



# Kentucky Storytelling Association

April 2009 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 5 Issue 2

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## Useful Links:

### KSA Website

<http://www.kystory.org/>

### National Storytelling Network Website

<http://www.storynet.org/>

## Contact your Board

President, Donna Slaton  
[President@kystory.org](mailto:President@kystory.org)  
270-825-1478

**President Elect**, Pam Holcomb  
[President-Elect@kystory.org](mailto:President-Elect@kystory.org)  
606-573-4376

Treasurer, Nina Coyer  
859-622-4966  
[Treasurer@kystory.org](mailto:Treasurer@kystory.org)

Secretary, Betsy Fleischer  
[Secretary@kystory.org](mailto:Secretary@kystory.org)  
859-734-3194

Quadrant 2, Octavia

## Message from our President Donna Slaton

Hello KSA,

Spring is coming and with it lots of outdoor storytelling events will be right around the corner. I hope you make plans to attend some soon. Check out the KSA website at [www.kystory.org](http://www.kystory.org) for the latest calendar information.

The February 21 KSA board meeting at Mary Kane's/Cynthia Changaris's home in Louisville was very productive. I wish to thank the 7 board members who made it a quorum and stuck to the business at hand for nearly 3 hours. We accomplished a lot and made some plans that I hope you will enjoy and perhaps volunteer to help with.

I am sorry to say we have lost 2 of the three men on the board, because of prior commitments and the inability to attend board meetings. Gary Mattingly who so kindly volunteered his computer expertise to help as Membership secretary has had some life changing travel issues and E J DeWitt who was last fall elected Quad 1 representative have had to resign because of their other commitments.

While we thank them for their service however short, we need to fill their board positions and get the work done. The resignation creates an open spot, perhaps for you to serve. If you are interested, contact PJ Beckett, who chairs the nominating committee. PS – guys, we sure would like to have another one of you on the board. Mike Beville is escorted by Maggie to these board meetings and outnumbered by a lot of women in the room so I am sure he would feel more comfortable if one of you guys would step up

Until we get a volunteer for each of those places, I am splitting the Membership secretary duties with Pam Holcomb, President-elect. Look for me in your mailbox as the KSA messenger lady while Pam will keep the roster and add new ones and update info. So if you change email or move, please send latest info to Pam. We have also discussed dropping the membership secretary board position and making those duties part of the President and the President-elect's regular job descriptions. A change like that would require a bylaw amendment and will not happen until the May meeting. So if you would really like to do the membership secretary job then you still have time to contact PJ Beckett for more info on the responsibilities.

If you have issues we need to discuss at the May board meeting please send me an email and remember that all board meetings are open to the membership. We would love to have you join us – a committee could be in your future.

The board agreed at the February meeting to return to Harlan for a Poke Sallet storytelling event. You will get more details from your dedicated KSA President-Elect who is also getting us ready for KYSS/NYSS.

I am still hoping some of you who took pictures at the fall conference will send me some to upload on our flickr site or you can email me about how to upload them yourself.

Please remember KSA is its membership and we do what the membership does, so if you want KSA to do something more then consider volunteering for a committee or board service.

I hope you have a delightful spring and a story in your future!

Sexton  
606-256-9796  
[Quad2@kystory.org](mailto:Quad2@kystory.org)

Quadrant 3, Nelle  
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Quadrant 4, Mike Beville  
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270-737-0263

At-large Board Members  
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502-484-3359  
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859-321-5923

### Contact Us

<http://www.kystory.org>

Newsletter Editor  
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502-491-5664

### Announcements

Share your story in  
Woman's Day.

If a library has helped  
you or your family out of  
an economic crunch, tell  
your story in 700 words  
or less and enter it in a  
contest sponsored by  
Woman's Day magazine  
and the American Library  
Association. Learn more

at  
[www.womansday.com/ala](http://www.womansday.com/ala)  
Entry deadline: May 18,  
2009. No purchase or  
entry fee needed.

Mark your calendars now  
for the 2010 National  
Storytelling Conference,  
July 29 –August 1 in Los  
Angeles

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## Nominating Committee Looking for a Few Good Folks!

Currently the Quadrant 1 Position on the Board of Directors is vacant and needs to be filled. This seat would be appointed by the Board to finish the term that will be up for re-election in Nov. 2010. If you live in, or close to, the western area of KY, we need you. To see which KY counties are in Quadrant 1, go to <http://www.kystory.org/about-KSA/KSA-regions.shtml>.

This coming November, we will have more vacancies to fill, such as the President Elect, the Secretary, many committee chairs and committee members to name just a few. Due to term limitations as stated in our Bylaws we will again have Board members exiting. In order to keep KSA healthy and growing we need your help. Won't you please consider lending your support with your time and your talents?

Please Contact PJ Beckett at 502-750-4051 or at [pjbeckett39@aol.com](mailto:pjbeckett39@aol.com) if you are interested in any of the positions mentioned here or just want to volunteer. We have many opportunities to fit your time, talent and skills.

## Program Committee News

Betsy Fleischer  
Conference Sub-committee

It's almost springtime! Yippee! We're working on the 2009 annual Conference in November. You can help! Yes, you can.

KSA needs members to volunteer for specific jobs. There are needs for people at the registration table, story store clerks, opening game leader, hospitality, emcee, room monitor, door prize chair, story swap chair, packet stuffers, set-up and tear-down crews. Each position is specific and short term so you can enjoy the conference.

Look over the list and email the chair, Betsy Fleischer, at [betsycat2@yahoo.com](mailto:betsycat2@yahoo.com) or call in the evening at 859-734-3194 if you have need for clarification and or want to sign up. It's never too early to help ease the stress. Choose now and get your choice! The conference cannot be done unless we all pitch in our friendly way. A gigantic thank you goes out to all who have volunteered previously. Your kind help is invaluable. I look forward to hearing from all of you soon.

Wandering Storytellers Sub-Committee

This is a fundraising event for KSA. All tellers, volunteers and KSA get all of the coverage charge of \$5, plus we build our contacts from the audience. KSA is in its third year of bringing storytelling to an adult audience. We have heard stories from all over the world, from the natural world and the unnatural world, from history and from imagination. We've heard tales of tragedy, heroism, humor, tall tales and small tales as well. It is a wonderful live storytelling experience. The venue is intimate and friendly and delicious! If you haven't enjoyed this event then it's time you did! Come on downtown to Natasha's Bistro & Bar at 112 Esplanade, Lexington, just across the street from the Kentucky Theater. It happens from 8:00 to 10:00PM with two featured tellers and open mic spots for anyone.

June 29 is the date of KSA's First Ever Story Slam!!! It will be held at Natasha's Bistro & Bar from 8:00-10:00PM. Lots of tellers are wanted. Sign-

## Welcome New Members!

Russ Conrad  
Larry Gordon  
Ed Stodola

## Upcoming Events

**April 13**, Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

**April 29**, Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Bistro. 8:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Bistro, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 502-484-3359 or [www.beetnik.com](http://www.beetnik.com).

**May 11**, Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

**May 12**, Buggy KY: Insect facts and stories with Mary Hamilton and Charles Wright, 5:30 p.m. Breckinridge County Public Library, 112 South Main Street, Hardinsburg, KY. Contact: 270-756-2323.

**May 30**, Kentucky Storytelling Association, Board of Directors meeting, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm; local arrangements contact

up now so we can publicize this event big time! Contact Betsy at [betsycat2@yahoo.com](mailto:betsycat2@yahoo.com) or call in the evening at 859-734-3194. Featured tellers are needed to sign up. For July 27 we need one more teller and for August 24 we need two tellers. We also need one more for September 28 and for December 28 we need two tellers.

Many thanks, applause, laughter goes out to the storytellers who came out and enjoyed themselves at Wandering Storyteller night. Don't be a stranger. Come on out to the bistro and have a fun night.

## A Storyteller's Scary Lesson

Betsy Fleischer

I have been a lover of words since the mysterious code of those black marks on paper was broken in first grade. I've told a few stories. I consider myself a novice. I enjoy it. I enjoy listening and telling. But sometimes it has been scary. Do any other storytellers go through this? When I know I will be telling, I search for stories for the specific audience. I read voraciously anyway but when in story mode, my search goes all over the place.

My brain and my stomach seem to be connected so that when the brain is in the process of decision-making the stomach goes all aflutter and jittery. For me there are two hard parts to this storytelling. First, deciding and second, the practice. Okay, I admit, I love the creative part of writing down the story in my own words but still there is the practice. The cat has gotten used to me talking out loud. She just lays there, looks at me for awhile and then takes a nap. I have discovered that the mirror is a useful tool, although at first it felt weird.

Come telling time, that's when it's scary time. I remember the first time I told at Wandering Storytellers night. I was so practiced that my mind went blank after the first one. I had to look in my notebook for the title. Another time I was up telling a story and I got lost in it. I searched the audiences' eyes to see if I had really lost it. I kept going to get to the end, but all the while in the back of my mind was the thought, "Did I get derailed?" I have used physical cues to help keep myself in order such as the ole fingertip pressure, tying a movement to an expression.

Every time I get up to tell I want to tell a tale so that the audience can take it all in. I want to get the words across the gulf. The scary-ness is a bit less, but still there. To the experienced teller out there I have a question. Does it get any less scary?

## Try a walk on the Fringe

Fringe Performance Opportunity NSN Conference – July 30 - August 1, 2010, Los Angeles, California

The Fringe is the place for 55 minutes of your most compelling, riskiest, experimental or work-in-progress storytelling. Perhaps you might like to do a mini-fringe event with you and a friend in a pair of shorter performances? It can be 55 minutes of folktales, autobiography, performance art, stand-up, puppetry, dance or your favorite long form story.

What is the Fringe? The NSN Conference Fringe follows the Fringe Festival model giving artists freedom to create and audiences "the ability to decide for themselves the truly great productions from the good, the bad and the gloriously disastrous." In keeping with the Fringe principle of an un-juried selection process, Fringe performers for the 2010 National Storytelling Network Conference will be selected by lottery.

Pam Holcomb, President-Elect, 606-573-4376  
[President-Elect@kystory.org](mailto:President-Elect@kystory.org)

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, June 4-6,**

National Youth Storytelling Showcase, Pigeon Forge, TN. For more information go to: [www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org](http://www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org)

**June 8,** Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or [cchangaris@aol.com](mailto:cchangaris@aol.com).

**June 29,** Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Bistro. 8:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Bistro 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 502-484-3359 or [www.beetnik.com](http://www.beetnik.com).

**June 30,** Mary Hamilton telling stories for elementary-school aged children and up. 1:00 p.m. Estill County Public Library, 246 Main Street, Irvine, KY. Contact: 606-723-3030.

**Spellbinder Activity in Lexington**

**Spellbinders** is the national organization nurturing character and community in the spirit of humanity through the Art of Oral Storytelling. Dr. Paschal Baute is certified to lead

Growing networks of performance venues all over the world have adopted this model and many storytellers are taking advantage of these venues to reach new audiences. The Conference Fringe encourages more storytellers to participate in American and Canadian Fringe Festivals by providing the opportunity for you to experience many aspects of a typical Fringe Festival including the selection process and performance framework.

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To enter the lottery, please, submit via email or snail mail:

1. Your name, address, phone, email information (both tellers' names and contact information if you are submitting for a mini-fringe).
2. Title of your 55 minute program or your mini-fringe event.
3. Maximum 30 word description of the program or mini-fringe event.
4. Fringe Standard Category Identification(s): (select all that apply) adult, family, solo, improvisational, ensemble, dance, etc. [Example: a single storyteller presenting a family program selects both "family" and "solo." Use "family" to identify a program for children.]
5. If appropriate, Fringe Standard Content Warning(s): (select all that apply) language, adult subject matter, violence, partial nudity.

**Additional information on Content Warnings:** Total nudity and explicit sexual contact is disallowed in NSN Conference Fringe performances; male and female genitals and female breasts must be covered. Content disclaimers (warnings) are to be shown in all advertising, programs, flyers, enrollment forms, and room identification. No minors under the age of 18 or applicable state limitation are to be allowed in performances with adult content warnings.

**Email submissions to:** Steven Henegar, [shenegar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shenegar@sbcglobal.net)

**Mail submissions to:** Steven Henegar, PO Box 15952, Santa Ana, CA 92735

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#### [Submission Deadline](#)

Mail submissions – September 15, 2009 (postmarked)

Electronic submissions - no later than 11:59 PM PST on September 15, 2009

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#### [Notification of Selection](#)

Performers drawn by lottery will be notified of their selection by email and/or phone. Slots will be assigned based on order of performer acceptance and content (with family material earlier and adult material later in the day).

#### [Deadline for Acceptance](#)

Within thirty days of notification, you will need to confirm your participation.

#### [Waiting List](#)

More names than slots will be drawn for a waiting list and will be moved from the waiting list as slots become available.

#### [Eligibility](#)

**Fringe performers do not need to be NSN members, so please share this information with all your storytelling, spoken word, and performance art contacts.** We welcome the opportunity to share the NSN conference with narrative artists who may not call themselves storytellers. Any NSN member, including Board and Conference Committee members, is eligible to participate in the lottery and perform.

Performers who appeared at the 2008 NSN Conference will not be eligible for the 2010 lottery. You must reapply for each NSN Conference Fringe. No applications from previous years will be held over.

workshops in Spellbinder storytelling training. The Lexington Chapter of Spellbinders plans training in the spring in April or May. If interested please contact Greg Davis at the Lexington Public Library (Marketing) by calling (859) 231-5554. Dr. Baute will lead two three-hour workshops in storytelling for caregivers as part of the Ohio Psychological Association annual Union of Psychology and Spirituality retreat on February 19 and 20. The location will be at Mohican State Park, Loudonville. This is one hour north of Columbus, OH. Workshops are open to caregivers of various disciplines. The workshops which Paschal is leading include these titles: **Can Healers Ignore the Placebo Effect of Belief? Spiritual Strategies and Healing Metaphors for Practice Whoever Tells the Best Story Prevails**

For further information contact OPA website <http://www.ohpsych.org/opaworkshop.aspx>. Check out via the blog at Paschal's web site <http://storytellinglexingtponky.blogspot.com/>. Or email Paschal at [pbbaute@paschalbaute.com](mailto:pbbaute@paschalbaute.com)

### Book Review by Thomas Freese

*Campfire Stories... Things that Go Bump in the Night*, by William Forgey, M.D., The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT, 1985, ISBN 0-934802-23-8.

### Cost

By accepting your Fringe slot, you agree to register and pay for the entire NSN Conference. No waivers will be given to fringe performers. No single day registrations accepted.

### Registration Timing

By accepting your Fringe slot, you agree to register for the Conference by the "early-bird" registration date. Performers not confirmed as registered after that date will be replaced with performers on the waiting list.

### Performing Space

All Fringe performances will be in a meeting room with a minimum of 40 chairs with no technical set-up. As is the custom with many Fringe Festivals, **if you want sound, lighting, or any special equipment to support your performance, you are responsible for supplying what you need**. Any audiovisual equipment needed must be ordered and paid for at registration. Due to varying site policies, we cannot guarantee access to your performance space outside of your scheduled time, which begins fifteen minutes prior to your performance start time. Do not count on a "tech rehearsal."

### Performance Schedule

Fringe slots parallel the conference workshops and swaps. You'll have approximately 15 minutes to set-up; 55 minutes to perform beginning at the published time; 15 minutes to restore and clear the room for the next performer. Time limits will be strictly observed as this track is intended to serve as an opportunity for storytellers (performers and audience members alike) to experience a typical Fringe Festival format.

### Content

Fringe performances are not pre-screened or censored, but we expect you to indicate difficult or potentially offensive material in the content warnings.

### Sign-offs

As part of confirming your participation, you must agree to the following:

- 1) Nudity policy. See Item 5 in Lottery Instructions.
- 2) NSN Disclaimer with the following text: "*The National Storytelling Network (NSN) is not responsible or liable for the form and content of this performance which is the sole responsibility of the individual performer(s). It is also the performer's responsibility to be in compliance with local health/safety laws and any hotel/conference center restrictions for room use.*"

### Audience

Conference Fringe Performances will be open to conference attendees.

### Promotion

The title, performance description and content warnings you provide with your submission will be printed in the NSN Conference program and website; however, in keeping with Fringe Festival tradition, **if you want an audience, you need to self-promote your performance during the conference**. The Fringe Committee recommends that you NOT rely on advertising in the Conference Program Book. Most attendees will not have time to review the entire book before or during the conference. Plan your promotion – you've got to grab conference attendees' attention and leave them wanting to be sure they don't miss your performance.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to perform your new, old, in progress, lively, risky, long form, or experimental work during the National Storytelling Conference. Submit your application today!

It may be considered fiction; it is in paperback and has 177 pages.

I'm amazed at the journey books travel. This book was inspired by the author's experience at Camp Palawopec in Nashville, Indiana. The publisher is in Connecticut and this particular copy was purchased at Colonial Williamsburg (\$11.95).

A friend who lives in Louisville found it at a thrift store and loaned it to me. And so it comes not far to returning to its Indiana beginning.

*Campfire Stories* has twenty-one chilling tales and after each one ends there is a handy story outline for the teller to memorize. Also the initial short chapter gives four pages of general tips and the appendix lists campfire telling resources. The 21 tales are divided amongst ten original authors.

To me the book would be a very worthwhile addition to my scary tale library if only for stories written by Ambrose Bierce. He is the author of the wonderfully satirical *Devil's Dictionary*. Other storytellers represented include Mark Twain, Dr.

Forgy, Nancy Roberts, Augustus Hare and more.

So far I have read only four stories which are titled "La Cucaracha Mine", "The Curse of the Australian Gold", "Deluse's Golden Curse" and "The Partner".

## Why We Tell Stories

by Paschal Baute

I. Because we remember sitting around the fire in the cave still shivering realizing that we would survive another long winter after a sparse fall hunt. And we welcomed signs of spring with stories of how successful the next hunt would be.

II. Because we belied the monsters we would encounter would be overcome by hook or crook, by our skill, our bravery and our cunning. Against all odds we would prevail.

III. Because we were poor and dreamed of treasures to be found, and we believed we were worthy and by great deeds we would go from rags to riches.

IV. Because our toes were once roots in the soil and our fingers leaves as we stretch from earth to grow toward some sun, our hearts soared with eagles, and one day, we actually flew with birds in the sky.

V. Because we had floated open eyed in the oceans for a million years knowing only where to better breathe and find food in the great space between surface and bottom, and now, finally, we could speak.

VI. Because our children believed they could fly, remembering in dreams when their arms were wings and they could rise above their worlds and we remembered that our hearts still needed wings.

VII. Because our people are the best and the bravest and because the stories we tell really do help us in the hunt and when we must fight. Because we are the ones our ancestors lived for.

VIII. Because our stories made us braver and more determined and skillful than other tribes, and because of our stories, we would continue to survive against all odds.

IX. Because we believed that our women could love only us and that our children were destined for fame and fortune that would prove their parents had been the best, and that what happened for the best happened because of us.

X. Because we remembered our great warriors Black Elk and White Hawk and loved to tell of their skill and bravery in the hunt, and because we believed their spirits gave us courage and made our tribe more brave.

XI. Because we are still fascinated by the mysterious and beauty and love and adventure, and our hearts never cease to lift in wonder and awe.

XII. Because our hearts will not be stilled by death or loss or chaos and because we know deep in our DNA that we shall overcome whatever challenges life brings. And because our stories remind us of the beauty, love and courage we can find to overcome.