



Kentucky Storytelling Association

January 2010 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 6 Issue 1

In This Issue

- President's message
 - Wandering Storytellers
- Storytelling in Assisted Living
 - Member Spotlight
 - Youth Storytelling
- Legend of Silver Pine Cones
 - Just for fun
- News and Updates

Useful Links:

KSA Website

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

National Storytelling Network Website

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

Contact your Board

President, Pam Holcomb
President@kystory.org
606-573-4376

President Elect, Russ Conrad
President-Elect@kystory.org
859-654-3358

Treasurer, Nina Coyer
Treasurer@kystory.org
866-643-1829

Secretary, Maggie Beville

Message from our President Pam Holcomb

It is my pleasure to be your new Kentucky Storytelling Association President. I am confident that we have some of Kentucky's finest folks serving on the KSA board this year. Allow me to introduce them to you...

President - Pam Holcomb. I am a retired school teacher who is now pursuing a dream of being a full-time storyteller. It is my goal and desire as president to work toward the promotion of storytelling across Kentucky.

President Elect - When not telling stories, Russ Conrad owns and operates a hardware store in Falmouth. He is eager to learn the intricacies of KSA and to put that knowledge to work.

Secretary - Maggie Beville is an outstanding Cowboy Poet. She and her husband, Mike also are an unbeatable tandem storyteller team. Maggie works in health care.

Treasurer - Nina Coyer is a marvelous storyteller and her renditions always leave her audiences in stitches. She has taught us so much about the deaf community. Nina is a professor at Eastern Kentucky University.

Quadrant 1 - Laura Seaman is most noted in the KSA world as being Emilee's mother. Emilee has continued to make us proud with her storytelling accomplishments. We have found that the apple does not fall far from the tree. Laura is a gifted storyteller in her own right plus she has a beautiful singing voice. When not working, Laura and her husband Mark home school their three children.

Quadrant 2 - Octavia Sexton has been long known in the storytelling world. She is a very accomplished full-time teller and teaching artist. Octavia stays busy with her family. She is presently helping to raise her grandsons.

Quadrant 3 - Charlie Hardy is a retired educator. He spent the majority of his life in the education of our youth - having been a teacher as well as an administrator. Charlie is often found still surrounded by children as he tells tales that intrigue the young mind.

Quadrant 4 - Mike Beville is the husband of Maggie. His Cowboy Poetry renditions will always leave you wanting to hear more. Together with Maggie they will entertain and delight you with their tales of simpler times. Mike also works in the health care profession.

At-Large 1 - Charles Wright is certainly no stranger to KSA. He has been a tremendous asset to KSA in so many ways. Just to name a couple, he has been found in the past running the Story Store for our conferences and being an invaluable help with the KYSS venues. Charles is retired and is busy studying

Secretary@kystory.org
270-737-0263

Quadrant 1, Laura
Seaman
Quad1@kystory.org
270-543-8127

Quadrant 2, Octavia
Sexton
Quad2@kystory.org
606-256-9796

Quadrant 3, Charlie
Hardy
Quad3@kystory.org
859-224-2352

Quadrant 4, Mike Beville
Quad4@kystory.org
270-737-0263

At-large Board Member
Charles Wright
At-large1@kystory.org
502-223-4523

The other At-large Board
member position is
vacant.

Contact Us

<http://www.kystory.org>

Newsletter Editor
Thomas Freese
thomasfreese@bellsouth.net

Welcome New Members!
Gwenda Adkins

News and Updates

Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available and story news is shared. Tale Talk meets the second Monday of the month in the Louisville area at 7:30 PM. Contact Cynthia Changaris at 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

the bugs of Kentucky. He and his wife, Mary Hamilton, have developed an interesting program entitled "Buggy Kentucky" which has been popular all around the state.

At-Large 2 - this seat on the board is vacant - are you interested in filling this vacancy?

I am confident in the leadership of these fine folks as we attempt to work together to further promote KSA this coming year.

Pam Holcomb



Left to right: Mike Beville, Nina Coyer, Maggie Beville, Laura Seaman, Octavia Sexton, Pam Holcomb, Russ Conrad, Charles Wright, and on top former president Donna Slaton. Absent from the photo: Charlie Hardy.

Wandering Storytellers

Charlie Hardy

Hi folks! Under Betsy's tutelage, I am trying to ram-rod the Wandering Storytellers, who present the last Monday of each month at Natasha's Bistro in Lexington. We need volunteers for 2010. Octavia Sexton and Rebecca Henderson are going to be the featured tellers for December and Mary Hamilton and Mary Ann Zoll are going to be featured in January. We need volunteer tellers for the rest of the year, so, if possible, could you let me know if you would consent to be a featured teller for any particular month for the next year. PLEASE!! I need at least 20 more people to sign up so, please let me know!

The procedure is this...The featured tellers are responsible for 45 minutes of stories. The first teller will tell for about 25-30 minutes then we will have open mic and invite members of the audience to come and tell. The other featured teller will then give a 25-30 minute performance followed by another open mic session. Then the tellers will finish with the 15-20 minute stories. Somewhere in-between, we will have a drawing, or two, or three for door prizes. If the tellers could please provide a door prize, that would be wonderful. If you have published material, that would be nice to offer for a door prize, if not, maybe a favorite storytelling book.

My email is cehjr1948@yahoo.com and my phone number is 859-224-2352, cell 859-533-3995. Thanks for your help. Take care, Charlie Hardy

UK Course on the Power of Story / Storytelling

The University of Kentucky Donovan Life Long Learning program announces its first course on the **power of story and storytelling**. In

March of 2010, Dr Paschal Baute will conduct a six session course on "The Origin and Role of Story in History, Culture and Transformation."

The course is open to all seniors age 50 and over and the fee is ten dollars.

It will be taught at a classroom near the Hamburg Pavilion, just off I-64, place and exact dates still to be decided.

A Short description of the course follows. Story and narrative traditions nourished human endeavors, created culture, and sustained the human spirit down through the ages.

Storytelling as an agent of transformation change

is experiencing a renaissance today in business education, medicine, psychology, and personal growth. Since the power of story is universal, it cannot be overlooked in education, business and the healing arts.

More information on the course can be obtained from Paschal Baute.

Email paschal.baute@insightbb.com or telephone (859) 293-5302.

In October 2009, the Lexington Spellbinders



October Wandering Storyteller Shelia Arnold

Storytelling in Assisted Living/Nursing Homes

by Bill Watson

I have some experience of telling in nursing homes. I don't know which home you are telling in or how many levels of care the home has. If it is a 3 level care - say like Christian Homes of KY - the levels are from fully independent - to some assisted living to total assisted living - then you will probably have a much more alert audience.

No matter which kind of facility you are in you will have many who have hearing and seeing problems. I always check out to see if they have a sound system and get there in plenty of time to check it out as well as the acoustics. Many of the homes I've told at including private adult living facilities do not have very good sound systems and there for you not only may have to speak louder - but very distinct. I bought my first portable sound system because of those type sound systems. I usually check it out with the audience to see if they can hear me well and at any point they cannot or need me to clarify something to raise their hands. There may be some level of dementia, so be aware someone may start talking during your stories or may just get up and leave.

One of my favorite stories involves an elder in my church in Louisville who worked as a volunteer at a nursing home and wanted me to tell there. A couple of tellings had to be moved to another date - once when I had a funeral and once when they had flu in the home. The morning I was to tell I got up and everything was a half beat off. I really didn't feel like going there and telling - I said to myself, *They are going to go to sleep during my telling, they are going to talk during my telling, they are going to walk out during my telling*. I grumbled and grumbled almost all the way there. About two blocks away I said to myself, *So what's the difference this morning and a Sunday morning while I am in the pulpit and people go to sleep, talk during my sermon, or get up and walk out!* None!!! I had a great telling with that change of attitude.

No matter what you do - the people there will love you because you came to

became the first organization to join the Kentucky Storytelling Association. The Lexington Spellbinders is a group of storytellers who volunteer and are trained and certified to tell folk fairy tales to children in our public schools. The Lexington group sponsored by the Lexington Public Library has trained 46 persons since beginning in 2005. During the 2008-2009 school year 134 Spellbinders visited 36 schools, telling to over 3,000 children. Adult care Centers, children's hospitals and adult detention centers were also regularly visited by Spellbinders. Total audience attending storytelling sessions was 5,787.

The Lexington Spellbinders meets monthly for training. New training is offered yearly for prospective volunteers who are asked to give one day per month. The Lexington group is now the second largest in the nation and the only one in the entire Ohio Valley. Jessamine County began their own group and Madison County is planning to start a group in 2010. The National Spellbinders was founded in the late 1980s and is strong in Colorado. Spellbinders are dedicated to restoring the art of oral storytelling to connect elders to youth, weaving together the wisdom of diverse cultures throughout time. Literacy development of children through storytelling is a major

tell. Most of these folks do not have much power in their lives and you came to them not the other way around.

Member Spotlight on Russ Conrad

Since he was five years old, Russ lived in a small rural town working at the family owned hardware store. Russ is a 'hands on' store owner, spending most of each day with friends and customers—selling, delivering, servicing and just visiting. While weighing nails and explaining toilet repair he has picked up a lot of stories, most of them are good and a few are even true.

After completing a two year University of Kentucky Fellowship with the Kentucky Entrepreneurial Coaches Institute in 2007, Russ is a now Certified Entrepreneurial Coach. During this training experience Russ birthed and developed another entrepreneurial goal of his own, to be a storyteller. Rural Kentucky has a rich heritage of storytellers and Russ is continuing that tradition. Russ's family, Penny and their two kids, provide lots of story telling fodder.

Russ earned two degrees, a Business Administration degree from the University of Kentucky and a practical experience degree from his dad's store.

An avid photographer, Russ displayed and sold his photographic art at public photo expositions. For year 2009 he published his first pictorial calendar, a collection of his pictures taken along the South Fork River near Falmouth, Kentucky. Russ and Penny traveled through Southern Africa, Europe, Canada, and most of the USA.

Why did you join KSA? After I decided I wanted to be a storyteller I recognized the need to find a like group of interested people. I found KSA on the internet. My interest was to find help to be a better storyteller and I found more.

What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA? My first interaction with KSA members was at a Storytelling Festival at Barkley Lake in '08. That Saturday night was a good entry to meeting a Storytelling Family that I wanted to join. My second KSA event was at Natasha's in Lexington. The friends I met that night were kind, interested and very willing to help a newbie. The KSA Conference in November was an especially good experience for me. I discovered new styles and kinds of storytelling to which I had not been exposed. I have already started using some of the workshop information that was so capably presented.

What kind of stories do you enjoy? I discovered the definition storytelling is far broader than I knew. The stories I wrote and now tell are about experiences in my life, both family and work. I am more comfortable working with longer stories. Right now I have two stories that I call "stage ready." They are 30 and 45 minutes in length. I have some other stories written and every time they end up being at least 25 minutes.

How has your life been affected by stories from family or friends? My mother was the most significant influence for my storytelling life. She was my high school senior English and Literature teacher and because of that she had a huge influence in directing my writing style. Mother was more of a story writer than a storyteller. During her later years when she was no longer writing she would tell me stories. I would go home and write them and take them back to her for editing. About the fourth version usually came out as something we both liked. I incorporate some of Mother's adventures in my storytelling. Two men in my home town influenced my interest in stories. The best storyteller I have known was a cantankerous lawyer, trusted advisor and good friend. Ed

aim. Colorado has 16 Spellbinder chapters and five others states have a chapter, but Kentucky is the only other state to have two chapters. Chapters exist in Canada and Wales. The Spellbinder website is full of useful information.

See links below. The Lexington chapter plans its next Spellbinder training in March of 2010, possibly in conjunction with the Madison County Public Library. The person to contact is Greg Davis at (859) 231-5554.

Link for more information on the Lexington Spellbinders.

<http://lexingtonspellbinders.blogspot.com/>

Link for more information on National Spellbinders.

<http://www.spellbinders.org>

COME AND CATCH A DREAM WITH US!

Storytelling to help unsafe Kids

Consider joining Charlie Eyer, Charlie Hardy, Art Herman, Linda Kendrick, Ben Woodward and Paschal Baute in a storytelling adventure.

We want you to consider joining us in this project arising from love of storytelling and love of children. We are seeking storytellers to join us in a project to exercise our art and our love to inform and educate the public about the situation of abused kids in Kentucky. We want to use our art, our talent and love of children to raise awareness of this situation.

"The Dream Catchers"

and I together taught a Sunday school class for more than five years. Ed never met a scandal that he could not explain in humorous detail. The second guy was a local retail store owner and we visited frequently. Charlie and I enjoyed lunch together at a downtown lunch counter for about 15 years. Charlie is the kind of guy who just knew STUFF – and liked to share his knowledge! Every visit with Charlie was one more chance to laugh with a friend.

Youth Storytelling

Pam Holcomb

What a busy fall we had with the KYSS! We had venues at Kenton County Public Library in Erlanger, Pulaski County Public Library in Somerset, and the Mountain Arts Center in Prestonsburg, plus we had a great number of mail-in entries. We were privileged to see and hear many fine young storytellers at each venue. It is always such a joy to see eager young people with a story to tell! I am also quick to give credit to each of our committee members and volunteers that helped to make these possible: Donna Slaton, Mary Hamilton, Charles Wright, Octavia Sexton, Don Buck P. Creacy, Laura Seaman, Dedria Patton, Charlie Hardy, Bill Watson, Betsy Fleischer and Jonatha Wright. Thanks also to the teachers who prepared these students, particularly Debby Shultze, Lorraine Leadingham and Dedria Patton.

Winners in each division (Elementary, Middle, High School, and Tandem Team) were chosen at each venue and the mail-in venue. Those winners were invited to participate in the final competition in conjunction with the KSA conference at Eastern Kentucky University.

From those venue winners, State winners were chosen as well as the 2010 Kentucky State Youth Storytelling Showcase Torchbearers. The quality of the competitors was outstanding this year. It was hard to narrow the field down to so few winners. But, after calculations of the score sheets the following folks were chosen as 2010 Torchbearers: Lindsay Porter - middle school, Kelsey Ulrey and Haleigh Porter - Tandem Team, Bethany Crouch - middle school, Brianna Roberts - elementary school, and David Benning - elementary school.



Normally these students would progress on to the National competition. However the NYSS competitions have changed as noted below in a message from the NYSS director Elizabeth Rose:

"The decision was recently made to postpone this years National Youth Storytelling Showcase until February 3rd, 4th and 5th of 2011. It has been a difficult decision based on several factors that the board feels will improve the Showcase in the long run. Three major factors based on past experience influence the decision. First, many of the event attendees requested that we move the date back to winter. In addition, winter has been a better time for us to secure appropriate theaters and has proven to be a slower time for students and family schedules. For those of you interested in the Smoky Mountain

are a group of Lexington Spellbinders and others dedicated to

1. Promoting the joy, art and the tradition of oral storytelling in Central Kentucky.

2. Informing and educating the public concerning the situation of abused kids in Kentucky. In 2010 we chose M.A.S.H. (Metro Alternative Shelter House) to highlight what is being done as well as current needs. We are a voluntary group which does not charge for our performances. Donations are accepted. Ten percent of contributions go to support the work of the Lexington Spellbinders and ninety percent to the work of M.A.S.H.

We call ourselves Dream Catchers because we hold that storytelling invites vision and human possibilities, including surviving against odds, courage and transformation. We believe in the power of story. Dream Catchers are not an official part of Lexington Spellbinders although this is our home and main activity.

M. A. S. H. is a certified Lexington group rescuing and providing safe shelter and counseling for unsafe kids. They have an impressive program, staff and outreach, serving 500 unsafe and at-risk kids each year. We will have M.A.S.H. brochures to distribute and leave with our audiences. Contact us to schedule a performance by The Dream Catchers for your church or community

Storytelling Festival, which is normally run during the same weekend, will still be held this year in June, but not combined with the NYSS.

Rest assured the NYSS event will continue to offer professional performances and workshops with some of the top professional storytellers and outstanding entertainment from the nation's brightest youth.

Revised Timelines:

All selected tellers from local storytelling events must mail video tapes or DVD's to the State Representatives by Nov 1st, 2010 (or to the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events if you do not have a state contact).

State Representatives will review all tapes and select the five (5) state finalists, and will send those five (5) tapes to the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events by Nov 22nd, 2010. Tapes must be accompanied by the required and completed entry forms or they will be disqualified.

The Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events will establish an independent panel of judges for any entries without a State Representative, and will follow the same time line.

The national committee will forward the list of finalists to our office by Dec 13th, 2010. Finalists will be notified either by telephone or email from Pigeon Forge before 5 p.m. on Dec 19th, 2010. Finalists will receive an invitation to present their story at the National Youth Storytelling Showcase on Feb 3 - 5, 2011 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The "Grand Torchbearer" will be selected from among the performing finalists."

Final decisions as to the re-vamping of the KYSS venues and torchbearers will be decided by the new KYSS committee. This new committee is: Chairman - Don Buck P. Creacy, Pam Holcomb, Octavia Sexton, Laura Seaman, Emilee Seaman, Bill Watson, and Donna Slaton. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Don Buck P. Creacy.



KYSS State Elementary winners (L) and Middle School winners (R)



KYSS State Tandem Team Winners

group. We expect to begin in March of 2010.

Email inquiries to paschal.baute@insightbb.com or call 859-293-5302 and 859-293-5300.

Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond was the site of the 6th Kentucky Storytelling Conference. The event opened with the finals of the Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase on Friday afternoon. Friday evening, featured storyteller Cynthia Changaris, led off an evening of storytelling followed by open mike telling from Conference participants and a late night Conference Story Slam won by Bill Watson. Saturday brought a full day of workshops, and another evening of storytelling closed out the Conference. Throughout the conference events, 78 people participated. Partners for the 6th conference include Cynthia Changaris, Kentucky Arts Council, Knowledge Center on Deafness, The Condominiums at St. Andrews Place, Madison County Public Library, Richmond Area Arts Council, and the Berea Early Childhood Regional Training Center. The Conference Committee so appreciates all the many volunteers who worked to make the Conference a satisfying experience for all the participants.

Plan now to attend the 2010 Kentucky Storytelling Conference, November 12 – 13 at

A Story to share

The legend of the Silver Pine Cones

There once lived a poor family without enough food to eat or wood for their fire. The mother decided to go into the forest to search for pine cones, as these would burn brightly, if only for a short time, and provide some warmth for her cold house and family. *Perhaps*, she thought, *I might be able to sell a few of the pine cones and make a little money to buy food too.*

In the forest, the woman kicked away the snow and began picking up the fallen cones. Her fingers were soon numb with cold, but she persisted in her task. "Why are you stealing my pine cones?" She looked around and saw a tiny elf on a log beside her.

"My family is cold and hungry," the woman explained. "The pine cones will warm us in the fire, and I might be able to sell a few and then buy a bit of bread for my little children."

"Well," the elf said, "Go into the next forest. The pine cones there are much better." the elf disappeared as quickly as it had come.

The woman was tired, but the elf had spoken so assuredly that she decided to see if the elf was right. She made her way to the next forest, which was quite a long walk. But the elf had not lied--there were pine cones all over the ground and the woman quickly filled her basket. *How happy everyone will be at home tonight*, she thought. The sun was setting as she made her way home.

As she opened the door, she glanced down at her basket. The pine cones had all turned to silver!

The woman was able to buy all the food her family needed for the winter, and even then she had many silver pine cones left for the coming years. And because of her saving, careful ways, her family was never hungry or poor again.

Some people still believe that a silver pine cone brings luck. Hang one on your tree, or paint some pine cones silver this holiday season and give them to friends and family, along with a copy of this story. It is a simple gift, but one that is sure to be cherished.

Just for fun

by Octavia Sexton

I do humor workshops and have an activity where people brainstorm for funny activities they might do. A criterion for the activities is that the action or words will not cause harm. For Christmas on my Facebook site, I decided to post some of my own fun things to do while shopping at Wal-Mart. My inspiration came following Black Friday and observing the greed and just plain mean actions of people while shopping. The tips are mostly just to make you smile, but honestly, I have done some of them. If you do any of them, please share your story with KSA so we can read all about it in the next newsletter!

FUN AT WAL-MART SHOPPING TIPS

Go into the dressing room, wait 5 minutes and then holler, "There isn't any toilet paper in here!"

Go to customer service and ask to have a prayer request broadcast over the store speakers.

Sit down on the floor and holler, "Help, a dropping price knocked me down and I can't get up!"

Go to the pet fish department and ask an associate if the goldfish are better broiled or deep-fried.

Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, Gilbertsville, Kentucky. To reserve your park lodge room, call 800-325-0146 and ask for a room in the block on hold for the Kentucky Storytelling Association. Cottages and campgrounds are also available.

Conference Proposals for 2010 due now January 20th is the deadline for submitting your proposals for Conference workshop sessions for the 2010 Kentucky Storytelling Conference. Why so early? One goal of the Conference Committee is more efficient conference planning in order to create more effective and timely publicity. Soliciting workshop proposals now will be a huge help in the process. Also being able to tell potential funders what sort of workshops will be offered will also assist in conference fund-raising. So, act now. Contact Conference Chair, Betsy Fleischer, Conference@kystory.org 859-734-3194. To learn what information to include in your workshop proposal.

Announcing a book of Civil War ghost stories written by historian Bryan Bush and Thomas Freese, titled **Haunted Battlefields of the South**, Schiffer Publishing, Jan. 2010. Look online or contact Thomas and see the review next issue.

More fun in the fish department: Buy a whole salmon in the grocery department and try to return it in the pet fish department saying it is dead. Take one shoe to check out and say, "I want to buy this one." Or if you are a guy, pick out a pair of sexy women's shoes and ask an associate if she thinks they will look good on you.

In electronics, stand in front of a blank television and pretend you are watching a comedy while laughing hysterically. Or, tell an associate you want to buy a Play Station that doesn't work, or turn the music up on a display radio and begin dancing.

In the dairy department ask an associate where the chicken milk is located, or ask an associate if they have any mule eggs, or start putting all the eggs in your shopping basket and holler, "My babies, my babies, Momma (or Poppa) is here to rescue you!"

When an announcement is made over the loud speaker hold your ears and in a frantic voice say, "Why do those voices keep speaking to me - get out of my head, get out of my head!" this is more fun when you are checking out!

Go to the automotive department and tell them you need a new tire for your space ship, or tell them you need all the air in your tires let out and fresh air put in.

Go to the service desk and ask to file a complaint about the weather, or ask if you can return a box of used diapers.

In house wares, stand in front of a mirror and have a conversation with your self.

Visit the deli and ask the person who slices the meat if he knew salami were endangered animals.

In the clothing department, ask an associate if they sell clothes for dead people.

Stand in front of the lobster tank and say, "My brothers, my brothers I have found you and I am here to set you free!"

In the pet food department tell an associate you are looking for werewolf food. Announce in a very loud voice, "Oh no, I dropped a hundred dollar bill in here somewhere!"

National Conference Payment Plan

The 2010 National Storytelling Conference will take place July 29 – August 1 in Los Angeles. Now is the time to make plans to attend. Now is also the time to register if you want the lowest possible registration fee of \$300 (\$225 for over 65 and students with picture ID). Don't have a spare \$300 right now? How about paying \$50.00 per month for the next six months? Yes, an interest free payment plan is possible for the upcoming 2010 National Storytelling Conference. Learn more about this at www.storynet.org This offer ends January 15.

KSA Links

Here's just one of many links you'll find on our KSA website, www.kystory.org

To explore other sites, visit the KSA links page.

Folklinks <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folklinks.html>

A guide to folk and fairy- tale sites, compiled by D. L. Ashliman. This guide was last updated in 2006, but it's still a valuable, easily navigated, resource.

Folktexts <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts2.html>

An easily navigated electronic text library of folktales, folklore, fairytales and mythology edited and/or translated by D. L. Ashliman, University of Pittsburgh.

Healing Story Alliance (HSA) <http://www.healingstory.org/>

The purpose of the Healing Story is to explore and promote the use of storytelling in healing. You'll find a wealth of information for storytellers and those in other service professions; therapists, clergy, health care practitioners of all kinds, anyone who can see the benefit of story as a tool for healing.