



KSA Newsletter

Kentucky Storytelling Association

Just a Note

All of us from KSA hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. We are very excited this being our very first newsletter. Some of the special points of interest may be blank this time. It is very important that everyone get their columns in on time.

Volume 1, Issue 1
Jan. 2005

Special points of interest:

- Just Ask Merlin
- Short Story fillers
- Personal notes
- Letters to the Editor
- Want ad
- Regional / Current Events
- Last document: KSA Application

Interim KSA Board Members

GAYLORD COOPER 606-932-4958 coopky@yahoo.com

MARY HAMILTON 502-223-4523 Mary@maryhamilton.info

DONNA LOVE 304-736-93230 donnlove@yahoo.com

CYNTHIA CHANGARIS Cell 502-645-2930 or 502-451-7144 cchangaris@aol.com

BETSY FLEISCHER 859-734-3194 betsycat2@yahoo.com

Membership Costs are: 20.00 a year. You may add an additional Tax exempt donation to KSA. Mail your check or money order to KSA, PO Box 4148, Frankfort, KY 40604-4148. You do not need to live in Kentucky to belong. You may contact or call Mary Hamilton, board member for additional information. (See Board List).

Next Newsletter deadline date is March 23, 2005. All Submissions must be in by this date.

Just Ask Merlin:

By: Octavia Sexton

Dear Merlin,

I recently did a storytelling program for a group of adults. I was a short way into my story when I realized they didn't have a clue what I was talking about. They missed all the punch lines, didn't get the point, etc. Finally, exasperated, I just stopped and commented that this story must be way over their heads. I said it in a joking way. I then told a children's story. I had told the same adult story many times before at colleges and Church meetings. The audience always loved it. Do you have any suggestions on how to prepare an audience for a performance?

Lora

Dear Lora,

I don't have to consult the stars or my crystal ball on this one.

Shame on you!!! Never be condescending to your audience, nor blame them if you don't get the response you expected. You always treat them with honor and respect. It doesn't matter if they are pre-school or graduate school, a penal institution or a Church choir. It is your responsibility to prepare for the audience. You need to discuss specifics with the Sponsor/Presenter prior to your program. Find out about the audience before your performance. Many storytellers send out information about the stories they are going to tell. You should choose material appropriate for the audience. You don't have to tell a story that an audience is going to love, but you need to know before hand what response you want. Are you trying to make a point, change a way of thinking, shock, amuse, educate, etc. Will your presentation meet the expectation of the presenter? Again, you need to discuss what type of program is expected and do the best you can as far as preparation and presentation.

Dear Merlin,

I recently did a shared program with two other storytellers. We each were allotted 20 minutes. I was scheduled to perform last. The first storyteller stayed within the time limit but the second one took 40 minutes. I did not get to perform. The presenter refused to pay for anything except my mileage because I didn't tell a story. I am new at this and really don't know how to handle these things. Any suggestions?

Poor and Confused

Dear Poor and Confused,

Ages ago I too was a newling. Being new does not mean you have to be used.

You need to have a contract signed by both you and the Presenter prior to the performance. In the contract you will list any needs you may have: time and length of performance, cancellation policy, etc. Many storytellers charge all or a percentage of their fee if a cancellation occurs. This is usually adjusted according to how much prior notification of a cancellation is given. In your case there wasn't any notification. You showed up and were ready. You should have been paid, however, without a contract; you are left holding an empty bag. Take a look at some more experienced storyteller's contracts. Then develop your own.

The second storyteller should have stayed within the allotted time, but alas, you will always have these "stage hogs" that will gobble up all the time they can. The stage manager, sponsor, or someone in charge should have had control of the situation and indicated to the second storyteller that the time was up for their presentation. A sheep hook is sometimes necessary. I carry my own.

Do you have a question for Merlin? Send your questions to justaskmerlin@yahoo.com. The deadline for submission for the next newsletter is:

Story Fillers

By: Ann Roseberry

Long ago a man with 4 sons and one on the way went hunting to help feed his growing family. He didn't return that night and, of course, they were worried but he had stayed out all night before. After a few days his sons went hunting him. They never found him and as time went on they presumed him dead and went on with their lives.

His youngest was born and when he was old enough he was always asking about his father. What did he look like? What would he think of this or think of that? He never stopped looking for his father. He spent countless hours in the woods looking and calling his father's name. One day he came to a small cave and went inside. By the light of the entrance he could see some bones that looked human scattered on the sandy floor of the cave. He went running home to fetch his brothers.

Indeed the bones were human and one of the older boys found a leather pouch with their father's initials carved in it. Here were the remains of their father.

They stood around with tears in their eyes. As long as he was missing there was always a chance, a small chance maybe, but a chance that he was still alive. But here was proof that he was dead and they mourned their father.

"WAIT! Said the oldest son;" Father gave me a gift long ago. I can put these bones back together. At least we'd have a complete skeleton." So he dropped to his knees, said a few soft words and put a leg bone here, a foot bone there and pretty soon CLICK-CLACK CLICK-CLACK. The bones started drawing themselves across the sandy floor and soon there was a complete skeleton of their father.

"WAIT! Father also gave me a gift," said the next oldest one." I can put organs back into these bones." He dropped to his knees and drew his hands over the bones while saying something very softly. Sure enough the heart appeared, the liver, the lungs, all the organs where they should be.

"WAIT! Said the next oldest son;" I, too, was given a gift by my father. I can put skin on these bones and organs." He dropped to his knees and said something very softly and drew his hands over the bones and organs. Shortly skin started appearing on the bones and organs. Pretty soon they could recognize their father.

"You know," said the next to the youngest," Father gifted me also. I will put breath into this pile of bones, organs and skin." He knelt by his father and breathed into him. Soon color started to appear. Blood started flowing through his body and organs. He began to breathe.

All the sons were overjoyed. They had thought they had lost their father forever and here he was alive again. Their father opened his eyes and his sons helped him to his feet. They all hugged him and he hugged them. They all cried out of joy at having their family together again.

"I remember tracking a bear," the hunter said and following him into this shallow cave. I must have hit my head on the low ceiling and died here and wild animals scattered my bones."

"Yes, I remember," he said, taking out a blue stone from his pouch. "I found this and I was bringing it home to one of my sons." The stone glowed as if it were lit inside somehow. No one had ever seen such a beautiful stone.

The oldest said, "I should have it father, because I am the oldest and I brought your bones together." The next oldest one said, "but my gift was more important. I put organs back where they belonged." The 3rd oldest said, "Yes, that is true, but I put skin over the bones and organs to protect them, I should have the stone."

The 4th oldest said, "that is all true, but I put life back into you father. Without that you would still not be with us. It is obvious that I should have the stone since my gift was the most precious."

The father listened and then walked over to his youngest that he had never seen. The one that was born after he disappeared. He took out the stone and said, "I wish my youngest to have it."

Of course, the others all chimed in. I put your bones together. I put organs in those bones. Another, I put skin on those bones and organs. And yet the other? I gave you my gift of breath. They all said, "Father we all gave you our gifts." Why should the youngest who did not give you anything have the beautiful blue stone?"

The father walked to his youngest and handed him the stone. "Sons, all of you. You have done me a great honor by giving back to me the gifts I gave you. But here, my youngest gave me the greatest gift of all. For you see, he kept my memory alive."

.

Personal Notes:

By: Cynthia Changaris

Congratulations to Graham Shelby, recipient of a 2005 Individual Artist Al Smith Fellowship (\$7500) from the Kentucky Arts Council for non-fiction writing. Mary Hamilton also applied. She did not win a fellowship, but she did win a Professional Assistance Award (\$1000) for her playwriting ability as shown in her script for "Children of Richard, Rhoda, and God," her one-woman storytelling show. The Kentucky Arts Council is a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Thomas Freeze won a performance slot in the Lyceum lottery for the National Storytelling Conference in Oklahoma City. This lottery choice will place Thomas as a presenter at the National Storytelling Network Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this summer (July 6 through 10). Thomas is a KSA Member. Two other regional tellers, Shari Layne and Chris King, have also been chosen to present. The lyceum is a new performance venue, where storytellers will present works that may contain material that is edgy, new and potentially controversial.

If you have other ideas that you would like to see in this article, please let me know. I would appreciate any information of this kind to be sent to me at cchangaris@aol.com.

Want Ads:

By: Terry Burris

No Ads at this time.

If you are seeking to solicit help on a job, or maybe looking for certain materials, this is the space to place those ads.

Send all future correspondence to tab2020@aol.com

Regional / Current Events:

Send all information to sbogard@iglou.com.

No Events posted at this time.

Letters to the Editor: Send all responses or letters to the editor to sbogard@iglou.com,

Dear Editor, at the November meeting, people attending wrote out questions they would like to have answered or addressed by other members. We were going to have a "Knowledge Swap" but due to time constraints, were not able to have this discussion. Here are the questions. We are looking for answers from you.

- What vocal exercises and preparations are helpful before you begin your storytelling?
- How do you use your programs to gain more meeting opportunities?
- I would love to go to storytelling schools to learn how to make my yarns worth telling. Where are such schools?
- Do storytellers work with any special agent or agency?
- How do you get yourself to stop using fillers such as um, uh when you are telling?
- What are some scary stories for K-3 age group?
- How do you get invited to tell at Jonesborough, (Tennessee, the National Festival)?
- How do I find a story to tell?
- What is a good price to charge for a beginning storyteller, for a 30-45 minute performance?

Dear Editor, I would like to share this information with all our readers. Dear Members, I am the KY State Liaison for the National Storytelling Network, whose offices are in Jonesborough, Tennessee. I am enclosing the address for NSN and the executive director, (see below) so you can contact this organization. At the internet site you will find lots of information. There are grants available, a summer conference, an October Festival, a magazine, special interest groups, including Healing and Storytelling, Organizers, Education, etc. Members are people all across the country that has a special passion for storytelling. If I can help you or act as a liaison for you to this group, please let me know. I have been a liaison for a number of years. If there is one among you who would be interested in this job, and is a member of NSN, please let me know. It is a much better defined job, than in past years, and gives the person holding this job information about storytelling both in the states and abroad. It would be a good and refreshing thing for Kentucky to have a new Liaison

CONTACT INFORMATION: National Storytelling Network, 132 Boone St., #5, Jonesborough, TN 32659 1-800-525-4514 Karen Dietz, Director Karen@storynet.org or www.storynet.org .

Kentucky Storytelling Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM (Questions? contact mary@maryhamilton.info or 502-223-4523)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (circle one: day evening)

Email _____

Your profession _____

1. The Kentucky Storytelling Association Newsletter is a member benefit. Do you want to receive a KSA Newsletter?
Yes No If yes, how? (circle one) Email (less cost to KSA) Postal mail

2. Do you want to receive "storyteller wanted" notices when an event planner contacts KSA looking for a storyteller?
Yes No If yes, How? (circle one) Email Postal Mail

3. KSA bylaws allow for member contact information (name, address, phone, and email) to be shared with other KSA Members, unless the KSA member forbids sharing of personal information. May your contact information be shared with other KSA members? Yes No If yes, please answer: Should we include your profession? Yes No If there is a connection with storytelling (different from your profession) you want included, please write it here:

(Please, use the back of this page for extra space.)

4. I became interested in story and storytelling: (when and how) _____

5. Do you use storytelling in your work? Yes No If yes, how? _____

6. Other information you want the KSA Board to know about your connection to storytelling: _____

7. KSA is a member-driven organization. That means members are needed to conduct the work of the organization. Which committees are you interested in serving on? Fundraising (includes grant writing)

Nominating (to prepare for 2005 board elections)

Finance (includes developing budget)

Programs (includes planning the 2005 annual meeting)

Membership (includes recruitment)

Communications (includes working on newsletter and the KSA website)

DUES

\$20.00 per year (students and elders over 65, \$15.00) November 1 – October 31. (Pro-rated for rest of year if you join after Nov. 30th, then due again on Nov. 1)

\$ _____ Dues enclosed.

\$ _____ Additional Tax exempt donation to KSA

\$ _____ TOTAL

Mail your check or money order payable to KSA and this entire page to:

Kentucky Storytelling Association, P O Box 4148, Frankfort, KY 40604-4148.