BASF.
- Please do NOT give my name to other storytelling organizations or events.

NSN News

2011 Will Be **A Year Of The Regions** for NSN with *only* Regional events. NSN has announced partnerships with the following events for our Year of the Regions:

- Western: January 15, Farmington City, UT - Farmington City Storytelling Festival: www.farmington.utah.gov, www.utstoryguild.org
- Mid-Atlantic: March 25-26, Bethlehem, PA - Story Fusion 2011: www.lvstorytellers.org
- Northeast: Spring 2011 (exact dates TBD), Cambridge, MA - Cambridge StoryTrades: www.massmouth.blogspot.com
www.massmouth.com
- Southeast: April 1-3, Laurinburg, NC - Storytelling Festival of Carolina: www.storyartscenter.org
- Pacific: April 2011 (exact date TBD, near Earth Day), Seattle, WA - Seattle Earth Day Celebration 2011: www.seattlestorytelling.org

- North Central: April 29-May 1, Lake Geneva, WI - The Northlands Storytelling Conference: www.northlands.net

- South Central: July 8-10, San Antonio, TX - Texas Storytelling Conference: www.tejasstorytelling.com

ART Force Report

California elected a pro-art Governor Jerry Brown and we have a pro-art President. It's our best opportunity in a decade to put storytelling on the list of "arts." Storytelling always is a sub-category of theater OR a folk art (398.2 where all the folktales live). As a folk art, storytelling projects do not qualify for arts or theater grants. In K-12 education, storytelling isn't listed as an art for teaching artists to teach. If you know folks at your county's art council, use your influence to persuade them to legitimize our artform. Get involved: <http://tinyurl.com/ArtForce>

— Erica Lann-Clark, NSN Liaison for the
nine Bay Area Counties, 831.479.1874
lanntell@cruzio.com.



STORYLINE Editor
PO Box 5965
Berkeley CA 94705